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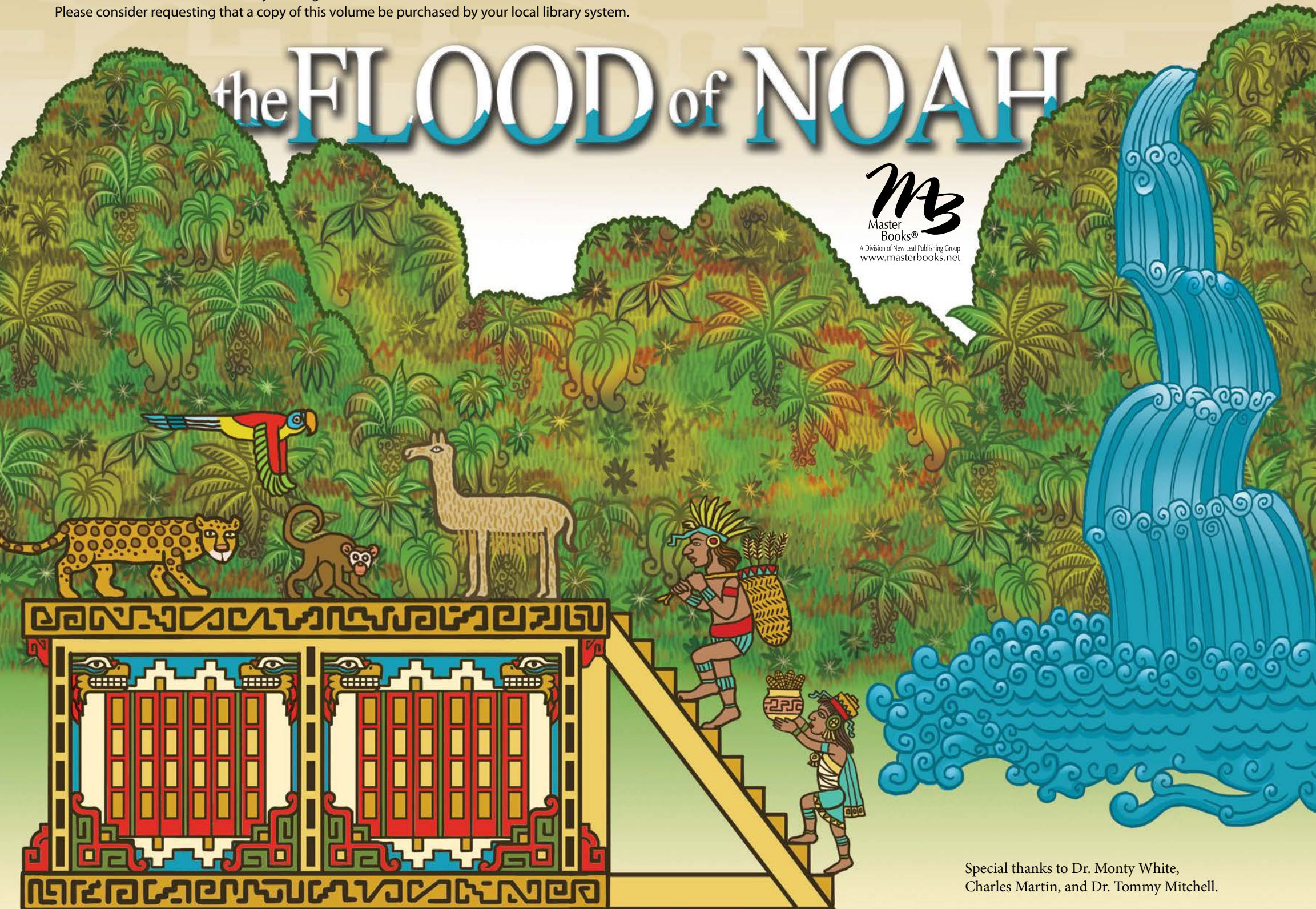
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the FLOOD of NOAH

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Water, Water, and Water Everywhere!

