05.01 Noah Builds Ark; Animals Come (Genesis 5:25–7:16)

✓ "Check" it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Genesis Series 2 Flash a Cards, "Enoch, Noah, and Babel," from A Beka Book and/or pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- (optional) A commercial cubit measuring device (available from Answers in Genesis or www.oregonruleco.com) or a homemade strip of 22 inches and/or 18 inches
- A model of the ark (available from Answers in Genesis) or a piece of wood 16" x 2.5" x 1.5" (or a 1.5-foot long 2x4) which is close to scale
- If going outside to measure the size of the ark, a carpenter's 20-foot or longer measuring tape or a premeasured string wound on a core (see "Activities")
- Check "Activities" and "Handwork" found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: [Flashcard-sized terms are at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and attach to card stock.]

- relief: the feeling of release and comfort after a difficult time of stress
- *grace*: undeserved favor
- *ark*: general definition is a container as in the Ark of the Covenant; specifically, in Genesis 6–9 it is the boat Noah built
- *cubit*: the length from a man's middle fingertip to his elbow; 17.5", 18", 20.62", and 22 (21.888)" are various measurement standards for a cubit
- righteousness: the quality of doing right

Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 5:21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. 26 Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son 29 and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." 30 Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

- 32 After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
- 6:1 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it

grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

9 These are the generations 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 the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on 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 through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher 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 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 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.

7:1 Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate, 3 and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth. 4 For in seven days I will send rain on the earth 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 upon the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him 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 upon the earth.

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 And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 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, 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.

Introduction/Review:

Remember Genesis 3:15? Let's say it together. ["I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."] Who is the *you* in this verse? [Lucifer/Satan and those who follow him.] Who is the woman's offspring/seed? [Jesus Christ and those who are believers in Him.]

One man whom we have identified as the offspring of Satan is Adam and Eve's firstborn. What is his name? [Cain.] Cain's great, great grandson, Lamech, showed himself to be Satan's offspring by being proud of the fact he would not be avenged for killing a man in self-defense; also he was a polygamist, marrying two wives.

Adam and Eve had many children, but only one other is named. What was his name? [Seth.] We do not know much about the four generations that follow Seth, but the fifth generation is important because of a man who "walked with God." What was his name? [Enoch.] What does it mean that "he walked with God"? [He lived for God and fellowshiped with Him.] The Bible also states that Enoch "was not, for God took him." What does this mean? [God took Enoch to heaven without Enoch's dying.]

Enoch was 365 years old when he died, but 300 years before that he had had a son whom he named Methuselah. Methuselah's name had a special meaning: "when he dies, *it* shall come." Do you remember what the *it* is? [Judgment.] Today we will learn what that *judgment* was.

Story:

Methuselah and Lamech

Methuselah is the longest-living person in all the history of the world; he lived 969 years. [Teacher, refer to the "Graveyard Chapter" chart found at the end of this lesson.] It is interesting to see that Methuselah lived while Adam, the first man, who lived a total of 930 years, was still alive. Notice on this chart what Methuselah named his son—Lamech. We've heard that name before, but this son of Methuselah is an entirely different man from the "offspring of Satan" we learned about last week. We know very little about this Lamech except that he had a very important and famous son, whose name means ". . . this one shall bring us relief. . . ."

How would this son bring rest and relief? Why was there a need for rest and relief? Before I tell you his name, see if you can tell from the events we mention what the name of this son is.

[Teacher, this author believes, contrary to popular evangelical opinion, that the term *sons of God* in Genesis 6 refers to angels, "which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation" (Jude 6). This, in my view, is the only interpretation, supported by several Scriptures, that makes for a world so corrupt that God was compelled to destroy all living flesh. (See Dr. Michael Heiser, scholar in residence at Logos Bible Software, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywPxPsN3tfY, or Doug Van Dorn's *Giants: Sons of the Gods* at http://www.dougvandorn.com/giant-book for further information.) However, in this rendition of the story, the author does not present this "angelic-incursion" explanation since it is inappropriate material for children.]

