

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ARK – PART 2

THE BUILDING OF THE ARK CONTINUED

Its Purpose

Genesis 6:17-18 ~ Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

- God promised to bring “the flood”...this was no ordinary flood
- It would be a cataclysmic event, a global flood, that would entirely wipe out all that which lived on land outside the ark
- The Bible uses a special word for flood (*mabbul*) which means “to rain heavily, deluge, heavenly ocean, celestial sea...i.e., water which covers and inundates in overwhelming proportions normally dry land”
- This LXX translates this word with the Greek word *kataklysmos*
- The same Hebrew word is used in Psalm 29:10 ~ The LORD sat as King at the flood; Yes, the LORD sits as King forever.
- There are other Hebrew words used in the OT to refer to local floods:
 - Nahum 1:8 ~ But with an overflowing flood (*sheteph*) He will make a complete end of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.
 - Psalm 90:5 ~ You have swept them away like a flood (*zaram*), they fall asleep; In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.
- In v. 18, God told Noah who the human passengers on the ark would be: “you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you”
- The ark would be the means of their deliverance from the cataclysmic flood waters
- God also promised Noah that he would establish a “covenant” with him
- This is the first occurrence of the word “covenant” (*berith*) in Scripture
- This covenant was a promise to Noah that his family would not only be preserved, but that they would be privileged to participate in a covenant relationship with God
- The Noahic covenant is established after the flood:

Genesis 9:9-17 ~ “Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. 11 I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth.” 12 God said, “This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; 13 I set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, 15 and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” 17 And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

- “Also, from this specification, we can deduce how long Noah had to build the Ark, from God’s command to the Flood. Noah’s three sons were already adults and married by the time God gave this command. Genesis also tells us that Noah was 500 when Japheth was born (5:32...). Genesis 7:6 states that Noah was 600 when

the Flood came, which is 100 years after that event. Thus if we allow 30 years for all three of Noah’s sons to become old enough to marry, this would mean Noah had about 70 years to build the Ark in time to survive the Flood.”¹

Its Cargo

Genesis 6:19-20 ~ And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.

- In addition to its human passengers, the ark carried numerous animal passengers
- v. 20 makes it clear that only land vertebrate animals that lived on or flew above the ground were included on the ark: birds...animals...creeping thing of the ground
- Two of each kind of land animal was to be brought onto the ark, a male and a female (but 7 pairs of “clean” animals and 7 pairs of all flying birds were to be included – Gen 7:2-3)

How Did Plants and Insects Survive?

- Small invertebrates (like snails) may have survived on rafts of vegetation...or on driftwood
- Seeds or actual plants may have survived in a similar fashion

How Did Sea Creatures and Fish Survive?

- Noah took no marine life on the ark because they would not necessarily all be destroyed in the Flood
- Of course, turbulent flood waters certainly did wipe out many marine creatures, as evident in the fossil record...perhaps some even went extinct as a result
- But much of the aquatic life and many amphibians could have survived in sufficient numbers outside the ark
- Some object to the idea of a global flood by pointing to the belief that the Flood would wipe out either the freshwater or the saltwater fish, but both survive today
- Some possible reasons they could both survive:²
 1. Fish can survive a range of salinities if they have a chance to acclimatize
 2. Freshwater is less dense than saltwater so it can float on top, creating different gradients
 3. Many fish have both saltwater and freshwater varieties

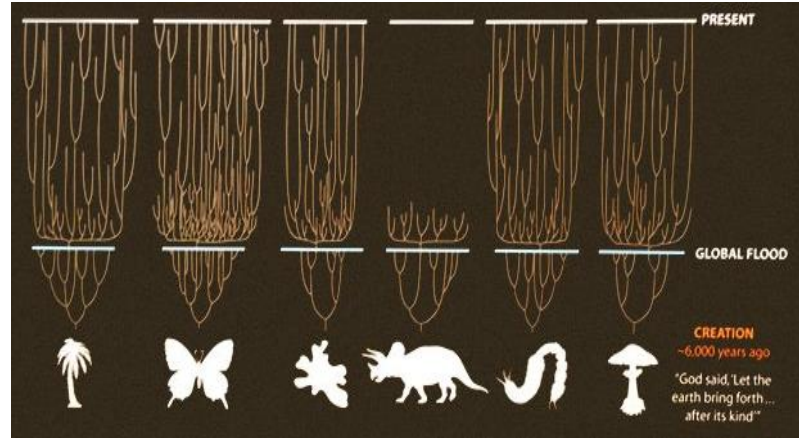
How Did All the Animals Fit on the Ark?

