



Opening Prayer: Lord God, by Your wisdom and strength the ark that carried Noah, his family, and all the animals, was able to withstand the unimaginable power of that devastating flood. Give us faith in Jesus Christ Your Son who endured Your devastating wrath at our sins. We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Watch the Video: Session 2

Cruising across a lake on a calm summer day is exhilarating. But getting caught in a powerful storm is something totally different.

- If you've been out on a boat or ship in a storm or rough seas, describe the experience.
- Why was the ark's comfort and stability as essential as its strength for Noah's family and the animals with them?

Technology

It has often been suggested that ancient people were too primitive to have the technology or construction skills to build a vessel like the ark. But our ancestors achieved amazing feats of construction centuries before mankind harnessed fossil fuels and electricity to build internal combustion engines and computers. Consider the great castles and cathedrals of Europe. Consider earlier still the aqueducts, roads and ancient buildings of the Roman Empire. Go back even further, and you have the great Egyptian pyramids and several other manmade wonders of the ancient world.

But if God created Adam and Eve as intelligent humans, and those first generations lived such extremely long lives together, should it be totally surprising that mankind quickly developed complex technologies in the centuries before the flood? When the Bible described the depravity of Cain's descendent Lamech, it gave us a quick glimpse. His two wives Adah and Zillah bore him three sons who were pioneers in the pre-flood world.

Read Genesis 4:19-22a.

¹⁹ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.

²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

²² Zillah also bore Tubal-Cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron.

- How did Jabal's domestication of animals free up mankind to make great technological advances?
- What does Jubal's mastery of string and wind instruments say of the cultural advancement in pre-flood humanity?

- What tools and advancements could have been prompted by Tubal-Cain's skill in working with metal?
- In what ways could the misuse of these various technologies have turned people further from God?
- Which of these developments would seem essential for Noah in building the ark and caring for the animals that came aboard?

The Sturdy Ark

During the great flood, Noah's ark was exposed to incredibly destructive forces. Had it broken up, capsized, or sunk, none of us would be alive today. This is the reason God didn't leave it to Noah's ingenuity as to how to build the ark; instead, He gave him the exact dimensions for his boat. It was crucial its length, width and height be in proper proportion.

But even so, the ark's survival was not based solely on mathematics, engineering and construction. Psalm 46 speaks of God's protective presence in the midst of life-threatening peril. Martin Luther used this psalm as the basis for his powerful hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." As you read the words of this magnificent psalm, consider how well the words apply to Noah and his family huddled together in the ark.

Read Psalm 46.

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters His voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the Lord, how He has brought desolations on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.
- ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
- ¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

- Why is it comforting to remember God is always present to help us in every need?
- How does prayer reinforce our awareness of God's presence in such times?

Today's video hinted at plate tectonics and other mechanisms that may have been at play during the flood; these will be discussed in greater depth in the next two sessions. But clearly the ark was exposed to the powerful, hydraulic forces God was using to cleanse sinful mankind from the earth.

There are many similarities between the ark and the flood on the one hand, and Jesus Christ and Judgment Day on the other. In both cases God's wrath is poured out on a hostile, unbelieving world. Again, in both the flood and Judgment Day, God graciously provides a way for people to survive the desolation—the *ark* and *Jesus Christ*. Powerful forces battered the ark, threatening to destroy it. Likewise, on Good Friday, powerful enemies joined forces to batter and destroy Jesus Christ.

- Describe the various things Jesus suffered as He bore the brunt of God's judgment on Good Friday.

One final similarity between the flood and Judgment Day—just as the only survivors of the flood were found within the ark, the only survivors of Judgment Day will be those found in Christ Jesus.

In the 1700s a famous hymn was written. In a striking way it reminds us that just as Noah, his family, and the animals survived by hiding inside the ark, we will only survive Judgment Day by hiding in Jesus Christ:

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
 From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
 Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.”

Noah the Herald

The flood account in Genesis 6-9 doesn't explicitly say Noah warned his neighbors of the coming flood. But 2 Peter 2:5 calls him “a herald of righteousness,” making it clear he did. While overseeing construction on the ark, he warned his family, neighbors and hired hands of the deluge to come. As the construction of the ark neared completion, its massive dimensions powerfully predicted the global scale of the coming disaster.

- In what way was the ark itself a silent sermon about the coming flood?
- How did the arrival of all those birds and land animals add to Noah's witness?

Undoubtedly, Noah pointed out the ark and the animals, pleading with his neighbors to come and find salvation with them in the ark. Sadly, none but his immediately family heeded God's warning and took shelter inside.

- What encouragement can we draw from Noah's experience when we receive rejection, scorn and ridicule from people with whom we share God's coming judgment and His free offer of salvation in Jesus Christ?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, You have warned us of the Last Day when You will judge the living and the dead, purging out all evil, and restoring Your entire creation. Strengthen our witness to others and keep each of us safe in You until the destruction is past, and we take our first steps in the new heavens and the new earth. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER LINKS

[Thinking outside the Box](#): This webpage takes an in-depth look at the ark and how it safely brought Noah, his family, and all those animals through the flood's devastation.

[Where Does the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stand on Genesis 1?](#) This page contains the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's official doctrinal position. (Look for #5 "Of Creation.")

[Hibernation, Migration, and the Ark](#): This article discusses attempts to find natural processes to explain how the animals came to the ark, and how Noah cared for them there.

[Were Dinosaurs on Noah's Ark?](#) This Creation Ministries International article searches the Bible for possible clues.

Depicting the Ark

This article traces the [Different Ways Artists Have Rendered Noah's Ark](#) over the centuries.

This church leader stirred controversy by putting specific dates on the events in the Bible. [Can the Ussher Chronology Be Trusted?](#) This link examines how Archbishop James Ussher calculated his chronology, dating events from creation to the fall of Jerusalem. Many Bible scholars do not support the dates of this chronology because Archbishop Ussher didn't take into account how the genealogies provided in the Bible sometimes omit generations. Even so, it is unlikely these gaps involve more than a few generations, so that would make creation's age closer to ten thousand years than millions and millions of years.

[Is there a Link between Noah's Flood and the Tower of Babel?](#) The famous Jewish historian Josephus offered a link between the flood and the Tower of Babel in his book *The Antiquities of the Jews*.

[Safety Investigation of Noah's Ark in a Seaway](#): In this detailed article a Korean firm studied the seaworthiness of the ark.

[Ancients Couldn't Have Built a Wooden Ship That Large, Could They?](#) This article discusses large ships built in antiquity to prove Noah could have built that large a ship.

Was the Ark Seaworthy? A blogger who called himself "Froggie" challenged the seaworthiness of Noah's ark. In a three-part series, Tim Lovett (mechanical engineer with Answers in Genesis USA) answered his challenges.

[Could Noah's Ark Float without Problems?](#)

[Are Wooden Ships Reliable?](#)

[Was Noah's Ark Seaworthy, or Is That Impossible?](#)

[Has the Ark Been Found?](#) In 1960, articles came out reporting a pilot sighting a boat-like shape on Lesser Mount Ararat. Was it the ark?

[Noah's Ark: A Feasibility Study](#) by John Woodmorappe. This book is an incredibly detailed look at major questions surrounding the day-to-day operations of the ark such as how could eight people feed all those animals, and how would they deal with the waste produced by the animals? He also looks at the numbers and kinds of animals on board; manpower studies regarding eight people caring for 16,000 animals; special animal diets; problems overcome; hibernation; what animals had to eat in the immediate post-flood world; the survival and germination of seeds and more.