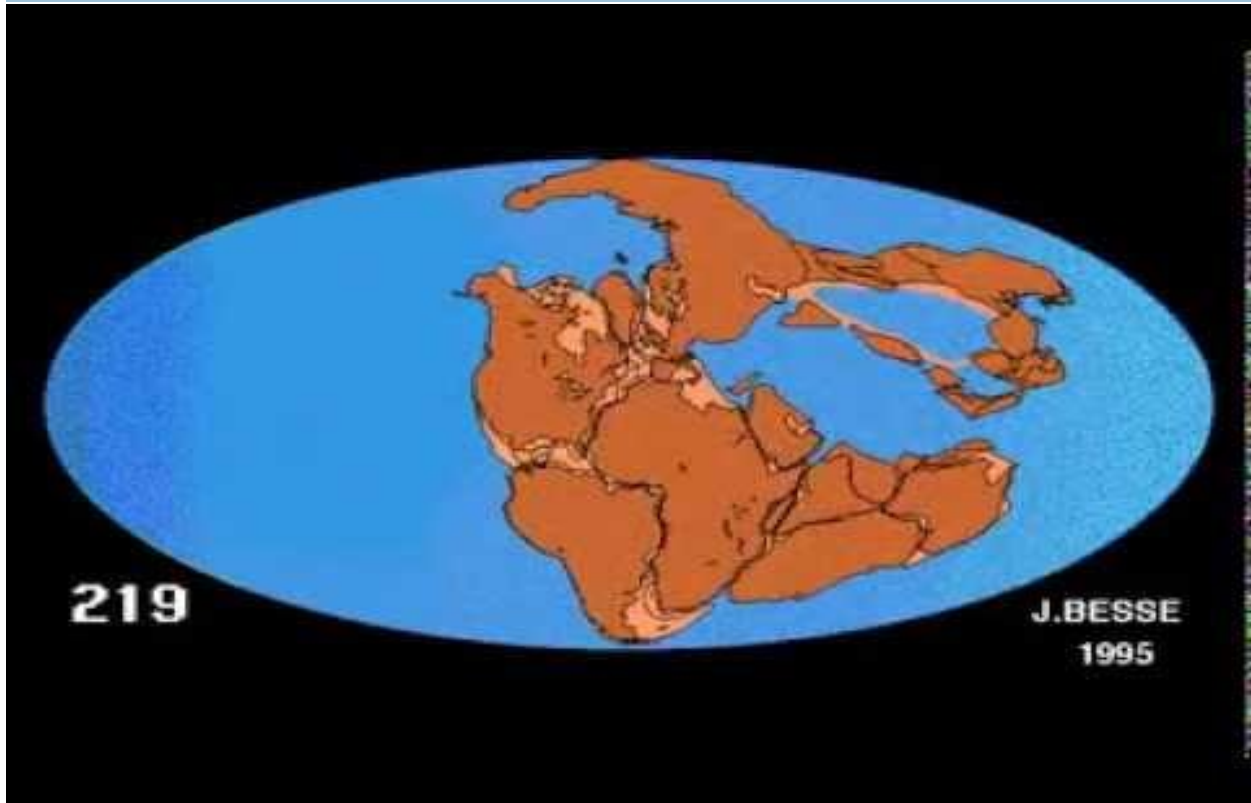


# ANTEDILUVIAN SUPERCONTINENT PANGAEA

by **David Lee Burris**



# Pangea & Peleg & Land Division



## **AP STAFF**

If you were to look at a map of the world, and especially look closely at the shape of the seven continents, you might see something quite interesting. You might even notice that the continents look similar to puzzle pieces. When you visualize piecing them together, they seem to fit together well. The continent of Africa seems like it could fit on the east edge of South America and south of North America. The northeast border of Antarctica looks like it would fit almost perfectly with the southwest edge of Australia. In fact, many of these continents have similar rock formations on the borders that seem to fit together.

Because of this pattern, and because the continents are moving slowly apart today, some people think that the continents in the past were all one big mass of land. They call this huge landmass Pangea [pan-JEE-uh]. No one has proven that this is true, but it does seem possible. If it's true, it didn't take millions of years as some evolutionists suggests. Something huge must have happened in the past that could have separated all the land. One great explanation would be the Flood of Noah's day. When all the Earth was flooded by water, and the fountains of the deep broke open (Genesis 7:11), that would have changed the land drastically.

