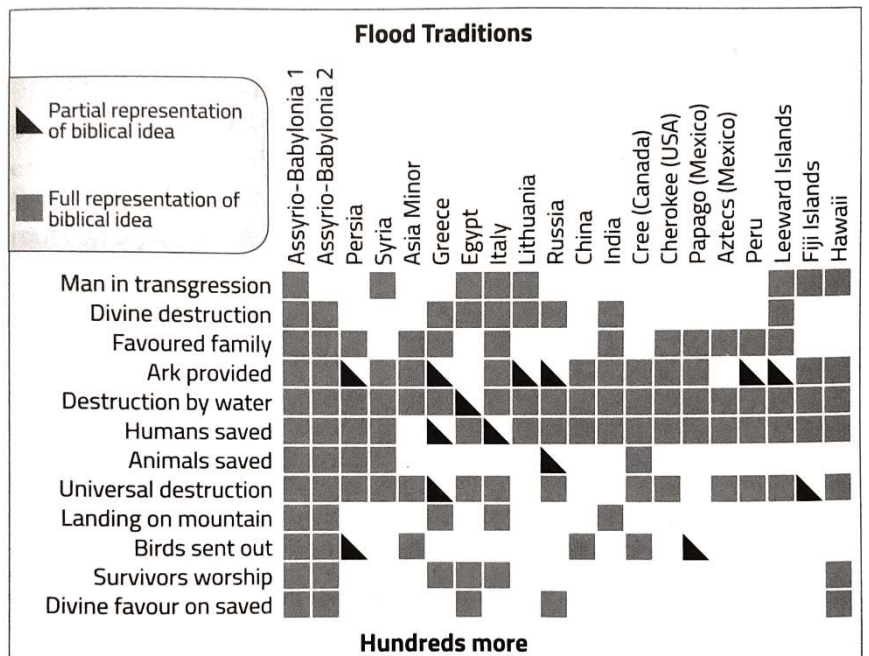


## Is the Story of Noah's Ark Believable?

(Genesis 6-8)

Evidence for a belief in a great deluge has been found in Greek, Mesopotamian, Australian, Indian, Malayan, Polynesian, Chinese, and Japanese cultures and cultures of the Western Hemisphere. In all, there are sixty-eight distinct legends of a massive flood. No comparable event in biblical history has the same extra-biblical attestation as the flood in the history of religion and world history.<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, the shared details between the Mesopotamian stories and the Genesis narrative are striking. The biblical flood and the Mesopotamian accounts share the following features: **(1)** only one man is warned of the coming deluge and instructed to build a vessel; **(2)** the insulation of the water vessels is lined with "pitch" (Heb. *kofer*; Akk. *kupru*); **(3)** the chosen man is commanded what he is to bring into the boat; **(4)** specific mention is made of closing the door of the boat; **(5)** the deluge exterminated both man and beast; **(6)** mountains appear before the flood water begins to abate; **(7)** the boat lands on top of a mountain; **(8)** birds are released from the opening of a window; and **(9)** sacrifices are offered after the flood is over.<sup>2</sup>



The interest in the flood and Noah's ark transcends the biblical narrative and has always been a subject of fascination. As early as the first century AD, Flavius Josephus, the Galilean general turned historian, cites a common belief that relics of the ark were preserved in Armenia. Similar testimony is found in rabbinic literature and from Berossus, a Babylonian priest who wrote in Greek, ca. 275 BC.<sup>3</sup>

In the summer of 2000, an expedition sponsored by the National Geographic Society discovered under the Black Sea remnants of a human habitation that had apparently been suddenly inundated by a great flood several thousand years ago. Many believe this discovery is independent evidence for the biblical flood.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kenneth D. Keathley and Mark F. Rooker, *40 Questions about Creation and Evolution*, ed. Benjamin L. Merkle (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2014), 285.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 285–286.

<sup>3</sup> See L. Feldman, "Josephus' Portrait of Noah and Its Parallels in Philo, Pseudo-Philo's Biblical Antiquities, and Rabbinic Midrashim," *PAAJR* 55 (1988): 31–57; L. Ginzburg, *The Legends of the Jews: Notes to Volumes I and II From the Creation to the Exodus* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1968), 5:186n.48.

