

# **Critique of podcast: ‘The Bible explains the Ice Age’ by Tasman Walker**

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**June 5, 2024**

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## **Introduction**

Tasman Walker, who is a member of the organization **Christian Ministries International**, presents a podcast in which he is interviewed by a moderator who asks him how the Bible explains the origin of the Ice Age. This podcast is about 50 minutes long and can be accessed at this link:

[https://youtu.be/ So0do3nOXw?si=GnaRmO\\_Q9vf6UUJM](https://youtu.be/So0do3nOXw?si=GnaRmO_Q9vf6UUJM)

He claims that only the Bible can explain the Ice Age. Below is a discussion of his beginning observations of earlier viewpoints and models. This article will then discuss many of the errors that he makes.

## **Early secular models for glaciation**

Tasman starts off with a discussion of the 100,000-year Milankovitch cycles, discovered in the 1920s, in which the Earth

orbits the sun in an elliptical or eccentric orbit and in which the Earth is sometimes closer to the sun and warmer and sometimes farther from the sun and cooler, but he says that the cooler times are not sufficient to produce an Ice Age. He indicates that the Earth wobbles on its axis and makes one complete wobble in a cycle of about 25,000 years, but he says this wobbling does not cool the Earth to cause an Ice Age. He claims that these processes are unstable and do not produce enough water that is needed to form the glaciers found in the Ice Age and that only the water provided by Noah's flood is what is required to produce the ice cover on Earth during the Ice Age. He points out that the geologist, Louis Agassiz, in the 1800s gave the first evidence for extensive glaciation on the basis of his noting the presence of "scratching" on rocks, U-shaped valleys, terminal and lateral moraines, erratic boulders transported by the glaciers, and tillites that contain "broken rocks." Walker then indicates that secular geologists claim there were four other older Ice Ages that occurred, one in the Cambrian, one in the Permian, and two in the Precambrian, but he says that the geologic evidence shows that these are not really Ice Ages and that broken rocks can be explained by underwater avalanches during Noah's flood.

### **Problems with Walker's model**

The following are various topics for which Walker does not have sufficient knowledge to support his belief that Noah's flood explains the origin of the Ice Age. Among the topics are

the following ten: (1) numbers of Ice Ages and tillites, (2) volcanic eruptions and emergence of magma to heat the oceans to cause evaporation of water needed to produce the ice, (3) animals distributed on Earth were those on Noah's ark, (4) ocean levels changed during and following the Ice Age so that land bridges enabled migration of humans and animals around the globe, (5) many large submarine canyons were carved by run-off of water following Noah's flood, (6) many different large animals lived and multiplied following the Ice Age because of warming of the climate, (7) ice thicknesses in the glaciers were formed quickly in the Ice Age and following Noah's flood about 4,500 years ago and lasted until about 700 years ago when climate conditions became stabilized, (8) the Sahara Desert had lush vegetation and lakes that remained after Noah's flood, (9) vegetation was ripped up by Noah's flood waters, and (10) a worldview of the Earth.

### **One: Numbers of Ice Ages and tillites**

Walker says that secular geologists claim there are four other Ice Ages in addition to the latest one following Noah's flood. These four he said were in the Permian, Cambrian, and two in the Precambrian, one of which consisted of a "snowball Earth" in which the whole globe was covered with snow and ice. Actually, there are many more than four Ice Ages, one of which occurred in Ordovician time (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1.** Parallel striations and grooves on Ordovician sandstone in the Sahara Desert. Image provided by John Shelton, geologist and pilot, now deceased.

There are no known geologic processes that produce parallel striations (scratches) and grooves other than by rocks frozen in the bottom of a flowing glacier. If Walker claims that there are other processes that do this, he needs to provide such evidence. The glaciers that produce the parallel striations on Ordovician rocks in the Sahara Desert had to have occurred in the midst of the supposed worldwide Noah's flood and before overlying sedimentary rocks of Silurian age were deposited in this supposed worldwide flood. Moreover, these parallel striations are oriented toward the former South Pole where a huge continental ice mass once existed and from this ice mass terminal glacial moraines of Ordovician age were deposited also in South America, Australia, and India besides the evidence for glaciation in Africa. At any rate, that amount of extensive glaciation and total melting of the ice in this Ice Age cannot

have happened in a month's time early in the one-year Noah's flood.

