

**GENESIS 6:12-7**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Genesis chapter 6 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our last study we saw how wickedness filled the land and how the thoughts of man were evil – ***CONTINUALLY!***

And God was going to judge the earth for their wickedness. Now, as bad as things were, there was a man named Noah who loved the Lord and he found grace in the sight of the Lord. He was perfect in his generations or was not contaminated with the evil that permeated the land.

As we look at our world today, it is not much different than what we are reading here in Genesis chapter 6.

In fact, Jesus said in Matthew 24:37-39, **“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”**

What was it like in the days of Noah?

We are told in Genesis 6:11, **“The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.”**

There was violence, immorality, wickedness, fallen angels cohabitating with women, all kinds of evil and yet, in spite of all that, they were going out to eat, they went to the bars, they got married. In other words, life went on like nothing was going to happen until the rain began to fall!

Think about the mocking of Noah. They would be at the store, *“Did you hear that guy Noah, what a nut job! The judgment of God, get real. I don’t see any signs for that happening!”*

Or maybe, *“Here we go again, the judgment of God. This guy Noah has been talking about that for one-hundred years and nothing!”*

Does it sound familiar?

It should because, like they were doing in the days of Noah, people are doing the same today and judgment is getting closer and closer!

We also see that Enoch was a witness of the coming judgment of God as we are told in Jude 1:14-15, **“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”**

Yes, Enoch is speaking of the return of the Lord, but just by what he named his son, he too was preaching of the coming judgment of God and I will talk about that more as we read on.

And Noah was also a witness of the coming judgment of God upon the earth as Peter tells us in II Peter 2:5, **“and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.”**

God always has His faithful witnesses and folks; we are those witnesses today! We are to speak forth not only God’s love for the people of this world, but also His coming judgment upon this world!

That is where we will pick up our study this evening, in Genesis chapter 6 beginning in verse 12 as judgment is about to come upon the earth and God is going to instruct Noah in what he is to do.

## **GENESIS 6**

### **VERSES 12-13**

God puts forth his sentence by first saying that man is guilty before Him and thus, He will destroy them because of it.

Now as some read of this judgment, they feel this is not fair, how can God do something like this?

First of all, God gave man one-hundred and twenty years to repent, to get right but instead, their wickedness grew.

Also, God is holy; He is righteous and ever since sin entered the world; death has occurred; now God will speed that up a bit!

The problem is that many just focus on the judgment and they lose sight of the fact that in the midst of this judgment we see God's grace extended to Noah and his family.

And what God has promised, salvation through the seed of the woman, is still going to come to pass in spite of Satan's attempts to prevent it!

God always has a faithful remnant, as I have said, even if it is just eight people as we see here. Only eight people that will be spared the judgment of God!

VERSES 14-16

Here we see God tell Noah to build an ark. Now keep in mind that he did not contract this work out. God called and Noah took those steps of faith and obeyed!

And this was not a little boat!

This boat was approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high, using 18 inches for a cubit.

If the cubit measurement that they used was 20.4 inches then the ark would be 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 51 feet tall. That is what they used to build the ark at the ark encounter in Kentucky. Which would make the volumetric capacity 1.88-million-cubic feet, large enough to hold 450 semi-truck trailers!

But if we use 18 inches this boat measured 1½ times the length of a football field and it was not until 1858 that a boat bigger than the ark was built.

And keep in mind it was more like a barge, it was not built for speed or navigation, it just needed to float and withstand this storm of judgment. It was built for stability.

And think about this for a minute. Wave tank experiments have been done using those dimensions and have proven that the ark would have easily withstood two-hundred-foot waves! That is pretty stable if you ask me.

This ark had three decks on it with ceilings at least twelve feet high, giving the total deck space to be about 95,700 square feet!

There was also a window around the top of the ark, near the roof, measuring about eighteen inches that was used for light and ventilation.

The weight of the ark has been estimated at about 15 to 20 tons!

One of the other problems that people have with this account is, ***“How in the world could all those animals fit into this boat?”***

First of all, let's deal with the total volumetric capacity of the ark, which was approximately 1.4 million cubic feet, using 18 inches as the dimensions of a cubit.

