

## Noah's Ark Was Real

'Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make in it rooms (stalls pens, coops, nests, cages and compartments) and cover it inside and out with bitumen' (Genesis 6:14).

When God saw that the intent of Man's heart was only evil, He instructed Noah to build the ark to save himself and his family from the divine judgement that was to come upon the whole earth. To see this catastrophic event unfold and understand the full story of Noah and his family, we would need to read in our Bibles from Genesis 5:28 right through to Genesis 10:32; plus 1 Chronicles 1:4; Isaiah 54:9; Ezekiel 14:14 & 20; Matthew 24:37 & 38; Luke 17:26 & 27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5. All these scriptures together are too much to put into this Bible study, but can be studied at home.

Noah was a righteous man who preached righteousness to the people around him, but no one listened. They were too depraved and had lost direction, so God decided to cleanse the earth with water. There are many geological, historical and archaeological facts to back up the story of Noah's ark and the worldwide flood. There are so many facts relating to Noah's ark, it would be impossible to write them all in this one Bible study. It is pointless to doubt the story of the flood, because that would be doubting the truth written in the Bible. Every word in the Bible is inspired by God, or 'God-breathed' (2 Timothy 3:16). God knows exactly what took place in Noah's day and He revealed it to Moses who wrote it all down as God instructed him to (Exodus 24:4). Noah and his family were in the ark for 1 year 10 days. They went into the ark on the 17th day of the second month when Noah was 600 years old (Genesis 7:11), and came out of the ark on the 27th day of the second month when Noah was 601 years old (Genesis 8:13 & 14). Only eight people survived the flood; Noah, his wife, Noah's three sons and their wives.

The flood story took place in what is now South Eastern Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Mount Ararat, situated in Turkey near the Armenian border, will always be identified with the story of Noah's Ark. The ark was built where Noah lived in Mesopotamia. It was a fertile area and the ark was built out of cypress wood; tons of it, taken from trees grown in that fertile area. To waterproof the whole ark, it was covered with bitumen (pitch) inside and out. Some people doubt the flood was worldwide, but some facts regarding the flood should make people think again. If the flood were not to be global, there would have been no need for the ark. If the flood was to be local, Noah could have moved to another region instead of spending 120 years building the ark, then gathering thousands of animals to save them from drowning. Mankind, although depraved, had already populated the world so the whole world came under divine judgement; plus, the Bible makes it clear that every creature that breathed air perished and that included humans. Most sea creatures, apart from the mammals, do not breathe air like we do, they have gills.

The ark was 300 cubits long; 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high; or approximately 137 metres or 450 feet long; 23 metres or 75 feet wide; and 14 metres or 45 feet high. The ratio reflects advanced shipbuilding knowledge that only God would have known. The correct ratio was needed to control the pitching and rolling of the vessel. Present day ships are built using a similar ratio, making the ark the first of its kind in the world, except that the ark was built without using any metal nails, screws or rivets. The scriptures don't say whether or not the local people helped Noah build the ark, but they probably did mock him. Why would he be building a boat so far from the sea? They would not have comprehended that when it was ready, they would all die when the judgement of God came upon them. Enoch had warned the people (Jude 1:14 & 15). Noah had preached to them (2 Peter 2:5). God's Spirit had been striving with them (Genesis 6:3) yet they had still rejected God. Although divine judgement meant they all died in the flood, God's mercy still shone through to them because after Jesus died, he went to these same people and preached to them in Hades, the waiting place of the dead, to give them a chance of salvation (1 Peter 3:19 & 20; 4:6).

How could Noah have gathered all the various species of the animals and keep them in one place long enough to put them on the ark? Noah's challenges would have been great. He had to have the ark built; he had to collect enough food to feed his family and the thousands of animals for over a year; he had to round up two pairs of animals for breeding, then the Lord told Noah to round up seven pairs of clean animals for breeding. Noah had to gather seven pairs of every type of bird, and he had to collect all these thousands of breeds in just seven days. There is no doubt that God would have helped Noah do what he was asked. Although the Bible doesn't say so, for Noah to gather all these animals in such a short time, God would have brought them all to Noah. That would not have been a hard task for the Lord, after all, He created every one of them and animals always obey the Voice of God.

