

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Humanities/Physics

Lesson 2 Physics

HEBREWS 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God concerning things not yet seen, was moved with godly fear to prepare an ark for the saving of his household through which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

DEVOTIONS: GENESIS CHAPTERS 6-9

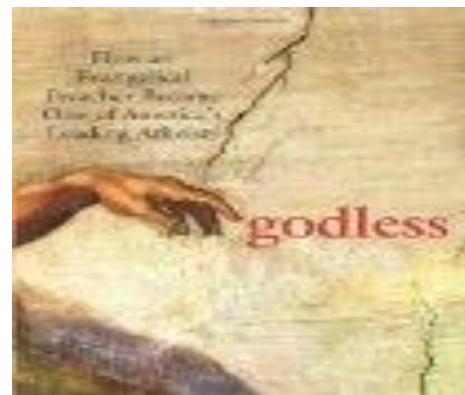
1 PETER 3:20 “...because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons were saved through water.”

Methuselah, whose name means *his death brings judgment*, was Noah’s grandfather. He lived during Adam and Eve’s lifetime; he was alive when God told Noah that mankind had 120 years to change and turn from their wicked ways before judgment would come. In Genesis 5:27, it tells us Methuselah died at age 969 years, near Noah’s 600th birthday. Methuselah’s death indeed signaled the coming flood that same year.

Imagine God’s longsuffering, enduring the pain and remorse caused by mankind’s wickedness – killing one another, making human sacrifices, teaching idolatry to their children and their children’s children – how could it or would it end! The only thing worse than death was wickedness. Wickedness destroys everything even as it lives.

GENESIS 6:6 God is grieved after the spread of wickedness before the flood.

Adam and Eve, though they had been warned of judgment, chose to *bring on* death because they didn’t believe God’s words, “you will surely die.” Fortunately, Noah chose to believe God’s words, or he would never have finished the ark. Although Noah himself sinned, his faith in what God told him was unwavering.

**PROVERBS 8:33** Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it.

God grieved over man’s wickedness and its cost, but He fulfilled the promised judgment. Only Noah’s family survived. Everything else with the breath of life, except the animals God brought to the ark, was lost. You are alive today because you are a descendant of Noah and a beneficiary of his faith.

God measured Noah’s faith and righteousness with His amazing grace. Our only hope is to be measured in Christ. Like the ark, Christ is available to all who’ll believe God’s word. Only Christ can bear us safely home across the great divide caused by sin. Throughout the

scriptures, God reminds us of His plans to bring redemption. Noah was not without sin, but his faith in the One who knew no sin, made all the difference.

Mark 4:24

"And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given".

TIMELINE (History): 4000 BC – 2400 BC (to the Flood) called the BRONZE AGE:

Based on Biblical chronologies and genealogies, it appears that construction of the ark began approximately 4500 years ago, around 2500 BC. Tools and simple machines were a must for building. Even the completed ark interior likely would have incorporated simple machines such as grinders/millstones, wheels, pulleys, plumbing, siphons/gravity driven water devices, perhaps even waterwheels or other mechanical devices.

Before the flood, mankind was already working with metals (metallurgy/smelting, high temperature ovens). Tubal-cain (a descendent of Cain) is mentioned in Genesis 4:20-22 as a maker and teacher of bronze and iron or brass metalsmithing. Adam and Eve were likely alive when Tubal-cain was working with metal. Metalwork tools like shovels, rakes, knives, axes, and wheels were made. One of the essential designs was a metal WEDGE.



Methuselah lived during Adam's lifetime, as well as during Tubal-cain and Noah's lifetimes. Noah was born a millennia (1000 years) after Adam. Since Methuselah's genealogy overlaps, it's relatively certain that the patriarchs were known by most through verbal histories. While the world's population exceeded millions, potentially billions, at the time of the flood, all were descended from Adam and Eve.

As communities, cities, and civilizations grew, a need for consistent measures also grew. Trade is cumbersome without standards. Distances between cities needed to be known so travelers could prepare for the journey. People needed to know distances between cities, rivers, water wells, or places of commerce like the nearest forge or blacksmith, shipbuilder, quarry, or vineyard. Relatively consistent lengths were developed with standards (a rod, a chain, a stadia).

The Egyptian civilization may have been the first to use boats, on the Nile. About the time God gave Noah specific instructions and measurements to build a massive boat, the Egyptians were building seaworthy boats that were much, much smaller. To build such an immense boat, Noah needed to understand the measure of these lengths. The ark would be the largest wooden structure ever built at that time. It needed to be seaworthy.

The Ark's dimensions – 300 cubits = ~450 feet or ~137 meters long, 50 cubits = ~75 feet or ~23 meters wide, 30 cubits = ~45 feet or ~14 meters tall. Noah needed accurate measurement standards. Weights may have become standardized to balance scales and to make work doable. (137.16 meters long, 22.86 meters wide, and 13.716 meters high)



Of all the massive work projects throughout history, nothing seems more impossible to conceive or as unlikely to succeed as building an ark. Constructing a boat large enough to house all the land animals God created during creation week was a God-sized task. Good workmanship would be required as would discipline, work, and loads of energy. Without God's provisions, ingenuity, and simple tools/machines, this project would be impossible.

