



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group - Creation Series

Lesson #6 (Genesis 6 to 8 – Noah and the Flood) | Thursday, March 23, 2017

The principal aim of this series is to explore what the Bible has to say about Creation and the early history of mankind up to the Tower of Babel. The first eleven chapters of Genesis define for us what God's Word has to say about the early days of man. For many people this portion of the Bible is nothing more than fables, while for others it is the inspired Word of God that clearly establishes the origin of man, civilization, and the universe. As Christians, it is important to know what we believe and be able to clearly communicate to others the basis of our beliefs. The world needs well-read, articulate Christians who are confident in their beliefs built on a strong, Biblical foundation.

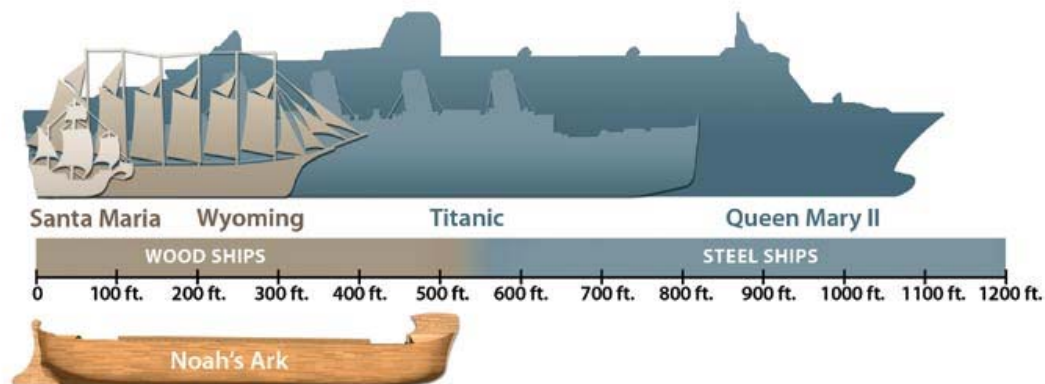
Listed below is the basic outline for our Creation Series, along with the schedule for each lesson.

Topic	Location in Genesis	Planned Date
Introduction	N/A	February 2
Six days of Creation	Genesis 1 – 2	February 9
The Fall	Genesis 3	February 16
Cain and Abel	Genesis 4	February 23
Genealogy (Adam to Noah)	Genesis 5	March 2
Wickedness of Man	Genesis 6:1-8	March 9
Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6 – 8	March 23 (*)
God's Covenant with Noah / Sons of Noah	Genesis 9	March 30
Table of Nations	Genesis 10	April 6
Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9	April 13

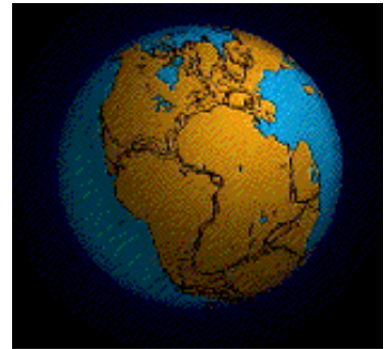
* Spring Break is scheduled for March 13-17; there will not be a lesson on Thursday, March 16.

There are numerous resources available that include in-depth research on specific aspects of the Ark and the Flood. Consider several of the following:

- Refer to the figure below that compares the size of the Ark to vessels dating back over the past 500 years (note that because of its extreme length at 450 feet, the Wyoming with its wood construction tended to flex in heavy seas, which would cause the long planks to twist and buckle, thereby allowing sea water to intrude into the hold. It was built in 1909 and eventually sunk in 1924). Consider also details presented on the back page associated with design of the Ark.



- At the present time scientists have identified approximately 2 million species on Earth. Estimates of the “kinds” of animals that were on the Ark range from 16,000 to 35,000.
- To accommodate larger animals, it is possible that young animals were loaded onto the Ark.
- Dimensions of the Ark (450-ft x 75-ft x 45-ft):
 - Three (3) decks each spanning 437-ft x 73-ft (31,901 ft²)
 - Storage capacity was equal to 522 rail cars
 - Total deck area greater than 2 football fields
 - Provided below are photographs of a replica constructed by Dutch contractor, Johan Huibers.
- It is quite possible that prior to the Flood, the earth had one single continent (Pangea – Greek *παν pan* "entire", and *Γαῖα Gaia* "Earth").



Questions & Deep Thoughts

1. Read Genesis 6:11-22 and consider the following questions.
 - a. At the very core of the Flood is the issue of man's sin. For all of recorded history, this has been the great challenge for mankind. Do you think this is the reason many humans relegate the story of the Flood to a myth, allegory, or unfounded legend?
 - b. According to verses 11-13 what was God's stated purpose in the Flood.
 - c. What were the dimensions of the Ark?
 - i. Length: _____
 - ii. Width: _____
 - iii. Height: _____
2. Read Genesis 8 and develop a timeline considering the following.
 - a. Length of time waters receded: _____
 - b. Day on which the ark came to rest: _____
 - c. Day on which the mountains became visible: _____
 - d. Days after which Noah opened the window: _____
 - e. Day on which the water dried up: _____
 - f. Day on which Noah exited the ark: _____
 - g. Date the Flood started (Genesis 7): _____
 - h. Total time of the flood (days): _____

