

# Halloween and the Flood of Noah

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THE BIBLE SAYS when Jesus returns it will be like the “days of Noah” (Matt. 24:37).

Significantly, Noah’s Flood began in the biblical month of Cheshvan, corresponding to October–November, the time of Halloween.

It is generally taught that Halloween has its origins in the pagan practices of the Druids and Celts. The Celtic festival Samhain, which comes from the Old Irish for “summer’s end,” marked the end of the harvest season and the darker half of the year.

The Celts believed that during Samhain, the boundary between the physical and spiritual world was thinner and spirits could more easily traverse the realms. The visiting spirits, thought to be degraded versions of the ancient gods, had to be appeased to ensure that people and livestock would survive the winter. Thus food and drink were left out as offerings, or “treats,” for the gods.

Another Samhain tradition involved hollowing out turnips or beets to become lanterns, often with grotesque faces carved into them to represent spirits or supernatural beings. The lanterns were used by festival participants to frighten others and were placed on windowsills to keep evil spirits out of one’s home.

An indication that Halloween’s roots extend far beyond the traditions of the Celts, however, is the fact that ancient cultures worldwide—from the Aztecs of Mexico to the Aborigines of Australia—have similar traditions about a day of death and departed spirits around the end of October each year:

The ancient Aztecs observed the Day of the Dead in November.

The Assyrians had ceremonies for the souls of the dead in October–November.

The Peruvians ended their November New-Year celebration by placing food and drink on the graves of the departed.

The Hindu ‘Durga’ festival of the dead was originally linked to the start of the year in November.

The Persians began their New Year in November in a month named Mordad, “the month of the angel of death.”

The early Anglo-Saxons called November “blood month.”

The aboriginal Australians would, at this time of year, paint white stripes on their arms and legs to look like skeletons.

What is interesting is that equally as prevalent as the autumn memorials to the dead are traditions about a flood that nearly wiped out the human race. Dating back to the Neolithic period, or later part of the Stone Age, accounts from virtually every continent and island chain, from the Americas to Asia, describe a deluge sent by a god or gods to destroy civilization as an act of divine retribution.

A common thread in the flood myths is that the destruction of humanity inaugurated a new era, or cycle, that will similarly end in destruction.

Diverse traditions around a common theme, a world-destroying flood in October–November, suggest such an event actually occurred.

According to the Bible, the flood that wiped out nearly all human life in the autumn is the Flood of Noah. Thus, the holiday associated with monsters and disembodied spirits, known by different names and celebrated in various ways around the world, is in essence a remembrance of the dead who perished during the Flood.

That Halloween pays homage to the wicked destroyed in Noah's day sheds a revealing light on this macabre holiday and explains its exploding popularity as we near the day of Jesus' return.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”

#### NOTES:

1. Noah and his family entered the Ark on Cheshvan 17, corresponding to October–November. On that day, the springs of the great deep burst forth and the floodgates of the heavens were opened (Gen. 7:11–13). Seven days later, the floodwaters were upon the earth (v. 10). Noah and his family disembarked the Ark a year later in Cheshvan (Gen. 8).

2. In 2021 the Flood anniversary (Cheshvan 17) corresponds to November 23.

3. It is significant that the Celts believed the visiting spirits to be degraded versions of the ancient gods. According to Genesis, in the days before the Flood, some rebel angels took human wives and begat a hybrid race of giants, “the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown” (Gen. 6:1–4). It was because of this corruption of flesh and the evil nature of the angelic offspring that God sent the Flood. According to the Book of Enoch, the spirits of the bloodthirsty giants who perished in the Flood still roam the earth. While pagan cultures have worshipped them as gods, informed Christians understand them to be demons.

4. Ancient flood traditions are ubiquitous: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_flood\\_myths](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_flood_myths)

A fascinating example is that in Egypt, the tale of Osiris' chest, or coffin, floating on the water for a year is thought to be a distorted remembrance of the Flood. Plutarch says Osiris' was shut up in his box on the seventeenth day of the month Athyr. In Plutarch's time, Athyr coincided with October–November.

5. Historical accuracy of the Bible: According to the Smithsonian Institution's Department of Anthropology, “The historical books of the Old Testament are as accurate historical documents as any that we have from antiquity and are in fact more accurate than many of the Egyptian, Mesopotamian, or Greek histories. These Biblical records can be and are used as are other ancient documents in archaeological work.”

6. Catastrophic nature of the Flood: Geological evidence worldwide, such as fossilized plants and animals found at the wrong latitudes and misaligned magnetic orientations in lava flows, suggests that at the time of a worldwide flood, the earth tilted on its axis. The tilting of the globe to its current axis of 23.5 degrees accounts for the drastic change in climate after Noah's Flood, including the beginning of the hydrological cycle, the ice age, and the seasons. What is awesome and terrifying to consider is that Scripture describes another tilting of the globe at Jesus' return. Passages in Isaiah show the earth being moved exceedingly, turned upside down, reeling to and fro, and every landmass being moved out of its place (Isa. 13:13; 24:1, 19, 20; Ps. 46:2, 3). Luke and Revelation describe roaring seas, strange tides, and the heavens receding like a scroll (Luke 21; 25, 26; Rev. 6:14). “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Matt. 24:37).

7. Americans spend an estimated 7 billion annually on Halloween.