

FITTING

ALL THE

ANIMALS

ON THE ARK

Topic: Fitting all the Animals on the Ark

Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: There was no global flood, only local floods, because Noah couldn't build a ship large enough to hold over a million and a half species of creatures on the earth.

Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: God specified the size and design of the ark and sent two of every kind (family, not species) of animal, seven pairs of every clean animal, and seven pairs of every kind of bird to Noah.

Why This is Important:

The lack of space in the ark to hold all the animals is a frequently used argument to dismiss the historical truthfulness of a worldwide flood and therefore the authority of the Bible and existence of God.

Scripture Says:

Genesis 4:22, Genesis 6:11-22, Genesis 7:1-5, Genesis 7:13-24, Genesis 8:1, Genesis 8:15-22, Matthew 24:37-39, Hebrews 11:7, 2 Peter 3:3-7

Worth Considering:

- The interior volume of the ark would have been able to hold the equivalent to about 450 semi-trailers loads of cargo. Only the Bible provides dimensions of a boat able to hold all the animals.
- It's estimated there are 1.8 million documented species, with 98% of them being fish, invertebrates and non-animals (plants and bacteria). There are fewer than 34,000 species of known, land-dependent vertebrates.
- An animal "kind" is considered to be generally at the "family" level of taxonomy. (Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species) A high end estimate is a maximum of 6,000 to 7,000 animals that Noah and his family would need to care for. (per Answers in Genesis analysis)
- God selected the animals that would come to Noah, so Noah didn't need to determine taxonomy of animal "kinds" or locate the best animals to bring. God could send smaller, younger, healthier,

and genetically diverse pairs of animals for each kind with their full reproductive lifetime ahead of them. This would reduce space, clean-up, feed storage, and care requirements of the animals.

- No marine creature kinds would need to be on board since they could survive in the water. Plants and insects could also survive.
- One pair of cats, one pair of dogs, one pair of horses, etc would only be required for the cat, dog, and horse kinds.
- Many animals would likely hibernate or be at a low energy state in the dim interior of the ark, minimizing caretaking efforts.
- Speciation would happen rapidly after the flood, making way for lions, panthers, cheetahs, bobcats, house cats, and more out of one pair of cats.
- The land dinosaur kinds would have been included on the ark, but became extinct later, likely due to significant environmental changes after the Flood and hunting.
- The ark size of 300 cubits L x 50 cubits W x 30 cubits H, and using a 20" cubit (fingertips to elbow), gives Ark dimensions of 510' L x 85' W x 51' H, plenty of room for 7,000 animals needed to fit inside and their food for a year-long journey.
- The ark has the same proportions as modern ships that are optimized for strength, stability, and a comfortable ride. Varying slightly from these proportions results in a sub-optimal result.
- Ark construction took 50-80 years by Noah, his sons, and any hired craftsmen, using bronze and iron tools for construction and waterproofing the hull with pitch.
- Marine archeology of shipwrecks have discovered how ancient Phoenician, Greek, Roman, and Chinese shipbuilders were able to build massive wooden ships. These often used locked mortise and tenon wood joinery techniques that attached planks together.
- The ark was approximately 2/3 the length of the Titanic and about half that of the Queen Mary II.

Questions to Consider:

- Have you heard the Animals Fitting in the Ark argument, or similar ones, used as a way to discredit the Bible and ignore God?
- Why do you think God gave Noah seven pairs of each bird kind? (hint: seeds often pass through a bird's digestive system intact)
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views?

For Further Investigation on This Topic:

<https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/how-could-all-animals-fit-ark/>