The corrupt earth

As you study your Bible, you will learn how extremely patient our God is. Time and again He waits and waits while people sin, and He waits to punish evil-doing. However, the world at this time, even while Adam lived, was so, so wicked. What evil deeds were being done I cannot and will not tell you. Just know that the wickedness was so bad that all the following words and more are insufficient to describe the condition of mankind: *evil*, *sinful*, *immoral*, *wrong*, *bad*, *corrupt*, *mean*, *vile*, *nasty*, *foul*, *horrible*, *hateful*, *detestable*, *ungodly*, *violent*. I shudder to think of this terrible wickedness. The Bible states, "Every intention of the thoughts of men's hearts was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

God had waited long enough; it was time for punishment, a punishment so great that all the living creatures on the earth (all except eight humans, that is) would have to die. What catastrophic event would destroy all creatures? A world-wide flood—water higher than the mountains covering the whole earth. God said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens." The flood—a horrific punishment for horrific sin.

Blameless Noah

If you have heard the true Bible story of the flood, by now you have probably guessed that the man to bring relief is Noah. Genesis 6:9 describes him as *just* or *blameless*. How could he be wholesome within the corrupt atmosphere of his day? Genesis 6:8 (KJV) tells us he "found grace in the eyes of the Lord." In other words, God, having a job for Noah, gave him grace to keep himself spiritually and physically pure so that he could accomplish what God had planned for him.*

At the age of 500 Noah and his unnamed wife began to have children—three sons named Shem, Ham (yes, *Ham*) and Japheth. We may assume they had grown big enough to help Dad with the gigantic project God had in mind for Noah. No doubt, other hired laborers also worked on this task for some 60 to 75 years. [See https://answersingenesis.org/bible.../how-long-did-it-take-for-noah-to-build-the-ark/.]

God's instructions

This is what God told Noah: "I will destroy all flesh along with the earth. Make yourself an ark." Then God gave exact instructions for the building of this ark. Here they are, with the number of feet based on the 17.5-inch and the 22-inch cubit: [Refer to the ark chart at the end of this lesson and show your block-of-wood model, the cute picture found below, and the photo of the Ark Encounter ark in Kentucky.]

- Gopher wood (an unknown type of wood; might mean *squared timber*)
- Rooms
- One window
- Covered inside and out with pitch—tar
- Length 300 cubits (437–550 ft.)
- Width 50 cubits (73–92 ft.)
- Height 30 cubits (44–55 ft.)
- Roof 1 cubit above (17.5–22 in.)
- Door in its side
- Lower, second, and third decks

"It would be possible to fit at least 24 standard-sized mobile homes (6 long and 4 wide) on each deck." Another way to describe the total deck area of the ark is like area of 20 college basketball courts or the space of 522 railroad cars (ChristianAnswers.net).

Does this ark look like ones you have seen in pictures? How is this model different from the kids' pictures we've all seen? [It is longer; more like a barge than a cute boat; no animals have their heads sticking out.] Which model is correct? [Obviously, the one that follows the measurements God gave.] The Bible model of the ark has been made and tested many times and has been found to be extremely stable.**

Noah, a preacher

The New Testament informs us that Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). What does this mean? We surmise from this text that Noah preached that the world was thoroughly corrupt and would be destroyed. There is no biblical record that he invited people to repent so that they too might be saved in the boat he was building. In fact, when God said, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh," He mentioned no other people other than Noah's family being able to enter the ark: "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" (Genesis 6:18). This is serious stuff. Some would say it wasn't fair that more people were not saved, but who are we to say such a thing when God Himself decided who would and would not be rescued. Besides, no one wanted to be saved until it was too late.

Food to be gathered

But let's get back to the story. When Noah had finished building the ark, he still had more work to do, for God said, "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—birds, animals, every creeping thing of the ground." I didn't read anything about fish in this list. Why not? [They didn't need to be saved on the ark since their habitat was water and they wouldn't be drowned like land animals.]

I believe that God rounded up all the animals that He intended to save. Compare the following Scripture verses on this subject: "You shall bring two of every sort . . . Two of every sort shall come in to you" (Genesis 6:18, 20). "Two of every sort shall come in to you" . . . "male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah . . . [they] entered the ark, they and every beast . . . They went into the

ark with Noah . . . And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him" (Genesis 7:2, 9, 13–16).

If Noah did, indeed, gather together the animals, then that was a huge job! (But God probably did it.) What about getting enough food for all these animals and for his own family in order to keep them all alive a full year? That gigantic task was definitely designated to Noah.

Finally, all was ready. Seven days before the rain and flood began, God told Noah to enter the ark with all the animals—at least two, male and female, of every bird, bug, and beast that breathed air and seven pairs of all the clean animals that could be eaten or sacrificed.

When all were in the ark that should be there, "God shut him [Noah and all under his responsibility] in" (Genesis 7:16). The people and animals in the ark were about to begin a great adventure. We will be with them through our Bible stories in the next few weeks.

[More details about the flood are in following stories. If you have but one lesson in which to teach the whole flood story, here is a summary: Noah was in the ark one year and seventeen days. During that time the windows of heaven opened to pour rain forty days while the fountains of the deep burst forth. Water ravaged the whole earth, covering even the highest mountains by 22.5 feet. After the roiling water ceased, it slowly drained away, leaving a changed earth. Noah, his family, and all the animals in the ark were spared while the rest of the world perished. When Noah came out of the ark at God's command, he offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving.]

*Noah's blamelessness might also be interpreted, in the "angelic-incursion" view, as being wholesome—physically untainted by the Nephilim genes.

**How big was Noah's Ark? . . . Higher than a 3-story building!

Noah's Ark was three stories high (Genesis 6:16). Its total deck area was equivalent to the area of about 20 standard college basketball courts or 36 lawn tennis courts. The world had to wait until AD 1884 before the Ark's size was exceeded, when the Italian liner *Eturia* was built.

The rectangular dimensions of the Ark show an advanced design in ship-building. Its length of 10 times its width and six times its height would have made it amazingly stable on the ocean. Remember it was made more for floating than sailing, because it wasn't headed anywhere. It was made to withstand a turbulent ocean voyage, not to be at a certain place in a certain time.

Interestingly, British civil and mechanical engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel built a steamship (the *Great Britain*) in 1843 that had almost the same proportions as the Ark, although it was smaller. This was regarded as a remarkable feat of Victorian and maritime engineering. The *Great Britain* was the first large vessel to be propelled by a screw propeller.

Babylonian Ark fails test

The ancient Babylonians had a flood story too. It was most likely a bad corruption of the biblical account. The ark in the Babylonian story was shaped like a cube, which would had made it terribly unseaworthy.

This shows the difference between truth and badly recorded legends. The Bible's Ark was able to carry all the animals God sent to Noah, it was wonderfully seaworthy, it landed on a mountain that is still identifiable today, and the whole story is credible scientifically.

Because of this, there are many thousands of scientists who believe the Bible's account of the Ark and the worldwide Flood, but none (as far as we know) who seriously defends the Babylonian story as scientifically trustworthy (bibletopix.htmlsciencetopix.html).

Lessons from this lesson:

- Obey God, even if His instructions seem difficult and illogical.
- Be willing to speak out against sin.

Activities:

- Play dough: ark (not of the fanciful type); any land animals
- Find a large outside area (about 2 blocks long) for measuring the size the ark. With a carpenter's tape measure 45–55 feet for the ark's height. (Smaller measurements are for the 18-inch standard cubit and longer are for the 22-inch standard cubit.) Add another 30–37 feet (total of 75–92 feet) for the width. For the length of the ark, measure another 375–458 feet. It might be good to measure out these lengths before the class meets.

Another method is to put a loop at one end of a 92-foot string and then pre-measure the string, placing labeled pieces of masking tape at the "at least" and "as much as" heights (44 and 55 feet) and the "at least" and "as much as" widths (75 and 92 feet). [See photo.] Tape the end of a 92-foot length of string to a core (a toilet paper core would do). Measure and label the above lengths for height and width of the ark. Then, with one person holding the starting loop at a starting point,



teacher and students walk, pulling the core of string (put a wooden spoon in the core for easier feeding) until the height labels and then the width labels string out. At the "as-much-as" width (92 feet), all the string on the core will have been fed out. At that point the person holding the starting loope walks to the 92-foot spot. When [s]he reaches that place, the teacher and students walk on to the next distance allowed by the entire 92-foot length of the string. This process is repeated for a total of five times (okay, it's 4.89 times if you want to be exact) for a 450-foot ark and six times (5.98) for a 550-foot ark. The total "as-much-as" distance will be close to two city blocks.

