



# NOAH'S ARK

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IS THE RECORD VALID?

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*reasonsforhope*

# Noah's Ark: Is The Record Valid?

The topic of Noah's Ark is one that has been debated for over a century. With the source of modern awareness being linked to the ancient, sacred record of Scripture, which also includes a detailed account of earth and human history, skeptics have felt compelled to go on the offensive. While it is clear from the tone of the scientific media that the topic is one of grave concern to their cloistered brotherhood, the content of their ridicule-laced rebuttals reveals a tremendous informational deficit and an obvious unwillingness to probe sincerely.

## The purpose of this booklet:

To represent that the biblical account of Noah's Ark is completely within the framework of sound reason, removing obstacles of distortion from the path of the devout seeker and offering rational, hope-laden answers for the faithful.

(1 Peter 3:15)

# The Labor

One of the intellectual hurdles and points of contention surrounding the topic of the biblical Ark is the physical and technological output that would be necessary for such a task. This classic mindset is rooted in evolutionary bias assuming that mankind has risen to the present pinnacle of modernity over eons of transformative improvement taxonomically, intellectually, linguistically, culturally, and socially from the rudest of primate beginnings.

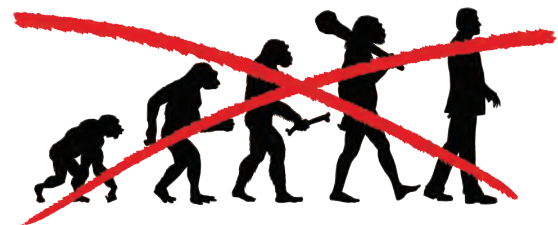
In utter contrast, the biblical representation of human history, as detailed in the exploits of Cain's descendants (Genesis 4:17-22), portrays early man as intelligent, resourceful, inventive, and administrative.

Rene Noorbergen expounds on the status of the world's earliest civilizations in the context of the Genesis model in his book *Secrets of the Lost Races, New Discoveries of Advanced Technology in Ancient Civilizations*.

“The Genesis account of these elements of civilization may not seem impressive, but we must remember that these discoveries are the first causations from which all subsequent technological development originated...We should not expect the book of Genesis to delve into the technological aspects of the maturing civilization (*Remember that every fact, feature, and philosophy of Scripture is only concerned with **reclamation relevance***). Caught up as we are in the age of development, we often fail to realize that development is a lesser achievement than causation. Development is the maturation of causation, but causation is a distinct departure from one mode of existence to another – a completely unprecedented transformation. For example, the step forward which Tubalcain took from nonmetal to metal production must be considered a far greater accomplishment than any later developments in metallurgy. The first men to walk the face of the earth... advanced from no culture to culture by their own efforts, with no precedence whatsoever. They were the originators, the discoverers and inventors, not only of their own civilization but – through the survivors of the Flood – of all the civilizations that followed them in the post-Deluge era.”

In contrast to evolution's insulting paradigm, a more credible summary of human development goes something like this.

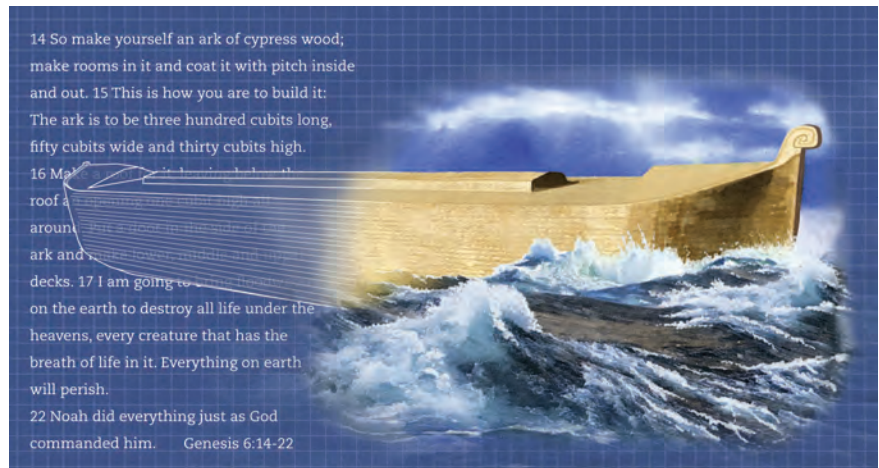
Some time following man's broken fellowship with the Creator and the subsequent Curse-sentence, Adam's son, Cain (first-born after the Curse), illustrated the moral depths to which man's new, corrupt nature could take him. Casting off his brother's appeal to turn obediently to God's pleasure, Cain murdered Abel. His punishment was that the earth would no longer cooperate with his agricul-



tural efforts and that he would be forced to wander and forage for his sustenance. Having been given assurance from God that he would be protected from kindred retaliation, Cain sought out a settlement of sufficient distance from the homestead and other sibling colonies. Starting fresh in a land east of Eden, known as Nod, Cain began building Enoch, a city named after one of his sons.

