

Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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Lessons from Babel

by Mary Jo Nutting

I have been reading Bodie Hodge's new book, **Tower of Babel: The Cultural History of Our Ancestors**. (See page 2 for a book review.) The information Hodge presents is not only fascinating and enlightening, but it also got me thinking about what we can learn for our own lives and times from this long-ago event.

First of all, we need to understand that the event described in Genesis 11 is historically true and accurate. Like the rest of Scripture, it is inspired by God and included in the Biblical record for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16). It is not just a "myth," a parable, or a Sunday School story for kids, as many people would have you believe.

So what can we learn from Babel? Obviously there is not space in this article for an in-depth theological treatise – nor am I equipped to write one. However, here are some lessons that came to mind as I studied and thought about this event. We are still feeling its effects to this very day.

In Genesis 9, God told Noah and his family to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." But then in Genesis 11:4, we read Noah's descendants saying, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." From the beginning, God's plan was for mankind to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it and have

dominion (Genesis 1:28).

How often are we more concerned about making a name for ourselves than we are about magnifying the name of God? How often do we attempt to build a city for ourselves while forgetting or ignoring God's commands to love Him and others, and, out of that love, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" (Mark 16:15)? That "world" might include family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, strangers we meet

in our day-to-day life – or it might include going to those of other nations and cultures. God's

heart is for the "world" – for people everywhere to come to repentance, salvation, and the knowledge of the truth (II Peter 3:9; I Timothy 2:4). Is that also our heart? Is it our priority? Do we really care?

Also note that, up until the time when God intervened and confused the languages, all people spoke one language and were all "one people" (Gen. 11:6). God saw that they were united in this tower-building project, and said that now nothing would be impossible for them. I don't begin to understand all that is meant by this, but there must have been some dire implications because God intervened by confusing the languages.

If you have ever been in a setting where you could not communicate because of language barriers, you know how difficult, frustrating, and exhausting it can be. Confusing the languages was certainly a very

effective means of causing people to spread out and fill the earth.

Since that time, the various people groups have become separated. Most have lost the knowledge of the One True God and His plan for humanity. Instead of using God-given authority to exercise dominion while making His name great, people have continued to try to build kingdoms and make names for themselves. We have become

divided by cultural differences, pride, greed, religions, and wars – yet we yearn for unity.

Although

the internet, global travel, and education have opened new avenues for unity, still we are divided. Even if we could achieve that unity, would it be for the glory of God and the betterment of mankind? If lessons from the past mean anything, we have much to fear when humanity unites under the leadership of ungodly rulers who war against God.

What this world needs is not just any kind of unity, but the healing unity that only comes from submission to the reign and rule of Christ! We need to submit to His reign in our own lives, and then work to share the truth of His love, forgiveness, and grace with those who are still living out the causes and effects of Babel! How we need to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven!" (Matthew 6:10) "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20) **AOI**

Confusing the languages was a very effective means of causing people to spread out and fill the earth.

Did the Continents Split in the Days of Peleg? by Mary Jo Nutting

In the Table of Nations (genealogies) recorded in Genesis 10, most names are listed without additional comment. However, when you get to verse 25, you read: “To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother’s name was Joktan.” What does this little phrase, “in his days the earth was divided” mean?

Some Christians have suggested that it means the dividing and separating of the continents occurred during the life of Peleg, but there are some major reasons to reject this idea. The following are taken from Bodie Hodge’s book, *Tower of Babel: The Cultural History of Our Ancestors* (pp. 98-99).



1. When Genesis 10:25 is read within the context of the whole of Genesis 10, the four other verses (5, 18, 20, and 32) speaking of the division clearly emphasize that this was a linguistic and family division of all post-Flood people into different lands (geographical locations).

2. Had the division of continents occurred during the days of Peleg, then the associated catastrophism would have resulted in another worldwide Flood, in violation of God’s specific promise to Noah. [Note: This would have happened due to earthquakes and tsunamis generated by catastrophic movement of continents.]

