

LESSON 12: GENESIS 6



Introduction -

This lesson we'll look at chapter 6, in which God's patience with the world is coming to an end. We'll explore why God felt it was necessary to destroy the whole world, and take a good look at the ark as specified by God. Was it seaworthy? Was it possible to get all the animals on it? We'll see that this account is not a myth, but historical. At the same time we'll see that Noah's ark paints a beautiful picture of what happens when we trust Christ for salvation.

- Dusty Rhodes

The Flood - the 3rd major event of Genesis

Chapter 6 - Events before the flood

Chapter 7 - the Flood

Chapter 8 - the receding of the waters

Chapter 9 - Events after the Flood

Outline of Genesis 6:

1. Verses 1-13 - Total corruption of man in Noah's day, yet Noah was perfect
2. Verses 14-22 - building of the Ark

Genesis 6:1-4 *When humankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, (2) the sons of God saw that the daughters of humankind were beautiful. Thus they took wives for themselves from any they chose. (3) So the LORD said, "My spirit will not remain in humankind indefinitely, since they are mortal. They will remain for 120 more years." (4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God were having sexual relations with the daughters of humankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men.*

- What is going on here? - 3 views
- 1 - Godly line of Seth and ungodly line of Cain began to intermarry
 - Problem - why didn't Moses call them "line of Cain" and "line of Seth", as he did so clearly earlier? Why this strange way of naming them?
 - If this is just two lines of humans that are intermarrying, who are these strange people called the Nephilim?
 - Were the Nephilim described in the Bible only men?
- 2 - This is just Canaanite kings becoming polygamous
 - Problem - again, the name Cain is not used here
 - No record of Canaanite kings in early Genesis
- 3 - Fallen Angel view - fallen angels impregnated human women
 - That is bizarre! How could that happen?
 - Another attempt by Satan to thwart the prophecy in Gen. 3:15 of bringing a Messiah to crush Satan and redeem mankind
 - The Messiah must be fully God and fully human, and Satan is trying to

- create a race of beings that are not fully human - hybrids
- Some view this as demons possessing men and breeding with human women - but it obviously produced offspring that were not fully human. Fallen angels may have been able to introduce genetic alterations into the human gene pool through demon possession of susceptible individuals, evidently especially women.
 - What is probably referred to in verse 3 is the time remaining until the judgment of the Flood. God now gave man only 120 more years to repent. Grace was extended to a wicked world for another century, illustrating God's longsuffering patience.
 - Verse 4 seems to suggest that this genetic impregnation of human women by fallen angels also occurred after the Flood. Numbers 13:33 mentions that the descendants of Anak came from the Nephilim. Deuteronomy 3:11 says "*Only King Og of Bashan was left of the remaining Rephaites* (another name for the Nephilim). *(It is noteworthy that his sarcophagus was made of iron. Does it not, indeed, still remain in Rabbath of the Ammonites? It is thirteen and a half feet long and six feet wide according to standard measure.)*" Then, of course, there was Goliath. (1 Samuel 17)
 - As a side note, it is from these very real offspring of illicit unions between men and fallen angels that ancient legends may have come about---(such as the stories of Homer) and the tales of the demigods of Greek, Roman and other world mythologies.
 - This is a very controversial view - many scholars reject it, mainly because of the fantastical nature of it
 - However, there are also many good scholars who accept this view - there are many respected scholars on both sides of this issue
 - We can agree to disagree on this issue - no need to start a new church over this!

SONS OF GOD

In Scripture it is only by a specific divine act of creation that any being can be termed a son of God. God is a Spirit and man is flesh, and in the New Testament we are told that "that which is born of the flesh is flesh, but that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." So you cannot have men of flesh termed "sons of God" without a divine creative act being performed. In the New Testament Adam is called a son of God because he is the direct result of divine creation, and Jesus Christ is called the Son of God because he is eternally begotten of the Father. Believers are also called sons of God because they are born again by faith in Jesus Christ in a divine creative act. Finally, in the Bible angels are called sons of God for they came directly from the creating hand of God and are not reproduced sexually as men are. It is interesting that in the Old Testament every other use of "sons of God" refers to the angels.

