

No Condemnation in the Ark of Christ

Preached by: Matthew S. Black

Text: Genesis 6-8¹

Date: September 29, 2010, 7pm

Series: Genesis (The Book of Beginnings)

Introduction: Open your Bible to **Genesis 6**. We are going to be looking at Genesis 6, 7, and 8. We need to understand that these chapters are under attack today, and I believe if you are going to say you are a Bible believer, you must accept the historical accuracy of these accounts. The denial of the authenticity of the book of Genesis is really an attack on the words of our Lord Jesus and his apostles, for all spoke of Noah as a historical person and the flood as a historical worldwide occurrence.

In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles all speak of Noah as an historical person. Peter mentions him twice. In fact, we have a summary of these three chapters in the book of Hebrews.

Jesus mentions Noah in three of the Gospels as an historical person. In fact He compares His Second coming with the days of Noah. One of the statements is in **Luke 17:26-27**, “Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

We must conclude that Noah was an historic person, or we must attack the veracity of Jesus’ statements.

We want to look at the seven different steps in the flood epic that teach us about faith.

- I. What Noah is told to **Build** (6:14-16). **6:14-16**, “Make yourself an ark of gopher [*cypress-type*] wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 [*450 ft*] cubits, its breadth 50 [*75 ft*] cubits, and its height 30 [*45 ft*] cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit [*18 inches*] above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks”.

A. The **Dimensions** for the Building of the Ark.

The ark is going to weigh approximately 1400 tons (without the animals). The ark is measured in cubits. What’s a cubit? It’s from your elbow to the tip of your finger. That’s about 18 inches.

- It’s 450 feet long, so a football field and a half.
- It’s 75 feet wide. It’s 45 feet high (three stories).
- It’s got a million and a half cubit feet. That’s the equivalent of 522 railroad cars.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the *English Standard Version* of the Bible.

Today if you took two of every species on this planet, of which we have 17,000 (approximately) species on this planet. If you took two of them if they were somewhat young, being smaller, they would take up the capacity of 188 of those railroad cars. This is a massive structure.

B. The **Time Frame** for the Building of the Ark.

Noah begins building the ark when he is about 500 years old at the birth of his three sons (Genesis 5:32). At this time Noah becomes “a herald of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5, 9). And he preached 100 years as he built the ark. We read in **Hebrews 11:7** that Noah was “warned by God concerning events as yet unseen”. And “in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household” as he warned others. When Noah was “six hundred” years old, the flood waters came according to **Genesis 7:6**.

- So it took Noah 100 years to build the ark with three helpers—his sons in law! They had four ladies to cook for them, and it took them 100 years to get it done.

C. The **Window** on the Ark (vs. 16c). **Verse 16a** tells us the ark has a **window**. But it’s not just a window. It goes all the way around the top deck of the ark. It’s a roof that is suspended 1 cubit, or 18 inches on the top deck of the ark. “Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit [18 inches] above” (**verse 16**). Why a window? Because you’d want a window with all those animals! You’d want some ventilation.

D. The **Door** of the Ark (vs. 16c). **Verse 16b** we hear about the **door** of the ark. “and set the door of the ark in its side”. It may have a big window, but there’s only one door. There’s only one entrance to the ark. When Noah and his family get on the ark, God shuts the door! Remember what Jesus called Himself in the Gospel of John? He said, “I am the door of the sheep” (**John 10:7**). Many seek to enter other ways, He said, but they are thieves and liars. Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. You see there is only one way to approach salvation, and that is the Way that God designs.

E. The **Decks** on the Ark (vs. 16c). There are three decks on the ark. **Verse 16c**, “Make it with lower, second, and third decks”. It could be that one or part of one is for Noah and his family one is for food, and the rest if for the animals.

F. The **New Testament’s Commentary** on the Ark. The New Testament does not speak of how Noah built the ark, but WHY he built it. Consider **Hebrews 11:7**.

Why would you spend 100 years building a vessel to save you from a judgment that you are told about but you have never seen? Because of faith! Noah believed

the Word that God gave Him. What was the test of Noah's faith? It's not simply that Noah believed in the integrity of God's Word or in the inerrancy of God's Word.

1. Our faith is tested by whether or not we govern our lives by the Word of God. Do you think Noah governed His life by God's Word?

Hebrews 11:7, "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."

