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NOAH'S FLOOD ***

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

What's wrong with this picture? Was Noah's Ark a small boat filled to the brim with happy animals? This picture is "cute", but very misleading. How big was the Ark? The Bible says in Genesis 6:15 that God told Noah, *"This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits."* So, what is a cubit? A cubit was an ancient measurement, which was the distance between the elbow and the tip of the middle finger of a man's hand, or about 18 to 24 inches (~ 46 to 61 cm). Using the smaller measurement of 18 inches, the Ark would have been 450 feet long (~137 m), 75 feet wide (~23 m), and 45 feet high (~ 14 m)! The Ark was the length of one and a half football fields (450 feet). In addition, the Ark had three levels. That's a total of 4 ½ football fields! 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 brought two of every kind of animal, plus seven of some kinds, to put 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 1,398 different kinds of animals that needed to go aboard. From these kinds we get all the air-breathing, land-dwelling animals we see today. It has been estimated that about 6,744 individual animals were on the Ark. However, the Ark was big enough to hold more than 50,000 animals! There was also room left over for the animals' food and Noah's family.¹

God told Noah, 120 years before it happened, that because of the wickedness of man, He was going to destroy the world and everything in it by water. The Bible tells us that Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) who loved and obeyed God. We don't know how long it took to build the Ark, but when Noah was building it, he told people they needed to turn from their sins and start obeying God. If they didn't, God would make it rain and flood the whole earth. It may have never rained before, so they may not have known what rain was. Here was crazy ol' Noah building this huge boat in the middle of nowhere. They probably 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 commanded. Then God put Noah and his family (a total of 8 people) and all the animals on the Ark. Once they were safely inside, God shut the door. God caused the deep fountains to break open, shooting water into the air and

raining for 40 days and 40 nights. There were most likely huge tidal waves and earthquakes. It was the greatest storm the world has ever seen. Eventually, the waters flooded and covered the whole earth. They even covered the highest mountains by 15 cubits (Genesis 7:20). The people didn't laugh anymore. They and all the air-breathing land animals that were not on the Ark were destroyed.



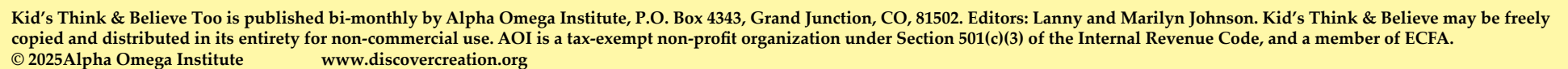
God promised us that He would never destroy the earth again by a flood. The rainbow is a reminder of that promise (Genesis 9:13-15). However, the Bible tells us that God is going to destroy the world again and cleanse it with fire (2 Peter 3:7). This judgment of fire is for those who are wicked, sinful, and don't believe in Jesus. But this judgment doesn't have to be for you.

The good news is that God loves us so much that He sent his son Jesus to die and forgive us of our sins. All we need to do is believe and accept Jesus as God's gift of salvation. A gift that is free, bought, and paid for by the blood of Jesus. People today are still laughing. How about you? Have you put faith and trust in Jesus and asked Him to be your Lord and Savior - to be your Ark of salvation?

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

References

*** edited version of <https://www.discovercreation.org/documents/kids/MarandApr1997KTB.pdf>
¹ <https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2022/09/08/how-many-animals-were-noahs-ark>



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