- Many have scoffed at the idea of the ark being big enough to house the over 1 million species of animals
- But of the roughly 1 million species of animals, nearly 800,000 of them live in the sea
- The ark would have likely included far less than the remaining 200,000 species of land and air creatures
- This is because clearly not all species of animals were on the ark, but rather the various “kinds” (used 4 times in v. 20)
- These “kinds” were probably closer to our “family” or “genus” classification
- A “kind” (Hebrew *min*) is a category of related organisms capable of breeding with one another
- A “kind” (*baramin* = “created kind”) is roughly equivalent to the biological term “family” (Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)

¹ Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 513.

² Adapted from Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 515.

- If “kind” is equivalent to “family,” then only 2,000 animals would have been on the ark
- Even if “kind” is equivalent to “genus,” then only about 16,000 animals would have been on the ark according to creation researcher John Woodmorappe in his book *Noah’s Ark: A Feasibility Study*
- He concluded that less than half of the cumulative area of the ark’s three decks would have been occupied by the animals and their enclosures
- The great variety of species seen today would not have been present at the time of Noah and is result of variation within a kind
- “Though we observe multiple species and varieties within kinds, we never observe one kind evolving into a different kind. Instead of an evolutionary tree of life, we observe a creation orchard of God’s created kinds with variation occurring only within those kinds.”³
- This speciation results from the **genetic potential** within each kind being displayed as animals/plants reproduce over time
- This unfolding of **genetic variability** in pre-existing genes shows stunning variation within a kind, but it is NOT the formation of new genetic information of the type required by evolution



A couple with **melanin** control genes **AaBb** (Adam and Eve?) would have “medium” skin tone, and each would make four kinds of reproductive cells, as shown along top and side of this “genetic square”:

		genes in mother’s egg cells			
		AB	Ab	aB	ab
genes in father’s sperm cells	AB	AA	AA	Aa	Aa
	Bb	Bb	BB	Bb	
	Ab	AA	AA	Aa	Aa
	Bb	bb	Bb	bb	
aB	Aa	Aa	aa	aa	
Bb	BB	Bb	BB	Bb	
ab	Aa	Aa	aa	aa	
Bb	Bb	bb	Bb	bb	

Each box in the larger “Punnett square” shows the gene combination possible in a child.

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- Speciation is a direct result of the genes that define each kind AND different versions of these shared genes, called alleles, which result from mutations in pre-existing genes
- Alleles are not different genes, but variations in genes that already exist within that kind’s gene pool
- This is a biblical “adaptation” → “Animals do ‘adapt,’ but that adaptation ability is ‘within’ the reproductive ‘seed’ of that which exists. The ‘kind’ surely does have the information necessary within the gene pool to adapt to environmental conditions. Plant and animal breeds take advantage of this phenomenon all the time – but they use the information already available in the plant or animal (the DNA), and then the breeder – an intelligent human – ‘selects’ the characteristics that he desires.”⁵
- Thus, speciation, in which two or more specialized species descended from one generalized ancestral kind, provides evidence for biblical creation rather than evolution which argues for a common ancestor

³ <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-science/baraminology/one-kind/>

⁴ https://answersingenesis.org/natural-selection/speciation/is-speciation-evidence-for-creation-or-evolution/?utm_source=articlesmedia&utm_medium=email&utm_term=20201003&utm_content=6-list-title&mc_cid=7d49938d43&mc_eid=d44976c98d

⁵ Henry Morris, *The Book of Beginnings*, 80.

- Thus, only the parent “kinds” were required to be on the ark (i.e. only 2 dogs or 2 horses)
- So how many animals were on the ark? → “Creationist estimates for the maximum number of animals that would have been necessary to come on board the Ark have ranged from a few thousand to 35,000, but they may be as few as 7,000 if the biblical kind is approximately the same as the modern family classification. Researchers for the Ark Encounter have determined that there would have been approximately 1,400 kinds of animals on the Ark. Taking into account that God brought pairs of the unclean animals, seven pairs of clean animals, and seven pairs of the flying creatures (including birds, bats, and pterosaurs), there would have been about 7,000 individual animals on the Ark.”⁶

Extinct Groups	Kinds (est.)	Per Kind	Total Animals (est.)
Amphibians	54	2	108
Reptiles	219	Flying: 24 x 14 = 336 Flightless: 195 x 2 = 390	726
Non-Mammalian Synapsids	78	2	156
Mammals	332	Clean/Flying: 15 x 14 = 210 Unclean: 317 x 2 = 634	844
Birds	89	Flying: 69 x 14 = 966 Flightless: 20 x 2 = 40	1,006
Living Groups	Kinds (est.)	Per Kind	Total Animals (est.)
Amphibians	194	2	388
Reptiles	101	2	202
Mammals	136	Clean/Flying: 31 x 14 = 434 Unclean: 105 x 2 = 210	644
Birds	195	Flying: 190 x 14 = 2,660 Flightless: 5 x 2 = 10	2,670
Total	1,398		6,744

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- Coupled with the fact that only animal “kinds” were on the ark is the fact that “most vertebrate animals are smaller than sheep (e.g. most of the rodents, shrews, rabbits, birds, and lizards). The median size of all animals on the ark would actually have been that of a small rat...while only about 11% would have been much larger than a sheep”
- Also, the larger animals would have been the juvenile version, rather than the larger adult size because they take up less space, eat less, create less waste, and would be more capable of reproducing after the flood
- Conclusion: Noah would have had no trouble fitting all the animals on the ark

Were There Dinosaurs on the Ark?