Furthermore, such a huge Flood would have caused things to happen much more quickly than they are happening now.

Because of the idea of Pangea, some have read Genesis 10:25, and used it as proof of the concept. That verse states: “To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided.” Could it be that the division of the Earth in Peleg’s time is talking about the separating of the continents? That is possible, but it is probably not the case.

In Genesis 11:1 we read “the whole earth” had one language. When the text says the “whole earth,” it is talking about all the people on Earth. As you read the rest of Genesis 11, you learn that the people became wicked, disobeyed God, and built the Tower of Babel. Because the people disobeyed God, He confused their languages so that they could no longer work together to rebel against Him. When God caused the people to speak different languages, they were scattered “over the face of all the earth.” They were all divided. This is most likely what Genesis 10:25 is talking about.

**Objection:** “Have you carefully looked at the word for ‘divided’ in each reference? They are two different Hebrew words: vs. 25 *palag* vs. 32 *parad*. The former can mean to split or cleave and the latter to scatter. . . . What is being divided appears different since the Hebrew verb is different in both verses.”

**Answer:** The name of Peleg [*Strong’s Concordance* #06389] in verse 25 is a variant of [#06388] *peleg*, which in turn is a derivation of [#06385] *palag*. This same root word for Peleg’s name is also used in Genesis 10:25. It makes sense why this was used in direct reference to Peleg’s name. But this is different from verse 32 where [#06504] *parad* is used. However, they each appear in the same context.

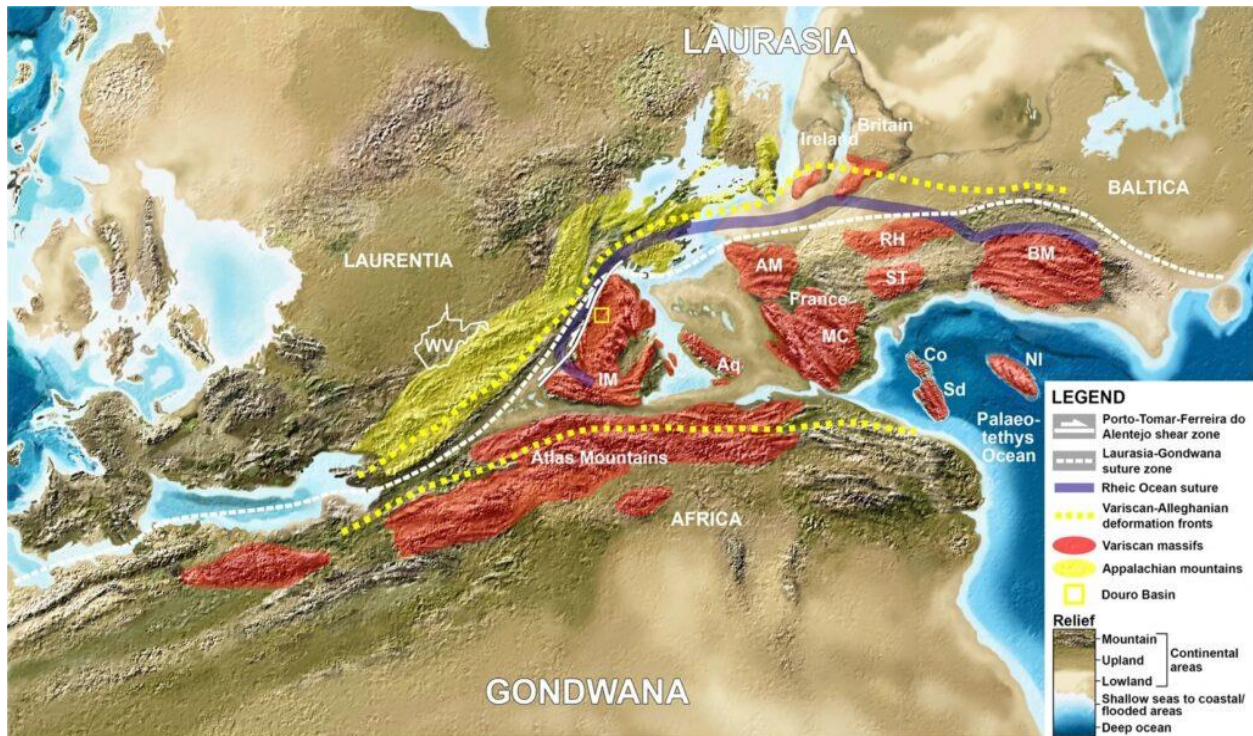
## Pangea and the Flood

In *Focus on Earth Science*, published by Merrill, the following typical explanation is given for a facet of the plate tectonic theory:

