



Science in Creation

Noah's Ark and the Flood

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The sun glistened on the water. Noah remembered the days of the Deluge when he and his family feared for their lives. He recalled the water falling in sheets from the sky, and the earthquakes as the fountains of the great deep were broken up. All of that seemed to be in the distant past, in another world. As Noah stood at the window, he thanked Jehovah again for instructing him to build the ark.

How much longer would the waters cover the world below? Could life ever return to normal? A monkey swung on an overhead beam, trying to catch a glimpse of the bright outdoors. Pigeons cooed softly and a parakeet cawed. The gentle sway of the Ark floating on the water had become home to everybody and every creature on board.

The concept of a global flood is difficult for us to imagine.

Most scientists reject the Biblical account as a myth and even some Christians say that it was only a "local" flood. But when scientific evidence is interpreted from a Biblical worldview, the puzzle pieces fall into place. The Genesis story of the worldwide

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- Brother Andrew has had an avid
- interest in science since he
- started studying it in his early
- years of school. More recently,
- he has been blessed by studying
- the work of creation scientists
- such as Henry Morris and Ken
- Ham. Because of his interest in
- science and his belief in a literal
- six-day creation, he enjoys
- telling others about creation
- science. He lives in Central
- Pennsylvania with his wife and
- ten children.

flood explains the origin of the sedimentary layers, fossils, and many of the geologic formations we observe today. It didn't take millions of years, only a global catastrophe.

Genesis 6 tells us that because the "wickedness of man was great in the earth," God decided to destroy "man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air." But Noah was different. Because he was a just man and walked with God, God chose to save Noah and his family from destruction.

Building the Ark

God gave Noah detailed instructions for building the ark.

It was to be made of *gopher wood*, maybe what we call cypress, which is resistant to rotting. God specified the size of the ark. Noah was to build it three stories high, with a door and a window. The three decks were divided into rooms.

Populating the Ark

God commanded Noah to bring two, a male and a female, of every sort of living thing into the ark to keep them alive. The clean animals were to be brought in by sevens. Then He would destroy the earth with a great flood.

Today there are many, many thousands of species of animals.

Noah's Ark

Genesis 6:14-16

437 feet long

73 ft wide

44 ft high

747

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The infographic features a blue-tinted illustration of Noah's Ark as a large wooden box floating on a turbulent sea. Below the illustration, a red horizontal bar indicates a length of 437 feet. To the left, a smaller red rectangle shows a width of 73 feet and a height of 44 feet. To the right, a black silhouette of a Boeing 747 airplane is shown for scale, with a long-necked dinosaur and a giraffe flying above it. The background of the infographic is a grid pattern.

Through many generations, genetic information has been selected, rearranged, or lost to produce more and more species. However, all the species of dogs, coyotes, wolves, and other canine we know today probably came from one pair of canines that had the privilege of living on Noah's ark! A poodle has just a fraction of the genetic traits available for dogs. A wolf has quite a different set of characteristics. The original pair of canines had all of the genetic code in them to produce all of the species we have today. More varieties are constantly being developed through selective breeding.

It is important to remember that the formation of new varieties within a *kind* is not evolution. There is no new genetic information being added or created. The varieties are developed by breeding out certain variations, so the offspring has more predictable characteristics. The *kind* may have been very similar to the modern classification into *families*.

Creationist researcher John Woodmorappe suggests that, at most, sixteen thousand animals would have been on the ark to preserve all of the created *kinds*. If it was limited to today's *families*,

the requirement would have been even less. Only air-breathing animals, creeping things, and fowls of the air needed to be preserved. Sea dwelling creatures did not perish in the Flood. Noah did not need to have huge aquariums on the ark.

How did all of the animals fit in the ark? God gave Noah the dimensions of the ark in a unit Noah was familiar with, the cubit. A cubit is the distance from the elbow to the tips of the fingers. This is approximately seventeen to eighteen inches, depending on the size of the person. The size of the ark was approximately 437 feet long, 73 feet wide, and 44 feet high. It had three stories, or floors. That provided almost 100,000 square feet of floor space (more than two acres), plenty of room for thousands of animals and the food to feed them. It's possible that many of the animals were not full grown, but were young, requiring less space and less food. The floor space was divided into rooms.

It's very likely that dinosaurs were preserved on the ark. They would have been created on the sixth day along with the rest of the animals. Job's post-flood description of the behemoth in Job chapter 40 has the charac-

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teristics of a dinosaur. While some species of dinosaurs grew to be very large, many of them were relatively small, with the average dinosaur being the size of a sheep.

The Flood

Is there enough water on the planet and in the atmosphere to cover the entire surface of the earth? The flood was a major catastrophic event. We can still see the affects of it today. The "*fountains of the great deep*" were "*broken up.*" Today there is still a lot of water trapped under the surface of the earth. It has been estimated that there is five times as much water below the surface as on the surface. The receding flood waters eroded and formed many of the land features we see today. It appears that there may have been only a single continent at the time of creation. Possibly during the Flood the continents were broken apart, the ocean basins dropped to receive the receding flood waters, and the mountains were pushed up. See Psalm 104:6-8. Modern *plate tectonics* theory has the continents moving apart very slowly. The creationist *catastrophic plate tectonics* theory has them separating relatively quickly during the flood.

Even the top of Mount Everest has fossil layers deposited by the flood. Assuming a flat surface with no mountains, there is enough water in the oceans to cover the earth nearly two miles deep. Since the water was only fifteen cubits above the highest mountain, we know there were mountains before the flood, but not as high as Everest.

Landing

The "*mountains of Ararat*" are generally believed to be in Turkey. There is a mountain named Mount Ararat, but this is not proof that it is the mountain on which the ark landed. Mount Ararat was named many centuries after Moses wrote the book of Genesis.

Genesis 11 says that the descendants of Noah traveled "*from the east*" into Shinar. Shinar is in Iraq, in the vicinity of Babylon. That would place the mountains of Ararat in Iran. At the time Moses wrote the book of Genesis, Ararat was the name for a large region of the upper Mesopotamian Valley.

Finding the Ark Today

There have been numerous expeditions to Mount Ararat in Turkey to search for the ark. An expedition to an Iranian

The only salvation from the coming judgment is through Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

Have you entered the Door?



mountain found large pieces of petrified wood high above the tree line.

It has been 4,500 years since the ark landed. It could have been used by Noah and his family for lumber, or for firewood. It could have deteriorated. If it is ever found it would be the greatest archeological discovery ever!

Before the Flood came, Noah was probably standing in the doorway of the ark inviting people to come in and be saved. The only salvation from the coming flood waters was through that door. Maybe we can't find

the ark, but we can find the Door to salvation today. Jesus is the Door. The only salvation from the coming judgment is through Jesus Christ and His shed blood. Have you entered the Door?

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Resources for Further Study

The New Answers Book by Ken Ham, Answers In Genesis

Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study by John Woodmorappe, to be reprinted by Answers In Genesis

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