Now that may be hard to picture, so let me explain it this way.

The three decks of the ark would be able to hold approximately 522 standard box cars. And each box car could hold 240 animals the size of a sheep. That means the ark could hold 125,000 animals with an average size equaling that of a sheep.

Dr. Henry Morris estimates that only 146 of those box cars would be needed to house the entire vertebrate population of about 35,000 distinct kinds.

And some even bring that number down further, to only 16,000 distinct kinds of animals to preserve the created kinds.

That would still leave more than enough room for food, water and living areas for only 28% of the arks volume was being used for the animals, the other 72% was open.

Were there dinosaurs on the ark?

You bet, but again, keep in mind that most of the dinosaurs were the size of sheep, only a few were large and if the large ones were taken on board, they were probably babies at that time, you would not need a full-grown dinosaur on the ark!

We are also told that the inside and outside of the ark was covered in pitch to seal out the water. Now to me, that seems like overkill, why do both the inside and outside?

The simplest explanation is that you want to make sure this boat is watertight; you don't want to take any chances of it leaking.

Also, maybe God wanted to preserve it as a witness to a future generation of what God has done in the past and is preparing to do once again, pour out His judgment upon a wicked world.

Does that mean the ark is still around today?

It is very possible and there have been many reports from people saying they have seen the ark in the mountains of Ararat!

Let me just share with you a few of these reports. We are told,

In 275 B.C. Berosus, a Babylonian historian, wrote: ***“But of this ship that grounded in Armenia some part still remains in the mountains . . . and some get pitch from the ship by scraping it off.”***

Around 75 A.D. Josephus said the locals collected relics from the ark and showed them off to this very day. He also said all the ancient historians he knew of wrote about the ark.

In 180 A.D. Theophilus of Antioch wrote: ***“the remains [of the ark] are to this day to be seen . . . in the mountains.”***

An elderly Armenian man in America said that as a boy, he visited the ark with his father and three atheistic scientists in 1856. Their goal was to disprove the ark’s existence, but they found it and became so enraged they tried to destroy it but could not because it was too big and had petrified. In 1918 one of the atheistic scientists (an Englishman) admitted on his deathbed the whole story was true.

In 1876 a distinguished British statesman and author, Viscount James Bryce, climbed Ararat and reported finding a four-foot-long piece of hand-tooled timber at an altitude of more than 13,000 feet (4,300 meters).

Six Turkish soldiers claimed to see the ark in 1916.

In the early part of this [past] century, a Russian aviator named Vladimire Rokovitsky claimed the discovery of Noah's ark. He was stationed in southern Russia near the Turkish border and Mount Ararat. As he tested a plane he and his co-pilot flew over Ararat and discovered on the edge of a glacier what he described as a boat the size of a battleship. He said it was partially submerged in a lake, and he could see there was an opening for a door nearly 20 feet (7 meters) square, but the door was missing. Rokovitsky told his commanding officer and an expedition was dispatched to find the ark and photograph it. The report was forwarded to the Czar, who was soon overthrown, and the photos and the report perished.

In 1936 a young British archaeologist named Hardwicke Knight hiked across Ararat and discovered interlocking hand-tooled timbers at a height of 14,000 feet (4,600 meters).

During World War II two pilots saw and photographed something they believed was the ark on Mount Ararat.

There have been many more recent attempts to find and document the ark, but they have been hindered by politics and surrounded in controversy.

- David Guzik

Do we need to find Noah's ark to prove of a past judgment of God?

Not at all. Just look at this earth and you will see the evidence of a worldwide flood, of a judgment of God!

You see, as you look at this earth what you find are billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth!

Will they find the ark? They might, but for most people, it won't change their minds because the heavens declare the glory of God and if you refuse the evidence that is now before you, finding the ark won't change that!

Now, we are told that the ark was made of gopherwood, what is gopherwood?

We are not sure what kind of tree species that was, but some feel that this does not refer to a tree species at all.

They feel it is related to a lamination process they used. Thus, as they built this ark, they would cement several layers of wood together with glue or pitch.

Interestingly enough, if this process was used, it would have made the ark stronger than the steel ships of today!

