

The Bible as real history

Noah's Ark – Could it be True?

The Bible, is it a book of

- **Science?**

- **No**

- (but it should be accurate when it touches on a scientific topic)

To the roots of the mountains I sank down
Jonah 2:6



**Jonah (860 B.C.) describes that there
are mountains under the ocean!**

<http://www.readeratwork.net/fly-down-into-the-marianas-trench.html>

The Bible, is it a book of

- **Science?**

- **No**

- (but it should be accurate when it touches on a scientific topic)

- **History?**

- **Yes!**

Major events of biblical history

- Creation of the universe by God
- Creation over seven 24-hour days
- Perfect Garden of Eden
- Literal Adam & Eve
- Fall of man (cursing of mankind and the creation)
- Great flood / Noah's Ark (~ 4,500 years ago)
- Tower of Babel, dispersion of mankind
- Exodus
- Conquest of Canaan

All are doubted!

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EXPLORE THE QUESTIONS:

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Faith

Science

Harmony

WHY EVOLUTION IS TRUE

A Critique by Robert C. Bishop



THE PATH OF DISCOVERY

SCIENCE, THEOLOGY, AND THE ACADEMY

31ST ANNUAL CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

JUNE 16-18 2011

www.pepperdine.edu/csc2011

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Our Mission

The BioLogos Foundation is a group of Christians, many of whom are professional scientists, biblical scholars, philosophers, theologians, pastors, and educators, who are concerned about the long history of disharmony between the findings of science and large sectors of the Christian faith. We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We also believe that evolution, properly understood, best describes God's work of creation. Founded by Dr. Francis Collins, BioLogos addresses the escalating culture war



*Speak to the
Earth, and
it shall
teach thee*
Job 12:8

ANSWERS IN CREATION

Bringing the Bible and Science Together Without Conflict

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Old Earth Creation Science Noah's Flood

By [Greg Neyman](#)

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To learn more about
old earth creationism,
see [Old Earth Belief](#), or

Was the Flood Global?

This is probably the biggest question I get asked. This will be a short answer to such a big question, but...no.

2 Peter 3:3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

The Genesis flood (Genesis 6-9)

- **6:5** The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become
- **6:6** The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth
- **6:8** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
- **6:14** So make yourself an ark of cypress wood
- **6:17** I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.
- **6:19** You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you.
- **6:21** You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.

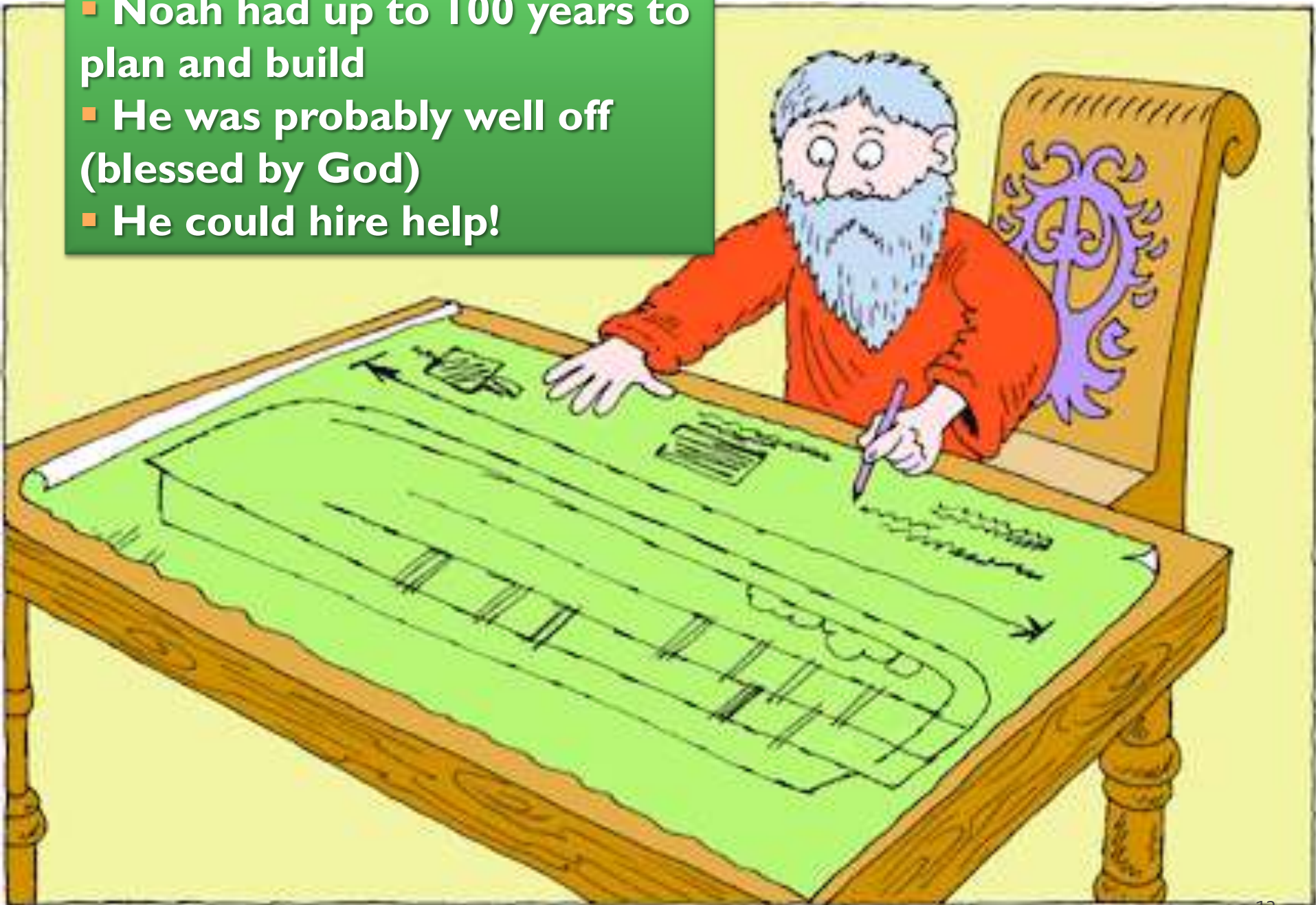


The ark was not a boat!

- Not going anywhere in particular!
- No sails or oars
- No rudder
- It only needed to float for less than one year

