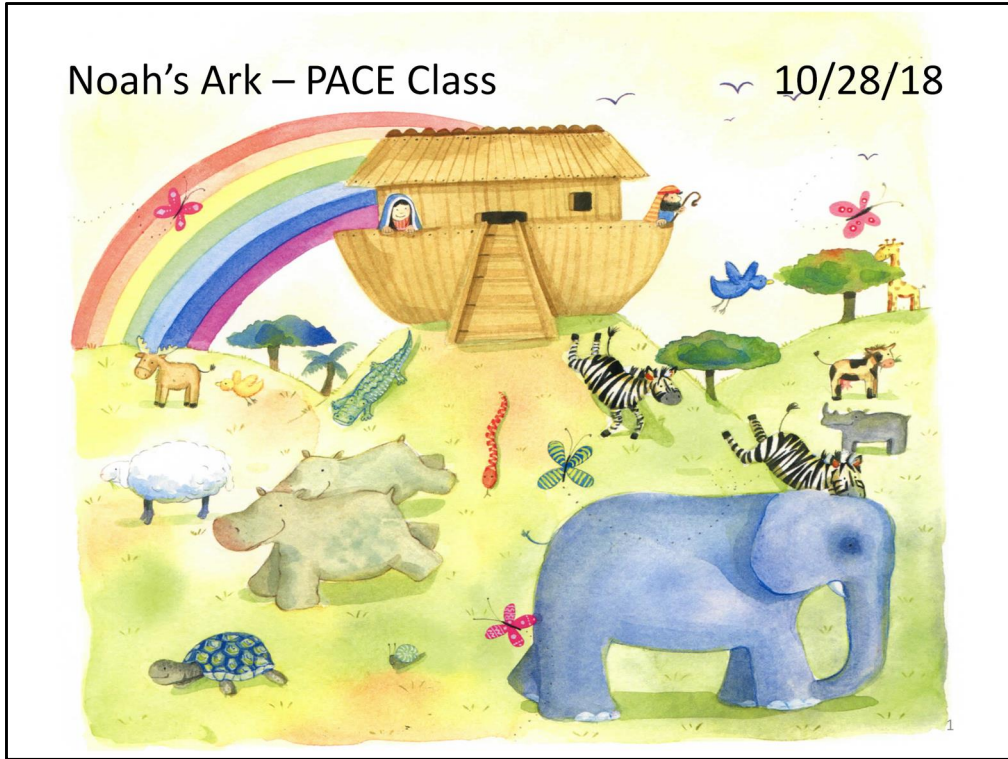


Noah's Ark – PACE Class

10/28/18



Class discussion – what do we know about the story of Noah's Ark?

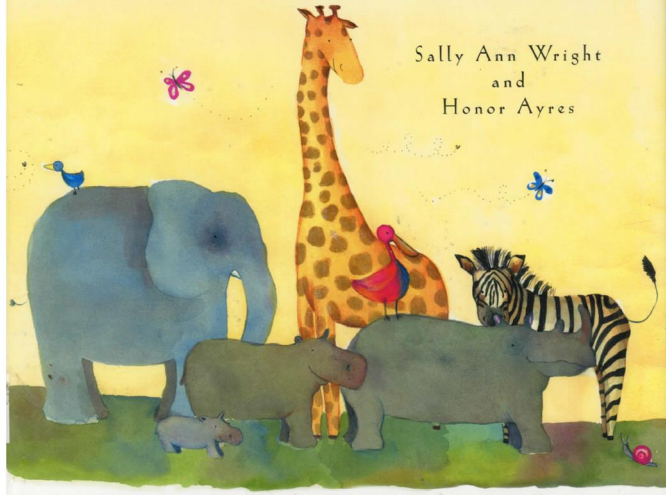
## Discussion Outline...

- Dig a bit deeper into the Genesis story
- Why did God initiate the Flood?
- Why did God only save Noah and his family?
- What does this story tell us about the nature of God – and of Man?
- Is the Flood story real?
- Where is the Ark today??



