



“Noah’s Ark” (Hebrews 11:7)

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Intro: Read Hebrews 11:7, then Gen.6:5-22.

NOAH BELIEVED GOD’S WORD REGARDING COMING JUDGMENT

- Essentially the story of the Bible is twofold: One, a righteous God judges an unrighteous world. Two, the same righteous God also provides a gracious and merciful plan to save those who will respond to Him in faith.
- The judgment was universal. Many say the flood of Noah’s day was not universal, but rather local. But this is not what the Bible says (II Peter 3:3-7, 10). The Hebrew word for the flood of Noah’s day is used only to refer to the flood of Noah’s day. The word means “deluge.” The flood covered Mt. Ararat, and it is 17,000 feet high (refer to Gen.7:20). You cannot have a local flood over 17,000 feet high! The flood lasted 371 days. Every culture on earth has stories about a "flood" of some kind, with one man and his family being saved by a boat or raft (even Eskimos). Many are several thousand years old or more, some dating back to the time of the fertile crescent. In every corner of the planet you can find, scattered here and there, a layer of strata that can only be fine mud or silt (even found under the Antarctica ice sheet). It contains the same types of elements all over the world and it represents the dividing line between the age of the dinosaurs and the age of mammals. Scientists all over the world recognize this layer, but disagree on what caused it. Forty days and nights of standing muddy water? The earth is crisscrossed with ancient river beds, some over ten miles wide. Where did they come from? Where did they go? Near Vernal Utah you can stand and look at one such ancient river bed. It stands near vertical due to upheaval in the earth’s crust and contains virtually every species of animal, including dinosaurs and fossilized palm trees and wood, fish, turtles, birds, etc. How did they all die and get deposited together in one huge sand bar? Receding flood waters? We find fossils of sea creatures in rock layers that cover all the continents. For example, most of the rock layers in the walls of Grand Canyon (more than a mile above sea level) contain marine fossils. Fossilized shellfish are even found in the Himalayas. Some fossils are exquisitely preserved, indicating sudden catastrophic destruction and burial.
- Future judgment will be universal.

NOAH & HIS FAMILY WERE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS AS A RESULT OF THEIR FAITH

- Heb.11:7 says that Noah “became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.” It is the same righteousness that Abraham became heir of (see Gen.15:6). Gen.6:8 says that Noah “found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” The word “favor” has the same meaning as the NT word for “grace.”

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE SAVED FROM THE COMING JUDGMENT BECAUSE OF THE ARK.

- The Ark is a type of Christ.
 - See Gen.6:14; Exodus 2:3; 32:30; This word is translated “atonement” numerous times in the OT. There is a NT phrase used especially by the apostle Paul, it is “in Christ” (see Rom.8:1; 16:3; 1 Cor.1:30; 16:24). To be “in the ark” is the same as being “in Christ” (see **John 2:2**; 4:10).
- The security of The Ark
 - Approx. 450 feet long, 80 feet wide, 45 feet high (4 stories), total deck area approximately 100,000 square feet. Someone calculated that the cargo capacity of the ark was equal to 522 box cars!
 - The Hebrew word for ark means “a box.” The ark was a big box, a rectangle with a flat bottom, sides, and ends (show picture). The ark was the largest floating vessel ever built until the 19th century! It was not until 1858 that the next biggest ship was built. It was named The Hymaleah, and was 240 feet long and 35 feet wide. Later that same year they built a ship called The Great Eastern. It was 692 feet long, 83 feet wide, and 30 feet high. It weighed 19,000 tons. Now, let me tell you something fascinating the ship industry has learned over time in building ship after ship after ship. They have learned that if a ship is to be stable in the water, it is critical that it is built according to a particular ratio – between 6:1 to 8:1 (length to width). The ark was 6:1. Engineer and scientist Henry Morris concluded that the ark would have had to be turned completely vertical before it could be tipped over. One more interesting note: A ship has a rounded bottom to move it through the water, but that makes it vulnerable, even if built with a ratio of 6:1 to 8:1. But a square bottom sunk down is almost impossible to overturn no matter how great the waves. See John 10:27-29; 6:39.

NOAH’S LIFE, & HIS CONNECTION WITH THE ARK NO DOUBT BROUGHT HIM (& HIS FAMILY) RIDICULE & PERSECUTION.

- Noah accepted a course of action in life that made him look like a fool to the world. The ark was built somewhere in ancient Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates (no sea or ocean). Noah had never seen rain (see Gen.2:6).
- A big part of Noah’s witness in the world was his work as it related to the ark. His life revolved around the ark – and everybody knew it!

- By faith he “condemned the world.” His life of faith was a rebuke to the godlessness/faithlessness of those around him (John the Baptist was this to Herod when he confronted him about his brother Philip’s wife Herodias; Jesus was this to the Pharisees, Sadducees, etc.; Abel was this to Cain; Paul, Peter, the apostles were this to the religious leaders of their day; Jeremiah, Isaiah, all the prophets, were this to the people they preached to and lived among. See II Cor.2:14-16.

THE STORY OF THE ARK SPEAKS OF GOD’S GREAT PATIENCE IN OFFERING SALVATION TO THE WORLD.

- I Peter 3:20; II Peter 3:7-9

THE STORY OF THE ARK IS A SAD REVELATION ON HOW FEW RECEIVE THE SALVATION THAT GOD OFFERS TO THE WORLD.

- Only eight people were saved in the ark.
- See Matthew 7:13-14; 24:37-39.