He also claims that undersea avalanches can produce piles of broken rock. That is true, but the known places for these avalanches are where soft fine-grained sediment in continental shelves have broken loose and slid for miles, and where these sliding rocks came to a stop, they do not consist of broken rocks that are found in glacial tillites but only disoriented blocks of soft sediment.

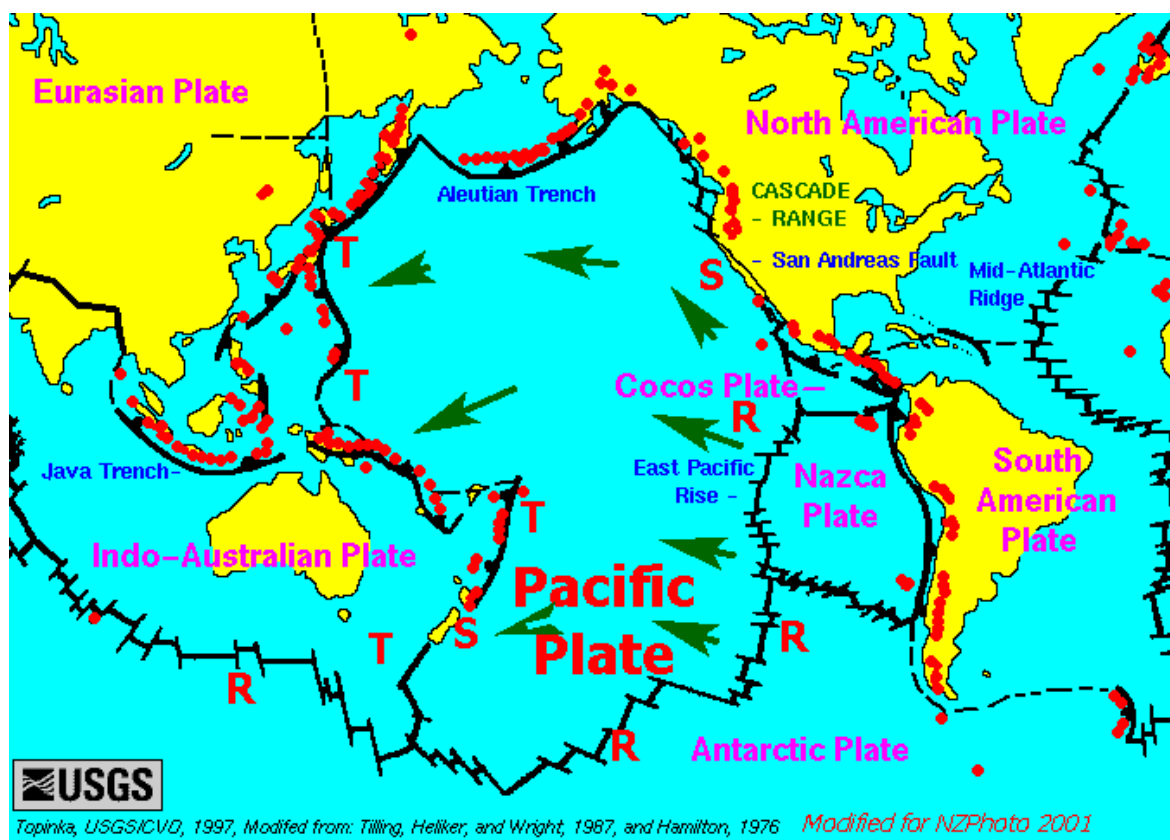
Walker claims that a "snowball Earth" never happened and wonders, if it did happen, why it did not continue with snow and ice cover until the present time. But he does not seem to realize that the Earth's interior was continually being affected by heat energy rising in the mantle layers such that volcanoes erupted and burst through the ice cover, and these volcanoes provided "greenhouse" gases that heated the atmosphere to melt the ice cover such that the "snowball Earth" did not continue to the present.