Defense of the Fallen Angel view

- Evidence from the Old Testament
 - when **humans** began to multiply, the **sons of God** - two separate categories - sons of God seem to be different than men
 - "Sons of God" is only used 5 times in the OT, (2 times here, 3 times in Job, which writing predates Genesis) - in Job always means angels (Job 1, 2, 38:7)
 - The Septuagint (Greek translation of OT completed about 200 years before Christ) used the phrase for angels here - the point is this was the understanding back then
 - Nephilim - translated by Septuagint as Titan (half-man, half-God)
 - Verse 9 says Noah was perfect in his generations - can't mean he was without sin - must mean he was untainted genetically - his line had not been tainted by hybrids - this is why Gen. 5 shows his geneology back to Adam
 - The wickedness of the pre-flood world - seems to be speaking of an

unprecedented level of evil - really only makes sense if you consider that there may have been heavy demonic involvement in these days

- Purpose of the Flood - why was this necessary? Surely God wouldn't decide to wipe out the world if believers married unbelievers or there was polygamy. This was something totally unprecedented - gene pool was becoming corrupted - it would have been impossible to continue an untainted line to the Messiah if the world was allowed to continue - *the Flood makes more sense if you accept this view*
- Evidence from the New Testament
 - 1 Peter 3:19-20 - spirits imprisoned from the days of Noah - Jesus wasn't trying to evangelize them, but proclaiming His victory to the fallen angels of Noah's day who had sought to stop the Messiah from coming. Fits with the angel view
 - 2 Peter 2:4-5 - who are these angels?, and again related to Noah's day - Bible seems to teach that the fallen angels will be cast into hell at the end of time with Satan - Ephesians 6:12 says there is an array of fallen angels who are free in this world, that we wrestle with - this is only explainable if you hold to an fallen angel view
 - Most of the fallen angels that rebelled with Satan are free
 - God saw the need to imprison some for something even more heinous they had done in Noah's time
 - Jude vs. 6-7 - sins of these angels compared to the sins of the Sodomites (Genesis 19)
 - Sodomites left their natural sexual inclinations and engaged in sinful homosexual behavior
 - Angels left their natural angelic realm and entered the human realm and took on human form
 - If these are not the fallen angels of Noah's day, who are they?
 - Both are sexual sin in nature - the comparison to Sodom seems to connect these angels to having sexual relations with human women in Noah's day
- Church Tradition
 - Jewish tradition - unanimously historians held to the fallen angel view
 - Early church fathers - to my knowledge - all held to the fallen angel view
 - These people are not inspired, of course, but they lived closer to the events, and may have understood them better
 - Remember that the world was a far different place before the flood than it is now - don't try to compare with today - obviously this is not normal!
- Answering Common Objections
 - Numbers 13:33 - this is after the flood, and you still see Nephilim
 - Notice the speakers were the ten spies - they were scared out of their minds - may have been using figures of speech - there are others used in this section
 - Matthew 22:30 - angels don't get married!
 - This verse does not say they don't have sex
 - The context is what's normal in heaven
 - Hebrews 1:14 - says angels are spirits - don't have bodies
 - Angels normally are spirits, but they can take on human form (Hebrews 13:2)
 - Genesis 18 we learn of two guests who were angels and visited with Abraham, they ate and drank together
 - Same angels went to Sodom and spent night at Lot's house when men of

the city came and wanted Lot to give the angels to them so they could have sex with them. Lot does not argue that it is impossible for them to do so.

- Why is this not happening today?
 - Fallen angels are afraid because they saw what happened to the ones who did it in Noah's day
 - Satan's strategy has shifted - no need to try to corrupt the messianic line any more - Messiah has already come
 - It's possible it could happen again, for a different reason
 - Some speculate that this event in Genesis and things such as alien abductions are related
 - Some theorize that the "strong delusion" spoken of by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 may have to do with the coming of "aliens", and/or the reappearance of Nephilim

Some problems with this view

- Seems to suggest that fallen angels can create men (though they are half-breeds) - only God can create
 - Could be argued that this is not creation but corrupting what God had already created
- The thought that fallen angels still have the ability to take on human form brings up some disturbing possibilities - possession, yes, but actually becoming human?
- There are also angels held in the abyss awaiting release in Revelation 12. Who are those angels?

The Book of Enoch (from Wikipedia)

The *Book of Enoch* is any of several works that attribute themselves to, the great-grandfather of Noah and son of Jared. These works are the product of ancient Jewish literature. Most commonly, the phrase *Book of Enoch* refers to 1 Enoch, which is wholly extant only in the Ethiopic language, with Aramaic fragments from Qumran and medieval Greek fragments.