By the seventh generation, Cain's family had become successful in exploiting the benefits of various metals intimating an understanding of raw material extraction, chemistry, processing, and invention.

A ninth generation descendant of Seth, Noah, was instructed by God to build a mega-ship for the purpose of preserving a remnant of life's creature balance through a global, catastrophic Flood.



Rather than millions of years of “infinitely slow” development from “extremely crude to very crude” tools (as proposed by Jared Diamond, *The Third Chimpanzee*), biblical history delineates a **comparative moment** in which humanity had matured from causation to cultural and technological mastery.

Whether Noah's sons chose only to journal a general, abbreviated description of the instructional blueprint, or Moses pared it in editing (see *Scripturocity* article series “Who Wrote Genesis”), or Noah readied himself by researching the construction of sea-worthy vessels so as to need little more (as intimated in John K. Reed's fascinating novel, *The Coming Wrath*) the preserved details of the ark construct are very minimal (Genesis 6:14-16).

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## NOAH WAS INSTRUCTED BY GOD TO BUILD A MEGA-SHIP

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The account only mentions that the material from which the Ark needed to be built was “gopher wood.” There is no way to confirm what this specific wood was or whether it even has a post-diluvian counterpart. The Institute of Nautical Archeology reveals that “Bronze Age (2000 – 1400 BC)”

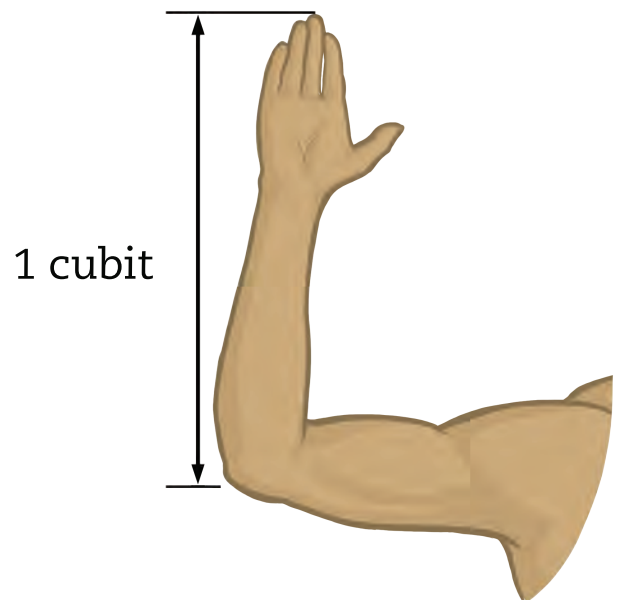
references often mention cedar as the timber most preferred for building ships.” It details that “cedar is a shipbuilding material far different than fir in its mechanical and physical characteristics, including suitability to extended submersion in saltwater.” Whatever it was, we can be sure that “gopher wood” was the most suited of the timber resources accessible to the builders of the Ark.

The Hebrew word translated “rooms” is *kēhn* and is interestingly translated “nests” in every other passage (12 times). This lends to the model of adolescent seafarers rather than the physically mature.

The verb “pitch” comes from the Hebrew word *kāh-phār* and is translated “make an atonement” in 74 other passages. The noun “pitch” (*kōh’-pher*) is rendered “ransom” or “satisfaction” in 10 other passages. The idea here is that “pitch” was a covering. Professor of hydrology and biblical apologist, Henry Morris suggests that it was likely a biogenic, resinous substance of some kind. Geologist John D. Matthews presents a research model (*The Origin of Oil – A Creationist Answer*) of “theobaric” hydrocarbons that existed previous to the Flood thereby availing the builders a “pitch” source similar to the tar pits of California. Perhaps the outer pitch was for shedding off the adverse exterior elements and the inner pitch was placed to mask the inevitable odors associated with such a number of creatures in close quarters.

The dimensions that are given (6:15) are based on a unit of measure that is somewhat imprecise.

