

GENESIS

6:1-22

Genesis 6:1-22

Taught by Simeon Forder on Sunday morning, 20th August 2023 @ Deal Christian Fellowship

Reading: 2 Peter 2:4-9

Introduction

As you know, we're in the book of Genesis, and last Sunday morning we got as far as the end of chapter five. Today, Lord willing, we'll study all of chapter six that records the final 120 years before Noah's flood — so that is roughly around 2500-2400 BC.

Overview of chapter six

Overview of chapter six

- **v1-4** — Satan's plan to stop the Seed from coming
- **v5-10** — Wickedness fills the earth, but Noah finds grace
- **v11-22** — Instruction to build the ark, and the coming judgement

And we can break this chapter down into three parts. In the opening 4 verses we are going to read something key — not only key to this chapter or book, but to understanding the whole Bible (and especially the Old Testament). For we'll read about Satan's plan to stop Jesus being born. In verses 5-10 we see that against the backdrop of wickedness in the world, Noah finds grace in the eyes of God. And then from verse 11 to the end we will read the instructions God gave Noah to build the Ark that he might be saved from the coming judgement of the flood.

Chapter six

So, let's start at the beginning of this chapter. We read in the opening 2 verses:

Genesis 6:1-2

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

Having read the genealogy in chapter 5, where we were introduced to Noah and his sons (Shem, Ham and Japheth), we are now told what was going on in the world at the *time* of Noah, around 20 years prior to his sons being born. And it wasn't good news.

We read in these opening verses that the sons of God took wives of the daughters of men. And that gives rise to some questions:

- Who *were* the sons of God?
- Who are the daughters of *men* that are referred to here?
- What was the *purpose* of this?
- What was the *outcome* of this?

Let's start with the sons of God. We know, clearly, from the rest of scripture, that Jesus is God's only son. Such as we read in John 3:16. However, there are times that others are referred to collectively as the *sons of God* - including us. For example, we read at the start of 1 John chapter 3: *Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!* (Or *sons of God* as the KJV puts it — both translations being good ones). The point John is making there is of our restored relationship to our Heavenly Father.

But here in Genesis this term is used to speak of angels. Indeed, the phrase "*sons of God*" is only used 5 times in the Old Testament — twice here in Genesis, and three times in Job. And on each occasion it refers to angels, such as in Job 38 where God is challenging Job. We read:

Job 38:4-7

"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

However, the *specific* angels that we read of in Genesis 6, we can tell from their behaviour, are fallen angels. That is, they are of the third of angels that fell with Satan when they rebelled against God. We read of these angels and their actions in Jude:

Jude 1:6-7

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

So these angels did not keep to themselves, but crossed a boundary into sexual immorality. This disobedience by them is noted by Peter in his first letter:

1 Peter 3:18-20

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

So what we have here in these opening verses of chapter 6 (where it says “*sons of God*”) are these fallen angels. Some suggest that they were Cain's sons, or descendants, but that is problematic in several ways, not least of which is that we find the giant offspring of such ungodly unions *after* the flood, through which his descendants had been wiped out.

As for what they did, we see that they married the daughters of men — which of course they were not supposed to do. These were ordinary girls descended from Adam & Eve, not specific to Seth's lineage, but certainly including it. And this union of fallen angels and human women produced the giants that we will read of in verse 4. While I'll not focus on it this morning, this should be yet another example that God cares very much about *who* we marry (as do Godly parents). And we'll see this issue crop up again, directly related to these giants, when we get to the wives that Esau chose, who we read in chapter 26 were a grief of mind to his parents, Isaac and Rebekah.

Now, you might be wondering what the purpose of all this was. And it's both more simple and more important than many think. And it goes back to Genesis chapter 3 where we read:

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

This was the first promise of the Messiah, of our Saviour. And as foretold here, Satan would do all he could to destroy Jesus. And the best and earliest chance he had, was to stop him being born. So therefore, if he could entirely infiltrate and corrupt the human race through these angels and their offspring (leaving no pure line from Adam), then he could not only stop Jesus being born (thus removing any possibility of our salvation), but he could make God a liar. Furthermore, and perhaps his motivation, was that by preventing the Seed (that is, Jesus) being born, he would avoid his own demise that had been foretold. And thus, Satan tried this particular strategy not only once, but twice. As mentioned in our study of chapter 3, it's the same reason Pharaoh ordered the newborn baby boys of the Jews to be murdered. It's why so many enemies were set on destroying Israel — such as Haman in the book of Esther. And it's why he used Herod to massacre the babies under 2 years old in Bethlehem, shortly after the time Jesus was born.

