

Study Guide



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EXPLORE

Meteor

and

Petrified Forest

with Noah Justice

STUDY GUIDE & WORKBOOK



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### Introduction

In the northeastern high desert of Arizona sits a most peculiar site — thousands of petrified logs sitting on the desert floor, hanging out of cliffs, and peeking out of the soil. Where did they come from? Why are they here? How did they petrify? How do they fit in with the biblical view of earth's history?

Just farther west is a huge crater etched into the desert limestone and sandstone. With evidence for volcanism around the area, many early scientists thought it was an ancient volcano. But evidence later revealed that this crater was caused by a large meteorite hitting the earth at an estimated 40,000 miles per hour, just a few thousand years ago. Scientists have used this crater to identify other meteorite craters around the world. But did something like this cause the demise of the dinosaurs like so many secular scientists believe today?

Meteor Crater, the Petrified Forest . . . all this, and more, on Awesome Science!

### Complete Word List

acid rain	carbon	crater
anomaly	carcasses	creationism
Apache	cataclysmic	decomposed
ash layer	catastrophe	demise
asteroid	Chinle Formation	deposition
biblical	Christianity	desert
breached	coal	dogmatic
burial	coarse	dwindling
canyon	conglomerate	elevation

environment equalizing erosion eruption evidence evolution extinction formations fossil fragments genealogies Genesis Flood geologic global Grand Staircase humanism hypothesized immune impact indicators inland iron

judgment Kaibab Plateau lake bed land slide limestone log mats mechanism meteorite monsoon Navajo nickel ore Painted Desert peat petrify plateaus pumice

rain forest

rebellion

receded

rim root balls salvation sandstone scavenger secular sediments shatter cones silica sonar sporadic strata stumps teepee testament tidal wave tropical uniform uprooted vaporized vegetation volcanism

Key Concepts

airborne processes
biblical account
continental movements
erosional processes
fountains of the deep
Genesis Flood
geologic processes
God's judgment
layered deposits

permineralization
petrification
quick deposition
quick erosion
Trapid succession
repeatable science
secular humanism
stages of the Flood
water processes

# THE GRAND STAIRCASE AND NOAH'S FLOOD

# Fill in the blanks with words from the following list:

receded geologic remnant

fountains	volcanoes	mountain ranges
Genesis 6	Kaibab	Chinle Formation
Bryce	water	underwater
ash	continental	Grand Staircase
The Painted		nern Arizona is a
many lakes i		dry lakebed, one of the cross several western states
after the Flo		1055 Several Western states
		,
	_	of sedimentary strata,
starting at th	ne top of	Canyon
in Utah, and	d ending at the b	oottom of the Grand
Canyon. Mu	uch of this area	was formed through
water, by the eroded by w	, 0	layers by water, and then
Much of thi	s area is in the <b>(</b>	Chinle Formation, which
		Grand Staircase. It's an
amazing are	ea, full of	sites.

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It is thought to have been formed over millions of
years, but there's another story that better explains
the features we see. Using the Bible as our historical
authority, we see in that God
sent a flood to destroy the whole earth.
The of the great deep burst forth
and it rained for 40 days and nights non-stop, and
culminated in a year-long Flood. The bursting forth
ncluded water and volcanic activity as continents were
oroken apart covered the whole
earth for about a year.
As the continents moved under the water and slowly came to a stop, were
quickly pushed up. Water from the Flood rushed off
the continents, eroding valleys. But some water got
rapped in large inland lakes between the mountain
ranges and plateaus
Even after the Flood waters, volcanic
activity continued, then eventually slowed down due
n large part to movements
minimizing and the earth equalizing after this great
catastrophe.
The landscape of the entire southwest shows evidence
that there were two large lakes that existed eastward of
che Plateau.
Many creationists believe these waters breached and
became the source of the catastrophic flow which
drained quickly through the Kaibab Plateau to
carve the Grand Canyon in a matter of just days.
continued to erupt around this

area, even after the Flood.	
The	was laid
down, as evidenced by the volcanic flows of	basalt on
top of these layers.	
Much of the Chinle Formation contains vol	
ash came from volcanoes erupting, for the m during the Flood. When	1 /
with sand and mud, this huge layer was dep	osited,
along with logs and dinosaurs.	