Historically, the “cubit” referred to the distance from the elbow to the fingertips. It would make sense for rising cultures to standardize measurements for the sake of clarity and production. Some groups even assigned a long cubit and a short cubit. Bodie Hodge gave a couple of examples in a recent Answers magazine article entitled “How Long Was the Original Cubit?” He mentions that there were two Hebrew cubit lengths (17.5” and 20.4”) as well as two Egyptian cubit lengths (17.6” and 20.6”). The record of the Temple construction found in 2 Chronicles 3:3 details that Solomon chose to use “the length by cubits after the first measure” intimating that the standard had changed over time. He reasons that the best estimate for Noah’s cubit would be the measurement used by large-scale construction projects of the most ancient civilizations since they would be the closest chronologically to the only cubit that survived the Flood. This would be somewhere at or between



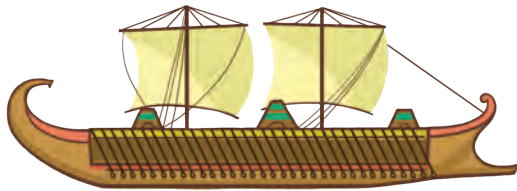
the Babylonian measure of 19.8” and the Egyptian long unit of 20.6”. With this in mind, consider the dimensions of the ark:

Length: 300 cubits (495’ – 515’)

Breadth: 50 cubits (82’ – 86’)

Height: 30 cubits (49’ – 51’)

When these dimensions are coupled with the material mandate of gopher wood, those with a predisposition to object amusingly scorn the prospect. What protestors may not be aware of is that ancient Greek craftsmen built a 425 foot wooden ship (Tessarakonteres) in the 3rd century BC that is recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest human-powered vessel in history. She was a true marvel of architecture and construction accommodating 400 sailors, 2,850 men-at-arms, and 4,000 rowers. This colossal craft and the biblical Ark would have only been possible using the ancient maritime method of ship building that overlapped the outer planking using a



Tessarakonteres



Noah's Ark

“mortise and tenon” construction technique. Up until just recently, the earliest dated discovery using this method was from the 14th century BC – the Uluburun wreckage off the coast of Turkey (*British Museum Encyclopedia of Underwater and Maritime Archaeology*). Now, following a discovery off a receded Egyptian shore of the Red Sea, the date of this technical practice must be moved back several hundred years to the 19th century BC. In a June 2011 Discover magazine article entitled “Egypt's Lost Fleet,” Andrew Curry begins, “Recently, a series of remarkable discoveries on a desolate stretch of the Red Sea coast has settled the debate (*concerning the location of a mysterious land known as Punt*), proving once and for all that the masterful building skills of the ancient Egyptians applied to oceangoing ships as well as to pyramids.” Maritime archeologist, Cheryl Ward commissioned with the reconstruction offered, “One of the features of Egyptian architecture is overbuilding. You can see similar safety features in the construction of these ships.”

The article continues with the following remarkable description of the find. “Ward has determined that unlike modern vessels, which are built around a strong internal frame, the Egyptian ship was

essentially one giant hull. The curious construction meant that the craft required much larger timbers for strength. The wood also was cut thicker, with enough extra width to compensate for damage by shipworms. Some of the ship parts preserved...are more than a foot thick. The Egyptian ships were also unique in that they were held together with mortise-and-tenon joints, tab-and-slot fittings that needed no metal fasteners and could be taken apart and put back together again. For added strength, the individual timbers were carved with curves that nested into adjacent parts, a little like puzzle pieces.”

The chronological assignment of this discovery places the construction approximately 500 years following the biblical Flood offering logically that the practical template would have easily been imported from the pre-Flood era through the survivors. Perhaps the “overbuilding” claim was not a technical phenomenon unique to the Egyptians, but rather a construction practice handed down through the generations as the prototypical model from the Ark of Noah.

Concerning the ark dimensions, the April-June 2007 *Answers* published the following:

“Noah’s Ark was the focus of a major 1993 scientific study headed by Dr. Seon Hong (B.S. degree in naval architecture from Seoul National University and a Ph.D. in applied mechanics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) at the world-class ship research center KRISCO, based in Daejeon, South Korea. Dr. Hong’s team compared twelve hulls of different proportions to discover which design was most practical. No hull shape was found to significantly outperform the 4,300-year-old biblical design. In fact the Ark’s careful balance is easily lost if the proportions are modified, rendering the vessel either unstable, prone to fracture, or dangerously uncomfortable.

The research team found that the proportions of Noah’s Ark carefully balanced the conflicting demands of stability (resistance to capsizing), comfort (‘seakeeping’), and strength. In fact, the Ark has the same proportions as a modern cargo ship.

The study also confirmed that the Ark could handle waves as high as 100 feet.”

(It is worthy of noting that Dr. Seon Hong is not a biblical creationist.)

