

WHAT IS the HYDROPLATE THEORY?

The Hydroplate Theory had its beginning in 1970, when Air Force Col. **Dr. Walt Brown**, heard a radio show discussing recent claims that someone had seen Noah's ark on Mt. Ararat. Walt began to think about the reality of a worldwide flood. Was it possible? Where would all the water have come from? Where did it go? How could the water have covered even Mt. Everest? For two years, Walt pondered these questions, reading everything available about claimed sighting of the ark. If that much water sloshed around on the earth for a whole year, a vast amount of sediments would have buried millions of dead plants and animals. He realized that this was a much better explanation for the fossil record than evolution. By 1972, he had become a creationist.



Next, Walt began to ponder what geophysical mechanism could produce the necessary conditions for the Flood. The Bible says that the "fountains of the Great Deep" burst forth on a single day. Walt decided to take the Bible literally and began to think about how fountains might flow out from deep underground. There would have to have been vast "storehouses" of water already under the crust of the earth. He read in Psalm 33:7 that God "gathered the waters of the sea together as a heap, and put the deep into storehouses." Most commentators believe that this verse is talking about creation, which leads to the conclusion that God had put deep water underground when he formed the earth (before he created any living things). Could these "storehouses of the deep" have been the primary mechanism that caused the Flood (including the torrential rain)? What would happen if a massive amount of water under the crust of the earth was suddenly released? The idea of water chambers deep underground was the starting point for the Hydroplate Theory.

Fortunately, Walt had the credentials to investigate the science behind the flood. He had a BS from West Point, a masters in engineering from New Mexico State, and a PhD in mechanical engineering from MIT, where he was a National Science Foundation Fellow. **His thesis work was in the field of heat transfer.** He taught many college classes in math and physics, became the director of a large military science lab, was a tenured professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and finally, the Chief of Science and Technology Studies at the Air War College. Throughout his military career he received promotions and commendations for his ability to teach and to solve technical problems.

After retiring from the military, Walt went into full time creation science research. To make sure he had an adequate understanding of geology, he took geology classes at Arizona State University, sitting under some of the biggest names in geological science, including one of the founders of the Plate Tectonic theory. He was able to spend many hours outside of class discussing technical aspects of plate tectonics. He shared his own ideas about tectonics with these experts, putting his ideas to the test. As it turned out, he found that his own ideas (which used the Bible as the starting point) could solve geological mysteries that stumped the experts.

Hydroplate Theory explains how "Noah's Flood" happened—where the water came from, and where it went. It also has logical explanations for dozens of mysterious geological formations on the earth and strange observations in the solar system.

Walt started with a list of several dozen geological or physical features of our planet that any theory needed to explain. His list included some large, well-known things like the Grand Canyon, major mountain ranges, mid-ocean ridges, coal seams, fossils, and oil deposits. Also on the list were lesser-known things such as frozen methane buried in ice at the bottom of the ocean, underwater salt domes, black smokers, limestone, dolomite, and large plateaus. Secular geologists attempt to explain all of these by using present-day geological processes but on a time scale of millions of years. Walt knew from his conversations with top-level scientists that this millions of years approach (the only viewpoint presented in textbooks) has many problems which were only discussed behind closed doors, not in the hearing of the general public. Could his biblical approach provide answers to these problems?



As a mechanical engineer, Walt knew about the strength of many materials, including various types of rock. He had also studied failure mechanisms—what happens when materials are pushed beyond their limits. What would it take to crack a granite continental plate tens of miles thick? Could water under the crust provide enough pressure? What would happen to the escaping water?

He decided to start with just a few initial conditions.

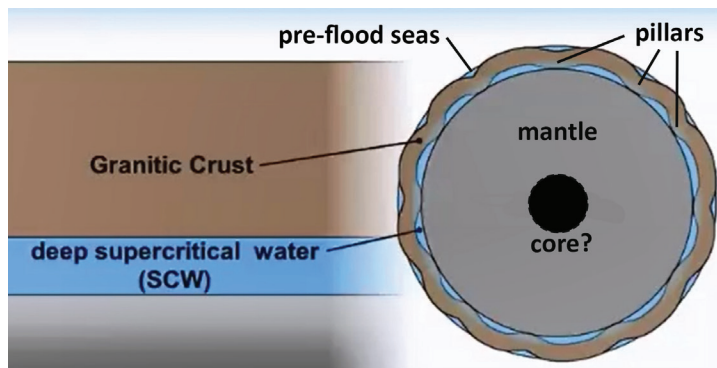
1) The original creation (before the Fall) was perfect. There was nothing in the natural world that caused harm: no earthquakes, no volcanoes, no hurricanes, no tornadoes, no volcanoes, no ice storms, no lightning strikes, no radioactivity, and probably no meteorites falling from the sky.