While this book today does not form part of the Canon of Scripture for most of the Christian Churches, it was quoted as a prophetic text in the New Testament (Letter of Jude with also a probable reference in I Peter 3:19,20 to Enoch 6-36, especially 21, 6; 2 Enoch 7:1-5) and by many of the early Church Fathers, and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church regards it to be inspired Scripture. The currently known texts of this work are usually dated during the Second Temple period, between the fourth/third century BC and the first century AD.

The book is referred to, and quoted, in Jude 14-15. The early Christian father Tertullian wrote c. 200 that the Book of Enoch had been rejected by the Jews because it contained prophecies pertaining to Christ. The Greek language text was known to, and quoted by nearly all, Church Fathers. A number of the Church Fathers thought it to be an inspired work, particularly Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Origen, Clement of Alexandria and Tertullian, based on its quotation in Jude.

However, some later Fathers denied the canonicity of the book and some even considered the letter of Jude uncanonical because it refers to an "apocryphal" work. By the fourth century it was mostly excluded from Christian lists of the Biblical canon, and it was omitted from the canon by most of the Christian church.

(Dusty's comments) The Book of Enoch is not accepted as inspired, but it is obvious that it was well known in the days of the apostles and the early church fathers, and was accepted, for the most part, as being true history. It may at least give us some clue of what happened in Genesis 6.

This "fallen angel" story was much more developed in the Book of Enoch. In Enoch the angels are

called The Watchers. Their leader in rebellion was Semjaza or Azazel. At his instigation they descended to Mount Hermon in the days of Jared, the father of Enoch. They took mortal wives and instructed them in magic and in arts which gave them power. They produced the race of the Nephilim, the giants who inhabited the land of Canaan and of whom the people were afraid (Numbers 13:33).

These giants became cannibals and were guilty of every kind of lust and crime, and especially of insolent arrogance to God and man. The apocryphal books have many references to them and their pride. Wisdom (14:6) tells how the proud giants perished. Ecclesiasticus (16:7) tells how the ancient giants fell away in the strength of their foolishness. They had no wisdom and they perished in their folly (Baruch 3:26-28). Josephus says that they were arrogant and contemptuous of all that was good and trusted in their own strength (Antiquities 1.3.1). Job says that God charged his angels with folly (Job 4:18).

This old story makes a strange and fleeting appearance in the letters of Paul. In 1 Corinthians 11:10 Paul says that women must have their hair covered in the Church because of the angels. Behind that strange saying ties the old belief that it was the loveliness of the long hair of the women of the olden times which moved the angels to desire; and Paul wishes to see that the angels are not tempted again.

In the end even men complained of the sorrow and misery brought into the world by these giants through the sin of the angels. The result was that God sent out his archangels. Raphael bound Azazel hand and foot and shut him up in darkness; Gabriel slew the giants; and the Watchers, the sinning angels, were shut up in the abysses of darkness under the mountains for seventy generations and then confined for ever in everlasting fire. Here is the story which is in Peter's mind in 2 Peter 2:4-11; and which his readers well knew. The angels had sinned and God had sent his destruction, and they were shut up for ever in the pits of darkness and the depths of hell.

The story does not stop there; and it reappears in another of its forms in this passage of Second Peter. In verse 10 Peter speaks of those who live lives dominated by the polluting lusts of the flesh and who despise the celestial powers. The word is *kuriotes*, which is the name of one of the ranks of angels. They speak evil of the angelic glories. The word is *doxai*, which also is a word for one of the ranks of angels. They slander the angels and bring them into disrepute.

The men whom Peter was opposing were turning their religion into an excuse for blatant immorality. Cyril of Alexandria makes it clear that in his day the story could be used as an incentive to sin. Most probably what was happening was that the wicked men of Peter's time were citing the example of the angels as a justification for their own sin. They were saying, "If angels came from heaven and took mortal women, why should not we?" They were making the conduct of the angels an excuse for their own sin.

This is a strange and difficult passage; but the meaning is clear. Even angels, when they sinned, were punished. How much more shall men be punished? Angels could not rebel against God and escape the consequences. How shall men escape? And men cannot put the blame on others, not even on angels; nothing but their own rebelliousness is responsible for their sin.

We don't really know for sure what happened in Genesis 6:2, but it was obviously heinous enough for God to take the steps that He did.