The word “window” (6:16) speaks more to function or purpose rather than construct. The Hebrew word is *tzōh’-har* and is rendered “window” only this one time. The other 23 times that *tzōh’-har* is translated its English expression is “noon,” “noonday,” and “midday.” Somehow the construct of this window (though not clarified) permitted the daylight to enter and brightly illuminate the corridors of the great ship (perhaps using reflective, polished metals). Most ark enthusiasts depict this window as a sky-light running nearly the entire length of the roof with smaller side opening ventilation and lighting ports covered on top with larger upward opening hinged lids. This lends to the concept of a window that permitted light and ventilation during rough weather as well as access to the top deck when the skies cleared.

We also see that the ark had a single entrance door positioned on the side with three levels sectioning the 50' of interior height capacity.

Henry Morris calculates the volumetric capacity of the Ark at approximately 1,400,000 cubic feet which equals the functional space of 522 standard livestock railroad cars. According to John Woodmorappe, author of *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*, this is more than adequate capacity for each paired "kind" of land animal, food storage, waste management, and human living quarters.

"Thus did Noah (6:22)." Stop for a second and consider these three words in light of the sheer magnitude of the commission. God told Noah to build a colossal sea-worthy vessel using nothing more than the natural resources available to him in his region of the antediluvian world. We don't know where he lived in relation to any bodies of water or how progressed the technology of shipbuilding or maritime navigation may have been in his locale, but it can be assumed that the surroundings were somewhat inland due to the type of faith worthy of his Hebrews 11 listing. God told him that the Ark would have to be constructed with the express accommodation of two of every "sort" of land creature in mind. God also instructed Noah that he would need to manage an agricultural endeavor of production and food storage enough for the duration (v.21) – "...so did he."



# The Loading

“And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee...(Genesis 6:19).”

The content of this verse is central to answering the critics of the literal interpretation of the Flood account as represented in Genesis. The skeptics will say that it would have been impossible to build a wooden, sea-worthy vessel large enough to accommodate 2 of every species of land animal.

In the 2007 Volume 13, Number 2 issue of *Skeptic* magazine, writer Stephen T. Asma was assigned a critique of the Creation Museum in an article he entitled “Solomon’s House.”

“The popular college textbook Biology sums up the numbers by saying that, ‘To date, scientists have described and formally named about 1.5 million species of organisms. We can only estimate how many more currently exist. Some biologists believe that the number is about 10 million, but others estimate it to be between 30 million and 80 million.’ Even if we take the most conservative numbers of species, when we add the staggering numbers of now extinct species (like dinosaurs), we have an insane number of animals to fit into a boat less than two football fields long.”

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Genesis 6:19

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The problem is that the critics are assuming that the only way to preserve all of the species of record is that each one would have to be represented on the Ark. This is neither biologically necessary nor hermeneutically genuine. The Genesis rendering of God’s instruction to Noah required “*two of every sort*” [which is a parallel reference to the “kind” (min – Hebrew pronounced “mean”) in verse 20 as well as in the details of the Creation week].

In Genesis 1 God created plants and trees along with air, sea, and land creatures in varieties distinguished by “kind” and having the capacity or “seed” to perpetuate that “kind.” Because of our modern taxonomic cataloguing, many have equated the most referenced classification of “species” with the biblical “kinds.” It is remarkable that none of the other classifications of organisms modeled by the Father of Modern Taxonomy, Carolus Linneaus (a biblical creationist who lived in the 1700’s), are given consideration among skeptics as a potential parallel to “kinds.” The reason is because when you allow the “kinds” of Genesis to become synonymous with broader categories such as “genus” or “family,” the biblical model becomes dangerously close to being scientifically credible.

The truth is God, in His sovereign foreknowledge, created each “kind” with the genetic capacity for variation sufficient to insure survival in a multiplicity of environments post-Flood. The many species that we see today are testimony to this created genetic diversity.

Kinds



Species within a Kind

In the 1600 years from Creation to the Flood, much variety within “kinds” would be expected as herds and prides and flocks spread out and became segregated across the original landmass. Each “kind” would be represented by many feature variations that would be sufficient to reclassify them today as their own “species.” However, Noah did not have to account for all the variation within “kinds.” He was specifically ordered to account for each “kind” on the Ark.

Both Dr. Todd Wood, Director of the Center for Origins Research at Bryan College, and creationist researcher and author John Woodmorappe (*Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*) are convinced that the biblical classification of “kinds” would require as few as 2,000 animals on the ark [though they are both willing to concede to modeling a higher number (Woodmorappe – 16,000) for the sake of addressing the “crowded ark” argument].

