

NOAH'S ARK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

Genesis 6:1-22

What you believe about the historical truth of the first eleven chapters of the Bible; especially Genesis Chapter 3 will determine how you view the entire Bible.

Why is this true or not true?

We will explore this question in this study of Noah's Ark as a type of Christ.

We each have a "world view." Your world view is how you process information.

Your world view is how you decide what is true and what is not true.

That does not mean that if you decide something is not true that it is really not true.

Truth is truth with or without your agreement.

We are not Postmodern which says "I have my truth and you have your truth; and although they may be exactly opposite, they are both true."

That is utter nonsense, yet it is believed by many people in our culture.

Last Wednesday night I thought Brother Gables was about to preach part of my sermon.

He dealt with the concepts of God as being the Creator versus the "evolution" of the physical universe.

The atheist accepts the theory that the physical universe had no beginning; that matter has always existed, and that life in all of its forms, including human life, "evolved" over vast periods of time by random chance. No design and no Creator!

The Christian accepts the theory that the Bible is the revealed word of God and is therefore necessarily true. If the Bible is a revelation from God it must be true!

As I have often mentioned, I am a grader of biblical correspondence courses for Mt. Zion Bible Institute located in Pensacola, FL.

A question on one of the courses is "Can you be a Christian and not believe in Creation?"

How would you answer that question?

My answer is that a person may say they are a Christian and hold to evolution but they are a very weak Christian who has to deny a great deal of the Bible, especially Colossians and the Book of Revelation.

Take just one verse, and there are many, Revelation 4:13 reads:

"You are worthy, 'O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created."

That brings us to my subject; viz. Noah's Ark: fact or fiction?

One of the Bible truths that liberals and scoffers dismiss as a fable is the worldwide (universal) flooding of the entire earth in Noah's day.

Genesis 7:17-24

¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹ And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰ The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits* deep. ²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³ He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark. ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days. ESV

*Cubit

– Heb. *'ammah*; i.e., "mother of the arm," the fore-arm, is a word derived from the Latin cubitus, the lower arm. It is difficult to determine the exact length of this measure, from the uncertainty whether it included the entire length from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger, or only from the elbow to the root of the hand at the wrist. The probability is that the longer was the original cubit. The common computation as to the length of the cubit makes it 20.24 inches for the ordinary cubit, and 21.888 inches for the sacred one. This is the same as the Egyptian measurements.

(from Easton's Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database
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The Bible says the waters rose fifteen cubits over the highest mountains which computes to at least twenty-five feet!

Now another question; do you believe the biblical record.

Why do you believe / disbelieve it?

THE BASIS FOR FAITH:

“Faith” is the essential element of Christianity.

A Christian is someone who is Justified [declared not guilty] by grace through faith alone.

We all have our **presuppositions**. We presuppose those things that we accept by faith, without “proof.” E.g. I believe that the Bible is the very word of God and therefore it is necessarily true. The creation, the fall of the historical Adam, and the universal flood offers the most reasonable explanation of the existence of the world and the existence of evil. And there is absolutely nothing unscientific about the Biblical account of Creation.

Others have accepted the presupposition of some **evolutionary** process that teaches that physical matter has always existed and that all life “evolved” over time by chance. There is absolutely nothing in the way of true scientific proof for evolution.

When I preached on the Book of Amos I used the following example of the incredible faith of the evolutionist.

Now I believe that God put Amos’ occupation in the inspired record, not only to show that God uses modest and simple men, but Amos, as a “tender of sycamore fruit” introduces an incredible fact of nature that only can be explained by divine creation.

The production of the sycamore fruit depends of the pollination by a unique insect called the “fig wasp” or the “fig insect.” So I looked up the fig wasp in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

“The fig wasp; any of about 900 species of tiny wasps responsible for pollinating the world's 900 species of figs. Each species of wasp pollinates only one species of fig, and each fig species has its own wasp species to pollinate it. This extraordinary diversity of **co-evolution** between figs and wasps has become so profound that neither organism can exist without the other.”

I will spare you the rest of the article on the fig wasp but note the deliberate blindness of the writer and publisher when they acknowledge the uniqueness and interdependence of the fruit and the wasp and then call it “co-evolution!” What faith!

“The life cycle of the fig wasp (family Agaonidae).