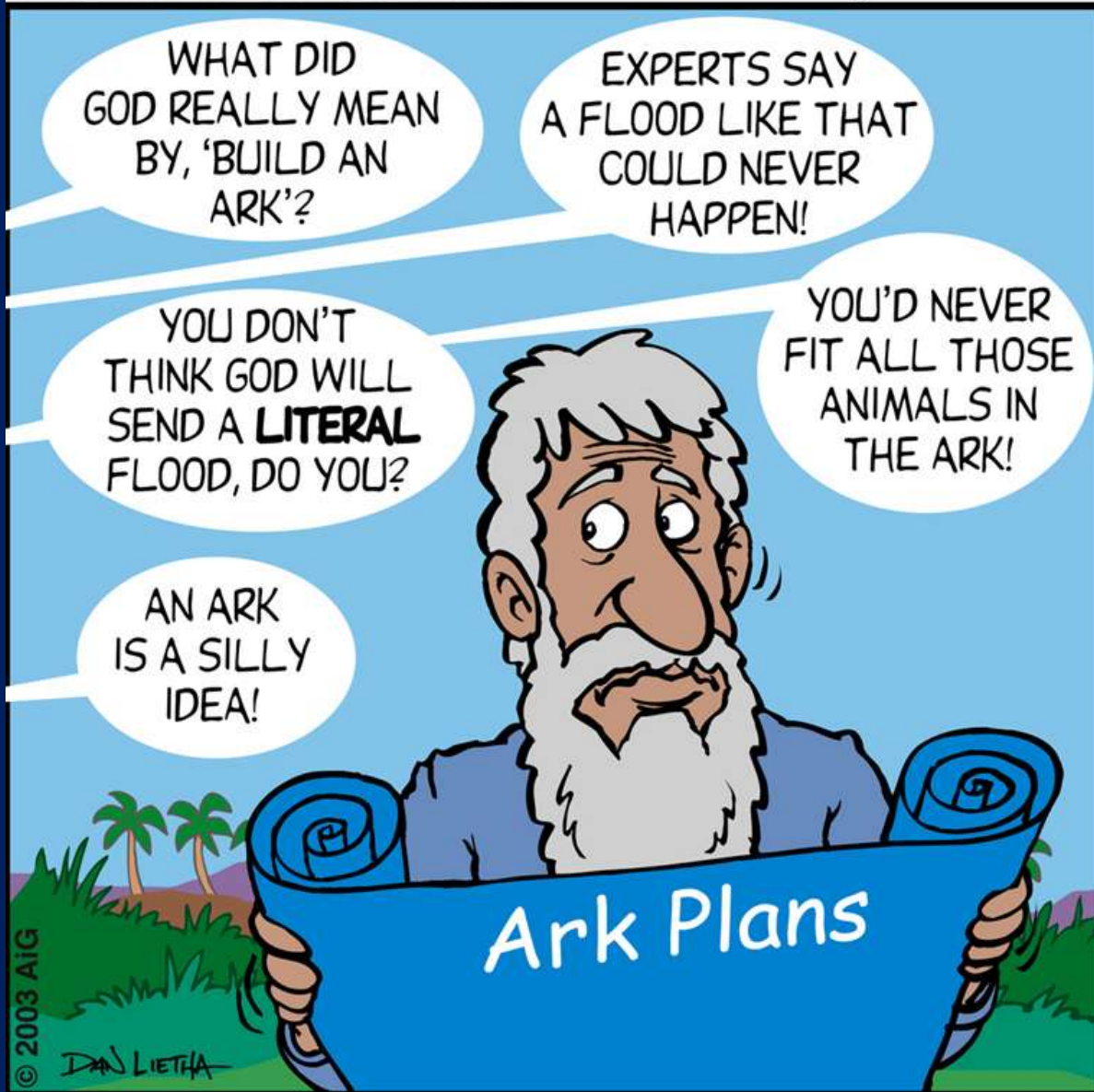
- It was more like a barge

- Noah had up to 100 years to plan and build
- He was probably well off (blessed by God)
- He could hire help!



AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



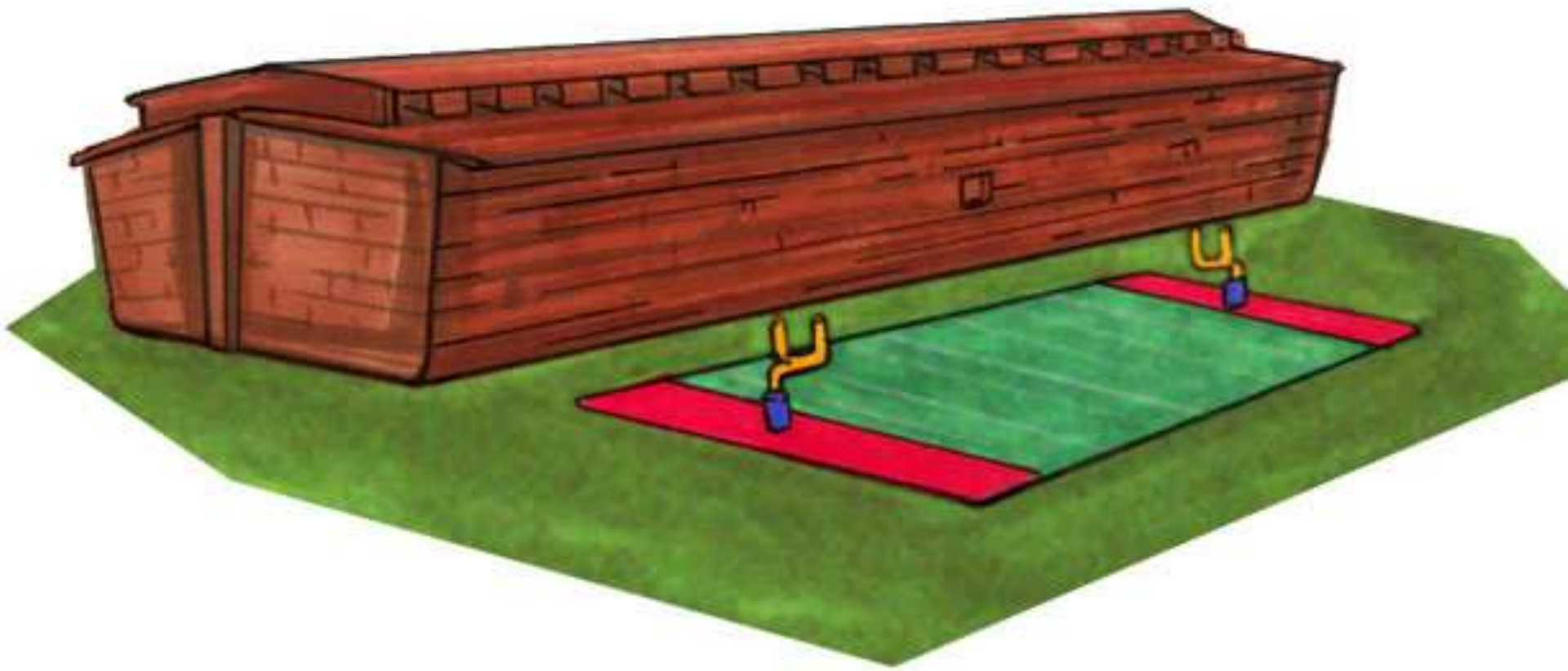
As it was in the days of Noah ...

Ark specifications

Genesis 6:14-16:

- 437 feet long, 73 feet wide, 44 feet high
- Three decks
- A door in the side
- Ark “window” was continuous slot under the roof eaves, 18 inches high
- Made out of “gopher” wood (teak or other hardened wood)
- Sealed with “pitch” inside and out





The flood events

- **Feb 10:** Noah, his family, animals enter the ark
- **Feb 17:** "All the springs of the great deep burst forth" and rain falls for 40 days and nights
- Water floods the earth for 150 days
- **Jul 17:** Ark comes to rest on the mountains of Ararat
- Waters recede steadily
- **Oct 1:** Tops of mountains become visible
- **Nov 9:** Noah sends raven - returns; 7 more days dove brings olive leaf; 7 more days dove doesn't return (**Nov 23**)
- **Jan 1:** Water had dried up from the earth
- **Feb 27:** The earth was completely dry and ark unloads

**The ark was big enough for many more people.
Everyone was likely invited to enter!**





Why not a local flood?

- Genesis 7:22 says “Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died.”
- Flood waters covered the tops of the mountains
- Noah could have simply moved somewhere else
- No need to save animals



**A local flood that covers the
tops of the mountains!**

God's promise

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

-- Genesis 9:12-16

CREATIONWISE



LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW! IT'S A PROMISE FROM GOD THAT HE'LL NEVER*AGAIN FLOOD THE ENTIRE EARTH AS HE DID IN NOAH'S DAY!

MY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE PROFESSOR SAID THAT NOAH'S FLOOD DIDN'T COVER THE ENTIRE EARTH.

*GENESIS 9:8-17

HE TOLD YOU IT WAS JUST A 'LOCALIZED' FLOOD?

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!

SO HE BELIEVES
THAT GOD PROMISED
TO NEVER AGAIN SEND
A 'LOCALIZED' FLOOD?



