

5th September
Memory Verse

When thou passest through the waters,
I will be with thee;

and through the rivers,
they shall not overflow thee:

when thou walkest through the fire,
thou shalt not be burned;

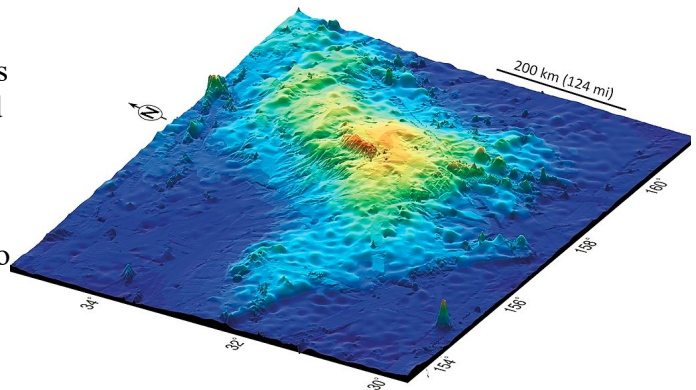
neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. Isaiah 43:2

More about today's memory verse tomorrow.

Something to read from Science¹

On the 5th September 2013, a team of scientists led by William Sager of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University reported an interesting discovery: the largest single volcano on earth!

That sounds surprising – where could a volcano be that no one knew about before?



This inactive volcano, Tamu Massif, is under the sea! It is a type scientists call a “shield volcano” that is its shape is broad and flat. There are many volcanoes under the sea but they are not usually this shape. They are usually of a type known as “seamounts” because they have steep sides and are quite small. Because the Tamu Massif is so broad and flat we can tell that the eruption happened very quickly. The molten lava travelled a long distance across the floor of the ocean before the seawater cooled it down. If the eruption had been slow and gradual the lava would have cooled and layers would have built one on top of another.

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Scientists who believe the Biblical account of Genesis think that the volcano erupted about halfway through the year-long Flood. This would be about 4,500 years ago. It would have taken just days and weeks, not long ages of time as unbelieving scientists think. This is the only way to account for its having spread so far before solidifying. Unbelieving scientists are puzzled by this volcano. They wonder why they cannot find any such a shield volcano slowly erupting under the sea today. But those who study the Bible have a model that fits the facts better. There were great volcanic eruptions mid-way through the Flood as the ocean basins began to sink down and the flood water began to run off the earth. God has promised never to flood the earth again.² The Flood was a once only event.

More about volcanoes on April 11th, May 18th, July 9th, and 28th September.

¹ Information from <https://creation.com/tamu-massif> and other sources.

² See Genesis 9:11.

Something to make

You can make an underwater “volcano”.³

You will need:

- A large clear container (this is your “sea”) and a small clear container (this is your “volcano”). Check that the small container fits easily inside the large one.
- A small pebble or stone or something similar to weight the small container.
- Some food colouring. Red or orange is best for a volcano effect.
- Hot and cold water.
- Small spoon.

Fill the large container with cold water.

Place the stone in the bottom of the small container.

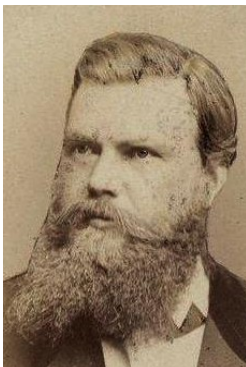
Fill the small container with hot water.

Add some drops of food colouring to the small container and gently mix with a spoon.

Carefully put the small container in the large container keeping the small container upright and ensuring that the small container is covered with the clear water in the large container.

How do you account for what happens? (Suggestions on the last page.)

Something to read from African history



Have you read about the Land of Ophir in the Bible? In the books of Kings and Chronicles and also in Job it is mentioned, usually in connection with gold. Karl Mauch (1837-1875), a young German adventurer, wanted to find Ophir. As a lad he became fascinated with Africa after being given an Atlas for a Christmas gift. At the time the interior of Africa was mostly a blank space in an atlas.

Determined to explore some of these blank spaces himself Karl Mauch began to prepare himself for African travel. He devised his own course of study which included (along with physical fitness) languages, medicine, geography, mathematics and a knowledge of plants and animals. To finance his own education he tutored others. He tried to train himself to the kind of endurance he would need in Africa by walking long distances in warm weather without food and by travelling in warm clothes. Thinking that this was something he might have to get used to, he even tried taking snakes to bed with him!