2) The crust of the earth was one solid, spherical shell. No Pangea.

3) There was water under the crust, at least a mile in depth, contained in interconnected chambers separated by pillars of rock that "sagged down" from the crust overhead. These pillars prevented the crust from freely slipping and spinning on the layer of water.

4) A small initial crack in the spherical crust was the beginning of all the subsequent events of the great global Flood.

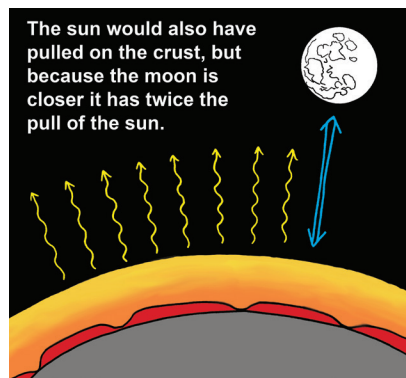
(An illustration of these initial conditions is on the next page.)



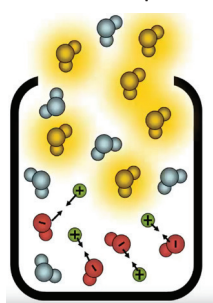
Of course, we can assume that there were also **pre-flood seas**, (some of them very large) because large aquatic animals, such as whales, had to have a place to live. There would have been mountains for forest plants and animals but **nothing as tall as today's Andes or Himalayas**.

Another corollary to the initial conditions was that the interior of **the earth was relatively cool**. There was probably a mantle made of solid rock (high in magnesium and iron, as it is today), and possibly a solid core made of iron and nickel which gave the earth a magnetic field.

Walt then used known laws of physics to let the scenario play out. The water in those subterranean chambers would have been under great pressure, possibly as much as 372,000 pounds per square inch. Not only did the water experience pressure from the overhead rock, but it also was subject to **"tidal pumping"** caused by the pull of the moon and sun. The tidal pull would cause the crust to flex, lifting it twice a day as the earth rotated. The flexing caused the rock to heat up, and much of this heat was transferred to the subterranean water. The temperature of the water could have been well over the temperature at which water becomes "supercritical."



Supercritical water (SCW) is made of microscopic liquid droplets (made of 5-10 molecules) within very dense water vapor (individual water molecules). The water was much hotter than boiling temperature but was unable to boil because it was trapped inside the chamber. **SCW is known for its ability to dissolve things.** (Small amounts are used commercially as a solvent.) In the chambers, the SCW would have dissolved some of the rock above and below it. The rock above contained a lot of quartz (SiO_2) plus some sodium, potassium, aluminum, calcium, and other minor elements. The rock below contained not only silicon, but also much iron and magnesium. The water itself likely contained a lot of CO_2 (as evidenced by the results of a deep drilling program that sampled the crust at 7 mi. deep.)



Another form of energy was also added to the water: **ionization energy**. As the atoms rearranged themselves and formed new molecules, energy was released. The simple image shows a jar with a few molecules releasing ionization energy. There might also have been a chemical process of combustion going in the chamber, adding more heat. (After the Flood began, nuclear energy would add even more heat.)

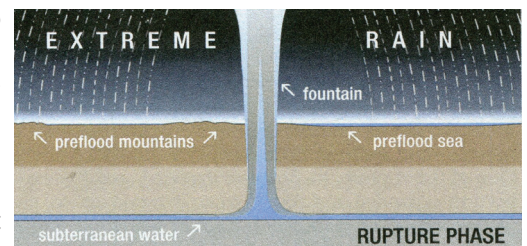
As the SCW dissolved the rock, the released atoms went into the water. The atoms were then free to recombine, and they formed molecules such as NaCl and CaCO_3 . We know from lab experiments with SCW that dissolved minerals quickly precipitate out, creating a "blanket" of mineral particles on the floor of the container. Thus, the floor of these chambers must have been covered with mineral molecules that had the potential to create or cement rocks.

