



# Geography within a Historical Myth – *Truth behind Noah's Deluge*

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# Myths about great floods

## Mexico

- There are a large number of Mesoamerican flood myths like the Nahua (central Mexico), Tarahumara (Northern Mexico), Michoacan (Mexico), Cora (east of the Huichols), Totonac (east of Mexico), Aztec Flood Myth and others. The great Maya civilization also have documentation of such a mythical flood.

## India

- Satyavrata, the 7th Manu considered the first king to rule this earth, who saved mankind from the great flood — after being warned of it by the Matsya avatar of Vishnu, who had also advised him to build a giant boat.

## China

- We can see those elements in the Chinese myth where Gong Gong, so ordered by the head of the gods, created a flood as a punishment for human misbehavior. It lasted 22 years, until the hero started to dam the waters. The hero was killed for this act, but from his corpse sprang a son who finished his father's project.

## Rome

- The Greco-Roman story, recounted by Ovid, is another tale of collusion among the gods to punish evil humanity. Jupiter persuaded Neptune to flood all the earth except for the summit of Mt. Parnassus.

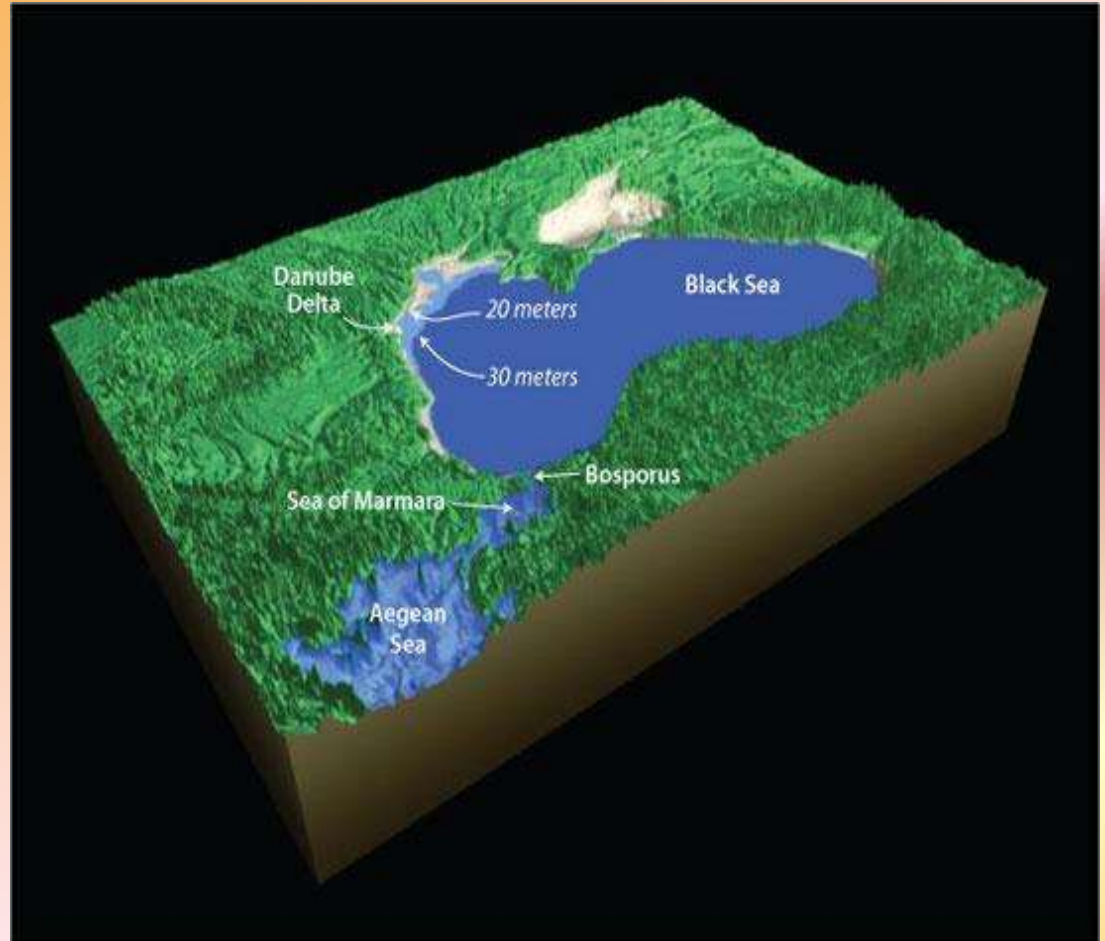
## THE MYTHICAL NOAH'S FLOOD

The story most familiar to many people is the biblical **account of Noah and his ark.**