Hopefully you see, this isn't a something to merely dig into out of interest, but something we really *should* understand as Christians, because our very *salvation* was at stake here. And if we don't take time to understand it, then we'll be ill equipped to answer questions when our unbelieving family, friends or colleagues ask why God sent a worldwide flood, or why there were so many bloodthirsty battles in the Old Testament. This truly is an important subject. We read on in verse 3:

Genesis 6:3

And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

That is, God didn't *need* to be patient with his creation for a minute, let alone any longer. But here he drew a line in the sand saying, it would seem to Noah, that it would be 120 years until judgement came. That judgement being the flood, of course.

What would happen in that time? That's what the rest of this chapter deals with. First, we read:

Genesis 6:4

There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

And so we see the result of these ungodly unions of fallen angels and human women were giants. Of course, there's always some who want to throw doubt on what the Bible says — after all, it's Satan's number one strategy to ask "*did God really say?*". And some suggest that these giants were merely men with a notable reputation for wickedness in the community — maybe in part, because the Hebrew word **nephil** can mean *giant* **or** *tyrant*. But that's ignorant of what the rest of Bible says, for we read in this verse that these same beings existed after the flood as well. We read of them in Numbers 13:33, as Joshua and the other 11 men go to spy out the land, and we hear their report which said:

Numbers 13:33

There we saw the **giants** (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and **we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."**

In Deuteronomy 1 we read:

Deuteronomy 1:28

Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."

Then in chapter 2:

Deuteronomy 2:10-11

(The Emim had dwelt there in times past, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. They were also regarded as giants, like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim.

The same is said of the Zamzummim in verses 20-21, and then we read in chapter 3:

Deuteronomy 3:11

"For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead. (Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width, according to the standard cubit.

That's a bed that is 13.5ft long, and 6ft wide. And he wasn't alone:

Deuteronomy 3:13

The rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, the kingdom of Og, I gave to half the tribe of Manasseh. (All the region of Argob, with all Bashan, was called the land of the giants.

When you actually read the Bible, there is no question that these giants were literally giants who were both tall and strong. Later in chapter 9 of Deuteronomy we read:

Deuteronomy 9:1-3

Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, 'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?' Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you.

Remember, Moses who wrote *all* these passages, and used the same words for giants throughout, was able to detail the battles against these giant tribes after Israel's exodus from Egypt — from first hand knowledge. He had witnessed these battles against nations of giants.

As we read further on in the Bible and in history, we see Joshua referring to the Valley of Rephaim — that is literally the valley of giants. And of course, we see record of such individuals as Goliath (who David killed) who was more than 9 feet tall. Or Ishbi-Benob who we read of in 2 Samuel 21, whose bronze spear weighed around 25 lbs (which is more than 11 Kg).

As we look at these things, it becomes ever easier to understand why there are so many stories in Greek and Roman culture of gods and humans intermingling, and of god-like creatures with inordinate strength and capability. The legends they have contain much fiction, but they are rooted in at least some essence of reality. And who knows how many of the phenomena we find in the world — from Stonehenge to the Pyramids — was the handiwork of such beings?!

I'll restrain myself from going any deeper into this today, but if you want to do some study into this, I can recommend a few resources:

- *After the flood* by Dr. Bill Cooper
- *The Giant Cities of Bashan and Syria's Holy Places* by Rev. J.L. Porter D.D.
- *Dake's Study Bible Notes* by Rev. Finnis Dake
- A coffee with Bob Forder, our founding pastor

And I'm really not joking on that last point. This week I was able to read just a portion of the 70'000 words he has already written on this subject, and all I'll say is we're very blessed to have had him teach us so faithfully on this subject over the years - because it pops up throughout the Bible.

Now again, what Satan was trying to accomplish here through the fallen angels, and now their giant offspring, was to try and corrupt all mankind, that there would be no pure line from Adam to Jesus. But furthermore, we read that society collapsed into moral depravity. What started with the sexual immorality of these fallen angels had ended up with an entire world that was morally bankrupt.

We read in verses 5 & 6:

Genesis 6:5-6

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

That is, there were millions of men and women on the earth at this point, and deep-rooted wickedness had spread to all — or almost all, as we'll see. And it wasn't just their actions, but their thoughts that were wicked — which God was able to see.