The average rate of spreading at the East Pacific rise is 4 cm/yr. The Maximum distance from the ridge to any trench is 10,000 km. If the spreading rate is constant, then no existing Pacific Ocean rock should be older than 250 million years. To date, no rocks older than 200 mill have been found in the Pacific Ocean basin. Thus, evidence supports the plate tectonics model (Hesser and Leach, 1989, p. 449).

Several problems exist with typical evolutionary explanations. There is some legitimate evidence that the continents did, at one time, fit together. **Many rock types & formations abruptly end on the coast of one continent and just as abruptly begin on the coast of another continent.** In numerous instances, these similar rock patterns and formations are found on the very continents that seem to have fit together in the past.





In fact, well-known creationists have used the idea of Pangea in their explanatory models of certain geologic phenomena (see Baumgardner, 1994). At present, even though the idea is far from proven, there seems to be no scientific evidence that overwhelmingly suggests that Pangea couldn't have been an option. Nor is there any biblical evidence that would rule out the possibility that all land was once conglomerated.

Certain biblical passages even hint that such might have been the case. Genesis 1:9-10 states: "Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear;' and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas." Admittedly, these verses deal more with all the world's water being gathered together in one place than with all the land. Yet, it is not an unreasonable possibility to suggest that if the water was in one place, then the exposed land mass was in one place as well. No biblical passage militates against the idea that all the continents once were together as Pangea.

## Evidence for Pangaea and Continental Drift

Trilobite fossils from SW Scotland are also found on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean

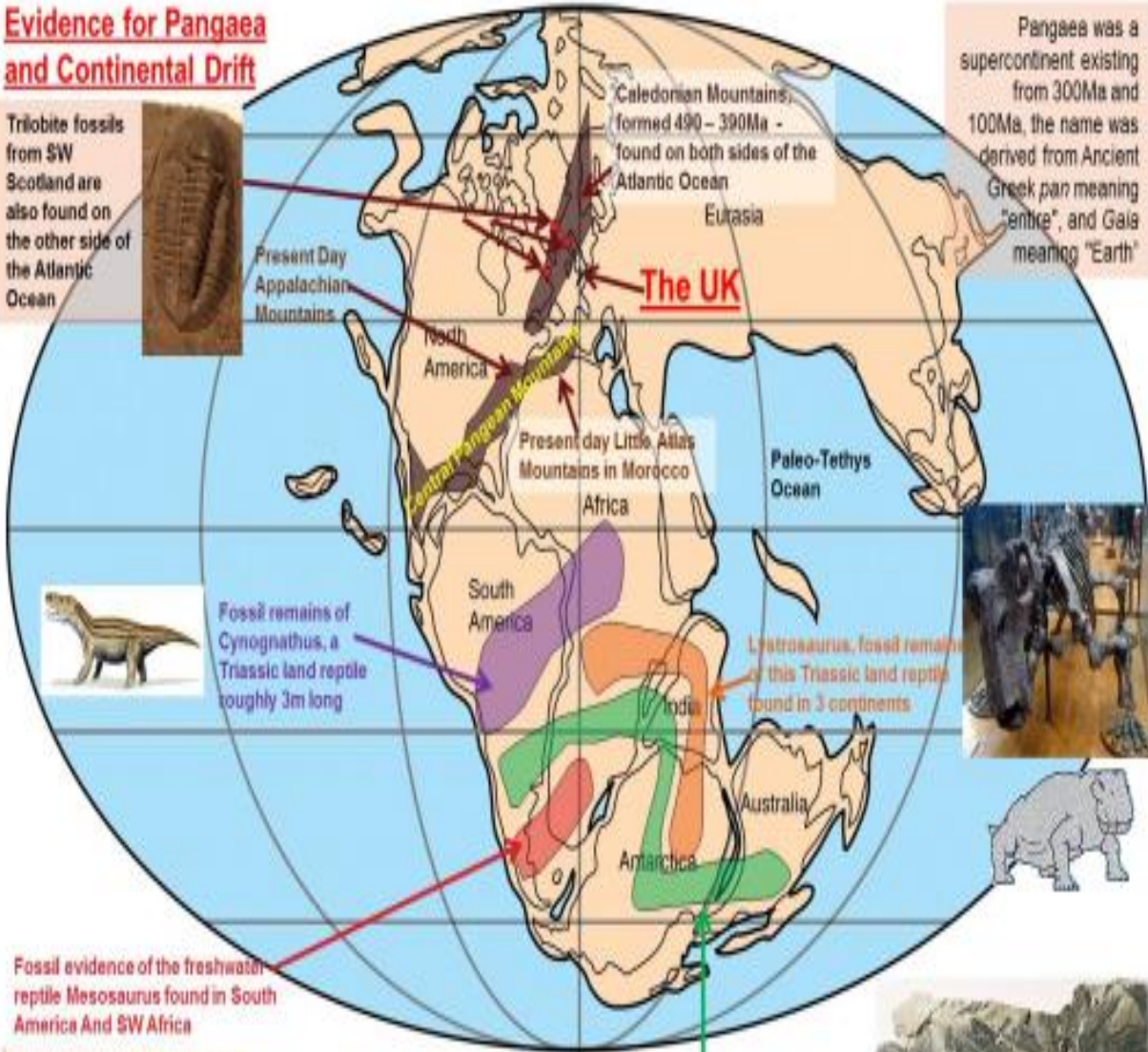


Present Day Appalachian Mountains

Caledonian Mountains, formed 490 – 390Ma - found on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean

**The UK**

Pangaea was a supercontinent existing from 300Ma and 100Ma, the name was derived from Ancient Greek *pan* meaning "entire", and *Gaia* meaning "Earth"



Fossil remains of Cynognathus, a Triassic land reptile roughly 3m long

Present day Little Atlas Mountains in Morocco

Paleo-Tethys Ocean



Lystrosaurus, fossil remains of this Triassic land reptile found in 3 continents



Fossil evidence of the freshwater reptile Mesosaurus found in South America And SW Africa



Fossils of Glossopteris are found in ALL of the Southern Continents, showing they were once joined

