

## The Black Sea – a Clue to the Secrete of World Flood

*Petko Dimitrov*

*Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna, Bulgaria; e-mail: margeo@io-bas.bg*

The American geologists Bill Ryan and Walter Pitman (R y a n, P i t m a n, 1999) in their book “Noah’s Flood” consider one very discussed and very popular subject of the Flood. I am extremely grateful to them for underlying my contribution in studying the Flood in the Black Sea. In 1993, when I received the theses of their hypothesis, I instinctively accepted the scientific version they exposed because in its essence it was mine, too. I supported them sending all my articles and reassured them that they are on the right way to the truth. Our correspondence turned out to be very useful scientific communication and a lot of ideas were born in the course of time.

I remember, in 1979, when I defended my thesis in Moscow at the Institute of Oceanology and explained my scientific work on the old Black Sea shores, the chairman of the Council, Panteleimon Leonidvich Besrukov interrupted me: “You don’t make any analogy between the Bible Flood and the Black Sea flood, do you?” Then I answered: “Anything is possible.” He deliberately directed my attention towards that subject – is there a relation between the geocatastrophical events in the Black Sea and the Flood described in the Bible and the Shumerian Epos. Of course, I was deeply convinced that the old Black Sea shorelines located at 90 - 120 m are the clue to the Flood secret. Later on, when my scientific interests were directed to the origin of the deepwater Black Sea sediments, my belief for the catastrophical nature of the event that lead to their formation became stronger. It turned out that old shores burying and the formation of geocatastrophical deepwater sapropel sediments are results of

one and the same event – the Flood.

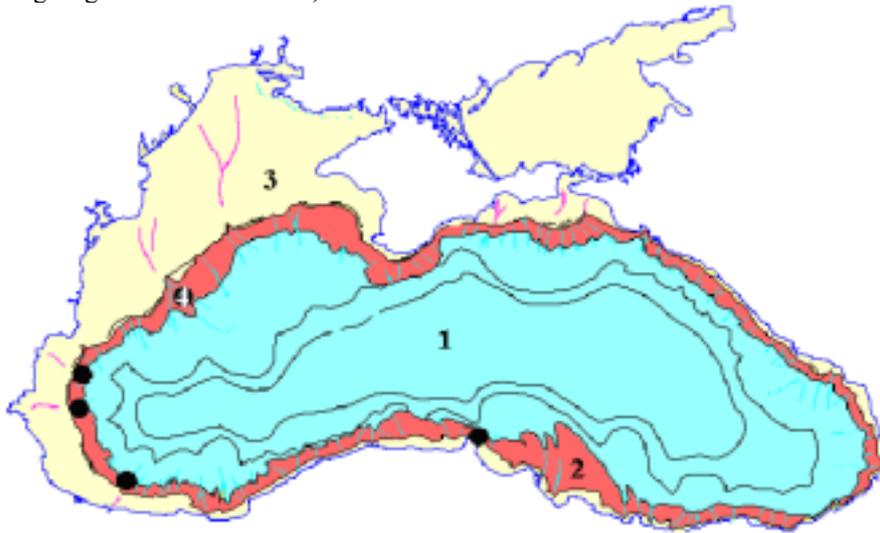
My interest in the old shores, sea level changes and the geocatastrophical events came to be the occasion for being invited to participate in an international research expedition with the Russian research vessel “Vitiáz” in 1984. THE PROGRAM WAS PROMISING – Atlantida. The launching with Argus submersible in the peaks and slopes of the underwater mountains Vercheli (the Tyrrhenian Sea), Amper and Josefíne (the Atlantic Ocean) gave me the chance to become aware with the old ocean shores. The beating of waves niches carved in the body of the old underwater vulacanoes and knobby - gravel beaches are mute witnesses of the waves, once raging around the islands, today gulped down by elemental calamity.

