

FLOOD 2  
THE ARK

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GENESIS 6:9-22

*"This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him." (Genesis 6:9-22, NIV)*

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## THE NEED FOR AN ARK.

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### NOAH

A Righteous man.

A Blameless man.

A close to God man

A family man

### THE EARTH

#### MAN'S CORRUPTION

Corruption is: Use that is unnatural and destructive.

Their way – the natural progression of life.

#### MAN'S VIOLENCE

Sin affects the environment

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## THE ARK

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*This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.*

### ITS DIMENSIONS

- *450 feet in length –*

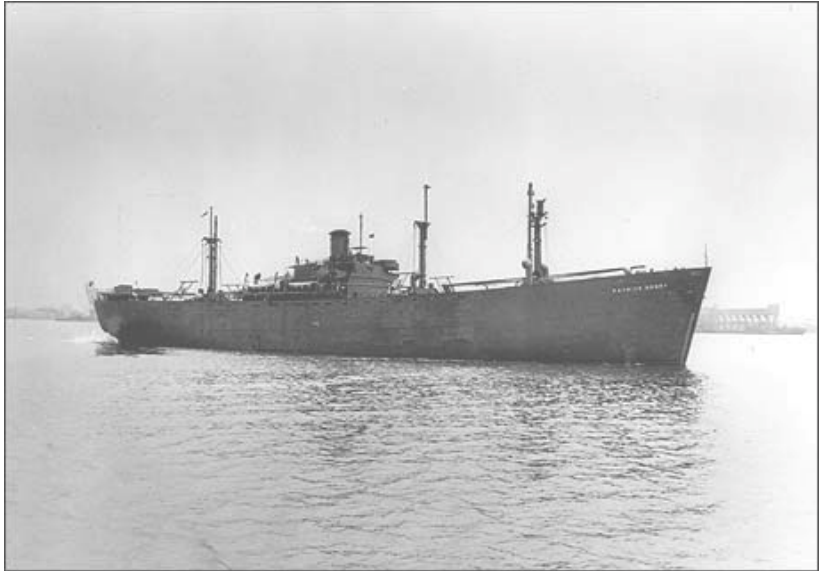
roughly the length of a WWII Liberty ship or

100 feet shorter than the Washington Monument

- *75 feet wide*
- *45 feet high*
- *3 decks –*

By volume 43,000 m<sup>3</sup>

The equivalent of 522 standard railroad cars



Given the height of the ark each deck could easily have as much as 14 feet of clearance.

- *1 door*
- *An 18 inch clerestory – the window*
- *Its draft*

Draft is the amount of the boat under the water

Using the draft (below) the ark displaced 24,000 tons

*"The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet." (Genesis 7:20, NIV)*

This verse expresses a minimum distance from the ark to the mountain tops.

How did they know how far under the ark that the mountain tops passed?

The ark cleared the mountains and sat twenty feet into the water – the draft.

Most ocean going vessels of the ark's size draw 20-26 feet

### ITS CONSISTENCY –

THE DIMENSIONS OF THE ARK ARE THE STANDARD RATIOS OF CONTEMPORARY SEA CRAFT.

Contrary to artist renderings, the ark was probably not a “keeled” vessel

More like a barge with a flat bottom

Probably not a “stem” either – more like a box construction.

No necessity of steering

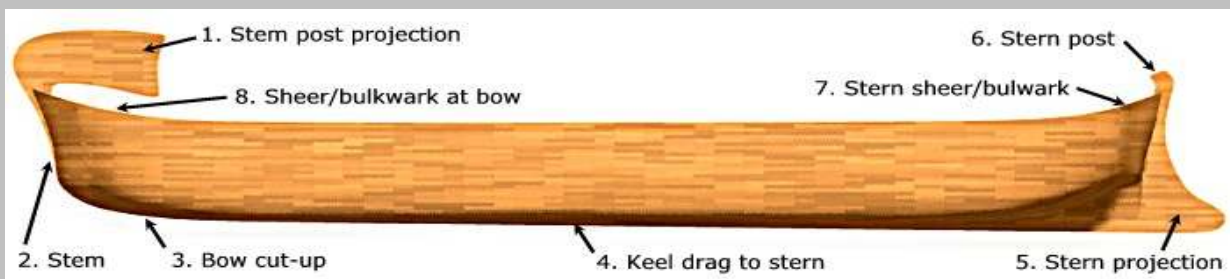
A box would move the ark into the current and take it with the flow.

This would prevent common nautical problems like swamping and capsizing.



### AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW.

Some believe that the Ark made significant impressions on sea craft for generations after the flood and posit that the ark *was* a keeled vessel with a forward stem and a wooden sail at the stern to eliminate broaching. The sail would keep the ark moved into the wind and traveling with the current.



### ITS COMPOSITION

THE WOOD

It is estimated that over 800 trees would need to be cut to build the ark

The descriptive term for the wood “Gopher” is found only in this text.

## Theories of the wood

- *Gopher wood is an extinct species of amazing density*
  - WOULD A SINGLE SPECIES BE USED FOR ALL SHIP BUILDING PURPOSES?
- *Gopher wood is a family of trees known for density*
  - THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE MULTIPLE NEEDS AND THE OBSCURE MEANING.
- *Gopher is a spelling error*
  - SIMILAR TO THE HEBREW WORD “KOPHER” WHICH WOULD TRANSLATE AS PITCHED – SO “MAKE AN ARK OUT OF PITCHED WOOD... PITCH IT INSIDE AND OUT.
  - COULD ALSO BE A REFERENCE TO SAPPY WOODS LIKE PINE OR CEDAR.
  - BUT, WHY WOULD NOT THE NEXT SCRIBE SEE THE ERROR AND CORRECT IT?
- *Gopher means “squared”*
  - THE SEPTUAGINT TRANSLATES IT AS SQUARED OR PLANED.
  - WOULD ELIMINATE RAFT OR REED TYPE CRAFT.
  - BUT, THERE IS A BETTER WORD FOR “SQUARED” IN HEBREW.
- *Gopher means “wafered” or laminated*
  - DRAWN FROM A COMMON TERM IN EXISTING LANGUAGE THAT MEANS TO LAYER.
  - THE LAMINATED WOOD WOULD PROVIDE GREATER STRENGTH, ESPECIALLY TO BEAMS AND SUPPORT MEMBERS.
  - WOULD ELIMINATE THE NEED TO USE A SINGLE WOOD SPECIES
  - PROBLEM 1: THE USAGE OF THE WORD IN CURRENT LANGUAGES (PRIMARILY EUROPEAN) HAS NO WAY OF WORKING INTO HEBREW.
  - PROBLEM 2: THE LAMINATION PROCESS IS UNKNOWN AND UNSEEN IN ANY HISTORIC CONTEXT IN THE NEAR EAST
  - PROBLEM 3: THERE IS NO SUPPORT AMONG LINGUISTS FOR THIS APPROACH.
- *Gopher must remain unknown.*

## THE PITCH

Some argue that Noah could not have had pitch if the flood created the coal and oil deposits we now enjoy.

Pitch has been made for many centuries for sealing boats and ships.

It is most commonly made from pine resin to which powdered charcoal is added.

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### THE SAVED

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*You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.*

### THE 8 SOULS

- *Noah*
- *Shem*
- *Ham*
- *Japheth*

### THE BASIC ANIMAL SUPPLY

A mating supply of every kind of animal

### A review of the word “kind”

A SPECIES

- Can Interbreed
- Bears Fertile offspring
- Does not mate with other species

A GENERA

- Does all that a species does, with greater variation.
- Reflects a common ancestor
- Would not require Noah to do genetic testing to determine ark space.

### THE FOOD NECESSARY FOR LIFE SUPPORT

All animals are herbivorous

Some have calculated that food requirements would only consume about 15% of the ark's volume.

If fresh drinking water is stored, instead of trapped by from the falling rain, only 10% of the ark's volume is used to store water.

### **THE ANIMALS FOR SACRIFICE AND SUSTENANCE**

The sacrificial system is already in operation

Only certain animals – clean – are acceptable for sacrifice

Only certain animals – clean - will be acceptable for consumption after the flood.

These animals are a minority of animals on the ark.

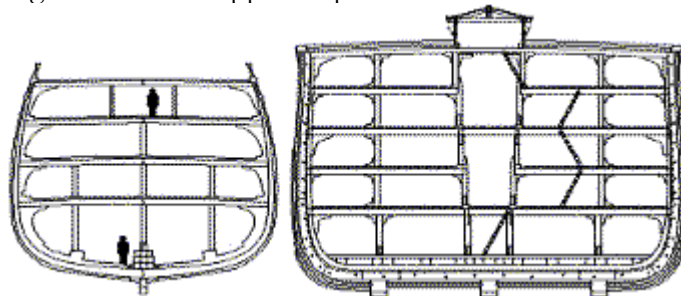
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### **ANSWERS TO TYPICAL ARK QUESTIONS.**

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#### **COULD A BOAT THAT BIG BE BUILT FROM WOOD?**

The Great Republic was the largest wooden clipper ship ever built it was 335 feet long –



close to the size of the ark.

During WWI the U.S. produced wood ships (as well as concrete ones) that were as large as or larger than the ark.

#### **HOW COULD NOAH GET ALL OF THE ANIMALS ONBOARD?**

It has been calculated that Noah only needed to bring 16,000 animals aboard ( 2 of 8,000 genera) including pairs of now extinct animals (calculated at 12 firmly established sauropods (dinosaurs) and 12 fairly well established sauropods.

There are no statements of maturity of each specimen so many could be small or “teenage” in size. The median size of all animals on the ark would be about the size of a small rat

Only 11% of all animals would be larger than the size of a sheep.

Total animal life contained in stacked cages would equal the equivalent of 15 train cars.

If there is no stacking, using standard space allocations the animal space is less than half the floors space of the ark.

#### MARINE LIFE WOULD SURVIVE

Some would be destroyed in the catastrophe, perhaps wiping out species.

95% of the fossil record is marine life

New species of fish are being “rediscovered” as we explore the depths of the ocean.

#### DINOSAURS

Of 688 proposed dinosaur genre only 106 weigh over 10 tons when fully grown

The specimens do not have to be fully grown.

#### PLANT LIFE

Many species of plant life would survive as seeds

Others would survive as mats of floating vegetation common in floods.

This would also sustain most insect species

This would also sustain most germs and bacteria.

### **HOW COULD 8 PEOPLE MANAGE THE NEEDS OF FEEDING ALL OF THOSE ANIMALS?**

Thick, absorbent bedding materials would limit waste removal processes and suppress odor.

Sloped floors might expedite that cleaning.

#### HIBERNATION.

At least 40 days of the trip are dark/overcast in the torrent.

Animals are far less active on overcast days.

Most animals will roost or find their homes during solar eclipses.

Limited light in the ark from the clerestory may have provided enough for the creatures' calmness.

This would limit the need for the animals to exercise, though plenty of space existed on the ark for ranging the beasts.

This would limit the food needs of the animals.

Hibernating beasts do eat, but less often.