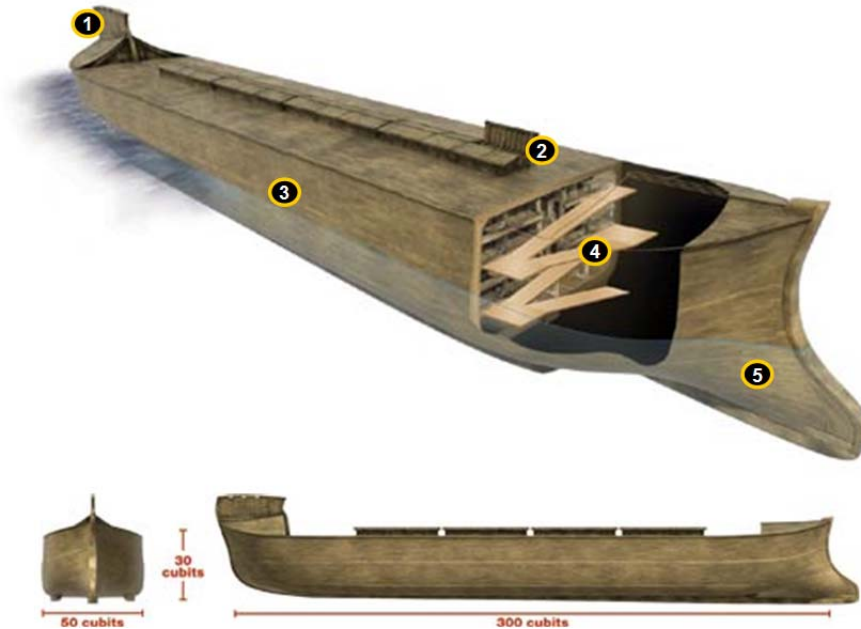
3. In Genesis 8:17 we see God telling mankind and the animals to multiply on the earth. This is not the first time we see God telling His Creation to do this (cf. Genesis 1:22, 28). In Revelation 4:11 we read that *You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being*. How does Creation's multiplication bring honor to God? Think also in a spiritual sense the implications of humanities' growth and subduing of the earth.

4. The early part of Genesis does not speak much of sacrifices or altars. In Genesis 4 we see the offering of Cain and Abel, but in Genesis 8:20-21 we see Noah's sacrifice before the Lord. Read Hebrews 5:1-3 and Psalm 51:15-17. What is the purpose of a sacrifice and what was necessary for it to be acceptable to God? Because of Christ's sacrifice, the conditions have certainly changed. Paul probably has the best New Testament explanation of what is required of us in Romans 12:1-2. How would you describe a proper sacrifice for a Christian?

5. Most of us have tremendous respect for Noah and his ability to persevere as a leader against staggering odds (remember – all mankind was against him except his immediate family). At the core of Noah's success was his **FAITH**. Hebrews 11:1 states that *faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see*. Why is faith critically important in our lives as followers of Jesus and why was it important to Noah?

Technical Specifications on the Ark

(Refer to details in the following text by referencing the numbered locations shown in the figure below)

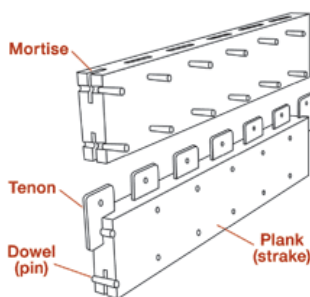
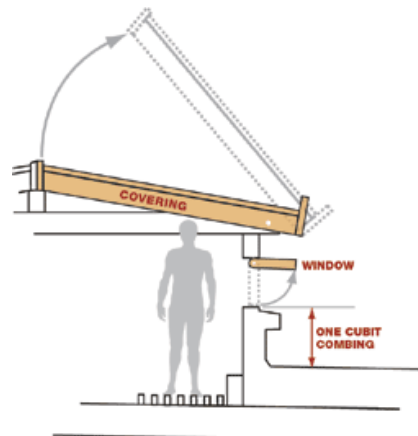


1. Something to catch the wind

Wind-driven waves would cause a drifting vessel to turn dangerously side-on to the weather. However, such waves could be safely navigated by making the Ark steer itself with a wind-catching obstruction on the bow. To be effective, this obstruction must be large enough to overcome the turning effect of the waves. While many designs could work, the possibility shown here reflects the high stems which were a hallmark of ancient ships.

2. A cubit upward and above

Any opening on the deck of a ship needs a wall (combing) to prevent water from flowing in, especially when the ship rolls. In this illustration, the window “ends a cubit upward and above,” as described in **Genesis 6:16**. The central position of the skylight is chosen to reflect the idea of a “noon light.” This also means that the window does not need to be exactly one cubit. Perhaps the skylight had a transparent roof (even more a “noon light”), or the skylight roof could be opened (which might correspond to when “Noah removed the covering of the Ark”). While variations are possible, a window without combing is not the most logical solution.



3. Mortise and tenon planking

Ancient shipbuilders usually began with a shell of planks (strakes) and then built internal framing (ribs) to fit inside. This is the complete reverse of the familiar European method where planking was added to the frame. In shell-first construction, the planks must be attached to each other somehow. Some used overlapping (clinker) planks that were dowelled or nailed, others used rope to sew the planks together. The ancient Greeks used a sophisticated system where the planks were interlocked with thousands of precise mortise and tenon joints. The resulting hull was strong enough to ram another ship, yet light enough to be hauled onto a beach by the crew. If this is what the Greeks could do centuries before Christ, what could Noah do centuries after Tubal-Cain invented forged metal tools?

4. Ramps

Ramps help to get animals and heavy loads between decks. Running them across the hull avoids cutting through important deck beams, and this location is away from the middle of the hull where bending stresses are highest. (This placement also better utilizes the irregular space at bow and stern.)

5. Something to catch the water

To assist in turning the Ark to point with the wind, the stern should resist being pushed sideways. This is the same as a fixed rudder or skeg that provides directional control. There are many ways this could be done, but here we are reflecting the “mysterious” stern extensions seen on the earliest large ships of the Mediterranean.

Above information taken from: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n2/thinking-outside-the-box>