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DAN LIETHA

GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

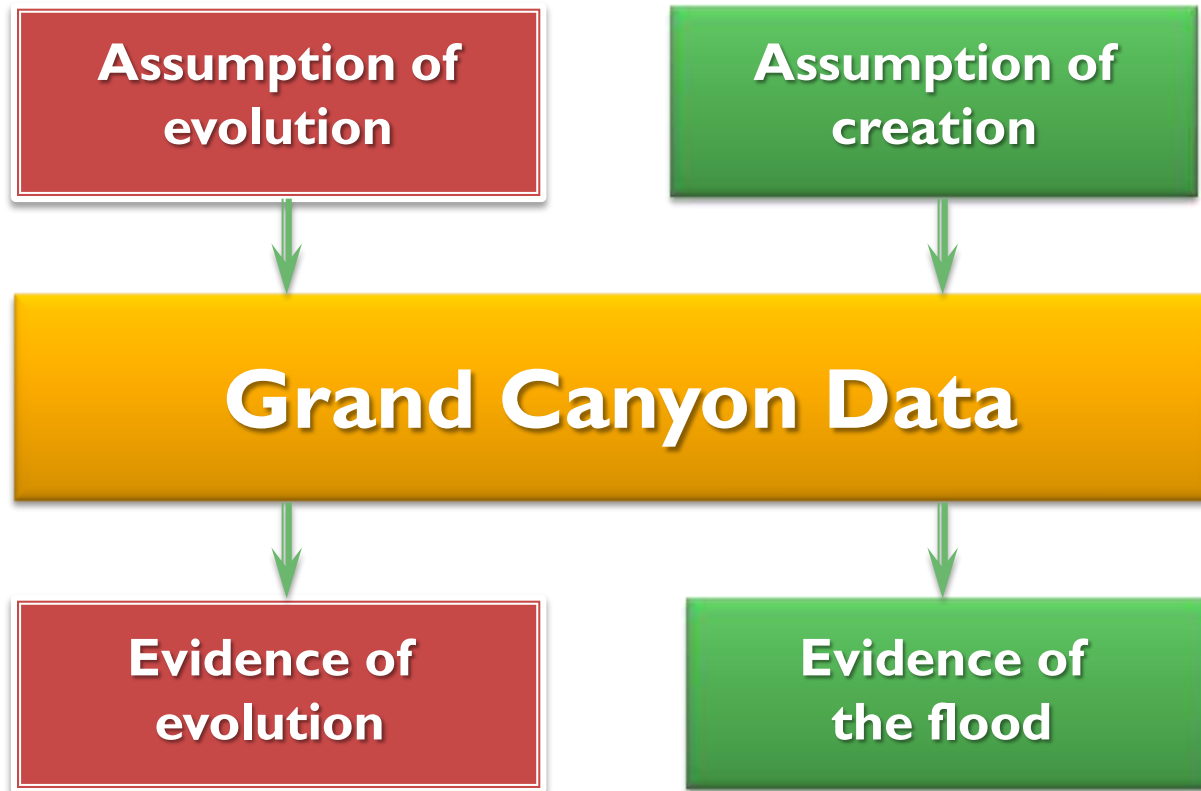
ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE
CENOZOIC <i>recent life</i>	QUATERNARY 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene	
	TERTIARY 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene	
MESOZOIC <i>middle life</i>	CRETACEOUS 72 Million Years Modern seed seed bearing plants. Dinosaurs		
	JURASSIC 46 Million Years First birds		
	TRIASSIC 49 Million Years Cycads, first dinosaurs		
PALEOZOIC <i>ancient life</i>	PERMIAN 50 Million Years First reptiles		
	<i>Carboniferous</i> PENNSYLVANIAN 30 Million Years First insects		
	MISSISSIPPIAN 35 Million Years Many crinoids		
	DEVONIAN 60 Million Years First seed plants, cartilage fish		
	SILURIAN 20 Million Years Earliest land animals		
	ORDOVICIAN 75 Million Years Early bony fish		
	CAMBRIAN 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites		
	PRECAMBRIAN Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)		

Grand Canyon – evidence for evolution or the flood?

**Caused by a little flow of water over a very long time,
or a lot of water over a very short time?**



Interpretation of Grand Canyon data

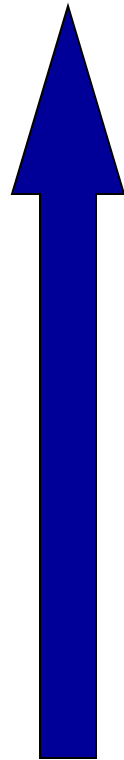


Interpretation is influenced by assumptions and biases

Competing views of the Geologic Column

Evolution

Evolution of animals of increasing higher orders



GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE		
PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE
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Flood