**Genesis** (A chapter in Old Testament) tells how “God saw that the wickedness of man was great” and decided to destroy all of creation. Only Noah, “who found grace in the eyes of the Lord,” his family, and the animals aboard the ark survived to repopulate the planet.



Through Biblical and mythological studies, it is estimated that a huge deluge known as the Noah's Flood took place some **7000 years ago from now, or 5600 BC.**



# Relicts of the Noah's Ark

Apparently first seen by a local Kurdish farmer following an earthquake in May 1948, the world's attention was drawn to this streamlined boat-shape by the publication of an aerial photograph, taken by a Turkish Air Force pilot, in Australian Pix magazine on July 9, 1960 and American Life magazine on September 5, 1960.

Noah's ark at a place called "Place of Descent" about **60 miles southeast of the summit of Mount Ararat**

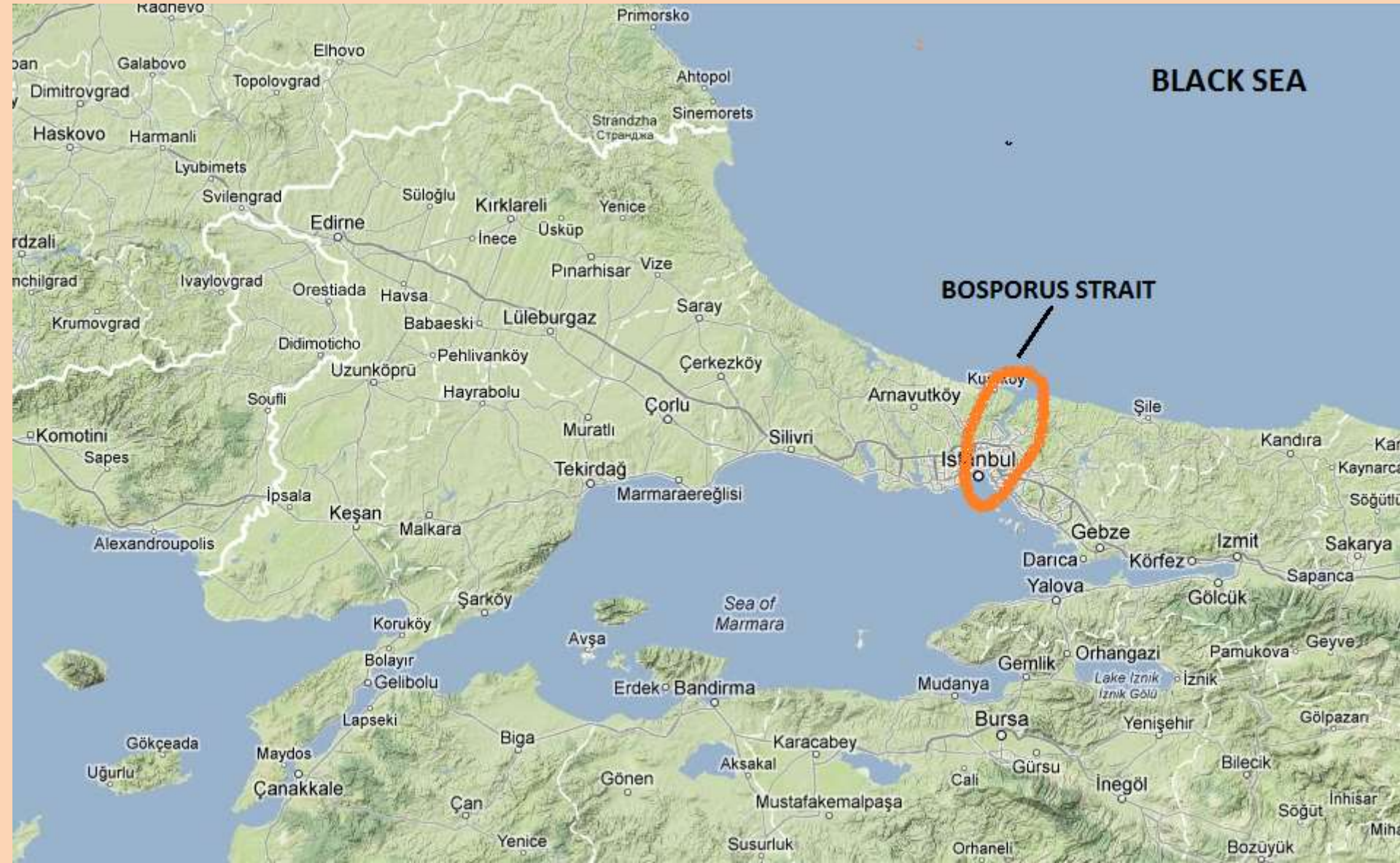


Lesser Mount Ararat.  
Arrows show similar boat-shaped formations in the area. (Turkish Air Force Photo)

# Present Day Black Sea along with study area



# The Study Area



**Satellite image showing the Bosphorus strait connecting the Black sea waters with the Marmara sea.**

This region is of great significance in the Geographical context.

It is fascinating that a myth and event related to this area is inscribed in the Old Testament of the Bible related as :