This may well cause us to think about our world today, and how morals have been thrown to the side, one by one. But lest we be complacent, let us remember the words written to *us* in Hebrews chapter four:

Hebrews 4:11-13

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

God sees not only all we do, but knows all we think. That's sobering.

Here in Genesis, God was moved to grief by the wickedness of man. Grief not only that it had occurred, but no doubt at what it also meant those who had lived contrary to Him. For we read next:

Genesis 6:7

So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Now, if mankind were entirely destroyed here — if none of them had survived — then Jesus would not have been born, and no human in history would have a Saviour. But thankfully this chapter doesn't end at verse 7. And we read about this in 2 Peter chapter 2:

2 Peter 2:4-9

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, **but** cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, **but** saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; **and** turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; **and** delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— **then** the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,

That is, God is just and He will see that the wicked are indeed punished for their evil deeds. But because He is just, God cannot destroy the righteous with the wicked. And of Noah we read five things; that he was just, that he walked with God, that he was a preacher of righteousness, that he was obedient to do what God commanded him, and that he had faith in God's ability to save him.

It is this example, and that of Lot, that foreshadow the days we live in; that God will *not* pour out his judgement of the Great Tribulation, until He has taken His church out of this world. That is, we will be raptured before the Tribulation begins.

That's not to say though, that Lot, or Noah, were perfect sinless people. But they pursued God, rather than openly rebelled against Him. Yet as sinners, their good deeds did not cancel out their bad deeds — that's not how it works. Rather, they were still both entirely dependant on God for their salvation. And we read in verse 8:

Genesis 6:8

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

That is, Noah found unmerited favour. Was that unfair on those around him? No; just as today God is unwilling that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, so the wicked men and women on the earth had opportunity to repent ahead of the flood. But they chose not to. Noah himself wasn't saved because of his works, but because he found and received the grace of God.

Jon Courson puts this well. He said:

That Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord does not mean that God showed grace to Noah exclusively. Yes, a flood wiped everyone else out eventually, but not before God gave them one hundred years to repent of their wickedness and receive salvation. Yes, the planet was deluged, but every man had opportunity to hear His message as they observed Noah building the huge barge. But the world refused to grab hold of the good news of salvation, and they drowned in their sin. It wasn't that God looked at Noah with grace and everyone else with condemnation. God looked at everyone with eyes of grace and mercy. It's just that Noah found the grace.

Jon Courson

We read in verse 9:

Genesis 6:9

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

So then Noah was a just man, and he walked with God. How that reminds me of what we read in Micah 6:8 which says *"He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"*

But be careful to read this verse in Genesis carefully, for Noah wasn't perfect, but perfect *in his generations*. That is, while Satan's strategy to corrupt the entire human race had been highly effective, it had not achieved his goal — for Noah was of a pure, uninterrupted line through from Adam, as we saw last week in chapter five. Indeed the word used for *perfect* here is the same one as used to describe sacrificial animals as *without blemish*.

And that went for his wife, his sons, and his sons wives also. While their wives families were evidently either deceased or also corrupted, these 8 people remained, who God would preserve to establish a new beginning on the earth, without which we would never have been born, and without which no man would have had a Saviour.

As we move to verse 10, we see 20 years have passed. And we're roughly 100 years away from the flood (and Methuselah's death for that matter). We read there:

Genesis 6:10

And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Japheth was the oldest, and Ham the youngest, but we always see their names written in this order. Why? Because it was through Shem that the Messiah would come. Just as with Jacob and Esau, it was the younger, Jacob, whom through would come the line to Jesus.

Now, as we reach verse 11, it becomes very clear how wicked mankind had become:

Genesis 6:11-12

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

And we see that God's holiness could not tolerate such wickedness. We read on:

Genesis 6:13

And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

So against this backdrop of the wickedness of mankind, we see Noah had found grace in the eyes of God, and he walked with Him. And now, God instructs Noah on what he should do. He says:

Genesis 6:14

Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

So, Noah was to go for wood. Sorry he was to use *gopherwood* (couldn't resist!). We don't know exactly what type of wood this was, but we can be sure it was one suited to the task at hand, which was to build an ark capable of housing and preserving Noah, his family, and representatives of all land animals through the flood, which is what these separate rooms were to be for. We should already be getting the idea that this was not a small boat.