Finally, Walker needs to look at an article discussing tillites that illustrates why there are more than five Ice Ages during Earth's total history. See:

Glacial tillites, geologic history, and biblical scientific accuracy [Nr40tillites.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

**Two: Volcanic eruptions as the source of water for the ice**

Walker claims (a) that the great numbers of volcanoes in the “ring of fire” (**Figure 2**) and around the Pacific Ocean and (b) hot rising magma rising under the oceans during Noah’s flood caused the warming of the water in the oceans to increase evaporation that provided the water needed to produce the glacial ice in the latest Ice Age.



**Figure 2.** Pacific Plate, showing active volcanoes (red dots) in a “ring of fire” where the oceanic plate subducts (dives under) other plates around the Pacific Ocean.

What Walker does not take into account is that the peaks of many of these volcanoes are more than 13,000 feet high. That amount of eruption of basaltic lava to supply the water in glaciers of the Ice Age cannot possibly happen during the very

short time of one year or soon after when the supposed Noah's flood occurred about 4,500 years ago. Moreover, the basaltic magma underlying the Pacific Ocean has emerged from mid-ocean spreading centers (black lines on **Figure 2**), and the emerging basalt bands have been dated to increase in age from the present to more than 150 million years where these basalt bands dive under the Japanese Islands. These great age observations and 13,000-foot peaks in volcanoes in the "ring of fire" alone make his model have no merit.

### **Three: Animals distributed on Earth were those on Noah's ark**

Walker does not explain how the armadillo in South and North America, the kangaroo in Australia, the panda in China, the aardvark in Africa, or the do-do bird on an island in the Indian Ocean can somehow get to Noah's ark in order to survive Noah's flood. None of these animals can swim, nor can the do-do bird fly. Nor does he explain how Noah is able supply the quantity of specialized food that these animals would require (like fresh bamboo branches for the panda) while being housed in the ark for one year. Furthermore, he includes only modern-day animals that he believes were on Noah's ark and ignores large animals that are found in the fossil record like dinosaurs. Shouldn't dinosaurs have been included on Noah's ark?

### **Four: Ocean levels changed during and following the Ice Age so that land bridges enabled migration of humans and animals around the globe**

The amount of ocean level that Walker reports is lowered during the Ice Age is 50 to 60 meters (160 to 200 feet). (This is false. Sea level was lower by 350 to 400 feet. This amount would allow a land bridge to occur in the Bering Strait between Russia and the Aleutian Islands extending from western Alaska. But 350 to 400 feet of lowering does not create any land bridge that would connect continents from the site where Noah's ark is said to have landed in the mountains of Ararat, presumably in Turkey near Mt. Ararat, so that humans or animals could migrate around the world.) Moreover, archeological evidence shows that humans spread from Africa and not from Turkey. Significantly, humans and animals could not have spread that far around the world in just 4,500 years. Furthermore, footprints of humans are dated in New Mexico having an age of about 22,000 years ago, which is much older than Walker wants to make the Earth's age to be. See:

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/human-footprints-new-mexico-ancient-dating>

### **Five: Many large submarine canyons were carved by run-off of water following Noah's flood**

It is true that lowering sea level 350 to 400 feet would expose continental shelves to rivers that would carve canyons, but the large canyons that are deeper than the Grand Canyon that Walker refers to are likely the example of Monterey Canyon off the coast of California. This canyon has been studied, and it is shown that sand grains carried by several rivers to the Pacific



Ocean north of Monterey Canyon are transported by longshore drift south along the coast of California where these sand grains turn to the west to spill down into the ocean there to carve the very deep and wide Monterey Canyon in the ocean sediments. Another such canyon occurs near San Diego. Therefore, such deep canyons have nothing to do with the draining of Noah's flood waters or the lowering of sea level during the Ice Age.

