

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 which 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.¹

Creationists estimate 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. Noah could have hired skilled laborers. However, there is no reason to believe that they could not or did not build the Ark themselves in just a few years.

The physical strength and mental processes of men in Noah’s day was at least as great as our own, quite likely, even superior. 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.²

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.

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.

For example, God most likely brought Noah two young adult sauropods, rather than two that were full-grown. The same goes for elephants, giraffes and other animals that grow to be very large. However, there was adequate room for most fully grown adult animals anyway.

As far as the number of different types of dinosaurs, it should be recognized that although there are hundreds of names for different varieties (species) of dinosaurs that have been discovered, there are probably about 50 actual different kinds.

How Could Noah Round Up So Many Animals?

Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort *shall come* unto thee, to keep them alive (*Gen 6:20*).

This verse tells us that Noah didn’t have to search for animals, or travel to far away places to bring them on board. And on the basis of Genesis 1, most creationists believe there was only one continent before the Flood. The animals simply arrived at the Ark, as if called by a “homing instinct” (a behavior implanted in the animals by their Creator) and marched up the rap, all by themselves!

Though this is a supernatural event (one that cannot be explained by our understanding of nature), it is certainly within God’s ability. Even today, we are far from understanding all of the marvelous animal behaviors exhibited in God’s creation: the migration of Canadian geese and other birds, the amazing flights of Monarch butterflies, the annual travels of whales and fish, hibernation instincts, earthquake sensitivity — and countless other fascinating capabilities of God’s animal kingdom.

Were Dinosaurs Extinct Before The Flood, Some 4,500 Years Ago?

The account of God’s Creation (*Genesis 1 & 2*) tells us that *all* of the land-dwelling creatures were made on day six of creation week, the same day that God made Adam and Eve. Therefore, it is clear that dinosaurs (being land animals) were made with man.

Also, two of every kind (seven of some) of land animals boarded the Ark. There is no reason to believe any of the land animal kinds were already extinct before the Flood. Besides, the description of “*behemoth*” in the book of Job (*chapter 40*) only fits with something like a sauropod dinosaur. The ancestor of “behemoth” must have been on board the Ark.³

How Did Noah Care For All The Animals?

Just as God brought the animals to Noah by supernatural means, He surely also prepared them for this amazing event. Scientists who believe in Creation suggest that God gave the animals the ability to hibernate, as we see in many species today. Most animals react to natural disasters in ways that were designed to help them survive. It’s very possible that many animals did hibernate, perhaps even supernaturally intensified by God.

Were we able to walk through the Ark as it was being built, we would undoubtedly be amazed at the ingenious systems on board for water and food storage and distribution. A small group of farmers today can raise thousands of cattle and other animals in a very small space. One can easily imagine all kinds of devices on the Ark that would enable a small number of people to feed and care for the animals, from watering to waste removal.

No special devices were needed for eight people to care for 16,000 animals. But if they existed, how would these devices be powered? There are all sorts of possibilities. How about by gravity? Wind? And the motions of the Ark? Who knows what technology Noah had available to him?

How Could A Flood Destroy Every Living Thing?

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died (*Gen 7:21-22*).

Noah’s Flood was much more destructive than any 40-day rainstorm ever could be. Scripture says that the “fountains of the great deep” were broken open (*Gen 7:11*). In other words, earthquakes, volcanoes and geysers of molten lava and scalding water were squeezed out of the earth’s crust in a violent, explosive upheaval. These fountains were not stopped until 150 days into the Flood — so the earth was literally churning underneath the waters for about five months!

Relatively recent local floods, volcanoes and earthquakes recorded by humans in more recent centuries (though clearly devastating to life and land) are tiny in comparison to the worldwide catastrophe that destroyed God’s original earth. All land animals (and people) not on board the Ark were destroyed in the Flood waters — billions of which were preserved in the great fossil (Flood) record we see today.

Where Did All The Water Come From?

In the 600th year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the 17th day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights (*Gen 7:11,12*).

