

A Living History
of Our World

THE WORLD'S STORY 1

THE ANCIENTS

CREATION TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE



ANGELA O'DELL

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James Tissot's *The Caravan of Abram*

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INTRODUCTION

This is a story of the Ancients. However, it is not a dry, dusty, “comprehensive” view of the history of the world during the time which we call “Ancient.” Instead, this book is meant to set a backdrop of sorts in the student’s (and the teacher’s) mind of what the general happenings of that time period were.

Why does anyone **NEED** to know about this time period? The answer to that question is both simple and difficult to answer. It is simply because it happened, and if it happened, it is part of who we all are, whether or not we know it. It is difficult because sometimes we do not see a need to learn anything that we do not see as directly influencing or affecting us. What we need to realize is that we are not islands unto ourselves; we are the present generation of God’s family, the legacy of many previous generations. We need to know the past, the habits, the drive of the human race. God did not create us to be born, live, and die without leaving this world a truly better place. To leave it a better place, we need to know the One who can make it better. This is truly the only way to make a difference.

We all need to know **WHY** everyone needs forgiveness. We all need to know the Hope of all the nations. Only God can save our souls. I like to say that if we do not learn history, it is impossible to learn from history. If we do not learn from history, we cannot change the future. We need to learn the mistakes of the past so that we do not repeat them; we need to understand the lessons of the past so that we can make better decisions.

There is no way to include all the happenings of this time period for several reasons. The biggest reason is that only God knows everything that ever happened, every person who ever lived, and every civilization that ever rose and fell. Only He knows the details of what truly happened. God has had a purpose for everyone who existed, regardless of whether we know the details. He has a purpose for you, too, and what you do matters. That’s why it is so important for everyone to study history and learn from it, even though we cannot know everything. All we can do is study what has been recorded, and many of these recorded facts are tainted by opinion, ungodly worldview glasses, and human error. The only 100 percent true account of these times that we have is the Bible.

The Bible is Holy Spirit-breathed and is completely true and the ultimate guide to “Ancient History.” This is why I have chosen to use the Bible as my absolute baseline of truth, not just for this book but for all my writing and, indeed, my life. In this world of relativism, I know that I desperately need something that I can trust at all times. That is why I stand on the promises of God, written to me in the Holy Word of God. Whenever I have a question about something, I go to the Bible. The answer is always there. Always. No exception. It is living and breathing and completely pertinent to every issue with which mankind has ever dealt.

Another reason there is no way to include all the happenings of this time period is obvious — the book would be a million pages long and as boring and dry as powder. This is not the goal I have for you as my readers.

So, what is my goal? My ultimate goal in this and every book that I have written or ever will write is to lead you straight to the very heart of our Father. Since He is the only One who knows the past, the present, and the future, I believe that He is the only One who can truly teach us. I want you to see His hand on mankind. I want you to feel His heart break as He watches the people, whom He created, turn their backs on Him and choose sin. I want you to marvel as His plan for a Redeemer begins to be revealed in history. I want you to be amazed at the very real, very flawed people He decides to use to do amazing things in the story of the world . . . just because He can!

I want you to hear His heartbeat as He chooses a young woman to be the earthly mother of His own Son. I want you to feel the pain as the crown of thorns rips into the skin of God in human flesh: Jesus. I want you to look into the eyes of my Savior and my Friend as He breathes His last, and like me, I want you to **KNOW** that He did it for you, too. I want all of us to hear His voice rending the heavens with His cry, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34).

Through the study of history, we, as stewards of this earth, need to understand that people, left to their own devices, will always choose the wrong path. Time after time, the stories tell us one thing: we need a Savior. We cannot live a life without worship. We will either worship Him, or we will worship something else. I know that this is not a Bible study book, but I do believe this could not be more pertinent to any other subject but HIStory. As we study the history of “Bible times,” we will see the fingerprints and the footprints of the Creator of it all. Please promise me that you will recognize and diligently guard against the tendency to read the familiar stories of the Bible with complacency and familiarity. It is so important to let the Word of God fall afresh on our hearts every time we read it. The Word is living! Through His Word, we can know Him.

This is the reason for this study of the Ancients, to know God, the Ancient of Days, as He is called in Book of Daniel:

“I watched till thrones were put in place,
And the Ancient of Days was seated;
His garment was white as snow,
And the hair of His head was like pure wool.
His throne was a fiery flame,
Its wheels a burning fire. . . .
I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, One like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him. . . .

the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom” (Daniel 7:9, 13, 22).