I also want to deal with this sealing of the ark. You see, the word "**pitch**" is the Hebrew word KAPHAR, (kaw-far') and in the over 70 times that it is used in the Old Testament it is always translated "**atonement**" except here in Genesis 6:14, where it is translated as "**pitch**."

Why is that?

Think if it like this. The ark is a type of Christ as we shall see and as we are in Him, we are *at-one-ment* with God and it is the Lord who will see us through the storms of life as we remain in Him.

A. W. Pink gives us this picture of the ark as a type of the believer's salvation. Look at what he found.

The ark was a place of refuge and safety from God's judgment. Inside the ark was life, outside the ark was death. And that should remind us of being in or outside of Christ.



As we will see, God said to Noah and his family, “*Come into the ark*” not “*Go into the ark.*” What is my point? It was an invitation not a command just as we are invited to *come into Christ!*

The ark was a place of absolute security! The ark was sealed with pitch, and it was safe from the flood waters, it didn't leak. Not only that, but they were also safe from the judgment! Think about this for a minute. The only way to escape the judgment of God is to apply the blood of Jesus Christ to your life and it will seal you from the judgment of God that is coming!

We will also see that God will shut the door and Noah and his family were safe. For us, no one will be able to snatch us out of the hand of God, we are secure in Him! Jesus is the door to our salvation and we are secure in Him!

Not only that but as Noah and his family, as well as all the animals come out of the ark, none were lost. And that should remind us of what Jesus said in John 6:39, that all that the Father has given Him, none will be lost!

As we have seen, the ark had three levels and that could relate to the fact that our salvation in Christ is three-fold!

We have been saved from the *penalty* of sin; we are being saved from the *power* of sin; and we shall yet be saved from the *presence* of sin.

#### VERSES 17-22

As Noah heard of this coming devastating judgment upon the earth, he obeyed what the Lord told him to do, build the ark.

Look at the faithfulness of Noah here. Folks, it took him one-hundred and twenty years to build this boat and he built it where there was no water, no lake, no rain and yet God said He would destroy the earth by a flood.

How could Noah do that? Because Noah walked by faith! God called him to do a work and the world laughed at him, mocked him and yet he was steadfast, he was immovable; he abounded in the work of the Lord because he knew that his labor would not be in vain in the Lord.

That is what Paul said in I Corinthians 15:58, **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”**

How about you?

Are you willing to serve the Lord no matter what or who comes against you knowing that your work, no matter how nothing seems to be happening at this moment, is not in vain in the Lord? We need to be steadfast, immovable because God has promised us that our labor is not in vain, it is never in vain, God is always working!

I like the way Poole elaborates on this. He wrote,

The work of building the ark was laborious, costly, tedious, dangerous, and seemingly foolish and ridiculous; especially when all things continued in the same posture and safety for so many scores of years together; whereby Noah, without doubt, was all that while the song of the drunkards, and the sport of the wits of that age. So it is not strange that this is mentioned as an heroic act of faith.

- Poole

Paul, in Hebrews 11:7 tells us of this great man of faith, of Noah. This is what Paul wrote, **“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.”**

May we walk by faith as Noah did in a time when God’s judgment is getting closer, just as it was in Noah’s day!

Noah obeyed the Lord, but many today say they believe in Jesus but when push comes to shove, they want to do what they want to do, they don’t want to be governed by God. That is a dangerous way to live!

And like Noah, we too know of a coming judgment by God upon a Christ rejecting world.

God called Noah to be a preacher of righteousness in a very dark period of time just as He has called us to be. You see, God has established His covenant with us, found in the blood of Jesus, and like Noah was to save a remnant of each animal, God has called us to save people, to be fishers of men and pull them out of this coming judgment.

We are living in dark days, but we also are to be a light in this dark world.

Does that mean the world will want to hear what we say? Not exactly, but like Noah, don’t let that stop you, keep speaking forth the truths of God in love and let the Holy Spirit touch the lives of people and bring them into the kingdom of God before this judgment comes!

For Noah, no one listened to him but he kept on preaching, letting people know of the coming judgment of God and no matter who may or may not listen, we too need to bring the Gospel message to a world where the judgment of God is about to fall!

