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**The Floating Forest Theory Sinks**

**By Greg Neyman**

One explanation used by young-earth proponents to explain that all coal seams formed during the

Flood is the concept of the floating forest, which can be found on the Answers in Genesis website, written by Carl Wieland. There are actually four articles on the web that we will consider when discussing the floating forest. The other three are: "Too Much Coal for a Young Earth," by Gerhard Schönknecht and Siegfried Scherer "Coal Beds and Noah's Flood," by Andrew Snelling "Patterns of Ocean Circulation Over the Continents During Noah's Flood," by John Baumgardner and Daniel Barnette Please see the footnotes for the web addresses to these articles. First let's look at the possibility of floating forests existence. From the evidence presented, I can see no reason why they can't exist. It is certainly plausible that there may have been water-borne forests in the past. That's not to say there are not logical problems with this theory. One is the claim that all plants with a radial root pattern are water-borne plants. One only needs to look at the Sequoia tree of California to dispense with this statement. The tallest of trees in the world (up to 300 feet) has a radial root pattern. In fact, its roots only go into the ground vertically a distance of 6 feet! However, let's be nice for the time being and agree that the floating forest idea is possible. This floating forest idea is used to explain that the 230+ coal beds in the Ruhr district of Germany, scattered throughout 4,000 meters of strata, came to exist during the 375 days of Noah's flood. The geological explanation put forward by old-earth creationists is that these beds formed over millions of years, as the sea levels fluctuated, causing the land to be covered, then uncovered with water repetitively. However, the young-earth explanation is with the floating forests, which in the cataclysmic event of the Flood, were rapidly buried, and covered with sediment. (See "Too Much Coal...") Unfortunately, this theory does not wash. Think about the model. The Flood starts, and the floating forest over Germany is sank by the turbulent waters. Give it a day, in which the material that covers the flooded trees is deposited, and then another floating forest has been brought into place by the currents, and it sinks in the same spot the next day! This is repeated 230 times, up to a thickness of 4,000 meters! So imagine this picture...you have 230 floating forests, all lined up in a row, awaiting their chance to sink in the exact same spot, and then be rapidly covered over with sediment before the next forest sinks. This process all happens in about 375 days! Even assuming it happened, where did the sediment come from? This is explained on the Answers in Genesis website by John Baumgardner and Daniel Barnette in their article referenced above. They show that based on their calculations, the waters of the flood covering a sphere (earth) would move with a velocity (current) of 70 meters per second, which they claim is more than enough to cause

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erosion to create these beds. I cannot confirm their calculations, but it introduces two obvious errors that don't require a rocket scientist to figure out. What are the errors? First, if you have the water turbulence they calculated, then all the floating forests would have immediately sank! You no longer have the neat and orderly progression of 230 forests into the area of Germany to create the coal fields. In fact, by their model, if you look at the coal fields of the world, they should all be only one coal seam thick, and not multiple seams like we actually see. And while their theory would account for thin seams, it does nothing to explain a 100-foot thick coal seam, which would require many forests together! The second error...remember we have 70 meter per second currents. At that speed, none of the fine rock material would be able to settle on the ocean floor...it would stay in suspension in the water. Yet when you look at the rock layers between the coal seams, they are fine grained (sandstones and limestones). So then, the only way this could happen is if God sank a forest with the turbulent water, then calmed the water and made it still for a day, so the sediment would sink to the bottom, then re-start the current to bring in the next forest to sink, sink it, stop the current, etc., etc. Sure, God could have done it, but there's no logical reason to. Furthermore, with rapid burial as they suggest, you