Something else that makes sense if the fallen angel view is true:

- This "also after that" in verse 3 suggests that after the flood a similar incursion of demonic beings took place. Some scholars believe this second invasion resulted in the presence in the land of Canaan of certain gigantic races which are called Canaanites. Perhaps you have stumbled over those long lists of "-ites" in the Old Testament and are familiar with these various races--the Jebusites, the Geshurites, the Hittites, etc. All of these are divisions of the Nephilim (they are also called The Rephaim in the Old Testament) who were already there when Abraham came to the Promised Land. This could represent a continuing attempt on the part of demonic powers to derail the divine program of bringing a Redeemer into the world through the human race.
- It is interesting that archeologists have discovered the giant cities of Bashan, and they confirm the fact that races of gigantic beings did exist in this area whose beds are ten, eleven, or twelve feet long. (They had king-size beds in those days, because the kings were really that big). It was these people that the Israelites were commanded to exterminate completely. They were to wipe these giant cities off the face of the earth, to exterminate the whole populace and their animals.
- I always wondered why it was necessary to completely exterminate these races, thought it was pretty harsh. If these races were descended from the Nephilim, it makes perfect sense. There was another genetics problem, and it needed to be stamped out. After Joshua and Israel conquered these Canaanite races, you never see Nephilim mentioned again in the Bible.

Genesis 6:5-6 But the LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind had become great on the earth. Every inclination of the thoughts of their minds was only evil all the time. (6) The LORD regretted that he had made humankind on the earth, and he was highly offended.

- When the account says, "The Lord regretted," it is really, "God repented." But we know from other Scriptures that it is impossible for God to repent. He does not change his mind like man does. This is a powerful figure to express in a vivid way the anger and determination of God. When society reaches this stage of dissolution and deterioration, God's anger burns. It appears that he has changed his mind completely even though he is but acting on principles that are entirely consistent with his own being.
- Yet, in the midst of this, we read that it grieved him, and grief is always the activity of love. What we finite human beings do not understand is that God's love and wrath are exactly the same thing. They are two sides of the same coin. What entrances us and warms us about God and draws us to him is love, the manifestation of his total being. He is the God of love, who loves regardless of merit. This is what attracts us. But it is because we respond that he appears to us in that way. To those who reject his love, the same quality in God becomes wrath and it seems to be a wall of fire, burning and consuming everything. We can see this also in ourselves; it is our love that causes us to be angry at anything which injures what we love. If you injure a child in the mother's presence, watch her love flame out in anger against you. Thus we have here clearly described a time when man, in his rejection of God, passes beyond the place of seeing God as love and begins to experience his love as wrath.

Genesis 6:7 *So the LORD said, "I will wipe humankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth everything from humankind to animals, including creatures that move on the ground and birds of the air, for I regret that I have made them."*

- Along with mankind goes the whole creation in judgment. Why? Because the creation is linked with man. The animals were made for man. So when man goes, the animals must go as well.

Genesis 6:8-10 *But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD. (9) This is the account of Noah. Noah was a godly man; he was blameless among his contemporaries. He walked with God. (10) Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

- Three things are given here about Noah. First, he was said to be righteous or godly (depending on your translation). Most of us think of the word righteous as meaning "good"; "Noah was good." We are tempted then to say, "Well, that explains everything. God saw that Noah was good, and, therefore, he chose him to be saved. Obviously, you choose the good man to be saved." But that is not what it says. The actual fact is that God made Noah righteous and then he became good. It was because he was first righteous that he became good. [God made him righteous because he believed.](#) The book of Hebrews tells us that Noah, by faith, was warned by God of things not yet seen. And he believed God, constructed an ark, and became the heir of that righteousness which comes by faith. That is the only kind of righteousness the Bible knows anything about. It is a righteousness which is not a result of our working, not a result of our best efforts put forth to try to please God, but a righteousness which comes by believing God. That is the kind that Noah had.
- Second, we are told that Noah was blameless among his contemporaries" (or generation in many translations). The nearest English equivalent to the Hebrew word translated "blameless" is the word "whole." Noah was A Whole Person in a Broken World. He lived in a world filled with violence, cruelty, and sexual perversions. In what way, therefore, was Noah blameless? Why was he whole when the rest of society had gone to pieces? He was whole because he was righteous. This is the problem with society today. Because man refuses the righteousness which God offers by faith, man cannot be good. But the man who receives that righteousness becomes good, as Paul makes clear in the opening chapters of Romans. So Noah found the secret of control. He had an inner peace imparted by the indwelling of God, the righteousness which comes by faith. Therefore he was blameless; he was a whole person, well-adjusted, able to handle the situations that came his way, at peace with himself internally.
- Third, as a result of the first two factors, he walked with God. This means a daily experience of contact with God. Noah did not look back to his conversion and rely on that as his contact with God. Rather, he was in continual daily communication with God. He talked with God about the building of the ark. Not only did he get the original blueprints from God, but I am sure he discussed with him all the details of just how it was to be constructed. He walked and lived with God from day to day. This is the secret of a man who survives the disaster of his age.

