

Biblical Explanations For Continental Drift And The Ice Age

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Two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

- Ge 10:25 NASB1995

Introduction

What Evidence Supports Drifting Continents?

When continents are cut out of a world map and assembled into one single continent the following properties match

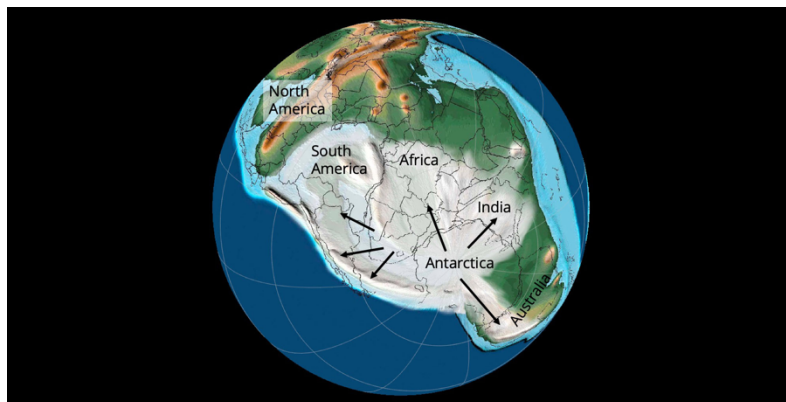
Shape (South America with Africa)

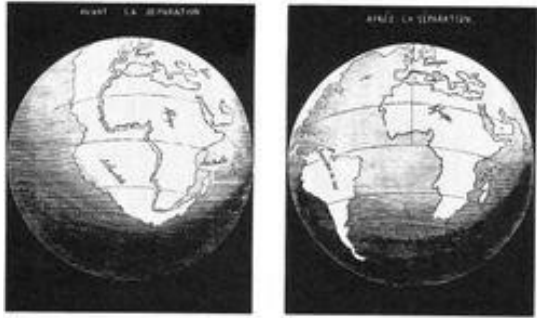
Mountain ranges

Rock type including layers, structures, fossils

Magnetic orientation of iron-bearing lava flows to a single magnetic pole

Glacial evidence (polished and striated bedrock and rock piles called moraines)





When researching continental drift Alfred Wegner is usually given credit for recognizing the evidence and proposing drifting continents as the explanation. But in reality, it was **Antonio Snider-Pellegrini**, a nineteenth century French geographer and scientist, who brought the evidence to light. In 1858, Snider-Pellegrini published in Paris his book, *La Création et ses mystères dévoilés* ("Creation and its Mysteries Unveiled"). He proposed that all of the continents were once connected

together. He based this theory on the fact that he had found plant fossils in both Europe and the United States that were identical.

But since Snider-Pellegrini believed that the Great Flood of the Bible caused the fragmentation of the supercontinent, science failed to recognize Pellegrini before Wegner due to this “religious overtone”.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snider-Pellegrini>

For lack of a mechanism to split and move continents, science was hesitant to believe that continents could have moved even after Wegner’s dramatic presentation to the German Geological Society in 1912. But since the 1960’s scientists have embraced the Theory of continental drift as fact. Perhaps the most appealing reason for accepting Continental Drift is that a host of earth mysteries could finally be explained. For our first example, consider coal deposits in Antarctica containing tropical fern fossils which shouldn’t be there since ferns cannot grow in the extreme cold climate at the South Pole. The continental drift answer is that the Antarctic Continent was once on the equator where its warm climate allowed ferns to grow before the Antarctic Continent drifted to the South Pole. For our second example, why does the Atlantic Ocean have a mid-ocean ridge of underwater volcanic mountains that connect with similar ones like a seam on a baseball and with magnetic stripes that match on both sides? Continental drift would explain that the continents split at these mid-ocean ridges adding new oceanic crust to widening oceans and act as magnetic recorders of pole reversals over time.

