

Noah's Flood – The Bible, the Science, & the Controversy

By Jane Albright, P.E.

Part 2 – The Hydroplate Theory

Recap

In this series, we are looking at three of today's well-known scientific theories for the global flood – the Vapor Canopy Theory (VCT), the Hydroplate Theory (HPT), and the Catastrophic Plate Tectonics Theory (CPT) – and comparing them with scientific evidence and the Bible. Part 1 summarized some of the key flood passages in the Bible and briefly discussed the VCT, including reasons why almost all creation scientists no longer view it as a viable flood explanation. Here in Part 2, we will examine one prominent explanation for the global flood, the Hydroplate Theory (HPT).

A heartfelt thanks to HPT author Dr. Brown for his patience in answering my many questions as I prepared this article and for reviewing the pre-publication draft of this article.

Dr. Walt Brown

The HPT for the global flood is the work of Dr. Walt Brown, currently Director of the Center for Scientific Creation. Dr. Brown is a retired Air Force Colonel and former Director of Benét Laboratories, associate professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and Chief of Science and Technology Studies at the Air War College. He began his 21-year military career in the Army and is a West Point graduate, former Army Ranger and paratrooper, and Vietnam veteran. During two and a half of his Army years, he earned his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which he attended as a National Science Foundation Fellow.¹

Though a Christian from youth, Brown believed in evolution until about 1970 when a series of events convinced him of the scientific validity of biblical creation and the global flood. Since his 1980 retirement from the Air Force, Brown has worked full-time in research, writing, and teaching on origins. *“I tried to understand such questions as: Where did the water that covered all the pre-Flood mountains come from? Where did the water go after the Flood? What would a global Flood do to the earth? Can we see scientific evidences that point to a global flood? What does the Bible say about these questions? The pieces began to fall into place when I realized: (1) there had been a global flood and the Bible briefly and very accurately describes it; (2) the water and “all the fountains of the great deep” came from under the crust; and (3) the Mid-Atlantic Ridge was the geometric key.”*

The information and graphics in this article are from Brown's book, *In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*, which summarizes the scientific case for creation and the flood in Part I and presents the Hydroplate Theory explanation for the Flood in Part II. Currently in its 8th print edition, Brown's website, contains the most recent draft of the next (9th) edition at creationscience.com/onlinebook.

¹ Brown's story is included in the book, *Christian Men of Science: Eleven Men Who Changed the World*, by George Mulfinger and Julia Mulfinger-Orozco.

Due to space limitations, this article necessarily omits most details about the mechanisms and evidence that explain and support the HPT. For the full explanation, refer to Part II of *In the Beginning*. Written to be understood by the lay reader, it also provides hundreds of technical notes and references for engineers and scientists. Additionally, a series of animated videos created by engineer Bryan Nickel will be of great help to those seeking a deeper understanding of the HPT: https://www.youtube.com/c/BryanNickel_Hydroplate.

Where Did the Water Come From?

Scripture and the physical evidence convinced Brown that an underground storehouse of water formed at Creation had been the source of the “fountains of the great deep” and the flood’s torrential rain.² The main assumption of the HPT is that the flood waters came from a globe-encircling subterranean chamber—at least one mile thick—about 60 miles below Earth’s pre-flood surface.

The water in the subterranean chamber was fixed and tightly sealed by the tremendous compression within the overlying granite rock. At the instant of its creation, the granite shell was spread out above the waters just as the Bible describes in Psalm 24:2, Psalm 136:6, and elsewhere. Immediately thereafter, the heavier portions of the crust began to settle onto the floor of the subterranean water chamber in thousands of places. The places where the sagging chamber ceiling pressed against the chamber floor are the “pillars,” to which Scripture refers in several places. This settling, in turn, lifted the lighter portions of the crust out of the surface waters on Days 2 and 3 as Genesis 1:9-10 and 2 Peter 3:5b (KJV) say, thus forming the pre-flood mountains, which were smaller than those of today.