### Discussion Questions

- 1. What is the Painted Desert?
- 2. How do volcanoes and floods impact the landscape?
- 3. How is Noah's Flood a better explanation for what we see in the Petrified Forest National Park?

### Bonus Activity:

Find a map and see if you can draw a circle around the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, and the Petrified Forest. See if you can figure out how many miles apart they all are, and which might be closest to Mount St. Helens.

# ABOUT THE PETRIFIED FOREST

Here at Petrified Forest National Park, there are petrified logs haphazardly scattered around. Scientists here say that they are millions and millions of years old. But in reality, they're all a part of Noah's Flood.

Petrified Forest National Park is just 124 miles east of Flagstaff, Arizona. This Navajo and Apache land has an average elevation of 5,400 feet. Thousands of petrified trees lie on the ground, mostly broken apart into rounds. A few full-size logs lie on the ground, others hang halfway out of cliffs, and some peak just above the surface. Also in the park are hills of amazing colors. It's made from ash layers and formed under water. It screams "Catastrophe!"

# Please note if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

In 1962 this area became a national park because of its unique features with 50,000 acres being set aside for the public to come and examine earth's history.

Park signs say that this area was formed 225 million years ago, but is this accurate? This date comes from a belief in evolution and millions of years.

According to the biblical record and genealogies, we can determine this area is only about 141,350 years old, formed at the time of the Flood.
Everyone agrees these logs were transported in and by water, laid down here, then fossilized. But the mechanism for how they got here and how long the fossilization took is where the difference lies
You either think in long ages, a concept held by those who believe in creation or just a few thousand years, according to the Bible, which evolutionists use as a time-line
First of all, the root balls on these logs are very small, or just absent, which scientists see as evidence that the original trees were ripped out of their original location in a cataclysmic event think Genesis Flood
During the Flood, massive amounts of water rushed across the land, uprooting much of the vegetation, including large trees
The logs floated on top of the Floodwaters for a while, but eventually sank to the bottom and were buried quickly by the volcanic sediments.
The bark has been stripped off, so something happened to cause the bark to be knocked off.
During catastrophes, like Mount St. Helens, we saw something similar. After the 1980 eruption knocked down trees, logs floated below Mount St. Helens on Spirit Lake. They rubbed against each other, and

eventually the bark fell off before the logs began being deposited on the bottom of the lake. During the Flood catastrophe we expect nothing less
Where the bark fell was most likely different from where the logs rested, because the rock layers here, in the Petrified Forest National Park, do not contain any coal. Bark is commonly found in coal layers
We can see growth rings in the logs. They are large. The original trees would have grown up in a very healthy environment, which is what we would expect before the global Flood. The environment back then was definitely better than today, but still suffered the effects of the Curse because of the Fall of man.
Due to volcanic action, the water was surely heavy with silica, and when the logs were buried, the silicarich water would have petrified them
Why is this significant? Well, when the logs were buried, the carbon would have traded places with the silica in a chemical process called mummification, and the logs were quickly fossilized
Signs in the park will tell you it took a long time for these logs to fossilize. But with the right conditions, such as a global Flood, it could take less than a year. One lab has been able to duplicate this process in just days. Now that's repeatable science!
Also, in Yellowstone National Park, scientists experimented with putting logs in silica rich water and in less than a year substantial fossilization occurred.

Since this area continued to be underwater, even after the Flood receded, these logs stayed buried for a while. In a few years or less, the large inland lakes wore away at the limestone in the Kiabab Plateau, and a massive erosional event occurred, where the Grand Canyon was carved in just days. \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Aftermath**

When the Grand Canyon formed, some of these layers at Petrified Forest National Park were exposed. The exiting water eroded through these layers, exposing the petrified tress and creating the "teepee" geologic features.

Much of the desert floor is clay, which mostly came from volcanic ash during the Flood, but some probably came from volcanic activity after the Flood. But in some places like Jasper Forest, the stumps are buried in sandstone with pebbles. We call this a conglomerate layer.

When a rock layer has pebbles, it's usually a sign that fast moving water was involved to round the rocks. This gives us another indication that water action was responsible for creating what we see here today.

It's interesting that we find entire logs here, and not just bits and pieces of them. Researchers realize that entire forests were swept away in one large event . . . the global Flood makes perfect sense!

