

The Genesis Account of **NOAH'S ARK**

12-Lesson Video Study

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LESSON 1

Introduction



Have you ever talked with a friend about Noah's ark or the global flood described in Genesis? If so, you may know that many people today don't believe this event really happened—they think it's just a fairy tale! But the Bible is the true history book of the universe. The words of Scripture are inspired by God and entirely true (2 Timothy 3:16). We can trust everything God says because he was there and he cannot lie (Numbers 23:19).

In this course, we will explore many of the most-asked questions about Noah's ark and the worldwide flood (perhaps questions you've wondered about too). By the end, you'll be better equipped to speak confidently about the trustworthiness of the Bible when talking with someone who doubts that this event ever happened.

Objectives

In today's lesson, we will dig into Scripture to gain an overview of the entire account of Noah and the flood and explore why it happened. We will also consider why it's important to be equipped with answers to the questions people commonly ask.

Prayer

It is always important to begin your study of God's Word with prayer and a humble heart, eager to seek the truth God has shared with us in the Bible. Take a moment to pray for God's guidance as you study his Word today.

Memory Verse

Throughout this study, we will focus on learning one key Bible verse about Noah—Hebrews 11:7. Write it in the space below, then read it aloud a few times along with the Scripture reference.

The World Before Noah

When God originally created the world, it was a wonderful place—free from sin, pain, and death. God declared everything he had made to be very good (Genesis 1:31).

God wanted the best for the people he created and desired their trust and obedience to his commands. He warned Adam—and Eve knew too—not to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He explained that if they ate from it, they would die (Genesis 2:17).

However, Adam and Eve made a terrible choice. The serpent (Satan) tempted Eve to question God’s command about the tree (Genesis 3:1, 4–5). She was deceived and ate from the tree. Adam, though not deceived (1 Timothy 2:14), chose to disobey God and also ate the fruit. Because of their disobedience, they faced God’s punishment. Adam’s sin brought death, suffering, and separation from God into the world. Even the animals were cursed to die, and the ground itself was cursed because of Adam’s sin (Genesis 3:14, 17, 5:29; Romans 8:19–22).

Adam and Eve had many children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on, and the earth began to be filled with people. They farmed, built cities, crafted tools from bronze and iron, and created and played musical instruments. But over time, sin consumed their hearts more and more. After many generations, the world became a terrible place—filled with wickedness, pain, violence, and death.

God is patient with mankind and desires for all to turn from sin and trust in him (2 Peter 3:9). But eventually, the sinfulness, violence, and evil of the people at that time became so extreme that God decided to judge the entire world. He determined to destroy every person and air-breathing, land-dwelling animal—except for those he saved on the ark.



Overview of The Genesis Account of Noah’s Ark

Read Genesis 6:5–9:19 and answer the following questions, citing at least one Bible verse reference for each answer.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Why did God decide to flood the whole earth? | 4. List three characteristics of Noah given in Genesis 6:9. |
| 2. What was the flood meant to accomplish? | 5. What were the names of Noah’s sons? |
| 3. In Genesis 6:8, what did Noah find in the eyes of the Lord? | 6. What did God instruct Noah to build? |

7. What material was the ark made of?

8. What were the dimensions of the ark?

9. How many decks would the ark have?

10. Who did God say would go into the ark with Noah?

11. What types of animals were to go on the ark?

12. Did Noah have to go and find the animals, or did God send them to Noah?

13. Apart from people and animals, what else did God tell Noah to bring onto the ark?

14. In Genesis 7:3, what reason is given for taking the animals on the ark?

15. How old was Noah when the flood started?

16. In Genesis 7:11, what were the two sources of water that caused the flood?

17. Who shut the door of the ark?

18. Which mountains did the floodwaters cover?

19. How high above the mountains did the floodwaters rise?

20. What happened to the people and animals outside the ark?



21. Where did the ark come to rest?

22. The flood started on the 17th day of the second month in Noah's 600th year (Genesis 7:11). On the first day of the 10th month, what could be seen?