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How was Noah able to “bring” the mandated creature representatives on board the ark? God told Noah that they would come to him (v.20)! God’s instruction continues with description of a phenomenon that would serve to affirm the divine origin of Noah’s task. Up until now Noah had

operated purely by faith in God's word. His actions were likely met only with ridicule, resistance and even wavering introspection as day after day he and his sons (and perhaps hired workers) labored in the construction of the Ark. I wonder if just about the time Noah's faith began to falter, he realized the growing gathering of paired animals now contently pasturing together in the clearings left by his logging operations. I'm sure his mind went back to the promise that "two of every sort shall come unto thee." Imagine what that did for his practical resolve and his preaching fervor.

Henry Morris suggests a biblical perspective and a very interesting possibility relating to this mass relocation and assemblage of land animals in his book *The Genesis Record*.

"...Animals were not ecologically isolated in different latitudes or altitudes as at present, but were more or less uniformly distributed around the world (*remember, before the Flood the dry land of the earth was a single land mass*). No great distances were involved, then, when the time came for representatives of each kind to migrate to the Ark...This was probably the first animal migration in history, as such migrations had never been necessary before, with pleasant climate and abundant food available everywhere.

Within each animal kind, however, had been placed genes which were programmed to impart such migratory instincts to their possessors. In the antediluvian populations, these had no selective value and so were not dominant. Certain individuals still possessed them; however...The animals on the Ark, therefore, were all individuals possessing such genes. Their descendants have inherited them and utilized the powers imparted by them as necessary in the postdiluvian world."

Scientists are still puzzled by the mechanism that triggers the migratory instinct. It could very well be a product of genetic design engaged by God at the time of this first migration and applied as an important survival ritual of many animals today.

The following is a thought provoking depiction of the loading represented by geologist and novelist, John K. Reed in his fascinating first work of a 3 novel series entitled "The Coming Wrath."

"Shem and Madrazi (*fictional name of Shem's wife and main character of the trilogy*) worked their way to the front of the deck, opening doors to their right and left and then back again, closing the entrances behind the animals that had settled down in their cages. It took several trips back and forth to cover the width of the great vessel, but the work was easy and there was no wasted effort. All the animals were content and tame, and none offered any resistance or threat. Her earlier fear of them dissolved and she remembered Methuselah's tales of the great garden and the time when Adam was said to have lived in perfect harmony with all animals. She had not believed it then, but was experiencing it now, and somehow, it seemed much more natural than the hostility, fear, and suspicion that existed outside in the darkness."

# The Lading

The previously referenced *Skeptic* magazine article entitled “Solomon’s House” began with this question: “How many sheep would a dinosaur need to eat per day while living on the Ark?”

This is a popular debate point among those attempting to discredit the biblical record of a global Flood. They scoff at the creationist claim that land dinosaurs were created on Day 6 and preserved through the Flood on the Ark. A clever distraction of the opposition is to create a false scenario for the Biblicist to try to contextualize from Scripture. Those interested in preparing a reasoned defense of “the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15)” must be careful not to fall into the trap of defending a “straw man” generated from a purely “deep time” worldview.

Note the following assumptions and intimations carried through the article’s opening question.

- 1) Due to their size, dinosaurs could not possibly fit on the Ark nor could they be managed.
- 2) Due to their appetites, it would be logistically impossible to care for them.
- 3) Due to their diets, their live meals would take up too much space and require too much energy from the small crew for maintenance.

To the uninformed these may seem like reasonable assumptions, but the problem is they represent a clear ignorance of the Genesis model. If you are going to responsibly contextualize the evidence in Scripture, you are going to have to let the scholar start with Scripture.



First of all, why would it have been necessary for the Ark to accommodate the great behemoths represented in the rock record?

Think about it for a second.

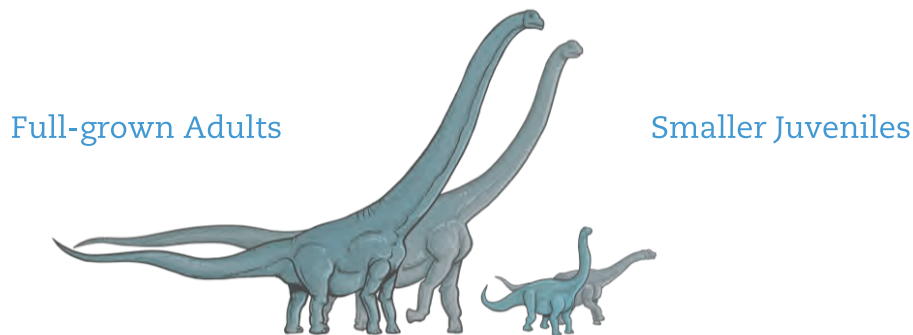
How old was Noah when he was given the instruction to build the Ark? According to the biblical chrono-genealogy (Genesis 5:32) and the details of divine instruction (6:10), Noah was approximately 500 years old when the commission was given (see *Scripturocity* article series “The Longevity of the Ancients”).