You see, if Noah professed to believe that God's judgment would come, but instead of building the ark, he decided to cultivate redwood forests, it would be in total contradiction to God's promise. He believed, so "in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household". The quality and integrity of our faith is tested by obedience to God with an attitude of "reverent fear". Noah "in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household".

2. Noah governed his present life by a future promise. And so we also govern our lives by a future promise. Jesus is coming again!
3. Now how did Noah "condemn the world" by building the ark? Remember Jesus said that the world is "eating, drinking, and marrying". The idea is that they are partying and not thinking about God's coming judgment. They are essentially oblivious to the judgment that was coming. They look out their windows at their parties and they see this massive boat 450 feet long. About a football field and a half! 75 feet wide, 3 stories high! It's being built for a flood, even though it has never rained! It's not by any sea. It's inland.

Application – Faith without works is dead!: How many do we know that say they believe Jesus is coming again, but they are not ready, and their not even preparing. Like those in the day of Noah, they may believe "FLOOD" but they do not build "ARK". If you believe flood, you build ark! All else is empty words.

Application – What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul.

- I can just imagine Noah and his sons. Shem might say, "Look at that 57 Chevy chariot." And Noah'd say, "It's gonna be underwater soon!" Listen we need to tell our children that this earth and all that's in it is gonna burn soon! The flood had not yet come, so **Noah and his family lived by faith.**
- **I'm not afraid that my kids are going to fail. I'm afraid my kids are going to succeed at the wrong things.** My kids might be good at a lot of things, but I want them building an ark. You might be good at a lot of things, but you need to be building the ark. Your problem is not that you are going to fail.

Your problem is you are going to succeed. You've got to succeed at the right thing. Howard Hendricks once said, "You can build a nice ladder, but make sure you lean it against the right wall." The Bible does not define success as the obtaining of objectives. The Bible defines success as a heart submission and a sincere obedience to God's Word.

Do you believe judgment is coming? What are you building right now? Is it going to float? Is it going to carry you and your children into safety and eternal life? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31).

II. What Noah is told to **Gather** (6:17-22).

Genesis 6:17-22, "For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and **you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.** 19 **And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.** 20 **Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive.** 21 **Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them.**" 22 ¶ Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him."

Noah welcomes people, animals, and gathers food. We'll work backward.

A. Noah gathered **Food** (vs. 21). Look at **verse 21**, "Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them".

B. God gathers **Animals** (vs. 19-20).

1. How did Noah get all the animals on the ark? **Verse 19**, "And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female."

Look at **Genesis 6:20**, "two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive". Noah didn't have to get the animals. They all came to him.

Look at **Genesis 7:9**, "two and two, male and female [of the animals], went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah".

It is likely that 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 ramp, all by themselves.

Explanation: We can understand how this might happen by observing the animals today. Birds fly south for the winter. Bears hibernate. The amazing flights of Monarch butterflies, the annual travels of whales and fish shows how this could have been possible. You see then as well as today, God rules over the animal kingdom. He put instincts into them at the ark that are still observable today.

2. Weren't the animals wild? **Verse 16** says, "Make rooms in the ark". The word rooms could also be translated "nests". Scholars have indicated that the idea is that the animals would be "nesting" and subdued. Some have theorized that God might have put some of the animals, upon reaching the ark in hibernation mode.

C. Noah calls **People** to come into the ark (vs. 17-18).

1. Noah is told to gather his family. **Genesis 6:17-18**, "For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."
2. In addition, Noah also preaches to the lost. 2 Peter 2 tells us that Noah is "a herald of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5, 9). He's out preaching that people need to come. He's not vindictive when building the ark. He has a compassion for the lost around him.

Noah's told to **build**. He's told to **gather**. Now he's told to **enter**.

III. Noah is told to **Enter** the ark (7:1-15). God says "Come in!" Welcome! Salvation! Look at **Genesis 7:1**, "Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark"".

A. **When** did Noah enter the Ark? When he saw the clouds coming? No! He entered by faith. That's not how the movies portray it. Walt Disney did a claymation of Noah in 1959—you probably never saw it. But when do the movies say Noah and his family got into the ark. It's when *the sky grew dark, and it began to rain*. Is that when they got in?

Noah and his family got in the ark and waited 7 days! Look at **Genesis 7:4**, "For in seven days I will send rain". Look at **7:10**, "after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth".

So Noah entered the ark seven days before it began to rain. And **verse 13 (Genesis 7)** we learn that Noah, his family, and all the animals all entered into the ark on the same day: "On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, 14 they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock

according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature. 15 They went into the ark with Noah...