Then, a small crack opened up somewhere in the crust. We don't know why this happened. We can be sure that **the earth was not created as a "ticking time bomb"** with the crack being inevitable. No, God created a perfect earth. Many things changed after the Fall. Thorns and thistles began to grow for the first time. All creatures were suddenly vulnerable to accidents and illness, and ultimately, death. Was the physical structure of the earth also affected? Or did God supernaturally create a crack in order to initiate the Flood? Walt decided that it was most important to focus on the results of this crack, not on its cause.



The crack in the crust was a "tension crack." Being a mechanical engineer, Walt knew a lot about tension cracks. The tension is released at the ends of the crack. (Think of a rip in a piece of cloth and how it spreads.) Engineers can calculate how fast cracks will spread in granite; this crack would have raced around the world in a matter of hours. We know where the crack went because it ended up creating the mid-ocean ridges (more details about this soon).

Because of the extreme pressure of the supercritical water, it erupted from under the crust with tremendous force. The water jetted high into the atmosphere. Some of it came back down as rain (the torrential rain recorded in the Bible), but a lot of it escaped



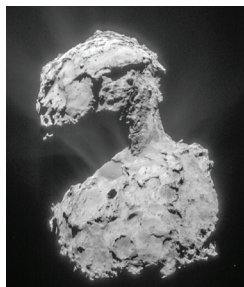
earth's gravity and went into space. One might think that the release of all this scalding hot water would have boiled both the oceans and the atmosphere. However, supercritical water is able to cool almost instantly if it is allowed to expand rapidly. The SCW was indeed expanding very rapidly as it was released from its chambers, and by the time it erupted at the surface it was no longer hot. In fact, some of the precipitation coming down could have been cold hail!

The powerful fountains of escaping water began eroding the sides of the crack. Granite can be pulverized by fast-moving water. ("Water saws" are used to cut granite for countertops.) The rocks at the base of the crack would have been crumbling into pieces and falling into the crack. Chunks of rock were tumbled smooth in minutes. Some of these rocks were swept up by the water that was escaping earth's gravity and



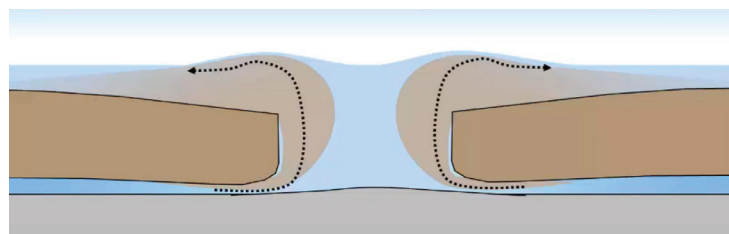
were carried along with water into space. This might sound crazy, but Walt's calculations showed that the escaping water could, indeed, provide enough energy to jetison fairly large rocks into space.

Once they were far from the earth, the water and rocks began to feel the pull of gravity amongst themselves, and they began to coalesce, eventually forming comets and asteroids. **This image shows comet 67P on which NASA discovered numerous rounded rocks.** There isn't any mechanism for rounding rocks in outer space. Walt Brown was the only scientist in the world who predicted this discovery. NASA scientists were shocked! **Another of Walt's predictions was confirmed during NASA's "DART" mission** when they fired a projectile at an asteroid hoping to change its orbit. They were astounded when the target area shattered, scattering thousands of small rocks into space. As Walt predicted, asteroids are "floating rock piles." Even more supporting evidence for Walt's theory came from chemical analysis of comets and asteroids. Astronomers are mystified by the presence of water, salts, silicates, carbon, limestone, clay, serpentinite (mantle rock mixed with water), iron, nickel, and amino acids. How did these "earthy" substances get into outer space?



A few very large chunks of rock appear to have hit the moon, as one side has evidence of massive lava flows caused by major impacts.

Meanwhile, back at the crack, all that mineral mush that had been lying on the floor of the subterranean chamber was being swept to the surface. **Vast quantities of dissolved minerals came pouring out,** including silicon dioxide (raw material for quartz, sand, and shale deposits) and calcium carbonate (for making limestone) and salt. Magnesium was available for turning limestone into dolomite, and iron showed up in various places, sometimes as ore and in other places as a red color in limestone or sandstone.

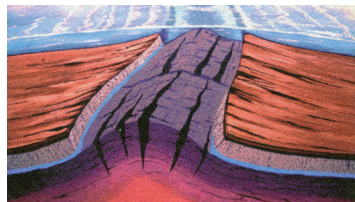


The fountains and the flood waters had created quite a mess on the surface of the earth. Tsunamis of watery mud would have buried millions of dead plants and animals. **The addition of mineral-rich water made ideal conditions for forming fossils.** Giant waves of water flowed around the globe, and as the velocity of the currents changed, sediments fell out of the water in layers. (This phenomenon has been observed in modern day experiments with flowing water.)