**Six: Many different large animals lived and multiplied following the Ice Age including mammoths because of warming of the climate and many have become extinct.**

Walker claims that the Ice Age caused the extinction of many large animals at its end because of drastic changes in climate conditions. It is true that the extinction of some large animals occurred at some time following the end of the supposed worldwide Noah's flood whose topmost layers that were deposited by Noah's flood are said to be the youngest Cretaceous age. For example, there are more than 150 species of elephants, more broadly known as the proboscideans that are extinct, including the mastodons and woolly mammoths. Bones of a mastodon were discovered west of Chicago and these bones were reconstructed as a display at Wheaton College, (**Figure 3**), and the bones were sent to a lab for radiocarbon dating that indicated that this mastodon was 13,500 +/- 60 years old (**Figure 4**).



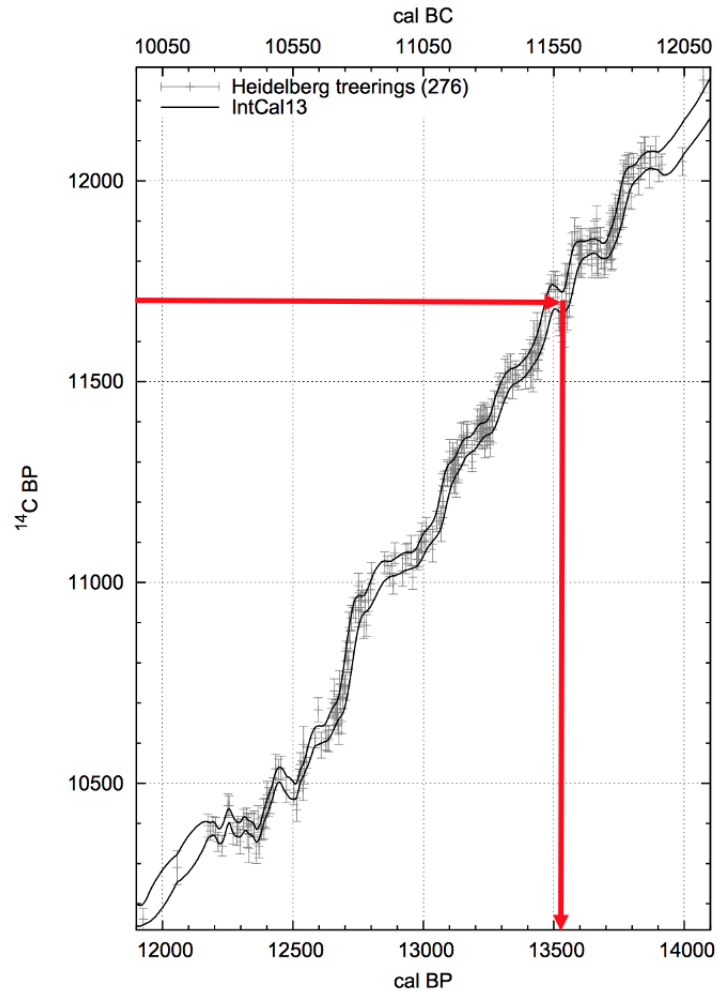
Photo courtesy of  
Steve Moshier

**Figure 3.** Reconstructed mastodon on display at Wheaton College.

Radiocarbon Age of the  
Perry Mastadon  
 at Wheaton College  
 (discovered west of Chicago)