**THE NOAH'S FLOOD**





## BOSPORUS – A STRAIT OR RIVER

The Bosphorus also known as the Istanbul Strait that forms part of the boundary between Europe and Asia.

The world's narrowest strait used for international navigation, it connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara.



# The Semi sinuous Bosphorus Strait



# Confluence point of the Deluge



# Fact Behind the Myth

- Main fact regarding the whole research is to find out the causal factor of flood other than the general factors.
- This is done by deeply concentrating into the relevance found by excavating several myths associated with this event.
- A)The Atlantis Flood Theory
- B)The Noah's Flood Theory

# Geological sequences relating to the Myth

- c. 5 million B.C.E. to c.18,000 B.C.E. : *Ice Age*
- c. 18,000 B.C.E. to c.13,000 B.C.E.: *Deglaciation*



Formation of fresh water *Euxine Lake* (today's Black Sea) without outlet

- c. 13,000 B.C.E. to c. 9,600 B.C.E.: *Ice Age*



Lowering of the *Euxine lake* (today's Black Sea) level

- c. 9,600 B.C.E. to c. 6,200 B.C.E. : *Deglaciation*

## ***THE ATLANTIS THEORY***



Rising level of the *Euxine Lake* and forms outlet to the Mediterranean Sea

- c. 6,200 BCE: *Ice Age*



Blocks outlet to the Mediterranean Sea

- Circa 5,650 to 5,500 BCE: *Deglaciation*

## ***THE NOAH'S FLOOD***



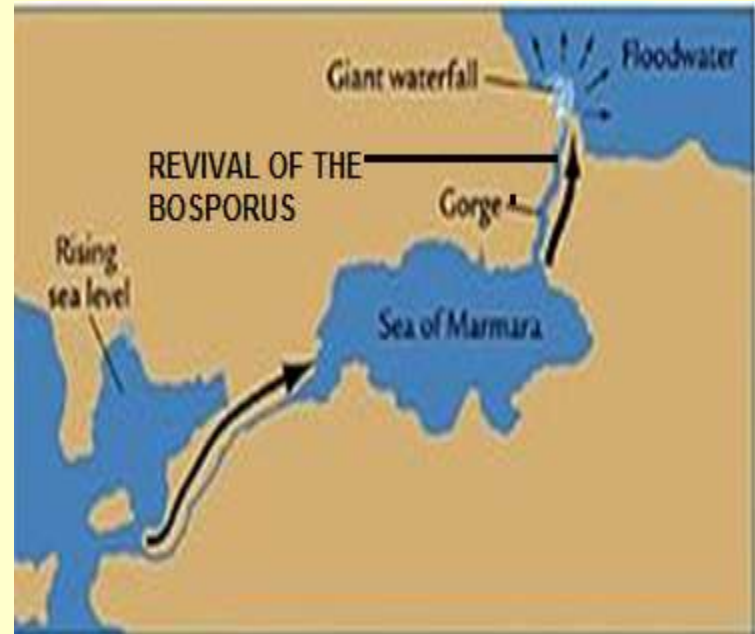
Movement of water from the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea

# REVERSAL OF RIVER/STRAIT FLOW

## Atlantis Flood Theory



## Noah's Flood Theory



# Interlinked Myth behind a myth

## 11,500 to 8200 B.P. : The Atlantis Theory (forms outlet to Mediterranean sea)

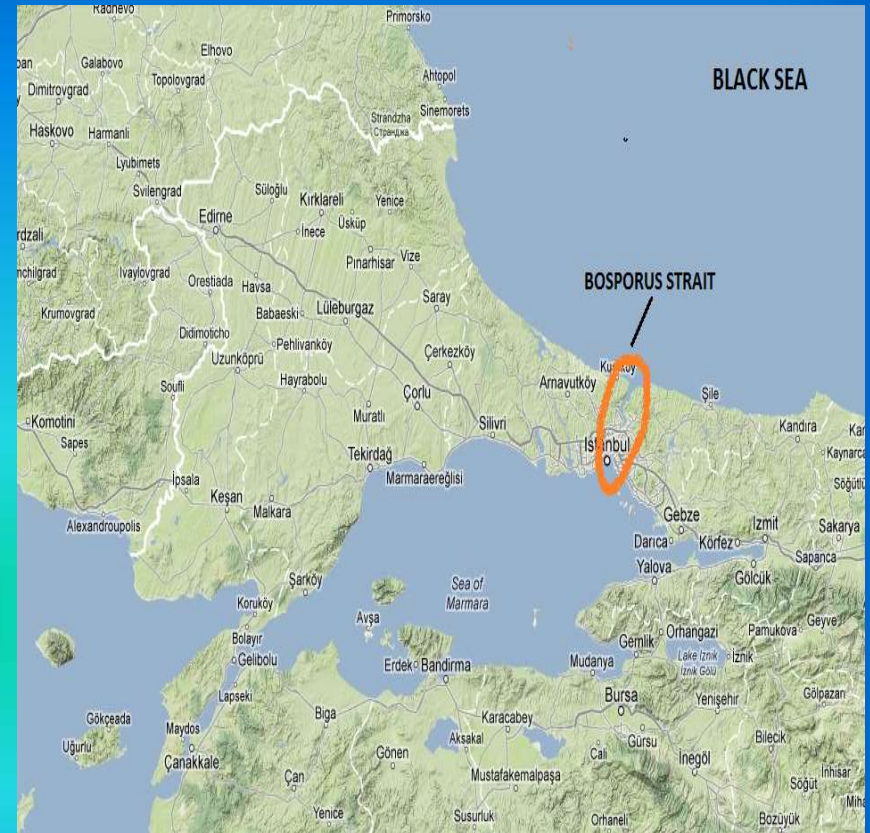
- Decent levels of temperature and rainfall returned once more.
- *The Great Atlantis Flood*
- Abrupt warming at the end of the Younger Dryas period some 11,600 years ago, with a climatic ripple effect impacting habitats around the world.

## ATLANTIAN PERIOD



- 1. Caspian Sea
- 2. Manych-Kerch Gateway
- 3. Atlantis →
- 4. Diverse islands
- 5. Black Sea
- 6. Attica →
- 7. Hellas →
- 8. Mediterranean Sea.

