Carbon Dioxide and the Flood

By Glenn R. Morton

http://home.entouch.net/dmd/co2.htm

Not only do volcanoes produce lots of sulfuric acid, they produce more CO2. I found this:

"Using the Kilauea eruption as a model, Terrence M. Gerlach of Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque estimated that the Deccan Traps injected up to 30 trillion tons of carbon dioxide, six trillion tons of sulfur and 60 billion tons of halogens (reactive elements such as chlorine and fluorine) into the lower atmosphere over a few hundred years." ~ Vincent E. Courtillot, "A Volcanic Eruption," Scientific American, October, 1990, p. 85–92, p. 89

Now, the Deccan traps contain 8.2×10^6 cubic kilometers so the output from the Deccan traps is:

30×10^{12} tons/8.2×10^6 cubic kilometers = 3.658 megatons (Mt) / cubic kilometer of basalt.

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There are huge lava flows on earth, called volcanic traps,
which must have occurred during the flood year because they
lie on top of supposed flood deposited sedimentary rock and
beneath flood deposited sedimentary rock. So if the geology
requires that they be extruded during the flood, how much
sulfuric acid must come with them? Here are some of the
volumes of rock extruded to the earth's surface during such
episodes:
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Volcanics flood basalt flows (Coffin and Eldholm).

	DATE	VOLUME

Ontong Java/Nauru	121–124 my	38–55 x 10^6 km^3
Kerguelen Plateau/ Broken Ridge	114–109.5 my	15–25 x 10^6 km^3
North Atlantic	57.5–54.5 my	6.6 x 10^6 km^3
Deccan Traps	65–69 my	8.2 x 10^6 km^3
Columbia River	6–17.5 my	1.74 x 10^5 km^3
Ethiopian Traps before erosion		7.5 x 10^5 km^3
Siberian Traps	249–216 my	2.3 x 10^6 km^3
Central Atlantic Magmatic Prov. (CAMP)	200 my	2 x 10^6 km^3

(estimated from the data of Mohr and Zanettin, 1988, p. 63;
Siberian Traps from Reichow et al, Science 296(2002), p. 1849
CAMP from Marzoli et al, Science 284(1999), p. 618).

Other Basalt flows Volcanics flood basalt flows (Hess, 1989)

	DATE	Area
Snake River Plain km^2	16 my	.5 x 10^5
Parana Plateau Brazil km^2	119–149my	12 x 10^5
Karoo Basalts km^2	166–206 my	>1.4 x 10^5

Assuming a 1 kilometer thickness for the second list of traps
this adds up to approximately 98 x 10^6 cubic kilometers.

So at 3.6 megatons/km^3 x 98 x 10^6 cubic kilometers of basalt = 3.5 x 10^{14} tons of CO_2.

Given that there are 1016 kg/ton this means that during the one year flood, 3.47 x 10^17 kg of CO_2 would be released. According to my CRC the mass of the atmosphere is 5.2 x 10^21 g or 5.2 x 10^18 kg. Thus the amount of CO_2 released ONLY by the volcanic traps during the YEC global flood, is equal to 6.6% of the entire atmosphere.

How does this relate to the present atmosphere? Currently we are approaching 400 parts per million (ppm) CO_2 in the atmosphere, yet the YEC scenario would produce an atmosphere that had AS A MINIMUM a CO_2 level of 58615 parts per million. Scientists are worried about a 600 ppm CO_2 world next century, the YEC post flood world would create such a hot climate that all life would be destroyed. Yet amazingly, Creationists like Austin, Baumgardner, Wise, Snelling, Vardiman, Humphreys and Oard think that the post flood world would be glacially cold. (See "Austin et al, Catastrophic Plate Tectonics" 3rd ICC 1994, p. 615 and Michael Oard, A rapid Post Flood Ice Age," CRSQ 16(1979):29-37; Oard, An Ice age Caused by the Genesis Flood, 1990 ICR).

Of course, CO_2 is a strong greenhouse gas and young-earth creationists have not given the thought to this issue that they should have. Their global flood would choke Noah on sulfuric acid and then choke him again on the CO_2, and with an atmosphere so clogged with CO_2, Noah would burn up. Venus has an atmosphere with lots of CO_2 and the temperature there is several hundred degrees C.! But somehow, YECs want us to believe that the postflood, CO_2 rich atmosphere would be very cold. Is there any scientific fact that will move them to reconsider their views?

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