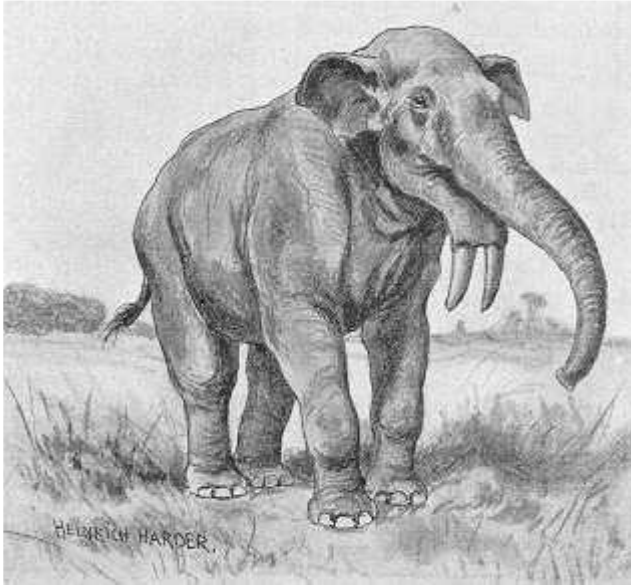
$^{14}\text{C}$  BP  
 $11,700 \pm 60$

cal BP  
 $13,500 \pm 60$



**Figure 4.** Radiocarbon dating of Perry mastodon.

Presumably, Walker would have said that an ancestral pair to all the elephant species was brought onto the ark. One of these extinct elephants was *Deinotherium* (see **Figure 5**), which was a much larger animal than the modern elephant.



**Figure 5.** *Deinotherium*. Source Heinrich Harder (1858-1935); copyright expired.

[http://www.copyrightexpired.com/Heinrich\\_Harder/dinotherium\\_bw.html](http://www.copyrightexpired.com/Heinrich_Harder/dinotherium_bw.html)

It had downward projecting tusks instead of curved upward-sweeping tusks. Some elephant species had four tusks. Thousands and thousands of fossils of *Deinotherium* elephants have been found in a hundred different locations— Africa, Asia, and even Jordan, Arabia, and Mesopotamia (Iraq) where Hebrew tribes once lived before and after the supposed Noah’s flood. Thousands and thousands of fossils of each of the other 150-plus species of elephants have also been found. Therefore, millions of individuals of these many different elephant species must have lived at one time because only a few of these animals could be expected to be preserved as fossils.

A point that Tasman Walker must consider is that if *Deinotherium* were living before and after Noah's flood, why did people living in either time not draw any pictures of them or describe them in the Bible, particularly because *Deinotheria* are found as abundant fossils in the areas where early Hebrew tribes were living? However, cave images of mammoths are known. Moreover, if all these elephant kinds evolved from just a pair of a generic elephant kind, then evolution would have been ultra-fast to create over 150 species of elephants, including the mammoth in only 4,500 years since Noah's flood and after the ark landed to release the first male and female elephant pair to spread across the Earth. Therefore, much more time would have been required than Tasman Walker would allow in his chronology of Earth to be 6,000 years old, which seems to be his belief as to the age of the Earth.

**Seven: Ice thicknesses in the glaciers were formed quickly in the Ice Age and following Noah's flood about 4,500 years ago and this ice lasted until about 700 years ago when climate conditions became stabilized**