Remember, don't sample or take any pieces of petrified wood. The park rules say no, and we need to keep things like this for future generations.

### Discussion Questions

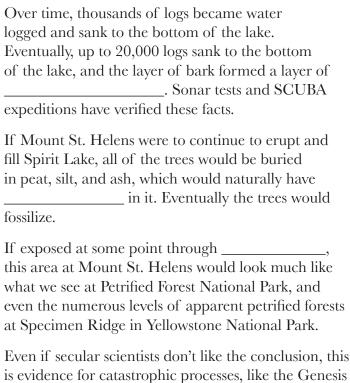
- 1. Signs at the park give a much longer time-line than what we find in the Bible. What do the genealogies found in the Bible that speak of the world being around 6,000 years old mean when looking at a biblical account of earth's history?
- 2. How does the evidence of trees being fossilized in less than a year support the view that the Petrified Forest was a result of the Great Flood?

# OTHER PETRIFIED EXAMPLES

# Fill in the blanks with words from the following list:

tidal wave neat catastrophic landslide

Spirit Lake silica erosion
One way for us to verify our theories on forest destruction, floating
logs mats, and petrification, is looking no farther than Mount St. Helens in southern Washington State.
In 1980 Mount St. Helens had a huge eruption, causing the north side of the mountain to slide into the valley below, resulting in the largest in recorded history.
The landslide pushed into Spirit Lake and caused an 800' high on the opposite hill. The wave was so huge that it pulled the entire forest of large, mature trees back into the lake in less than a few minutes.
The logs covered the top ofin one large floating tree mat, and many are still there today. The logs rubbed together and the bark sunk.



# WHAT ABOUT THE TEEPEES?

# Fill in the blanks with words from the following list:

aniformity	Noah's Flood	sediments
deposited	water erosion	underwater
monsoon	layers	
Driving along	g within the Petrific	ed Forest National
	e steep, cone-shape	
,	1 /	made up of volcanic
		mation. Their shape
, .	f	*
s the result of	L	·
In August it is	S	season in
		ns will drop as much
as 1–7 inches	of rain in 15-30 n	ninutes. The ash and
		ich rain falls over a
short period (	,	
mort period (	i time.	
Γhe brilliant		in the Chinle
		eated by catastrophic
	Let's look at the e	, ,
	Herbitom to the c	,10011001
Indicators are	e that these volcani	c ash layers were
originally		under water. It was
	ent, but huge, in o	
	, ,	
colored layers to stretch out for extreme distances.		

, just 4,350 years ago is an
ideal candidate for a catastrophe on such a massive scale.
If it were a smaller event, then layers would be more sporadic. The different bands of color are due to different episodes of volcanic eruptions.
Every volcanic eruption puts out different materials, some coarse, some fine, so one layer is never the same as the next. When eruptions happen underwater, such variations are even more diverse because the water will also carry other, which will mix in with the ash.
Slow and gradual processes would have laid down these deposits with no But if they were laid down by water rapidly, one after the other, the layers would be uniform over long distances and large areas.

# RAPID LAYER DEPOSITION AND EROSION

# Fill in the blanks with words from the following list:

periods processes	hundreds alternating crater formations	debris airborne	strata erosional
When catastro	deposits and epphics can happen!		•
blasted the vo	nt St. Helens, the leanic ash and ers on top of the	debris to the	north,
When finished	d, the valley flo feet.	or had risen	
	, Mount St. He		
When the eru	ption happene ·	d, the snow a	and ice

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The water breached the large
All of this action happened in just a few hours.
One of these canyons has been called the "Little Grand Canyon" because of the similar erosional features we find in the
These erosional have allowed scientists to view the layers laid down by Mount St. Helens during past eruptions, as well as the 1982 eruption.
What they observed was different layers of ash, pumice and mud laid down rapidly, some by processes, some by
water processes.
What surprised scientists the most was that the showed independent multiple
layering during the same eruption.
Even in the hurricane force spread of deposition, independent multiple layers were made between fine grain
and coarse materials.
Mount St. Helens helped researchers realize how a catastrophe, like the Flood, can develop multiple layers in the
strata, as well as large erosional features. This should

make anyone question whether catastrophes have occurred in the past.
So when someone thinks that geological features took long of time, this should be immediately questioned.
The in the Teepees at Petrified Forest National Park could have been created quickly, over vast areas of the Southwest.
It's just here that the layers were exposed, then weathered away into these fantastic
The Bible can be trusted in what it says about catastrophic processes not long ago in earth's history, and researchers are realizing this the more they study catastrophes and geologic features.
Discussion Questions
Why was an event like the eruption at Mount     St. Helens so important for researchers who

2. What is erosion and how can it impact the landscape during periods of floods or heavy rains?

support a biblical time-line of history?

