

# Pagan Literature

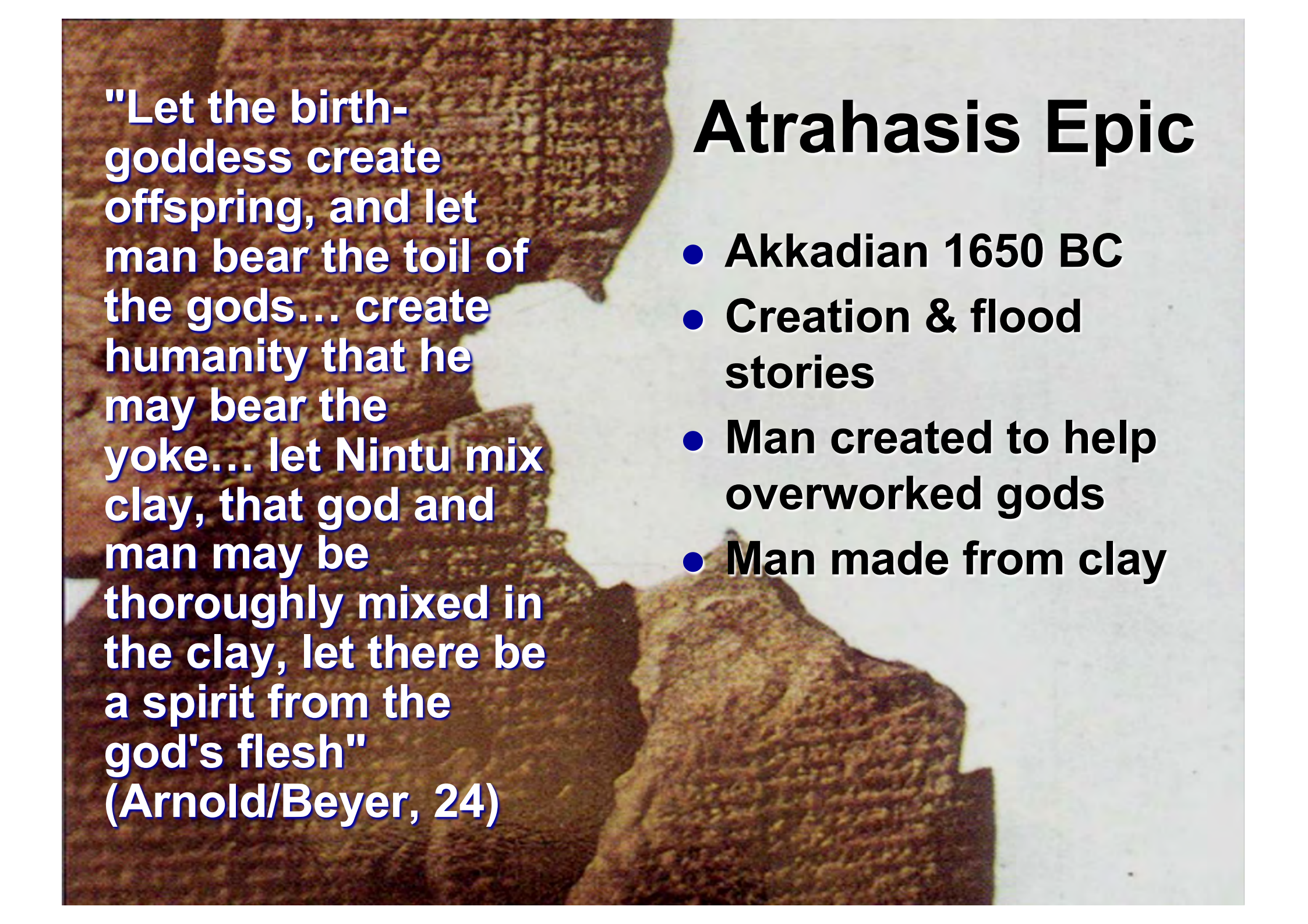
*Ancient Near East Backgrounds  
to the Old Testament*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary  
BibleStudyDownloads.org

# Narratives Parallel to Genesis

- **Memphite Theology**
- **Enuma Elish**
- **Atrahasis Epic**
- **Gilgamesh Epic**
- **Creation**
- **Creation**
- **Creation & Flood**
- **Flood**





**"Let the birth-goddess create offspring, and let man bear the toil of the gods... create humanity that he may bear the yoke... let Nintu mix clay, that god and man may be thoroughly mixed in the clay, let there be a spirit from the god's flesh"  
(Arnold/Beyer, 24)**

# **Atrahasis Epic**

- **Akkadian 1650 BC**
- **Creation & flood stories**
- **Man created to help overworked gods**
- **Man made from clay**

# Atrahasis Epic

- Anu, the high god
- Man too noisy
- Atrahasis built boat
- Pitch used
- Animals caught
- Rained 7 days
- Regretted Flood

(Arnold/Beyer, 21-31)

# Genesis

- Yahweh, the only God
- Man too sinful
- Noah built boat
- Pitch used
- God brought animals
- Rained 40 days
- Rainbow promise

(Genesis 6–9)

# Questions We All Must Answer

## Genesis = "Beginnings"

- **Origin:** Where did we come from?
- **Purpose:** Why am I here? Is there meaning?
- **Morality:** Why is there evil in the world?
- **Destiny:** Where am I going? Is there hope?