<sup>4</sup> Tim Friend, "Evidence Possibly Tied to Biblical Flood Found in Sea," *USA Today*, September 13, 2000, 4A.

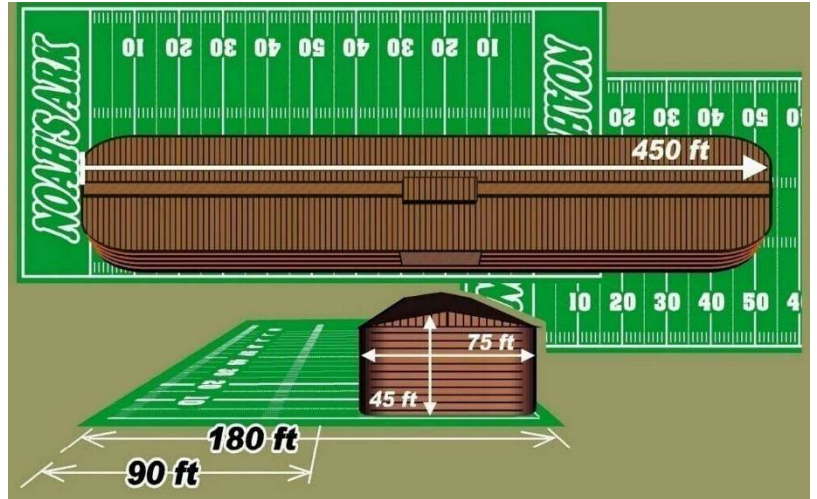
The fossil record indicates rapid burial. Fossils are formed by living creatures to be covered quickly in lava and mud and preserved rapidly. Catastrophes cause massive amounts of fossils. **Answers in Genesis** asks and answers, "If there really were a global flood as described in Genesis, what would we expect to see today? Billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth. **And that is exactly what we see.**"

## 1. The Construction (Gen. 6:14)

- Pitch = gummy, tar-like substance
- Gopher wood = cypress wood (very sturdy)

## 2. The Capacity (Gen. 6:15-21)

- The Ark was enormous: 450 ft long, 75 ft wide, 45 ft high



## 3. The Chronology

- Chart taken from *The Genesis Account*, Jonathan Sarfati, Ph.D.

## 4. The Confirmation

- "The mountains of Ararat" (Gen. 8:4) – Armenia/Turkey
- Jesus confirms the story as factual (Matt. 24:38-39)
- See also Heb. 11:7-8; 1 Pet. 3:20; 4:7; 2 Pet. 2:4-10; 3:6

Year (Noah)	Month	Day	Event	Duration (days)	Genesis ref.
600	2	10	Noah entered the ark		7:7,10,11
600	2	17	Heavens and earth opened	7?	7:11
600	3	27	Rain stopped, and presumably also the fountains of the deep. So water began receding.	40	7:12
600	7	17	Ark rested on Ararat mountains (since Flood prevailed for 150 days, this number must be 150-40)	110	8:3-4
600	10	1	Tops of mountains seen	74	8:5
600	11	10	Raven—did not return	40	8:6-7
600	11	18	Dove—returned	7	8:8
600	11	25	Dove—returned with leaf	7	8:10-11
600	12	2	Dove—did not return	7	8:12
601	1	1	Covering removed—ground dry	29	8:13
601	2	27	Everyone disembarked	56	8:14-16
			Total Duration of the Flood	370	

## 5. The Covenant

- The Ark would protect God's people from the required judgment for sin. God Himself would shut the door (Gen. 7:16)
- Today, sin will also be judged. But for those who put their trust in the "Ark" of Jesus, we are safe from that judgment. (see 1 Peter 3:20)
- We who have found and are trusting in the "Ark" of Jesus, while there is still time, are to preach righteousness to this world, praying and pleading for the salvation of others. (2 Peter 2:5)
- Our salvation is based upon God's strength, not on ours. We are not holding onto the outside of the boat. We are inside the boat, at rest. This points to eternal security. (John 10:27-29)