Nearly all the shorelines formed at the time of Vurm Glaciation are located at a depth of 130 - 140 m below the modern sea level and they are aging about 17 – 18,000 years. I am convinced that the level of the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean during the last 8 - 10,000 years rapidly outrun the Black Sea level due to various climatic conditions. Unfortunately, failures followed us during the voyage and Atlantida became more mysterious and unreachable. Then I remembered my ancient Black Sea shorelines that still remain out of human sight. I told my good Russian friend – professor Viachislav Yastrebov, a Director of Moscow Institute of Oceanology, about my idea to use Argus submersible for studying the ancient Black Sea coasts, where I believed people used to live till the Flood. Yasterbov, a famous underwater researcher, a constructor of numerous submersibles, today an academic of Russian Academy of Science

liked the idea. "O.K. Petio, you've convinced me. The vessel Rift, together with Argus will be at your disposal next year in Varna." That were his words and he kept the promise.

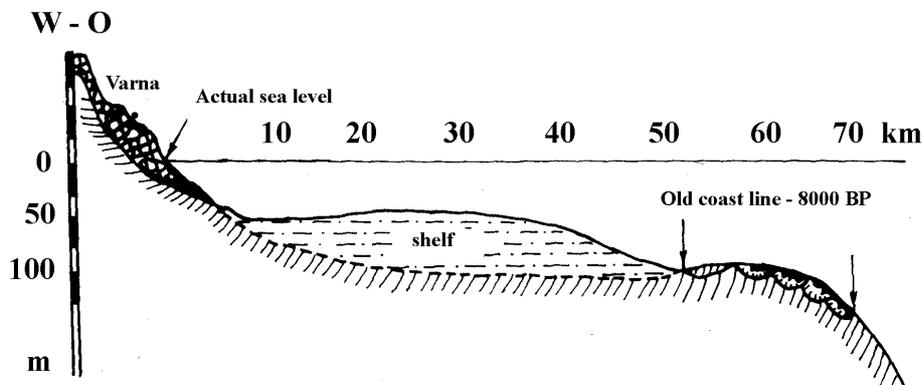
In July, 1985 the Rift Research Vessel with the snow-white Argus Submersible on board slightly moved over the old shores hidden under the 100 m water layer at a distance of 30 miles to the east of Varna. The last Earth Glaciation – the Vurm one, continued 10,000 years. It started about 100,000 years ago and ended before 10 - 11,000 years. The raising of the World Ocean level started together with the melting of glaciers. At that time, the Black

Sea used to be almost freshwater lake without connection to the ocean. That stage of the basin development is known as Neweuxine regression (or the Black Sea till the Flood). The outlines of the modern and the Neweuxine basin are shown on the scheme (fig. 1 and fig. 2) – it is seen that today's shelf used to be land in the past. The level of the Neweuxine basin was about 90 - 120 m lower than the modern one, which means the Neweuxine cost disposed along today's end of the shelf. The large shelf valley was cut by rivers that emptied in the basin.



**Fig. 1. Black Sea and Flood**

1. Sea – lake. 2. Pre-flood coastlines on Black Sea. 3. Coastline after the Flood
4. Hypothetical human settlements before the Flood



**Fig. 2. Profile of the shelf and the pattern of geological events during the last 8,000 years**

The absolute dating of the Neuxine coasts, located at 90 - 120 m beneath the modern level, show an age of 9 - 10,000 years while the synchronous in time of formation – deepwater sapropel sediment – are 7 - 8,000 years old. It is due to the fact that deepwater sapropel muds were deposited in calm conditions while the shelves were subject to partial hash as a result of the Flood. It seems the catastrophe occurred in the interval between 7,5 and 8,00 years from today resulting in significant of sediments on the shelf hash.

Let me cite some paragraphs from logbook I kept during launching with Argus submersible in July 1985:

“Tired of gazing through the illuminator and especially of the monotonous plain surface of the bottom, embittered with the invisible cold penetrating through the steel walls, depressed with narrow space, we noticed a swelling 10 m in front of us. We were located on the shelf in the region of the old beaches at a depth of 90 - 120 m as it is shown on fig. 2. It is a living zone, the visibility is O.K. - 15 - 20 m. Curious Black Sea sharks attracted by the light, often passed near the illuminator and watched us with interest. They even posed free and easy before the screen (fig. 3). We moved to the swelling, which in my geologist’s imagination should have to be smoothed rocky piece carried by the river but had not reached the canyon where it should have rolled in the Black Sea kettle floor. We approached the object that provoked our interest but the bored sharks as if were trying to distract our attention. The apparatus slightly perched near the object while we were annoyingly discussing was it worth to get acquainted with the object. Maybe the cold and fatigue made us so indifferent. We decided to act in accordance with the instruction. We steered the bow engine to the swelling and started the blades in order to blow off the mud layer covering the object. For half an hour the cloud of mud cleared away.