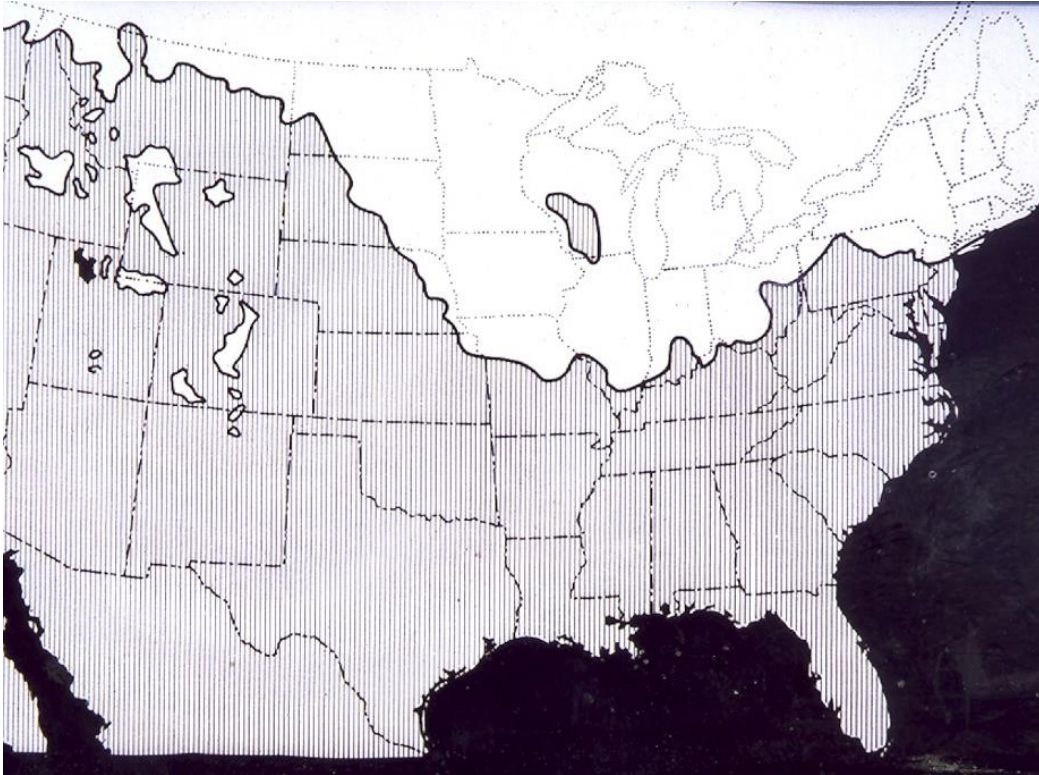
Walker admits that secular geologists claim that the Ice Age started 2.6 million years ago in the Quaternary and ended 11,000 years with at least four cycles in the last 450,000 years (**Figure 6**). Instead, he claims that the Ice Age started about 500 years after Noah's Flood that occurred 4,500 years ago and

ceased about 700 years ago when climate conditions became stabilized.



**Figure 6.** Glacial-interglacial cycles over the past 450,000 years. Source: Utah Geological Survey.

He says that glaciers flowed as far south as Niagara Falls and a bit farther. But in the oldest Nebraskan stage, the glacial ice in Canada flowed horizontally as far south as near the southern tip of Illinois (**Figure 7**).



**Figure 7.** Maximum extent of continental glaciation in Ice Age in North America.

The average thickness of the Antarctica ice sheet is over 2 km (1.2 mi). See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctic\\_ice\\_sheet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctic_ice_sheet) And the average thickness of glacial ice on Greenland is 1.67 km (1.0

mi) and over 3 km (1.9 mi) at its maximum. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenland\\_ice\\_sheet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greenland_ice_sheet) Under those thicknesses, the ice on Greenland and Antarctica flows only slowly toward the coast. Likely, nearly the same thicknesses of glacial ice occurred in Canada in all four glacial stages. See:

Pleistocene Continental Glaciers: A Single Ice Age  
Following a Genesis Flood or Multiple Ice Ages?  
[Pleistocene glaciers.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

If Walker's model is correct, then the rates of snowfall must have been greater than occur in snow storms known in modern times to produce 2 km (1.3 mi) of glacial ice cover over such a large area in Canada and repeated four-times in just 3,000 to 4,000 years. Walker has the Ice Age to be even sillier with the Ice Age length to be 700 years long after Noah's flood 4,500 years ago. Moreover, following the ends of the four glacial stages --- to melt the ice back to where none covered Canada before the next stage/cycle began, the climate must have been at blow-torch temperatures in order to melt that much ice that quickly four times in less than 4,000 years. Strange that no humans living during that biblical time did not report such extreme cold snow-depositing and hot-weather conditions in the Bible. Furthermore, C-14 dating of vegetation buried in the terminal moraine of the youngest Wisconsin age in Illinois give ages of 20,000 years and Douglas pine tree logs buried in a recessional moraine at Two Creeks, Wisconsin (**Figure 8**), give an age of 10,000 years, both of which ages are older than the 6,000 years that Walker wants the age of the Earth to be.