## PRESENT DAY



present day Azov Depression

present day Marmara sea  
present day Aegean sea

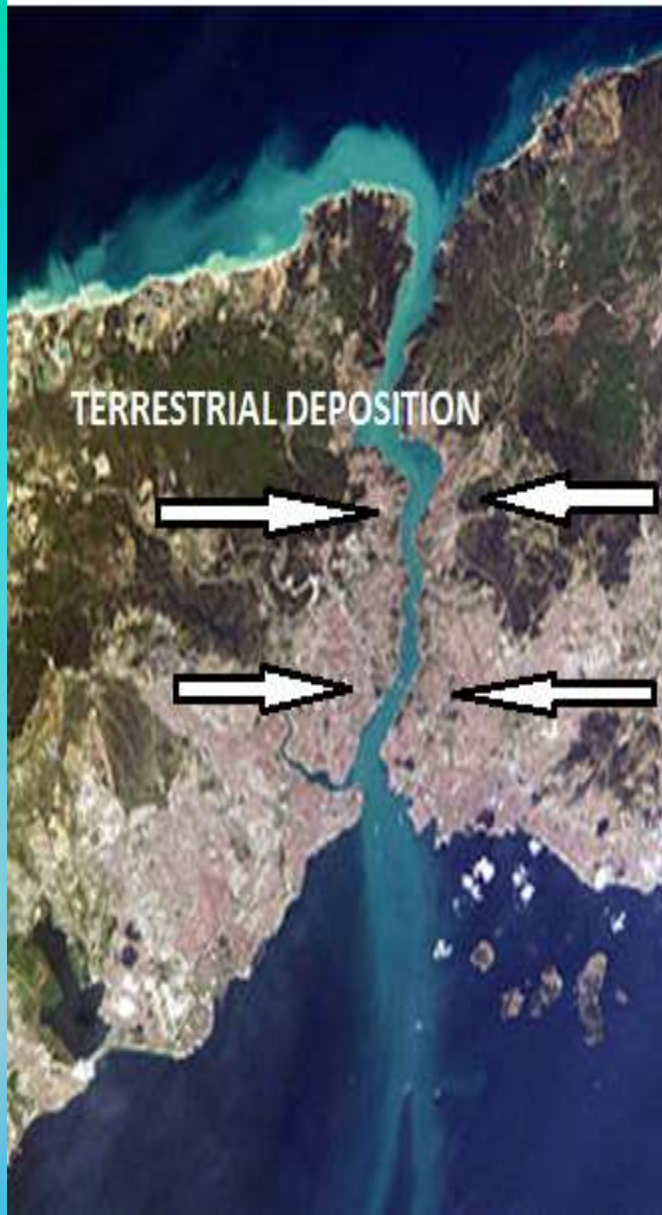


- Glacial melt-waters, at the end of the Younger Dryas Ice Age, raised the level of the **Caspian Sea (1)**
- An earthquake, caused the **Manych-Kerch Gateway (2)**
- allowing the Caspian Sea to break through into the farmlands of **Atlantis (3)**
- Island of Atlantis “disappeared”<sup>?</sup> beneath the floodwaters which filled the Azov depression.
- The resulting tsunami washed away **diverse islands (4)**
- in the **Black Sea (5)**
- Black Sea to burst up through a proposed subterranean **outflow channel (6,7)** into the
- **Mediterranean Sea(8)**



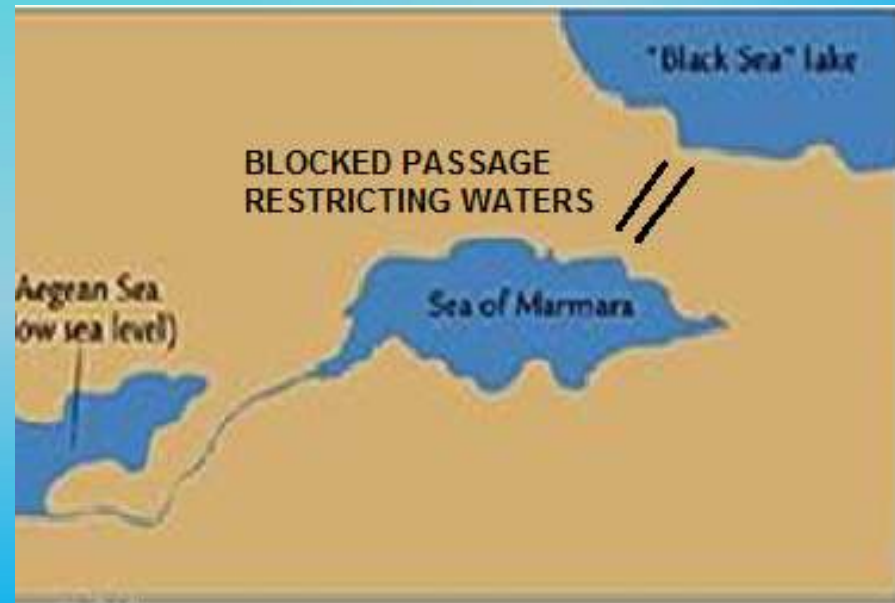
# Formation of riverine tract – usual effect of flood





**8200 to 8,000 B.P.: Another small ice age arrived.**

The **outflow channel** from the Euxine lake to the Mediterranean **get blocked** due to terrestrial deposition and geological activities.