01

START HERE

Your Bible is not just a book like any other on your bookshelf — it is actually a living treasure. We are told in 2 Timothy 3:16 that God inspired all Scripture and that it is useful in teaching us what is true and correcting what is wrong. When we open our Bibles and read the first two chapters of Genesis, we read about the incredible creation story, and we learn foundational knowledge about who God is by seeing a panoramic view of His abilities. In these two chapters alone, we learn that God has always been and that He used His words to create everything from the sun and stars to every kind of creature to walk the earth and fish that has ever swum in the oceans and seas. It is here in Genesis, which means beginning, that we learn about how God created every living thing to be male and female, each producing after their own kind. Genesis tells the story of the first humans — how God lovingly formed them and gave them a soul and spirit, breathing His eternal breath into them. We see how the God of the universe designed the family unit, how He brought together the man and woman to be husband and wife, endowing them with the love that He specifically intended for a married couple. This was and is His perfect plan for humans.

IN THE BEGINNING...

Have you ever seen pictures taken from outer space of our home, planet earth? Neil Armstrong, the American astronaut famous for first walking on the moon, commented as he gazed at earth from the window of the spaceship, “It suddenly struck me that that tiny pea, pretty and blue, was the [e]arth. I put up my thumb and shut one eye, and my thumb blotted out the planet [e]arth. I didn’t feel like a giant. I felt very, very small” (qtd. in Burgess 2010, 405).

Can you imagine what the earth was like before God chose to form our planet so He could create life here? It says in the Bible that “the earth was without form” (Genesis 1:2; KJV). A study of world history could not start anywhere but with this verse from the Holy Bible. The moment God spoke the earth into being was the very moment when history started. We must never forget, though, that this is not when God “started,” for He is the “Beginning and the End.” The very first words in the Bible are “In the beginning, God . . .” (Genesis 1:1). This is the beginning of everything — God. He was. He is. He will always be.

Non-believers have tried to explain away the amazing event that we as Christians hold as truth — Creation! When God put His creation plan into action, He did not need anyone’s help; He simply spoke, and it happened. In only six days, He formed the earth, separated the land and sea, set the weather into motion, filled the seas and oceans with amazing and wonderful water creatures, designed the intricate feathers of the birds and showed them how to fly, ran the roots of the trees and plants deep into the soil, and placed all the land creatures into their natural habitats. Yet He wasn’t finished! He had used all these other aspects of His creativeness to make this glorious home for His final and most important creation — man.

The Bible says God formed man out of the dust of the earth and made him in His likeness. Then God breathed into the man to give him life and named him Adam. The Bible does not tell us that any of the other creatures were breathed into, and none of them were made in the likeness of God Himself. Man was a special creation, indeed! Later, God created a woman by taking one of the man’s ribs, creating a helper for the man. Adam named her Eve.

Photograph taken on
the moon, 1969



It was God's plan that they live in and take care of the beautiful creation He had made for them. He loved them and took care of them, providing everything they needed for life. Thus, nestled between two beautiful, crystal-clear rivers, He placed their perfect home, the lush and fruitful Garden of Eden. This special place was the personal paradise for these first two people who God created, and in a way, this garden was the first civilization on the earth.

Not everything in the garden was good for the man and woman to eat, though. God warned them to not eat of a certain tree in the middle. He told them if they ate of the fruit, they would surely die. It was not that the fruit on this particular tree was poisonous. It was the disobedience to God that would slowly poison them, separating them from the holiness of God. We know the story of how the serpent, who was really the devil, tempted the woman to eat of the forbidden fruit. Her disobedience to God was the beginning of the slow decay of God's perfect world, but God still loved these two special people for whom He had held such high hopes. After Eve and Adam had sinned by disobeying God, He spoke to the serpent and to Adam and Eve. These are the words that He said, "...I will cause hostility between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15; NLT). He had already decided on a plan for human redemption.

Benjamin West's *The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise*, 1791



After they had disobeyed God, Adam and Eve were driven from the garden. They no longer had everything supplied by the hand of God Himself. They now had to work and sweat for their food. They felt pain and knew of their nakedness. Every human born from Adam and Eve and their descendants would be born with a sinful nature. Sin had already spread into the world that God had designed. He must have been so sad to see that these two people, whom He had created to take care of the earth, now had to till and sweat to live, but God still took care of them. He blessed them with a family, two sons whom they named Cain and Abel.



Genesis 1:1–31
(Creation account)
Luke 24:27,
John 5:46
(Verification of
the writer of Genesis)

NARRATION BREAK:

Discuss how God created the world.

We can thank Moses for recording the Creation story for us. Even though Moses lived thousands of years later, he was the man who God instructed to write down every word as He recounted the creation of the world. Remember, all Scripture is God-breathed. This means that the Holy Spirit guided him to know the words to write.