- v. 20 indicates that two of every sort of land vertebrate was to be on board which would have included dinosaurs
- According to Genesis 1, all land-dwelling creatures were made on day 6 of creation week

Genesis 1:24-25 ~ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so. 25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

- Dinosaurs, being land-dwelling creatures, would have been on the earth prior the flood

⁶ <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/global/was-there-really-a-noahs-ark-flood/>

⁷ <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>

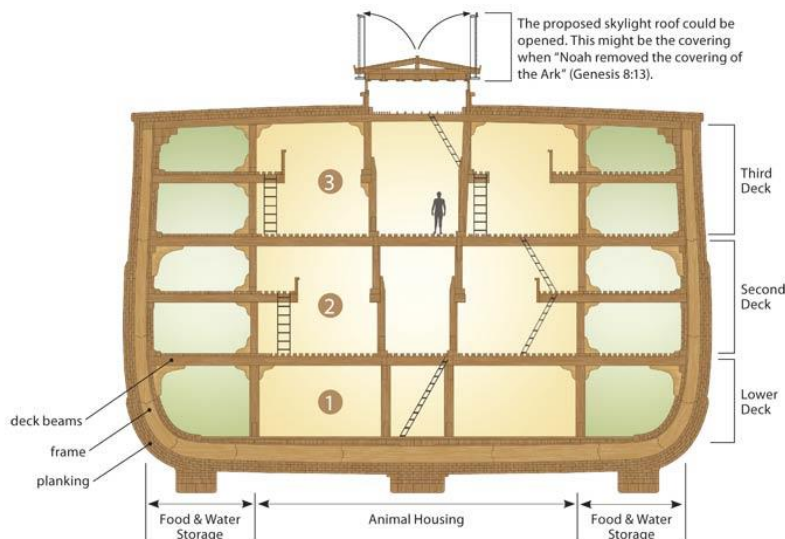
- Nothing indicates that any of the land animal kinds were already extinct before the Flood
- Additionally, the presence of “behemoth” in Job 40 (Job lived after the Flood) only fits with something like a sauropod dinosaur
- Hence, the ancestor of “behemoth” must have been on board the ark

Job 40:15-18 ~ Behold now, Behemoth, which I made as well as you; He eats grass like an ox. 16 Behold now, his strength in his loins And his power in the muscles of his belly. 17 He bends his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are knit together. 18 His bones are tubes of bronze; His limbs are like bars of iron.

- Although there are about 668 names of dinosaurs, there are perhaps only 55 different “kinds” of dinosaurs
- It is not hard to conceive of dinosaurs being on the ark since the average size of a dinosaur is actually the size of a sheep
- Also, God most likely brought Noah two juvenile sauropods rather than two full-grown ones

How Did Noah Care for All the Animals?

- Possibly many of them hibernated (although the fact that Noah was to take food for them partially rules this out)
- Also, the fact that God told Noah to build “rooms” (literally “nests” – v. 14) for the animals implies that they were subdued or resting
- Noah also probably stored food and water near each animal or used bamboo pipes within the ark for water to avoid unnecessary work
- And the use of some sort of self-feeder was probably used for many animals

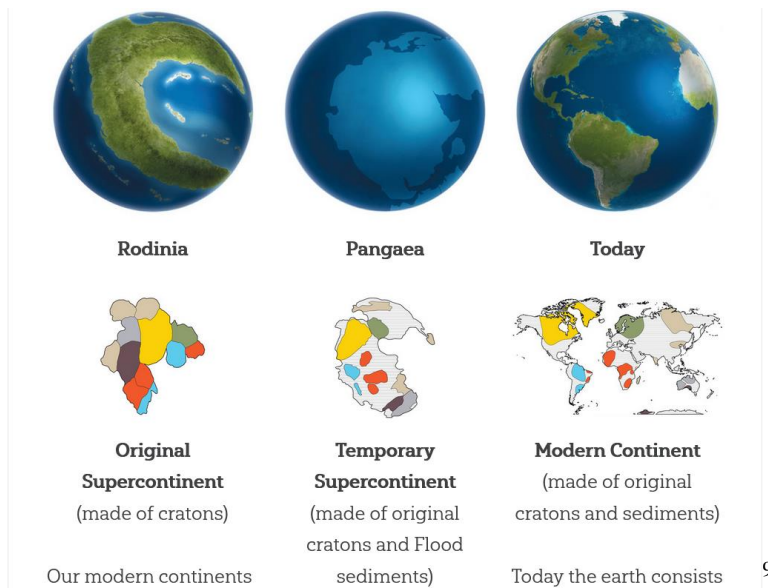


How Could Noah Round Up So Many Animals?

- In v. 20, God told Noah that “two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive”
- Clearly, Noah did not have to go in search of animals to bring them on board
- The animals simply arrived at the ark as a result of God supernaturally guiding them or perhaps by their migratory instincts (or a combination of both)

⁸ <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/caring-for-the-animals-on-the-ark/>

- Also, there was likely only 1 continent prior to the Flood making it easier for animals to travel to where the ark was
- It has been named Rodinia (from the Russian word *rodina*, meaning “The Motherland”)
- The belief that Pangea could not have been the supercontinent that existed prior to the Flood stems from the fact that they are made out of Flood deposits



Its Food

Genesis 6:21 ~ “As for you, take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be for food for you and for them.”

- Noah would have arranged to have hundreds of tons of food on board the ark to feed the thousands of animals
- He would have had to identify the food types that would meet each animal’s basic survival needs
- And this food would have to have had a long shelf life – dried plant leaves, grasses, seeds (these could have been reconstituted with rainwater)
- Shelf stable foods could have been prepared ahead of time – dried fruit, honey, jams, jellies, syrups
- Many tubers and gourds remain fresh for up to a year
- If fresh vegetation was needed, Noah could have cultivated plants that grow well in low-light conditions
- What about carnivorous animals? → perhaps some animals and sea creatures could have been taken on board as food for other animals (fish eggs, live eels, earthworms, snails, packed fish, fodder tortoises, etc.)
- Also, meat can be preserved through drying, pickling, salting, or smoking
- And in some cases, meat-eaters will switch to eating plants when meat is unavailable
- Additionally, many animals could have gone into a state of hibernation or torpor that could have drastically reduced the amount of food needed

⁹ <https://answersingenesis.org/geology/plate-tectonics/noahs-lost-world/>

The Obedience of Noah

Genesis 6:22 ~ Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did.

- Noah's obedience to all of God's commands is notable...here is what it means to walk with God

RELATED ISSUES

Will the Ark Ever Be Found?

Genesis 8:4 ~ In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark rested upon the mountains of Ararat.

- Although Scripture says that the ark landed on "the mountains of Ararat" it is not clear if that means the actual Mt. Ararat in Turkey or other mountain ranges in neighboring countries
- Even if the ark landed on Mt. Ararat itself, it probably was destroyed since that mountain is actually a strato-volcano which has erupted numerous times, spreading lava over the entire region
- Also, the volcano now called Mount Ararat did not grow until well *after* the Flood waters had retreated



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- Ararat Anomaly – A USAF reconnaissance plane took black-and-white images of the NW side of Mt. Ararat in 1949, revealing a large object that resembles a portion of a ship
- Ahora Gorge – George Hagopian, an Armenian, claimed that his father took him on top of the ark as a young boy in 1908
- NAMI site – A Turkish guide, Ahmet Ertugrul, supposedly found compartments from the Ark's interior in 2010 on the S side of Mt. Ararat which he reported to NAMI, a Hong Kong-based ministry (but was likely a fraud)
- Durupinar – see below

- Recent attention has been on the Durupinar formation on Mt. Tendurek (15 miles from Ararat)
- "Biblical archaeologists say they have discovered a boat-like formation matching the biblical description of Noah's Ark as they used a ground-penetrating radar at a rocky spot in eastern Turkey that some speculated to be the location of the original vessel...matching the 'exact length' of the ark given in the Bible"
- Many however claim this site is simply a geological anomaly



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¹⁰ <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/noahs-ark-found/noahs-ark-mount-ararat/>

¹¹ <https://www.christianpost.com/news/3d-scans-match-biblical-requirements-of-of-noahs-ark-in-turkey.html>

- Although the ark may be found someday, in all likelihood it has deteriorated over the last 4500 years, been destroyed, or been used as lumber by Noah and his descendants
- Even if the ark were found, we should not expect there to be mass conversions

Luke 16:27-31 ~ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house— 28 for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ 29 But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ 31 But he said to him, **‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’**

- We already have overwhelming confirmation of the reality of an ark and a global flood including the massive fossil record and numerous flood accounts from cultures around the world