# FOSSILIZED DINOSAUR COLLECTION

Many dinosaur fossils have been found in Petrified Forest National Park, along with fossilized logs. This area obviously had a lot of catastrophe deposits during the Flood.

Signs in the park describe this area's past as a temperate rain forest where the dinosaurs lived. But there is little evidence to support this theory. Secular scientists point to the fossil fauna to support their story, but all evidence points to the Flood.

For instance, all of the strata are sedimentary rocks, laid down repeatedly by water. It was not an ancient forest floor. The deposits indicate quick deposition, including the ash beds in the teepee formations in the park.

The dinosaurs were not living here millions and millions of years ago, but were buried here quickly in sediments during the global Flood.

### <u>Discussion</u> Questions

1. Dinosaurs are associated with a "millions of years" time-line of earth's history. How does

- the biblical account of the Great Flood give an answer to why dinosaur fossils are found around the world?
- 2. What are some clues that the Great Flood killed dinosaurs in the fossil record?

### Bonus Activity

Choose a favorite dinosaur and see if you can find photos of a fossil online of this dinosaur. What do we scientists theorize about your favorite dinosaur in terms of where it may have lived, what it might have eaten, and whether or not it was a predator?

# PETRIFIED FOREST — CONCLUSION:

Petrified Forest National Park is a testament to the destruction of the earth and God's judgment against sin in Genesis 6. There is evidence for quick burial of trees, global flood action, and large-scale volcanic activity both under water and after the Flood.

We've found other catastrophic action at Mount St. Helens on a smaller scale to demonstrate how these trees were uprooted and deposited, as well as how layers can be produced quickly when the right conditions exist.

We see that the Bible can be trusted as an accurate book of earth's history. It is not a complete history of course, but a selected history to give us a big picture look at the past.

# ABOUT METEOR CRATER

Northern Arizona is home to the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, the Painted Desert, and many other geologic wonders. In addition to catastrophic processes due to the global Flood, there is one formation in the desert floor that has fascinated scientists for decades. It is a crater in the Kiabab Formation, the top layer seen at the Grand Canyon. The crater is 4,200 feet wide and 750 feet deep.

# Fill in the blanks with words from the following list:

asteroid	dust layer	starved	model
Shoemaker	acid rain	meteorite	heat
Yucatan Peni	nsula		
thought to be		in the area, it uses after scientification emerged.	
		zona, a 150-footto the earth, cr	
0		n of the Grand	•
an	weighing	approximately	60,000 tons
impacted the	earth at aroun	nd 40,000 miles	s per hour.

Because of what we know today about the earth's atmosphere and the experienced during entry, the asteroid was most likely much larger out in space.
In the 1960s, Dr. Eugenestudied this crater, which led him on a worldwide search to find other impact craters. To his surprise, he found hundreds around the entire earth.
Some say that a meteorite like this a hundred times bigger crashed into the causing the extinction of the dinosaurs. Think again.
They say the meteor created a giant, wiping out all of the plants.
and thus wiping out the dinosaur's food source.  The dinosaurs around the earth would have
to death by lack of food, then buried in dust. But there's one major problem with this idea.
We don't find dinosaurs buried in We find them in
sedimentary rock layers, clay, sand, and dirt; this means flood action, not a gigantic dust storm.
Another proposed idea is a meteor crashed into the ocean, causing tidal waves and, destroying life on the planet.
But what does the evidence really show?

### Discussion Questions

- 1. What is a meteor?
- 2. What is it about where dinosaur fossils are found that seems to indicate a meteor impacting earth didn't kill the dinosaurs?

### Bonus Activity

Learn more about impacts. Put a towel on the table and then an unbreakable bowl half-filled with water on the towel. Drop a rock in the water. Re-create the impact, dropping the rock at different levels to see how that changes the impact on the water. Now, take the rock and use it to test impacts in a box of sand. What happens when the rock hits the water? Or hits the sand?