And we read that Noah was to cover the ark both inside and out with pitch. Why? First, to secure it. That it might be watertight. Second, I believe, to preserve it. To date, Noah's Ark has not been discovered, despite many attempts to find it. But imagine what an incredible and undeniable witness it would be to this world if it were discovered, and found to be just as the Bible describes it.

But there's more to this than meets the eye. We read the word pitch and think of a black, sticky, bitumen type substance or resin that would have ensured a water tight seal inside and outside the ark. But the Hebrew word **kopher** conveys the idea of a covering, or ransom. Sound familiar? Well, another Hebrew word, **kaphar**, that is derived from the first, speaks figuratively to expiate or condone, placate or cancel - that is, to make reconciliation, to forgive, to appease, to pardon. In fact this word is translated as all those things throughout the Bible. But the word it is translated most as, 71 times in the KJV, is atonement. How incredible is that? The covering of pitch for the ark that preserved Noah and his family, points to the covering of Jesus blood shed for you and I, that reconciles us with God. Indeed this verse in Genesis is the only time this word is translated *pitch*.

The instructions to Noah continue. We read in verse 15:

Genesis 6:15

And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

The size is not immediately apparent to us as we read this, for a cubit isn't the standard unit of measurement we use — but it's easy to convert, for a cubit was the length of the tip of your middle finger to your elbow, which is around 18 inches on average. That means the size of the ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. This was a huge boat. So big, that it wasn't until the last couple of hundred years that we saw any other boat of this size.

But frustratingly, this is not the impression most people, even most Christians have of the ark. And a caricatured ark with a giraffe poking it's head out of the window is easy for the unbeliever to dismiss as a child's story. And I really think we need to be careful of what we teach our children, or other peoples children, about the ark. For what we see everywhere are toys like this...



And it's no wonder that when you ask a child to draw a picture of the ark, that they tend to come out like this...

Children's perceptions of Noah's Ark



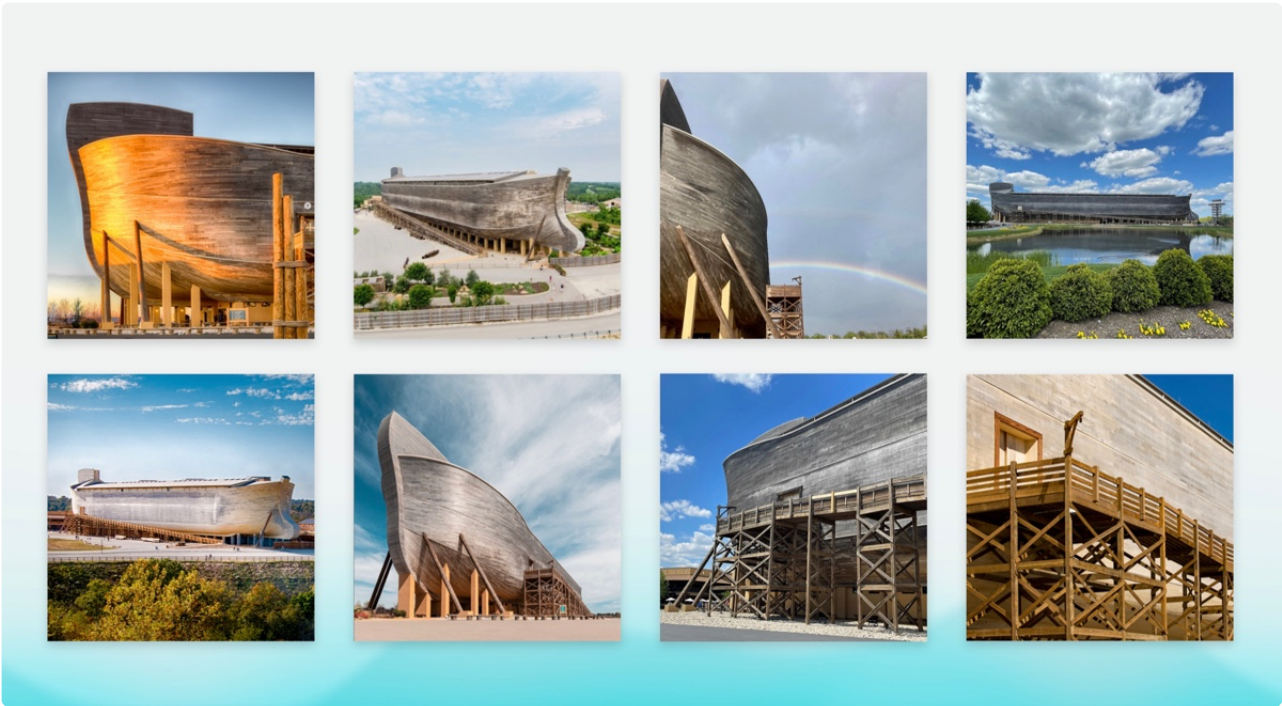
Credit: Creation Ministries International: <https://creation.com/noahs-ark-colour-in>