23. Why did Noah send out a raven and a dove?

24. Looking at Genesis 7:11 and Genesis 8:13–14, approximately how long were Noah and his family aboard the ark?

25. Once the earth dried up, what did God tell Noah to do?

26. What change in diet did God allow after the flood?

27. Why did God forbid murder and what reason does he give?

28. Who did God make a covenant with?

29. What was God's promise to them?

30. What is the sign of this covenant?

AND NOAH DID ALL
THAT THE LORD HAD
COMMANDED HIM.

GENESIS 7:5

ALL SCRIPTURE IS
BREATHED OUT BY GOD
AND PROFITABLE FOR
TEACHING, FOR REPROOF,
FOR CORRECTION,
AND FOR TRAINING IN
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

The flood was God's judgment on the wickedness of mankind. Yet in his mercy, he provided a way to be saved—the ark. One day, there will be another judgment, this time by fire. But the good news is that God has once again provided a way to be saved—through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Importance of Biblical Authority

Unfortunately, most people today do not believe what the Bible teaches about the flood. Many deny that the flood was a real event or that there was a real ark. In 2 Peter 3:3–6, we learn that scoffers will deny the flood—just as many people do now.

1. Read Luke 17:26–27. Do you think Jesus believed there was a real ark and a real flood?

If Jesus believed these events really happened, then so should we. The Bible is the true history book of the universe, and we can trust it from the very first verse. If we can't trust what the Bible says about the flood, why would we trust what it says about other topics, including the gospel? It is vital to stand on the authority of Scripture because God's Word is truth.

2. Read 1 Peter 3:15. What does Peter say we should always be ready to do?

Scripture teaches us that we should be prepared to give an explanation when people have questions. This doesn't mean we will always know the answer to every question, but we can learn answers to common questions and also point people to the Bible and other resources where they can find answers.

3. What does Peter say our attitude should be when we answer peoples' questions? (1 Peter 3:15)

Our ultimate goal in answering questions about our faith is not to appear clever or to win arguments but to share the love of God and the truth of the gospel. This should always be in our minds as we interact with others.

In this course, we will consider some common questions about the account of the flood in Genesis and explore how we might answer them.

▶ Watch the Videos

Scan the QR code to watch video 1 and explore some of the questions people often have about Noah and the ark.

Which question mentioned in the video intrigues you the most?

VIDEO 1

Watch supplementary video 1.2, then answer the following questions.

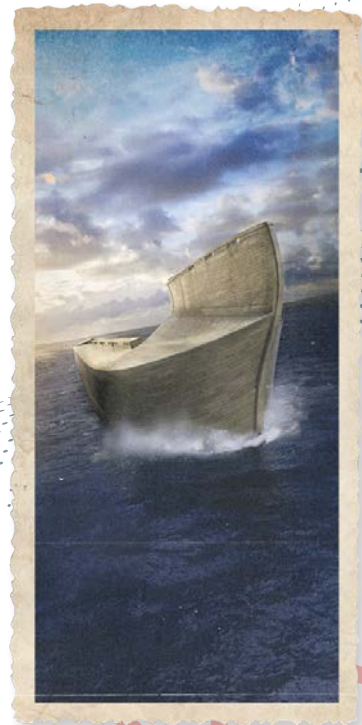
1. What would we expect to find on earth today if there really was a global flood that covered the highest hills under all of heaven?
2. How many dogs did Noah need to take onboard the ark?

3. Noah's ark is a picture of what?
4. Who is our "ark" of salvation?
5. What do the flood legends from various people groups around the world attest to?

VIDEO 1.2

APOLOGETICS IS THE RATIONAL DEFENSE OF ONE'S FAITH. IT IS GIVING REASONS FOR WHAT ONE BELIEVES.¹

— MARK BIRD





Answer the Skeptic

Does “apologetics” mean you are apologizing for what you believe? Watch supplementary video 1.3, then answer the following questions for Kayla.