- Sing "Noah's Ark" (Tune: "This Is the Way We Wash Our Clothes") Do the motions; add stanzas of your own for rabbits, turtles, bears, grasshoppers or frogs, *etc*.
 - 1. God told Noah to build an ark, build an ark, build an ark; God told Noah to build an ark a long time ago.
 - 2. Here come the animals into the ark, into the ark; Here come the animals into the ark walking two by two.
 - 3. Here come the happy kangaroos, kangaroos; Here come the happy kangaroos into Noah's ark.
 - 4. Here come the lions with a roar, with a roar, with a roar; Here come the lions with a roar into Noah's ark.
 - 5. Here come the camels with a hump, with a hump, with a hump; Here come the camels with a hump into Noah's ark.
 - 6. Here come the elephants swinging their trunks, swinging their trunks; Here comes the elephants swinging their trunks into Noah's ark.
 - 7. Here come the cows with their horns, with their horns; Here come the cows with their horns into Noah's ark.
 - 8. It rained for 40 days and nights, days and nights, days and nights, It rained for 40 days and nights a long time ago.
- Sing "Good Old Noah" (Tune: "Old MacDonald"; do motions and sound effects)

Good old Noah built an ark, As God told him to!
And on that ark he took two lions, As God told him to!
With a *roar*, *roar* here and a *roar*, *roar* there; Here a *roar*! There a *roar*! Everywhere a *roar*! Roar!
(Continue the song with dogs—"woof, woof"; chicks—"cluck, cluck"; other animals students suggest.)

- Younger students might like to do motions with the following poems (copied from the internet and a Sunday School paper):
 - 1. Noah built the ark of gopher wood. He obeyed God, and He was good. Took all the animals into the ark—The ducks and rabbits and dogs that bark, "Woof, woof."
 - 2. God said to Noah, "Rain will come from the sky. Build a big boat so you can stay dry!" God cared for Noah in a wonderful way. I know God cares for me today!
- Review the songs found in previous lessons and sing the ones found below
- Discuss the population likely at the time of the flood, which was at least 10 million if calculations are based on modern models. However, due to the long life spans, many more children were born so that the people who died in the flood could be as many as the unbelievable number of 10 trillion! (from https://biblescienceguy.wordpress.com/2014/06/18/4-population-growth-how-many-died-in-noahs-flood/, a detailed and technical site by a mathematician). The site https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/pre-flood-population/ suggests a smaller population of 7 billion, the same as that in 2017.
- Play charades, asking students to identify the character or animal.
- Younger students: find pairs of animals among plastic toys, pictures, or felt shapes
- Snacks: animal crackers or animal cut-out sugar cookies
- Review questions: (Game: A correct answer entitles the student to place a small plastic animal into an ark or box.)
 - 1. What were people like at the time of Noah? [Very sinful.]
 - **2.** Why did God send a worldwide flood? [To destroy every man and beast because of the people's wickedness.]
 - 3. To whom did God give grace during this time? [Noah.]
 - **4.** How big is a cubit? [Measurement from the fingertip of a man's middle finger to his elbow.]
 - **5.** About how many inches is a cubit? [Anywhere from 17.5 to 22 inches.]
 - **6.** What is an ark? [A container; a boat.]
 - **7.** What is grace? [Favor that is undeserved.]
 - **8.** What does the name *Methuselah* mean? ["When he dies it—judgment—will come."]
 - **9.** Besides building the ark, what other work did Noah need to do? [Gather food.]

Handwork:

Make an ark bookmark. See below or https://answersingenesis.org/kids/activities/crafts/noahs-ark-bookmark/.

Memory Verse[s]: Review some or all of the following:

Exodus 20:11—"In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them."

Genesis 1:26—God said, "Let us make man in our own image."

Ephesians 6:11—"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Romans 5:19—For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Genesis 3:15—"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

relief

grace

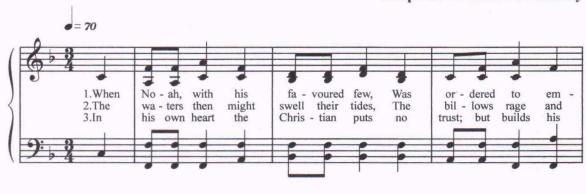
cubit

ark

righteousness

Noah, with His Favored Few

Joseph Hart/William B. Bradbury









M. Alexander put the poem with the tune February 2017.

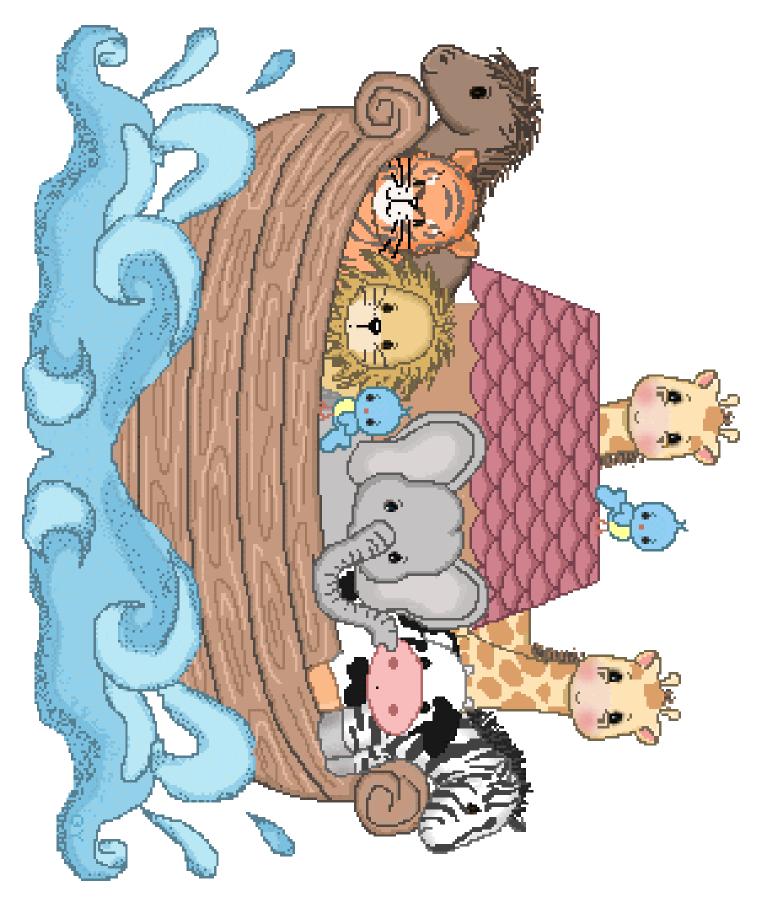


WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional

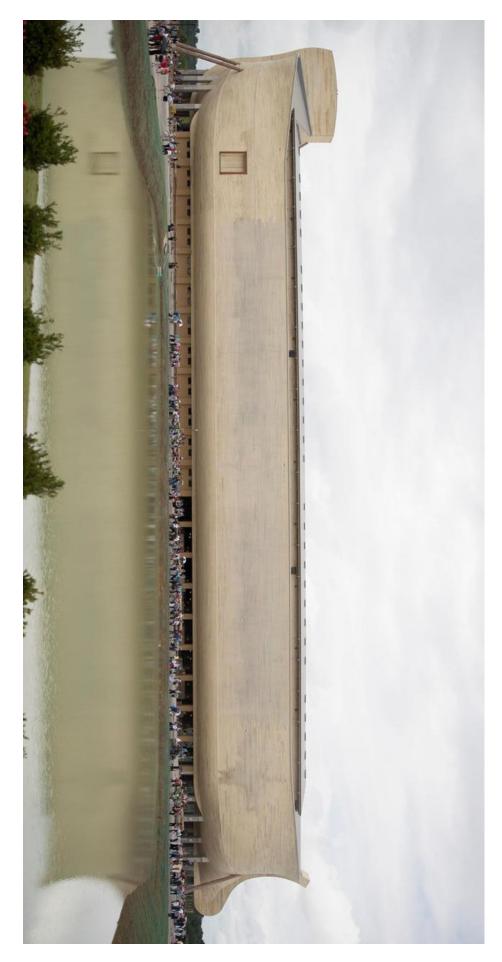
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WHO BUILT THE ARK?





http://www.embracinghome.com/babyshower-images/noahs-ark-theme-baby-shower.gif

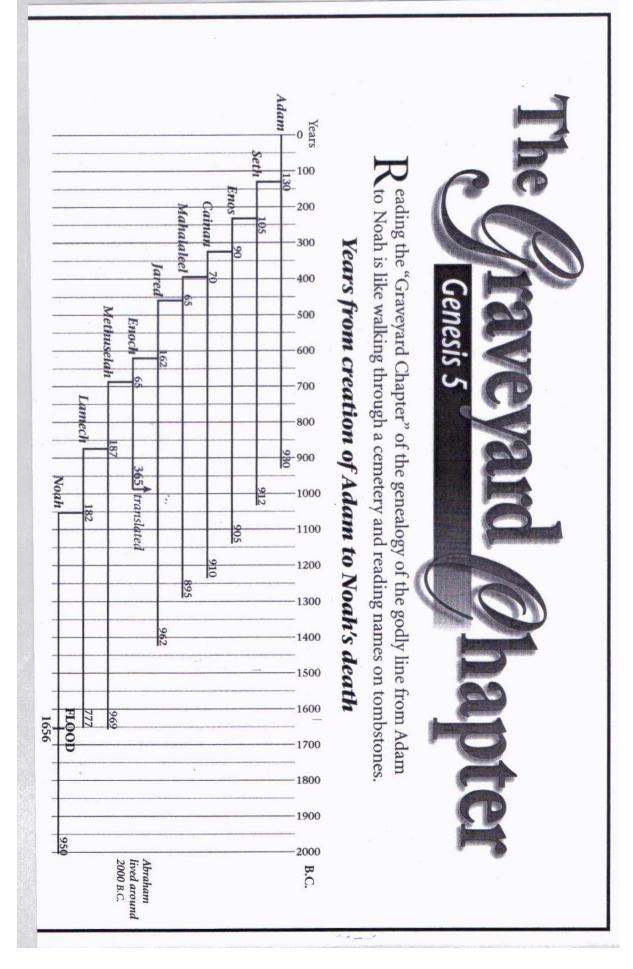


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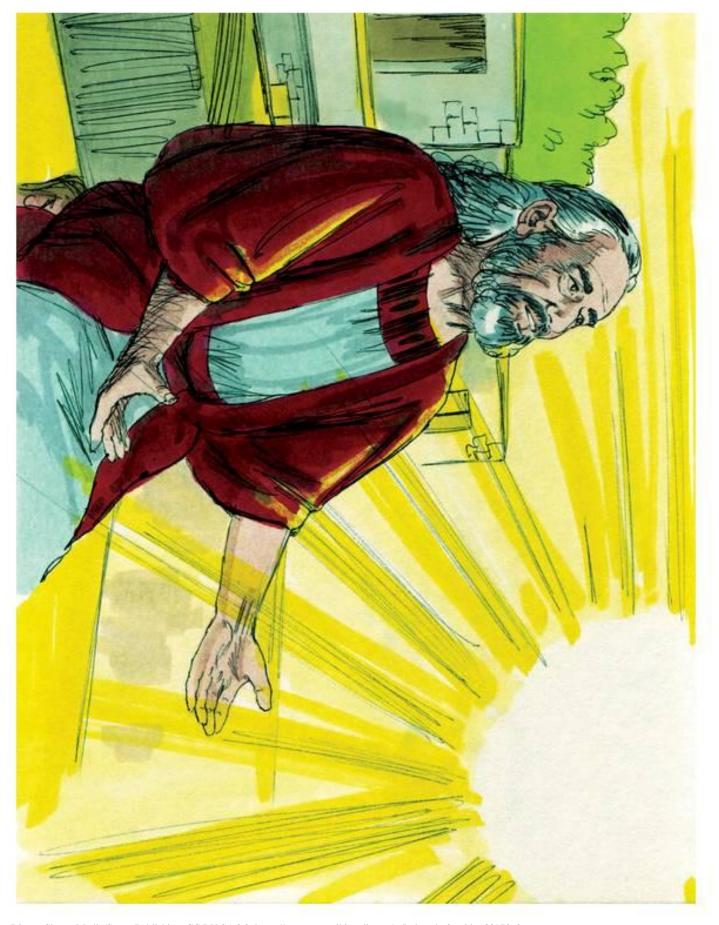
The Ark

