

Can We Trust the Bible?

Theme: Noah's Flood

Psalm 104:5-9

Franklin Church of Christ
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AM Worship

Introduction:

- A. "Noah's Flood" is one of the world's most fascinating accounts in human history.
 - 1. Unfortunately a growing population of the modern world view it as mythological.
 - 2. Naturally, faithful Christians believe the Bible as the inspired Word of God and accept the account inherently as historical and accurate. **2 Tim. 3:16**
- B. What many ask of such biblical "stories" such as the flood is this: Can we trust the Bible?
 - 1. As one example we answer this question through the biblical account of Noah's Flood. **Gen. 6-8**
 - 2. We'll look at evidences, while they will prove nothing to the naysayer, show high probability at the catastrophic toward the dawn of human history.

Discussion:

- I. The Biblical Account
 - A. God judged man's wickedness. **Gen. 6:1-7**
 - B. Only Noah (and family) have God's favor. **Gen. 6:8-18**
 - C. Took animals, birds, creeping things, food. **Gen. 6:19-22**
 - D. The fountains of the great deep burst open AND rain fell forty days and nights. **Gen. 7:11-12**
 - E. The waters prevailed over the mountains by nearly 25 feet and prevailed 150 days. **Gen. 7:17-24**
 - F. After more than a year, Noah leaves ark. **Gen. 8:14-19**
 - G. Noah makes an altar and worships God. **Gen. 8:20-21**
 - H. God blesses Noah. **Gen. 9:1**
 - I. Referred to by other people and eras:
 - 1. Psalmist. **Psa. 104:5-9**
 - 2. Apostle Peter. **2 Pet. 3:5-9**
 - 3. Jesus Christ. **Matt. 24:37-39**



II. Historical Accounts - Stories Around the World
 A. Comparison of Genesis and Gilgamesh

COMPARISON OF GENESIS AND GILGAMESH		
	GENESIS	GILGAMESH
Extent of flood	Global	Global
Cause	Man's wickedness	Man's sins
Intended for whom?	All mankind	One city & all mankind
Sender	Yahweh	Assembly of "gods"
Name of hero	Noah	<u>Utnapishtim</u>
Hero's character	Righteous	Righteous
Means of announcement	Direct from God	In a dream
Ordered to build boat?	Yes	Yes
Did hero complain?	Yes	Yes
Height of boat	Several stories (3)	Several stories (6)
Compartments inside?	Many	Many
Doors	One	One
Windows	At least one	At least one
Outside coating	Pitch	Pitch
Shape of boat	Rectangular	Square
Human passengers	Family members only	Family & few others
Other passengers	All species of animals	All species of animals
Means of flood	Ground water & heavy rain	Heavy rain
Duration of flood	Long (40 days & nights plus)	Short (6 days & nights)
Test to find land	Release of birds	Release of birds
Types of birds	Raven & three doves	Dove, swallow, raven
Ark landing spot	Mountain—Mt. Ararat?	Mountain—Mt. <u>Nisir</u>
Sacrificed after flood?	Yes, by Noah	Yes, by <u>Utnapishtim</u>
Blessed after flood?	Yes	Yes

B. China (Shu Jing: Book of Documents)

1. Shu Jing (Book of Documents): Emperor worship of ShangDi (Heavenly Ruler) includes recitations very similar to **Genesis 1**.
2. Feng-shu T'ung-yi (Comprehensive Meaning of Customs): "All people of the earth descended from 'Nu-wa'"



C. Stories Around the World

	Assyrio-Babylonia 1	Assyrio-Babylonia 2	Persia	Syria	Asia Minor	Greece	Egypt	Italy	Lithuania	Russia	China	India	Cree (Canada)	Cherokee (US)	Papagoa (Mexico)	Aztecs (Mexico)	Peru	Leward Islands	Fiji Islands	Hawaii	
Man in transgression (Gen. 6:5-6, 11-12)	Full			Full			Full	Full	Full										Full	Full	Full
Divine destruction (Gen. 6:7, 13, 17; 7:4, 23)	Full	Full				Full				Full		Full									
Favored family (Gen. 6:8, 18)	Full							Full				Full									
Ark provided (Gen. 6:14-16; 7:1, 7-9)	Full		Partial	Full		Partial			Partial	Partial		Full					Partial	Partial		Full	Full
Destruction by water (Gen. 6:17; 7:4, 10-24)	Full					Partial	Full	Full													
Humans saved (Gen. 6:18; 7:1-7, 13-16, 23)	Full					Partial	Full	Full													
Animals saved (Gen. 6:19-20; 7:2-3)	Full									Partial			Full								
Universal destruction (Gen. 7:21-23)	Full																		Partial		Full
Landing on mountain (Gen. 8:4)	Full																				
Birds sent out (Gen. 8:7-12)	Full		Partial		Full									Partial							
Survivors worship (Gen. 8:20)	Full						Full	Full													Full
Divine favor on saved (Gen. 9:1-17)	Full						Full														Full

Full representation of biblical idea
 Partial representation of biblical idea

III. Archaeological Accounts – Evidence uncovered

A. Polystrate Fossils

1. Tree: cannot be buried over thousands or millions of years, but rapidly... otherwise it would decay
2. Many such trees, plants around the world.



B. Whale Fossils

1. A whale graveyard in the Egyptian Desert.
2. A whale fossil in the Peruvian Andes.
3. Also throughout the U.S.



C. Gigantic Oysters

1. Over 500 oysters in the Peruvian Andes
2. Noticed the mouths are closed (they were buried alive: indicating immediate death)



Conclusion:

- A. There will always be mockers (**2 Pet. 3:3**)...doubters ... others seeking genuine answers.
- B. In the end, you will either believe the Bible is true ... or not.
- C. *"Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."* **Jn. 20:29**