

Water

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15 Years Old

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Homeschooled

Water. It is essential to all life. Too little water can wipe out a civilization and leave nothing but dust. However, water also has the potential to be incredibly powerful. Too much of it can spell disaster for anything and everything in its path. Floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis all show the destructive possibility of water. These natural disasters show just how quickly water can change an entire landscape, almost instantly carving new waterways and lifting debris to all manner of strange locations. The realization that water can reform major areas in a short amount of time is key to believing in a young Earth. Water does not require millions of years to create deep canyons and mountains of sediment. With enough water, these landmarks can be created or wiped out in a matter of years, months, or even days.



Young Earth

But what is the importance of a young Earth theory? Why does it matter if the universe came into being billions of years ago? What does it affect if I believe the world was created only a few thousand years ago? Although it may seem unimportant to many people, the universe's age is a fundamental building block to scientific beliefs. Billions of years of existence are required for the theory of evolution to have even a small foothold in reality. Therefore, if the world is only six or seven thousand years old, evolution is dismantled. On the flip side, if the world is billions of years old, the timeline of Genesis is disrupted making it unreliable. And if Genesis is unbelievable, why would anyone believe the rest of the Bible? For those reasons, what a person accepts as true about the age of Earth drastically impacts their worldview. What they put their

faith in depends on young or old Earth theories. The balance of the power and necessity of water may be indispensable in displaying the credibility of a young Earth point of view.

Japanese tsunami

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck the floor of the Pacific Ocean near Japan. This created fierce tremors that went tearing toward Japan and damaged houses, but the worst cause of trauma had not yet arrived. The quake had sent shock waves through the ocean, causing massive waves to swell until they were joined to form a wall of water over 30 feet tall. This colossal wave crashed into the Japanese coast. It leveled buildings, washed away cars, flowed into rivers, and flooded everything. Every road became a river and help was needed in all locations as soon as possible. A nuclear power plant was damaged and the area for miles around had to be evacuated due to the risk of radiation poisoning.

On Britannica's website, the far-reaching effects of the quake are described: "The tsunami raced outward from the [epicenter] at speeds that approached about 500 miles (800 km) per hour. It generated waves 11 to 12 feet (3.3 to 3.6 [meters]) high along the coasts of Kauai and Hawaii in the Hawaiian Islands chain and 5-foot (1.5-[meter]) waves along the island of Shemya in the Aleutian Islands chain. Several hours later 9-foot (2.7-[meter]) tsunami waves struck the coasts of California and Oregon in North America. Finally, some 18 hours after the quake, waves roughly 1 foot (0.3 [meter]) high reached the coast of Antarctica and caused a portion of the Sulzberger Ice Shelf to break off its outer edge" (Rafferty). The earthquake was so intense that it affected three continents and countless lives. More than 18,000 people were confirmed missing

or dead (Rafferty). Over ten years after the tsunami, the Japanese are still working to rebuild their country and their lives.

Before:

Soccer field in Minamisanriku

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(Kesper)

After:

Soccer field in Minamisanriku

© Google, Digital Globe, GeoEye



(Kesper)



The flood that wiped out our bridge



Last year, on March 27, the creek that runs in front of my family's home overflowed during a flood. It destroyed our bridge, washed out our driveway, and brought large, heavy debris up into our yard. The repairs to the bridge cost thousands of dollars. However, unlike some other people we know, our house remained unaffected as the floodwaters did not rise high enough to reach our home. This event was just a small local flood, and the damage was done only to property, not to life. It was absolutely nothing compared to the utter devastation of the Japanese tsunami. Despite this, it still shows how mighty water can be in a very short time. Overnight, our gravel driveway was reconfigured, water was pooled up everywhere, and a log about two and a half feet long with a one-foot diameter was sitting at one of the highest points in our yard.



Water had redesigned our yard in just a few hours. Every flood is a small example of how the global flood changed the world. It gives us a better understanding of how water affects a landscape. Local floods and national crises of tsunamis are still minor events compared to the flood of Noah's day. They are like models of something that happened only once in the history of the world. But undersized models are exactly how scientists convey larger theories.