Print showing Moses receiving the Law

CONNECT

Charles Darwin claimed that “all organic beings which have ever lived on the earth have descended from some one primordial form” (Darwin 1859, 484). That means he is arguing that all the amazing creatures that God created in six days evolved over millions of years. In truth, every single creature in God’s creation completely debunks this notion. All animals have defense mechanisms that had to have been intact and complete the first time they used them. A dead animal does not reproduce and, therefore, would be irreversibly extinct long before it had millions of years to evolve defenses to protect itself.

Out of all the creatures that God created, dinosaurs have been the most misused by evolutionists. They were created on the sixth day along with all the other land animals. The Bible says that there were two of “every kind of animal and seven of some” that went into the Ark. There is a difference between species and kinds. When the Bible uses the word “kind,” it is talking about families. Before the Flood, there were many species of dinosaurs. If two of every kind of dinosaur went into the Ark, that means there were about one hundred dinosaurs on the Ark.

As we study what we call “ancient” history, we will be using the most reliable history that has ever been written: the very Word of God. There will be times this study is easy to understand, and there will also be times when it requires us to put on our thinking caps. We will learn about the civilizations that grew in the world. We will watch the perfect and beautiful world, which God so lovingly created, change.

When sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve, every child born afterward was born with the sinful nature, which was the result of that original sin. Adam and Eve’s sons were born outside of the garden. They were very different from each other, and the older brother, Cain, was given to anger and rebellion. We need to remember that God always looks at the heart. He saw that Abel’s heart was in the right place when he offered his offering to the Lord, while Cain’s heart was not. God accepted Abel’s offering of the firstborn lambs of his flock, but He did not accept Cain’s offering of the first fruit of his gardens. The account of what happened with these two brothers is recorded in Genesis 4. Cain murdered Abel. When God confronted Cain about what he had done, He told Cain he would be sent out into the earth with a mark placed upon him by the Lord Himself.



Genesis 4:1–26
(The account of how Adam and Eve’s family grew and multiplied)

During these years, as Adam and Eve’s family spread out over the earth, sin multiplied. The Garden of Eden, which had been an oasis of safety and prosperity marked by a closeness to the Creator, was a faint memory. Life outside the garden was difficult. The people had to farm the land, raise animals, and take what they needed from the earth. They lived in caves or huts made of rocks and animal skin. They ate whatever they could find to keep alive.

From biblical accounts, the location of the Garden of Eden is thought to have been between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, in an area known as the Fertile Crescent,

But what happened to the dinosaurs? Dr. Ken Ham, of Answers in Genesis, says this about animal life after the Flood: “the new world [was] much different than the one before the Flood... The group of animals we now call dinosaurs just happened to die out too. In fact, quite a number of animals become extinct each year. Extinction seems to be the rule in Earth history (not the formation of new types of animals as you would expect from evolution)” (Ham 1999). Dinosaurs, like many species, could have gone extinct from:



“(1) competition for food that was no longer in abundance



(2) other catastrophes



(3) man killing for food (and perhaps for fun)



(4) the destruction of habitats” (Ham 1999)

though it is hard to know the exact location because of the changes caused by a global flood that we will learn about in another chapter. As more and more people inhabited the earth, they spread out to cover more of the land. Of course, no one knew how big the earth really was, and the population was clustered in what is now called the Middle East.

Some people call this time period the “Stone Age.” In a way, this truly was a stone age because stone was used in a multitude of ways. The metals of the earth had not been fully discovered, and because of this, stone was used for weapons and tools. Historians who study the Bible believe Cain’s descendants were the first civilization to discover and use metals that could be used for tools and weapons. This civilization was also known to have music and other forms of entertainment. However, they were not good people. They were not godly, and their sins rose like a stench to God.

As the human population multiplied and spread out over the earth, sin grew with it. Fifteen hundred years had passed since the birth of Seth, Adam and Eve’s third son. It says in Genesis 6 that evil was everywhere, and God could find only one man who pleased Him. God is merciful and kind by nature. He is a just God. The sin of the earth made Him so angry that He was sorry He had created man at all. God is also a God of second chances, so He chose the man who pleased Him to be the one He saved from destruction. In our next chapter, we will learn about this new beginning for the earth, which God had so lovingly created.

NARRATION BREAK:

Discuss what the Bible says about the first people.



Genesis 5:1–32
(The account of men between Adam and Noah)



The first human civilizations started in the Fertile Crescent. It received that name because it was shaped like a crescent moon and the ground was very fertile while the surrounding area outside it was a desert where few things could grow. These lands were good for agriculture and included parts of modern-day Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt. Modern cities like Baghdad, Iraq; Beirut, Lebanon; Damascus, Syria; Jerusalem, Israel; Amman, Jordan; and Cairo, Egypt are all located here.