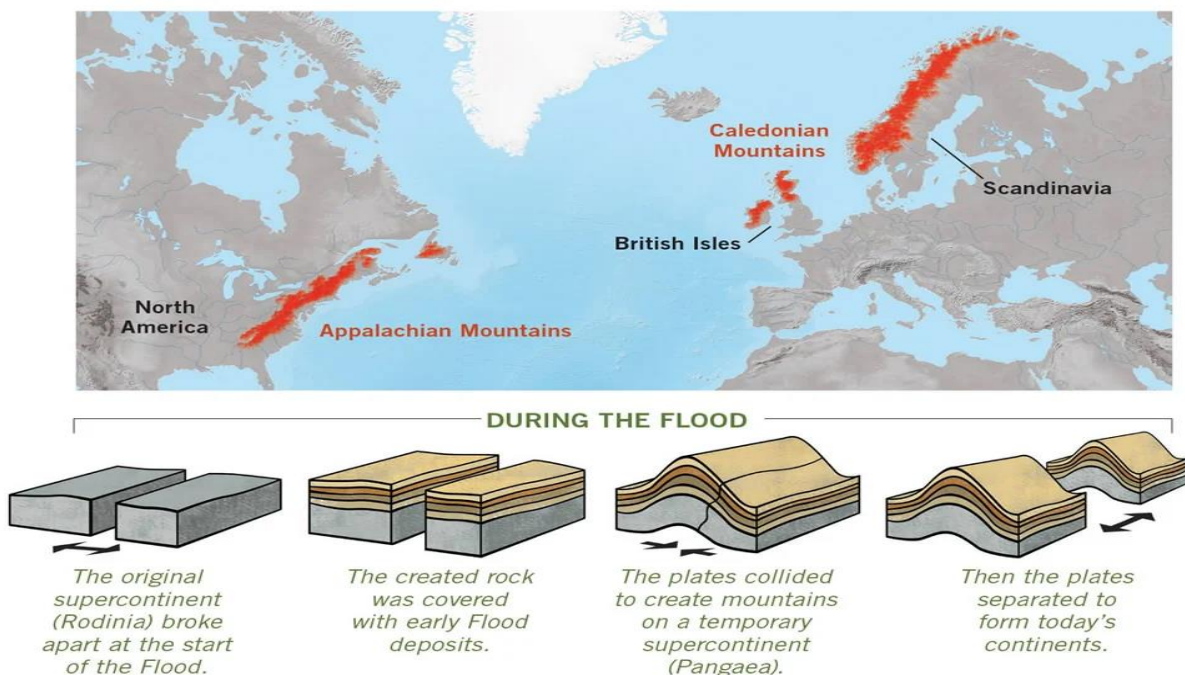


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<http://www.coolgeography.co.uk>

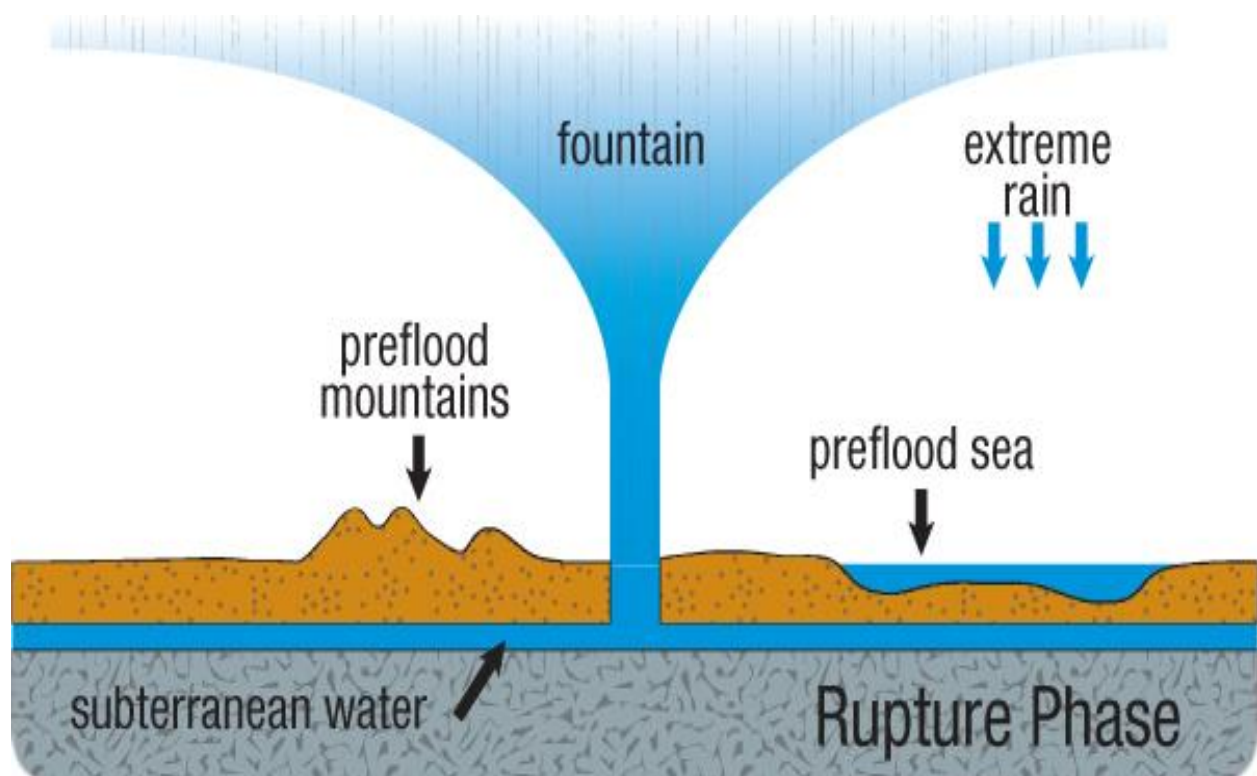
Map Source - <http://www.glosgeotrust.org.uk/>

The fundamental problem with evolutionary explanations of Pangea's separation comes in the application of uniformitarian principles. Since we see the continents drifting slightly only a few centimeters a year at present, then, according to uniform thinkers, that must be the rate at which they have drifted for millions of years. This explanation fails to account for massive scale geologically catastrophic past events. In truth, while the continents may have been connected in the past, they did not drift lazily apart over hundreds of millions of years.