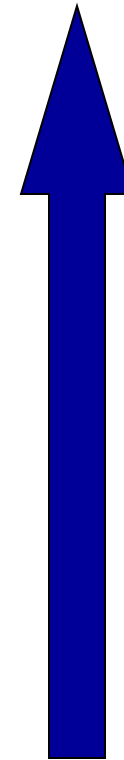
More mobile, smarter animals

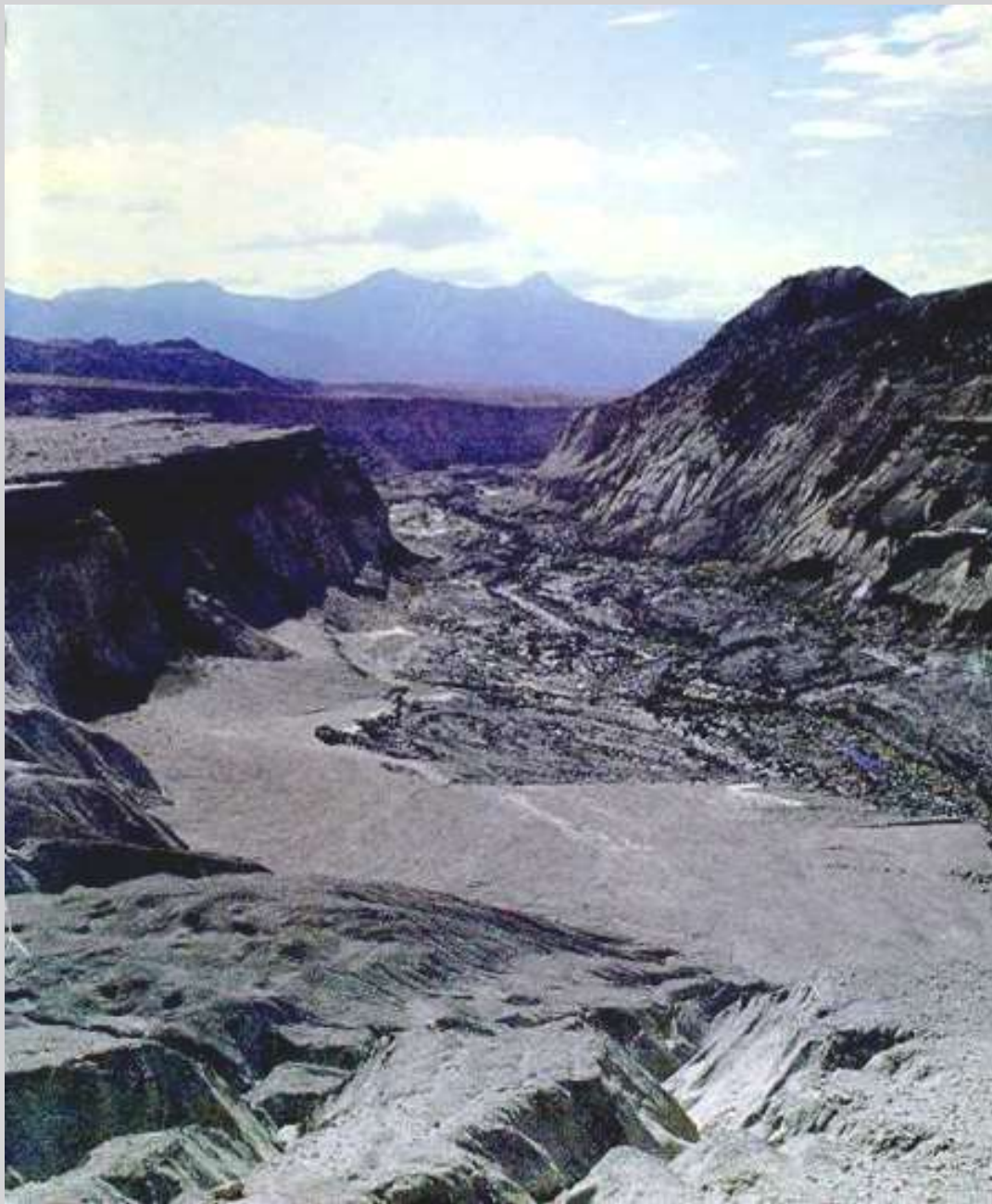
Habitat zones

- Various Land
- Near-ocean
- Ocean edge

Simpler shaped

Pre-flood, flood boundary





**“Mini Grand Canyon”
formed by 1980 Mt. St.
Helens eruption**

Formed in days/hours

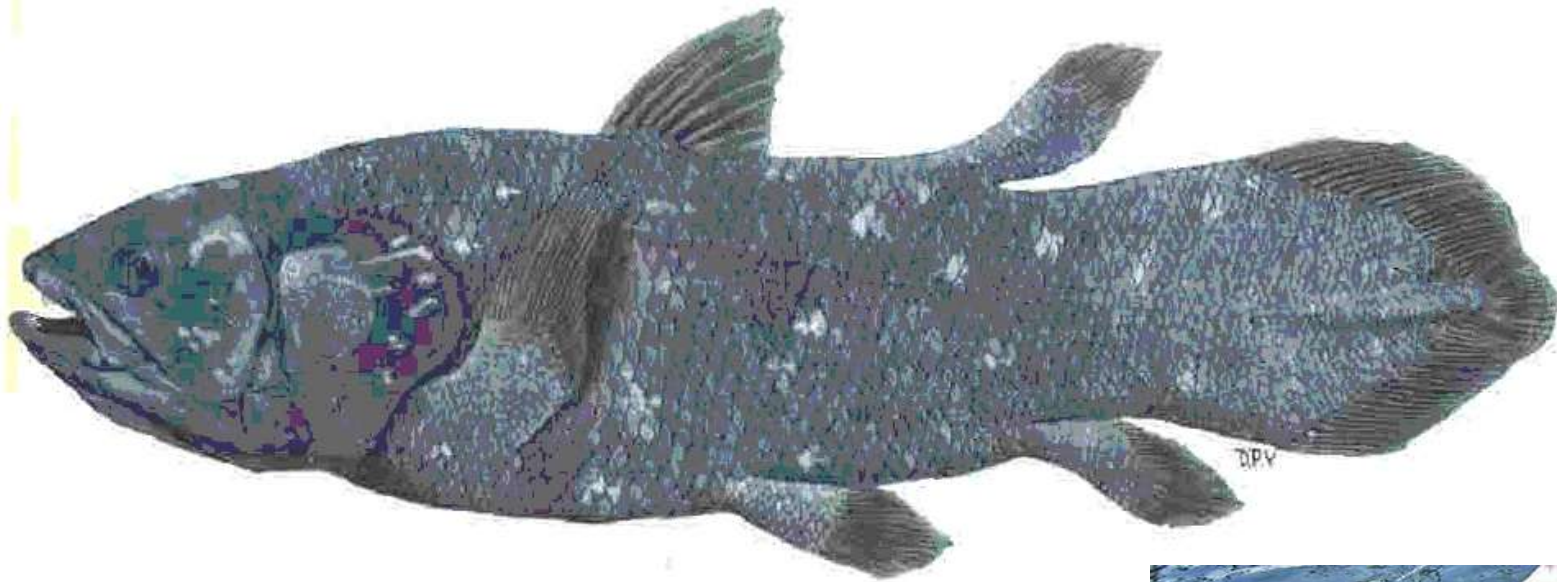
**Shows layering of
sediments!**



Polystrate Tree:

A single fossil tree embedded in multiple age rock strata

Living Fossil: Coelacanth Fish



Supposedly extinct since the Cretaceous Period (> 65 millions years ago) until found still living in New Zealand