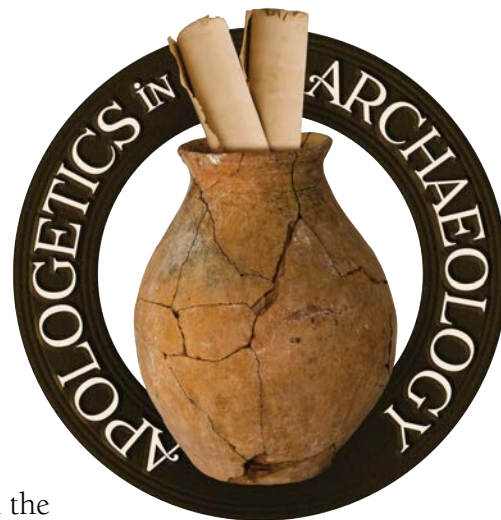
ANALYZE The Fertile Crescent cities sprang up along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Why do you think waterways were so essential for ancient civilizations?

CONNECT Why do you think people assume the Garden of Eden was in the Fertile Crescent?

Where exactly was the Garden of Eden? As I mentioned in our chapter, it is commonly believed that it was located between the two rivers that flow in present-day Iraq — the Tigris and the Euphrates. But let's follow the evidence. . . .

Here is what Genesis 2:10–14 says: “A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches. The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates” (NLT).

However, there is a very large problem with the assumption that this biblical account is talking about the current rivers by those names. A few chapters later in Genesis, we read the account of a cataclysmic event that completely restructured the face of the earth — a worldwide flood that deposited immensely thick layers of rock that the current Tigris and Euphrates run over (Looy 2003). Because of the Great Flood, there is no way to know exactly where the Garden of Eden was located.



The Euphrates and Tigris Rivers converge together in modern-day Iraq.





GÖBEKLI TEPE

Göbekli Tepe is the oldest-known building site in the world and likely was a temple. It shows that ancient peoples could build complex structures. Evolutionists claim that religion only happened after people settled into civilizations that practiced agriculture, but this site is disproving these false ideas.



Though some have argued this site was the original Garden of Eden site, there is no biblical basis for that claim. Indeed, Eden was destroyed by the Flood. However, Göbekli Tepe does demonstrate that ancient people were intelligent because they were created by God in His image.



The people who built here were skilled enough to create giant pillars that weigh several tons and likely took hundreds of men to move them into place. Many of the items found at the site are now on display in a nearby museum that people can visit.



The carvings at the site also show that the people who decorated the site were talented artists. They skillfully carved animals into stone.

Göbekli Tepe is in eastern Turkey near the town of Sanliurfa in what was the Fertile Crescent. It's on a high point that offers amazing views of the surrounding area.



02

START HERE

In this chapter, you will be learning about the single most cataclysmic event in the history of the world: the Great Flood. By this point in history, the world was full of evil. The Bible says in Genesis 6:5–6, “The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart” (NLT). But the Lord had a plan that would save the one righteous man, Noah, and his family. He instructed Noah to build a giant ark. It was through the Ark that He would save a remnant that He would use to rebuild the human race. This Ark can be compared to our Savior Jesus Christ. Just like Noah and his family had to enter through the door of the Ark to be saved from the destruction that sin had brought to the world, we must enter through the door of salvation, the Cross of Jesus, to be saved from the destruction that our sin will bring to us.

STARTING OVER

In this chapter, we are going to learn about one of the most amazing happenings in all history — the Great Flood. Even though most people groups on the earth have a similar “tale” in their histories, the true story of this happening is in Genesis. These people groups’ legends and tales are somewhat similar to the account in Genesis, but none of them are completely accurate.

The Bible does not say much about the peoples of the world before God sent the Flood. From Genesis chapter 5 through the beginning of chapter 6, we can conclude that the godly people intermarried with the ungodly to the point that there was no difference between the two groups.

Something we find astounding is the length of time people lived in the days before the Flood. Reading through Genesis chapter 5, we find each man lived hundreds of years! Sin was on the earth, but it had not had thousands of years to cause its mutations and diseases that it has today. Because people lived longer, they could also have many more children.