**Figure 8.** Douglas pine tree logs buried under a moraine of Wisconsin age.

**Eight: The Sahara Desert had lush vegetation and lakes left over following Noah's flood.**

Yes, that is true. Walker claims that while water was falling as snow in areas close to the North Pole following Noah's flood --- abundant rain was falling in the Sahara Desert near the equator. There is evidence for an ancient large lake that existed in the Sahara Desert about 240,000 years ago when the Nile River broke through the banks of a channel near Wadi Tushka, and it once covered more than 42,000 square miles. See: <https://www.si.edu/stories/ancient-megalake-discovered-beneath-sahara-desert> But because the Sahara Desert had no rainfall to preserve this lake, it dried up. Therefore, Walker,

claiming that this lake was related to Noah's flood and an Ice Age, has no real support.

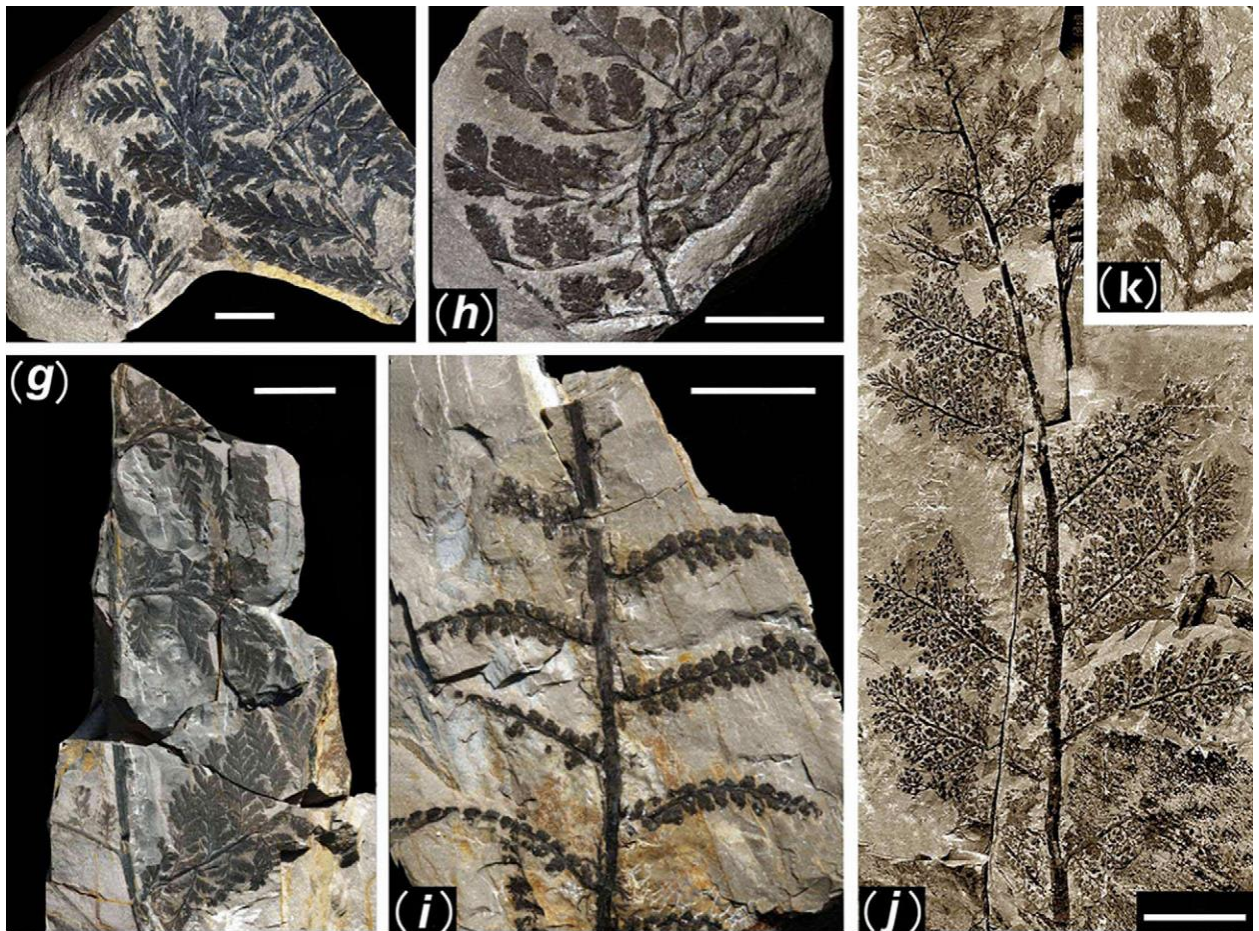
### **Nine: Vegetation was ripped up by Noah's flood waters**