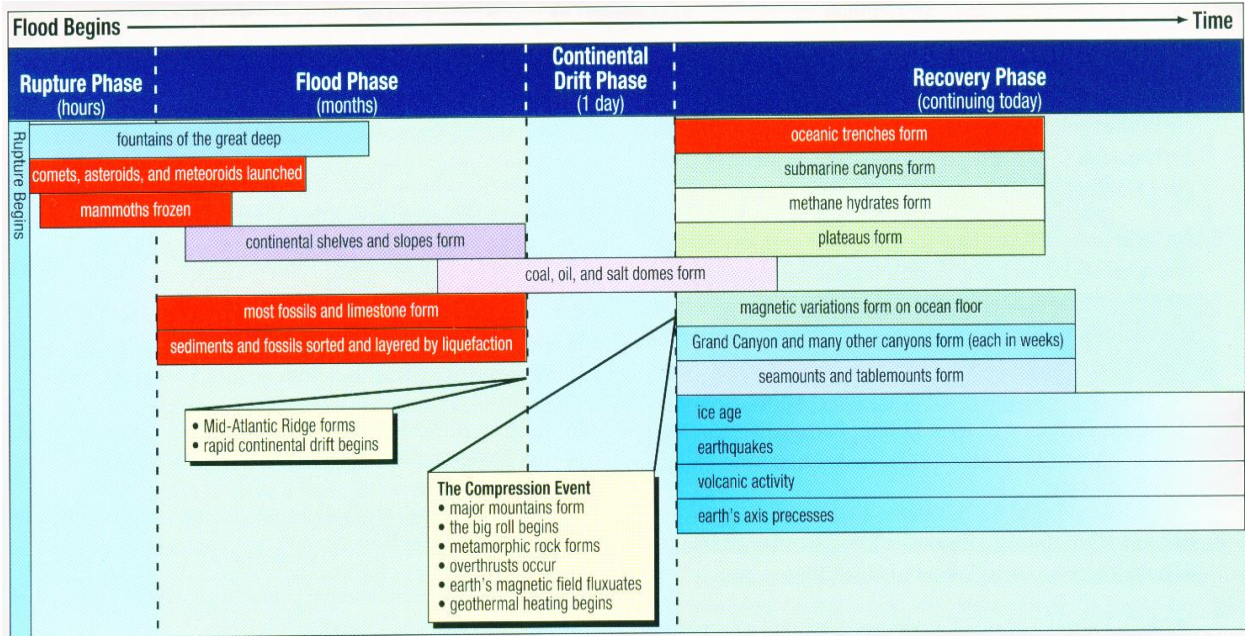


In the April 23, 1999 issue of *Science*, Paul R. Renne and his team of researchers put forth the idea that a huge flow of magma and volcanic activity began the process that “drove the land mass [Pangea] apart to create the Atlantic Ocean, at the same time dispersing evidence of the eruption widely on the margins of four continents” (Sanders, 1999). In the opening paragraph of their article, Renne and his colleagues discuss “the Central Atlantic Magmatic Province (CAMP), which is associated with the disruption of Pangea and the opening of the central Atlantic Ocean” (Marzoli, Renne, et al., 1999, p. 616).

Their thesis was that, due to new “high-precision geochronological analysis” components of CAMP can be related “to a single brief magmatic episode...with an estimated original extent of volcanism over an area in size at least  $4.5 \times 10^6 \text{ Km}^2$ ” (Marzoli, Renne, et al., p. 616). In layman’s terms, the split of Pangea began to take place in one huge, cataclysmic volcanic eruption. Their findings fit perfectly with the idea that the geological activity during the flooding could have greatly accelerated the rate at which the continents spread. In the Genesis account of the Flood, “all the fountains of the great deep were broken up” (Gen 7:11). This statement has long been recognized as evidence of heavy volcanic-magmatic activity during the Flood. Such volcanic activity on the ocean floor would also speak to the idea of accelerated rates of sea-floor spreading. The force magnitude of the Global Flood, coupled with ensuing volcanic and geologically cataclysmic activity, would certainly supply adequate causes for accelerated rates of continental drift.