- Gopher wood
- Rooms; one window
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- Length 300 cubits (450–550 ft.)
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- Roof 1 cubit above (18-22 in.)
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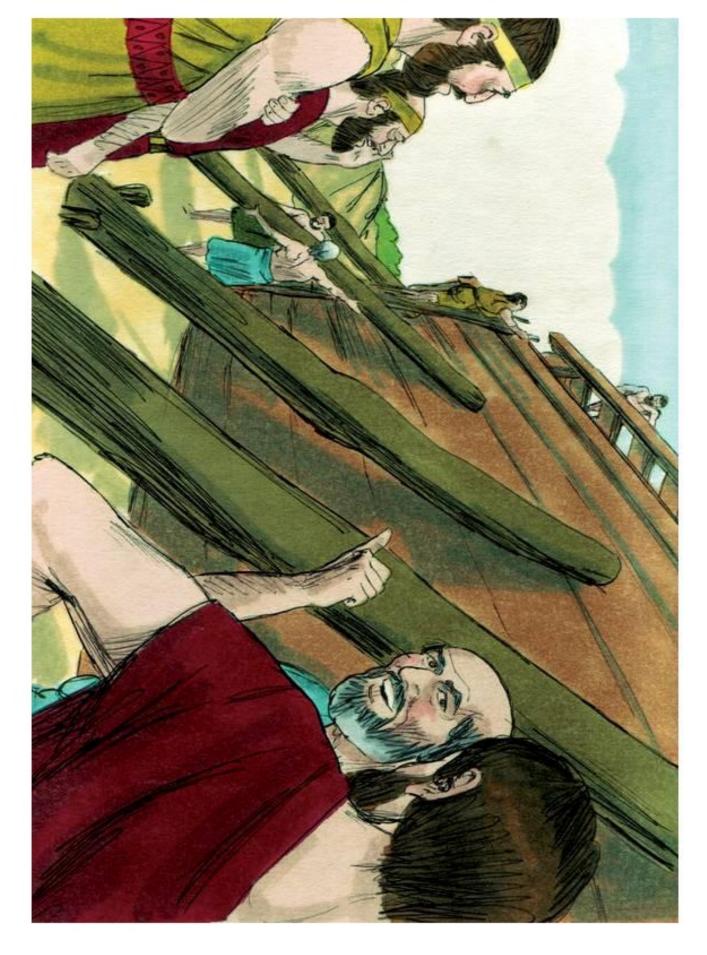
At least 24 standard-sized mobile homes (6 long and 4 wide) or 20 college basketball courts would fit on each deck.



from *PCC Update*, (Pensacola Christian College), Summer 2003 (See full article below.) Suggestion: Copy and paste into landscape format for larger picture.