Do you think he had enough wisdom and life-experience (not to mention directive from the omniscient Creator) to know that you did not have to bring the big ones? After all, as Kent Hovind likes to say, “The big ones were big, but the little ones were...little.”

**Bringing babies or adolescents would have several benefits. They would...**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1) Sleep more         | 4) Leave less waste                            |
| 2) Eat less           | 5) Have greater reproductive upside            |
| 3) Require less space | 6) Lesser threat to post-Curse, passenger prey |

*This same reasoning would apply to all of the paired "kinds" carried through on the Ark.*



Another point to mention regarding the dinosaurs and the requisite space to accommodate all of them on the Ark is that it would only be necessary to bring two representatives of each "kind" and not all of the variations within each "kind" displayed throughout the museums of the world.

It is also worth noting that, based on the fossil evidence; the average size of a dinosaur was only that of a domesticated sheep. Henry Morris calculates (*The Genesis Record*), "Since it is known that about 240 sheep can be transported in one (*railroad*) stock car, a total of 125,000 sheep could have been carried in the Ark (*per previously referenced capacity estimates*)." Even using this tremendously inflated number Dr. Morris points out "that no more than 60 percent of its capacity would have been used for animals."

I have a feeling that the mercy and grace of God would have compelled Him to give Noah dimensions sufficient to support a large number of additional riders. Otherwise, Noah would not have felt the liberty to continue to preach repentance and salvation throughout the project (1 Pet. 3:19,20; 2 Pet. 2:5).

Now to the issue of diet; in Genesis 6:21, God instructs Noah to take all of the "food that is eaten." Does this mean that Noah had to account for the uniqueness of diets that we see today across the animal kingdom? After all, it does seem that the diets are almost as diverse as the number of species; some needing grasses and mast, others hunting and scavenging for meat, and still others preferring fruits and insects.

The seeming dilemma is easily rectified within the first chapter of Genesis. As God was giving His mandate to Adam to subdue and dominate the earth, He included that the landmass was equipped to provide sustenance for all its inhabitants (“I have given every green herb for meat;” 1:28-30). By design, all land creatures were originally herbivorous.

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### Why do skeptics scoff at such a notion?

Paleontologists envision the landscape of the early Triassic period as “...dry, red...forests without a single flower (Fog City Press, *A Guide to Dinosaurs*; purchased at the Carnegie Museum of Natural Science).”

### Why this assumption?

The most primitive dinosaur fossil ever found is the **Eoraptor**. It is the Triassic ancestor of the Archosaur grouping which included the Crocodilians. Within the same rock sections (or geological eras) were found preserved remains of conifer forests and ferns. Paleontologists conclude that the combination of predatory creatures and arid fauna permineralized in the red, oxidized rock tell tale of an ancient earth, whose earliest evolving land creatures were necessarily carnivorous. “Eoraptor’s serrated teeth indicate that it was a meat-eater (*A Guide to Dinosaurs*) and the grasping hands on the end of the forelimbs suggest that it was capable of handling prey...” The same source goes on to say, “Teeth, claws, and jaws indicate food preference...”

I like the way Ken Ham explains it in his children’s book *Dinosaurs of Eden*; “...just because an animal has sharp teeth doesn’t mean it’s a meat eater. **It just means it has sharp teeth!** If you’ve ever helped cut up vegetables when



Fruit Bat



Panda



Tyrannosaurus Rex

preparing a meal, you’ll know that you need a very sharp knife to cut up such things as carrots and potatoes. Obviously, when God made all the animals, He gave them different sorts of teeth, so they could eat a variety of plants and fruits (*i.e. pandas, koalas, marine iguanas, fruit bats, etc.*)”

In a March 2009 *Acts & Facts* article entitled “Predation Did Not Come from Evolution,” biology professor Dr. Daniel Criswell writes, “It is a common fallacy that carnivores evolved from a change in form and function. No physical evolution was required to change herbivores to predators – it was merely a change in behavior.”