Soft bending of rock strata



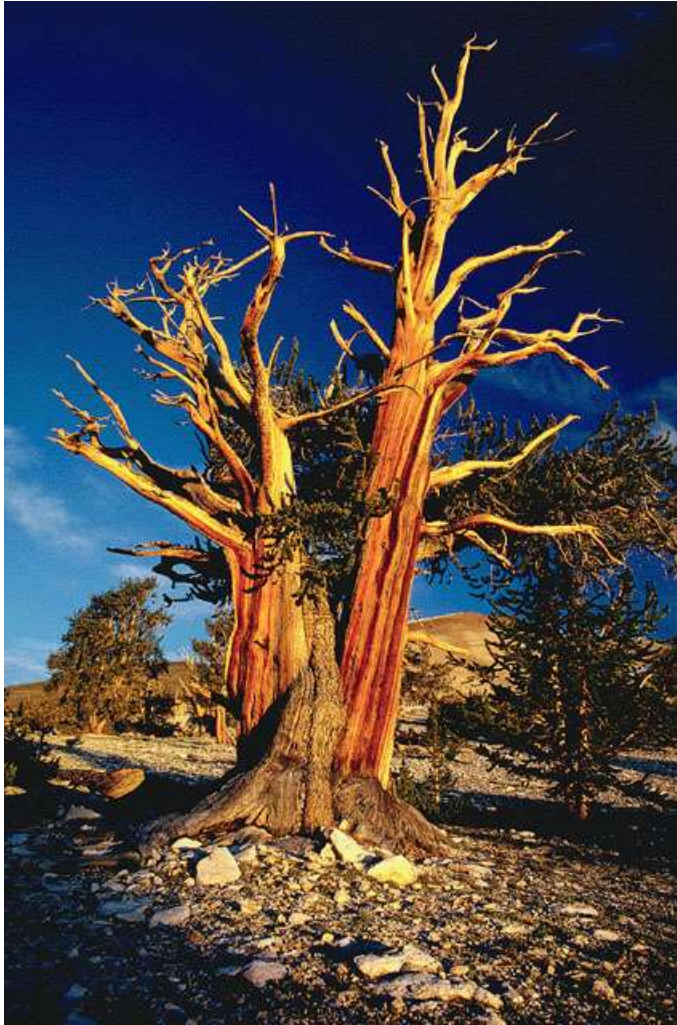
People

From answersingenesis.org

Fossil 'graveyards' around the world



Bristlecone pine tree



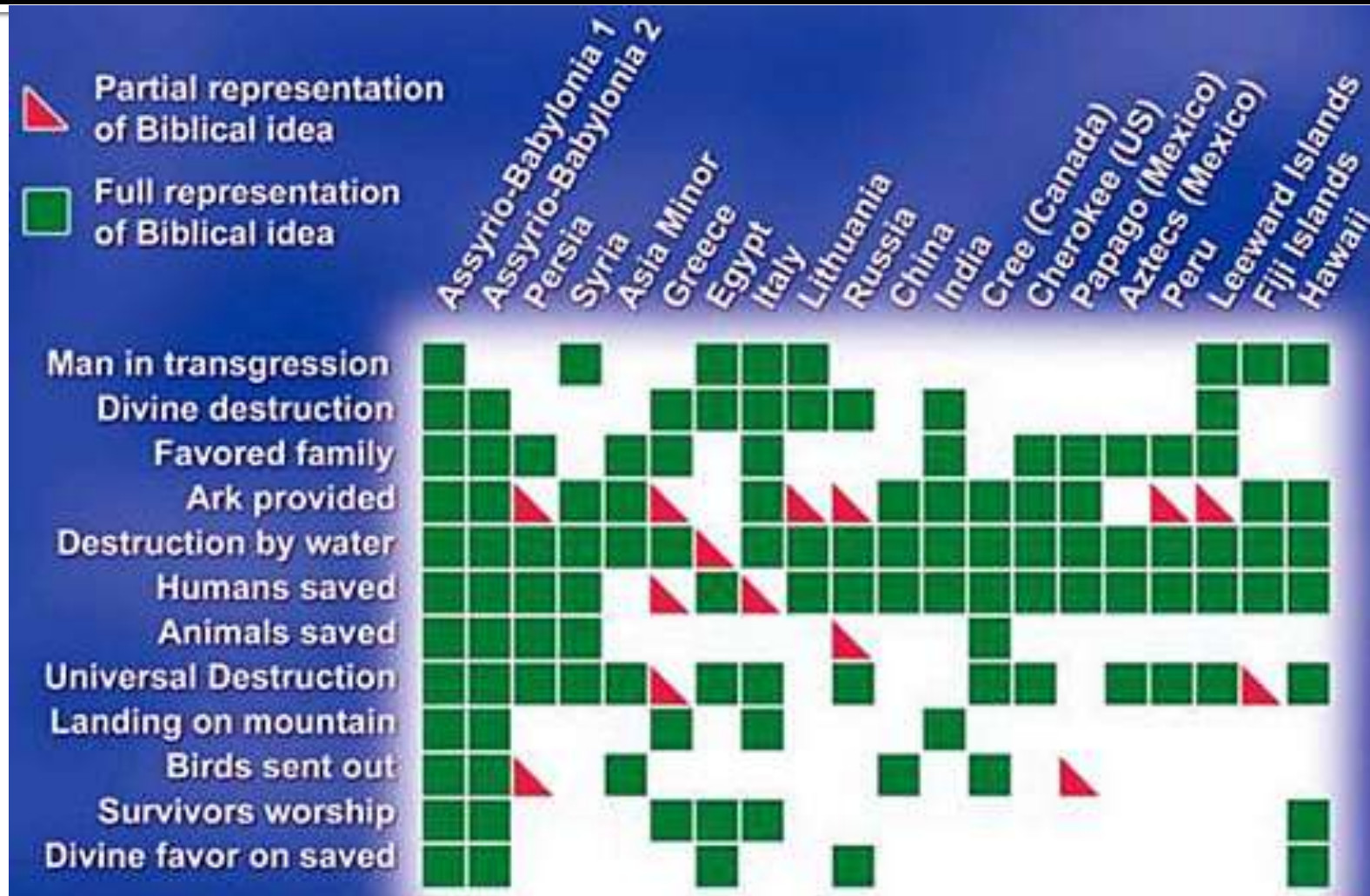
Grand Canyon planation surface



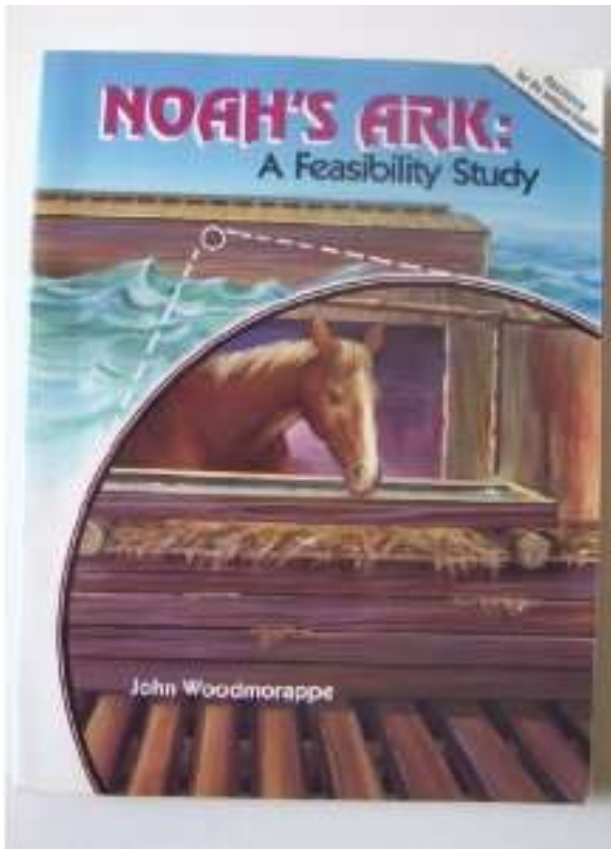
African (Serengeti) planation surface



Worldwide flood traditions



Is an ark even feasible?



- John Woodmorappe has studied this topic
- Over 1,200 references are cited
- The ark is equated to modern intensive farming environments

Who was on the ark?

- Land mammals
- Land reptiles
- Terrestrial birds
- Dinosaurs
- Amphibians
- Animals now extinct
- Eight people

Representative animals
from each genus, *not species*

Who was on the ark?

- Up to 16,000 animals (maybe as few as 2,000)
- Median size = a small rat
- Only 11% larger than a sheep
- Large-sized were juveniles

Half smaller!



None of these!



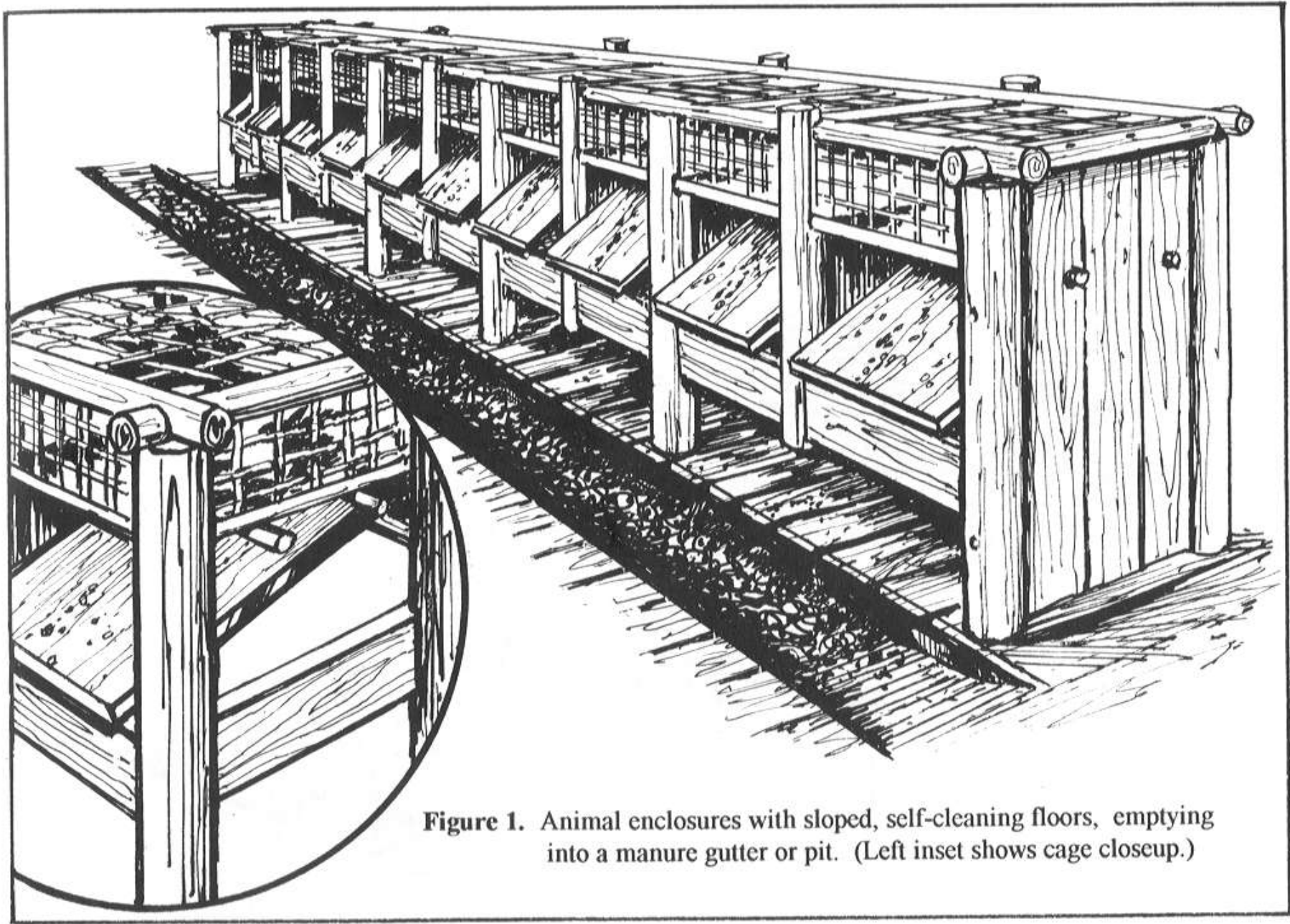


Figure 1. Animal enclosures with sloped, self-cleaning floors, emptying into a manure gutter or pit. (Left inset shows cage closeup.)

