



How Large was the Ark?

Scripture:

1. The Ark – Genesis 6:14-18

Purpose of the Ark: to preserve life on earth

- Scripture does not tell us that Noah and his sons built the Ark by themselves
- They could have hired skilled laborers

Cubit?

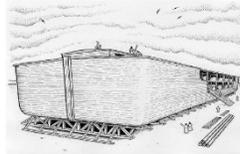
The Biblical cubit is believed to be 18 inches to 20 inches

- A cubit was a standard means of measurement at the time
- Determined by measuring from the elbow to the tip of the finger
- According to God's instructions, the Ark was to be designed for capacity and floating stability. A gigantic box of the following dimensions would be exceedingly stable, almost impossible to capsize

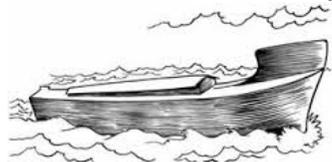
Measurements:

- 450 Feet long (510 feet long) – Based upon a cubit of 20.4 inches)
- 75 feet wide (85 feet wide)
- 45 Feet high (51 feet high)
- 3 Stories
- Total deck of 97,700 square feet (Equivalent to 20 standard basketball courts)
- The volume of space in the Ark was 1.4 million cubic feet, equal to the capacity of 522 railroad stock cars, which could carry 125,000 sheep

Biblical creationists have historically depicted the Ark as a simple rectangular box



The Ark shown in Answers Bible Curriculum goes beyond that configuration. This particular model was considered after much study and the determination that the Ark had to have been equipped to handle rough seas. The Answers design was made by a mechanical engineer who studied the Flood and the Ark for nearly 13 years before rendering this design



2. The Animals - Genesis 6:17-7:5

A. How Many Animals?

“Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female”

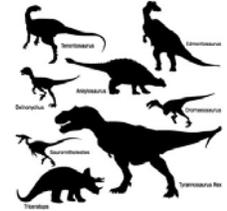
- Genesis 7:2

About 16,000 to 35,000 animals were all that were needed to preserve the created “kinds” The Ark did not need to carry every kind of animal

It carried only air-breathing, land-dwelling animals, creeping things and birds

The tremendous variety in species we see today did not exist in the days of Noah Only the parent kinds of the species were required to be on board in order to repopulate the earth

Only about 11% of land animals are larger than a sheep and so is the size of the average dinosaur



B. How did the Dinosaurs Fit?

The average size of a dinosaur was the size of a sheep

There are hundreds of names (about 700 names) for different varieties (species) of dinosaurs that have been discovered, there are probably about 50 actual different kinds

The large animals were probably represented by young individuals (therefore small) They had to spend a year on the Ark and then go out to repopulate the world

C. Did Noah round up all these animals? No

“Two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive” - Genesis 6:20

Based on Genesis 1 there may have been only one continent before the flood The animals simply arrived at the Ark, as if called by a homing instinct (a behavior implanted in the animals by their Creator) behaviors exhibited in God's animal creation:

- Migration of Canadian geese and other birds
- Hibernation instincts
- Annual travels of fish
- Earthquake sensitivity

Clean Vs. Unclean

“Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female” - Genesis 7:2

No previous categorization of animals as clean or unclean is given in Genesis.

• Later in Leviticus 11, the Mosaic law plainly spells out which animals were to be considered clean in the Israelite system

Clean animals were those suitable for eating and for sacrifice

Examples:

Clean: Cattle, sheep, goats, deer

Unclean: pigs, camels, eels, shellfish, eagles, hawks, vultures, bats, dogs, cats



The Reshaping of the Earth

Scripture: Genesis 1:9, 10; 7:10-16

Genesis 9:9-11 describes Day 3 of creation

- Verse 9 seems to suggest that there was originally one land mass
- The waters were gathered together in one place and the land appears out of that
- It seems that it was one land mass surrounded by water

Scripture describes the Flood as a global event that reshaped the surface of the earth.

- The waters from under the earth flooded the entire surface of the earth as the continents broke apart
- As the flood waters receded, the mountains rose and the valleys sank to receive the water

God's Word should inform our understanding of what we observe
in the world