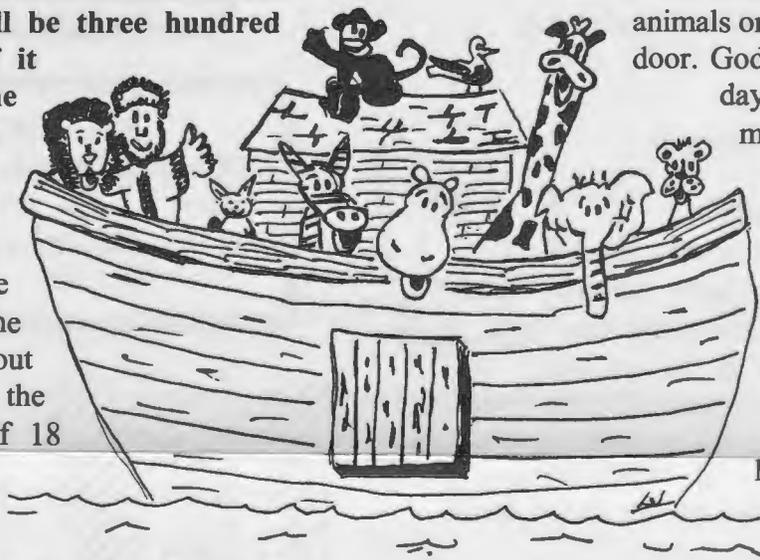


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 by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

NOAH'S FLOOD

What is wrong with this picture? Was Noah's Ark a small boat filled to the brim with happy animals? This is a "cute" picture, but how big did God tell Noah to build the Ark? The Bible says... **And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. (Genesis 6:15.)** So what is a cubit? A cubit was a Hebrew measurement, which was the distance between the elbow and the tip of the fingers, or about 18 to 24 inches. Using the smaller measurement of 18 inches, the Ark would have been 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high! A football field is 300 feet long. So the Ark was the length of one football field plus the half of one more field. The Ark was 3 levels high, so Noah had room for 4 1/2 football fields on the boat (a football lover's dream!). It was not a small boat bursting at the seams with animals. Noah's Ark was HUGE!

Was the Ark big enough to fit all the animals inside? God put two of every kind of animal, plus seven of some kinds on the Ark. These would have been the air-breathing, land-dwelling animals. If we don't count the animals that live in the sea, or those



animals that don't breathe air (including insects whose eggs or larvae could have survived outside the Ark) there are about 20,000 different kinds of animals living today. The Ark was big enough to hold more than 50,000 animals, or about 533 railroad cars stuffed full of animals. There was also room left over for all the food the animals needed, plus enough room for Noah's family.

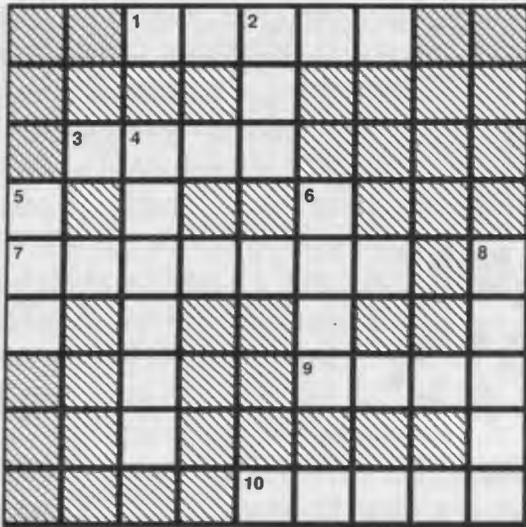
It took Noah 120 years to build the Ark. During that time he was urging people to turn from their sin, and start obeying God again, or God would make it rain and flood the whole earth. The people just laughed at Noah. It is possible that it had never rained before, so they didn't even know what rain was. And here was crazy ol' Noah building this huge boat out in the middle of nowhere. They just laughed and laughed, and kept right on sinning. But Noah had faith in God. He believed in God and what God told him. So he built the Ark just as God asked. Then God put

Noah and his family, and all the animals on the Ark. And God shut the door. God caused it to rain for forty days and forty nights. And he made the fountains of the deep break open, tidal waves, and earthquakes—the greatest storm the world has ever seen. The people didn't laugh anymore. They were destroyed in the flood.

God promised us that he would never again destroy the whole world by flood. The rainbow is a reminder of that promise. However, the Bible tells us that God is going to destroy the world again, through fire. But God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus to die and forgive us of our sins. All we have to do is believe and accept God's gift of salvation, Jesus. A gift that is free, bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus. All you have to do is ask. Some people today are still laughing. How about you? Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, to be your Ark of salvation?

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8

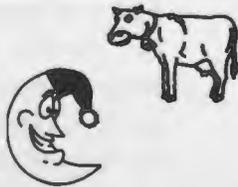


ACROSS

- 1 God's only son
- 3 water from the sky
- 7 a promise from God
- 9 Real, real big
- 10 water over the earth

DOWN

- 2 bad things we do against God
- 4 God put two of every kind of these on Ark
- 5 boat that Noah built
- 6 the man who built the Ark
- 8 an area where football is played



ASK EUGENE

Dear Eugene, I enjoyed hearing about your response to bacteria on Mars, but did you hear the latest? They now think they found *bones* on the moon! Yup, the cow didn't make it. Hey diddle, diddle, Alex and Micki Hogan.



Dear Eugene, Is there really the "Golden Gates of Heaven?" Madeleine Glidden (8 yrs. old, Colorado Springs, CO.)

Dear Madeleine, That is a very good question. By searching the Bible I found no reference to any "golden gates of heaven." But in Revelation 21: 21, it reads, *And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl : and the street of the city was pure gold,* I guess that's where we get the saying " the pearly gates of heaven." Read all of Revelation 21 to see what a beautiful and wonderful place that heaven will be.

Love ya, Eugene

YOU TRY IT

If you have a long street or a BIG field, stake out how long Noah built the Ark. Measure out a strong string or light rope 180 inches long (10 cubits.) Allow enough extra string to make a small loop in each end of the string. Then get a partner, and stretch the string out its full length. Mark the beginning and the end of the string. Move the string in a straight line and mark again. Repeat moving and marking until you have stretched the string out 30 times (300 cubits). Look back to where you began. What do you think? Was the Ark a small boat?

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JOKE BOX

- 1. Did all the animals on the Ark come in pairs?
- 2. What is the worst weather for rats and mice?

ANSWERS

- 1. No, the worms came in apples.
- 2. When it's raining cats and dogs.



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