

TRUSTING GOD'S RECORD OF THE FLOOD

A. **There is not** a subject in the Bible that has been ridiculed more often than the Noahic Flood.

1. Noah's ark has born the brunt of more jokes than any other Biblical icon.
2. The events recorded in Genesis 6-9 are held in great derision by many in our modern times.

B. **Before anyone can** accept the Biblical account of the Flood, he must accept that there is One Omnipotent God, because there are six areas where supernatural power was required.

1. The design of the Ark
2. The gathering & care of the animals
3. The uplift of the ocean waters beneath
4. The release of the waters from above
5. The formation of the present ocean basins

6. The formation of the present continents & mountain ranges.

C. **There are 5** NT references to Noah & the Flood.

Matt 24:37-39 – But as the days of **Noah** were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38 For as in the days before the **flood**, they were eating & drinking, marrying & giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 & did not know until the **flood** came & took them all away (destroyed them), so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Luke 17:26-27)

Heb 11:7 – 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 & became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

1 Pet 3:20 – who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of **Noah**, while the **ark** was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through **water**.

2 Pet 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.

[In this lesson, we'll answer the major arguments made against the Divine record of the Flood; arguments made by those who reject God & the accuracy of His Word.]

I. **WAS THE ARK BIG ENOUGH?** {Was it an Adequate Ark or a Deficient Dinghy?}

A. **Noah wasn't required** to take two of every species of creatures (of which there are millions).

Gen 6:19-21 – And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male & female. 20 Of the birds after their *kind*, of animals after their *kind*, & of every creeping thing of the earth after its *kind*, two of every *kind* will come to you to keep them alive.

1. The word “kind” (Hebrew: *min*) represents a broader category than our word *species*.
2. The word “kind” would come closer to the word *family*.
3. The Biological order of living things: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species.
4. Noah didn't have to take all the varieties of bears: black, brown, polar, grizzly, etc.

B. **The actual size** of the Ark was more than adequate to hold the animals God would bring to it.

1. Converting cubits into feet, the Ark was no less than 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, & 45 ft. tall.
2. The three decks contained 95,000 sq. ft., which are more than 20 basketball courts.
3. The carrying capacity was equal to that of 522 two-decked railroad stock cars.
 - a. 35,000 sheep could be placed in 150 such cars (30% of the Ark's capacity).

[The dimensions of the Ark were more than sufficient to house & save 1000's of “kinds” of air-breathing creatures.]

II. **DID THE WINDOW IN THE ARK ALLOW ENOUGH AIR?**

A. **With so many** living creatures huddled together for 190 days, proper ventilation, air sufficiency & quality would be a major concern.

1. The best response to this concern will come through a better understanding of the passages in question.

Gen 6:16 – You shall make a **window** for the ark, & you shall finish it to a cubit from above; & set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

Gen 8:6 – So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the **window** of the ark which he had made.

2. One misconception about Genesis 6:16, is that God wanted 1 window 1 cubit square; but the size of the light apparatus is not specified.

3. The Hebrew words are not the same.

- a. Gen 6:16 – *tsohar* (used once in the OT).

- b. Gen 8:6 – *challown* (standard Hebrew word for “window” in the OT, [Gen 26:8](#); [Josh 2:18](#)).

B. **What’s the answer** to this riddle (conundrum)?

1. Bible scholars have pointed out that *tsohar* is connected to *sahorayim*: noon or midday.

- a. Gesenius in his Hebrew lexicon defined *tsohar* as “light”; he translated Gen 6:16 as “*thou shalt make light for the ark.*”

- b. The ASV translated *tsohar* as “light”, the RSV, NIV, ESV translated it “roof”.

2. Whatever the proper translation, God commanded Noah to make sure there was a light source 1 cubit from the top of the Ark.

- a. Perhaps it was one opening wrapped around the ark, with a roof above.

Gen 6:16 (NIV) – Make a **roof** for it & finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark & make lower, middle & upper decks.

[We can be certain that the light source for the Ark contributed to its ventilation, which was sufficient to meet the needs of every living thing on board.]

III. HOW MANY ANIMALS OF EACH KIND DID NOAH TAKE ABOARD THE ARK?

A. Most people are familiar with God's instructions to Noah in Genesis 6:19.

Gen 6:19 – And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring **two of every sort** into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

B. But fewer people seem to know that God expanded His instructions in Genesis 7:2-3.

Gen 7:2-3 – You shall take with you **seven each of every clean animal**, a male & his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male & his female; 3 also **seven each of birds** of the air, male & female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.