B. **Why** would they wait a week? There are some theories, but I think there are probably two reasons. In **Genesis 50:10**, which records Jacob's death, we find that the tradition of the ancient world was to mourn for a week after someone died.

1. I believe it's probable that **Methuselah** died one week prior to the flood. **Genesis 5:22**, "Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters."

Methuselah is born and is truly a walking prophecy of God's judgment to come. In fact, his very name means "*he shall die and it will be sent*". "When Methuselah dies, JUDGMENT".

His name is a prophesy in itself of judgment! If you do the math from the genealogies, Methuselah indeed died in the very year the flood came, in the year 1656 from the creation of the world. It could be that there would be one week of mourning for Methuselah.

When Methuselah dies, the flood comes! By the way, Methuselah was the oldest man ever to live. I believe that shows God's patience.

2. Secondly, I believe that entering the Ark with no rain was an act of **faith**. Imagine the mockery that would have been going on. It made no sense. Yet, God commanded and God closed the ark. Look at **verse 16**, "And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him. And the LORD shut him in".

Noah's told to **build**. He's told to **gather**. He's told to **enter**.

IV. Now let's look at the **Judgment** that comes (7:11-20). Look at **verses 11-12**, "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights."

A. The Approximate **Date** of the Flood Judgment. Most scholars estimate the time was sometime in November, somewhere around 2300 BC. According to the genealogies, that would have been 1650 years or so after the Creation of the world.

B. The **Physical nature** of the Flood Judgment.

1. The judgment is by WATER. Most people today say that you could not get 40 straight days and nights of constant rain. There's just not enough rain up there, and the process would take too long to condensate. But what do we see here in **verse 11**? We read that "**the windows of the heavens were opened**" (vs. 11). Many Bible students point to this verse and also Genesis 1:6-7 and the theory is that there was a great vapor canopy over the earth. Let's read **Genesis 1:6**, "**And God said, 'Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.'**" **7 And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse.**" Now we are told that in **Genesis 7:11**, "**the windows of the heavens were opened**". What ever this was, it was a different atmospheric structure than what we have now.

So the windows of heaven opened.

We also see in **verse 11**, "**on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth**". So here you have the earth's tectonic plates moving and bringing great Tsunamis upon the land. Mountain ranges are being formed. Canyons are being formed. The Grand Canyon was formed during this time. The water is so powerful that it is cutting through the earth and creating rock formations. The power is unbelievable!

2. The flood was worldwide. It covered the mountains. Let me tell you, this was not a local flood!
 - 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 missed it.
 - If the Flood was local, why did God send the animals to the Ark so they would escape death? There would have been other animals to reproduce that kind if these particular ones had died.
 - If the Flood was local, why was the Ark big enough to hold all kinds of land vertebrate animals that have ever existed? It was big enough to hold the approximately 17,000 species we have on this planet.

The Biblical record is clear. **Genesis 7:17-20**, "**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.**"

The point of the flood is not to prove a young earth creation. Sure, it does that. But there is another purpose of the evidence of a flood judgment.

C. The **Ultimate Purpose** of the Flood Judgment is to Warn us. There is a coming judgment on the earth. Are you safe? The people of Noah's day did nothing with God's message of judgment. And what happened to them?

- We read in **1 Peter 3:20**, “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.”
- **2 Peter 3:3-7**, “knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these **the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.** 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”

Conclusion: The old world perished by water. The present world we live in are “stored up for fire being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”

What shall we say to this? Just one question. Are you in the Ark? Are your children in the ark. **Romans 8:1**, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”.