Of late, a respected physicist John Baumgardner has used super computing to demonstrate the possibility of the Atlantic Ocean opening in less than one year. He writes

These experiments reveal silicate material can weaken dramatically, by factors of a billion or more, at mantle temperatures and for stress conditions that can exist in the mantles of planets the size of the Earth. The scenario in which all the Earth’s ocean lithosphere is rapidly recycled into the mantle via a runaway process, enabled by this stress-weakening behavior, is now known as catastrophic plate tectonics. Evidence in the geological record is compelling that such a cataclysmic episode indeed has occurred in the Earth’s recent past. A reasonable inference is that this event corresponds to the Flood described in the Bible and other ancient sources. I report new computational results from 2D and 3D

simulations of this catastrophic plate tectonics process. In particular, I describe how fundamental advances in computational techniques now make it possible to advance the numerical solution successfully through the most extreme phase of the runaway regime.
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/icc_proceedings/vol5/iss1/13/

So if continents have moved, as we will presume the evidence suggests, shouldn't there be some reference to this happening in His Word? Today we shall see that God has all the credentials, no one else even comes close

- God had the motive – To encourage His people to spread out.
- God has the ability – He can move His continents.
- God is the perfect witness. He cannot lie, He was there and His Word is true.
- The Biblical explanation for an ice age overcomes the biggest problem faced by all scientific explanations.

Let us use some logic and common sense. In order for the rocks, their structures and fossil localities to match at the coastlines when assembled into one large continent called Pangea (means all land), rock layers must have been deposited on that supercontinent before it split up because rock layers cannot be broken unless they were deposited first. The same common sense reasoning holds for fossil localities, mountain ranges, rock structures and glacial evidence...all must predate the break-up of the single large continent called Pangea. But what about a different scenario where continents have always stayed where they are so that all this matching was the result of blind chance? What do you think?

Chronology of Events

The Calendar Used

Apologist Bill Cooper points out something quite interesting in his book on “The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis”.

Now there is something in the Book Genesis which seems to be hidden in plain sight. Few ever notice it, even though they may read Genesis repeatedly for many years. It is the calendar that Genesis uses. It has no match in the present day, and indeed has not had its equal since the days of the Flood, its unique characteristic being that all its months were of 30 days duration. From the 17th day of the 2nd month to the 17th day of the 7th month, were 150 days – no more, no less. That’s 5 months of 30 days duration each. In that regard, this calendar is certainly unique, and it is one of the great indicators of the sheer antiquity of the Book of Genesis.

“In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened....And the waters returned from off the earth continually, and after the end of the one hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.”
(Genesis 7:11 & 8:3-4. Italics mine)

Chronology – Examine The Table Below

Initially at creation all land was presumably one continent because since water was “gathered into one place” it is reasonable to have all the land in one place as well.

9 Then God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear”; and it was so. Ge 1:9 NASB1995

About 1656 years after creation: Flood (yellow below) lasted about one year duration that Noah was in the ark. Presumably sediment was transported and deposited by warm water due to its subterranean origin – the fountains of the great deep. Since water rose above even the tallest mountains on earth at that time, sediment was deposited everywhere.

About 1657 years after creation: Ice Age begins (blue below) as “mountains rose and valleys sank” draining the land. Presumably warm moist air above oceans when blown inland cools as it rises over mountains. Evaporation and volcanic ash further the cooling effect so that more snow falls than melts compressing snow at the bottom into ice. Polished

and striated bedrock along with moraines and U-shaped valleys mark extent of ice. Glaciers flow slowly downhill from mountain tops changing V-shaped water-cut valleys into U-shaped glacial valleys. When valley glaciers meet at the foot of mountains, large ice sheets result, like Greenland and Antarctica today.

About 1757 years after creation: Tower of Babel (red below), confusion of language, birth of Peleg. Continental drift begins because “in his days the earth was divided” (Gen 10:25). However, Peleg lived a total of 239 years (Gen 11:18-19) so when drifting began and how long drifting took is somewhere within about 239 years span of time.