“The fig wasp's life cycle is typified in the caprifig (*Ficus carica sylvestris*), a wild, inedible fig. Wasps mature from eggs deposited inside the flowering structure of the fig, called the syconium, which looks very much like a fruit. Inside the completely enclosed syconium are the individual flowers themselves. When a wasp egg is deposited in one of the flowers, that flower develops a gall-like structure instead of a seed. The blind, wingless male wasps emerge from the galls and search out one or more galls containing a female, and upon finding one, he chews a hole in the gall and mates with her before she has even hatched. In many cases, the male then digs an escape tunnel for the female. The male then dies, having spent its entire life within the fig. The female emerges later from her gall and proceeds toward the escape tunnel or the eye of the fig (the part opposite the stem end), because she must deposit her eggs in a second fig. In departing, she passes by many male flowers and emerges covered with pollen. During her brief adult life (as short as two days), she flies into the forest to fertilize another fig and deposit another generation of fig wasps.

“The female fig wasp's role in pollinating certain edible figs, especially Smyrna figs (*F. carica*), is critical to the fig grower, as most economically valuable figs require fertilization to ripen. Though she cannot lay her eggs within the edible fig (she must lay them at the base of the pistil, and the pistils of cultivated figs are longer than her ovipositor), she carries with her the pollen that fertilizes the figs and causes them to ripen. Unfertilized females perform the same role in pollination.”

"fig wasp." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica 2009 Multimedia Edition. Chicago: Encyclopædia Britannica, 2009.

Thus my point is that belief in the Creator or in evolution is an exercise of faith!

Here is a well-worn illustration of faith.

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Imagine that you fried some chicken with buttermilk batter and then put the fried chicken in a bowl of thick brown gravy. But by the time the bowl was passed to you all of the chicken was gone.

You have faith that there had been chicken in that bowl of brown gravy; you have the substance of things hope for, the evidence of things not seen.

After that excursus we will continue with Noah and the ark.

The Bible says the flood covered the entire earth.

If the flood was local, as the skeptics say, then why did God command Noah to take birds into the ark?

The flood and the extreme pressures that such a mass of water would exert, explains upheavals of rock strata, fossils which are found in random order, the origin of coal and oil, etc. In other words the flood explains the world that true science can study.

The flood was judgment from God.

For 120 years Noah had warned the people while he built the ark.

The Lord Jesus believed the account of the flood:

Matthew 24:36-40

³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ESV

Back when I worked in downtown Birmingham I spent many of my lunch hours in the Birmingham Book and Magazine which was a store that sold used books. After a time I discovered that on most of the shelves there were more books behind the books on the front of the shelf. One day I bought an old book, "Daily Bible Illustrations," by John Kitto. It cost 50 cents. When I got home I looked it up in Mr. Spurgeon's "Commenting on Commentaries." Mr. Spurgeon said, "Sell what you have and buy Kitto."

That brings me to this excerpt from Kitto:

JUDGMENT SCENES:

“There was a pause of seven days after Noah had entered the ark before the flood waters came. How awful that pause!...Our Savior says they were obdurate until the day that Noah entered the ark; were they all obdurate the day after - the seven days after? We cannot know. If anyone then bethought himself of the evil of his way, and his heart turned to God, it was well for him, well for his soul; but it was too late for this world-the door of the ark was shut.

Even then the judgment was not instant. The fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the rain fell not in drops, but in cataracts; yet it was not immediately that the lower levels were filled. Thus it was forty days before the ark floated, and a 150 days before the waters rose to their highest point, which was 27 feet above the loftiest mountains.

Thus were the various tribes of creatures driven, day by day, from one resource to another, until none was left. The men who hoped that the waters would soon subside, or whose retreat from their towns and villages was cut off by the surrounding flood, may have conceived to have retreated to the towers and the trees, watching with horror the gradual rise of the waters, and dropping off, one by one, in fatigue and want, from the extremest boughs into the encroaching flood, even before it reached them. For those who retreated to the high lands, there was reserved even a more terrible lot than for those whom the waters soonest slew. Thousands, who had succeeded in reaching the mountains, must have perished with hunger even before the flood swept over the miserable remnant of their number. With them, how soon did the joy of escape to a situation of fancied safety give place to the consciousness that they were without food, or means of obtaining any upon the mountains, and that they must speedily perish there unless the waters soon subsided? But they did not subside. They rose; and in their rise narrowed day by day the area of possible existence. The young and tender died; the aged died; men in their prime died; til at last, some sole survivor, who had seen all the dear companions of his prime perish before his eyes, stood alone upon the mountain, and rushed to meet the flood in his frenzy, or sunk into it in the listlessness of his despair.