# METEOR CRATER EARLY HISTORY

In the early 1900s, Daniel Barringer, a mining engineer and businessman, came across this large crater. Geologists told him it was volcanic because of all the evidence for volcanism in the area. But he had a different opinion.

## Please note if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

He believed it was an impact crater from a meteorite, and began to perform research to show that it was. He didn't do his research for science, but for profit.

If it was a meteorite, being a mining engineer, he knew that fragments, or even the meteor itself, would be worthless, making no money if sold
Meteorites are known to have high iron and nickel content
When iron ore is mined from the earth, it typically yields 65–70 percent iron. But when nickel ore is mined, you're lucky to get 1 percent.
A meteorite will typically contain about 92 percent

iron and 7 percent nickel. A large meteorite could be

sold for a very large amount of money, so he began to try and find this one
He first thought he'd find it in the side of the crater.
He dug down 700 feet in the middle but came up empty. Instead of giving up, he changed his plan of attack. Then he theorized the meteor came in at an angle. So he drilled into the rim
Barringer and his team went down 13 feet and found a few fragments, but not the big payoff of a meteorite
That was enough to convince him that it was a crater caused by a volcano, not a meteorite impact

## MORE DETAILS ON THE CRATER

What makes Meteor Crater so cool is that there are few large craters so visible to the public. There are a hundred or more of these craters around the earth, but we can't see them because they are eroded and obscured in a tropical rain forest or on the ocean floor. Meteor Crater is on the high desert of Arizona with nothing to hide it.

# Please note if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

Meteor Crater is almost a mile wide and 750 feet deep. That's as long as two and a half football fields.

With the meteorite coming in at approximately 40,000 mph, it caused a huge explosion on impact. Because of this great speed, most of the meteorite vaporized, leaving the crater and just small fragments scattered around. \_\_\_\_\_\_

Signs at the crater say that this event happened around 500,000 years ago. But according to the genealogies in the Bible, the earth is only 60,000 years old, and God doesn't get things wrong.

We know this event had to have happened before the water receded after the global Flood because it sits in a dry desert above the sedimentary rock. So this puts it more than 4,350 years ago
This area is part of the Grand Staircase, a 10,000 foot section of earth made of sedimentary layers laid down during the global Flood
Researchers have pointed out that after the Flood receded, two very large inland lakes, three times the size of Lake Michigan, were here in the early stages after the Flood, trapped between mountains and plateaus
In just a few years, the lakes wore away at the concrete in the Kiabab Plateau. When the water finally wore through, it carved the Grand Canyon in just a few decades, emptying the lakes and leaving this area as a high desert
Knowing that the Bible says the Flood ended around 4,350 years ago, and that these lakes existed after the Flood, then since the crater is sitting above the sedimentary layers, it might put this event at Meteor Crater between 3,000 and 4,000 years ago! But we can't be dogmatic about it. It's just an educated guess.

## SHOEMAKER'S THEORY

In the early 1960s Eugene Shoemaker began to visit this area to study the crater. Studying impact craters was his passion. He studied craters at atomic test sites in Nevada and spent time at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff to study crater impacts on the moon.

# Fill in the blanks with words from the following list:

Chesapeake	hypothesized	craters	evidence
sea floor	ashes	meteorites	moon
anomaly			
Не	that m	neteor impact o	craters are
much more ni	umerous than a	nyone previou	sly thought.
To him, Mete	or Crater was 1	not an	
Based on his	research, he pro	oposed that th	ere could
be other	arc	ound the world	d, and he
began searchi	ng for them.		
He discovered	d how catastrop	hic processes,	like
	and nuclea	ar bombs, crea	ite shatter
cones, which	is evidence for	the shock of a	meteor
impact.			

Then he used this	to test
other craters around the world.	
He not only found impact craters on the cobut also on the	ntinents,
Some of these craters have been found in  Bay as well as on the	e Yucatan
Peninsula.	
He helped to train astronauts to study crate He was even a candidate	
the moon, but could not because of his hea	_
He is the only person who has hisburied on the moon.	

His widow, Carolyn Shoemaker continues his work to search for meteorites in space and impact craters here on earth. Because of his research, we now understand so much more about how the earth has been impacted through catastrophic meteor impacts.