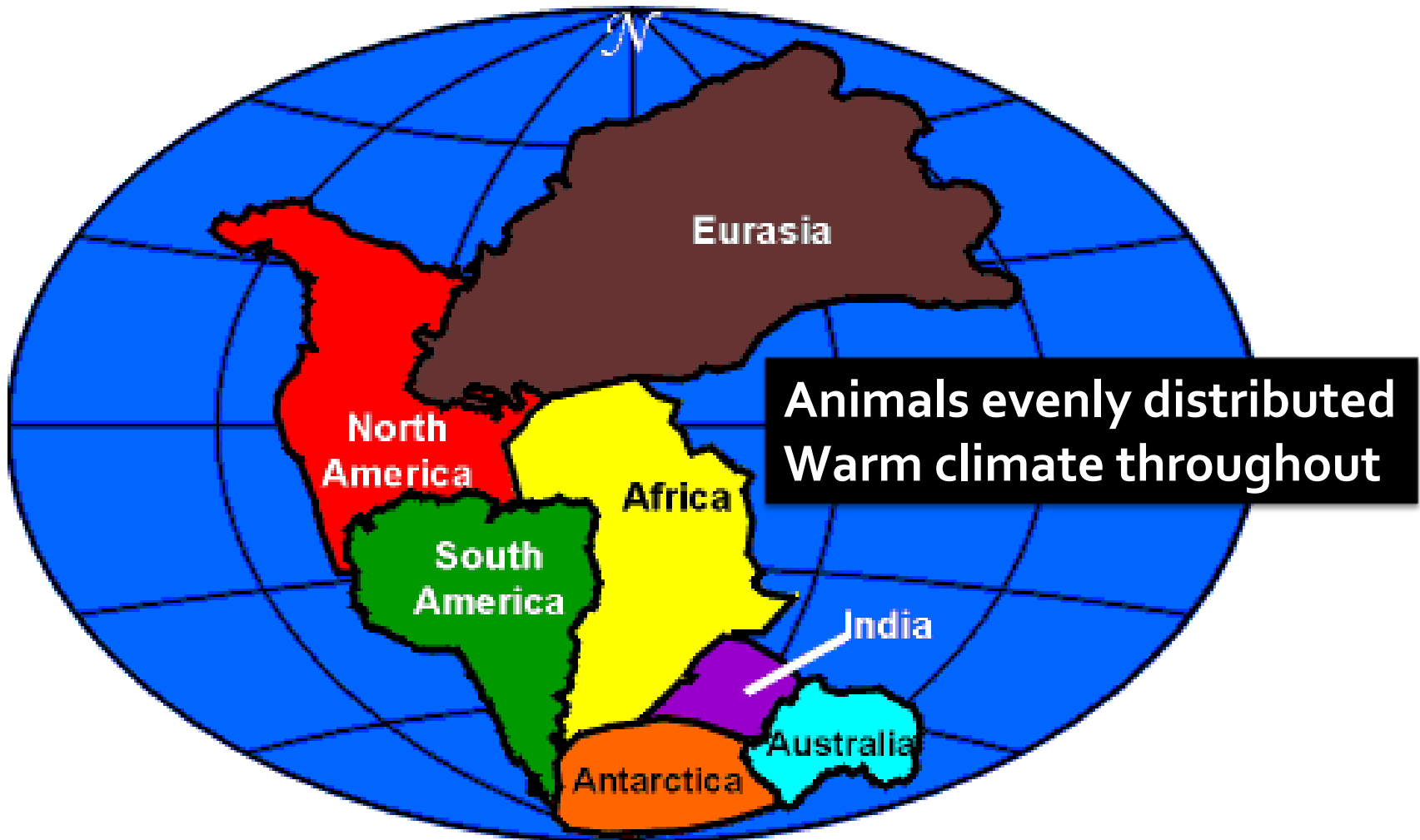
Ark inventory

Category	Tons
Empty Ark	4,000
Weight of animals at start	100
Weight of animals at end	400
Food at start	2,500
Water at start	4,000
Total needed capacity	11,000
Cargo capacity	17,000
Spare capacity	6,000

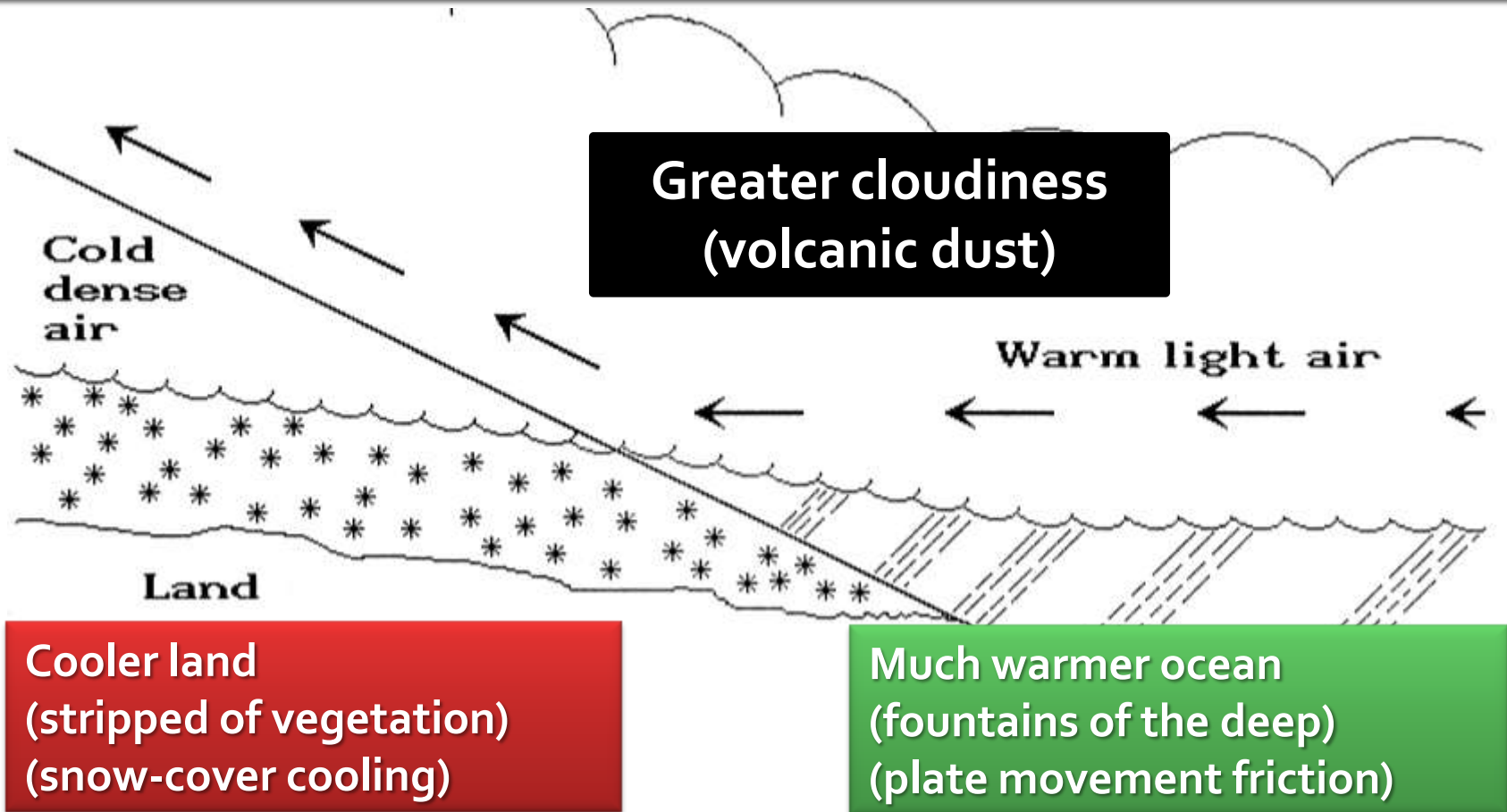
Gathering the animals

- **Did not fear humans (Gen 9:2)**
- **Vegetarians (Gen 1:30)**
- **Migration instinct introduced (Gen 6:20)**
- **Hibernation instinct introduced**