3. Had the division of continents occurred during the days of Peleg, then the ark (with Peleg’s ancestors)

would have had no place to land, as the mountains of Ararat produced by continental collisions would not have yet existed.

4. There is tremendous fossil and geologic evidence for continental division having occurred only during the Flood.

Hodge deals with several other objections in his book, but they are out of the scope of this short article. He concludes that the event occurring in the days of Peleg, refers to the division of languages, not the division of the continents. For anyone interested in pursuing this further, I would suggest getting the book and studying it, along with his references. (For more on the division of the continents, see page 3 of this issue.) **AOI**

Tower of Babel: The Cultural History of Our Ancestors

by Mary Jo Nutting

How often have you skipped over genealogies in the Bible, or glossed over events that seem far-removed from your current, everyday life? Yet everything in Scripture has a purpose, and there is so much we can learn by studying each part.

In his new book, **Tower of Babel: The Cultural History of Our Ancestors**, Bodie Hodge provides fascinating insights into many of the mysteries surrounding the Tower of Babel and the dispersion of people following the events there. Hodge deals with questions and objections frequently raised by skeptics against the historicity of Genesis, as well as delving into issues vital to believers today. Some of the questions included as chapters are: How Do

You Pronounce Babel, Anyway? What Kinds of Specific Attacks Are There? Why Were the People Disobedient? When Did the Scattering Occur? What Was the Purpose of the Tower of Babel? Did the Continents Split in the Days of Peleg? and many more. He also includes detailed maps and descriptions illustrating the possible migrations of the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth and how they relate to people groups today.

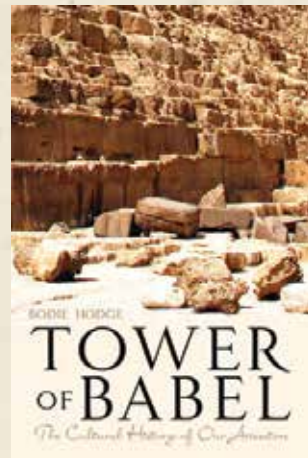
This book opens many doors to understanding this little-known account from long ago. It provides

both believers and skeptics with solid answers and plausible explanations to questions

surrounding this mysterious event which has often been rejected as “just a myth.” It connects the past with present time, and can also provoke thinking about the reality of God, the truth of Scripture, and the prophecies about things yet to come.

Available from Alpha Omega

Institute for \$14.00. FREE shipping. (Offer expires July 31, 2013.) **AOI**



Drifting Plates or Flying Saucers?

Continental “Drift” and Plate Tectonics

by Dave Nutting

A frequently asked question at our seminars is, “Do you believe in continental drift?” This is the idea that all the land masses on our planet were originally one large continent which is referred to as Pangaea. Pangaea then supposedly broke up over millions of years to give the present distribution of our continents. What about this and what about the time frame?

In 1859, creationist Antonio Snider suggested the idea of a super continent based on a biblical passage. Gen 1: 9, 10 says, “And God said, ‘Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear:’ and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas: and God saw that it was good.”

Snider’s ideas were at first laughed at, then accepted much later by uniformitarian geologists (with the addition of millions of years) to give us the present configuration on earth. If the theory is correct, we would then suggest the millions of years are not needed for the break-up, especially considering the cataclysmic events during the year of Noah’s Flood.

There also seems to be geologic evidence for the theory. It appears that the continents fit together similar to a jigsaw puzzle (but not perfectly and the pieces fit other ways as well). Other indicators for continental drift

are that geologic formations continue from one continent to another as well as mineral veins and deposits extending from one continent to another.

