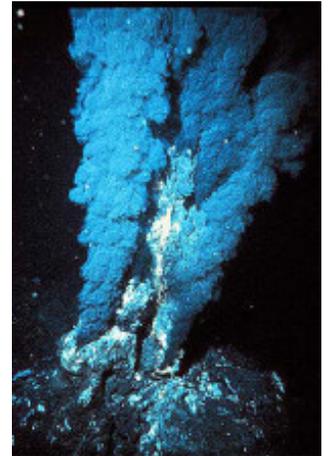




## Subcrustal ocean roof found?

Earlier this month, a team of geologists in New Zealand reported making a seismic image of the base of the earth's crust. They reported their find as the base of a tectonic plate. But a noted creation scientist takes heart from this find for a different reason. This team could have found the roof of a now-drained subcrustal ocean. That same ocean, he says, broke confinement about fifty-three hundred years ago. We know that break-out as the Global Flood.



### A slippery layer

The journal *Nature* carried, in its 5 February issue, this [letter](#) from T. A. Stern and his colleagues at Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand. *LiveScience*, among other organs, carried this [article](#) describing the study. *Nature* also carried this [commentary](#) from Catherine Rychert. She has investigated the same problem for years, and published this [study](#) about eight years ago.

Walter T. Brown [originated](#) the Hydroplate Theory of the Global Flood about forty years ago. In a telephone interview, he described the Stern study and Dr. Rychert's commentary in detail. The Stern team used twelve powerful dynamite charges, about 0.5 tons in all, in several bore holes in the ground. They then detonated the charges and listened for returning echoes. They heard echoes from 12 to 18 miles deep. But they *also* heard even deeper echoes. Those echoes come from a boundary layer 70 kilometers, or 43 miles, below ground. Deep to this lies a slippery layer, ten kilometers (six miles) thick. This layer separates the *lithosphere* (the top layer of the mantle) from the *asthenosphere* (the next layer down). *This layer might be the lubricant that lets the earth's continental plates move. As they still do.*

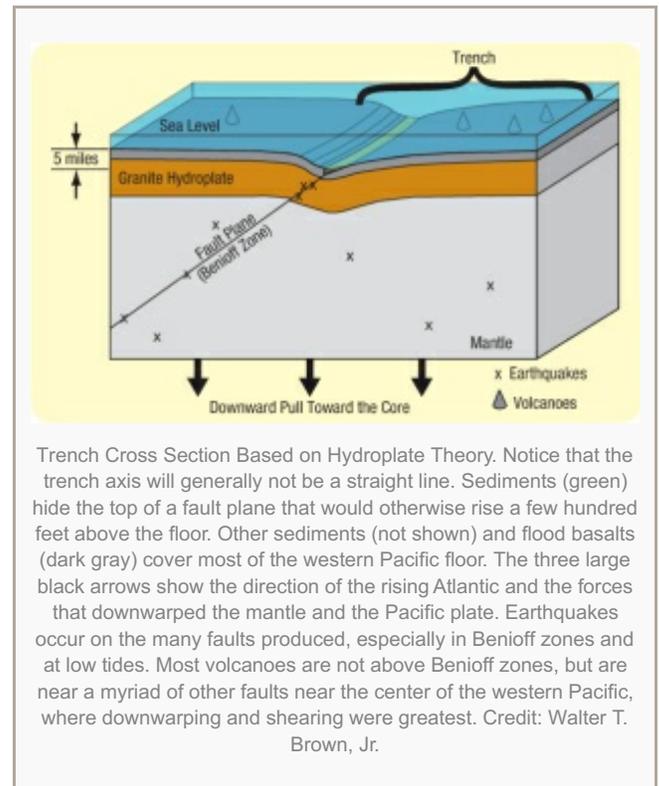
Brown pointed out one thing the *LiveScience* article did not mention. Stern and his team described this in-between layer as *parallel to the earth's surface*. Tia Ghose at *LiveScience* mentions an "extremely shallow angle" at one spot in the layer, while also calling it the "subduction zone." In fact the angle is fifteen degrees. Most Benioff zones have a forty-five-degree incline to the ground.

### A subcrustal ocean

Brown offers the Hydroplate Theory as an alternative to classic plate tectonics. According to him, earth once had a subcrustal ocean. About fifty-three hundred years ago (give or take a hundred years), it broke from its confinement. Its escape produced the Global Flood. In so doing it broke the original land mass into at least seven continental plate. Brown calls these *hydroplates* because they first moved on water before the subcrustal ocean finished squirting out. Remnants of that subcrustal ocean still ooze from the "Black Smokers" along the Mid-Oceanic Ridge. Brown suspects the slippery layer Stern found, formed from water still trapped in the subcrustal chamber. This explains why those plates still move.

"The problem all geologists have," Brown said, "is: how do plates move? They try to say the mantle is viscous, or semi-liquid. The outer core of earth is liquid. But the mantle is solid. But they don't tell children that in schools today.

Nor did they tell us when we went to grade school.”



## How much mass did earth lose?

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The escape of that subcrustal ocean *also* carried large amounts of water, rock and mud into space. These materials, Brown concluded early, formed the comets, the asteroids, and the meteoroids.

Last year Brown heard of the discovery of a new companion object to Sedna, a dwarf planet at the edge of the solar system. He also heard the twelve largest trans-Neptunian objects, including Sedna, had identical arguments of perihelion. Megan Schwamb, an astronomer, reported this finding. She also said any theory of the origin of these objects must account for it. Brown could see only one answer: *the trans-Neptunian objects also formed from material launched from earth*.

The problem: Brown had never assumed the subcrustal ocean was any deeper than ten miles below ground. Now he had to assume the subcrustal ocean was at least thirty miles deep. The subcrustal ocean, in escaping, would have to carry rock and mud from at least that deep a chasm to accumulate three percent of the earth's mass. The three-percent guess is mid-way between two different estimates of the total mass of the Mavericks of the Solar System: two percent and four percent.

This new finding suggests the roof of the subcrustal ocean was even deeper: nearly fifty miles below ground. That would put the total mass of the "Mavericks of the Solar System" at about four percent of the earth's mass. At least one astronomical team *already* believes the Mavericks amount to that much mass.

Brown still wants to validate the Stern finding. He cites another paper from a team in Costa Rica. They, he says, report a similar finding of a slippery channel about forty-five miles deep (give or take two miles or so). If those two findings prove both valid and consistent, Brown will revise his on-line work (*In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*) yet again. "At least now," he says, "I'll be able to remove one assumption about the subcrustal ocean. I can now observe, not assume, that it once lay about 45 miles down."

CNAV will follow this story further as it develops.

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