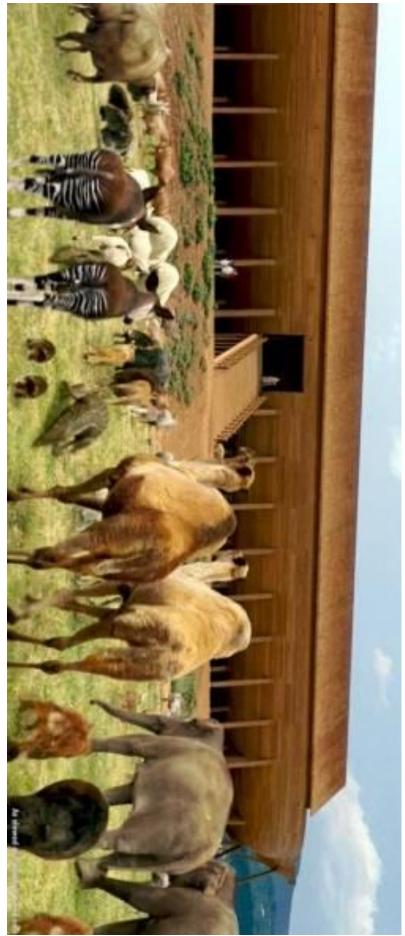
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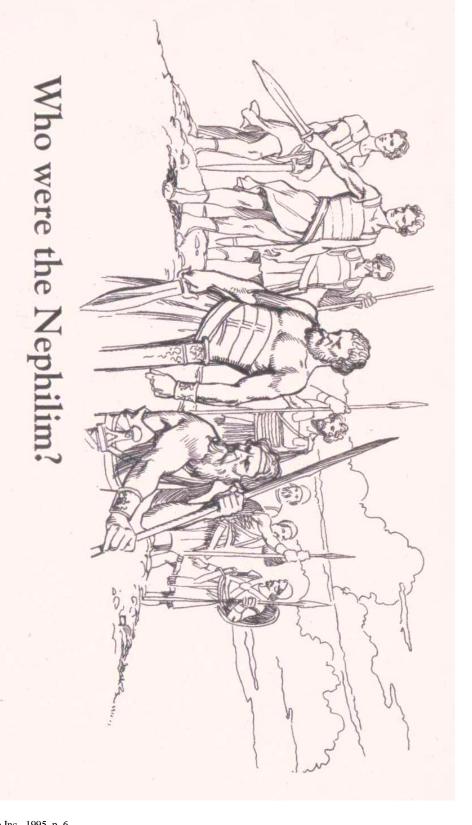
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 $http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-ty1hKorZK6M/Tt6moWw_lUI/AAAAAAAAABE/9a27sA1L8yQ/s1600/Animals+Entering+The+Ark+-+Evan+Almighty.jpg$



men succeeded in capturing the Promised Land. In spite of these reports about the huge Nephilim people, Joshua and his grasshoppers beside them. It is impossible to defeat them in battle."

about the Nephilim: "Those people are very tall and strong. We look like when Joshua sent spies to the Promised Land, they returned with more stories children of earthly women and heavenly angels. Later in the Old Testament,

The Book of Genesis describes the Nephilim as a race of giant warriors, the

Make your own

Kids Answers Noah's Ark Bookmark!

Reading is so much fun! Here's a special bookmark from *Kids Answers* to mark your place as you read your Bible or another great book.

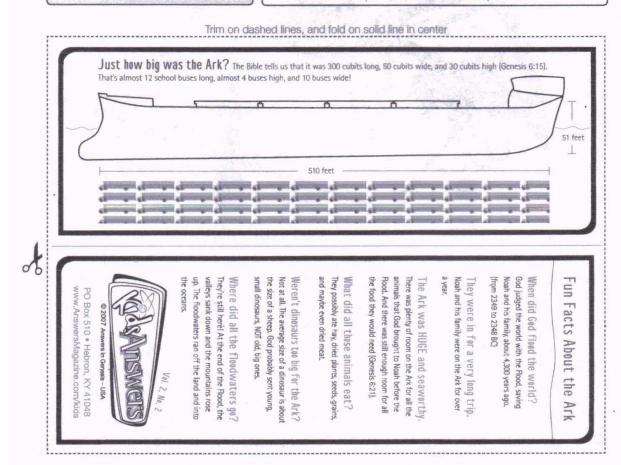
You will need:

Paper or Cardstock
Crayons, Markers, or
Colored Pencils
Printer
Scissors
Glue
Contact paper
Ribbon or String

Instructions:

- 1. Print this page on paper or cardstock.
- Cut the bookmark out along the outside dotted lines and fold it in half along the center line.
- 3. Color the bookmark with crayon, marker, or colored pencils.
- 4. Glue the two sides together so it stays folded.
- Put a piece of cardboard in the center of the paper before gluing it for a sturdier bookmark.
- Cover with clear contact paper or have it laminated at an office supply store so it lasts longer.
- Poke a hole in the top of the bookmark and tie a ribbon, string, etc. through as a tassel.

Steps 4, 5, 6 and 7 are optional.



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