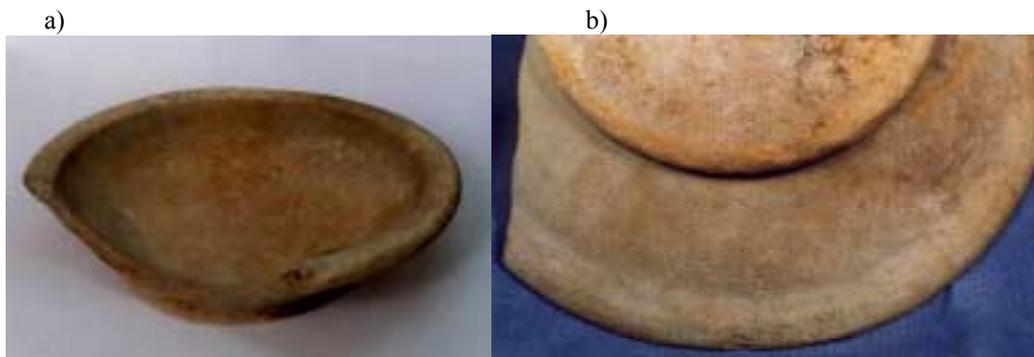
We were surprised to see an object with obscure outlines in the sand instead of the expected round stone. The mechanical hand grasped the object looking like a plate, slightly jagged at one end. After hard attempts the object was taken from the sand and put in the sample box. We were in a hurry to emerge to



**Fig. 3. If they can speak for the Flood...**

the surface with the precious find. When we stepped on board, the “Noah’s Plate” (fig. 4a) as we called it, was in the hands of the impatient who looked at it with great interest. That object put numerous questions waiting for an answer. The most acceptable version is that the object was found in situ where it had been used. The planned launchings with Argus enclosed the bottom of old coasts region in the shelf periphery where our ancestors had lived. Particularly there, where the river valleys crossed today’s shelf and emptied in the sea – lake were the places attractive for living (D i m i t r o v, 1998).

The Noah’s Plate that is in my collection today turned out to become a very difficult task for the archaeologists. Sometimes they dated it to the Byzantine period, sometimes – to the Roman period. The ideal shapes of the object, high culture of making and moreover, the thesis for its pre-Flood age disturbed even the most known Bulgarian and foreign archaeologists. More shocking is the circumstance that the plate is made of sandstone that testifies for great technological



**Fig. 4. Noah's Plate**

**4a. Main view. 4b. Symbols on the outer part of the Plate.**

abilities of the Neolith handcraft. Most of the specialists refrain from attitude about its age as well as from estimate of the reliability of the facts about its finding.

When in September, 1996 the team of the Horizon Program, BBC, was shooting the Noah's Flood film, I especially demonstrated the Noah's Plate before the team as one of the most important evidence for presence of pre-Flood civilization in the Black Sea. These sequences are not in the film. The censorship in science paid no attention to this fact, not without the knowledge of Bill Ryan and Walter Pitman. The authors themselves doubted in the scientific reliability of the fact for presence of direct proofs for ancient pre-Flood culture. I don't like to remember the abusing remarks concerning the idea of the Flood in our lands and for my attempts to publish the find in our academic editions. Only the doyen of Bulgarian science, academic Ivan Kostov told me with sympathy: "Petko, this is the fate of scientific discoveries but fact will go through personal abuse." And he was far-sighted. Years of searching, of new ideas, of Ryan and Pitman's thesis passed. Today, in thoughts about the fate of extraordinary scientific ideas, I am sure there shouldn't be censors for them.

Of course, Noah's Plate photos were spread via Internet. The well-known specialist in underwater archaeology, prof. Francesco Torre from the Underwater Archaeology Museum in Trapani, Italy sent me his opinion: "Dear Prof. Dimitrov, I believe the Noah's Plate could be very ancient but I can't tell you anything substantial without seeing it

personally. In the photo you sent me the object looks like our Neolith and Eneolite ceramics (5 - 6,000 BP). But you know that the Neolite and Eneolite epochs all over the world goes back to an older time, i.e. about 6 - 7,000 BP."