Brown states, *“This is a common method used in science: State initial assumptions and then examine the consequences based on the laws of physics. With this one starting assumption [an underground storehouse of water] and the application of the laws of physics, one can reach hundreds of conclusions that are consistent with observations today—observations that are otherwise scientifically puzzling.”*

The HPT encompasses the mechanism by which the earth’s crust ruptured to initiate the flood event and the follow-on chain of events that resulted in a drastically changed Earth and solar system. Unlike the VCT and CPT, the HPT also explains the “fountains of the great deep.” As Henry Morris explained in *The Genesis Record*, understanding—and explaining—the “fountains of the great deep” is critical for any flood explanation:

“The Bible specifically attributes the Flood to the bursting of the fountains of the great deep and the pouring down of torrential rains from heaven. These two phenomena are sufficient in themselvesto explain the Flood and all its effects without the necessity of resorting either to supernatural creative miracles or to providentially ordered extraterrestrial interferences of speculative nature. The breaking up (literally ‘cleaving open’) of the fountains of the great deep is mentioned first and so evidently was the initial action which triggered the rest. These conduits somehow all developed uncontrollable fractures on the same day. For such a remarkable worldwide phenomenon, there must have been a worldwide cause. The most likely cause would seem to have been a rapid buildup and surge of intense pressure throughout the underground system, and this in turn would presumably require a rapid rise in temperature throughout the system.”³

² “In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood - Is the Hydroplate Theory Consistent with the Bible?” <http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/FAQ218.html#wp9498683>.

³ Morris, Henry M. *The Genesis Record*, San Diego, California: Creation-Life Publishers, 1976, 196.

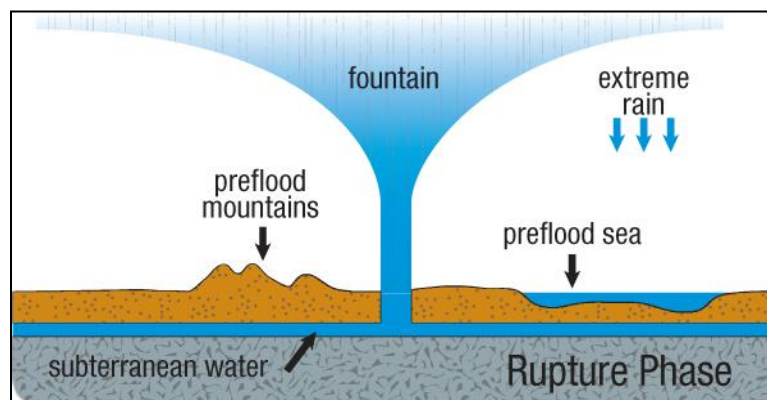
An HPT Overview

The HPT scenario comprises four phases: the Rupture, Flood, Drift, and Recovery Phases.

Rupture Phase. In the pre-flood earth, tidal cycles occurred twice daily in the subterranean water chamber for the same reason tides occur twice daily in our oceans today, with one significant difference. At high tide, the subterranean water lifted the 60-mile thick granite crust about one foot, and at low tide, the pillars were compressed by a like amount. The tremendous heat generated in the pillars by this “tidal pumping” of the massive crust raised the temperature of the subterranean water (and the crust above it). After some time, the water became “supercritical,” an explosively high-energy state reached at very high temperatures and pressures.