# A Child's BIBLE

Sally Ann Wright  
and  
Honor Ayres



## Noah's floating zoo



God's beautiful world was spoiled. The people God had made could not live together happily. They did not share. They were not kind to each other. They were selfish, and they were greedy. They cared only about themselves.

They started to fight and hurt each other. They took things that belonged to others. They forgot about God and about how to love and care for other people.

God was sad. But there was one man who was good. Noah still loved God. He tried to love other people and care for his family and the world God had made.

God told Noah to build an ark, a big boat that would float on water.





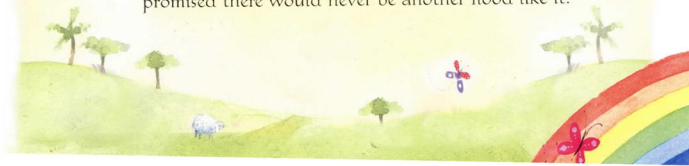
Noah filled the ark with birds and animals of every kind. Soon there would be rain, and the rain would cause a flood that would wash the whole earth clean again.

When Noah, his family, and all the animals were safe inside the ark, the rain began to fall. It rained, and it rained, and it rained.

The rivers burst their banks, and the seas flooded the land. But Noah's ark floated on the water.

When the rain stopped and dry land at last appeared again, God told Noah and the animals they could leave the ark. A bright rainbow filled the sky.

Noah thanked God for keeping them safe. And God promised there would never be another flood like it.



## Adam's Descendants to Noah (Genesis 5)

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow;
Mahalalel	The Blessed God
Jared	Shall come down
Enoch	Teaching
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	The Despairing
Noah	Rest, or comfort.

**Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the  
Blessed God shall come down teaching (that)  
His death shall bring (the) despairing rest.**

6

Who was Noah? Here's a refresher. Usually we skim through the genealogy sections of the Bible; right? So and so begat Jim who begat Bob who begat Steven etc. But in Genesis 5, you are rewarded if you take a little time to look more closely at Noah's lineage. After all, all of us are descendants of Noah and his family! Let's look at the Hebrew name and its English translation.

## The Wickedness of Humankind (Genesis 6)

When people began to multiply on the face of the ground, and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that they were fair; and they took wives for themselves of all that they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, "My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went in to the daughters of humans, who bore children to them. These were the heroes that were of old, warriors of renown.

5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created—people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord. 7

Wait just a minute – who are the “sons of God” called the Nephilim? This whole passage is problematic as it describes divine-human intervention which the Lord feared in Genesis 3:22:

Then the Lord God said, “See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”. Are these “sons of God” angels? Part of the heavenly host?

In Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness. The implication of these first four verses is that God does not approve of these activities.

So what about the off-spring of these divine-human interactions, the Nephilim?

Here they are called “heroes that were of old, warriors of renown.”

We find another reference to the Nephilim in Numbers 13:32-33 when the spies report back to Moses:

“The land that we have gone through as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are of great size.

33 There we saw the Nephilim; and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.” Why did the author of Genesis choose to include this story?

Back to verse 5.

Question – if God created Man in his image, why is there such wickedness on the Earth? Is this a compassionate God that would choose to ‘blot from the earth’ the human beings he created?

9 These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. 13 And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of cypress 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 three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks.

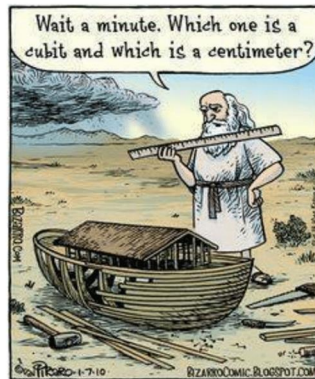
8

Ok – let's pause for a moment; what's a 'cubit'?



