

The Bible tells us of a global flood, due to a tremendous amount of extra water being dumped onto the earth, to the point of covering all of earth's highest mountains (**Genesis chapters 6-8**). This additional water caused sea levels to sharply rise globally, and means that sea levels were lower prior to this global flood.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In [those] days before the flood, the were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So it will be [also] at the coming of the Son of Man”—Matthew 24:37-39 NAB

Archaeologists have discovered a 7,000-year-old burial site in the Gulf of Mexico after a tip from a recreational diver who found human remains at the site in 2016. More details can be read in this article.

The ancient burial site discovered off the southwest Florida coast lends credence to what we know from the Bible about the flood in [Genesis 6-8](#). The article states that “sea levels were much lower during that time”, and then goes on to say that “sea levels rose”. How does this harmonize with the Biblical account of the global flood?

“All the springs of the great deep burst through, and the sluices of heaven opened. And heavy rain fell on earth for forty days and forty nights” ([Genesis 7:11](#) NJB). A gigantic amount of water was somehow released upon the earth within a relatively short time. [Psalm 104:6,7](#) possibly explains where the water came from: “You covered it (the earth) with the watery depths as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke they fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight” (NIV). They were released at the start of the flood.

This global deluge resulted in **“the water covered even the highest mountains on the earth, rising twenty-two feet above the highest peaks” ([Genesis 7:19,20](#) NLT)**. As

Psalm 104:8 explains: “they flowed over the mountains” (NIV). The mountains, as they existed prior to the flood, may have been lower than they were after the flood. Although after “the rain stopped falling . . . the water receded steadily” (**Genesis 8:2,3 NIV**), the 40 day rain resulted in the entire earth being flooded for about eight months. **“Exactly five months from the time the flood began, the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Two and a half months later, as the waters continued to go down, other mountain peaks became visible” (Genesis 8:4,5 NLT).** During this time, the earth likely underwent tremendous “change” (**Psalm 46:2 NASB**), just as the 1980 Mt St Helens volcanic blast proved that radical changes to the earth can occur relatively quickly.

After almost a year “the water had dried up from the earth”, and after slightly over a year “the earth was completely dry” (**Genesis 8:13,4 NIV**). Where did all the water go?

“Mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed”. (Psalm 104:8 NLT).

The tremendous weight of water likely resulted in what **Psalm 104:8** describes: “mountains rose and valleys sank” (NLT), thus carving out deeper canyons, valleys, and ocean beds and pushing up higher mountains.

The fact is that a tremendous amount of water was released upon the earth by the global deluge, ‘covering *all* the highest mountains, up to a depth of about 22 feet.’ The scientific discovery of “a 7,000-year-old burial site in the Gulf of Mexico” revealed that “sea levels were much lower during that time.” While the discovery doesn’t directly ‘prove the global flood,’ it certainly provides evidence in support of it

The main point that we can glean from this article, below, is that “sea levels were much lower” in the past than they are now, which is in harmony with the Biblical flood.

6A ■ THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 ■ TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Scientists discover rare, 7,000-year-old burial site

Chad Gillis Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK — FLORIDA

Archaeologists have discovered a 7,000-year-old burial site in the Gulf of Mexico after a tip from a recreational diver who found human remains at the site in 2016.

Called Manasota Key Offshore, the site is off southern Charlotte County and appears to have been preserved in what was at the time a freshwater peat pond.

Although other sites in Florida pre-date this one by thousands of years, researchers called this latest discovery unprecedented.

"Despite thousands and thousands of years of hurricanes, storms, erosion and rising sea level, the continental shelf can contain deposits with organic material," said Ryan Duggins, with the Florida Division of Historic Resources. "I think that's going to be the ripple effect (in the science community)."

Duggins said he and others always assumed that there weren't any preserved sites in the Gulf of Mexico because it has a sandy bottom, and sand does not preserve organic material very long.

This site, however, is made largely of peat soils.

"I was always kind of told that a site like this wouldn't exist in the Gulf of Mexico, that it wouldn't be able to survive," Duggins said. "Just out of sheer luck, a citizen brought this information to our attention and it's been a great experience."

The site is about 300 yards off Manasota Key and is being patrolled by law enforcement officers and volunteers to make sure no one dives too close to it.

A recreational diver found human bones at the site in the summer of 2016, and Duggins and his team started diving and researching the site soon after.

The site is so well preserved that even wooden stakes found there look as though they were buried recently.

"It look like it was almost put there yesterday," Duggins said. "We've recovered sticks that are sharpened on the end, they have marks on them and you can see charring, and normally wood is the first thing that goes. It disintegrates."



Nicole Grinnan measures a section of the archaeological site found in the Gulf of Mexico. PHOTOS BY IVOR MOLLEMA/FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE



This stick was carved 7,214 years ago, according to carbon dating. It was found recently offshore of Charlotte County.

The oldest site in Florida found so far is in the Big Bend area and dates back 14,500 years, according to researchers.

The Manasota site is about three-quarters of an acre in size and was located along the shoreline.

The stakes were carved 7,214 years ago, according to carbon dating.

Sea levels were much lower during that time, and the remains at this site were well preserved because they were in a peat-bottom pond.

The peat stayed in place while the sea levels rose, protecting the artifacts and bones.

A Florida Gulf Coast University professor is in charge of preserving the artifacts that were extracted.

"In all of the work that I do, I never

lose track of the fact that I am handling materials that are of special importance to families and groups, especially those of the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes of Florida," said Heather Walsh-Haney, an FGCU forensics professor.

Due to the sensitive nature of the site, the exact location is not being released to the public.

The location is protected under Florida law, and it's illegal to disturb the site or remove anything from it.

"As important as the site is archaeologically, it is crucial that the site and the people buried there are treated with the utmost sensitivity and respect," said Timothy Parsons, director of the state's division of historic resources. "The people buried at the site are the ancestors of America's living indigenous people. Sites like this have cultural and religious significance in the present day."

Duggins said he'd like to explore other areas near Venice and off Charlotte County to see if this burial site is part of a larger ancient community that will offer more clues as to what life was like here 7,000 years ago.

"I'm very confident that Florida's continental shelf holds a lot more archaeological material that can be found," Duggins said. "I would definitely like to have a more concerted effort around Sarasota and Venice."

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