One other thing I want to mention here is that Noah did not have to go out looking for all these animals and bring them into the ark. In Genesis 6:20 we are told that they will all “**come to you.**” And I will expound on that a little more as we read on.

## **GENESIS 7**

### **VERSE 1**

Notice the Lord did not say, “*NOAH, get into that ark!*”

No, God invited Noah to come in and Noah had a free will, he didn’t have to go, but he and his family did obey, they walked by faith and not by sight.

We see another invitation in Isaiah 1:18, “**‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’**”

In other words, think about your sin, that you can’t cleanse yourself, but the Lord can, thus, come to Him!

Also, in Matthew 11:28 we are told, “**‘Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’**”

God invites us to come in, to enter into that relationship with Him, but He doesn’t force us to come. But as we do, we can find rest from all our labors of trying to work our way in when Jesus has finished the work of our salvation for us.

And lastly, in Revelation 22:17 we are told, “**‘And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.’**”

There is always an invitation, He does not force us to come!

Now let me ask you this. Why was Noah righteous before God?

I believe it was based on his faith in God that was then manifested in his actions, in his obedience to God.

It is as Paul said in Hebrews 11:6, **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”**

#### VERSES 2-9

Here is something that is often missed when the story of Noah is taught. Did you know that Noah entered the ark seven days before the first rain drop fell and probably before the first cloud appeared! That is walking by faith, trusting in the Lord and not by sight, looking at things from a purely human perspective.

Some don't see it this way, but I believe Noah and his family and all the creatures that were to come waited those seven days and then the door was closed, and the judgment came!

And can you imagine as Noah and his family, with all these animals, sat in the ark. One day passed by and the mocking grew. Then two days, three days and no rain! Four, five, six, days and I am sure the mocking grew even more.

***“Hey Noah, how long are you going to wait in there? When is this rain you spoke of coming? I think you have lost it Noah! You need help!”***

Can you imagine Noah's sons after a few days of being in the ark, just sitting there, maybe hearing the people outside mocking them? ***“Hey dad, are you sure about this? Maybe you were in the sun too long!”***

It truly was a test of faith on Noah's part.

But on that seventh day, as the door was shut, the rain came and man had missed the boat you might say and would die in this judgment, except for Noah and his family!

People may mock us, but don't let that stop you from sharing because judgment is coming!

Also, as I have said, Noah didn't have to go out looking for these animals, but God brought them to Noah, and they freely entered the ark.

Two by two they came, seven of the clean animals and two of the unclean animals, plus the birds and they all entered the ark to be saved and to propagate their species.

#### VERSES 10-12

Now, where did all that water come from for it to rain 40 days and 40 nights and cover the face of the earth?

You see, if all the water in our present atmosphere were suddenly to precipitate out, it would only cover the ground to an average depth of less than 2 inches.

So what happened, where did the water come from?

Some feel that this rain came from the water vapor canopy that encircled the earth. But research that has been done to prove this water canopy shows that a canopy like this would not work, it would block out the sun, there are too many problems with it.

Now we have talked about this in our earlier studies of Genesis that this canopy could have been metallic in nature, we are not sure.

Remember what we read. Brian Young put it like this,

Water is H<sub>2</sub>O, meaning two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. When pure H<sub>2</sub>O is compressed in experiments today, under extremely cold conditions the oxygen appears bluish, but the two parts of hydrogen are crystallized.

At first the crystals appear transparent (can see through) and later they become opaque (can't see through).

Since *raqiya* [firmament] means to flatten or compress together and spread out, the water (H<sub>2</sub>O) may have reacted in a similar way as seen in the above experiment, creating a firmament with hydrogen crystals (Baugh, Symphony).

Taking this a step further, microscopic examination of this crystalline, metallic hydrogen shows that a vast majority is transparent, allowing light to shine through.

However, also present in smaller amounts are areas of opaque metallic hydrogen that are superconductive (*Popular Science*, 1989).

This is important for two reasons. First, light would shine through only those "veins" in the firmament which were transparent (Mao, p. 1463). But most importantly, the opaque, superconductive material would serve as a means to hold the firmament in place.

- Brian Young

But, in saying that, where did all this water come from? I don't know if it was this water or there was enough of this H<sub>2</sub>O to produce all that rain for forty days and forty nights. Is there something else that could have added to this and enabled it to rain for that long? I think so.