Does “apologetics” mean you are apologizing for what you believe?

VIDEO 1.3

1. What is “apologetics”?
2. The word *apologetics* comes from which Greek word, and what does that Greek word mean?
3. Is apologetics only for certain groups of Christians?
4. What is the purpose of apologetics?



A Question to Think About

Before diving into the details of the flood and the ark in the upcoming lessons, take a moment to reflect on any questions you may have about this event. If you do, write them down below.

¹ Mark Bird, *Defending Your Faith: Leader's Guide* (Answers in Genesis, 2006), 7.



LESSON 2

Was There Really a Noah's Ark?

In the previous lesson, we discussed the importance of being able to give a “reasoned defense” for what we believe, helping others overcome stumbling blocks in understanding God’s Word.

Objectives

Today, we will begin exploring a couple of key questions people often ask about the historicity of the ark:

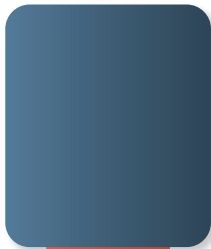
- What size was Noah’s ark?
- How could Noah have built such a huge ship?

Prayer

Pray for God’s guidance in understanding the truth from his Word.

Memory Verse

Write out the memory verse, Hebrews 11:7, then read it aloud. Begin working on memorizing the first few phrases.



VIDEO 2

▶ Watch the Video

Read through these questions, then listen for the answers as you watch video 2. Feel free to make brief notes of key points as you listen.

WORD TO REMEMBER: CUBIT

A CUBIT IS AN ANCIENT UNIT OF MEASUREMENT BASED ON THE DISTANCE FROM THE ELBOW TO THE TIP OF THE LONGEST FINGER.

1. Where is the true history of the universe described?
2. What size was Noah's ark?
3. What is a cubit?
4. What were the two types of cubits used in many ancient cultures?
5. What other cultures in history built huge wooden ships?
6. Who built the temple?
7. Who might have helped Noah build the ark?
8. How long did Noah have to build the ark?
9. What other items were people making at that time?
10. What did the ancient Mayan people build?

Fairy-Tale Ark?

Pictures like this, which depict Noah's ark as a fairy tale, are one reason many people believe the ark was not a real historical ship. A boat like this obviously could NOT carry thousands of animals and supplies. It's important to share the true details given in the Bible so people don't reject God's Word based on incorrect representations.



What Size Was Noah's Ark?

After watching the video, if someone said to you, “There’s no way Noah could have fit all the animals on the ark!” What would you say? To answer that, we need to know how big the ark was and how many animals Noah needed to put on it. Let’s review what we’ve learned about the size of the ark in this lesson, and we’ll discuss exactly how many animals were on the ark when we reach lesson 9.

1. Read Genesis 6:11–22. What are the three dimensions God gives for the ark in Genesis 6:15?
2. A cubit was a unit of measurement based on the length of a forearm (from the elbow to the fingertips). Naturally, this measurement would vary depending on the size of the person, so different cultures had different cubit lengths.
 - a. Get a tape measure and measure your forearm (from elbow to fingertips). What is the length of your cubit?

Ask some adults among your family and friends if you may measure the length of their cubits.

- a. What is the shortest measurement?
 - b. What is the longest measurement?
3. After extensive research, experts at Answers in Genesis concluded that Noah likely used a cubit of about 20.4 inches—just over 1.7 feet per cubit (0.518 meters per cubit). Using this measurement, calculate the approximate size of the ark in feet or meters.

Length:

Width:

Height:

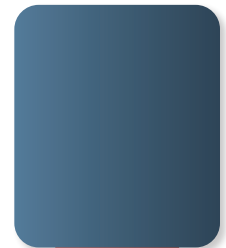
4. Watch supplementary video 2.2 on the size of the ark, then answer the following questions.
 - a. Approximately how many standard semitrailers could fit within the volume of the ark?
 - b. Approximately how many sheep would fit into that amount of space?