In making this side-comment during the podcast, Walker is likely referring to some evidence that some coal beds have mixed layers of fossilized leaves and petrified logs. But fossilized remains of vegetation in a forest of Permian age in China have roots of trees and other plants in place (**Figure 9**), and they are not ripped up.



**Figure 9.** Permian forest in China buried to become coal.

Here, delicate leaves are preserved without being deposited rapidly by rushing flood water that would jumble and mix them (**Figure 10**).



**Figure 10.** Leaf fossils, China, Permian, 298 million years old

## Ten: Worldview of the Earth

Walker seems to have the view that the present positions of the five continents are what they have always been in the last 6,000 years and that Noah's flood and the following Ice Age

have nothing to do with the geologic ~4.6-billion-year history of the Earth in which continents have slid around to collide with each other and then subsequently formed a giant continent which was then followed by splitting apart again of this giant continent into separate smaller continents (like that in its present world condition) in at least five cycles of collisions and splitting. But Ice Ages are a part of all of these several plate tectonic events because of tillites found in them.

## **Conclusion**

The general view of Tasman Walker throughout the podcast is that (a) the Bible solves the problem as to why the Earth got cooler to create the Ice Age because of increased amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that absorbed sunlight and, thereby, cooled the Earth (he does not seem to realize that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere warms the Earth), (b) the Bible strongly asserts that Noah's flood was worldwide (global), (c) there was a supposed 6,000-year history of the Earth in which the climate on the Earth has been unstable, particularly at that time in which Noah's flood occurred about 4,500 years ago, (d) there were subsequent oscillations between cold and warm weather conditions following the flood that produced cycles of glaciation in a single Ice Age, (e) tropical plants once existed near the North Pole following the Ice Age because of warming of the climate, and then (f) the climate has finally stabilized in the last 700 years. He says that if the Milankovitch 100,000-year cycle caused Ice Ages there should

be thousands of Ice Ages during the Precambrian and he says there is no evidence for this. He concludes that if scientists really understood how an Ice Age is produced in the way that he has analyzed and figured it out, there would not be “cataclasmic alarmism” over the possible bad climate for humans existing today. That is, humans could reason out ways to solve the present climate problems on the basis of the Bible and his analysis of how an Ice Age was formed. Unfortunately, he totally does not realize in this podcast that the increasing volumes of the greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane, in the atmosphere are causing the climate warming and the danger for the survival of humans, plants, and animals on the Earth. That is sad!

Having said all of the above, it does not mean that Tasman Walker is not a Christian. He can still be a fully committed Christian and follow Jesus as Lord, as I do. See my Christian witness at this link. [OPPOSITION TO CREATIONISM 8 of 9 \(csun.edu\)](#) It just means that he has his science wrong, and he needs to be telling the truth. The Bible answers the questions of who God is and why God exists. Science/nature answers the questions of when, where, and how God did His creation and is still doing it. Science shows that Noah’s flood was local in southeastern Mesopotamia in early biblical times. See the following links.

Yes, Noah’s Flood May Have Happened, But Not Over the Whole Earth [Flood 2 \(csun.edu\)](#)

Fountains of the Great Deep and Noah's Flood  
[Nr64Fountains.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

Position Statement: Science, Bible, Noah's Flood, and  
Evolution [Nr102Position.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

Understanding Inerrancy in the Bible and Science Not in  
the Bible [Nr95Inerrancy.pdf \(csun.edu\)](#)

## **Acknowledgment**

I wish to thank Ken Wolgemuth for editorial suggestions and assistance in writing this article.