## How long is a cubit?

- The cubit is an ancient unit of length that may have originated in Egypt close to 5,000 years ago. A cubit was generally equivalent to the length of the human arm from elbow to fingertip—roughly about a foot and a half. (Appropriately, the word's source is a Latin word meaning "elbow.")



When he didn't Noah cubit from a centimeter, he borrowed a ruler. It was a temporary measure.

9

Ok – God specified the length of the ark to be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. That makes it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall.

17 For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; 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 kind 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 kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. 21 Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." 22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

10

Not mentioned specifically here, but did Noah have two of every fish on board the Ark? Or did the fish in the sea survive the flood?

In verse 18 we have the first mention of a covenant in the Bible. What's a covenant? Since Noah and his family will be the only human survivors, it implies this covenant made by God is also made with the whole future human race, which includes the later people of Israel. The contents of the covenant are not specified here, but it clearly implies divine protection and blessing conditional only on Noah's complete obedience to God's instructions here in verses 18-22.

## The Great Flood (Genesis 7)

Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; 3 and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." 5 And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. 7 And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9 two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth.

11

Ok now wait a minute – I can imagine Noah's initial confusion here – why seven pairs of clean animals, and only a pair of the unclean animals? Why seven pairs of the birds? Any ideas? The main reason is to reserve some of the clean animals for sacrifices as we'll see in chapter 8 verse 20.

This distinction between clean and unclean animals refers to the rules found in Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

But notice these instructions are contradicted in verses 8-9; of clean and not clean, two and two went into the ark with Noah.

Interesting that the story uses the term "Ark" and not boat. I wonder why; any ideas?

The Hebrew word "teba" appears here and only again in the story of the infant Moses, suggesting it is an Egyptian word meaning chest or box.

Where else in the Old Testament do we encounter the word "Ark"?

11 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 The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, 14 they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind—every bird, every winged creature. 15 They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. 16 And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

12

First of all, notice that while the story specifically names Noah and his three sons, it doesn't mention the names of the four women on board? What's up with that?

Here again we see the contradiction in the number of animals. Scholars attribute these differences in the story to different sources being used by the author. The Flood narrative seems to be a combination of stories from the "J" or Yahwistic source, and the "P" or Priestly Code.

This is not the first time we've seen duplication and differences in the Genesis story; we see it much earlier in the story of the creation of the earth. In Genesis 1:24-25 the animals are created before the first human being; in Genesis 2:18-20 the animals are created after man.

17 The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. 18 The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. 19 The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; 20 the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; 22 everything on 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, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. 24 And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred fifty days.

13

We'll find discrepancies about the duration of the Flood between chapters 7 and 8 which scholars again attribute to the combination of different sources by the author. But the immediate cause of the Flood is a dual one – bursting forth of the fountains of the great deep below the earth, and opening of the windows of the heavens.

## The Flood Subsides (Genesis 8)

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; 2 the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, 3 and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the waters had abated; 4 and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. 5 The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

14

Ararat mentioned here is found again in 2 Kings 19:37, Isaiah 37:38 and Jeremiah 51:27. It was known to the Assyrians as Urartu which was an independent kingdom in the early first millennium BCE until its destruction in the sixth century BCE. This area roughly corresponds to that of the Republic of Armenia.

6 At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made 7 and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. 8 Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; 9 but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. 10 He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; 11 and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. 12 Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

13 In the six hundred first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. 14 In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. 15 Then God said to Noah, 16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. 17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." 18 So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. 19 And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

15

Mount Ararat is actually two extinct volcanic cones; there is Greater Ararat and Little Ararat. Greater Ararat is the highest peak in Turkey with an elevation of 16,854 ft. while, Little Ararat's elevation 12,782 ft. If the Ark came to rest on either of these peaks, I hope they had pairs of oxygen tanks with them.

## God's Promise to Noah (Genesis 8)

<sup>20</sup> Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup> And when the LORD smelled the pleasing odor, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

<sup>22</sup> As long as the earth endures,  
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day and night,  
shall not cease."

16

Verse 23 is interesting – God now appears to accept that the evil tendency of the human heart is innate and cannot be changed. Do you think God now regrets his decision to destroy all other living creatures? What does this suggest about the nature of God; did he not recognize the human condition from the very beginning?

Verse 22 assures us that the orderly process of the seasons and day and night will continue – but only as long as the earth endures. Reminding us that it will not continue forever but will eventually come to an end.



## The Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9)

God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 The fear and dread of you shall rest on every animal of the earth, and on every bird of the air, on everything that creeps on the ground, and on all the fish of the sea; into your hand they are delivered. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you; and just as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. 4 Only, you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. 5 For your own lifeblood I will surely require a reckoning: from every animal I will require it and from human beings, each one for the blood of another, I will require a reckoning for human life.

6 Whoever sheds the blood of a human,  
by a human shall that person's blood be shed;

for in his own image

God made humankind.

7 And you, be fruitful and multiply, abound on the earth and multiply in it."

17

Here in Chapter 9 we see God ushering in a new era. We see the command repeated again to be fruitful and multiply and to have command over the animal world, but there are some interesting differences:

- Animals are now to fear their rulers;
- They may be killed for food;
- An explicit Kosher rule is implemented prescribing the manner of their slaughter;
- And forbidding homicide, since mankind was created in the image of God.

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup> God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

18

Here God has reaffirmed his covenant with Noah, which now includes all living creatures as well as Noah’s descendants.

Notice that God has perhaps reserved other methods of destroying the earth in the future.

## Noah and His Sons

<sup>18</sup> The sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. <sup>19</sup> These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was peopled.

<sup>20</sup> Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. <sup>21</sup> He drank some of the wine and became drunk, and he lay uncovered in his tent. <sup>22</sup> And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup> Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

<sup>24</sup> When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, <sup>25</sup> he said,

"Cursed be Canaan; lowest of slaves shall he be to his brothers."

<sup>26</sup> He also said,

"Blessed by the LORD my God be Shem;  
and let Canaan be his slave.

<sup>27</sup> May God make space for Japheth,  
and let him live in the tents of Shem;  
and let Canaan be his slave."

<sup>28</sup> After the flood Noah lived three hundred fifty years. <sup>29</sup> All the days of Noah were nine hundred fifty years; and he died.

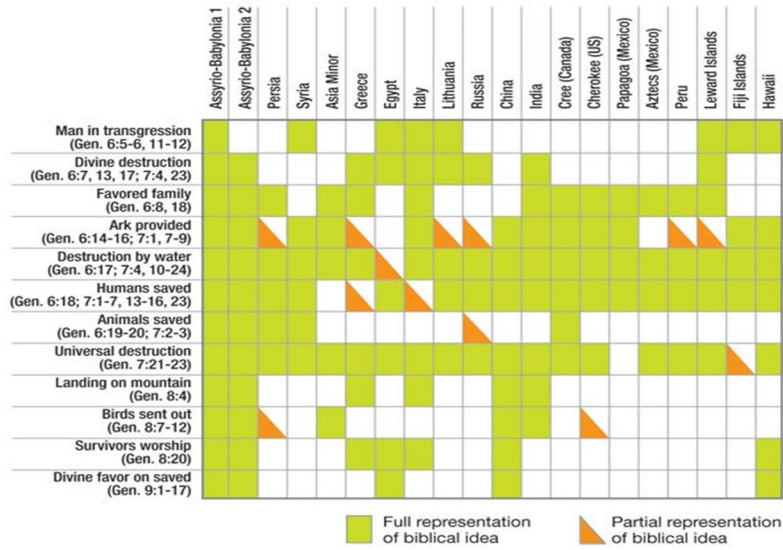
19

Although not related to the Flood story, how could we pass up this ending to Chapter 9. what do you think is really going on here?