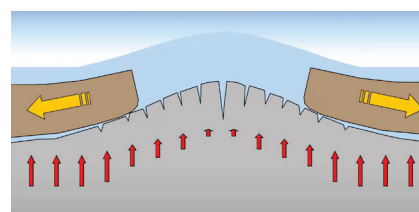
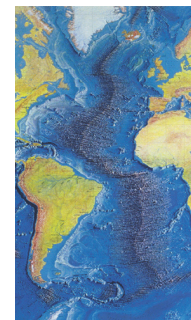
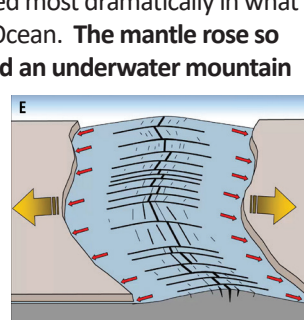
In some areas, these layers were thin; we call them varves. In other areas, the layers were quite thick, such as those seen in the Grand Canyon. Often there is a pattern to the layers, with repeating layers of shale, limestone and sandstone. Some layers contain fossils, others do not. Bottom dwelling marine creatures got buried first. Land-dwelling animals and birds were buried last.



As physical laws continued to play out, the crack grew wider and wider. Eventually, water stopped going into space, or even into the atmosphere, and the rain stopped. However, water continued to pour out from under the crust, explaining why the Bible states that the water kept rising long after the rain stopped. When the crack was several hundred miles wide, the mantle rock underneath was now free to spring upwards (isostatic rebound).



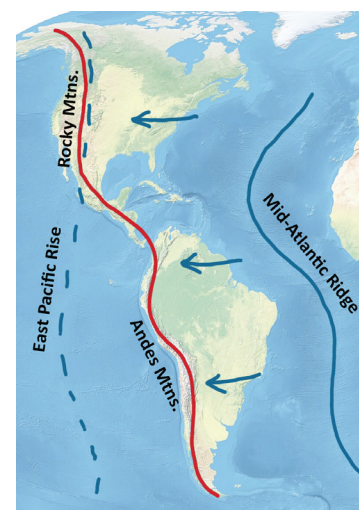
This happened most dramatically in what is now the Atlantic Ocean. **The mantle rose so high that it created an underwater mountain range (the Mid-Atlantic Ridge).** The mantle rock cracked in many places, creating what are now known as "fracture zones."



By now, the granite shell that used to cover the earth was cracked into pieces. As the mantle rose, these massive "continental plates" began to slide away from the

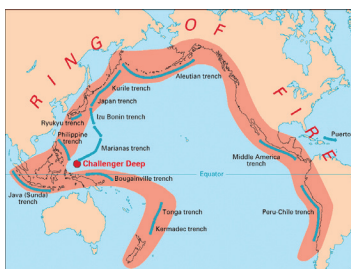
ridge. Since they were riding on a cushion of water, Walt decided to call them "hydroplates." Hydroplate Theory doesn't deny that the continents have moved, it just suggests that they did so very quickly, in a matter of hours, not over the course of millions of years. HPT also differs from Catastrophic Plate Tectonics which is a sped-up version of regular Plate Tectonics. CPT asserts that certain continental plates "dove" under others, with solid mantle rock behaving in ways that require its supporters to invoke miracles not mentioned in the Bible.

The hydroplates that would eventually become North, Central, and South America slid rapidly to the west. The northern part of the plate ran up over the recently formed East Pacific Rise and came to a sudden halt. The plate buckled and rose up, creating the **Cascades and Rocky Mountains**. Water was disappearing from under all the plates, and the bottom of the continental plates began scraping against the mantle rock underneath. The South American plate buckled, forming the **Andes Mountains**.



Notice on this map that these mountain chains are approximately the same size and shape as the mid-ocean ridge from which they slid. In other places around the globe, the pattern is not as obvious, as plate movement appears to have been more complicated. Evidence such as seashells on mountain tops suggests that all major mountain ranges were pushed up from under the Flood waters.