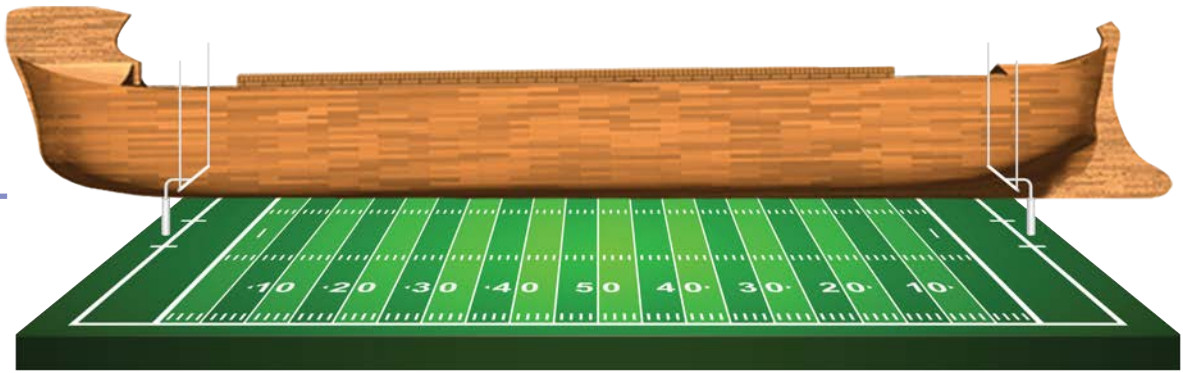
The Bible records that there was evil everywhere. Wickedness was in almost every heart. God found only one man who honored Him in his heart and his life. This man was Noah. Genesis 6:9 says he was a good man and “walked with God” (KJV). God warned Noah that He was going to destroy the earth with a Flood. He was so grieved by the self-centered, humanistic people living on the earth that He was going to wipe them all away.

God planned to do something merciful, though. He would save some of each type of animal to start over with after the Flood. Noah and his family would become the humans that would start the human race over again. God told Noah His plans and asked him to obey Him. He gave Noah specific directions to build a safe place for the chosen animals and his own family. Noah was to build an ark, a huge craft that would be big enough to hold the animals that God would send, along with Noah’s family.

Giovanni Benedetto Castiglione's *The Animals Entering Noah's Ark*, 17th century painting



The Ark was approximately 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet tall.



The dimensions of the Ark were enormous. The original Hebrew word for our word ark literally means “box.” God had instructed Noah to build a box so big that they could have stacked 522 standard-sized railroad cars inside of it. The Ark, which was 510 feet long, was 150 feet longer than a football field! It was also 51 feet tall (which is as tall as a four-story building) and 85 feet wide. Can you imagine being told to build such a huge structure?

Even though the Bible does not make it perfectly clear how long it took to build the Ark, Bible scholars have determined it was probably anywhere between 55 and 75 years. Noah was 600 years old when God instructed him to take his family into the Ark.

As Noah and his sons built the Ark, they tried to talk to their neighbors and relatives about what was going to happen. Of course, the wicked people would not listen to them and laughed at the thought of a Flood. Have you ever wondered what all the people thought when they saw all the animals coming? I would think they would have second thoughts about Noah’s sanity!

The animals, which God had gathered to place on the Ark, were ready to load onto the craft. This was a far cry from what most modern Bible storybooks depict. Many of these books contain drawings of a few smiling animals walking in pairs up the gangplank into a cute, little boat. In reality, there were hundreds of creatures, including mammals like huge lions, camels, giraffes, and monkeys, as well as dinosaurs, reptiles, and lizards, along with hundreds of insects. There were so many birds and creatures of the air that it most likely took days to get them all onboard. From where did they all come, and who brought them? God Himself had gathered and brought them to this place of safety. Noah did not have to go get them and lead them to the Ark. When they were all onboard, God closed the giant door.



Genesis 6: 1–22
(God chooses Noah
to build the Ark.)

NARRATION BREAK:

Discuss what you have learned about Noah and the Ark.

The big day had finally arrived. The animals were all onboard, along with Noah and his wife, his three sons, and his sons' wives. They had obeyed God and gathered the amount of food that He had given in His directions. Noah trusted that God would do as He said. Suddenly, it started to rain, first as a sprinkle, and then as a torrent. Little rivulets ran through the dust around the Ark's construction site. These swelled into bigger streams, which became rushing rivers of water, churning with topsoil and broken tree branches.

The people, who had mocked Noah's construction of the Ark, now hammered on its side, but God had closed the heavy door with His own hands. He alone could open it, and He had chosen not to. Finally, the banging stopped, and Noah and his family became aware of the water rushing by them on the outside of the Ark. They knew their neighbors were gone. They also knew God had done exactly what He said He would do. The eight people inside the Ark knelt in thanksgiving for the mercy of their God. It was approximately 2,000 years after God had created the earth when He wiped mankind and every living thing, except that which was in the Ark, from the face of the earth.