VERSE IN THE BIBLE	EVENT	TIME SINCE CREATION
Gen 1:1-31	Creation	0
Gen 5:3	Seth born when Adam was 130 years old	130
Gen 5:6	Enosh (Enos in KJV) born when Seth was 105 years old	235
Gen 5:9	Kenan (Cainan in KJV) born when Enosh was 90 years old	325
Gen 5:12	Mahalalel (Mahalaleel in KJV) born when Kenan was 70 years old	395
Gen 5:15	Jared born when Mahalalel was 65 years old	460
Gen 5:18	Enoch born when Jared was 162 years old	622
Gen 5:21	Methuselah born when Enoch was 65 years old	687
Gen 5:25	Lamech born when Methuselah was 187 years old	874
Gen 5:28-29	Noah born when Lamech was 182 years old	1056
Gen 11:10	Shem born when Noah was 502 years old {Shem was 100 years old when he became the father of Arpachshad, which was 2 years after the Flood. Since the Flood ended early in the 601 year of Noah's life (Gen. 8:14), Shem was 100 years old when his father was 602 (early in 601 + 2 years = 602 or 603). So, Shem was born 100 years earlier when Noah was 502.}	1558
Gen. 7:6,11	The Flood occurred when Noah was 600 years old	1656
Gen. 11:10	Arpachshad (Arphaxad in KJV and NIV) born when Shem was 100 years old	1658
Gen. 11:12	Shelah (Salah in JKV) born when Arpachshad was 35 years old	1693
Gen. 11:14	Eber born when Shelah was 30 years old	1723
Gen. 11:16	Peleg born when Eber was 34 years old	1757
Gen. 11:18	Reu born when Peleg was 30 years old	1787
Gen. 11:20	Serug born when Reu was 32 years old	1819
Gen 11:22	Nahor born when Serug was 30 years old	1849
Gen 11:24	Terah born when Nahor was 29 years old	1878
Gen 11:26-12:4	Abraham born when Terah was 130 years old {Terah was 205 years old when he died at Haran in the presence of Abram (Gen. 11:31-32). Abram left Haran with his wife Sarai to travel to Egypt when Abram was 75 years old (Gen. 12:4). Therefore, Abram was born when Terah was 130 years old since 205-75= 130.}	2008
Gen. 12:4-5	Abraham enters Canaan when he was 75 years old	2083
Gen. 12:10 &	From when Abraham left Haran to enter Canaan and Egypt until	2513

The pre-flood World

No rain before the flood, only a mist and four rivers watered the ground. From Ge 2:4-6, NASB1995, we read

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven. 5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. 6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

So instead of rain or melting snow ground water was the source of the four rivers that had their source in Eden

10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. Ge 2:10 NASB1995

The lack of rainbows before the flood is consistent with the lack of rain. Rain falling opposite from the sun and also clear sky in the direction of the sun are both required at the same time to produce rainbows. Before the flood the sky was most likely cloudy (some have called it a “vapor canopy”) since 40 days of rain fell at the beginning of the flood and that tremendous amount of water came from above. Ground water referred to as the “fountains of the great deep” also provided warm water for the flood. Finally, consider that the rainbow covenant made by God would be meaningless if there were rainbows before the flood. This covenant is found in Ge 9:13-17 NASB1995

*13 I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. 14 “It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, 15 and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and **never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.** 16 “When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”*

So before the flood there were probably no seasons as we know today because the cloudy sky acted like a greenhouse trapping heat providing uniformly warm temperatures worldwide. So only after the flood did seasons begin. Seasons require that the sun’s rays strike the ground at different angles in different months warming the ground, which then warms the air during summer and the opposite in winter. The vapor canopy would make seasons impossible. Now notice when God said that heat and cold and seasons will never cease. It is significant that this was said to Noah and his sons after the flood, not before, in Ge 8:21-22 NASB1995

21 The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

22 “While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”

After the Flood

Mountain building began near the end of the flood to allow dry land to appear since flood waters covered even the highest peaks during the flood as Gen 7:20 NASB 1995 says

20 The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered.

Ps 104:5-9 describes the rising of mountains and sinking of valleys causing water to flow downhill. Notice that God did it all (bold emphasis)

5 **He** established the earth upon its foundations,
So that it will not totter forever and ever.

6 **You** covered it with the deep as with a garment;
The waters were standing above the mountains.

