

Noah's Flood: Essential Fact or Outdated Myth?

"Creation, Catastrophe and Calvary" the third lecture in the *Religion at the Interface* series will be presented at 7 p.m., Friday, January 14, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2420 East Ashman Street in Midland. The speaker is Dr. John Baldwin, Ph.D., Professor of Systematic Theology in the Andrews University Theological Seminary. Dr. Baldwin's 1990 dissertation at the University of Chicago dealt with the philosophical relation of science and religion.

The study of scientific evidence related to origins has been a lifelong passion of Dr. Baldwin. It has always been his intention to "do good science, while remaining faithful to the Scriptures. In the book which he edited, "Creation, Catastrophe and Calvary," (copyright 2000 by the Review and Herald Publishing, Hagerstown, MD) Dr. Baldwin addresses the question; "In this scientific age, what difference does it make whether I believe the world was created in six literal days and that the world was destroyed by a global flood?"

On the one hand the Bible teaches that death entered this world strictly as a result of Adam and Eve's sin. The geological column on the other hand leads many to conclude that death and the "survival of the fittest" has been the guiding principle ever since life has existed on this planet. Can one resolve this seeming contradiction in a logical manner? Or is it necessary to choose one or the other – science or the Bible? Or does it matter?

In his lecture Dr. Baldwin will explore recent discoveries related to the geologic column which provide evidence that much of its formation was not only rapid but occurred under a deep column of water. He will also explore recent theological studies that point to the Genesis 6-9 flood account as being a reversal of the creation process described in Genesis 1-3. Thus an initial effect of the flood was to return the world to a "pre-creation" state in which water totally covered the "face of the great deep" (Gen. 1:2). The intent of the Genesis author to convey the concept that the flood was truly universal is underscored by the use of a distinctive Hebrew word, "*mabbul*," a technical term for catastrophic destruction by water used to describe the biblical flood.

Dr. Baldwin played a key role in the writing and adoption of "An Affirmation of Creation" at the conclusion of the International Faith and Science Conferences 2002 – 2004, conducted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dr. Baldwin has authored many articles in scholarly journals such as the *Harvard Theological Review*; *The Christian Scholar's Review*, and *Andrews University Seminary Studies*. In addition to his lecture Friday evening, Dr. Baldwin will also speak at the Midland Seventh-day Adventist Church worship service where his topic will be "Revelation 14:7 and the Power Down Under."

Religion at the Interface lectures are free and open to the public. Their purpose is to assist the individual, young or old, in the lifelong process of developing a cohesive worldview, a total integration of intellectual and spiritual values into one integrated basis for faith, conviction, and life's decisions.