Dr. Criswell points out that “large, sharp teeth are not solely used for killing and ripping flesh from other animals,” but are also used to “shred plant material.” Not only that, large canine teeth are important tools used in communication; such as in relaying “ownership of mates, animal groups, food resources, and territory.”

A most interesting observation of this biologist is the predator’s preferred portion of an herbivore kill.

“The choice portions of a killed herbivore are the internal organs that are rich in vitamins and other nutrients acquired from a vegetarian diet...The lower ranking animals are left with the steaks, roasts, and bones, while the higher ranking animals enjoy the benefits of a more nutritious, ‘vegetarian’ diet found in the gut. The need for predation by these animals clearly results from a change in behavior, not from a change in form and function.”

What an interesting point; predators that kill for food are still after the “vegetable” nutrition, in various stages of digestion, found in their prey. This is likely a remnant allusion to their appointed, Day 6 diet. “And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so (Gen. 1:30).”

So there would have been no need to accommodate both carnivores and herbivores on the Ark menu.

While the Curse may have resulted in a blood-thirsty appetite for many creatures, it does not change the fact that they were originally designed to be sustained by fruit and the green herb. Because the animals were likely adolescents it would be easy to impose a plant diet.

John Woodmorappe in his book *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study* demonstrates, (accounting for the dietary needs of adult animals for the sake of argument) in terms of a 371 day dry matter intake according to the assumed animal body mass of the variant 16,000 passengers, that “the total drymatter intake on the Ark comes out to 1990 tons.” He documents “the fact that merely 3-6 thousand cubic meters of volume, which is 6-12% of the interior Ark volume, sufficed for the 371-day supply of food for the 16,000 animals.”

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# The Landing

The Record says (Genesis 8:4) that the ark finally came to rest in the mountains of Ararat. It wasn't until 3 months later that the tops of the mountains were seen. Post-Flood mountains were formed basically in two ways. One way was by magma venting its way to the surface forming a volcanic mountain of hardened lava and ash. Another is by tectonic collision thrusting mountain ranges upward.

Mount Ararat, as we observe it today, may or may not have existed at the time the ark came to rest since it is a volcano. Explorers have made claims of discovering the Ark, but none have turned out to be legitimate. One reason that the Ark hasn't turned up is that it may be buried under a lava flow. Another reason is that the survivors may have disassembled it over time for use as fuel or material for shelters in their new, barren environment. Still another point to consider is that the range of mountains given the designation "Ararat" may cover a far greater regional expanse than modern explorers have anticipated and/or been afforded access.



In a thought provoking perspective published in the *Journal of Creation* (Vol. 25, 2011), Dr. Russell Humphreys suggests that past Ark expeditions may have been looking in the wrong region of the East. He makes the point that following the parenthetical "Table of Nations" in Genesis, the narrative resumes at the family homestead of the earth's great patriarch. The detail describes an expedition traveling westward ("from the east") with the explorers settling in "a plain in the land of Shinar." Assuming that the homestead was near the "landing" site – to take advantage of the vessel's capacity for brief living quarters, storage, livestock stalls, building materials, and fuel – it seems reasonable to suppose a resting place in the desolate and politically volatile Zagros Mountains covering the Iran/Iraq border just east of the Tigris River in southern Iraq.

Noah showed admirable balance in his life by initiating his commissioned, God-given ingenuity and curiosity, while tempering it with patience as he waited on the Word of God. The great patriarch was obviously technologically suited for the task; from timbering and milling the wood, to harvesting the pitch, to raising crops, to scaffolding and leverage, to animal husbandry. The success in craftsmanship and organization and, now, survival was a ripe setting for the spiritual trap of sufficiency. Noah would have had reason to trust his own judgment, at the seasoned age of 601, when it came to



determining whether the environment on the outside was conducive to the survival of each kind on the inside. From the time he released the raven to the time God gave Noah the order to "Go forth" was 147 days (nearly 5 months). From the time that the third dove was released and didn't come back to the time God spoke was 86 days (almost 3 months).

Imagine the anxiety that would have been building on the inside in that amount of time. But Noah was not inclined to move without God.

He was a man of tremendous intellect and practical acumen and yet he regarded his sufficiency only complimentary in relation to the Word of God.

The day finally came (8:15,16). After a full year and 13 days in the Ark, the seafarers stepped out onto dry land. It had been approximately 1,600 years since the Creator decreed that the earth should be filled. We realize, in these verses, that God was not and is

not deterred from His original purpose. God has desired that the *nephesh* representation of His creative genius cover the earth as a perpetual testament to His glory and that mankind be drawn back into the pre-Curse fellowship for which he was created.