It sounds like a scenario straight out of Hollywood — a massive Flood sweeps across the surface of the planet and wipes out all life except for a small band of survivors and a handful of animals. But this is not just a biblical reference to Noah and his ark — it is an event echoed by hundreds of legendary accounts from all around the world (Morris 2001), possibly as many as 500 according to some sources (Conolly and Grigg 2000). Different cultures, different countries, and different geographical settings — yet these legends, myths, accounts, and versions of this same global historical event continue to resonate through the ages.

Many scholars and scientists arbitrarily say it is not enough that these legends exist in so many different forms to prove such an event ever occurred. Could evidence of such a catastrophe still be found today? And why do skeptics find it so difficult to explain away these persistent accounts of an angry divine figure punishing mankind for their evil with an epic global disaster on the scale of which the world had never seen before?

Does Every Culture Have a Noah and an Ark?

There are many common clues to be found with the diverse examples of these legends. The narratives include various similarities, which can include such things as man in transgression, destruction from a divine being, a favored family, a vessel or means of safety provided, destruction by water, humanity saved, animals saved, universal or global destruction, landing on a mountain, birds sent out, survivors worship, and divine favor is placed upon those saved (White 2007).

We find this history clearly detailed in the Book of Genesis. Indeed, the Bible is the true and reliable account of this unimaginable time in our world's past. While many people try to close their minds to the Bible as an historical record, persistent questions about the flood legends and their similarities to Noah's Flood remain. And the deeper you go within this vast collection of legends, the more the biblical account is reflected!



The Toltec civilization had a very unique flood legend with precise dating — to learn more on this legend, see page 18.

A Global Watermark on History

A disaster on the scale of the biblical Flood presents many intriguing mysteries. Why are there similarities between various legends? Why are there differences? What separates the Genesis account from other legends? The simplest and most logical answer to why flood legends exist is that an actual event occurred — accounts of which have been slightly altered, embellished, or details forgotten over several thousand years and through retelling by varying cultures. So, what can we still learn about this global event from the flood legends archived within the histories and cultures in which they remain?

With the exception of Antarctica, every continent on the earth has a variety of flood legends to be explored. Clearly a massive and violent flood devastated the planet at a distant point in history, an event so devastating that it left an indelible mark on the varied and distant cultures that would follow, each sharing their version of the event, a number of which are shared in this book.

Cultural Examples of Flood Legends

North America

Inuit, Tinneh, Kaska, Natchez, Nez Perce, Algonquin, Cheyenne

Europe

Celtic, Scandinavian, Roman, Greek, Transylvanian Gypsy

Asia

Samoyed, Altaic, Mongolia, Russian, Hindu, Tamil, Miao, Dusan

Pacific Islands

Palau, Lifou, Samoa, Nanumanga, Rakaanga, Tahiti

Near East

Sumerian, Egyptian, Assyrian, Chaldean, Zoroastrian

Central America

Yaqui, Tononac, Maya, Carib, Michoacan, Nahuatl, Toltec, Chol

Australia

Gunwinggu, Manger, Andigari, Papua New Guinea, Maori

South America

Shuar, Chorote, Toba, Caraya, Ipurina, Yaruro, Muysca, Acawai

Africa

Masai, Cameroon, Mandingo, Pygmy, Kwaya, Yoruba, Ekoi



What Do Flood Legends Have in Common?

After completing a study of over 200 flood legends, researcher Nozomi Osanai states “95% of these traditions have common elements with Genesis and they say that the flood was global. Although it is impossible to study all of the flood traditions around the world here, it seems to be significant to mention some of them to verify the fact that they have common elements with the Genesis Flood account... consistent with the secular historical records and the existence of the flood traditions around the world” (Nozomi 2005).