You may have heard the popular, secular argument that says the Great Flood was actually just a more local flood that covered the "known world" of that day, not really a flood that covered the entire earth. This implies that the Flood would have only encompassed what is now the northern part of Africa, the Middle East, parts of Asia, and maybe parts of Europe, at the most.

There are many physical evidences that stand against this argument, but I want to focus on an interesting artifact found around the turn of the 20th century. This ancient stone tablet was written in the Sumerian language, and outlines the names of the early rulers of Mesopotamia (the area that is now Iraq), starting right after Adam (López 1998). The Sumerian King List is separated into "pre-Flood" and "post-Flood." The existence of this ancient list and its pre- and post-Flood organization raises this question: If the Great Flood was not an exceptional and widespread event, then why would it be used in such a way to delineate certain important happenings and events (Anderson and Edwards 2018, 2)?

Sumerian King List





19th century Russian artist Ivan Aivazovsky's painting of the Flood

The Bible says the water came down from heaven and up from the deep of the earth. Genesis 7:11 says the “fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.” Imagine the terror of those wicked people as earthquakes shook the ground. The water from the great deep erupted so forcefully that it sent walls of water straight up into the air. This most likely sent such violent vibrations that volcanoes, which had lain dormant, erupted with magnificent force, raining down fireballs and lava on everything surrounding them. The earth’s crust was literally ripping apart, possibly setting entire continents and islands into motion, and the water rose. Higher and higher, the mighty hand of God sent the water over the tallest trees, over the mountains, until it covered the whole earth just as He had promised.

Inside the Ark, the animals and people probably had a horribly bumpy ride! God must have calmed the animals so that they would not stampede in terror. The noise would have been deafening. With the rain and storms booming outside and the water rushing and gushing from deep in the earth, the hand of God steadied the Ark, steering it clear of debris that smashed into the sides. For days and days, Noah and his family and all the animals were tossed and turned on the water. The Bible says the rain came down for 40 days and nights, and the water kept rising 110 days after that.

Noah and his family knew they were the only human life left on the planet because God had told them He was going to destroy everyone except them. The Ark was filled with literally thousands of animals, and the entire earth was covered with water. The Ark only had a few windows for such a huge craft, and it was dark inside.

The only hope that kept these eight people from pure panic was the fact that God had done everything that He had promised, and He had promised that they would be the beginning of the new human race after the Flood. They had to believe what God had said. They did not have any other choice. Isn't it wonderful to know this is the same God we serve? He always keeps His promises. Even when things of the earth change, He does not. He is the same.

Finally, the water stopped its incessant rising and swirling, and the Ark floated more calmly on top of the Flood. Life onboard the Ark probably settled into a routine, with Noah and his family caring for the animals. Day by day they could see the water going down, and then one day, the Ark came to rest on a mountain. Noah knew that their time to go out onto dry land was coming closer.

One day, Noah sent a raven to see if it would find a place to roost and not need to return to the Ark. The raven did not return; it must have found a place to rest. A week later, Noah sent out a dove, which returned in a short time. In still another week, Noah sent out the dove again. This time the dove returned with an olive leaf in its mouth. This was a very good sign, indeed! The olive leaf meant there was vegetation, and they would soon be leaving the Ark. When Noah sent the dove out yet again, the bird did not return; it too had found a resting place and no longer needed the Ark.

Genesis 8:13 says, "Noah then removed the covering from the ark" (NIV), which probably means he chopped a hole in the side of the Ark to remove the outer covering of wood and pitch. After deciding the ground was dry enough to disembark, Noah and his family stepped out on dry land for the first time in over a year. Grateful for God's protection and blessing, Noah built an altar and burned an offering of thanksgiving.

God looked with pleasure on this family kneeling around the altar. He saw their hearts of thankfulness, and He made a promise to Noah and his family that He would never again send a flood to destroy the entire earth. He placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of this covenant. God instructed Noah and his sons to multiply and fill the earth.

NARRATION BREAK:

Retell the story of the Flood.



Genesis 7:1–8:22
(The complete account
of the Flood)

Mount Ararat



MAPS

The Bible tells us that the Ark came to rest on the Mountains of Ararat. Many people think that means it is on Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey. One thing to remember, though, is that Ararat is part of a mountain range, and the Bible says the Ark rested in this range. So, the Ark may not have landed exactly on Mount Ararat, but it was somewhere close by.

ANALYZE How far is Mount Ararat from the Fertile Crescent (based on the map from Chapter 1)? Did the distance surprise you?

CONNECT Why do you think people are so fascinated with the location where the Ark landed?