Karl Mauch got some financial sponsorship from a mapmaker and set off for Africa as a sailor on a German ship. Once arrived in Africa he travelled with a trader on foot and by ox-waggon, keeping a journal as he went along. He had surveying equipment with him and he produced the first maps of the Transvaal. He saw much evidence of gold mining but what about Ophir and the Queen of Sheba?

On **5th of September** 1871 Karl Mauch thought he had found it. He had arrived at the ruins of Great Zimbabwe in what is now southern **Zimbabwe** in sub-Saharan Africa.

Here he found over 40 hectares of granite enclosures built in a dry stone technique hidden in wooded savanna. The curving granite walls were built without mortar and stood nearly 10 metres high. Surely this was the spot!

³ For pictures see <https://www.raisingdragons.com/underwater-volcano-age-3-8/>



Archaeologists now think the ruins of Great Zimbabwe are more likely to date from around the ninth to fifteenth century AD, which puts them far out of range for the Biblical Ophir, but they were clearly connected with gold mining. Interestingly, later archaeological work uncovered Ming dynasty pottery from China, coins from Arabia and Persian ceramics all at Great Zimbabwe. This shows that the city had very wide international trade during the middle ages.

The first missionary to work near Great Zimbabwe was a young South African Andreis (or Andrew) Louw (1862-1956) who arrived in the area some twenty years or so after Karl Mauch. He had had to give up theological training due to ill health but in spite of this, in 1890 he became a missionary to the Shona people of what was then Rhodesia, getting permission for a group of missionaries to settle in the Mashonaland area from Cecil Rhodes himself.

Andreis Louw had not been working in the shadow of Great Zimbabwe for very long before he became ill with malaria and dysentery. The local chief, Mugabe, wanted to know why Louw's God would make him become ill. Kindly, he offered to get some of his own diviners and bring sacrifices to the ancestors. This would cure him, he assured Louw.

The situation drove the young missionary to earnest prayer. "Lord, I cannot die; I must live for the sake of your Name and your Kingdom," he prayed. God heard his prayer and he got better. The watching Africans were impressed that no diviners or sacrifices had been needed and the episode helped to make them open to the missionaries' message.

Years later his grandson wrote:

Unfortunately, Chief Mugabe was in the bad books of the officer in command at Fort Victoria, since he had been raiding neighbor[ing] chieftains, while the police were trying to establish peace in the area. Mugabe refused to return the cattle he had raided and to pay the fine imposed. Andrew [Louw] tried his best to mediate, but in a confrontation between the two parties Mugabe was killed. Tension between Andrew and Mugabe's people could have erupted, but by this time Andrew had already acquired some measure of credibility with them. Three months after his arrival, on old year's day, Andrew was surprised to find people arriving in great numbers at his hut. Apparently Mugabe had instructed them to attend a meeting. Andrew was delighted and with the assistance of evangelist David took the opportunity to bring them a gospel message. Thereafter they admitted to Andrew that there was something which bothered them. "Since you came with the book it has not rained." Andrew explained. "God in heaven has the power to provide rain and he may decide to provide rain or keep back the rain. We can ask him for rain and He will grant our request if He thinks it is good for us." Andrew prayed and the assembly dispersed. Not long afterwards, good rains came. One of their witch doctors told Andrew, "Now we know that your God has the power to send rain."⁴

4 Permission to quote from Dictionary of African Christian Biography sought by email from dacb@bu.edu 10/01/22

Andreis Louw went on to establish the first permanent mission station, Morgenster, about four and a half miles from the Great Zimbabwe ruins where he was joined by his wife. They learned the local language and, together they wrote down the vocabulary and grammar of the TjiKalanga language for the first time. They also translated the Bible into TjiKalanga.⁵

Get out your own atlas and find Zimbabwe for yourself.

Underwater volcano explanation

Hot water rises to the top because the molecules in it move faster and therefore make it expand and become less dense causing it to rise. Do you know what molecules are? What is density? Use a science dictionary or junior science book to find out. Of course, you will understand that although this *looks* like an underwater volcano a real volcano works in quite a different way!

5 Information from <https://rff.christians.co.za/the-reformed-church-in-zimbabwe-rcz/> and other sources.