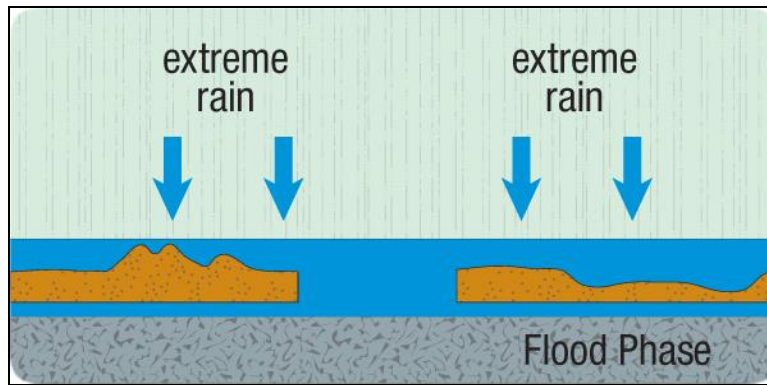
According to any one of several possible scenarios, a microscopic crack formed in the stretched granite crust. Stress concentrations at each end of the crack caused it to propagate in both directions at approximately three miles per second, following a great-circle path that wrapped about the earth like the seam of a baseball. After about two hours—and on the opposite side of the earth—one end of the crack ran into the path left by the other end of the crack. Thus the earth’s crust was broken into plates, called “hydroplates” because originally they lay on top of trapped water in the subterranean chamber. (“Hydro” means water.)

As the 60-mile-deep crack opened up and lengthened during the violent two-hour rupture phase, the explosive, supercritical water jetted supersonically out of the rupture as “the fountains of the great deep” of Genesis 7:11 and 8:2, flooding the earth. (Within one year after the flood began, most of these floodwaters had drained off the now drastically changed topography of the earth and into new, very deep ocean basins, as will be explained below. The floodwaters are there today, making up about half the volume of our oceans.) The most powerful of the jetting waters and rock debris escaped Earth’s gravity, and some of that debris accreted (gravitationally merged by a well-understood mechanism) over time to form our solar system’s comets and asteroids. Some ejected rocks became meteoroids.



The Rupture Phase. (Figure 56 of *In the Beginning*)

Flood Phase. Initially, each side of the rupture was as high as the thickness of the pre-flood crust – about 60 miles. However, exposed granite cannot sustain a cliff more than five miles high because the weight of the overlying rock at the base of the cliff exceeds granite’s compressive strength. For this reason, the newly exposed cliffs on either side of the rupture steadily crumbled. Granite blocks and other rubble fell into the escaping fountains and were tumbled, eroded, and rounded. Some of the voluminous sediments thus produced fell through the flood waters, rapidly trapping and burying plants and animals and forming the fossil record. As previously noted however, some debris was jettisoned into space. (Rounded rocks, some 10 feet in diameter, have been found in abundance on comets and asteroids, a discovery that is inexplicable to astronomers.) The crumbling and erosion widened the rupture to about 1400 miles.



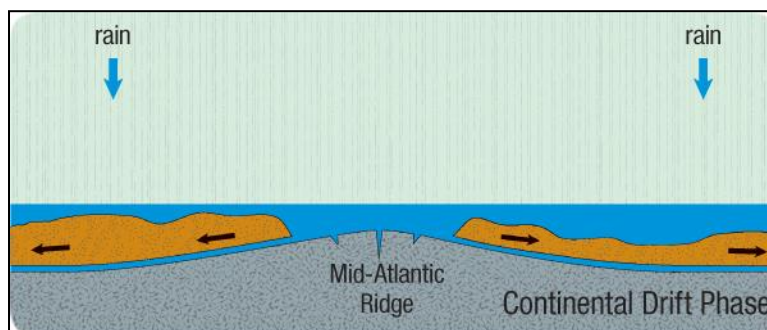
The Flood Phase. (Figure 58 of *In the Beginning*)

As the escaping waters under the plates accelerated horizontally toward the crack, they eroded more and more of the ceiling of the subterranean chamber, reducing the crustal thickness and resulting in the average 30-mile thickness of today's continents. (See the online 9th edition of *In the Beginning* for a fuller discussion, including the mechanisms by which some of the more soluble minerals at the base of the initially 60-mile thick crust were dissolved over time by the supercritical water underneath, even before the flood.)

The escaping waters also beveled the edges of the hydroplates into the unique shapes of ocean boundaries worldwide. Today's major mountains had not yet formed, so the floodwaters eventually covered the smaller pre-flood mountains, just as the Bible states. The Flood Phase lasted five months (Genesis 7:24).