Keep in mind that the rain from above was not the only source of water to bring about this flood.

The Bible also tells us that **“the fountains of the great deep were broken up.”** These waters speak of the subterranean pools, or **“fountains”** of fresh water, which were broken open by volcanic and seismic (earthquake) activity. These fountains would have supplied the rivers in the Garden of Eden, as well as the pre-flood earth.

And as these were broken up it also filled the skies with huge amounts of water vapor that would then come down as rain.

And it is interesting to me that the phrase, **“broken up”** that is used here is speaking of **“cleaving open.”**

This implies to me great volcanic explosions and eruptions were occurring. Tremendous earthquakes occurred.

The question we must ask ourselves is this. **“Do we see evidence to support this kind of cataclysmic activity in the fossil record, in the rock layers?”**

And the answer is, **“Yes, we do!”**



Listen to what Dr. Steven Austin says regarding Yellowstone National Park. He wrote, “Ask a geologist, ‘What is Yellowstone National Park?’ And you are likely to get the answer, ‘Yellowstone is a gigantic, collapsed volcano.’ . . . The size and scale of the collapsed volcano are so huge that they prevented the earlier generation of geologists from properly appreciating the ancient explosions which formed Yellowstone’s landscape. Aided by satellite photos and detailed geologic maps, a new generation of geologists has recently outlined an elliptical depression which is now interpreted as a caldera, the collapsed crater structure formed after an extremely explosive volcanic eruption. The colossal structure is 75 by 45 kilometers (47 by 28 miles), comprises one-third of the area of the National Park, and is appropriately called Yellowstone Caldera. About 1,000 cubic kilometers (240 cubic miles) of rhyolite magma [a kind of volcanic rock] were explosively extruded to form the surrounding ash deposits.”

“Yellowstone Caldera is eclipsed by evidence of an even larger volcanic collapse structure at Yellowstone. That larger and older caldera, now largely obscured by later geologic process, extends from Island Park (eastern Idaho) eastward at least to central Yellowstone, more than 100 kilometers (60 miles)! Its explosion products, called the Huckleberry Ridge Tuff . . . formed from the eruption of an astounding 2,500 cubic kilometers (600 cubic miles) of magma.”

“How much energy was involved in the biggest eruptions at Yellowstone? Scaling of the magma volume shows the energy of the biggest Yellowstone eruption was about 3,000 times that of the nine-hour eruption of Mount St. Helen’s on May 18, 1980. The biggest Yellowstone eruption (~ 2 million megatons of TNT equivalent energy) had more than one hundred times the energy of the world’s inventory of nuclear weapons (~ 12,000 megatons TNT equivalent energy) . . . A safe distance to witness an event of such colossal magnitude would be from a higher orbit of the Space Shuttle!”

“. . . Ancient explosive volcanoes have erupted with hundreds of thousands of times the energy power as their modern counter parts . . . The catastrophist might look at the smaller explosive eruptions of modern times as indicative of a long-term decline in the energy and power of volcanoes compared to the more distant past. The catastrophist’s presuppositional framework anticipates more energetic volcanism and tectonics during and immediately following the global event called Noah’s flood. The catastrophist says declining volcanic power with time is what we should see in the geological record.”

And folks, that is exactly what we see!

So the water for this flood came from above in the form of rain for forty days and forty nights, as well as the fountains of the deep exploded forth with its abundance of water to help supply all this rain!

Now, why the number “**forty**”?

Forty is the number that is associated in the Scriptures with testing and purification. Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 24:18, Deuteronomy 9:25). The spies’ time in the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:25). Israel’s time in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33, 32:13). Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness (Mark 1:13).

#### VERSES 13-16

Make no mistake about it, our God is a God of order, and He is in control of the events that are transpiring here. Everything is very orderly, the animals are coming and entering the ark along with Noah and his family, eight people in all!

Not only that but we see that the security for Noah and his family was not based upon Noah locking the door. Not at all.

Then who closed the door for Noah and his family?

God shut the door and within that ark was salvation for Noah and his family!

But outside the ark was death and destruction, the judgment of God!

