

# Think Believe

Discover Creation...Worship the Creator

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## Noah Movie Response

by Brian Mariani

About the time this T&B will be in your hands, acclaimed director Darren Aronofsky will share with the world his newest movie entitled **Noah** – following the account of the Biblical patriarch. People are abuzz, but WAIT! Be forewarned...there is a lot of controversy surrounding this new movie starring Russell Crowe and numerous Hollywood all-stars. Is this Biblically-based epic actually that Biblically-based?

Screenwriter Brian Godawa obtained an early copy of the script and warned that Noah is painted as he calls it, an “Environmentalist Wacko.” In fact, Aronofsky has said, “It’s about environmental apocalypse which is the biggest theme, for me, right now for what’s going on on this planet. So I think it’s got these big, big themes that connect with us. Noah was the first environmentalist.”<sup>1</sup>

Paramount Pictures and director Aronofsky have had some divided opinions on the project. Pre-showings of the film to a Jewish group, a group of Christians, and a group of the general public have not shown too favorably.

In studying Ancient Man, it is difficult to determine what life was like before the Flood because the Bible says very little. However, it is clear that the corruption of our world was not primarily an environmental issue, but a spiritual corruption.<sup>2</sup> Mankind (other than Noah) blatantly ignored the will of God and thus incurred God’s judgment.

The account of Noah’s ark and the

worldwide flood is about justice and also about grace. God could have destroyed everything, including mankind, yet He saved Noah and his family. This account links with the New Testament teaching that, though no one deserves it on our own, God has prepared a way of salvation from spiritual judgment. Instead of entering through the door of the ark, we are called to enter through Jesus who says of himself, “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

Evidently, Hollywood has certainly gained an interest in the Bible, as many other films have been, or will be, released soon, including: Mark Burnett’s **Son of God**, which was adapted from his History Channel series **The Bible**, Steven Spielberg’s account of Moses called **Gods and Kings**, and Ridley Scott’s account of Moses starring Christian Bale entitled **Exodus**.<sup>3</sup>

Even if **Noah** or any of these other movies are inaccurate or unbiblical, God can still use them to point people to His Word. It is through hearing God’s Word that the Holy Spirit convicts and draws people to Himself and to salvation through faith. (Rom 10:17)

We need to study in order to be prepared to share and give an answer for our faith and to show people that the Bible is the real Truth. Potentially deceiving movies? Yes, but, oh, what an opportunity!

This is but one reason that we are excited about our upcoming Discover Creation Training Institute – to train students to take advantage of things like this movie, the recent Ham-Nye debate and other current events to reach people in their community with the truth of God’s Word.

Be thinking. Be aware. How can you impact our dark and deceived world with Truth? How will you use these new, popular movies to challenge friends, family, and coworkers to read the Bible and dig into Scripture? **AOI**

<sup>1</sup>Brian Godawa. “Darren Aronofsky’s Noah: Environmentalist Wacko,” 10/29/12, <http://godawa.com/movieblog/darren-aronofskys-noah-environmentalist-wacko/>, accessed 1/11/14

<sup>2</sup>Adam Holz, “The Promise – and Peril – of Big-Screen Bible Epics,” 10/17/13 <http://community.focusonthefamily.com/b/pluggedin/archive/2013/10/17/the-promise-and-peril-of-big-screen-bible-epics.aspx>, accessed 1/11/14

<sup>3</sup>Ken Ham, “Was Noah an Environmentalist?,” 7/17/12. Answers in Genesis. Around the World with Ken Ham, <http://blogs.answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2012/07/17/was-noah-an-environmentalist/>, accessed 1/11/14.





## 1. How could all those animals fit on board the Ark?

I remember a student very sarcastically asking this question after a university lecture. I asked him, "How big was the boat?" He said he didn't know. Then I asked, "How many animals had to go on board?" He didn't know that either, but asserted anyway: "They couldn't possibly have fit." Interesting! According to this student, an unknown number of animals couldn't fit on board a boat of unknown size! Hmmmm....

Like many people, this student was suffering from a misconception of the size of the ark. Perhaps he got that idea from skeptical professors or maybe by seeing comic pictures of a tiny boat with elephants and giraffes squeezing on. Unfortunately, even church nurseries and Sunday school classrooms have cute artwork which depict Noah's Ark like that. Couple these impressions with the number of species that exist today, and students end up thinking they couldn't possibly fit.

However, given the size of the Ark described in the Bible (somewhere between 1.5 and 2 times the length of a football field), calculations have shown that there would have been plenty of room for all the land-dwelling, air-breathing kinds (not species) of animals that needed to be on board.

## 2. How could unskilled people like Noah and his family have built that big boat?

Whoa! Note the assumptions? Who said Noah was unskilled – and even if he was, according to the Bible, he received instructions directly from God. Also, the Bible seems to indicate that Noah had 120 years to build the boat. And who says he and his family did all the work? There is no reason that he could not have hired workers to help. Perhaps he even financed the project by "floating a loan from the skeptics."

## 3. How could his family have fed and cleaned up after all these animals?

John Woodmorrappé in his book, **Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study**, has offered some feasible suggestions as to how this could have been accomplished. Also,

perhaps some of the animals went into a state of estivation during this time of stress.

## 4. How could Noah have collected all those animals?

According to the Bible, God brought the animals to the Ark. (Genesis 6:20)

## 5. A wooden vessel that big would certainly not be seaworthy.

In his recent debate with Ken Ham, Bill Nye claimed Noah's boat wouldn't hold up since modern shipbuilders had tried to build a large, wooden vessel, but it leaked and eventually sunk. Note the assumption? How do we know that modern shipbuilders know more than Noah? Perhaps he was a better builder and he certainly worked with a much better engineer – God! Besides, as Ken Ham pointed out, there are examples of large wooden vessels in other ancient cultures.

Many other objections have been answered by us and other creation ministries. If you have other questions, please search our website or get the book, **Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study**. **AOI**

## Two Great Resources for Questions Regarding the Flood

**The Global Flood** by John Morris is a 176-page book that fills a need not only for geologists, but for the lay person who wants to know about geologic and Biblical evidence for the Flood and its related issues. Chock-full of wonderful photos and illustrations, **The Global Flood** is easy to read, yet concise enough to engage even casual readers. Great



for pastors and Bible teachers, as well as students and laymen, this 8.5" x 11" hardcover book is a great resource (\$20 + S/H).

How could Noah's family care for 16,000 animals for a year on the Ark? What did the carnivorous animals eat? What about saltwater and freshwater fish, etc?

**Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study**



is a one-of-a-kind compendium of information about animal-care methods, food-preservation techniques, animal-handling techniques, etc. This unique resource discusses in great detail how eight people could have cared for 16,000 animals using pre-scientific technology. This book provides answers to virtually every objection to the ark and the Flood! (\$22 + S/H) **AOI**



## A Global Flood? Really?

Many churches and seminaries teach that the Genesis Flood was just a local flood, not a worldwide one. However consider the following Biblical details and language that indicate it certainly was worldwide:

- **Need for the Ark:** If it was just a local flood, what was the need for the Ark? Animals and people could have migrated to a location of safety.
- **Size of the Ark:** If it was just a local flood, why was the Ark so large? Besides, calculations have shown that it had ideal dimensions to survive in very rough seas.
- **Inclusive language of destruction:** The Bible clearly indicates the extent of destruction. Notice the universal language used: "...all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven..." (Gen. 7:22-23 KJV)
- **Birds on Ark:** Why did the birds need to go on the Ark? If it was just a local flood, they could have easily flown to a place of safety.
- **Tops of tallest mountains were covered with water:** Water doesn't stack up! If you cover the top of the tallest mountains, you have covered the world.
- **The Rainbow:** According to Genesis 9:15-17, the rainbow was a sign of God's promise to never again destroy the whole earth with a flood. However, there have been many local floods in recent history. Does God keep his promises?
- **Duration of Flood:** Noah was on the Ark for over a year. That is not reasonable if it was just a local flood.

## Was the Hebrew Flood account borrowed from Babylon?

Tablets from Babylon show similarities to the biblical account of the Flood. However, their supposed dates range from 2200 to 620 BC, – up to 800 years before Moses wrote Genesis. Does this mean the Hebrews borrowed the Flood account from the Babylonians?

Among a number of versions of the Babylonian flood epics, The **Gilgamesh Epic** is the most complete and most often cited. Although interesting in its similarity to the biblical text, a comparison of the details leaves little doubt that the Genesis account is the more detailed and more scientifically verifiable. For instance, the dimensions of the Gilgamesh ark describe an

unweildy cube-type structure 6 decks (7 levels) high. It takes Gilgamesh and his workmen about a week to prepare the structure for the duration of the 6 days of the flood – hardly a worldwide catastrophe.

Rather than borrowing from the Babylonians, it is more reasonable to assume that both accounts are predated by the original biblical event that was recorded in oral tradition or in a written form handed down from Noah and the patriarchs to finally be recorded by Moses. **AOI**

### For further reading:

- 1 [www.ancienttexts.org/library/mesopotamian/gilgamesh/tab11.htm](http://www.ancienttexts.org/library/mesopotamian/gilgamesh/tab11.htm)
- 2 [www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2011/03/29/derivation-from-ancient-myths](http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2011/03/29/derivation-from-ancient-myths)
- 3 [www.icr.org/article/noah-flood-gilgamesh/](http://www.icr.org/article/noah-flood-gilgamesh/)

• **Geologic Evidence:** There is evidence of water catastrophe, widespread deposition of layers, rapid burial, and fossils all over the world. As Ken Ham says, "If there really was a worldwide flood, what would the evidence be? Billions of dead things, buried in rock layers, laid down by water all over the earth." And that is exactly what we see.

• **Flood Legends:** Cultures all over the world have legends of a catastrophic flood. These legends often have

a vessel of safety, animals going on board, and humans being saved. Though the details vary, it is amazing how widespread these legends are, and how similar they are. When taken together, these legends point to a shared remembrance of the actual historic event described in Genesis. **AOI**



## Director's Column by Dave Nutting



It's that time of year again – when we start chanting the mantra, “Come to camp! Come to camp! Come to camp!” Yes, we are passionate about AOI's Creation Vacations. Why? Because we have seen such positive results from camps over the past 28 years.

This year we are excited to sponsor 3 wonderful opportunities to have a real “Vacation with a Purpose.” All of these will include fascinating creation teaching along with wonderful recreational activities and opportunities for fellowship in God's beautiful world. Each is meant to edify you with sound information, encourage you to grow in your relationship with the Lord, and equip you to share your faith with boldness, confidence, and gentleness.

Our Creation Family Mountain Adventure at Horn Creek (June 29-July 4) is designed for families with kids of all ages. Children will enjoy their own fun and educational program that runs concurrently with the dynamic, illustrated presentations for adults and teens. Afternoons will be reserved for fun family activities like swimming, water slide, hiking, climbing gym,

rafting, etc. A special “western night” promises to be a special time for all. (Youth groups with sponsors are welcome!)

Our exciting Creation Action Boot Camp “Rock and River Adventure” (July 7-12) is especially designed for youth groups, teens, and families with teens. We will be teaming up with Journey Quest ministry for a fun and challenging week of camping, whitewater rafting, kayaking, rock-climbing, and hiking. Along the way, you will experience field-based creation learning with an emphasis on flood geology, Bible study, relevance, and applied creation activities.

Rounding out the summer is our Yellowstone Creation Tour (Aug. 29–Sep. 2). This caravan tour of Yellowstone National Park is open to families, singles, retirees, and youth groups. Enjoy times of fellowship while experiencing the beauty and intrigue of this fascinating area through the eyes of experienced creationist teachers.

Come! Bring your family and friends! Join us for an exciting time of fun, fellowship, and learning. We look forward to seeing you! (Visit our website for details.) **AOI**

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## Upcoming Events

For a list of upcoming events, we invite you to visit our website. Please pray for these events and encourage others to come.

### You Can Help!

AOI is supported by donations from like-minded individuals and churches. Will you partner with us to reach more young people and adults? We especially need regular, monthly donors. Whether it's large or small, every donation helps. It's easy to donate online: [www.DiscoverCreation.org](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org).

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**Rock & River Teen Adventure**  
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**Yellowstone Creation Adventure**  
Yellowstone National Park, • Aug. 29 – Sep. 2

[www.DiscoverCreation.org/vacations.htm](http://www.DiscoverCreation.org/vacations.htm)