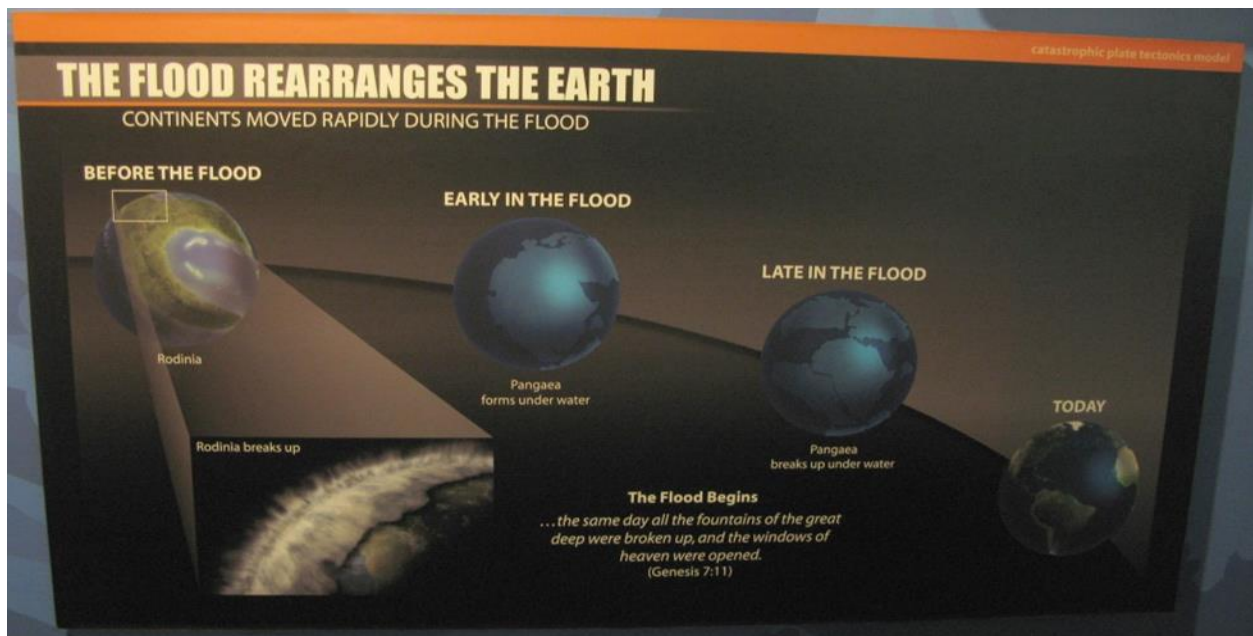






Was there ever a single land mass referred to as Pangea?

It is possible. But if there was, the uniformitarian model of continental drift provides an inadequate explanation for its separation. The catastrophic events surrounding the global Flood supply a much more feasible model for the separation of Pangea.