# The Layout

## Why is this important?

Skeptics of the literal and historical interpretation of the Book of Beginnings will say that the Bible is neither a science book nor a history book. With that point I must agree. Science books are revised nearly annually. History is re-written continually. The Bible has been relevant and accurate throughout its millennial earth presence.

The Word of God at the hand of the Psalmist (119) summarizes Its authority this way.

- v. 89 "For ever, O LORD, Thy Word is **settled** in heaven."
- v. 111 "Thy Testimonies have I taken **as an heritage** (a possession of lineal right worthy of preservation) for ever..."
- v. 128 "...I esteem all Thy Precepts concerning all things **to be right...**"
- v. 152 "Concerning Thy Testimonies, I have known that of old **Thou hast founded them** forever."
- v. 160 "Thy Word is **true from the beginning.**"

What do we find at the beginning of this ancient, sacred text? We find there the annals of the world detailing both earth and human history.

Why is the accuracy and authority of this account so critical to mankind? If Genesis is found suspect in the cosmogonical or historical debate, then the attached solution to humanity's deficit in the pages that follow carries no weight, leaving the seeker helpless and hopeless in a random, cruel, meaningless existence. In other words, if Genesis 1:1 cannot be trusted historically, then John 3:16 cannot be trusted soteriologically (concerning the doctrine of salvation). Our hope lies in the accuracy and authority of the **entire** Bible.

Concerning the opening account of Creation and the subsequent details of man's self-inflicted separation from good, the eloquent theologian Matthew Henry wrote, "O that our hearts were deeply affected with this record! For we are all nearly concerned in it: **let it not be to us as a tale that is told.**"

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God has preserved in text the information necessary to answer where we've come from, why we're here, why we struggle, why the innocent suffer, how to prosper, and what happens at life's end. The key is letting the Record speak.

The purpose of Scripture is not to provide for posterity a history of the ancients or to compile the philosophies of devout thinkers or to offer a moral compass for future civilizations. **The purpose of Scripture is to draw mankind back into the fellowship for which he was created.** The theme is redemption. The details are neither comprehensive nor peripheral. Every fact, feature, and philosophy has **reclamation relevance**.

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The Fall of man was not part of God's design. He did not curse His creation in order to redeem it. It was not His long range plan to destroy the world with a global Flood because of man's wickedness. God intended for man to live in harmony with all of creation and in perfect fellowship with Him forever. When this did not happen, **God sovereignly intervened in response to man's choices with the only option that would perfectly satisfy and preserve every nuance of His glory – His identity** (holy yet merciful, longsuffering yet unchanging, etc).

Beginning with the Promise put forth at Serpent's garden sentencing (3:15), the Bible remarkably stays on point; the product of human birth would defeat the Deceiver and defuse the Curse. The Old Testament is the **forecast**; the New Testament is the **fruition**.

Dr. Luke detailed an interesting encounter between the resurrected Christ and a couple of disciples on their way to Emmaus. As Christ spoke with these retrospective travelers, the conversation turned to the Scriptures. "And **beginning at Moses** and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself (Lk. 24:27)."

What was the Lord saying? It's always been about Me.

John 3:16 says, "**For God so loved the world, that He gave...**" What?...a library of references connecting us to the lost world?

No...while it certainly does make that connection, that's not the purpose. It is all about the solution to our ill-fated condition; the Father offering "His only begotten Son" as the redemptive sacrifice for

the restoration of fellowship with mankind “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish (speaking of an eternal sentence of separation from God), but have everlasting life.”

### Why was a sacrifice necessary?

The book of Romans offers some clarity. **“Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (5:12)... Therefore as by the offense of one (Adam) judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one (Jesus Christ) the free gift came upon all men to justification (5:18).”**

### So what is the requisite that initiates this restoration and ensures this timeless life?

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans (10:9) continues with this insight. **“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus...”** (In other words, before one can assert “believer” status he/she must acknowledge and agree with

Jesus' personal claim to God's throne – Jesus is Lord, the rightful heir; God's Son.) **“...and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead...”** (Accept that the physical validation of Christ's authority – the Resurrection – is absolutely historical and accurate.) **“...thou shalt be saved** (restored to Edenic eternity from the lasting consequences of sin's separation).”



If you have never voiced this confession to God's Son, take a moment and bow before His holiness. Confess your sinfulness as well as His Lordship. Acknowledge His authority and resurrection power over the shackles of sin and death. Humbly ask Him to forgive you, save you, and admit you into His Kingdom. Thank Him for your purpose restored and begin the life of fellowship that He intended from the very beginning.