

“WHAT IF NOAH’S ARK HAS BEEN DISCOVERED?” (Genesis 6-9)

A. The Recent CLAIMS & EVENTS Pertaining to the Discovery of Noah’s Ark

1. Last Sunday, April 25th, a press conference was held in Hong Kong by Noah’s Ark Ministries International (NAMI) announcing that their team of evangelical explorers had located part of the Ark.
2. The location at an elevation of approx. 14,000 feet, which is currently undisclosed, was initially discovered in 2008, with another expedition accompanied by a film company in October of 2009 sent to document the discovery.
3. The cypress wood taken from the location has been carbon dated to be approximately 4,800 years old by a university lab in Hong Kong.
4. What was discovered under layers of ice and volcanic rock was seven rooms, the largest being approx. 15’x 36’, small doorways, beams with tenons, a few wooden staircases, and a ceiling doorway.

B. The Initial CRITICISMS Made In Light of These Claims

1. Randall Price, an American Christian and reputable archeologist, who once worked with the team for 1 month in 2008, has been told by a Turkish source that the structure was planted by a hired team of 10 Turkish men.
2. This isn’t necessarily Noah’s Ark, it could be a post-flood human settlement.
3. The carbon dating for the wood should have measured much older, from 20,000-50,000 years old based on pre-flood carbon 14 levels, which are thought by creationists to be much higher prior to the flood.
4. No one on the Chinese-Turkish expedition team is a trained archeologist.
5. The wood discovered is not covered with pitch “inside and out” (Gen. 6:14).
6. Genesis 6:14 says that the ark was made of “gopherwood” (Heb. *gopher*).
7. The presence of a cobweb in the photographs, along with straw and rope, seems suspicious.
8. The Bible only says that the ark landed on “the mountains of Ararat” (Gen. 8:4), not Mt. Ararat.

C. The Necessary CAUTIONS We Must All Have in Light of These Claims

1. Since the Bible never says what happened to the ark after the flood, our faith does not require the acceptance of these claims to have discovered the ark. (2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1)
2. As Christians, we need to be consistent with our methods and standards of scientific enquiry and apply the same standard as we do to supposed scientific evidence for evolution. (Titus 2:10; 1 Peter 3:15-16)
3. If we accept this discovery without confirmation of the facts, and it turns out to be a hoax, believers will lose their credibility and testimony for Christ. (2 Peter 2:2, 5; 3:3)

D. Some Needed CLARIFICATIONS & Certain CONSEQUENCES in Light of All This

1. Clarifying some common misconceptions about Noah's ark . . .
 - a) . . . Isn't the flood and ark story obviously a myth since other ancient cultures have a similar account?
 - b) . . . How could Noah gather up all the animals of the world?
 - c) . . . How could all the animals of the world fit on-board the ark?
 - d) . . . How could all those animals survive on-board the ark for a year?
 - e) . . . Where did all that water go after the ark landed?
 - f) . . . How did certain animals get to other continents, such as Australia and the Americas?
2. The story of Noah's ark is one of _____ and _____; and the conditions that precipitated the flood in Noah's day exist in our day as well. (Gen. 6:1-13)
3. Noah's ark is tremendous _____ of God's salvation found in _____. (Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:25-26; John 10:9-10, 28-30; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; Heb. 11:7; Eph. 2:8-9)
4. God put the account of Noah's ark and the great flood in the Bible to remind us of _____. (2 Peter 3:1-12)