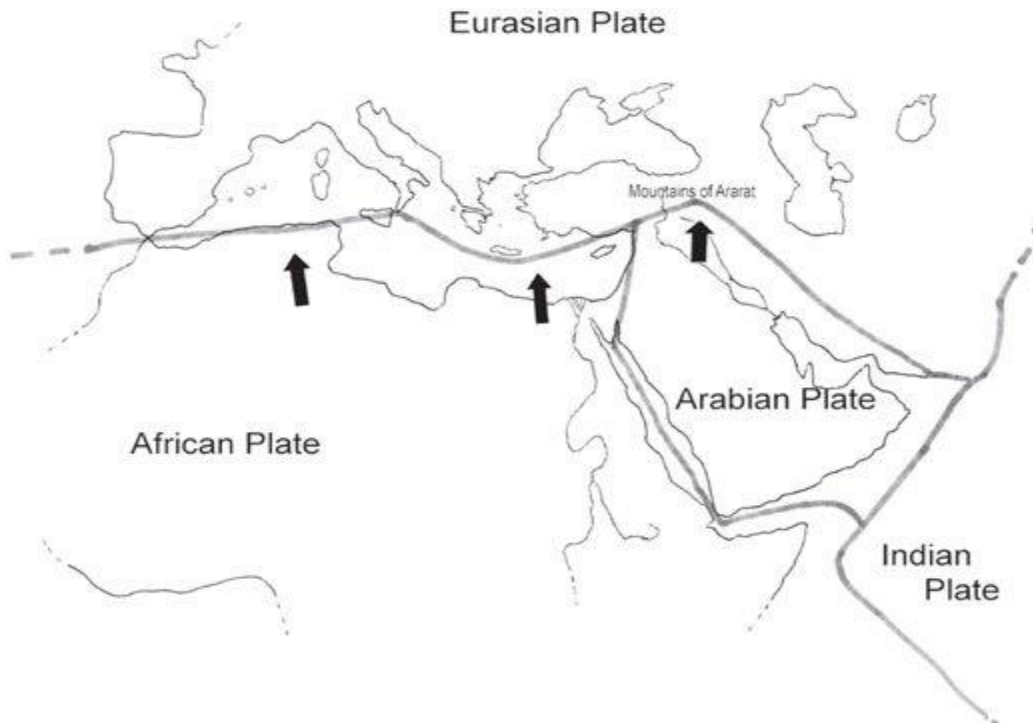
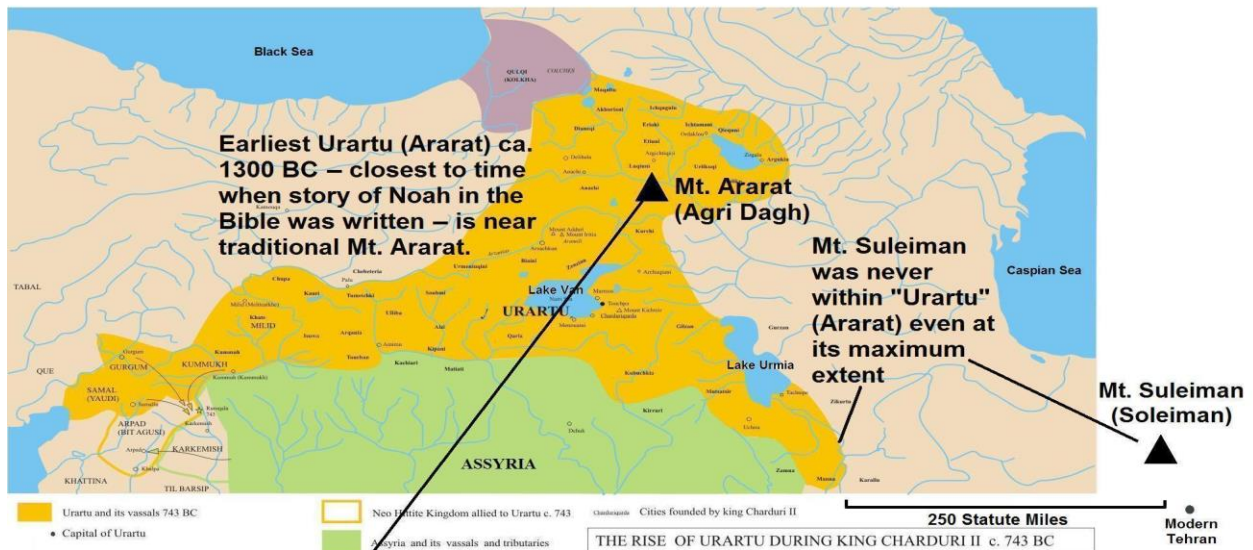


Figure: Plate movement resulted in the formation of the Mountains of Ararat.

### Geographic Limits of the Kingdom of Urartu (Ararat)



The traditional site of Mt. Ararat has been cited as far back as Church Father Philostorgius in 425 AD (perhaps earlier) who said Noah's Ark landed on "Mt. Ararat" at the source of the Euphrates river in Armenia, with pieces still there.

It is claimed that Mt. Ararat must be located within the boundaries of the Kingdom of Urartu in 700-800 BC (when it was at its greatest size). But Moses was almost a thousand years earlier. Only the JEDP Wellhausen school dates Genesis 700-800 BC (but also denies Moses was the author).