That is, most drawings show a bathtub style ark with enough room for a few pets. Not the thousands of animals Noah would have had on board, along with his family of 8 and all the food necessary to sustain them. *“Ah, but that’s children’s imagination”*, you might think. No, it’s what we feed them. Indeed, the more accurate drawings shown in this collage, when the children were asked what they based their idea on, were based on the Bible — rather than what mum and dad said, or what they were taught in school or Sunday school. I’m not suggesting, parents, that you throw out every book that has an inaccurate picture of the ark. But we do need to think carefully about what our children are learning, for such ideas don’t remain with children. Just look at this stained-glass window from Saint Étienne-du-Mont in Paris:



Almost nothing is as trivialised in the Bible as the account of Noah and the ark that he built. Even Goliath gets pictured accurately as an actual giant. But the ark gets reduced to a boat that would more fitting for a park, than a global flood.

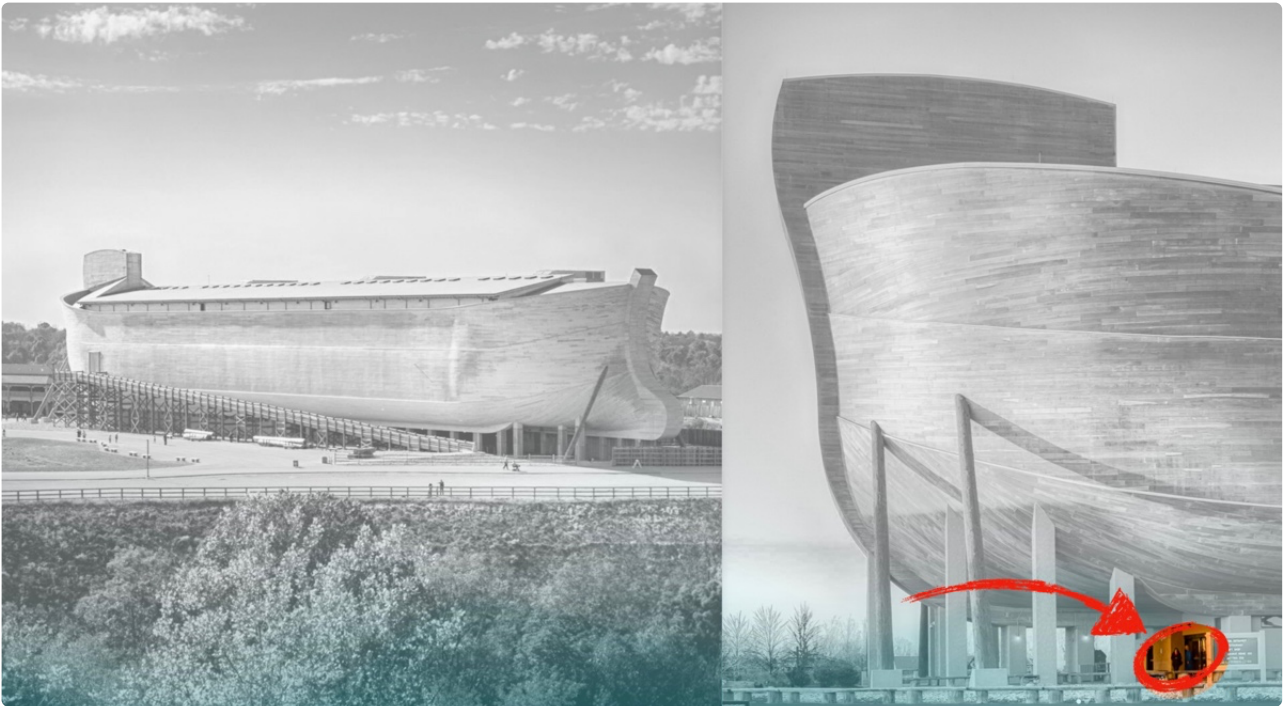
Let me give you a more accurate idea. The great folks over at Answers In Genesis, have built a life-sized model of Noah’s ark in Williamstown, Kentucky (in the USA) which you can see in these pictures:



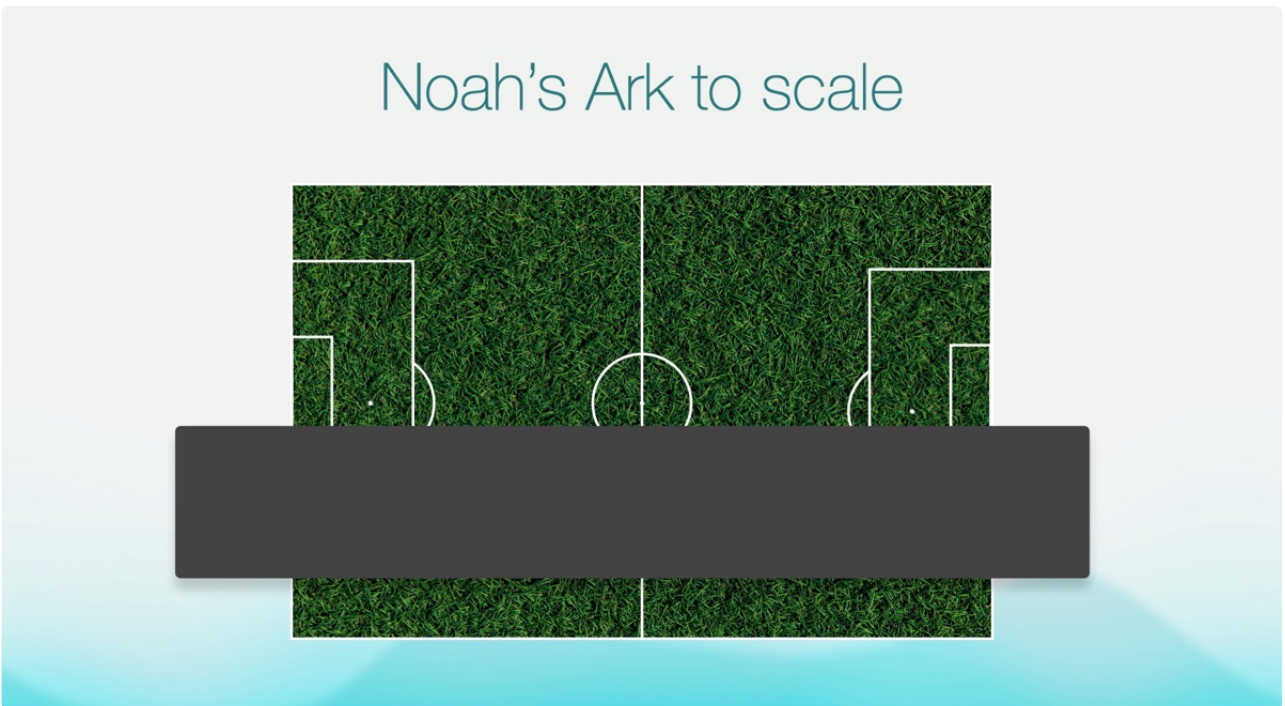
It's open to the public, along with a museum and more. And they do a great job of showing just how big the ark would have been, and showing that what we read in the Bible is not a children's story, but a factual account of what actually happened. To give you a sense of scale, let's zoom into a couple of these photos:



