

Was There Really a Noah's Ark and Flood?

by Ken Ham

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by Ken Ham President, Answers in Genesis-USA

The account of Noah and the Ark is one of the most widely known events in the history of mankind. Unfortunately, like other Bible accounts, it is often taken as a mere fairy tale.

The Bible, though, is the true history book of the universe. In that light, the most-asked questions about the Ark and Flood of Noah can be answered with authority and confidence.



How Large Was Noah's Ark?

The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits (Genesis 6:15).

Unlike many whimsical drawings that depict the Ark as some kind of overgrown houseboat (with giraffes sticking out the top, for example), the Ark as described in the Bible was a gigantic vessel. Not until relatively recent times (in the late 1800s) was a ship built that exceeded the capacity of Noah's Ark.

The dimensions of the Ark are still impressive today, even when compared to many modern ocean-going ships: at least 450 feet long, 75 feet



One of the stunning exhibits in the Creation Museum near Cincinnati, Ohio, is devoted to the construction of the Ark.

wide, and 45 feet high. When you multiply these three figures together, you get a better idea of the gigantic capacity of this great ship—about 1.5 million cubic feet!

Modern container ships are loaded with standardized steel boxes that measure eight feet high by eight feet wide by 40 feet long. Noah's Ark could have been loaded with over 500 such containers.

How Could Noah Fit All the Animals on the Ark?

In the book *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*, author John Woodmorappe suggests that, at most, 16,000 animals were all that were needed to preserve the created kinds that God brought into the Ark.

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 (Genesis 6:19).

The Ark did not need to carry *every* kind of animal . . . nor did God command it to. It carried only air-breathing, land-dwelling animals, creeping things and birds. Aquatic life (fish, whales,

clams, etc.), insects, and many amphibious creatures could have survived in sufficient numbers outside the Ark. This cuts down significantly on the total number of animals that needed to be on board.

Another factor that greatly reduces the space requirements is this: the tremendous variety in species we see today did not exist in the days of Noah. Only the parent "kinds" of these species were required to be on board in order to repopulate the earth.² For example, only two dogs were needed to give rise to all the dog species that exist today.

Creationist estimates for the minimum number of animals that would have been necessary to come on board the Ark have ranged from 16,000 to 35,000.

How Could Noah Build the Ark?

The Bible does not tell us that Noah and his sons built the Ark by themselves, and Noah could have hired skilled laborers. However, there is no reason to believe that they could not—or that they did not—build the Ark between themselves in just a few years.

The physical strength and mental processes of men in Noah's day was at least as great as (quite likely, even superior to) our own. They certainly would have had efficient means for harvesting and cutting timber, as well as for shaping, transporting, and erecting the massive beams and boards required.

If one or two men today can erect a large house in just 12 weeks, how much more could three or four men do in a few years? Adam's descendants were making complex musical instruments, forging metal and building cities—their tools, machines and techniques were not inferior to the ones we use today.³

It is evident from examining the "mysteries" of earlier civilizations that the human race has likely *lost* just as much (maybe even more) knowledge from before the Flood as it has gained since that time. The idea that ancient generations were more primitive than ours is an *evolutionary* concept.

In reality, when God created Adam, he was perfect. Today, the human intellect has suffered from 6,000 years of sin and decay—though computers (a tool designed and built in the last 60 years) are compensating a great deal for our natural decline

in mental processing power, permitting us to gather and store information as perhaps never before.

How Could Noah Fit the Dinosaurs on Board?

Most dinosaurs were not very large at all—some were the size of a chicken (although absolutely no relation to birds at all, as most evolutionists are now saying)! Most scientists agree that the average size of a dinosaur is actually the size of a sheep. All dinosaurs, of course, were relatively small at one time: when they were young.



Even a T. rex (this model is on display with many other dinosaurs, including animatronic ones, in the Creation Museum) was on the Ark, although probably not fully grown.