Folks, in this I see the security we have in Christ. He is the door, He closes the door and thus, it is the Lord who saves us, and it is the Lord who keeps us secure in our salvation – not one will be lost!

That is what Peter tells us in I Peter 1:5 regarding the security of our salvation. He wrote, **“who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

If my security is based on the power of God to hold it, then I am secure. If it is based upon what I do or have done, I am not secure. We are kept by the power of God!

Also, when the door of salvation closes, it is over. Yes, God is patient, He is longsuffering, but the Day of Judgment is coming and if you are not in Christ, you will face His wrath!

I think we can clearly see that the ark was salvation for Noah, but condemnation for the world. There were no second chances for those left out.

Spurgeon put it like this, “Yea, when the one hundred and twenty years were over, and God’s Spirit would no longer strive with men, there stood the great ark with its vast door wide open, and still Noah continued to preach and to declare that all who would pass within that open portal into the ark of safety should be preserved from the coming destruction. Outside that door death would reign universally, but all would be peace within”

Our peace, our safety, our comfort is only found in Jesus!

VERSES 17-23

Now, when you read this, does it sound like a local flood?

Of course not but there are many Christians who believe this.

For instance, Dr. Hugh Ross defends his stance on a local flood theory as he tells us,

But here are some reasons why, physical reasons why, the flood cannot be global.

Number one is the limited extent of sin. Given that human beings had not yet civilized and inhabited Antarctica, there'd be no need for God to flood Antarctica because there'd be no sin there in Antarctica.

There'd be no need for God to kill off all the penguins because those penguins had no contact with reprobate humanity. And in that case, I don't think Noah took any penguins on board the ark . . . Only bird and mammal species, according to the Levitical Law, can be impacted by sin.

- Toccoa Falls College, Staley Lecture Series, March 1997

Here is the problem with what Dr. Hugh Ross has to say. What he has to say contradicts what the Bible says. In Romans 8:18-23 Paul speaks of all of creation being affected by sin, even the penguins!

Sin infected all of mankind and God was going to judge them for their sin, except for Noah and his family. And just in case you didn't realize this, penguins live in other parts of the world, including the Galapagos Islands near the Equator, so thank God Noah brought them on board or they would have disappeared in the flood!

Not only that, but before the flood there was just one land mass called by scientists today, Pangea, and we see the evidence for that. So animals could have come from all over the world to Noah and many may have started to come when Noah began to build the ark, some one-hundred and twenty years before the floods came!

I want you to listen to what Psalm 104:5-9 tells us regarding the flood, **“You bound the world together so that it would never fall apart. You clothed the earth with floods of waters covering up the mountains. You spoke, and at the sound of your shout the water collected into its vast ocean beds, and mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed. And then you set a boundary for the seas so that they would never again cover the earth.”** (The Living Bible)

Keep in mind that the purpose of the Flood was to destroy all flesh from the earth because it had all been corrupted. (Genesis 6:12)

That means it had to be world-wide, a global flood and not a local flood. A local flood makes no sense. Why? Because we will see that God will place a rainbow in the sky showing us that He would not destroy the world by a flood again. If it was a local flood, we have seen many local floods and thus, God broke His promise to us. No, He didn't because He is speaking of a global flood as we read here in Genesis!

Also, as you understand that it should be clear that the way this is written in Psalm 104 and here in Genesis, it goes far beyond a local flood. And I will show you the evidence in a few minutes.

The Scriptures also tell us that the floodwaters covered the highest mountain by 15 cubits or about 22 feet.

Now we must remember that the landmass of today was probably a lot different from the time of Noah. There were probably not vast mountain ranges that we see today but these mountain ranges are a result of the flood and the displacement of the water. We read that in Psalm 104, **“You spoke, and at the sound of your shout the water collected into its vast ocean beds, and mountains rose and valleys sank to the levels you decreed.”**

And the point I want to make here is that the water levels would not need to be 17,000 feet high to cover the mountains of Ararat because they probably were not that high until after the flood, when the waters began to recede, and then the mountains rose.

Now these 22 feet we see spoken of in Genesis 7:20, (15 cubits), is probably speaking of the draught or draft of the ark.