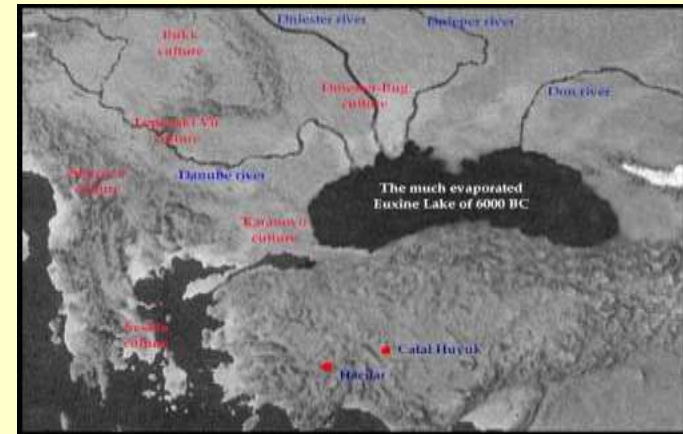
# Remnants of Terrestrial Deposition



# 8,000 to 7,000 B.P.: : The Noah's Flood

The New Euxine lake was still landlocked and fresh.

But the Mediterranean Sea and Sea of Marmara had gradually risen to a level of some 426 feet (130 meters) higher than the lake.



The ocean level rose high enough and sloshed over into the Euxine Lake

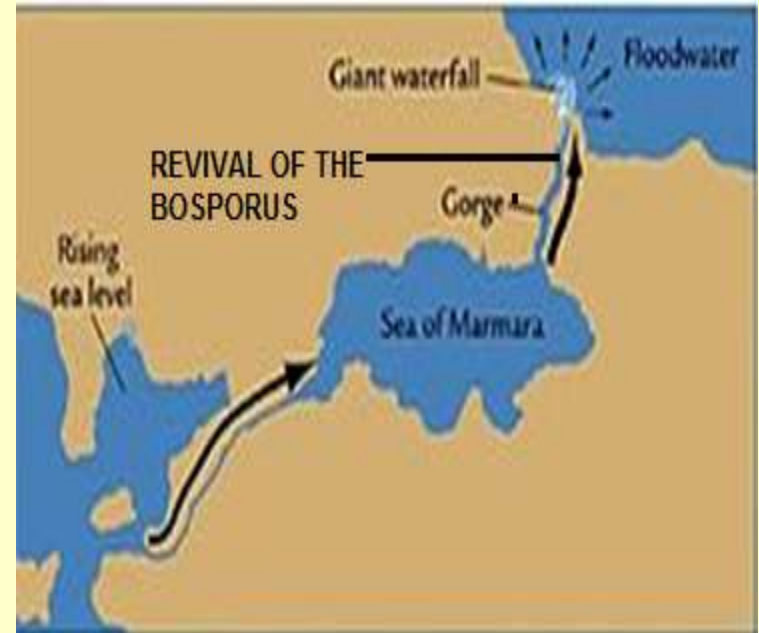


200 times the flow of the present Niagara Falls.