Genesis 6:11-13 *The earth was ruined in the sight of God; the earth was filled with violence. (12) God saw the earth, and indeed it was ruined, for all living creatures on the earth were sinful. (13) So God said to Noah, "I have decided that all living creatures must die, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. Now I am about to destroy them and the earth."*

- We have already seen the detail of this corruption and violence, the inevitable marks in any civilization of an impending disaster. Here is the pattern man follows. Man is by nature and creation a fully dependent being. He must depend upon God for his life, his breath, his activity, his intelligence, his power of choice, and everything he does. He is the most dependent of creatures, even more so than the animals. He lacks even the instincts which animals have. Yet, fallen man denies this most important point of his life and is forever trying to assert his ability to do everything himself. But when man attempts it, he soon has everything in such a terrible state that it can no longer be controlled. He lacks the rationale, the intelligence, the knowledge to control. He deludes himself into thinking that he has the ability to control his life and, as a result, nature (including human nature) goes out of control. The delicate balance of life is tilted beyond the critical point, and then a collapse occurs. This has proved again and again to be true in the history of civilization and, occasionally, as we have in this account, of nature itself. It may well be that the flood was brought about by man's intemperate misuse of elemental forces--he tripped the balance in a delicate scale which brought about the flood. (Ray Stedman)

Genesis 6:14-16 *Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and out. (15) This is how you should make it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. (16) Make a roof for the ark and finish it, leaving 18 inches from the top. Put a door in the side of the ark, and make lower, middle, and upper decks.*

- Obviously this is not a mythical story - it is very detailed and specific - there is nothing vague about it.
- The ark is a type, a shadow, of the Lord Jesus Christ. See how every detail of the ark points in that direction. Here's two of the most important:
 - The word Gopher, and the word, pitch, which occurs in this passage, and also the Hebrew word (used later on in the books of Moses) for atonement, are all from the same basic Hebrew root, which means "to cover." Thus the ark was made from "atonement wood" or "redemption wood" and pitched, made waterproof, with "atonement." This word for atonement speaks of expiation of sin and oneness between God and man. It is the prominent feature of the Bible and its use here hints strongly of the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus who was sent as an ark of safety for the people of God to carry them through the floods of God's judging vengeance. He is also our ark of safety and rescue in all the crises of our lives!
 - There was only one way to be saved from this flood - you had to enter the ark. And, there's only one door in the ark, as there is only one way into Christ, by faith. There is not a door for the elephants and another door for the mice; they all come in through one door. It is suggestive of the very words of Jesus, "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved" (John 10:9).
- The Biblical word for Ark is "tebah". It is used 28 times in the OT and is only used of Noah's Ark and for the container in which Moses was hidden among the bulrushes. Because of a similar Egyptian word meaning "box", and the ultimate purpose of the Ark, we believe the Ark was not like a streamlined vessel designed to easily glide through the water. More likely it was shaped like a rectangular barge which floated rather low in the water. From the story in the Bible, it also would appear that Noah had no control over the vessel. He, and its contents were at the total mercy of God.