The Maya drought

However, too much water is certainly not the only way water can cause destruction. In fact, according to a CBS News article, droughts are often much worse than floods or tsunamis: "Repeated droughts around the world are destroying enough farm produce to feed 81 million people for a year and are four times more costly for economies than floods, the World Bank found in a new study" (Layne). In the late A.D. 700s, a period of extreme drought started in Central America that lasted for almost 200 years. This drought is now thought by some to be the main contributor to the collapse of many major Maya civilizations. Millions of Maya were wiped out as the drought ravaged their farmland and devastated their crops. "Large Maya cities collapsed in four phases of abandonment spaced about fifty years apart around A.D. 760, 810, 860, and 910...A marine core from the Cariaco Basin off Venezuela precisely dates four severe drought episodes to 760, 810, 860, and 910, coincident with the four phases of abandonment of

cities” (Gill). The necessity of water for life causes its unavailability to be incredibly deadly.



(Thinkstock)

Modern Syrian drought

However, the Maya collapse was over 1,000 years ago. It is ancient history. But extreme drought can still destroy people's lives. As recently as August of last year, 2021, Syria was struck by drought. Over 17,000,000 people live in Syria, and the drought, combined with the ongoing civil war, is making life in Syria increasingly difficult. The short supply of water is causing the deaths of many people who depend on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. These rivers have been drying up, damaging the power grid due to a lack of hydroelectric power. "More than five million people in Syria directly depend on the river" ("Water Crisis and Drought). Water is lacking that is fit for drinking, but even water to use for crops is low in supply. This drought is

amplifying poverty as dehydration and malnutrition run rampant without any way to stop it. The power of its absence is ever greater than the strength of its abundance.

Earth : The only blue planet

When God created the universe, as described in the first chapters of Genesis, special attention was given to Earth. On it, He formed water and life. No other astronomical object was described in the creation story with as much detail as Earth. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “Earth is the only known planet (or moon) to have consistent, stable bodies of liquid water on its surface” (US Department of Commerce). God created Earth to be perfect for supporting life. It is special and unique. God fashioned mankind in His own image, and He formed Earth to be perfectly suited for supporting our lives. God placed Earth in a perfect position in the solar system and provided it with the perfect atmosphere for temperature control. If Earth was closer to the sun, it would become much too hot, and all the water would evaporate. If Earth was farther from the sun, all the water would freeze. And if the atmosphere was thinner than it is, both of these things would happen, uninhabitable scorching temperatures would kill in the daytime and unbearable freezing temperatures would slaughter at night. The purpose of Earth’s atmosphere is to shield us from most heat while keeping what comes in contained.



(NASA)

The Great Flood

The Great Flood of Noah's day was a cataclysmic global event. It was the largest scale natural disaster that has ever struck Earth and its inhabitants. The Flood was also an incredibly long event. As stated in Genesis 7:17 and 24 "For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth... The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days." The earthquake preceding the Japanese tsunami lasted only 6 minutes, and the rain that caused our creek to flood only continued for a few hours ("2011 Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami"). But the rain causing the Great Flood persisted for forty days, and the floodwaters remained high for 150 days. If a few hours of rain can wash out a bridge and carve paths through gravel, it is no surprise to me that 40 days of rain over the entire globe could

cause incredible natural formations. These include the Grand Canyon, quickly-formed fossils (such as a fish eating another fish), the red-rock formations at Arches National Park, and high-elevation sea life fossils.



(“Fish Swallowing a Fish”)

Jesus, our Living Water

Jesus knew the vitality of water. He said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4.14) Jesus provides us with the “water” that is necessary to sustain our spiritual life, just like we need water to keep our physical life intact.

“Jesus is our Living Water. He is the only thing that can truly fill us up and help us live the life He intended us to live. And when we continually allow that Living Water to be our focus, we can’t help but let it overflow to those around us. We weren’t made to operate from a place of depletion, and He is always waiting, ready to fill us up, and He’s the only thing that can satisfy every hope, dream, or longing we have in our hearts” (Shankle). Jesus is the only source of spiritual living water. Nothing else supplies it. But without it, our spiritual life will become a dehydrated shell. God knows we need water, and He gives it freely, we need only to ask.



(Pixabay)

Summary

Water is special and powerful. God created it in such a way that all life depends on it. Water can entirely reform landscapes quickly as shown in modern events. This is how major

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landmarks were formed during the Great Flood. The Grand Canyon did not form over millions of years; it likely formed within one or two decades. The need for water for drinking, agriculture, and hydroelectricity has made droughts some of the most devastating natural disasters. God placed Earth perfectly in the solar system so that water, and consequently, life, can be supported on our planet. Jesus provides us with Living Water that keeps our spiritual life from running dry. God created water, water sustains life, and God sustains us.

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