On the other side of the world, the continental plate covering what is now the Pacific Ocean felt a downward pull **due to the shifting of the inner earth** as the mantle rose upwards in the newly formed Atlantic Ocean. The Pacific Plate sheared around the edges, creating deep faults, then it cracked, sank, and melted into the mantle, causing many volcanoes. Areas that experienced extreme downward force formed ocean trenches. The deeply fractured mantle under this “Ring of Fire” still creates earthquakes and volcanoes today, as the cracked mantle shifts underneath.



The origin of earth’s radioactive elements is a poorly understood topic. Scientists will freely admit that they don’t have a sure answer. The answer most often given is that these super-heavy radioactive elements were made by nuclear fusion in large stars at some point after the Big Bang and got transported to other places in the universe where they became part of a dust cloud that condensed into a star or planet. However, if this was true, we should find radioactive elements fairly uniformly distributed throughout our planet, or else deep in the core due to gravity. But we don’t. Hydroplate Theory has an alternative explanation for the origin of radioactivity.

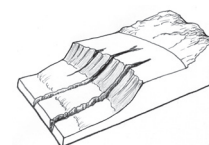
As the continent-sized hydroplates buckled and compressed (and flexed up and down while the water was escaping), something significant was happening to the rock itself. **Granite is rich in the mineral quartz, which exhibits electrical properties** when compressed or stretched. As the granite crust flexed up and down, huge underground “lightning bolts” shot through it. These massive electrical surges were able to strip electrons from atoms, leaving bare nuclei. A split second later, these atomic pieces recombined to form all kinds of strange atoms, including many super-heavy unstable atoms that quickly split apart into smaller atoms that varied in stability. (This process has been observed in a lab. It is called the Z-pinch effect.)



The white and clear crystals in granite are quartz.

Some of these radioactive isotopes are still with us today, and can give the wrong impression about the age of the earth. Supporting evidence for this hypothesis about the origin of earth’s radioactivity comes from the observations that radioactivity occurs almost exclusively in continental rock made of granite, not in ocean floor rock (which was not squeezed), and that radioactivity occurs preferentially in areas that had maximum compression.

If Noah had been able to take a ride in a jet and look at the surface of the earth after the Flood, what would he have seen? The continents would have looked much higher than they are today—it took many years for them to sink down into the mantle. **The oceans would have been several miles lower than they are today**—so low, in fact, that there were land bridges linking all the continents. For a number of years after the Flood, people and animals could migrate across continents just by walking. Along the coastlines, Noah would have seen water pouring off the edges of the continents, carving canyons as big as the Grand Canyon. As the ocean level rose over several hundred years, these canyons disappeared from view, becoming submarine canyons (shown here). Noah probably would not have seen ice caps, as these likely developed many years later.



The Ice Age and the carving of the Grand Canyon occurred several hundred years after the Flood. The Ice Age was the result of warm oceans and cold continents. The carving of the Grand Canyon appears to have been initiated by the spilling over of two extremely large post-Flood lakes, which have since disappeared entirely.



As with many strange features of our planet (and our solar system), the clues we need to solve the mystery of their origin no longer exist. The subterranean water is mostly gone, the floodwaters have long since drained away into the oceans, most of crust from the Pacific is gone, there is very little water vapor in the solar system, and fossils are no longer forming. **Only the Bible gives us the correct starting point to form theories about geology and astronomy.**

This summary gives you just a small taste of all the fascinating details of the Hydroplate Theory. Walt Brown’s book gives you 500 pages of information and technical notes, but there are also shorter books, articles, videos, and radio shows that can help you to learn about HPT.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HYDROPLATE THEORY:

“In The Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood” by Walt Brown, PhD, 9th edition

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Read the 9th edition online at: book.creationsciencecenter.org or creationscience.com or hydroplate.org

VIDEOS:

[YouTube.com/@BryanNickel_Hydroplate](https://www.youtube.com/@BryanNickel_Hydroplate) (This provides many hours of a visual summary of “In The Beginning”)

<https://www.youtube.com/@HydroplateTheory> (Past conference videos, presentations by HPT advocates, shorts)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASkPEKH78E8&t=929s> (Fred McNabb’s excellent 27-minute summary of HPT)

DVDs: “The Horror of the Flood” and “Puzzle on the Plateau” (each about an hour) for sale at MissionImperative.org

WEBSITES:

creationscience.com (Dr. Brown’s official site, currently being updated)

hydroplate.org (clearing house for all things HPT: links to videos, radio shows, books, articles, and announcement of events)

RSR.org (Real Science Radio: Search the site for “HPT” or “Hydroplate” or “Walt Brown”)