1. Obviously, the distinction between clean & unclean animals was known before God gave Israel the Law (Lev 11; Deut 14; Lev 1:2, 10, 14).

2. Men had been offering clean animal sacrifices to God, by His command, since man's fall.

a. Abel (Gen 4:4; Heb 11:4; Rom 10:17)

b. Abraham (Gen 15:9)

3. So the reason for taking seven each of the clean animals was to make sure there were enough of them to use in sacrifices, & also to preserve the family of animals on the earth.

Gen 8:20 – Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, & took of every clean animal & of every clean bird, & offered burnt offerings on the altar.

C. Was it seven individual clean animals or seven pairs of clean animals (7 or 14 of each kind)?

1. The Hebrew phrase is *shibb'ah shibb'ah*.
2. KJV – “by sevens”
3. ASV – “seven & seven”
4. RSV, NEB, ESV – “seven pairs”

[This is a difficult mystery to solve, but suffice it to say that God placed in the Ark enough animals to preserve each family of clean & unclean animals & birds.]

IV. HOW DID THE ARK REST ON THE MOUNTAINS OF ARARAT?

- A. **The Ark was** certainly a large vessel, but not so large that it came to rest on two mountains.

Gen 8:4 – Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the **mountains** of Ararat.

1. By inspiration of God, Moses used a figure of speech known as a synecdoche.

2. A synecdoche can be used in several ways:

- a. A whole for the part
- b. A part for the whole
- c. Time for time period
- d. Singular for plural
- e. Plural for singular

3. Examples of synecdoche:

Gen 21:7 – She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse **children**? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

Matt 27:44 (Mk 15:32) – Even the **robbers** who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing (**one of the groups or categories of people that reviled Jesus**). **Luke 23:39** – Then **one** of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself & us."

[The mountains of Ararat refer to a range of mountains; the Ark came to rest on one mountain in that range. The whole range is put in place of one of its mountains.]

V. WHERE DID THE FLOOD WATERS COME FROM & WHERE DID THEY GO?

A. **It is assumed** by skeptics that the surface of the earth is NOW as it was THEN in Noah's time.

1. If the flood waters rose to a level of 15 cubits above the highest mountains (**Gen 7:20**), then it is assumed that the water was 23 feet above Mount Everest (29,000 feet).
2. Skeptics want to know, "Where did all THAT water come from & where did it go? There is not enough water on or under the earth to cover the highest mountain."

B. **First**, it was the All-Powerful Word of the Almighty Omnipotent God that caused the waters to come forth & to recede.

Gen 8:1-3 – Then God remembered Noah, & every living thing, & all the animals that were with him in the ark. And **God made a wind to pass over the earth, & the waters subsided.** 2 The fountains of the deep & the windows of heaven were also stopped, & the rain from heaven was restrained. 3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred & fifty days the waters decreased. (Read also **Isaiah 54:7-10**)

1. God caused the water to "subside" (NKJV) or "assuage" (KJV).

- a. *Shakak* (shaw-kak'); to weave (i.e. lay) a trap; figuratively, (through the idea of secreting) to allay (passions; physically, abate a flood):
- b. Scientists have discovered a vast water reservoir beneath Eastern Asia that is at least the volume of the Arctic Ocean.
- c. Researchers estimate that up to 0.1 % of the rock sinking down into the Earth's mantle in that part of the world is water.

C. **Secondly**, the topography of the earth was changed by the flood.

1. God miraculously altered the face of the earth during the Creation week.

2. There are scriptures to indicate that He did something similar during the Flood.

2 Pet 3:5-6 – For this they willfully forget: that **by the word of God** the heavens were of old, & the earth standing out of water & in the water, 6 by which **the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.**

Psa 104:5-9 (NASU) – He established the earth upon its foundations, so that it will not totter forever & ever. 6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters were standing above the mountains. 7 At Your rebuke they fled, at the sound of Your thunder they hurried away. 8 The **mountains rose**; the **valleys sank down** to the place which You established for them. 9 You set a boundary that they may not pass over, so that they will not return to cover the earth.

3. Compared to the mountains & valleys we have today, the mountains of Noah's day were lower & the valleys were higher.
4. In Noah's time, it would not have taken an unreasonable or illogical amount of water to cover the mountains.

- A. **This lesson** was designed to remind us that there are logical, rational, & often even Biblical answers to arguments made by skeptics of the Bible.

Source: Eric Lyons, "Alleged Discrepancies And The Flood", *Reason & Revelation*, June 2008, Vol. 28, No. 6.

CLOSING