Noah would have had about 20,000 animals, birds, reptiles and rodents. The Lord would have helped Noah arrange the animals in the ark, the best possible way. During the time on the ark, the animals would have generated about 600 tons of manure. The Bible doesn't say if it was regularly cleaned out or not, but one can imagine the dreadful smell inside the ark, and insects would have thrived in the filthy conditions. Whales, dolphins, fish, crocodiles, sea otters, sharks and other sea creatures would have stayed in the water and not gone into the ark. They probably gorged themselves on the animal carcasses for the twelve months the earth was flooded, so that the ground was 'cleansed' for when the ark landed. Dinosaurs and mammoths would have been around then too. Like all the other animals, most would have died during the flood. The ones that were rescued and later left the ark, would have found their food source greatly diminished and the climatic conditions so vastly changed, some would have become extinct after the flood. In the book of Job, a huge animal with a tail like a cedar tree roamed the earth in Job's time, along with humans. The description of that same animal matches that of a dinosaur (Job chapters 40 and 41). Based on current livestock transport figures, one stock pen can hold about 25 cows, 150 pigs or 240 sheep. The ark contained enough space for about 520 stock pens – ample room for Noah, his family, all the animals and food for a year. Smaller, young animals would have been taken into the ark and some would possibly have been hibernating.

The scriptures tell us it rained for over a month. That would not have been a drizzle, but a monsoon downpour. 'The windows and floodgates of the heavens were opened. That same day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and burst forth' – 'the rain was gushing rain from the sky' (Genesis 7:11; 8:2). The very first geysers ever, began to spurt water as fountains. For five months the whole earth remained flooded (Genesis 7:24). So where did all this water come from? It was already there. The Bible tells us that the earth was made of water. 'For people wilfully forget, the heavens and the earth were formed out of water and amid water by the Word of God' (2 Peter 3:5). Before the Lord created animals and plants, the whole earth was once covered in water (Genesis 1:2) and God separated the water from the dry land (Genesis 1:6 to 10). There is more water deep underground than on the surface of the earth and the earth's surface is 70% water, so we can only imagine how much water is hidden under the land mass. That water would be boiling hot and pressurised, causing the tectonic plates to move, and we know just that is happening the world over. Australia is moving north; there are fault lines all over the earth's crust, causing earthquakes and tremors. Since we know water spreads and takes the shape of its containment, Noah's flood could not possibly have been local. The scriptures tell us the mountains were covered by 15 cubits (about 22½ feet or 8 metres) of water. That means all the land, including the mountain tops were deluged. Mount Ararat is the first place named in the Bible that can be located with any certainty. It is a perfect mountain, 17,000 feet high and is higher than anything around it. It would have been the first piece of land that emerged out of the water when the floodwaters began to subside.

The Austrian alps, the Andes, mountains in the US and Canada – even Mount Everest all have animal fossils near their peaks. As the waters rose, the animal carcasses would have floated to the top of the mountains. As the water subsided, some carcasses stayed there. The remains of ancient humans have been found on mountaintops several times. Of all the thousands of fossil graveyards discovered worldwide, none show signs of scavenging but the animals had naturally decomposed. Some animals were not fully decomposed, but lay in peat; some have been found with their stomachs full of grass – some even had grass still in their mouths, meaning the animals had all died at the exact same time, and very quickly. The absence of scavenging was because no animal ate meat until after the flood. Fossils of marine life, some tiny and some as large as whales; fossils of huge land animals as large as dinosaurs have been found on land, in lakes, in the sea and high up on mountain summits, indicating a global flood. Archaeologists have proven that the sphinx in Egypt was once completely submerged in water. The so-called 'ice age' that brought about extreme changes in tree rings all around the world, were not a result of an ice age at all – the changes were due to the flood. There was no ice age – that is a lie told by evolutionists.

Evolutionists choose to believe that the Grand Canyon was made over thousands of years. The canyons made by a recent volcano in just hours, blows that theory out of the water (pun not intended). When Mount St Helens in America erupted, many canyons, some of them huge, were created in hours when pyroclastic (boiling, fiery) mudflows, flowed down the mountain at the speed of a hurricane, like an avalanche made up of lava, with incredible force. One of those canyons is called Little Grand Canyon because its formations, plateaux and rims are very similar to the real Grand Canyon – and it took only days to form. There is no erosion between strata layers of rock showing the rapidity of the formation of the layers. This geological evidence shows rapid formation – not formation over millions of years.