Detail	Bible Ref.	Legends with Details Similar to Genesis
Man in transgression	Gen. 6:5–6, 11–12	Assyrio-Babylonia 1, Syria, Egypt, Italy, Lithuania, Leward Islands, Fiji Islands, Hawaii
Divine Destruction	Gen. 6:7, 13, 17; 7:4, 23	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Syria, Egypt, Italy, Lithuania, Russia, India, Leward Islands
Family favored	Gen. 6:8, 18	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Persia, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, India, Cree (Canada), Cherokee (US), Papagoa & Aztecs (Mexico), Peru, Leward Islands
Ark provided	Gen. 6:14–16; 7:4, 7–9	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Syria, Asia Minor, Italy, China, India, Cree (Canada), Cherokee (US), Papagoa (Mexico), Fiji Islands, Hawaii, Persia*, Greece*, Lithuania*, Russia*, Peru*
Humans saved	Gen. 6:17; 7:4, 10–24	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Persia, Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, India, Cree (Canada), Cherokee (US), Papagoa & Aztecs (Mexico), Peru, Leward Islands, Fiji Islands, Hawaii, Egypt*
Animals saved	Gen. 6:19–20; 7:2–3	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Persia, Syria, Cree (Canada), Russia*
Mountain landing	Gen. 8:4	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Greece, Italy, China, India
Bird sent out	Gen. 8:7–12	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Asia Minor, China, India, Persia*, Cherokee* (US)
Survivors worship	Gen. 8:20	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Greece, Egypt, Italy, China, Hawaii
Divine favor on saved	Gen. 9:1–17	Assyrio-Babylonia 1 & 2, Greece, Egypt, Italy, China, Hawaii

Wheel chart based on the example found in *Answers* magazine (White 2007).

* Legends with only a few details similar to Genesis

Some of the names of Noah in various ancient cultures

Name	Culture	Reference/Authority
Noah	Israel	Genesis 6-9.
Noes/Noe	Germany and Scandinavia	<i>Reliquae Antiquae</i> , Wright (Ed.) 1841-5, Copy at London's Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, p. 173.
Noeh	Ireland	Annals of Clonmacnois.
Nuah	Maio (China)	Truax, E. A. 1991. <i>Genesis According to the Miao People. Acts & Facts.</i> 20 (4).
Deucalion	Greece	e.g., Apollodorus, 1.7.2.
Titan	Celtic	Sproul, B., <i>Primal Myths</i> , Harper One Publisher, New York, 1979.
Ziusudra	Sumeria	Hammerly-Dupuy, D., <i>Some observations on the Assyro-Babylonian and Sumerian Flood Stories</i> , Colegio Union, Lima, Peru, 1968.
Atrahasis	Babylonia	Dalley, S., <i>Myths from Mesopotamia</i> , Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1989.
Xisuthrus	Chaldea	Smith, G., <i>The Chaldean Account of the Deluge</i> , <i>Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology</i> , 2:213-34. 1873.
Tumbainot (and wife Naipande)	East Africa (Masai people)	Frazer, J.G., <i>Folk-Lore in the Old Testament: Studies in Comparative Religion, Legend, & Law</i> . London: MacMillan and Co., Limited 1919, p. 330-331.
Nama	Central Asia	Holmburg, U., Finno-Ugric, Siberian, from MacCulloch, C. J. A., Ed. <i>The Mythology of All Races v. IV</i> , Marshall Jones, Boston, MA, 1927.
Manu	India	Gaster, T. H., <i>Myth, Legend, and Custom in the Old Testament</i> , Harper & Row, New York, NY, 1969.
Nol	Pacific Island (Loyalty Islands)	Gaster, p. 107
Nu'u	Hawaii	Barrere, D.B., <i>The Kumuhonua Legends: A Study of Late 19th Century Hawaiian Stories of Creation and Origins</i> . Pacific Anthropological Records, No. 3, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, 1969, p. 19-21.
Kunyan	Alaska	Gaster p. 117-118.
Wissaketchak	Cree (Native Americans)	Frazer, p. 309-310.
Nanaboujou	Ottawa (Native Americans)	Frazer, p. 308.
Montezuma	Papago (Native Americans)	Gaster, p. 114-115.
Tezpi	Mexico (Michoacan)	Gaster, p. 122.
Marerewana	Guyana (South America)	Gaster, p. 126.

¹Several cultures actually still retained the name "Noah".

²See also: MS. Cotton. Otho. B. XI., cit. Magoun, page 249; Assersius. De Rebus Gestis Alfredi. (Ed. Stevenson, Oxford, 1904, Cap I; Vetustissima Regum Septentrionis Series Langfethgatal dicta. Scriptores Rerum Danicarum Medii Aevi. Ed., Jacobus Langebek. Vol I, Hafniae, 1772, p.1-6.