Continental-Drift Phase. Exposed at the bottom of the initially-60-mile-deep rupture was a narrow portion of the former floor of the subterranean chamber. With the rapid removal of 60 miles of rock and the steady widening of this globe-encircling gash in the earth, the underlying strip of the chamber floor experienced an increasingly unbalanced force that tended to push it up. Eventually, that portion of the floor gave way and suddenly buckled upward, forming the 46,000-mile long Mid-Oceanic Ridge (MOR). Lying mostly beneath the oceans, the MOR is Earth's longest mountain range. It was unknown until technological advancements led to its discovery the early 1960s.

As the MOR rose, the granite hydroplates accelerated downhill, away from the ridge. They stopped moving when the lubricating water beneath was depleted and/or the plates collided with another plate or the rising ridge in the Pacific. As the massive hydroplates slowed and collided, they thickened, lifting the plates above the floodwaters. The colliding plates also crushed and buckled, pushing up today's major mountain ranges, many with fossilized sea life on top. We see evidence today of the crushing and buckling in the tilted and wavy patterns of sedimentary layers in the world's mountain ranges.



The Continental-Drift Phase. (Figure 61 of *In the Beginning*)

The shifting mass, especially the pushing up of the massive Himalayan Mountains, caused the earth to roll the Himalayas 34° to 57° toward the Equator. Before the flood, Alaska and Siberia were at lower latitudes (closer

to the Equator). This explains why we today find the frozen remains of temperate forests and animals, such as mammoths, inside the Arctic Circle.

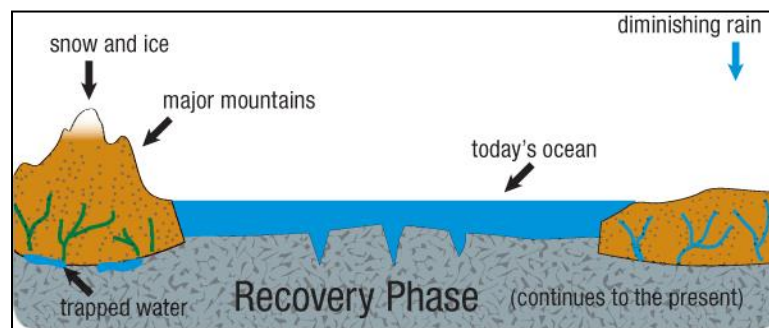
As the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and Atlantic floor rose, material even deeper in the earth had to rise to fill the void. Ultimately, the opposite side of the earth had to subside (sink) and buckle downward (towards the Atlantic), forming deep ocean trenches in what is now the Pacific Ocean. Frictional heating caused by these high-pressure movements initiated runaway melting deep in the earth, producing the earth's inner and outer cores.

When rock melts under the extreme pressures that exist deep in the mantle, it shrinks in volume (by half at the depth of the mantle-outer core interface). The resultant loss of volume led to a rapid collapse and faulting deep below the Pacific Hydroplate. This deep faulting in turn generated massive lava outpourings, paving the ocean floor in the Western Pacific, and raised 70,000 volcanic cones on the Pacific floor, each at least one kilometer (more than one-half mile) high. Surrounding much of the Pacific is the "Ring of Fire." This area contains Earth's greatest concentration of volcanic and earthquake activity, all due to the large scale block-faulting and melting that occurred during this phase.

These cataclysmic hydroplate movements, ending with the compression event that pushed up today's major mountains, occurred in about one hour!

Recovery Phase. As the massive hydroplates slowed and collided at the end of the Continental-Drift Phase, they also choked off the subterranean water at its source, and the floodwaters began to drain from newly raised topography to fill depressions in the crust (forming many post-flood lakes) and extremely deep ocean basins.

Because those new ocean basins were about 30 miles deep right after the flood, sea level was much lower than today. Exposed land bridges between the newly formed continents permitted animal and human migration and re-population across the earth for several centuries. Gradually, however, the hydroplates partially sank into the mantle (the floor of the former subterranean chamber), raising sea level and submerging these land bridges.