7 At **Your** rebuke they fled,
At the sound of **Your** thunder they hurried away.

8 The mountains rose; the valleys sank down
To the place which **You** established for them.

9 **You** set a boundary that they may not pass over,
So that they will not return to cover the earth

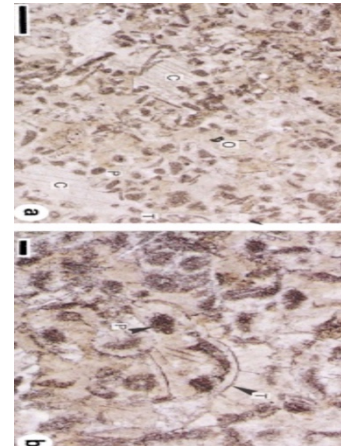
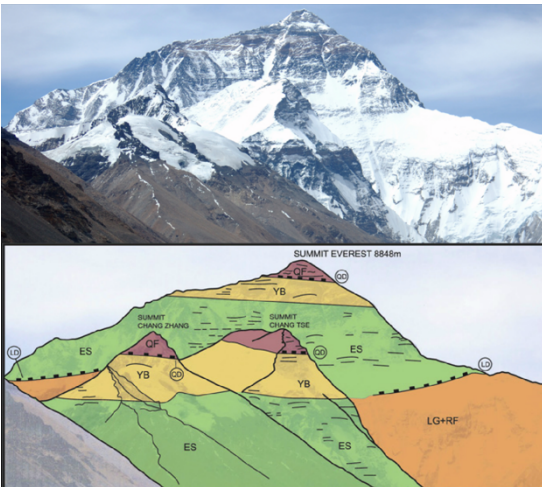
Read verse 9 carefully ...this must be a description of the end of the Flood, not of creation because if it was referring to creation, God would have broken this promise by sending the Flood.

Mountains are made in four ways

- Volcanic, (Mt. Ararat, Mt. St. Helens, Hawaiian Islands) lava
- Thrust Faulting (Himalayas) formed by compression
- Folded (Appalachians) formed by compression
- Fault block (Antelope Valley, Owen's Valley, Death Valley, White Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains) formed by tension
 - Valleys trapped water such as Roger's Dry Lake, Owen's Dry Lake, Great Salt Lake. Water in Death Valley >600 ft deep

As mountains rose near the end of the flood floodwaters carved V-shaped valleys in the newly deposited soft sediment The Grand Canyon, for example, was carved in soft sediments by a lot of water. Not by the Colorado River in the hard rock of today, requiring a very long time. Noah had to wait for the floodwaters to subside with a dove to help him determine when to leave the ark resting on the Mountains of Ararat. Should we be surprised to learn that Mount Everest has a variety of marine ocean floor fossils on the summit?

Not if our God raised the mountains!



<https://www.volcanocafe.org/fossils-of-mount-everest/>

Caption to the right two photos above reads

Top: grainstone with skeletal grains of trilobite (T), crinoid (C), ostracod (O) and fecal pellets (P). The bar is 1mm. Bottom: T trilobite fragments with the typical threefold arched shape. The bar is 0.1mm.

“An Ice Age Caused By The Genesis Flood”

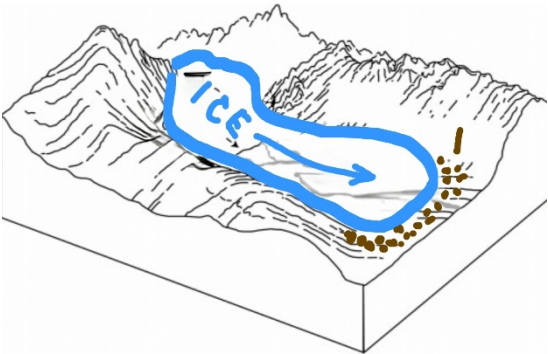
Meteorologist Michael Oard has written a fascinating book by that name. The flood paradigm is superior to the best scientific paradigm in print today because

- The warm flood waters contributed enormous amounts of water vapor to the air whereas science assumes the major source of water came from the oceans no different than today's
- Science holds that simply lowering the earth's air temperature can throw us into an ice age, hence the astronomical “orbital and rotational axis changes” we were told in school as the essential requirement for an ice age to begin and end over great time spans.. But simply cooling the earth is not enough because the colder the air the less water vapor it can hold. That is why it can be “too cold to snow” . The flood paradigm solves this by presuming warm oceans from fountains of the deep transferring much more water by evaporation to the atmosphere. More water vapor in the air causes more snow to fall over the land.
- The flood paradigm adds a third source of cooling the air over the land in addition to cooling by volcanic dust and by adiabatic cooling when lifted by mountains. Recall that after the Dove had not returned to the ark as she had twice before, and before God told Noah to leave the ark that “the surface of the ground was dried up” (Gen 8:13-14). In Ge 8:1 we are told that God caused a wind to dry the ground. Why doesn't the first snow to fall stay on the ground? It melts, of course until the ground becomes cold. Now consider how cold the earth's surface would get when 540 calories per gram are removed from the surface. This is why evaporative coolers work, and why we dry off in the shower before we open the shower door...because we will feel cold as water on our skin evaporates. And consider that the warm oceans will become cooler (like a swimming pool does) as 540 calories per gram is removed by evaporation.
- Instead of multiple ice ages, there was only one, and the difference is due to how you interpret piles of rocks called moraines. The Encyclopedia Britannica describes mainstream scientific understanding as:
 - The **Pleistocene Epoch** (2.6 million to 11,700 years ago) is sometimes called the **Great Ice Age**, or Glacial Age, because during that **epoch** ice sheets developed periodically over vast areas of northern and midlatitude **North America** and Eurasia. The advance of these ice sheets would be followed some tens of thousands of years later by their melting away and then by another advance. This cyclical process occurred several times during the Pleistocene Epoch, and the successive glacial advances and retreats, which were evidently responses to fluctuations of Earth's **climate**, are known respectively as glacial stages

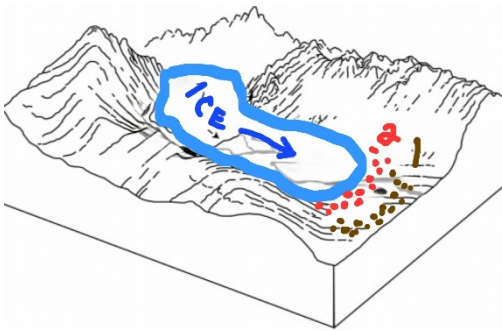


and **interglacial stages**. The interglacial stages represent periods when Earth's climate seems to have been as warm as it is at present.

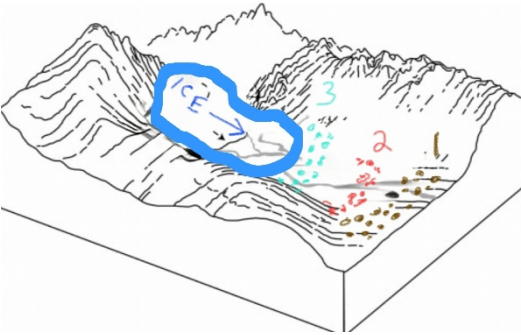
Three separate glacier advances dropping rocks at 1, then 2 and finally 3 over millions of years or just one advance to drop rocks at 1 followed by melting back and stagnating for a time to drop rocks at 2, followed by melting back and stagnating for a time to drop rocks at 3 over a time span of perhaps 3 decades. The difference lies in the fact that glaciers are huge conveyor belts always dropping rocks at the end as well as bulldozers when they are advancing.



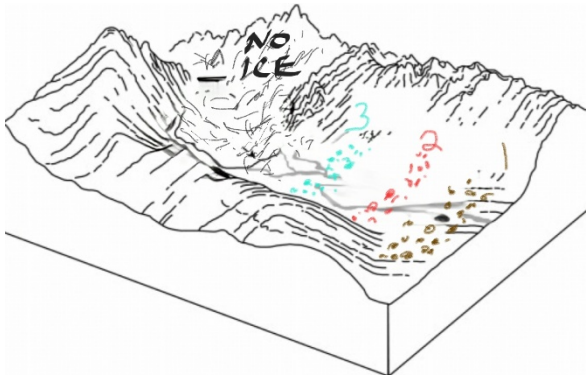
1 advance.