Dr. John Baumgardner, who has been considered one of the top geophysicists in the world came up with a theory based on his research to explain not only the break-up of the super-continent, but which also explains the Flood of Noah’s day. To get a grasp of this, realize that the oceanic crust is being slowly pushed (or subducted) under the lighter continental plates. The material of the oceanic plates are actually denser than the magma it rides upon. Dr. Baumgardner’s model suggests that the denser oceanic crust at one time began to quickly fall into the less dense mantle. When that began, the generated heat caused a very rapid subduction. This resulted in an even greater increase of heat and then even faster subduction. Baumgardner refers to this as runaway subduction. When that occurred, many events were set into motion.

With material being forced into the mantle and new, less dense, oceanic crust replacing the subducted crust, a rapid rise in the sea level by thousands of feet would result. This rising of the sea level would certainly be a major factor in causing the earth to flood. Huge plumes of superheated steam would also

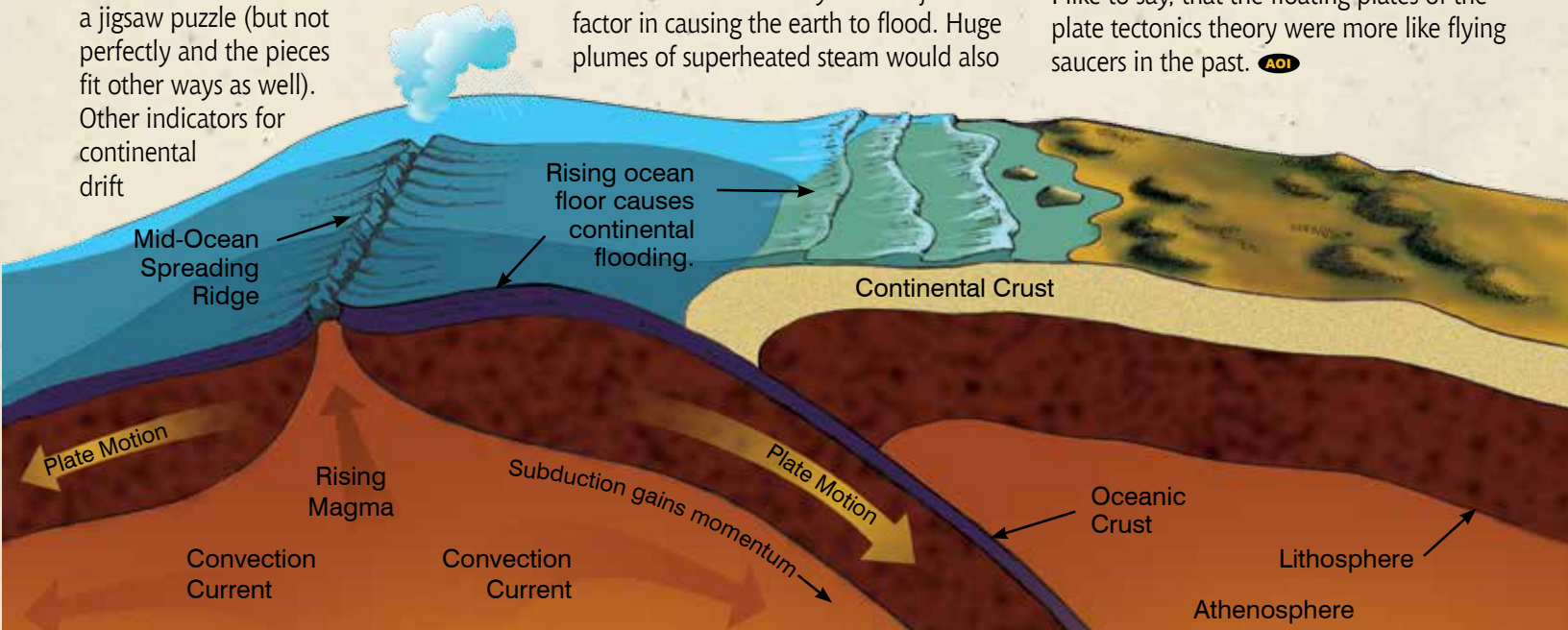
condense causing torrential rain.