The horrors of this most fearful judgment that the world has ever yet seen, are imperfectly realized, if we think of it as we usually do, as a sudden visitation. It was slow-dreadfully slow; and during the months in which the waters rose, the scenes of agony and despair which one day after another presented in different quarters, are such as strike terror into the heart, and sickness into the soul, of him who suffers his mind to dwell upon them, and to picture forth the horrible details. The eye shrinks from the backward view of the righteous judgment of God; and the ear vibrates with torture at the cries of the children, and the sobs of women, at the groans of men and at-

**the bubbling cry
Of some strong swimmer in his agony.”**

Quoted from Kitto’s Daily Bible Illustrations, by John Kitto

IS THE ARK OF NOAH “REASONABLE?”

As in the days of Noah, there are people today that ridicule the word of God; especially regarding Adam, Noah, Jonah, etc. Yet, to be fair, and not to “prove” the account of Noah’s Ark; is it reasonable that a single large boat could accommodate all the creatures that were to be saved?

First of all the ark was simply a “box.” It didn’t have to cut the water or be steered; it just had to float upright. Marine engineers say that the proportions of the ark are perfect for a vessel that is designed to take the roughest storm and stay afloat.

450 feet long by 75 feet wide by 45 feet deep equals
1,518,750 cubic feet of space.

A railroad boxcar is 50 feet long; 9’ 6” high; 8’ 6” wide
Average volume of a boxcar is between 4000 and 5200 cubic feet.

The capacity of the ark was more than 376 railroad boxcars!

But what about all those animals?

Over 60 percent of the animals live in water and did not need to be “saved.”

There are approximately 575 kinds of animals that are between the size of a mouse and a sheep.

The larger animals, between sheep and camels, make up about 300 kinds.

You can park a lot of bees and fleas on an elephant.

So there was no problem to house a pair of every creature with room to spare for food [Gen 6:21].

Although the Bible does not say this, it is entirely possible that the animals hibernated some of the time.

THE FAITH OF NOAH:

Apparently Noah was visited by God before his sons were born? Noah was 500 years old when the first one was born. Noah was 600 years old at the time of the flood. Noah preached righteousness for 120 years. Maybe he was a preacher before he was chosen to build the ark?

Noah believed something that had never happened before in the history of the world. God said he would flood the earth and it had never rained before.

Genesis 2:5-6

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—

Hebrews 11:6-7

⁷ By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Interesting observation:

A close study of Genesis 5 shows that eight patriarchs were still alive at the time of Noah. Methuselah, the man that lived the longest, for 969 years, lived up to the time of the flood, and may have perished in it.

THE ARK AS A TYPE OF CHRIST:

1. God provided a refuge before the need.
2. God Himself revealed the design.
3. The Ark, like Christ, is the only refuge from judgment.
4. God invited Noah into the Ark. We are invited to Christ.
5. The Ark was safe, the LORD shut them in, and they all came out.
6. The Ark had only one door. Jesus is the Way. John 14:6
7. The Ark had rooms (nests); Jesus is preparing resting places.
8. "Pitch" was used. The Hebrew word is "kapher" which means, "to cover".
9. Beyond the Atonement is the Resurrection. The Ark rested on the 17th day of the 7th month after the judgment. Christ arose on the 17th day of the same month!

The Hebrews changed the Day of Atonement to the first month, but it is the same day of the year.

APPLICATION:

How are we saved? Just like Noah, in the “Ark.”

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

The ark and baptism point to salvation only in Christ.

Noah was in the ark before the flood. A believer is in Christ before baptism. What can you believe after baptism that you didn't believe before baptism unless you want to trust your baptism to “save” you?

The only safe place for Noah from the wrath of God was in the ark.

The only refuge for the guilty sinner is in Christ.

Can you repent and trust that Jesus' righteousness is all you need to be right with God?

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