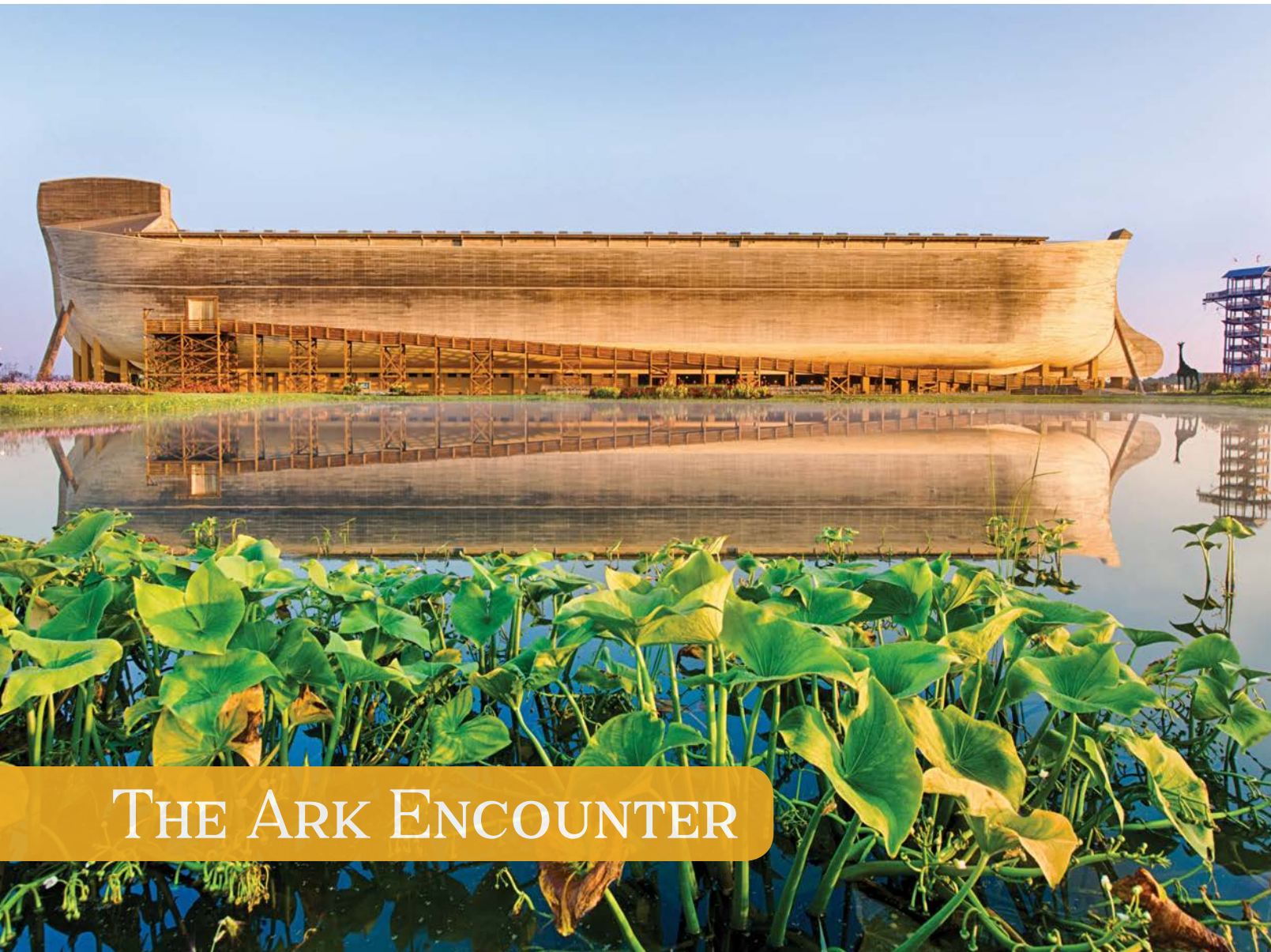


CONNECT

We are all familiar with how Genesis 6–9 details the accurate account of the Great Flood, but did you know that the Flood is also the subject of many cultural legends from around the world? In fact, these legends have been uncovered in literature from remote people groups in North and South America to little-known tribes in Siberia! This really is not a surprise for Christians who know about the biblical account of the Tower of Babel and the dispersion of people groups that followed. We will learn more about this event in a coming chapter, but it is important to know that these stories of actual historical happenings were spread around the world by these people who knew them because they themselves were the descendants of Noah's sons. Through the centuries of retelling, they have become less accurate as they have been taken out of their biblical context.