Names of Noah's wife in various ancient cultures

Name	Culture	Reference/Authority
<i>Emzara</i> , daughter of Rake'el, son of Methuselah	Judea	<i>Book of Jubilees</i>
<i>Haykêl</i> , the daughter of Namûs (or Namousa), the daughter of Enoch, the brother of Methuselah	Arabia	<i>Kitab al-Magall</i> (the Book of Rolls)
<i>Noyemzar</i> (variants: <i>Nemzar</i> , or <i>Noyanzar</i>)	Armenia	The Bible Cyclopedia ¹
<i>Set</i>	Latium (Italy)	<i>Inventiones Nominum</i>
<i>Naamah</i> , the daughter of Lamech and sister of Tubal-Cain (from Genesis 4:22)	Judea	<i>Genesis Rabba</i> midrash
<i>Haykêl</i> , the daughter of Namûs (or Namousa), the daughter of Enoch, the brother of Methuselah	Syria	<i>Book of the Cave of Treasures</i>
<i>Dalila</i> (Variant <i>Dalida</i>)	Angles and Saxons (Germany and England)	<i>Dialogue of Solomon and Saturn</i>
<i>Haikal</i> , the daughter of Abaraz, of the daughters of the sons of Enos	Ethiopia/Cush	<i>Conflict of Adam and Eve with Satan</i>
<i>Gaw Bo-lu-en</i>	China (Maio)	Edgar Truax on Maio recitations ²
<i>Haykêl</i> , the daughter of Namûs (or Namousa), the daughter of Enoch, the brother of Methuselah	Upper Egypt	<i>Patriarch Euty chius of Alexandria</i>
<i>Phiapphara</i>	Angles and Saxons (Germany and England)	Ælfric of Eynsham's translation of the first 7 books of the Bible (Heptateuch)
<i>Amzurah</i> , the daughter of Barakil, another son of Mehujael	Persia (Iran)	Persian historian Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari
<i>Percoba</i>	Ireland	<i>Codex Junius</i>

¹ The Bible Cyclopedia, Volume 2, Harrison and Co, London, John W. Parker, 1843, p. 735.

² Truax, E. A. 1991. Genesis According to the Miao People. Acts & Facts. 20 (4).

Who Was Noah's Wife?

When the Genesis account is studied, a lot of details are given for the design and construction of the ark. This is one reason the Genesis Flood account stands out as the accurate one compared to the other legends. The Bible even shares a lot of details about Noah and his mission, but all it mentions about his wife is that he had one. More is known about his sons and their descendants than Noah's wife. Many legends do comment on Noah's wife, and above are a few names that survived in various cultures. We expect variations with the name because of the confusion of languages at Babel.



How big or long was Noah's ark?

Think of it as around one and a half football fields in length! Measurements in the Old Testament were in cubits, and various cultures had slightly different values for long and short cubits. With a short cubit of 18 inches, the ark would have been 450 feet in length by 75 feet in width and 45 feet in height. But many ancient structures used the long cubit, which was closer to 20–21 inches. Using a 20.4 inch cubit for the older cubit, which the Israelites likely used when in captivity to Babylon, the ark would have been about 510 feet long by 85 feet wide by 50 feet tall.



How could every animal species fit on the ark to be saved?

They didn't. Remember, we find fossil species of animals including dinosaurs and others that were killed during the Great Flood all the time. And God didn't say to take every species of animal. Noah was told to take two of every *kind* of animal. An animal kind is a little different from the modern definition of species today. If animals can cross-breed, then they are likely part of the same kind. For example, a zebra and a donkey can give birth to a zonkey. Plus, only air-breathing, land-dwelling animal kinds needed shelter on the ark.

How many animals could fit on an ark?

Creation scientists and scholars continue to try and solve that question. One scholar calculated that the maximum number would be 8,000 kinds or about 16,000 individuals. A different scholar has set the minimum pairs of 1,000 kinds or 2,000 individuals (based on family level). More recent studies seem to find numbers closer to this smaller number.



How long would it have taken Noah and his sons to build a wooden ark this size?

No one knows for certain, but the Bible again gives clues to the time-line of events before and after the Flood. Because of Genesis 6:3, many think it took 120 years to build the ark because that is how long God said mankind had before the disaster would happen. Taking into account Noah's age and the ages of his sons, at least one scholar has calculated it would have taken 55 to 75 years for the ark to be built.