One Pre-Flood Continent (Pangea) Catastrophic Plate Tectonics during flood

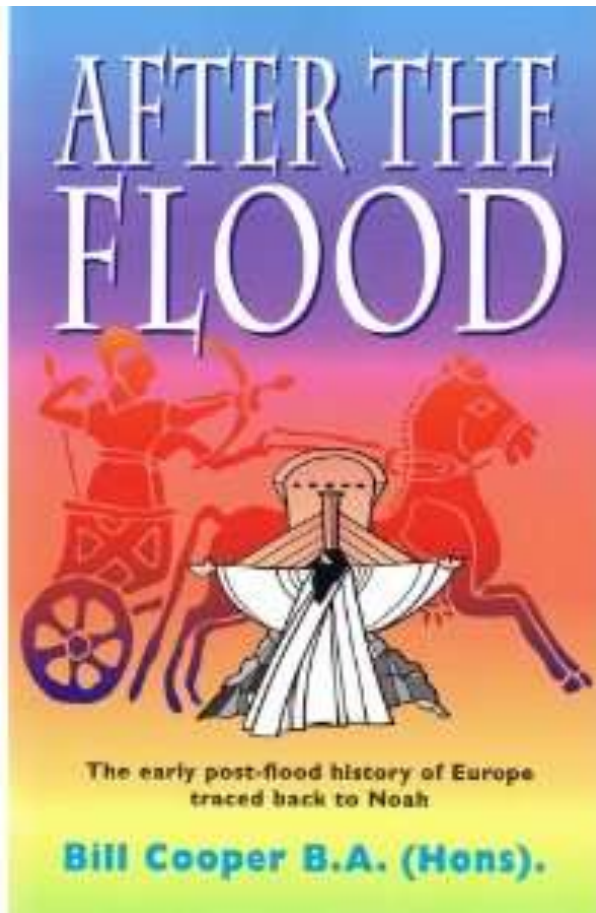


Ice Age – a natural result of the flood



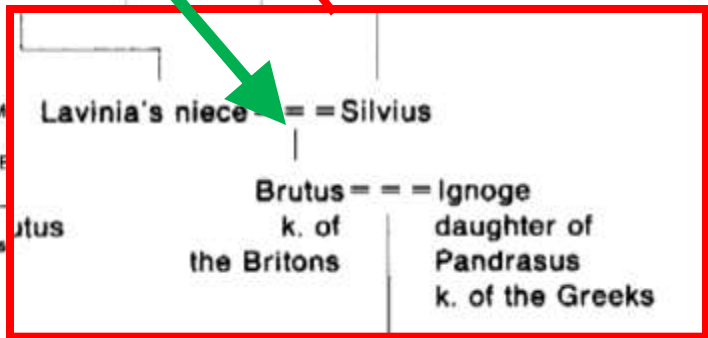
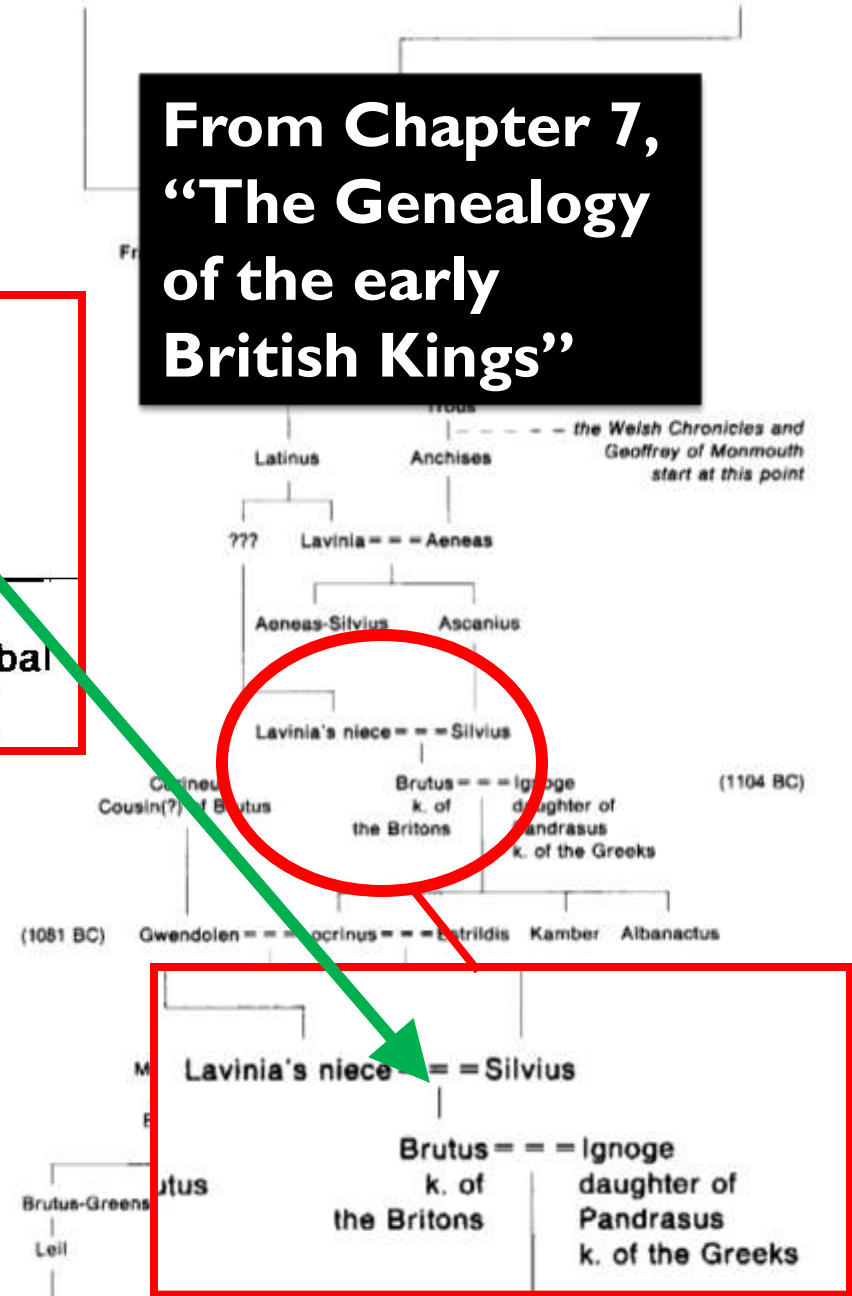
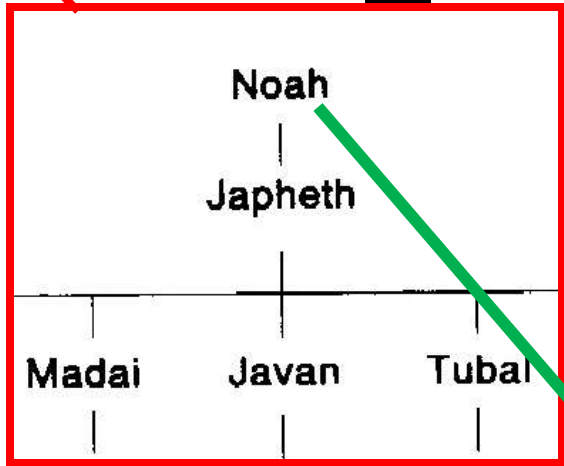
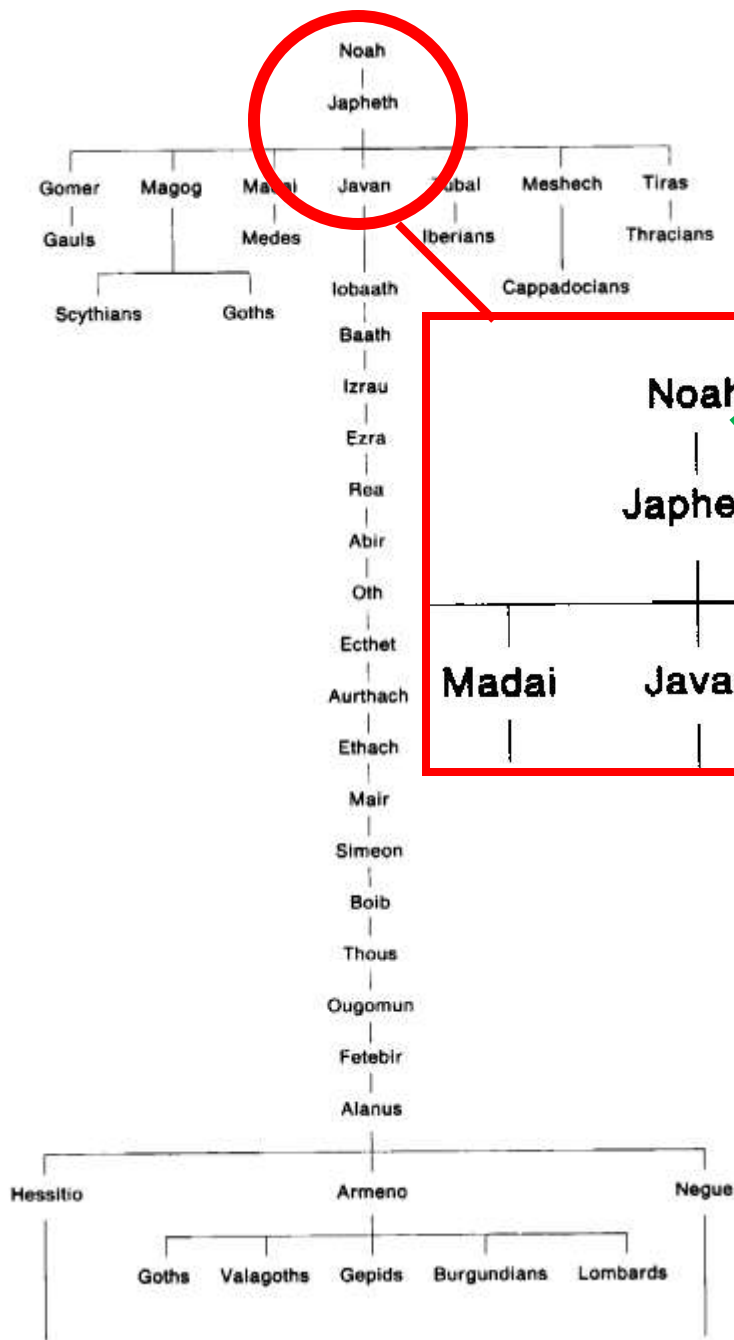
From Oard, "An Ice Age Caused by the Genesis Flood"