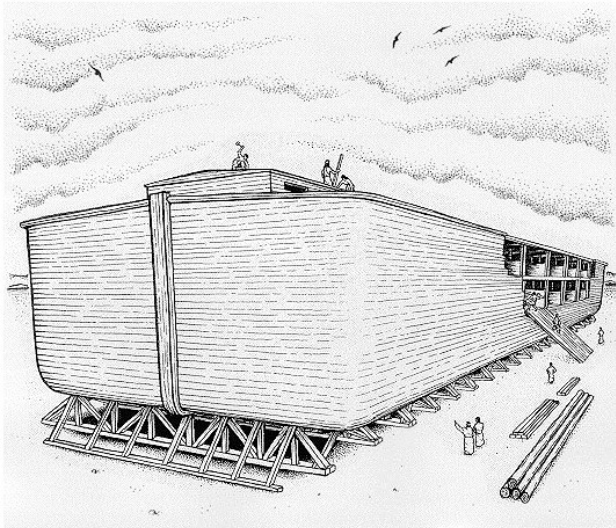
NOAH'S ARK

GENESIS 6-8

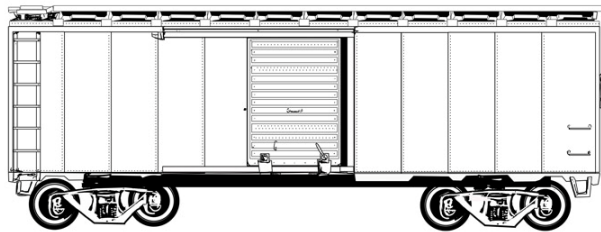
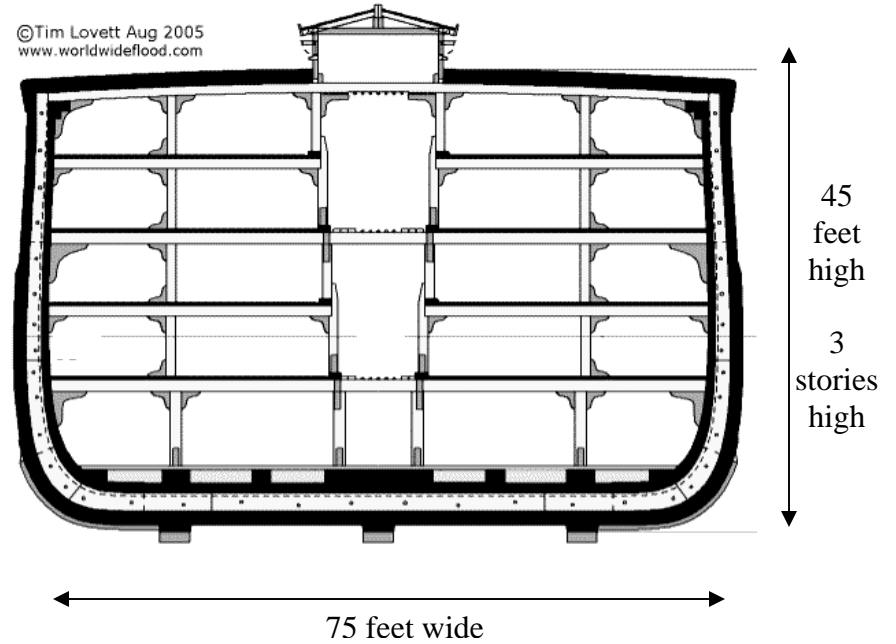
Noah begins building the ark when he is 500 years old.

HEBREWS 11:7

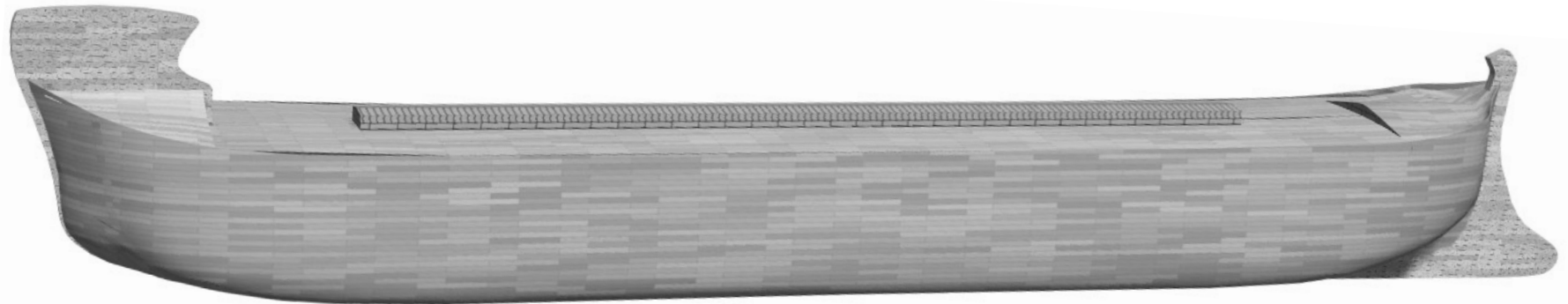
“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.”



©Tim Lovett Aug 2005
www.worldwideflood.com



It's capacity could hold the cubic footage of 522 standard railroad cars!



450 feet long