In other words, it speaks of how much the ark sank into the water when it was fully loaded. Thus, the depth of the water had to be at least 22 feet so that the ark could freely float without being damaged by the rocks and the mountains it might run into if the water level was less.

But again, the mountains were not that high.

Now, if there really was a flood, a global one, and not just a local flood like we see today, then there should be evidence that has been left behind to show us it happened.

And as you look all over this earth you will find, as I have said, billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water, all over the earth. In other words, a flood occurred on global proportions!

When you look at the earth's surface and sedimentary crust, it bears witness to a previous worldwide flood and not to these layers being laid down slowly, over millions or billions of years.

Let me give you several examples to help support this idea.

- When you look at all the mountains of the world, they must have been under water at some time in the past, for they contain sedimentary rocks and marine fossils near their summits.
  
- Most of the earth's crust consists of sedimentary rocks, in which almost all were formed under water, usually by deposition by water from various sources. (Some have apparently been formed by wind, glaciers, or other agents, but by far the largest part of sedimentary rocks are aqueous in origin)
  
- There seems to be a global continuity of sedimentary formations that formed very rapidly as a product of continuous, rapid deposition of sediments.
  
- When you look at the fossil record, instead of representing the evolution of life over many ages, the fossils really speak of the destruction of life. Understand that fossils are nothing more than dead things, catastrophically buried for preservation before they could be eaten by other animal's, decay and-so-on.
  
- Throughout the world there are traditions of the Great Flood account in hundreds of tribes, all which are very similar in one way or another to the Genesis account. Thus, we see strong evidence that those tribes all originated from one family, preserved through this cataclysmic event, and after the flood dispersed throughout the world, passing on the account of the flood to future generations.

And we can look back and see these hundreds of people groups that have their own accounts and legends of the flood.

One of the most remarkable is the Babylonian account, which is similar to the Genesis account in many ways and is clearly drawn from it.

Since all mankind came from Noah's sons, all mankind remembers the flood.

And Boice specifically cites the legends of the Samo-Kubo tribe of New Guinea, the Athapascan Indians of America, the Papago Indians of Arizona, Brazilian tribes, Peruvian Indians, African Hottentots, natives of Greenland, native Hawaiian islanders, Hindus, Chinese, Egyptians, Greeks, Persians, Australian natives, the Welsh, Celts, Druids, Siberians, and Lithuanians that all have a history that speaks of a flood.

And let me show you how this plays out. Of the more than 200 cultures that have their own account of the flood the following aspects of the story are common.

- 88% describe a favored family.
- 70% attribute survival to a boat.
- 95% say the sole cause of the catastrophe is a flood.
- 66% say that the disaster is due to man's wickedness.
- 67% record that animals are also saved.
- 57% describe that the survivors end up on a mountain.
- Many of the accounts also specifically mention birds being sent out, a rainbow, and eight persons being saved.

That is no coincidence, that is a record of their history, and it shows that there was a global flood.

And I realize that there are many who try to refute the global flood stating that there is really no evidence for it. Well, we have covered some points, but let me give you a few more.

- Bones of whales have been found 440 feet above sea level north of Lake Ontario.
- Other whole skeletons have been found in Vermont 500 feet above sea level; and another in Montreal/Quebec about 600 feet above sea level.



- Scientists have found marine life fossils at every level of the Himalayan Mountains some 19 to 20 thousand feet high proving that at one time these mountains were at sea level and covered with water before they were thrust up.
- Marine life fossils have also been found in the Salt Lake area and in deserts and inland areas all over the world, which has caused experts to conclude that at one time these areas were under water.

I think you can clearly see that the geological evidence is overwhelming for a universal worldwide flood.

And think about it. If there was no global flood, why did Noah need to build the ark, it would be unnecessary! He could have just moved to another location and why gather all the animals, that would not make sense!

If there was only a local flood then the Bible is wrong and if we can't trust the Bible here, then we can't trust it anywhere!

But there was a global flood; the evidence for it is everywhere!

Spurgeon put it like this, "If Moses had meant to describe a partial deluge upon only a small part of the earth, he used very misleading language; but if he meant to teach that the deluge was universal, he used the very word which we might have expected that he would use."

