

A Short List of Geomythology Readings

Compiled by Jeff Tepper
February 2014

- Barber, E.W. and Barber, P.T. (2004) *When They Severed Earth From Sky*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 290 p. [A fascinating book on how myths transmitted information about ancient geologic events.]
- Best, R.M. (1999) *Noah's Ark and the Ziusudra Epic*. Fort Myers: Enlil Press, 304 p. [A clearly written and detailed analysis of the Sumerian flood legend, I think this is the most convincing explanation for the basis of "Noah's Flood".]
- Clark, E.E. (1953) *Indian Legends of the Pacific Northwest*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 225 p. [The best compilation of legends from the Pacific Northwest; it is still in print.]
- Clendenon, C. (2009) *Hydromythology and the Ancient Greek World*. Lansing: Fineline Science Press, 502 p. [A compilation of Greek legends that relate to springs, rivers, and other water bodies.]
- Ellis, R. (1998) *Imagining Atlantis*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 332 p. [A very balanced assessment of the various Atlantis theories; the author suggests that Plato probably invented Atlantis. This is my favorite Atlantis reference.]
- Frazer, J.G. (2013) *The Great Flood*. Albany: Jasoncolavito.com Books, 266 p. [An examination of flood myths from all around the globe, with particular emphasis on Greek and Mesopotamian legends. An excellent source of information on flood myths.]
- Green, M.T. (1992) *Natural Knowledge in Preclassical Antiquity*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 208 p. [Includes an excellent discussion of the idea that Hesiod's Battle of the Titans is based on the 1628 B.C. eruption of Santorini.]
- Mayor, A. (2000) *The First Fossil Hunters*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, p. 361 p. [Mayor proposes that ancient Greeks and Romans encountered fossils that became elements of their myths.]
- Mayor, A. (2005) *Fossil Legends of the First Americans*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 446 p. [This book is an extension of Mayor's previous work and compares Native American legends with fossils in local rocks.]

- Neev, D., and Emery, K.O. (1995) *The destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and Jericho*. New York: Oxford University Press, 178 p. [A fairly technical book; discusses climatic conditions that may have influenced the myth of Sodom and Gomorrah.]
- Nur, A. (2008) *Apocalypse Earthquakes, Archaeology, and the Wrath of God*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 309 p. [A book on paleoseismology – the study of past earthquakes – focusing on earthquakes in the Middle East and how they have influenced myth and history in that region.]
- Ryan, W., and Pitman, W. (1998) *Noah's flood: the new scientific discoveries about the event that changed history*: New York: Simon and Schuster, 319 p. [Very readable discussion of scientific evidence for catastrophic flooding of the Black Sea and its proposed impacts on humans in the area. The book draws on material from a wide range of disciplines - linguistics, archaeology, genetics, etc. Not]
- Vitaliano, D.B. (1973) *Legends of the Earth*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 305 p. [The original book on geomythology.]