The point of the story is not that Noah committed a sin in getting drunk, but that Ham sinned in seeing his father when he was naked – which then called forth a curse on Canaan, Ham's son. Nakedness was shameful (refer back to Genesis 3:7-11) and Ham humiliated his father by not decently covering him.

This foretells Israel's traditional hatred of the Canaanites.

# Global Flood Traditions



20

## Global flood traditions

There are more than 270 stories from different cultures around the world about a devastating flood. This chart shows the similarities that several myths have with the Genesis account of Noah's Flood. Although there are lots of differences, these legends and stories all contain references to a cataclysmic flood even.

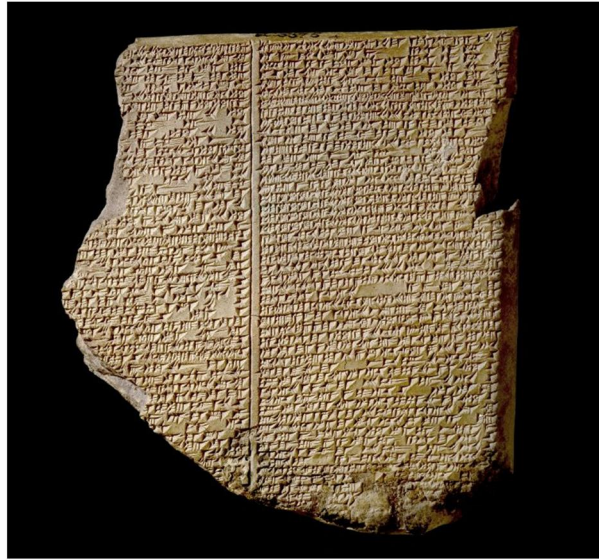
## The *Epic of Gilgamesh*

- A 3,200-year-old account of a hero of the Assyrian Empire; it is one of the oldest works of literature in the world.
- Found in 1853, it constituted one of the most sensational finds in the history of archaeology.
- Deciphered in November, 1872 by George Smith at the British Museum, on a fragment of a tablet, he came across a story that would soon astonish the Western world. He read of a flood, a ship caught on a mountain and a bird sent out in search of dry land—the first independent confirmation of a vast flood in ancient Mesopotamia, complete with a Noah-like figure and an ark.

21

In the Gilgamesh story, there are many parallels to the Genesis story of the Flood. In the Babylonian epic of Gilgamesh, the hero is told to build a similar houseboat, sealing it with pitch. Unlike Genesis however, where God's judgement is on the wickedness of humankind, the divine frustration in the Gilgamesh story has to do with human overpopulation on noise, which was irritating to the Gods. The Gilgamesh story also contains a great Flood and the boat also comes to rest on a mountain. The hero in the Gilgamesh epic also sends out two birds, a swallow and a dove; each of which comes back – a third, a raven, (Like the one in Genesis 8:6) did not return. The hero of Gilgamesh also offered a burnt sacrifice and the gods smelled the odor and 'crowded like flies about the sacrificer.'

## The Gilgamesh Flood Tablet – British Museum



George Smith  
1840 - 1876

22

In November 1872, George Smith was working at the British Museum in a second-floor room. On a long table were pieces of clay tablets, among the hundreds of thousands that archaeologists had shipped back to London from Nineveh, in present-day Iraq, a quarter-century before. Many of the fragments bore cuneiform hieroglyphs, and over the years scholars had managed to reassemble parts of some tablets, deciphering for the first time these records of daily life in Assyria of the 7th and 8th centuries B.C.—references to oxen, slaves, casks of wine, petitions to kings, contracts, treaties, prayers and omens.

As scholars go, Smith, 32 years old, was an anomaly; he had ended his formal education at age 14 when he was apprenticed to a printer, and perhaps it was because of his training as an engraver that he had such a knack for assembling coherent passages of hieroglyphs out of the drawers full of old rubble. In fact, Smith had already established dates for a couple of minor events in Israelite history, and on this brisk fall day he was looking for other references that might confirm parts of the Bible. Then, on this tablet, this guy who didn't even finish high school, came across a story that would soon astonish the Western world.

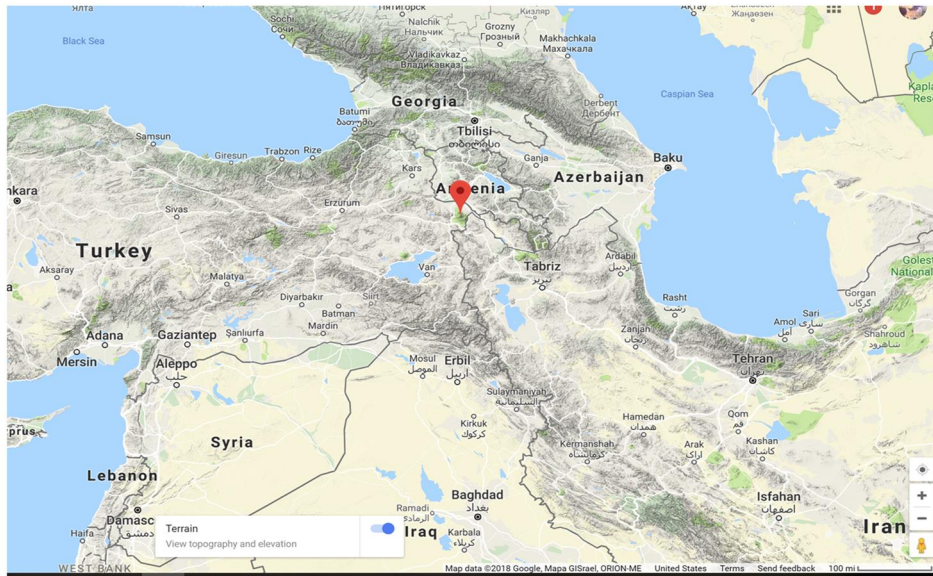


Near the top of Mount Ararat (seen from Armenia in a file photo) in Turkey, explorers claim to have found Noah's ark.  
PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN GRAY, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

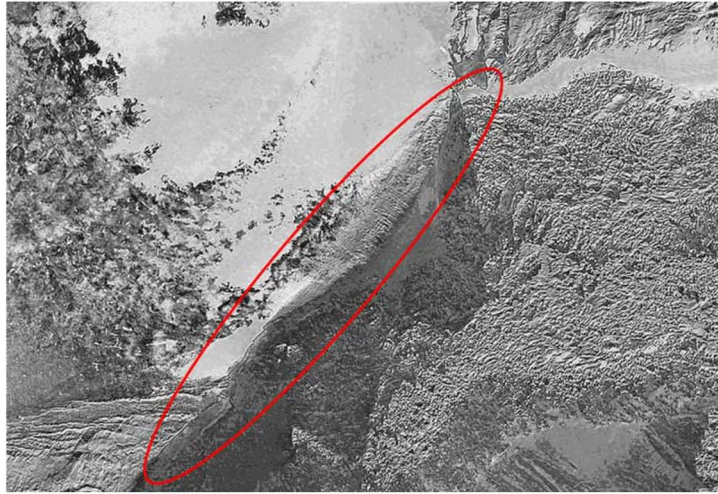
23

In an article in National Geographic in APRIL 2010, a team of evangelical Christian explorers claim they've found the remains of Noah's ark beneath snow and volcanic debris on Turkey's Mount Ararat. The team of Turkish and Chinese explorers from a group called Noah's Ark Ministries International claims to have found in 2007 and 2008 seven large wooden compartments buried at 13,000 feet (4,000 meters) above sea level, near the peak of Mount Ararat. They returned to the site with a film crew in October 2009.

# Location of Mt. Ararat







DigitalGlobe's QuickBird commercial remote sensing satellite imaged the Mt. Ararat "anomaly" in 2003. The anomaly is surrounded below by very rugged-looking strato-volcanic rock; however, the texture of the feature in question is relatively smooth and appears to be made of a different substance.