# DINOSAUR EXTINCTION BECAUSE OF METEOR IMPACT?

Did a meteor impact cause the death of dinosaurs? Let's look at the facts.

# Fill in the blanks with words from the following list:

numbers	carcasses	giobai nood	quickly
land-dwelling	dust storm	quick burial	Bible
population	water	tidal waves	perished
There are man	ny ideas on ho	ow the dinosaurs	S
died. Yet most	of them seen	n to skirt around	l the
	con	cept, even thou	gh most of
the evidence s		1 /	O
We know the	dinosaurs were	e buried in sedir	mentary
layers, which r	neans they we	ere buried in	
	Any o	other theory tha	t does not
involve water j	,	,	
If the dinosau	rs died on lan	d, then their bo	dies would
have decompo	sed or been e	aten by scaveng	ers. If
they died in th	e sea, the sam	ne processes wou	ıld have
consumed the	ir		

But all evidence shows they were buried
in sediments such as in sand and mud.
When we use the as our history guide book, we see the mechanism of a global Flood.
This would have been the cause and the means for of the dinosaurs.
But the Bible also tells us that God brought two of every, air-breathing animal on Noah's ark, which included the various dinosaur kinds, estimated to be 50.
Any animal outside the ark would have in the Flood.
As we already mentioned, some secular scientists have proposed an immense caused by a giant meteorite hitting the earth, blocking out the sun, and dwindling their food supply. The dinosaurs simply starved to death in this scenario.
These impacts should have affected the whole world's animal, but they didn't.
Furthermore, dinosaurs were dying out after the Flood, which tragically reduced their, of course.
Other ideas say a meteorite hit the ocean near the Yucatan Peninsula, causing giant and acid rain to fall, killing off the dinosaurs.
Yet none of these ideas can adequately explain what we see, except for a global flood.

### CONCLUSION

The Bible can be trusted as the true history book of the world. The Bible's explanation makes perfect sense of what we are observing. We even expect meteorites to impact the world, being that it is sin-cursed and broken.

But as creationists, we don't look at the evidence first. We start first with the Bible, trusting that it is God's true Word, and then interpret the evidence through what we read in the Bible. We form our worldview through the Bible and use it to view all evidence.

We let God be the ultimate authority on the subject and go from there using the milestones He has revealed in the Bible. Secular scientists look at the same evidence we do, and interpret it differently because of their worldview.

They do not trust God and His Word as the ultimate authority, and so by default, man becomes his own authority. This is where the debate rages, between these two religions: humanism and biblical Christianity.

This is why there will always be a difference in what is thought about earth's history. It's not just based on the evidence, but our worldview. It shapes the way we look at the evidence as though we were wearing a certain type of glasses. So do we trust in man's opinion, or God's Word? We trust in God's Word

God was there at the beginning; He made the world, He destroyed it by a Flood, showing He has the power to judge. He promises to destroy it again, this time by fire, but He promises salvation through His son Jesus Christ.

#### Meteor Crater — What It REALLY Means

Meteor Crater reminds us that the earth is not immune to catastrophic destruction from the heavens. A group of scientists are concerned about this and continue to watch the heavens for meteorites heading to earth.

When we look at the rocks in this area, evidence for a global flood is all around and God's judgment was indeed a reality, showing that the Bible can be trusted as a true book of earth's history. And there will be another coming judgment, and this time of fire.

God means business with his judgments and is calling for people to repent (Acts 17:30).

As we look at Meteor Crater, it gives a glimpse of what God can do. When we see Flood sediments all over the world, we see what God can do when people do not repent. Even so, God sent a means of salvation as He did with the ark from the Flood. All people have to do is enter through the door and be saved.

God is going to judge the earth for its rebellion once again. Yet because of His great love, He has provided salvation for all those who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ — a door to salvation, for those who enter through Him shall be saved.

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Designed to make science fun, the *Awesome Science Series* is an educational and entertaining opportunity for everyone.

With this study guide you can enrich the student experience of watching *Episode 3: Explore Meteor Crater and Petrified Forest*. Included are bonus activities, key words and concepts, fill in the blank and true and false questions, as well as further discussion questions. Let Noah show you the amazing evidence for recent meteor bombardments after the Flood, discover the millions of acres of petrified forests as undeniable evidence of catastrophe, and then do some further research on your own!



