

Gopher Wood for Noah's Ark

The Bible, in Genesis 6:14, states that Noah was instructed to build the Ark out of "**gopher wood**".

However, the exact identity of "gopher wood" is a mystery. It's a word that appears only once in the Bible and is not found elsewhere in the Hebrew language. This has led to a lot of speculation and debate among scholars and theologians.

Here's what we know (and don't know) about gopher wood:

- **Unknown Identity:** No one today knows for certain what type of tree "gopher wood" refers to. It's possible it was a specific species of tree that no longer exists after the global flood, or it could be a term for a particular *kind* of wood or even a *process* of preparing the wood.
- **Common Translations/Guesses:**
 - **Cypress:** Many modern English translations, like the NIV and NLT, translate "gopher wood" as "cypress wood," as cypress is known for its durability and use in shipbuilding.
 - **Cedar or Pine:** Other suggestions include cedar or pine, which are also strong, resinous woods suitable for construction.
 - **Squared Timber:** The Greek Septuagint (an ancient translation of the Old Testament) renders the phrase as "squared timber," suggesting it might refer to the way the wood was prepared rather than a specific tree species.
 - **Pitched Wood:** Some theories suggest "gopher" could be related to the Hebrew word for "pitch" (kopher), implying "pitched wood" for waterproofing.
- **Location:** The Bible doesn't specify *where* Noah found this gopher wood. Given the instructions to build the Ark, it's presumed that the wood was available in the region where Noah and his family lived before the Flood. The exact geographical location of Noah's pre-Flood home is also unknown.

In essence, the Bible tells us the material was "gopher wood," but leaves its specific botanical identification to speculation.