- The Ark had three stories with only one door. The phrase in Gen. 6:16, "Make a roof for it and finish the Ark to within 18 inches of the top probably means leave an 18 inch space at the top that is open all around the vessel. This then would be for ventilation, and when water entered it would drain out somewhere below, similar to the vents in cars.
- The Ark was to be coated inside and out with pitch. The Hebrew word for "pitch" is obscure. It was more likely some resinous material used not only to waterproof the vessel but also to prevent decay. It is reasonable to assume that the construction of the Ark took place during this 120 year period (See Gen. 6:3 along with I Pet. 3:20). The need for this preservative was essential. It is also possible that things did not decay as rapidly in the pre-flood atmosphere.
- The phrase "make rooms" is also obscure. The Hebrew word can mean either "rooms" or "nest", or even, "reeds". Most english translations translate as in the former. However, some of the better and more recent commentaries, believe it should be translated "reeds" since the context is building materials. If in reality it is "reeds", then somehow reeds were part of the construction material. Large boats are still made from reeds and are very seaworthy. The Egyptians still use reeds for caulking their wooden ships.
- Though the Bible does not say, it seems reasonable that Noah employed a large group of workmen to build the Ark. If Noah started building the Ark soon after God spoke to him, then the process of building the Ark may have taken close to 120 years.
- The Ark had a ratio (length x width x height) of 30 x 5 x 3. According to ship-builders, this ratio represents an advanced knowledge of ship-building since it is the optimum design for stability in rough seas. The Ark, as designed by God, was virtually impossible to capsize! It would have to have been tilted over 90 degrees in order to capsize. Supertankers today are built on these same ratios - how did Noah get that information if not from God?
- It was not until the late 19th century that a ship anywhere near this size was built.
- The pagan flood accounts have different dimensions for their arks, but engineers will tell you that the dimensions of the ark in these accounts are not enough to go anywhere, not seaworthy - these are silly dimensions
 - For example in the Babylonian flood account, the ark is a cube!

Genesis 6:17-22 *I am about to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy from under the sky all the living creatures that have the breath of life in them. Everything that is on the earth will die, (18) but I will confirm my covenant with you. You will enter the ark you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. (19) You must bring into the ark two of every kind of living creature from all flesh, male and female, to keep them alive with you. (20) Of the birds after their kinds, and of the cattle after their kinds, and of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will come to you so you can keep them alive. (21) And you must take for yourself every kind of food that is eaten, and gather it together. It will be food for you and for them. (22) And Noah did all that God commanded him - he did indeed.*

- The emphasis here, again, is not upon the extent of the flood; it is upon the fact that when Noah came into the ark, God said to him, "I will make my covenant with you." It was not merely the ark that saved Noah. That was the means by which his salvation was accomplished, but what really saved Noah was God's agreement with him. The Word of God, the promise of God; that is what saved him. We too must look beyond the means by which we are saved--the cross and the resurrection--to the great motivation that brought Christ to earth, to the promise of God which underlies everything else and makes covenant with us, a covenant, a new arrangement for living. Whenever you see

this word "covenant" in Scripture, it is not so much as a contract that God makes with man. Primarily, it is a new basis for life, an arrangement for living. This covenant goes further than simply saving Noah; it is to govern his life and the life of the world after the flood is over. It requires but one attitude on Noah's part--obedience.

- How did Noah fit all the animals in the ark?
 - If the Bible is wrong about physical details like this, it can be wrong about spiritual details (John 3:12)
 - There have been several excellent studies showing how they could have easily fit the animals on the ark, even dinosaurs
 - Remember there were no sea creatures on the ark, just birds and animals
 - No insects (verse Gen. 7:22) - insects have no nostrils
 - Probably no plants except those for food
 - Ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, 45 feet high, would have been capable of holding 125,000 animals of sheep-sized animals - you could put 520 modern railroad cars in it
 - Authorities on taxonomy estimate that there are less than 18,000 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians living in the world today. We might double this to allow for extinct species. This would give us 36,000 species times 2, or 72,000 animals. Adding for the clean animals, we might say there were as many as 75,000 animals. There was room enough in the Ark for 125,000 sheep-sized animals, but most animals are smaller than a common house cat. However, there may have been far fewer animals if Noah only took on board pairs of "kinds" as the word is used in Genesis 1. God created these "kinds" with potential for rich genetic diversity. For instance, at the time of Christ there existed only two types of dogs. All the diversity we see in the modern breeds of dogs came from these two!
 - Because there were far fewer species, there were probably about 16,000 animals in total on the ark
 - Some of the animals were not fully grown - larger dinosaurs may have been young specimens
 - Ark only held the animals God brought to Noah - this may not have even included the dinosaurs.
 - The ark was definitely big enough! In fact there would have been plenty of room, suggesting that there was room for more people.
 - The care of the animals - Noah was instructed to include food for the animals (Gen. 6:21). How Noah and his small family could have cared for this large menagerie is unknown, not to mention the sanitation problem!
 - What we must remember is that this event, i.e., the Flood, had supernatural elements. For instance, the animals came to the Ark against their natural instincts (Gen. 6:20). It is therefore reasonable to assume, as some creationists do, that the animals' metabolism may have been slowed down during their confinement, even to the point where some of the animals may have gone into a state of hibernation.

Next lesson, we study the Flood itself in Chapter 7-8!

Dusty Rhodes