**REVERSAL OF RIVER CAUSING FLOOD**

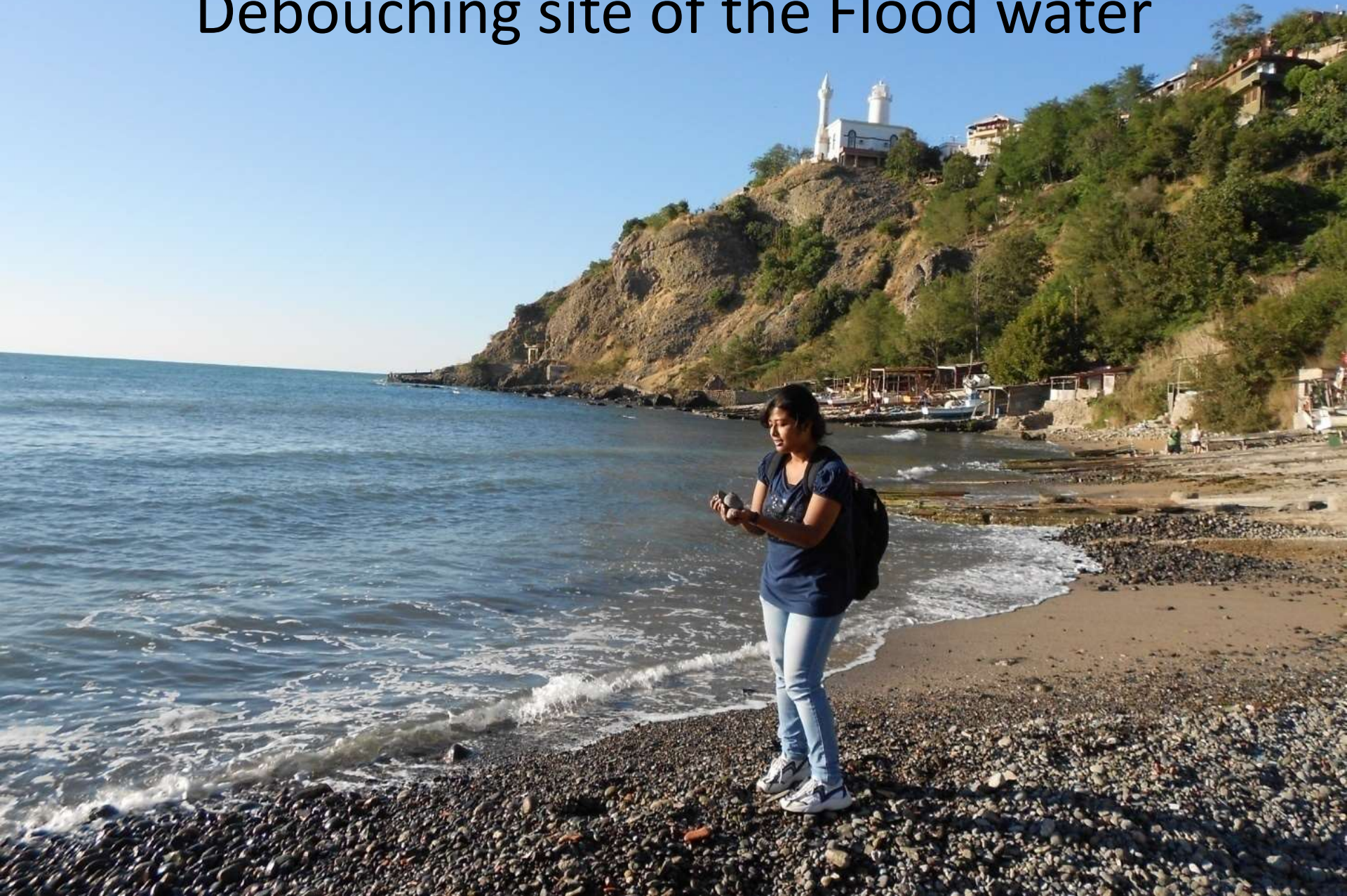
# Reversal of River/Strait flow



# Inlet site of the Bosphorus Strait



# Debouching site of the Flood water





# Geography behind Myth

## *The Tale of Noah's Deluge*



The world wide known myth of Noah's Deluge has been in debate, regarding its occurrence, from the various fields namely Geology, Oceanography, Sociology and Archaeology. Palaeo-geomorphic imprints left by this deluge may paint up several dimensions in the arena of Geography as well. The present authors after an intricate field study have tried to extract this geographical essence of the Noah's Deluge myth, through this piece of work.



**Ms. Saswati Roy:** The dynamic spheres of geography inspired the author to seek into research works, from the remote Little Andaman Island to the villages of Turkey. To appreciate geographical essence within various cultures, she spent days with tribal communities and trekked along river Thames.

**Prof. Malay Mukhopadhyay:** A geographer who has tagged geography in his lifestyle and activities. His creations include exploratory books on subject oriented topics, applauding short stories and novels related to geography. Passionately he spent days with several tribal communities and trekked along rivers of India and abroad.



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**Exploration of Myth :**

**A newer avenue for**  
**Synergism**

***Thank you***