Remember, reptiles (including dinosaurs), amphibians, mammals, and birds were to be included; but, sea creatures, invertebrates and fish, were not. The ark must house this floating zoo as well as all the food and water (or water catchment system) needed. Insects were not specifically mentioned in scripture, however, it's likely most species (albeit few individual ones) could survive the flood on floating debris.

GOT-IT/Apologetics:

Measurements represent quantities of something, whether it's the length, width, or height, or mass, speed, or velocity of an orbiting planet. These measures allow us to unveil the secrets of the universe, the concepts that enable us to invent, build, or master the problems we face. For Noah the problem was housing all the land animals aboard the ark. As you might notice, the boat illustrated below is far too small.



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under

By estimating the volume of the ark using the dimensions given in the Bible, we can calculate its volume, its buoyancy, its capacity, and sea worthiness. Although it's a relatively simple math, science or engineering problem, the answer reveals something incredible. Not only were the measures mathematically, scientifically, and strategically feasible, they were diligently written, transcribed, and stored so we could do these calculations today and believe.

Based on the Genesis record, the volume of the ark was ~1.8 million cubic feet or 42,873.5 cubic meters equal to the capacity of 450 semi-trailers or 570 railroad cars. This is more than adequate space to house all the diverse kinds of animals aboard the ark. Therefore,

what Moses painstakingly penned, nearly 3400 years ago about an event (the Flood) ~4500 years ago and engineering instructions for a floating barge, is evidence for the HOPE or faith we hold. It's also a very reasoned answer for how and where the fossil record originated.

Today nearly all scientists believe, and evidence shows, that water covered the majority of all the land/continents; however, these same scientists refuse to believe a global flood ever occurred. Most of the fossil/rock record is accepted as flood deposits, but these scientists assume these must be from multiple local floods, not a global flood. The Bible calls out "willingly ignorant" or "deliberately forgetful" scoffers who deny the flood.

2 Peter 3:3-7

³Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. ⁴They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." ⁵But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. ⁷By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

REFLECTION/Devotion:

Methuselah's name was a reminder to Noah that judgment was coming. Perhaps this helped Noah be prepared. What if you knew, in advance, that you would be shipwrecked on a deserted island? How would your life or preparations change? Fortunately, for Noah, he listened to the precise instructions he received from God and worked diligently. A boat's dimensions make all the difference in seaworthiness, its ability to sustain turbulent waves, and its adequate capacity to carry the payload. His workmanship and obedience allowed civilization to continue and your family to exist.

Another instruction God gave to Noah was to bring seven additional pair of clean animals on the ark. Although the reason for this isn't specifically stated, it's evident that some would be sacrificed. No matter how righteous Noah's family would strive to be, they remained sinners unable to reach heaven on their own. The sacrifice illustrated the cost of disobedience and pointed to the coming Savior, Jesus Christ.

Land animals, created on Day 6, were not created to die, be sacrificed, or to be used for food. They were created very good, eating the fruit of the land, not each other. It's unclear when animals themselves became carnivorous; however, after leaving the ark, some animals and Noah's family ate meat. It's apparent we live in a fallen world (judgment and death from Adam's fall), a post-diluvian world (a fossil-filled rock record), and a world that is no longer very good. Yet, we can see evidence of God's grace all around us.



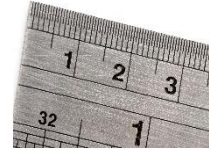
(Methuselah – the oldest living thing/tree, dates to just after the flood)

REMEMBER THESE THINGS

Throughout our lessons, remembering what we learn is key to understanding.

MEASURE: (a ruler)

We should measure our lives, not as man would, but as God does. Too often we'll find ourselves following the crowd, or valuing what others believe is important, such as "keeping up with the Jones's." Learn to rightly measure, as Noah did, so you don't miss the boat when God is seeking you to fulfill a mission or calling.



LUKE 6:8 A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.



INSTRUCTION: (A BOAT)

A BOAT is known around the world as the way man survived a flood. The stories vary but most say only one family survived. As support for an epic flood, they give credence to the record in Genesis; but, as credible accounts, they fail to be accurate. Their boat descriptions fail to be seaworthy, fail to be sufficient in capacity, or fail in their ability to withstand turbulence. Only the Biblical account of the actual ark passes the credibility test. The description of the boat/ark provided in Genesis is clear, measured, and set within a historical record. The mathematical calculations, structural integrity based on its dimensions, and added descriptions provide evidence for the Bible's veracity.

PROVERBS 8:33 Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it.

GENESIS 7:1a And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark.