

The Book of Genesis

The Book of Genesis The Instructions for the Ark

- I. Noah Found Grace (Genesis 6:8-9, 22)
 - A. Many misunderstand the grace of God.
 - B. Calvinists claim that it is arbitrary and irresistible.
 - C. Yet, there were reasons why Noah found grace in God's eyes when others did not.
 - D. God's grace is available to all, but it is revealed through Truth (Titus 2:11-12).
 - E. Noah received grace because he walked with the Lord by faith (Heb. 11:7; Eph. 2:8ff).
 - F. Furthermore, God's grace was given to Noah in the revealing of the plan for the ark – providing a way of escape from the punishment of destruction.
 1. Grace made the plan of salvation available.
 2. Noah's faith trusted and obeyed, allowing him to receive God's grace.

- II. God Gave a Plan (Genesis 6:9-13)
 - A. First, God acknowledged the state of the world (vs. 11-12).
 - B. Next, God warned of coming punishment (vs. 13).
 - C. Finally, God gave a plan for the ark – man's means of salvation.

- III. Instructions for the Ark (Genesis 6:14-21)
 - A. It was to be made of gopher wood.
 - B. It was to have rooms ("nests" – ASV margin) within it.
 - C. It was to be sealed within and without with pitch.
 - D. The dimensions were 300 cubits (length) by 50 cubits (width) by 30 cubits (height).
 1. A cubit was approximately 18 inches.
 2. Thus, the ark would have been 450 feet by 75 feet by 45 feet.
 3. This is 1½ times the length of a football field.
 - E. It was to have three stories.
 1. This made the ark a vessel of no less than 100,000 square feet of space.
 2. Its volume would have been no less than 1,500,000 cubic feet.
 3. Its displacement tonnage would have been 24,000 tons.
 4. Its carrying capacity would have been equivalent to 550 – 600 standard railroad boxcars.
 - a. This would have provided sufficient room for Noah, his family, and the animals to be taken on the ark.
 - b. Remember, Noah only had to take two (or seven) of every **kind** of animal.
 - c. Also, they were likely younger, smaller animals.
 - F. It was to be shaped like a box or chest.
 1. The Hebrew word is used only here and in reference to the "ark" in which baby Moses was placed (Exo. 2:3, 5).
 2. The word indicates a box-shaped structure.
 - a. The ark was not built to travel around the world.
 - b. It was not going anywhere; it just needed to float safely in stormy waters.
 - c. Thus, it did not need to be pointed at the ends.

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3. This shape at these dimensions has proven to be extremely stable on open waters; even being able to right itself from tilts of almost 90 degrees, and able to withstand waves that were over 200 feet high.
- G. It was to have a window (light – ASV).
1. This was an opening to allow both light and ventilation on the ark.
 2. This opening was a space of one cubit left open at the top of the ark’s walls.
- H. It was to have a window.
1. This was a different window from the light of verse 16.
 2. This window could be opened and closed by Noah.
- I. It was to have one door.
1. This door was located in the side of the ark.
 2. It allowed Noah’s family and the animals to enter the ark.
 3. It was this door that God closed when they entered into the ark (7:16).
- J. Could Noah and his sons have built such a vessel?
1. They had 120 years to build the ark.
 2. They could have hired others to help in the construction.
 3. These were highly intelligent and capable human beings!
- K. How did Noah get all those wild animals into the ark?
1. He didn’t. They came to him (Gen. 7:15-16).
 2. God was in control (cf. Gen. 2:19-20).
- L. Thus, the ark was sufficient to carry Noah’s family and the many animals safely through the devastating forces of the Flood.