Historical records back to the flood

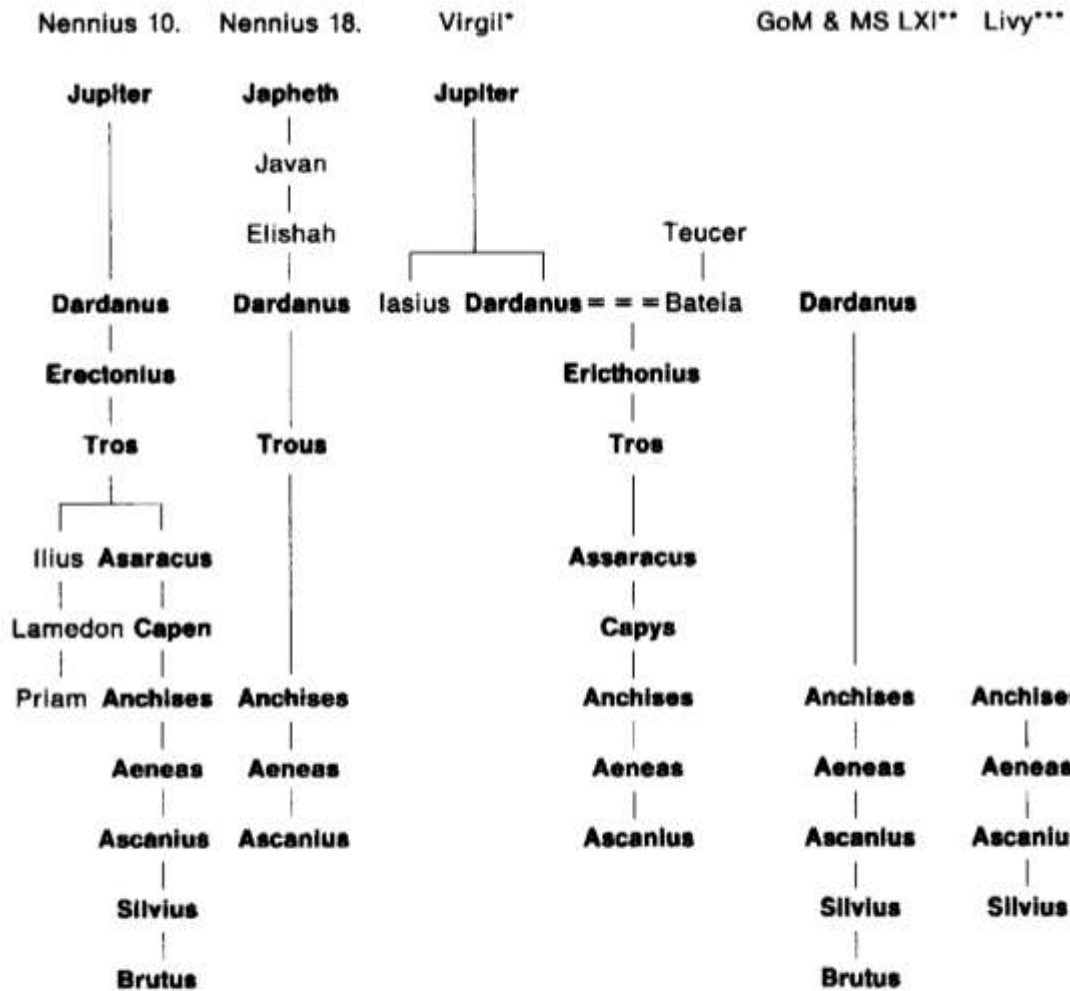


- Early post-flood history of Europe can be traced back to Noah through historical documents
- Shows the accuracy of Genesis chapters 10 (The Table of Nations) and 11 (genealogy from Shem to Abram)

**From Chapter 7,
“The Genealogy
of the early
British Kings”**



From Japheth to Brutus



Genealogies from five diverse and ancient sources demonstrate the historicity of the patriarchs listed

From Japheth (son of Noah) to Brutus (first king of the Britons) ca 1104-1081 BC

Note: flood is dated at 2348 BC according to Ussher

* From *The Aeneid* (see bibliography).
 ** Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* (see bibliography) and **Jesus College MS LXI**, the so-called *Tysilio Chronicle*.
 *** From *The Early History of Rome* (see bibliography).

Jesus viewed the flood as real history

Matthew 24:36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.



**Johan Huibers Ark
Netherlands
One-fifth size**





Full-size ark to open summer 2011
<http://www.arkvannoach.com>





**Full-size ark to open spring 2014
<http://www.arkencounter.com>**

Conclusions

- **The flood is necessary to explain the geologic column**
- **There is historical and physical evidence consistent with a global flood occurring about 4,500 years ago**
- **It is feasible that an ark/barge could have been built to house around 16,000 animals + food + water**
- **It is feasible the animals could have been cared for by eight people**
- **Continuous miracles were not necessary**



Story = Myth



**REAL
HISTORY!**

Could the ark be hidden here?



Mt. Ararat



How to become a Christian

The Gospel message = “Good News”!

- **A = Admit** (I am a sinner)
 - God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
- **B = Believe** (that Jesus died for your sins – He is the Savior)
 - To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)
- **C = Confess** (that Jesus is Lord)
 - If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

