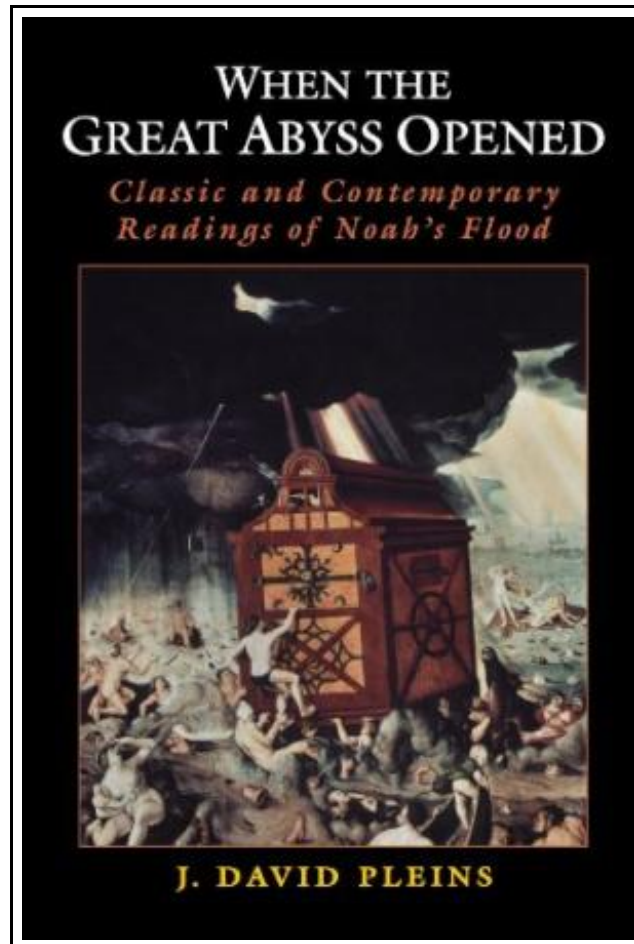# When the Great Abyss Opened: Classic and Contemporary Readings of Noahs Flood

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(Prof. Vidal Ledner)

WHEN THE GREAT ABYSS OPENED: CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY READINGS OF NOAHS FLOOD

Oxford University Press, USA. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 260 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.9in.The story of Noahs flood is one of the best-loved and most often retold biblical tales, the inspiration for numerous childrens books and toys, novels, and even films. Whether as allusion, archetype, or literal presence-- the American landscape is peppered with recreations of the ark--the story of Noahs animals and the ark resonates throughout American culture and the world. While most think of Noahs ark as a dramatic myth, others are consumed by the quest for geological and archeological proof that the flood really occurred. Persistent rumors of a large vessel on the mountain of Ararat in Turkey, for instance, have led many pilgrims and explorers over the centuries to visit that fabled peak. Recent finds suggest that there may have been a catastrophic flood on the shores of the Black Sea some 7, 600 years ago. Is this then the reality behind the ancient tale of Noah More to the point, why does it matterWhat does the story of the Flood mean to us and why does it so stir the collective imagination When the Great Abyss Opened examines the history of our attempts to understand the Flood, from medieval Jewish and Christian speculation about the physical details of the ark to contemporary efforts to link it to scientific findings. Unraveling the mythical dimensions of the parallel Mesopotamian flood stories and their deeper social and psychological significance, J. David Pleins also considers the storys positive uses in theology and moral instruction. Noahs tale, however, has also been invoked as a means of justifying exclusion, racism, and anti-homosexual views. Pro-slavery advocates, for example, used the story of Noahs Curse on Hams son Canaan to rationalize the enslavement of Africans. Throughout this expansive and lively book,...

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