One such legend can be found in remote Siberia. Several of the original Siberian tribal peoples tell of a catastrophic flood that covered the earth. Only a few people and animals survived by using logs and rafts (Hodge and Welch 2014, 24). Siberia is often considered one of the most distant and isolated places in the world, but they, too, told of a global flood. The exact details do not match the Biblical account, but the essence of the story remains the same.

Siberian
flood legend

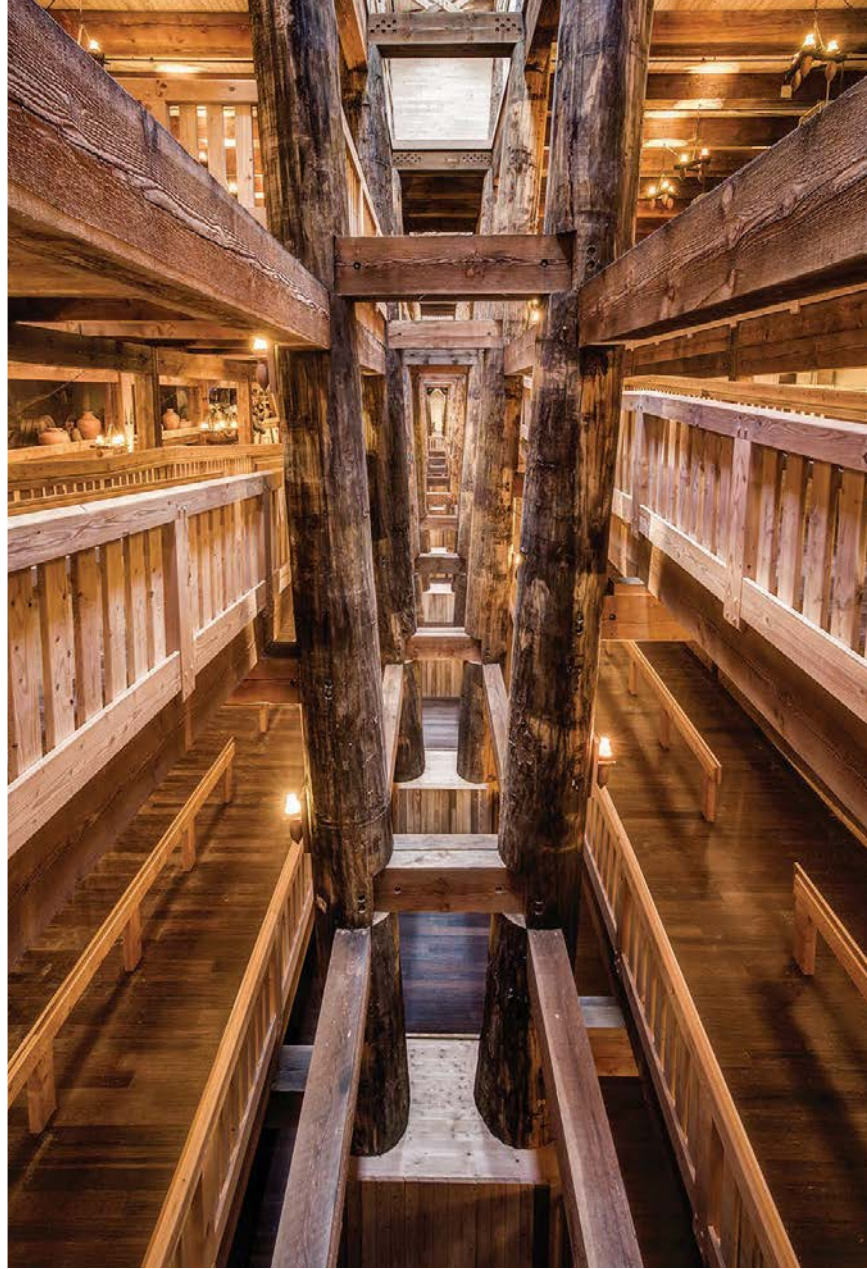


THE ARK ENCOUNTER

In 2016, the Ark Encounter, a full-size replica of Noah's Ark, opened in Kentucky. It is a museum operated by apologetics organization Answers in Genesis. It features exhibits and displays about the Ark and Flood.



The museum also demonstrates what daily life on the Ark would have been like, including everyday tasks such as cooking and eating.



The Ark was built following the instructions God gave Noah in Genesis. It demonstrates the sheer size of the Ark, as well as its complexity.

A special focus is on the animals of the Ark, including the different animal kinds and how they were cared for during all those months.



Even details like the storage of supplies are included in the Ark Encounter.



Replicas of Noah and his family are also onboard the Ark Encounter. Here, they are shown praying when the Flood starts.