The Bible tells us that water came from two sources: below the earth and above the earth. Evidently, the source for water below the ground was in great subterranean pools, or “fountains,” of fresh water, which were broken open by volcanic and seismic (earthquake) activity. These fountains perhaps supplied water for the rivers in the Garden of Eden, as well as the rest of the earth before the Flood.

Where Did All The Water Go?

As even secular geologists observe, it does appear that the continents were at one time “together” and not separated by the vast oceans of today. The forces involved in the Flood were certainly sufficient to change all of this. Scripture indicates that God formed the ocean basins, raising the land out of the water, so that the Flood waters returned to a safe place. (Some theologians believe Psalm 104 may refer to this event.) Some creationist scientists believe this break-up of the continent was part of the mechanism that ultimately caused the Flood.

Was Noah’s Flood Global?

Many Christians today claim that the Flood of Noah’s time was only a *local* flood. These people generally want a local flood because they have accepted the widely believed *evolutionary* history of the earth, which interprets the fossils under our feet as the history of the sequential appearance of life over millions of years.

Scientists once understood the fossils (which are buried in water-carried sediments of mud and sand) to be mostly the result of the great Flood. Those who now accept the evolutionary millions of years of gradual accumulation of fossils have, in their way of thinking, explained away the evidence for the global Flood. Hence, many compromising Christians insist on a local flood. Secularists deny the possibility of a worldwide Flood. If they would think from a biblical perspective, however, they would see the abundant evidence for a global Flood as the Bible presents it. As someone once quipped, “I wouldn’t have seen it if I hadn’t believed it.”

Those who accept the evolutionary time frame* with its fossil accumulation also rob Adam’s Fall of its serious consequences. They put the fossils, which testify of disease, suffering and death, *before* Adam and Eve sinned and brought death and suffering into the world. In doing this, they also undermine the meaning of the death and resurrection of Christ. Such a scenario also robs God’s description of His finished creation as “very good” of all meaning.

If the Flood was local, why did Noah have to build an Ark? He could have walked to the other side of the mountains and escaped! Most important, if the Flood was local, people who did not happen to be living in the vicinity would not have been affected by it. They would have escaped God’s judgment on sin.

Jesus said that the Flood killed every person not on the Ark. And what did Christ mean when He likened the coming world judgment to the judgment of “all” men in the days of Noah (*Matt 24:37-39*)? In 2 Peter 3, the coming judgment by fire is likened to the judgment by water in Noah’s day. A *partial* judgment in Noah’s day would mean a partial judgment to come.

If the Flood was only local, how could the water rise to 20 feet *above* the mountains (*Gen 7:20*)? Water seeks its own level. It could not rise to cover the local mountains while leaving the rest of the world untouched.⁵

There’s more. If the Flood was local, God would have repeatedly broken His promise never to send such a Flood again. God put a rainbow in the sky as a covenant between Himself and man and the animals that He would never repeat such an event. There have been huge “local” floods in recent times (in Southeast Asia, for example)—but never another global Flood that killed all life on the land.

Where Is The Evidence In The Earth For Noah’s Flood?

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished (*2 Pet 3:5,6*).

All over the earth, there is evidence of Noah’s Flood, from sea bed to mountain top. Whether you travel by car, train or plane, the physical features of the earth’s terrain clearly indicate a catastrophic past, from canyons and craters to coal beds and caverns.

Approximately 75% of the earth’s crust is sedimentary rock. These layers of sand, soil and material — mostly laid down by water — were once soft like mud, but now hardened like stone. Buried in these sedimentary layers are billions of dead things (fossils of plants

and animals) buried very, very quickly. The evidence all over the earth is staring everyone in the face!

Where Is Noah’s Ark Today?

And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the 17th day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat (*Gen 8:4*).

The Ark landed on the mountains (the Bible does not specify which actual mountain) in the region of Mt. Ararat in modern-day Turkey. Many expeditions have searched for the Ark there. There is no conclusive evidence of the Ark’s location or survival — after all, it landed on the mountains about 4,500 years ago, and could easily have deteriorated or been destroyed.