Some scientists consider character of writing on the outer side of the plate as being occasional trails of worms and scratches but others assume that these are traces of proto-Shumerian cuneiform writing signs.

Only the fact that the oldest processed gold in the world (4 - 5,000 BC) was found in Varna is an evidence for the existence of highly developed civilization that was driven away by Nature disaster or Barbarian tribes. It is possible those same people to had survived the Flood and to establish the foundations of Shumerian civilization in Mesopotamia.

The preserved relict sediments from the old shoreline of the basin are an important evidence for the rapid (catastrophical) rising of the sea level. Usually, in conditions of transgression, at eventual sea level rising, the underwater coastal slope is processed (destroyed). In this case, however, formations like beaches and dunes are comparatively well preserved which means they were submerged in a moment and taken out of the zone with wave impact.

The sapropel sediments are one of the most important geological and paleo-oceanological proofs for the catastrophical character of the event. They cover the deepwater Black Sea kettle floor and are products of phyto- and zooplankton mass dying. They testify for contrast regime of sedimentation. Dark brown rubber-like sediments built of dead organics

lay over the carbon sediments with Neweuxine (pre-Flood age), bright in color. The water emptying in the Black Sea through the Bosphorous have salinity of 36 ‰ while the Black Sea waters are almost fresh. As a result of this, mass dyings of plankton organisms occurred. They are very sensitive and very hard adapted to rapid changes in the salinity. As a result, geocatastrophical type of sediments were created, which later on had significant impact on the formation of gas-geochemical regime of the basin (i.e. the so-called hydrogen sulphide zone).

There are two geological proofs for the Flood:

- The presence of the basin old shoreline, which is, located at today's depths of 90 - 120 m, more than 8,000 years old. Here, in the region of old beach and dune formations the cult object, described above was found - Noah's Plate (fig. 4a, 4b).
- A direct consequence from the Flood was the formation of geocatastrophical organogenic sediments in the deepwater Black Sea hollow and the origin of hydrogen sulphide contamination.

As a geological event the Flood is indisputable fact. There are also numerous archaeological evidences that the Black Sea area was a center of highly developed civilization. It is well known that the earliest inhabitants of the Black Sea coast were the Shumerians who left stable trails in almost the whole Black Sea area.

The Varna golden treasure is incontestable proof for well-developed ancient culture. This fact correlates with the developed hypothesis for the Bible Flood in the Black Sea (fig. 5).

The Cimmerian culture and civilization arouse at the coast of ancient Pont. After destroying flood that occurred in those days coast, most of people migrated to their



**Fig. 5. Varna chalcolithic necropolis**

Promised Land – Mesopotamia, laying the foundations of new civilization at the towns of Ur and Ninnevia. They conquered on their way the Barbarian Semite tribes that inhabited Europe and Asia. A significant group stayed here, in these lands to la the foundations of Thracian culture and to suffer the ups and downs of the great migration of peoples.

The scientific hypothesis that maintains the thesis for the World Flood in the Black Sea area is based on numerous scientific facts. It has a few followers and many opponents for now...

## REFERENCES

Dimitrov, P. 1988. Far from the coasts and waterways. G. Bakalov, Varna. 161.

Ryan, W., Pitman, W. 1999. Noah's Flood. New York 2000. Simon Schuster. 319

*Постътила на 29.11.2002 г.*

## Черно море – ключ към загадката на всемирния потоп

*Петко Ст. Димитров*

### **(Резюме)**

В настоящата статия се разглеждат геокатастрофалните събития в Черно море през късния плейстоцен. Важни геологически доказателства за тези събития са древните брегове на Черно море и отложените на дъното катастрофални утайки-сапропели.

Радиовъглеродните датировки по молусковата фауна на древните брегове и дълбоководните сапропели показват възраст 7 600 - 8 000 години ВР.

Близка до посочените дати е възрастта на Варненския и на Дуранкулашкия некропол.

Всичко това дава основание да се приеме хипотезата, че катастрофалните събития в Черно море са залегнали в библейските писания и в шумерския епос. Възможно е в Черноморския регион до потопа да е съществувала древна цивилизация, останки от която трябва да се търсят в района на древните брегове.