Scientists claim thin lamina (layers of sediment) takes year upon year to form, but the lamina formed by Mount St Helens took only hours, so that too erases the theory of millions of years. Lamina is formed by

liquefaction which is water-saturated sediments breaking up to form thick, stone-filled mud that moves beneath the earth's surface, but can rise to the surface as boiling mud. The sediment slowly moves at different speeds according to the water velocity. When it drops below a certain speed, it will fall into thin layers at the same speed, forming lamina. Scientists now know lamina can form very rapidly. A worldwide flood would have caused massive liquefaction to occur and leave lamina such as found in the Grand Canyon – formed in days not millions of years. Turbidites (spiral shapes on rocks) are caused by catastrophic water currents in underwater landslides and avalanches and can cover massive areas in just a few hours. There are four observable actions that create rapid sedimentation over huge areas: Rapid erosion; pyroclastic flows; liquefaction and turbidites, and all have occurred recently during earthquakes, volcanoes and floods. Carbon, coal, oil, diamonds and opals take just a few years to form. We know that from the deep peat lake at the base of Mount St Helens. The dense forest was washed into Spirit Lake and it has taken only 20 years to form over a metre of peat, which we know is flammable when dry and is widely used as heating fuel. Scientists have produced fuel from organic matter in just 20 minutes. In Australia, oil is made from sewerage sludge in just 30 minutes. Diamonds can be made in a laboratory in just weeks. Opalescent animals have been found in the Australian desert, formed just a few years after the death of the animal. The scriptures say that all the precious stones and gold in the world were created in one day (Ezekiel 28:13).

All this proves that the millions-of-years-old earth theory has been proven by scientists and by recent world events, to be seriously wrong. A lot of interesting sites, such as the Grand Canyon in the US, mud pools in New Zealand, the beautiful Kimberly region in Australia and the massive turbidite rocks found in Victoria, Australia, were all created by one of the four explanations written above, and were all created in a very short space of time – during the water subsidence after Noah's flood. There certainly is proof Noah's Ark was real but what we will never know is the enormous stresses the family endured. Genesis 6:3 says man would live for only one hundred and twenty more years. That was God speaking to Noah regarding the judgement of humanity that had become wicked. God meant, in one hundred and twenty years from that conversation in Genesis 6:13 to 22, He would destroy the entire earth with a flood and that is exactly what happened. It took that long to build the Ark, fill it with food for the animals before God brought the animals to the Ark so they could be saved. Noah and his family would have gone through an overwhelmingly difficult time before, during and after the flood. Noah was told to build the ark, fill it with animals and sail above the flooded earth for over a year, then rebuild the population of the destroyed earth (Genesis 6:1 through to 8:17). Noah knew beforehand, friends and some family members would be lost to the floods yet in righteous obedience Noah did exactly what the Lord told him to do. Nobody else on earth listened to Noah's warnings as he preached righteousness to the unrighteous people of his generation (2 Peter 2:5). Right up until the rain started to fall, the population continued living as though judgement would never come. Noah's hardship and difficulties during this time would have been immense. The Bible does not mention the disagreements Noah may have had with his wife or the disdain shown by his three sons Shem, Japheth and Ham and three daughters-in-law. We can only imagine how incredibly hard their lives were for the time of the flood as they were trapped inside the ark, filled with animals they had to feed and care for, and the stench from the animal droppings must have been unbearable. Noah was totally committed to God, was obedient and trusted the Lord with no reservation. The entire years-long saga must have taken its toll on those eight people who went through it, but in the end, it was only Noah who was declared righteous.

We can see Mount Ararat. We can see the terrain the Bible describes although the site of the Land of Mesopotamia was extremely different to what that area is like today. We read that there was no rain, but a mist, or a heavy dew went up from the ground and watered the whole face of the earth (Genesis 2:6). Back then, there would have been no snow, no hail, no sleet, no freezing conditions, no storms, no hot sun to burn, just absolutely perfect living conditions. The mountaintops would not have been covered with snow like they are today. Deserts like the Sahara, did not exist. Those areas were lush with vegetation. That fact has been proven in the deserts in the middle of Australia, where bones of mega-fauna have been discovered in abundance. The dinosaurs lived on that thick, lush vegetation. No animals ate meat until after Noah's ark and they didn't need to. The Lord created vegetation to provide the animals with all the food they needed. That was before sin brought about changes in our weather. There was no rain until Noah's Ark was built and ready to sail (Genesis 7:6). After the flood, everything changed. That is when the first seasonal cold and heat was recorded (Genesis 8:22). The plants could no longer provide protein for the carnivores and they were forced to eat meat.