Baumgardner’s model shows that circulation patterns would be set up within the mantle which would not only create electrical and hence, magnetic disturbances, but would also exert tremendous pressure on the land mass causing it to break apart and set continental drift into motion.

So, how long would this process take? Dr. Baumgardner’s model and calculations show that once it begins, the runaway effect will not happen slowly, but in the span of merely the one year of the flood. This is certainly a major deviation in the current theory of continental drift involving millions of years.

I do not have a problem with continents moving, but I do have a problem with the current time frame. As an example, suppose a skier streaks down a mountain slope but near the bottom, he takes a major spill and plows into a huge snowbank. Also suppose you just happened to look up at the very last micro second as the skier grinds to a halt. Based upon the ultra-slow speed you actually observed as he was grinding to a halt and seeing the ski tracks coming down the mountain, you might calculate that it must have taken that skier millions of years to get down that mountain.

In a like manner, if we observe the almost imperceptible motion of the continents and do not take into consideration the rapid motion resulting from the runaway subduction, we will come up with a very wrong picture of the time frame expected for all of the drifting to take place. Instead of subducting slowly, I like to say, that the floating plates of the plate tectonics theory were more like flying saucers in the past. **AOI**



Director's Column by Dave Nutting



As we write this, we are in Arizona, leading a geology field trip for students from Jackson Hole Bible College. We always look forward to introducing students to the "big picture" view of the geology of the southwest, and demonstrating how the evidence corroborates so nicely with the events during and after the Flood described in Genesis 6-8. Though these students have studied Creation and the Flood

extensively during the year, seeing the sites "up close and personal" seems to help it all "gel" for many of them.

We enjoy this kind of "hands-on" education. This summer, participants on our Whitewater Rafting Adventure will have the opportunity to view geologic evidence, learn about Creation, the Flood and it's aftermaths, and experience for themselves the power of moving water as we raft and kayak down remote sections of Desolation and Gray's Canyons on the Green River in Utah. **AOI**

Upcoming Events

AOI speakers are planning a busy summer with events planned for CO, ID KS, OR, TX, UT, WA, and WV. See web for details. We still have a few potential openings this summer, so contact us right away if you would like to schedule a church seminar, camp, VBS, or youth event in your area. Also, contact us if you would like something in the fall.

Special Need

In order to keep up with changes in technology, we need to convert and upgrade our current website and database management systems to more powerful, accessible systems. Both of these are big projects and will cost approximately \$25,000 beyond our regular budget. Can you help supply for these special needs?



Creation Family Mountain Adventures

• June 9-14 • July 28-Aug. 2



Exciting "vacations with a purpose" in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. Stimulating creation teaching, exciting recreational activities, luxurious lodge, delicious meals.

- June 9-14: **Redcloud Family Mountain Get-Away** - lighter intro of solid creation evidence from science and the Bible. Co-sponsored by Redcloud and AOI.
- July 28-Aug 2: **Discover Creation Family Adventure!** AOI's classic vacation with a purpose at Redcloud. Latest creation evidence and optional in-depth Genesis teaching. (See web for details.)



Creation Action Boot Camp

• June 30-July 5, 2013



Great time of learning and fun, designed to "fireproof" **high school and college students** with answers to evolutionary challenges to their faith. Exciting creation teaching, hands-on activities, relevant projects, field trips, and plenty of mountain-style fun. Held at Camp Redcloud near beautiful Lake City, CO. For more info, call 800-377-1923 or visit us on the web.

"AOI's teaching is what got me through college with my faith intact." - student



Whitewater Rafting

• August 24-30

Find Solitude. Explore the Truth.

Canyons! Camping! and Creation! from competent Journey Quest guides and experienced AOI creation teachers. This Green River adventure will take you to some of the most remote parts of UT. Great for families (minimum age 5) or singles. (See www.DiscoverCreation.org/RaftTrip for photos and information.)