The Recovery Phase. (Figure 66 of *In the Beginning*)

The earth has now largely "settled down" from the flood cataclysm, but some effects of the global upheaval remain. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and impacts by comets, asteroids, and meteorites, and other current day events are all residual consequences of the global flood.

HPT Explanations and Predictions

Observational Evidence

Observational evidence for the HPT includes: the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, physical evidence of massive movement of crustal plates in the earth's past that exposed or produced the present-day basaltic ocean crust; fracture zones

associated with offsets in the mid-ocean ridge system (in two, perpendicular directions); the “young” ocean floor; and linear chains of oceanic volcanoes.

The HPT explains many other features and mysteries of our planet as well, including: the average one-mile-thick layer of sediments that blanket Earth’s continents (but not the ocean floor); the formation and orientation of the major mountain ranges and plateaus; fossils; the ice age and frozen mammoths; coal and limestone; salt domes; deep earthquakes; ocean trenches; the Grand Canyon; and the origin of Earth’s radioactivity, to name just a few. The theory also explains how our current 29.53-day lunar month and 365-day earth-year changed from the 30-day lunar month and 360-day earth-year of ancient times.⁴

One of its most controversial aspects, the HPT postulates that during the cataclysmic “bursting of the great deep,” some water, rocks, dirt, and other debris were ejected sufficiently far into space to escape the influence of Earth’s gravity. This material gravitationally coalesced over time to form our solar system’s comets, asteroids, meteoroids, and tens-of-thousands of orbiting bodies that lie beyond Neptune, referred to as trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs). Today, about 70,000 TNOs have been identified, 1,552 with known orbits. Many are clustered within a vast belt, the Kuiper Belt, which extends from the orbit of Neptune (30 AU from the Sun) to about 50 AU from the Sun.⁵ Of special interest to astronomers is a handful of Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs), whose orbits reach much further from the sun than other KBOs and whose orbits are clustered in an unexpected way.

Because certain orbital characteristics of these “strange” KBOs do not appear to be random, as scientists would expect, some astronomers are now suggesting that there may be a massive, distant, and otherwise undetected planet (“Planet X”) whose gravity has acted too pull these bodies so far from the sun and influenced some aspects of their orbits.⁶ However, the strange orbital characteristics of these objects are readily explained by the HPT. That is why Brown now predicts that scientists will never find Planet X, because it does not exist. He states, *“The Scientific American article does not go into many of the orbital features that these astronomers consider ‘decidedly weird,’ but the HPT does. The orbits, which must also be only a few thousand years’ young, are not weird; they are exactly what the laws of physics would produce.”*⁷

Many other of Brown’s published science predictions have been fulfilled by subsequent discoveries as well. (To my knowledge, no other flood theory author has published a prediction based on his theory.) HPT predictions include: pooled, salty water under mountain ranges; granitic magma under the Pacific floor; salt and flowing liquid water on Mars; complex organic compounds on comets; water escaping at high rates from inside large asteroids; and one of Saturn’s moons. These predictions have been verified by subsequent scientific investigations, including space probe findings.

Objections to HPT

The “Geometry Problem”

One objection to the HPT is sometimes called the “geometry problem.” This criticism originated with CPT author Dr. John Baumgardner approximately 30 years ago. In one article, Baumgardner writes, *“One glaring problem with this idea is the lack of any conceivable mechanism for transforming that almost uniform*

⁴ See 360dayyear.com for an excellent compilation of historical and archeological evidence that documents the use of a 30-day lunar month and 360-day earth-year calendar by ancient civilizations around the world.

⁵ One AU (Astronomical Unit) is the distance our earth is from the Sun, about 93 million miles.

⁶ Lemonick, Michael D. “The Search for Planet X: Is It Hidden in the Solar System’s Outer Reaches?” *Scientific American*, February 2016, 30-37.

⁷ For a detailed HPT explanation for all 70,000 TNOs and the dozen “weird” TNOs that travel out so far, see creationscience.com/onlinebook/Asteroids4.html. This explanation was first posted in March 2014.