Credit: DigitalGlobe

25

High on Mt. Ararat in eastern Turkey, there is a baffling mountainside "anomaly," a feature that one researcher claims may be something of biblical proportions.

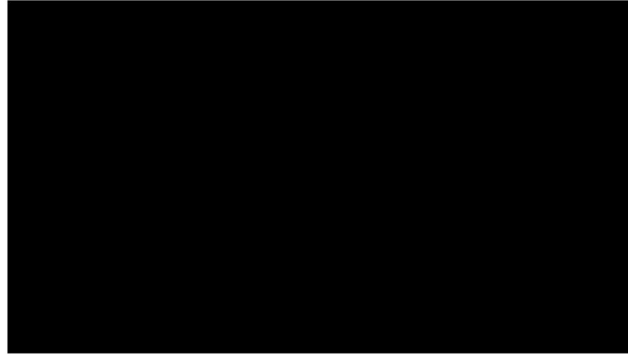
Images taken by aircraft, intelligence-gathering satellites and commercial remote-sensing spacecraft are fueling an intensive study of the intriguing oddity. But whether the anomaly is some geological quirk of nature, playful shadows, a human-made structure of some sort, or simply nothing at all—that remains to be seen.

Whatever it is, the anomaly of interest rests at 15,300 feet (4,663 meters) on the northwest corner of Mt. Ararat, and is nearly submerged in glacial ice. It would be easy to call it merely a strange rock formation.

Video – ABC News interview in December, 2012 with Robert Ballard – has he found evidence of the Great Flood?



## Where is the Ark today?? Kentucky??



27

Ark Encounter is a creationist theme park that opened in Grant County, Kentucky on July 7, 2016. The centerpiece of the park is a large representation of Noah's Ark from the Genesis flood narrative contained in the Bible. It is 510 feet (155 m) long, 85 feet (26 m) wide, and 51 feet (16 m) high.

Ark Encounter is operated by Answers in Genesis (AiG), a young Earth creationist (YEC) organization that also operates the Creation Museum 45 miles (70 km) away in Petersburg, Kentucky. The theme park promotes young Earth creationist beliefs about the age of the universe, age of the Earth, and co-existence of man and non-avian dinosaurs. They believe that the Earth is only about 6,000 years old.

After initial studies projected that the park would be a boon to the state's tourism industry, the Ark Encounter received tax incentives from the city, county, and state to induce its construction. This drew criticism from groups concerned with the separation of church and state. A dispute over AiG's hiring practices was adjudicated in U.S. federal court, which found in 2016 that the organization could require Ark Encounter employees to sign a statement of faith as a condition of their employment.

## Takeaways:

- Noah's Ark story part of a larger theme in the Genesis primeval history
  - One supreme God
  - Rebellious nature of human beings
  - Consequences of such behavior
  - God punished, but did not destroy
  - Foreshadows a more hopeful destiny for mankind

28

The major themes of the first chapters of Genesis; we learn about one supreme God who created the world with all of its inhabitants. It is concerned with the nature of God and the nature of man. We see a moral lesson as well as a theology; that human beings are prone to sinful rebellion against God, arrogant and ambitious, seeking to achieve divine status for themselves; capable of murder. We see the consequences of such behavior. God at the beginning saw his creation as good, but was determined to obliterate the human race when it became corrupted, but mercifully refrained from carrying out this intention. He punished, but did not destroy.

The first man and woman were banished from the garden but allowed to live outside it. Cain, first murderer was also banished but his life was preserved. Humanity was given a second chance with Noah and his family.

This is a dark but realistic picture of humanity, but in the context of the book as a whole, foreshadows a more hopeful destiny for a human race that will be blessed in Abraham.

*Thank you!!*



Noah's Ark, 1846  
Edward Hicks (1780-1849)