would see perfectly fossilized trees in the rock beds above the coal, because the rapid burial would preserve the original state of the trees. Of course, the current would have stripped away the leaves and small branches, but there would still be many of these petrified trees left. OK, one final thought on the floating forest. They would have to follow the ocean currents. They probably would not have survived more than a few years, as the current took each one into the Arctic or Antarctic to freeze. And, if they existed, then some must have floated into the polar regions and been frozen. Has any explorations of the earth's polar caps discovered a floating forest frozen in the ice? Not that I know of. Some may try to explain this away by saying the forests were anchored to shore, and thus did not circulate with the currents. This however introduces two more problems. First, the waves would occasionally break them free, and they would float off...hence we would find some frozen ones in the polar regions. Second, I seriously doubt that you could get a tree to stand one-hundred feet vertically in the air, while being pounded by the surf! You don't need a computer model to prove it...its just not possible. The article "Coal Beds and Noah's Flood" by Andrew Snelling attempts to show that it is possible for all the world's coal to have been produced from the plants which existed at the time of Noah's flood? Even if he is correct, it doesn't matter, because there is no model by which it can be laid down to create 230+ separate coal beds in one 4,000 meter thick strata of rock! Therefore, the calculations in this article are meaningless, as are the coal volume calculations of the "Too Much Coal" mentioned above. Conclusion There is no possible way that the coal beds of the Ruhr district in Germany were created by the Flood of Noah. The logical conclusion of the theory of young-earth creationists says there should only be single layers of thin coal throughout the world. However, there are many areas of the world with multiple seams divided by other rock layers. Concerning thickness, even being generous, a floating forest would yield no thicker seams than 5 meters, yet there are many coal seams exceeding this thickness.

Even assuming Wieland's discussion of the tree composition (roots, appendages, etc) is correct, it doesn't amount to a hill of beans. If you can't deposit them in the strata the way they are seen today, his conclusions are meaningless.

The only logical conclusion is that coal seams were laid down over millions of years, just like the geologists have told us all along.

FOOTNOTES: "Floating Forest"

([answersingenesis.org/home/area/Magazines/docs/cen\\_v18n1\\_forests.asp](http://answersingenesis.org/home/area/Magazines/docs/cen_v18n1_forests.asp))

"Too Much Coal for a Young Earth," ([answersingenesis.org/docs/1233.asp](http://answersingenesis.org/docs/1233.asp)) "Coal Beds and Noah's Flood," ([answersingenesis.org/docs/1137.asp](http://answersingenesis.org/docs/1137.asp)) "Patterns of Ocean Circulation Over the Continents During Noah's Flood,"

([icr.org/index.php?module=research&action=index&page=researchp\\_jb\\_patternsofcirculation](http://icr.org/index.php?module=research&action=index&page=researchp_jb_patternsofcirculation))

Greg Neyman is the founder of the website ministry Answers In Creation (

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). The source article is located at

<http://www.answersincreation.org/floating.htm>

## **Designer Sinks And Faucets For Your Bath**

**By Jeff Slokum**

Sinks have certainly come a long way. The sink, and the accompanying faucet are more fashionable today than our grandmothers, or even our mothers could have imagined! You are only limited by your imagination.

Imagine a gorgeous glass sink seemingly floating upon a rod iron filigree base, this is what is called a vessel sink. Imagine washing your hands over a glass sink of shimmering gold opalescent that looks like something from Dale Chihuly's glass studio. How about a lovely ceramic sink that has decorations reminiscent of a blue Ming vase? Is that really the Mona Lisa looking back up at you from that sink? These sinks are available in glass, painted ceramic, stone and granite, wood, copper, or mosaic. Then, there is the decision of shape of the sink, round, oval or square, or perhaps somewhere in between.

Don't worry, if you have a Victorian home you are restoring you are in luck. The good old white ceramic pedestal sink is still alive and well, if you want one.

Needless to say, along with the modernization and beautification of sinks has come the modernization and beautification of faucets! There are still the traditional two handle faucets, single control faucets and wall mount faucets. Again, only your imagination holds you back in the creation of your new bathroom. Faucets can now be mounted on the floor behind, or beside a vessel sink instead of taking room on a vanity. Faucets for vessel sinks are found in a wide range of finish and style. Polished chrome or brushed nickel, brass, copper and pewter are just some of the finishes available. You will want to look for a faucet with a PVD finish. This "physical vapor deposition" finish is state of the art and bonds the finish to the faucet. It is the most durable finish available in faucets today. PVD protected faucets will not corrode, tarnish or discolor.

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