Could a wooden ark survive thousands of years to the present day? Pieces of wood believed to be thousands of years old, have been found on Mount Ararat. Pitch or bitumen preserved it. The story of the ark is still alive on the mountaintop to this day. The local people talk freely about Noah's Ark. Mount Ararat is in the mountains of Turkey, not all that far from where Garden of Eden once was. Noah had lived in

Mesopotamia which was in visual range of the mountains, so God helped Noah's Ark land on familiar ground, close to where Noah and his family had once lived. Noah probably spent all his life looking at the mountain and may have even climbed it. If we think about it, the ark could have come to rest anywhere on the earth because the flood was over the whole earth, but the Lord made sure Noah and his family were safely returned home. There was no motor, keel or rudder to steer the ark, so the Lord must have sailed Noah home. Everything would have been different after the flood of course, but it was still home.

There is proof Noah's Ark existed. It has been found and so have the Ark's anchor stones, each weighing several tons and between two and four metres high. One anchor stone has a carving of a rainbow, large waves, a boat and eight people. One anchor stone has images of Noah and his wife with their eyes closed as though the anchor stone was their tombstone. The area where the anchor stones were found has been called, 'The Place of Eight'. The valley down the mountain is called, 'The Valley of Eight'. Josephus the ancient historian (37-100AD) wrote about what was inside the remains of Noah's Ark. Theophilus (115-185AD) wrote Noah's Ark could be seen in the mountains. Epiphanius (315-403AD) wrote Noah's Ark was situated in the country of the Kurds (Turkey). Chrysostom (345-407AD) wrote, "The flood of the universal destruction was not just a threat, it came to pass. The mountains of Ararat testify to it where the Ark rested and the remains of the Ark are preserved there for our admonition." Isidore (560-636AD) wrote wood from the Ark remained on Ararat to be seen. By the 17th century the wood on Noah's Ark had become hard and petrified. The area is now considered to be a National Treasure and is cared for by the Turkish Government. If we compare the warning given by God before the flood with the warning given by God that He will destroy the world again – this time by fire (2 Peter 3:10 to 12), we can see that the fire will be global – just as the flood was global. God said He would never again destroy the earth with a flood, but we have been told He will destroy the earth with fire.

One hundred years after the birth of Noah's three sons, when Noah was 600 years, 2 months and 17 days old, the flood came and the family left the ark a year and ten days later. Calculating all these years, means the flood came in the year 1,656 after the creation of Adam; ten generations from the creation of Adam to the birth of Noah. Every man mentioned in that passage of scripture had 'other sons and daughters' but only one man from each generation was named. The only man mentioned who died the same year as the flood was Methuselah. We don't know if he actually died in the flood; we just know he died the same year as the flood. After the flood, the earth changed so dramatically, people could not live for the hundreds of years they had done before the flood came, and this can be seen by the shortening of the years of the subsequent lineage.

From Noah's three sons the entire world was populated and from them we have our three races of people; the Negroids, from Ham; the Asians from Japheth; and Caucasians from Shem (Genesis 9:18 & 19). Shem was the eldest son then Japheth (Genesis 10:21) and Ham was the youngest (Genesis 9:24). Of his youngest son Ham and Ham's son Canaan, Noah said, "Cursed be Canaan! He shall be the servant of servants to his brethren ... let Canaan be his (Shem's) servant." (Genesis 9:25 & 27). A prophetic curse for sure. The Africans (descendants of Ham and Canaan) were the world's slaves for many years, and were usually slaves to white people (descendants of Shem), just as Noah prophesied. Of Japheth, Noah said, "May God enlarge Japheth" (Genesis 9:27). That was a very accurate prophecy. There are hundreds of Asian races around the world today, with their diversity and their populations amounting to millions of people. Of Shem, Noah said, "Blessed be the Lord the God of Shem! And blessed by the Lord my God, be Shem." And from Shem we get the Jewish people. Truly this was a prophetic blessing. We have read there were ten generations from Adam to Noah. If we read the lineage, we see that there were ten generations from Noah to Abraham, the father of all Jewish people and an ancestor of Jesus our Messiah.

Noah's Ark was a real event, that gave us not only the seven colours of the rainbow (Genesis 9:13 to 17), but also gave us some of the most diverse and amazingly beautiful, naturally formed tourist attractions we will ever see.

Amen and God bless you.

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