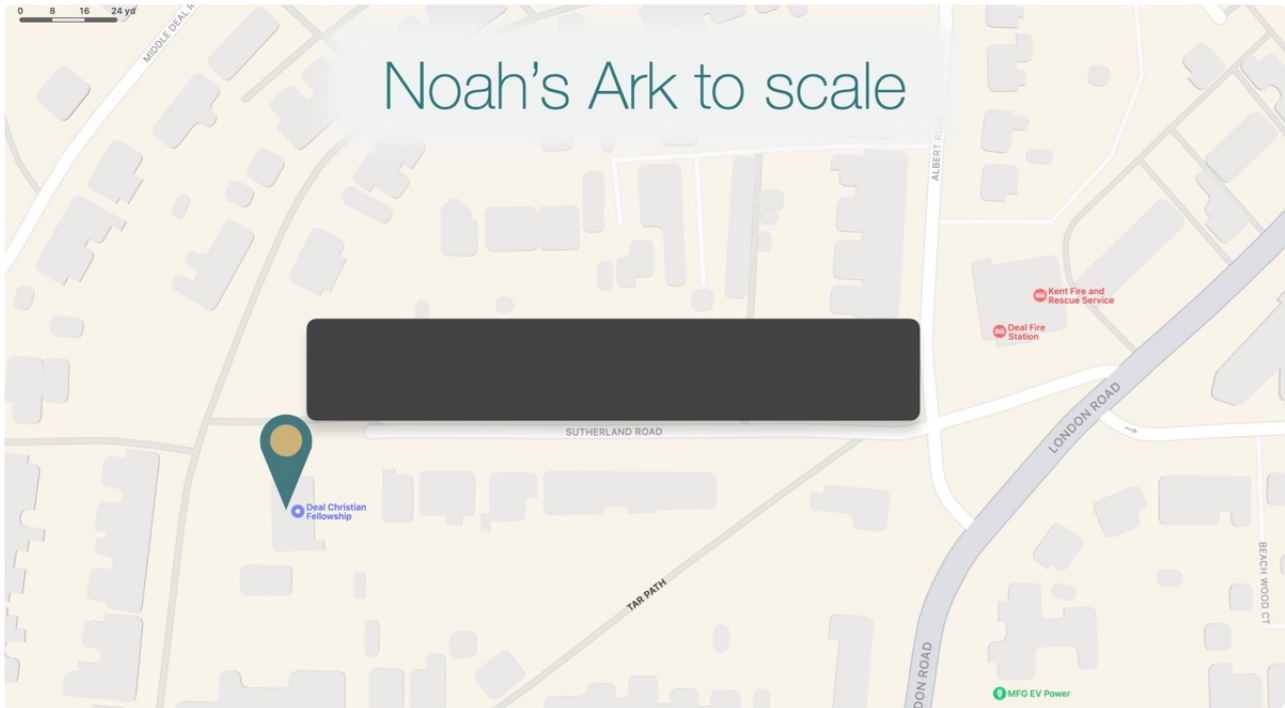
What will be hard to see from your seats, is how big this is compared to people. Let me highlight a couple of folks standing near the base of the ark here:



The ark was not designed for a paddling pool, and we should stop thinking of it as one. Let me show you two final comparisons this morning. First, a FIFA standard football pitch measures 105 x 68 metres:



Compare that to the 137 plus metre length of the ark, and we get somewhat of a real idea of how big the ark actually was. The second example is one you can get a very real sense of this morning, and that is how it compares to the road on which our church building is at the end of:



Here, you can see the church building at the end of Sutherland Road, and it turns out that the ark would have been the length of the road, from the start of it at the fire station end, all the way up until the edge of our church building. I encourage you to think of that each time you drive or walk up and down this road.

I could go on with comparisons, but this is something we can each do at home. And would be a healthy thing to do with our children.

Now, the next instruction we read is:

Genesis 6:16

You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

This window wasn't merely necessary to check if it was still raining, but in order that there might be fresh air throughout the boat — for Noah, his family, and all the animals would be on the boat for over a year. And so it's not reasonable to think it was just a small hatch big enough for Noah's head, but extended along the length of the ark. Indeed, we're only given the height of how far it should rise above the top of the boat.

But also note this; Noah was to put a door in the side of the ark. A door. One door. Only one door. A clear foreshadowing of how there is only one way for you and I to be saved, and that is through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. There are not many ways, or many roads to God. But one way, as Jesus plainly said:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

The reality is, we must either accept Jesus as our Saviour, or we will find that He is our judge. For He cannot simply let our sin slide. He can't turn a blind eye to it. Someone's life will have to pay. And if we don't accept His free gift of Him dying in our place, then we alone will bear the consequence for our sin. And the God-rejecting world at the time of Noah were going to find that out soon. God continues to speak to Noah:

Genesis 6:17

And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.

Why? Because of the wickedness that we have read of. And to ensure that there would be a pure line through Christ that we might be saved. This wasn't God having a bad day and being irritable. This was God intervening in the course of human history that we might have hope. That we might be forgiven for our sin. This is God working out His plan of salvation for us.