*distribution of continental crust covering the entire earth into the present distribution of continental crust.”*⁸ In his article, Baumgardner also maintains that for the 6th edition and subsequent editions, Brown changed his initial assumed crustal thickness of 10 km (about 6 miles) to 10 miles and made other adjustments to the theory because of this criticism. He states, “*However, just as the earlier editions had given no hint that there was any problem in accounting for how the initial distribution of crust might be transformed into the one represented by the earth’s continents today, neither do the later editions.*”⁹

Baumgardner’s objection has to do with the mismatch between Brown’s initial assumed thickness of the HPT’s pre-flood global continent (10 km and then 10 miles) and the 30-mile average thickness of today’s continents, which cover about one-third of the earth’s surface. How could a 10-km (or 10-mile) thick crust thicken to 30 miles? (As an analogy, consider a yard stick that folds up to be one-foot long. The HPT maintained for years that this yard stick, fully extended, can fit between walls (the mid-oceanic ridges) that are two feet apart.) Baumgardner correctly pointed out that this was not possible, and to Brown’s critics, this problem was “a fatal flaw” in the HPT.

However, to those who have carefully studied the HPT, understand its scientific basis and biblical consistency, are knowledgeable of the large body of evidence supporting the HPT, and appreciate the HPT’s predictive power, the geometric issue was a problem to solve, not a “fatal flaw” in the theory.

Brown explains in the online 9th edition that ten miles was based on an estimate of the volume of rock that would have been removed by the escaping subterranean water to equal today’s sediments, sedimentary rock, comets, and asteroids. (The prior estimate, ten kilometers, considered only sediments. The terrestrial origin of comets and asteroids came later.) He told me, “*I wasn’t going to change one estimate for another without a valid reason or solid evidence.*”

Two recent articles in the science journal *Nature*, provided (unintentionally of course) powerful evidence that TNOs, as well as other asteroids and comets, were formed from water and debris ejected by the fountains of the great deep. The first paper, published in March 2014, identified strange, seemingly impossible, characteristics of the most distant of these some 70,000 small bodies. (These “strange” orbital characteristics have since led scientists to propose the existence of “Planet X,” mentioned above.) Brown had been intrigued by TNOs since their initial discovery in 1992 because some of the same mechanisms that formed comets and asteroids would have spiraled the largest asteroids beyond Neptune after the flood. But there was a problem. Their combined mass was huge: 2% to 4% of Earth’s mass. If the mass launched from Earth also included the mass now in TNOs, the subterranean chamber had to be much deeper than ten miles.

Ten months after the March 2014 paper, *Nature* published another discovery that Brown believes indicates that the depth of the former subterranean chamber was 60 miles below Earth’s surface. If that is correct, then the fountains of the great deep launched much more material into space, enough to account for the mass of all TNOs. Brown remarks, “*I now realize that the global flood was so much more powerful and violent than I could have imagined in 1980.*”

Regarding criticisms about the current shape of the continents and the apparently “missing” crust on the Pacific side of the earth, Brown points out that the online 9th edition of *In the Beginning* contains an expanded

⁸ “Critique of the Hydroplate Model” by John Baumgardner.

⁹ Ibid.

explanation that should help readers better understand this issue regarding what happened during and after the continental-drift phase of the HPT.¹⁰

Brown explains, *“Perhaps even faster than the Atlantic basin rose, the Pacific was collapsing toward the mantle. I think it may have been even faster because the movement of those enormous blocks of rock caused tremendous melting, and below something called the crossover depth (below which rock shrinks as it melts), the volume of the rock was dramatically reduced. [For Earth, the crossover depth is approximately 220 miles below its surface.] So that runaway sinking of what is today the Pacific explains where and how far the continents slid, and this sinking was perhaps as much of a factor in the continents sliding as was the rising of the Atlantic. The observation is equally consistent with the Atlantic Ocean opening up as hydroplates slid away from the rising Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and the Pacific and Indian Ocean forming as a result of the Pacific plate subsiding. The now-gone Pacific Plate shear block-faulted into the shrinking inner earth, some of which melted into what is now the massive volcanic cones in that area of the Pacific floor. This is our current best understanding without knowing exactly what the crustal pieces looked like before, during, and after the compression event.”*

The “Energy Problem”

Another aspect of Baumgardner’s criticism relates to the energy required in the movements and changes that the HPT proposes. He writes, *“... Moreover, the forces and energy required to perform such a feat [thickening of the pre-flood hydroplates to the thickness of the present crust] were far from having any obvious source.”* He applied Byerlee’s Law to show sufficient energy was not available.

With the increase in estimated pre-flood crustal thickness to 60 miles, this objection is moot. The momentum and kinetic energy were sufficient to crush, melt, bend, and fold some of the 60-mile thick crust and much of the sedimentary layers. We see the results today in sedimentary layers that are sometimes inclined, wavy, buckled, overthrust, and offset instead of evenly distributed in perfectly horizontal layers all over the earth.¹¹

Baumgardner also discounts Brown’s explanation for the source of the energy required to launch water and debris beyond the reach of Earth’s gravity. The HPT points to nuclear energy released as a result of the piezoelectric effect of quartz crystals in the granite crust as it “fluttered” during the flood. This well-documented phenomenon is called the “Z-pinch.” Among other objections, Baumgardner claims that such a mechanism would release too much waste heat. (As we will see in Part 3, Baumgardner solves what he admits is CPT’s waste heat problem by invoking extra-biblical miracles.)

Brown wrote to me, *“Baumgardner should reconsider the physics of Z-pinch. Fusing elements lighter than 60 atomic mass units (AMU) generates heat; fusing elements heavier than 60 AMU absorbs heat. That is well accepted, and hundreds of experiments at the Proton-21 Laboratory experimentally demonstrate this. Furthermore, most residual heat was contained in the supercritical water which was (1) expanded (and cooled) by the accelerating fountains of the great deep, or (2) expelled into outer space.”*

Comets, Asteroids, Meteoroids, and TNOs

As we have already seen, the HPT proposes that comets, asteroids, and TNOs formed over time from water and other matter ejected from Earth when the fountains of the great deep burst forth during the global flood. Ejected rocks became meteoroids. Leading creation astronomer Dr. Danny R. Faulkner has published a paper opposing

¹⁰ According to the HPT, the crust over the Pacific not only subsided, but also melted and mixed with the basaltic magma, which flowed out on to the ocean floor. The evidence of this melting of the Pacific plate is documented in the Trench Chapter of *In the Beginning*.

¹¹ “In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood - Can Overthrusts Occur? Can Strata Fold? Can Mountains Buckle?” at: <http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/Liquefaction7.html>.

this claim and stating that the energy required to expel water and debris from Earth and beyond its gravitational influence would destroy the earth's atmosphere.¹²

Brown, whose doctoral research at MIT dealt with the dynamics of heat transfer in a flowing fluid, maintains that Dr. Faulkner's analysis is flawed in several ways and fails to account for the effect of "directed energy." The accumulating body of evidence from probes sent to gather data from space continues to support Brown's assertion that comets, asteroids, and other celestial bodies were formed from water and debris jettisoned into space during the flood.

In fact, astronomers grow more puzzled each year as the evidence continues to mount in contradiction of evolutionary views about the formation of the solar system. Such discoveries, which are readily explained by the HPT, include: complex organic molecules, molecular oxygen, and layers upon layers of rounded boulders up to 10 feet in diameter found on comet 67P; carbon monoxide and towering mountains of water ice on Pluto; and ice and its dissolved salts discovered in the bottom of craters on Ceres, the largest of all known asteroids.

Creationists cite such evidence as pointing to a young earth and, without any other explanation, assert that these objects were created thus *ex nihilo* during Creation Week. Consider, however, that the "very good" creation (Genesis 1:31) would *not* have included bodies that sometimes plummet into Earth's atmosphere as meteorites, comets, and asteroids, causing damage and occasionally injuring or killing people.¹³ Further, these bodies can exhibit a wide variety of characteristics including chondrules, Widmanstätten Patterns, and the presence of heavy hydrogen (in comets), which seems to conflict with a "very good" original creation and beg another explanation. These characteristics *are* consistent with the HPT explanation as forming from water and debris ejected from the earth during the flood cataclysm.

Answering the Critics

Brown responds, "*If people think there are problems with the Hydroplate Theory, they should place them on the table, so we can discuss (or even debate them). That's how problems are solved.*"

Brown offers to address HPT objections within the guidelines of his "Direct (Oral and Written) Referred Exchange."¹⁴ According to Brown, "*The Referred Exchange is for those who want to make their disagreements public — and credible (credible, because they would be engaging with me directly instead of behind my back). It is especially helpful as a way to open the door to the hundreds of people—evolutionists and creationists—who are angry at me and what I am saying. It gives them a fair way to vent their anger, while at the same time forcing them to come to grips with the science and why they are angry. It also gives them a way to "put up" (if they really have a case) and it lets them know that I am willing to debate. The requirements that the exchange be recorded, be available to the public, and the critic at least claim to know what I have written before I try to address their disagreements are necessary, even though some may consider them controlling or harsh.*"

Conclusion

I have come to believe that some of these flood theory disagreements arise in part from the comprehensive, dynamic, and multi-disciplinary nature of the HPT – the flood was not merely a geological event. The technical

¹² Faulkner, Danny R., "An Analysis of the Astronomical Aspects of the Hydroplate Theory," *Creation Research Society Quarterly* 49 (2013): 197-210.

¹³ Berger, Eric. "Indian Man Could Be First Recorded Human Fatality Due to a Meteorite." *Ars Technica*. February 7, 2016. <http://arstechnica.com/science/2016/02/indian-man-could-be-first-recorded-human-fatality-due-to-a-meteorite/>.

¹⁴ "In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood - What Is the Direct (Oral and Written) Refereed Exchange?" Accessed February 07, 2016. <http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/FAQ428.html#wp7333347/>.

complexities involved can make it difficult to grasp, even for some scientists. In addition, an adequate understanding of the HPT requires studying each piece of the puzzle and then understanding how they all fit together to comprise the full theory.

Further, geologists and engineers take very different approaches to problem solving and each may have difficulty understanding the others' argument. Geologists are excellent observers. They look at the details of Earth's makeup and ask, "What do I see?" They then surmise about what might have happened, sometimes without considering the mechanics of their suppositions or all possibilities. As a result, geologists expect HPT to answer in detail questions such as, "*Exactly how much of the Pacific Hydroplate subsided and how deep into the earth did it go?*" or "*How far did the western edge of the American Hydroplate travel before it met resistance and stopped?*" Like all theories, the HPT does not answer *all* possible questions. In contrast, engineers look at the evidence and ask, "How did this *happen?*" They require that any proposed scenario be consistent with the laws of physics.

Brown stated, "*Yes, hundreds of questions are out there—but most are already answered in the book [In the Beginning]. If someone asks them in a phone exchange format, I believe I can easily answer them, or learn where I need to correct or clarify my position, or even show publicly that the critic has not read the HPT. Also, I would then have equal time to put questions to the critic that relate to his or her questions or flood theory.*"

To Brown (and those like myself who support the HPT), the strength of the HPT lies in its harmony with Scripture, its compatibility with the laws of physics, and in its robust ability to explain (and predict) many otherwise mysterious features of Earth and its solar environment.

In Part 3 we will examine the CPT theory, currently embraced by ICR, AiG, and CMI. In Part 4, the final part of this series, we will look at the roots of and possible solutions for resolving an ongoing, 30-year, behind-the-scenes controversy within the creationist community. That controversy has hindered our progress in advancing scientifically viable explanations for the global flood.