Again, when the Scriptures are so clear about this global flood, why do we have such a hard time understanding it or believing it?

I think many times we are swayed by the world instead of listening to God!

I find it very sad and very tragic that Christians will believe unbelievers and negate what God has said.

And granted, we were not there to see creation, we were not there to see the flood!

Then why should we believe it?

Because of the evidence that is before us as we have seen.

VERSE 24

How did all these animals live on the ark for the 378 days?

Possibly God gave them the ability to hibernate, which meant they would need less food to eat.

That is a very strong possibility. We are not told, and God can make it rain for forty days and forty nights and He can provide a way for the animals to survive that long period of time in the ark!

We are also told that the waters remained steady for 110 days after it rained for those forty days and forty nights and the fountains of the deep were broken up. This all went on for 150 days!

I don't know about you, but if it is cloudy and rainy for a week, I have had it. Can you imagine being in the ark for 378 days!

The only windows were up above them and yet, by faith they endured until the flood waters receded and they were able to come out of the ark into a new life!

Think about us as Christians. We were in a dark world; we were part of the kingdom of darkness. But when we came to Christ, He brought us into the Kingdom of light!

That is what Paul said in Colossians 1:13-14, "**He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**"

Paul thanked God for rescuing us from Satan's grip upon our lives and taking us into His Kingdom, which only God can do. You see, man cannot accomplish this by his own efforts!

And this word "**delivered**" speaks of being "*rescued from danger.*" That is perfect and that is what God has done.

And then he speaks that he has “**translated us**” or the idea here is the deportation of a population from one country to another!

He has taken us out of the power of darkness and has moved us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love!

How did He do this?

He tells us that God has redeemed us and the Greek word that Paul uses here, APOLUTROSIS, speaks of a man going into the agora to purchase a slave for the purpose of setting him free totally and completely never to be a slave again!

Think about that! He has purchased us out of slavery never to be a slave to Satan, sin, the world ever again. Praise God for that!

Thus, may we be thankful to God for all He has done!

And yes, judgment is coming upon a Christ rejecting world, but the Lord is coming back to take home His Bride, the church, you and me before that judgment is poured out. Just as Enoch was removed before the flood came, we too will be removed.

And remember the name Methuselah, it means, “**dying he shall send**” and in the year that Methuselah died, the flood came.

I do understand that this story of Noah, the ark he built, the flood that came is a difficult story for many unbelievers to accept. It just can't be true, in their minds!

But don't let man sway you away from the truths of God found in the Word of God. The evidence is overwhelming that there was a flood, a global flood and it shows us that we can trust God's Word.

And let me say this. Don't believe God's Word because of the evidence, believe it by faith. Yes, the evidence is amazing, and it shows us that the Bible is the Word of God, but when there are those who come up with things that seem to contradict the Bible, hold on because it won't stand, and the Bible will.

If you don't trust what the Bible has to say, when these things are brought up, you can be easily swayed to discount the Bible and believe what the unsaved and sometimes even those who know the Lord are saying. Be careful, God's Word is truth, all of it!

We saw that with evolution, how many Christians were and have been swayed into believing that lie.

We saw it with the nation of Israel how many rejected the fact that God was going to restore the Jewish people and bring them into the land of Israel. And even after it happened, there are many who still refuse to believe!

Don't fall prey to those lies. Make no mistake about it, we can trust God's Word. It will never let us down or lead us astray!

**LIFE SIZE ARK!**



# HOW LARGE WAS THE ARK?

God told Noah to make his Ark 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits tall. However, we cannot be certain which cubit Noah used.

## WHICH CUBIT DID WE USE?

The Ark Encounter decided to use a royal cubit since major construction projects in the ancient world were often based on them. Beginning with one of the shortest common cubits of 17.5 inches, we added a handbreadth of 2.9 inches, yielding a royal cubit length of 20.4 inches. Most of the royal cubits in ancient times measured between 20.4–21.6 inches, placing our cubit on the short end of the spectrum.

## ADDING UP

Based on a 20.4-inch cubit, our Ark measures 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet tall. The Ark's volume is approximately 1.88 million cubic feet, large enough to contain nearly 450 semi-truck trailers.