We’ve seen that Noah’s ark was truly a massive ship! God designed it to carry all the people, animals, food, and supplies needed to survive the flood.

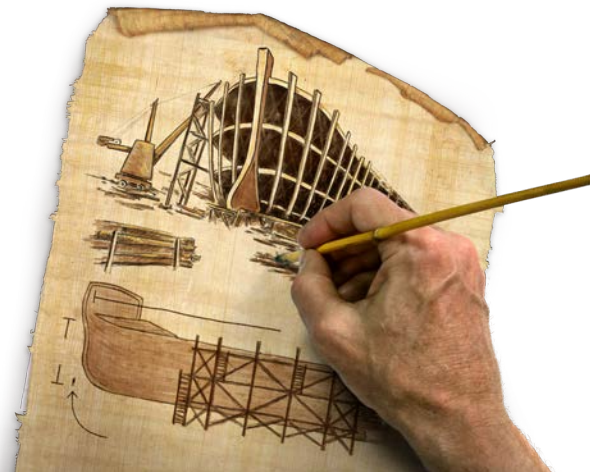


**NIPPUR CUBIT
MEASURING ROD**
20.4 INCHES

THIS IS A REPLICA OF
ONE OF THE OLDEST
FOUND CUBIT
MEASURING DEVICES
FROM THE SUMERIANS
IN MESOPOTAMIA.



VIDEO 2.2



How Would It Be Possible for Noah to Build Such a Huge Ship?

Many people think building the ship described in the Bible sounds completely impossible. But how long did Noah have to build it? Did he have the skills and technology? Did he have to build it alone? Let's see what Scripture says. Read Genesis 5:32, 6:3, and 7:6, then answer the following questions.



1. What were the names of Noah's sons?
2. How old was Noah when his first son was born?
3. How many years in advance of the flood did God warn that he was going to stop striving with man? (In other words, how much time did God give people to repent before bringing judgment to the earth?)
4. How old was Noah when the flood started?
5. The Bible doesn't specify exactly when Noah began building the ark, but it may have been after his sons grew up and got married. If Noah was 500 years old when his first son was born and 600 years old when the flood started, how long would you estimate he might have had to construct the ark (assuming he waited until his sons were married)?
6. What other huge construction project in the Bible is mentioned in the video? [Video 4:56–5:38]
7. Does the Bible say that Noah had to build the ark on his own?
8. Who might have helped Noah build the ark? [Video 4:56–5:38]
9. How do we know that the people of Noah's time had the skills and technology to tackle this project? Read Genesis 4:17–22 and list things mentioned in this passage that were being made or built before Noah's day. [Video 6:31–8:07]

From all this, we see that Noah had plenty of time to complete this massive construction with the help of his sons (and possibly others). The people of that time were already designing and constructing complex tools, buildings, and cities, so they clearly had the skills and technology required to build the ark.



By the time of Noah, and with people living for hundreds of years before the flood, who knows what sort of knowledge was accumulated and the kind of sophisticated technology that was developed? Noah may have had tools and other impressive technology that we would be jealous of! And remember, we don't know how ancient people built many of the stone structures in South America or even the remarkably constructed Egyptian pyramids. The ancients obviously had a technology we just aren't aware of, as it seems no record was kept or the records were destroyed.¹

— Ken Ham



Answer the Skeptic

Having studied what the Scriptures tell us about Noah and the ark, how would you respectfully respond to Michael?

There's no way Noah could have built such a huge ship all by himself! People in that day were too primitive!



A Question to Think About

What does Psalm 119:98–100 teach us about gaining true understanding in all areas of life?

Digging Deeper

How Long Was the Original Cubit?

Read this article to learn more about ancient cubits.

How Long Did It Take Noah to Build the Ark?

In this article, learn more about how long it took to build the ark.



¹ Ken Ham, “How Did Noah Build the Ark?,” Answers in Genesis, March 8, 2016, AnswersInGenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2016/03/08/how-did-noah-build-ark/.