

NOAH BUILT AN ARK TO SAVE HIS FAMILY

(What are you willing to do to save yours?)

The Scriptures are explicit: **“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.” (Heb 11:7)** Saving his family, as you know, was not easy. Conventional wisdom indicates that it took 120 years to build the ark (Gen. 6:3). It was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. It not only had to be sturdy enough to carry tons of cargo, it also had to be water proof. It had to be able to stand the stress of strong winds and high seas. Further, it had to be done right the first time. Noah would not have a second chance.

The source of the flood waters was two fold. First “all the springs of the great deep burst forth” and secondly “the floodgates of the heavens were opened” (Gen. 7:11). The destructive force of these flood waters defies human comprehension. It was during these cataclysmic upheavals that great canyons and high mountains were formed. Note Ps. 104:6 - 9 **“You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.”** It is not by accident that all 14 of the world’s highest mountains (over 8,000 meters) are in Asia and that the deepest sea is just east of them in the Pacific Ocean. You can see how lowering the ocean floor would tilt the earth to make mountains. Obviously the deepest trench would produce the highest mountains. Mt. Everest is 29,035 feet high and the Marianas Trench is almost 37,000 feet deep. This flooding and drying of the earth took so many months that Noah and his family spent a total of 1 year and 17 days in the ark.

While this is not the only verse in the Bible dealing with the subject it is still important to remember that this verse does teach that Noah built the ark to save his family. The project, as you can well imagine, was not a hobby that Noah worked on in his spare time. It was an undertaking of such magnitude that it was the all consuming passion of his life. No effort was too great, no material was too expensive, no part of the job was too time consuming or difficult. It is safe to assume that God helped Noah during the whole project. Thousands, if not millions of important details, had to be correctly completed for the project to succeed.

Noah was a righteous man whom God found blameless among the people of his time (Gen. 6:9). We can assume therefore, that once Noah understood what God wanted him to do he immediately began the project and did not cease work until the job was done. As you know, the ark was completed a mere seven days before the flood began (Gen. 7:4). Had he procrastinated he very well might not have saved his family.

What are you willing to do to save your family? How many hours are you willing to invest? How much money are you willing to spend? How much trouble are you willing to endure?

It is sobering to remember that the second coming of Christ will be like it was in the days of Noah (Matt. 24:37) People will be eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the very day that Noah entered into the ark. In the days of Noah man’s earthly achievements and wealth were destroyed by water. Next time they will be destroyed by fire. In both instances, however, they will be destroyed.

Note that Peter also associates the second coming with Noah (see 2 Pet. 3:3 - 13). The same God who predicted the flood also promises the fire. He then asks this important question: **“Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?” (2 Pet 3:11)** Earthly treasures will vanish forever, but family members will not. God has given each of them a spirit that survives the grave and will spend eternity somewhere. Noah and his family will be with the Lord - where will you and your family be?