2 melt back, stagnates



3 melt back, stagnated again



4 today, glacier melted

God Confused Not Only Their Speech But Also Their Location

Gen 9:1, 7 and 19 tells us that the earth was populated by Noah's three sons, encouraged by God's blessing. Unfortunately, those dependents failed to "Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.". Instead of populating the earth abundantly, they chose to build a tower to reach heaven and God was unhappy because of their disobedience. Genesis 11:4 reads

4They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." NASB 1995

Doesn't the following verse sound redundant? Maybe it wasn't meant to be so...

Ge 11:1 † Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. (NASB)

Hebrew word for words is Strong's 01697 dabar, daw-baw' a word; by implication, a matter (as spoken of) or thing; adverbially, a cause:-act, advice, affair, answer. Definition is entirely linguistic

Hebrew word for language is Strong's 08193 saphah, saw-faw' the lip (as a natural boundary); by implication, language; by analogy, a margin (of a vessel, water, cloth, etc.): -band, bank, binding, border, brim, brink, edge, language, lip, prating, ((sea-))shore, side, speech, talk, (vain) words

Saphah is used 164 times in the OT

7 verses as seashore (Ge 22:17; Ex 14:30; Jos 11:4; Jg 7:12; 1Sa 13:5; 1Ki 9:26; 2Ch 8:17)

11 verses as river bank (Ge 41:3,17; Ex 7:15; Jos 12:2, 13:9,16; 2Ki 2:13; Eze 47:6,7,12; Da 12:5)

1 verse as a border of a land (Jg 7:22)

10 verses as edge of a curtain or garment (Ex 26:4,10; 28:26,32; 36:11,17; 39:19,23; De 2:36; 4:48)

7 verses as the edge of temple architecture (1Ki 4:29, 7:23,24,26; 2Ch 4:4,5; Eze 43:13)

4 verses as language (Ge 11:1, Ps 81:5; Isa 19:18; Zep 3:9)

2 verses as speech (Isa 33:19; Eze 3:5,6)

117 other verses as lip or lips

Some verses use the word twice so total less than 164

Ge 11:8 So the LORD **scattered** them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. (NASB)

Hebrew word for scattered is Strongs 06327 puwts, poots **to dash in pieces, literally or figuratively (especially to disperse):--break (dash, shake) in (to) pieces, cast (abroad), disperse (selves), drive, retire, scatter (abroad), spread abroad.**

Ge 10:25 And two sons were born to Eber; the name of the one [was] Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name [was] Joktan. (NASB)

Hebrew word for earth is Strongs 0776 'erets, eh'-rets from an unused root probably meaning to be firm; the earth (at large, or partitively a land):--X common, country, earth, field, ground, land, X nations, way, + wilderness, world.

Notice the emphasis on physical ground

Hebrew word for divided is Strongs 06385 palag, pawlag' to split (literally or figuratively):--divide.

Peleg has an interesting meaning

- Peleg is Strongs 6389 Peleg, peh'-leg –the same as 6388; **earthquake**; Peleg, a son of Shem:--Peleg. •6388 peleg, peh'-leg –from 6385; a rill (i.e. **small channel of water, as in irrigation**):--river, stream.

But at least one generation seems to be left out of the Gen.

10:21-25 and 11:10-16 genealogy

In the corresponding record in Luke 3:35-36, the name of Cainan is inserted between those of Arphaxad and Salah

This would place Peleg at least one generation later than above.

Finally, notice the first reference in Scripture to coastlands is after the Tower of Babel In Ge 10:5

5 From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands(h776), every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations. NASB1995

Notice the cause and effect implied in this passage from Genesis 11:7-8

⁷“Come, let Us go down and there confuse their **language (geographic location)**, **so that they will not understand one another's speech (words or language)**.” **8So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth;** and they stopped building the city. (NASB 1995)

Think about the different languages spoken around the world today...isn't it the norm that a particular language is used within certain geographic boundaries. In France they speak French, in Japan Japanese is the native language.

In conclusion, these are the reasons why I presume that God did more than just confuse their speech. He also isolated them geographically using continental drift as well.