And, as we'll see clarified in subsequent verses, it was the humans and animals on dry land that would be destroyed. There would be no need for the fish and other sea creatures to go on the ark, for they kind of like water!

Next, in contrast to the coming judgement on the wicked world in which Noah lived, we read this:

Genesis 6:18-19

But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

It was God who was the initiator of this covenant with Noah, just as He would be with Abraham, and just as He was with us. Remember, we read that *"while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"*.

Now, this covenant was established with man, not monkey or mouse or moose. Once again there is a distinction between mankind and every other living being God created. And we read that Noah's family was spared, indicating that they had not given themselves to wickedness, nor had been corrupted through marrying or descending from the offspring of the fallen angels. Furthermore, we read that God had no plan to begin creating all over again — just as in chapter two we read *"Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished."* — and rather, He would preserve the various animals He had created through them being on the ark.

Specifically, we read here that Noah was to take two of every animal on the ark. However, this is a good lesson to us to not pick out verses in isolation. For we read in the next chapter:

Genesis 7:2

You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female;

So, there were seven of each clean animal to be taken onboard. Why? Because there would be sacrifices offered after the flood, beginning in chapter 8 where we read:

Genesis 8:20

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

Again, a blood sacrifice was required as a temporary covering for sin, but ultimately pointing to the blood sacrifice that Jesus would make once and for all for you and I.

We continue here in verse 20:

Genesis 6:20

Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.

Even now, some 1500 plus years after creation, everything is still reproducing within its kind. And we learn here that God Himself would bring these animals to Noah. He wouldn't have to be some sort of park ranger, driving around to gather each type of animal.

And perhaps it's interesting to note how when animals sense trouble, they run. Was it that same instinct that led them to the ark? Maybe.

Verse 21:

Genesis 6:21

And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them."

That is, God wasn't going to leave either Noah or the animals without what they needed, for where He called them to be. Though of course, He did instruct them to prepare for that. And it is reasonable to think that until after the flood, animals, just like man, had a vegetarian diet. There was no need for them to eat each other while onboard.

In the final verse of this chapter we read something easy to gloss over...

Genesis 6:22

Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

Noah was *faithful* to do *all* God commanded him to do. Are *we*? Are *you*? Am *I*? This plays out in many areas of our lives. In the *way* we live. In what we *watch* or *listen* to. In who we *marry*. In the *friends* we choose. In the *work* we put our hand to, and how we *apply* ourselves to that. In how we treat other people. But *also* in how we serve Him.

And when you hear God to tell you to do something, you better do it! Consider what happened to Jonah. Whatever God calls you to do is a *privilege*. But it's also test of *obedience*. Will you do it when it's not easy, or when no-one thanks you, or you are persecuted for it?

Once, Spurgeon, talking to his students, said to them “only be a pastor if you can’t not be”. That is, there are ministries, and pastoring is one of them, that you’d be a fool to do because you think it would be fun. But rather, you do them because God calls you to do so. Just as the disciples forsook all and followed Jesus, so we are to give up things for the sake of the call. So will you? What are you prepared to give up for Him?

Let me start drawing to a close with these words from Matthew’s gospel:

Matthew 19:16-22

Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ Honour your father and your mother,’ and, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’” The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

What holds our hearts the most — Jesus, or this world? We can clearly see that with hindsight that Noah would have been foolish to spend all his efforts building his house, or a business empire, or only spending time with family — when there was an impending flood. But likewise, all the material things we have will one day be no more. Only what is eternal will remain. Let us carefully consider that as we go into this week.

Summary

As we look back at this chapter, there are some key things to note:

- Satan was desperate to prevent Christ coming at all, and desperate to stop Him coming again
- Just as there was wickedness everywhere before the flood, so it will be before Christ’s return
- Noah was saved by grace, entering in through the only door, and saved from the judgement
- God cannot and therefore will not judge the righteous with the wicked
- God was the author of Noah’s salvation, just as He is the author of our salvation
- Noah was obedient to do all that God had said

Application questions

As you go home this week, please do think on these questions:

- Have you lost sight of how much God did that you might be saved?
 - Have you got a Biblical or story-book understanding of Noah’s Ark?
 - Are you obeying God in all things he has told you to do?
-

For the audio recording of this Bible study, and for additional studies, please see the DCF web site:



Deal Christian Fellowship
Simply teaching the Bible, simply
<https://dcf.church>