

Why Do People Believe in Noah's Ark, i.e., What Drives Man's Thinking?

Ricardo Campos Grace Chapel July 29, 2007

I. INTRODUCTION

Ever since Satan tempted man with a false view of God, life, and the world around him, man has chosen to believe a lie rather than God's truth. From the moment man took the first bite of the forbidden fruit, he decided to deny God's reality, which has led him to believe that he came from monkeys and that the miraculous events of the Bible such as Noah's Ark are fairy tales. But despite man's fervent claim that God does not exist, he knows God exists and that he has revealed Himself not only in the creative order that surrounds him, but in His Word where God has revealed the reality of an Ark built by Noah that housed all the animals of the world.

II. MAN'S TENDENCY IS TO REJECT GOD'S TRUTH FOR A LIE

A. *"Another" Truth (i.e., Satan's False World-View) Enters Man's Thinking*

Man has many philosophies about his existence. Some think that these originate with the philosophers like Socrates, Aristotle, Descartes, and Nietzsche that have influenced man over the millennia. But man's current philosophies actually originate in a lie presented by Satan to man at the Garden. In the beginning Satan introduced "another truth" to man about God, life, and the world around him, Gen 3:1-5. Ever since then, man has chosen to accept a lie over God's truth.

B. *Man's Rebellious Nature Expels God Out of His Mind*

In his rebellious nature, man refuses to retain God in his knowledge. He expels God's truth and rejects His existence, which leads him to replace God with something out of creation, Rom 1:18-25.

C. *Man's Thinking has an Appearance of Wisdom, but It's Actually Empty and Useless*

God clearly reveals this in Colossians. He contrasts that which is found in His Son versus that which man presents. Since Christ holds all wisdom and knowledge, there is no comparison. Thus, man's dogma, his set of beliefs, amounts to empty deceit. Though it may appear wise, it's actually useless. Since believers have died to such foolish thinking, for them to be return to this, is like a dog returning to its vomit.

III. HOW SKEPTICS VIEW NOAH'S ARK

A. *The Ark's Size Could Not Accommodate All The Species Of The World*

One objection raised by man is that the Ark was too small to carry all the animals necessary to account for all the modern day species. This argument appears strong. However, could it be that this argument is what God describes in Col 2:4, 23?

B. *The Ark's Size Could Not Accommodate All The Food, Water, And Animal Waste*

Another objection is that the Ark could not accommodate all the food, water, and animal waste associated with all the animals. Here again a seemingly convincing argument is presented. But is it?

C. *Eight People Could Not Care For All The Animals In The Ark*

A third argument is that eight people are not enough to care for all the animals. The way this argument is presented leaves on puzzled as to how Noah and his family could have accomplished this monumental task. What is the believer to think of all this "evidence"?

IV. HOW BELIEVERS VIEW NOAH'S ARK

A. *The Issue of "Species" and the Number of Animals Carried By the Ark*

To refute the evidence presented by the skeptics about "species" aboard the Ark, believers point out that it was not necessary for every species to be aboard. Only the parents of larger animal divisions were necessary, e.g., mules would not be on board the Ark, only a horse-like creature and ass-like creature, from whom a mule is produced. Thus, instead of the Ark containing millions of animals, the number was closer to 16,000, which occupied approximately 47% of the Ark's total floor-space.

B. *How Did the Ark Accommodate All The Food, Water, And Animal Waste*

With the animals occupying only 47% of the Ark, there would be sufficient room for the food, water, and animal waste. Mr. John Woodmorappe concludes that the food would have taken approximately 6-12% of the Ark, the water 9.4%, and the waste would have been 12 tons daily. This tonnage was not beyond the Ark's capacity, since it was capable of 13,000 tons of cargo and since the Ark had 6,000 tons to spare after all animals, food, and water were on board.

C. *Manpower Required to Care for All the Animals in the Ark*

In caring for the animals Woodmorappe assumes a 10-hr workday and 6-day work week. Since less than 12% of all the animals on the Ark reach 220 lbs and the majority of them are smaller than hens, the labor required would not be as great. He concludes that it would have taken 32 hours per day to feed, water, and manage the waste of the animals, leaving 48 hours to do other chores like exercise the animals.

D. *Interviews with Those Who Believe in Noah's Ark*

In the process of this study, 20 individuals were interviewed. They were asked one question: "Why do you believe in Noah's Ark?" Essentially all 20 said: "Because it's in the Bible." But isn't this *blind faith*? It is not, if you have acknowledged God for who He is and realized that all of creation and human history testifies not only to His existence, but His veracity.

V. CONCLUSION

What believers do with man's wisdom, his dogma, about God, life, and the world around them, will determine what foundation they stand on. If believers reinterpret Scripture because of man's philosophy, then they must realize that they have compromised God Himself. God is no longer God if Noah's Ark is a fairy tale.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Flank, Lenny. *Creation "Science" and the Flood of Noah*. Online: <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/2437/flood.htm>, 1995.
- Isaak, Mark. *Problems With A Global Flood*, Second Ed. Online: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-noahs-ark.html>, 1998.
- Kite, Patricia. *Noah's Ark (Great mysteries: opposing viewpoints)*. Minneapolis, MN: Greenhaven Press, 1989.
- Morton, Glenn R. Book Review: *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*. Online: http://www.answersincreation.org/noah_ark_feasibility_study.htm 1996
- Riggins, Bob. *The Whole Silly Flood Story*. Online: <http://www.skepticreport.com/creationism/sillyflood.htm>, 2002.
- Whitcomb, John C., and Henry M. Morris. *The Genesis Flood: The Biblical Record And Its Scientific Implications*. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co: 1961. Paperback reprint, Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2003.
- Woodmorappe, John. *Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study*. Santee, CA: ICR, 2003.