Some scientists and Bible scholars, though, believe the Ark could indeed be preserved — perhaps to be providentially revealed at a future time as a reminder of the past judgment and the judgment to come.

Why Did God Destroy The Earth That He Had Made?

GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD... The earth also was corrupt before God... And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth (*Gen 6:5-13*).

These verses couldn’t be any clearer. The Flood was God’s judgment on sin. As severe as the destruction was, no living person was without excuse. All were sinners, all deserved judgment — “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” There was only one escape, and that was in the Ark. Without God, and without a true knowledge and understanding of God’s Word — which provides the true history of the world — man is doomed to repeat the same tragedy again.

How Is Christ Like The Ark?

Man’s primary problem today is no different than it was in Noah’s day — sin and rebellion against God! “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (*Rom 3:23*). Judgment Day is coming again! The earth will one day be destroyed by fire:

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: but the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men (*2 Peter 3:6,7*).

Every last unbeliever in Noah’s day perished, and every last believer was saved:

God spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly (*2 Peter 2:5*).

There was but one refuge, one safe place — *in the Ark*. This pictured the one place of safety for you and I today — *in Christ*. Listen to the Word of God:

I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, *and be found in Him* (*Phil 3:8,9*).

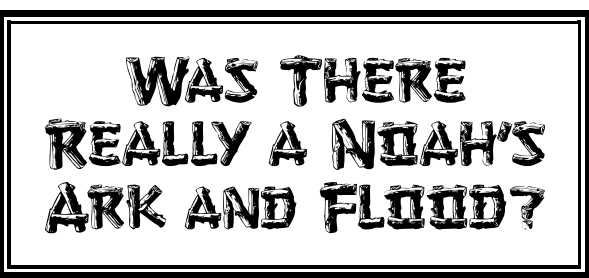
Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (*Acts 4:12*).

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him (*John 3:36*).

—Adapted from the writings of Ken Ham

End Notes:

- 1** Here’s one example: more than 200 species of dogs exist today, from the miniature poodle to the St. Bernard—all of which have descended from one original dog “kind.” All other types of animals—cat kind, horse kind, cow kind, etc.—have similarly been naturally and selectively bred to achieve the wonderful variation in species that we have today. God “programmed” this variety into the genetic code of all animal kinds—even human kind! God also made it impossible for the basic “kinds” of animals to breed and reproduce with each other. For example, cats and dogs cannot breed to make a new type of creature. This is by God’s design, and it is one fact that makes evolution impossible.
- 2** For the evidence, see *The Puzzle of Ancient Man* by Dr. Donald Chittick.
- 3** For remarkable evidence that dinosaurs did live until relatively recent times, read *The Great Dinosaur Mystery Solved* or find some fascinating articles on the discovery of soft tissue and blood vessels found in a *T. rex* bone—wonderful evidence to show that this creature was probably alive in recent times—when you go to www.answersingenesis.org
- 4** For compelling evidence that the earth is not billions of years old, read *The Young Earth* by Dr. John Morris.
- 5** Mount Everest is more than five miles high. How, then, could the Flood have covered “all the high hills under the whole heaven”? The Bible refers only to “high hills,” and the mountains today were formed only towards the end of, and after, the Flood by collision of the tectonic plates and the associated up-thrusting. In support of this, the layers that formed the uppermost parts of Mount Everest are themselves composed of fossil-bearing, water-deposited layers.



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 Noah’s Ark and Flood can be answered with authority and confidence.

How Large Was Noah’s Ark?

The length of the ark shall be 300 cubits, the breadth of it 50 cubits, and the height of it 30 cubits (*Gen 6:15*).

Unlike many whimsical drawings that depict the Ark as some kind of overgrown houseboat (with giraffes sticking out the top), the Ark 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: about 450 feet long, about 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. When you multiply these 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 come into the Ark to preserve the created “kinds” (*see Gen 1:21,24,25*).

Of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive (*Gen 6:19,20*).

The Ark did not need to carry *every* kind of animal, nor did God command it. It carried only air-breathing,