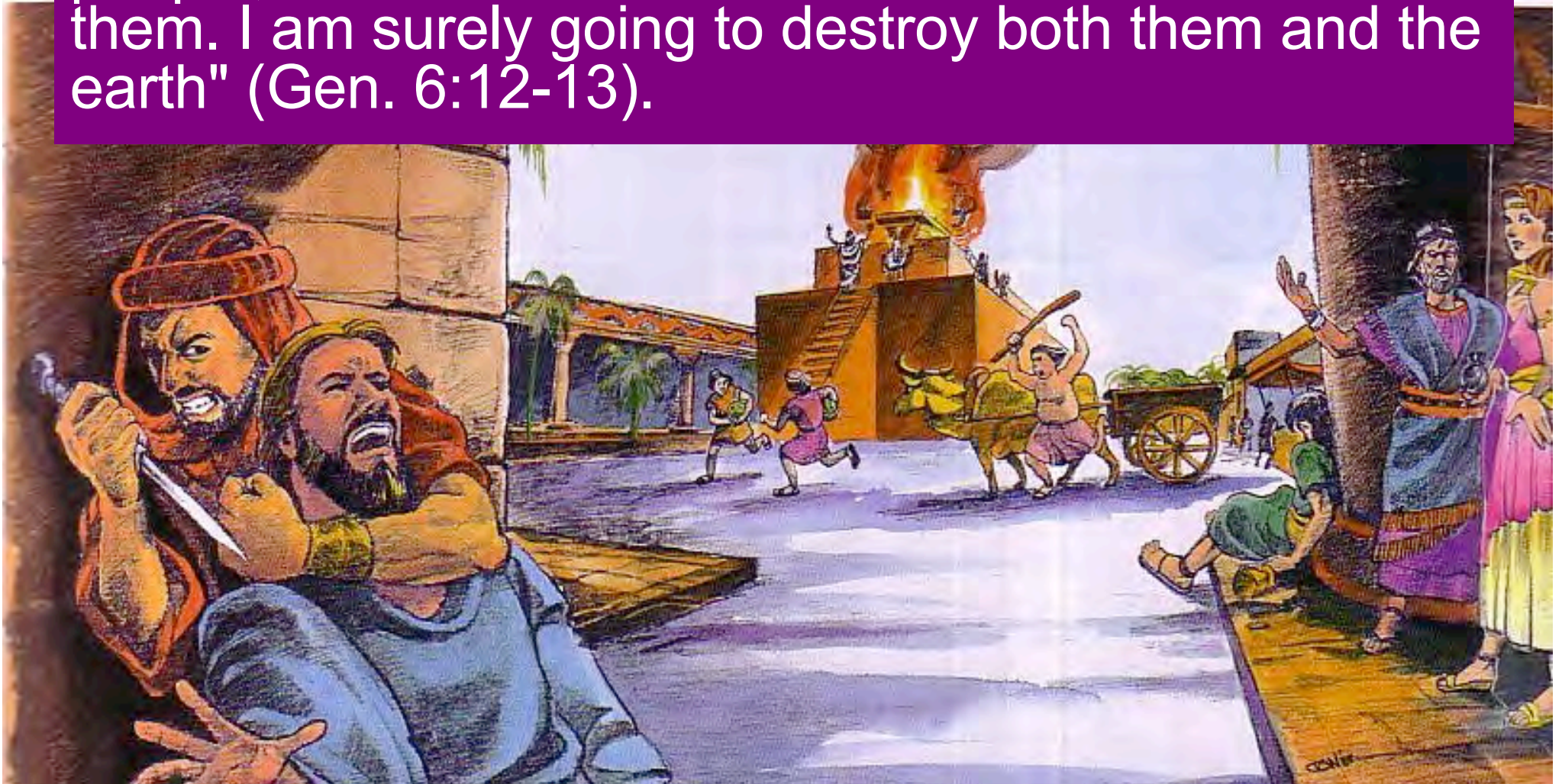
# Noah's Character

**"And the LORD said, 'I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them. <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor with the LORD'" (6:7-8 NLT).**

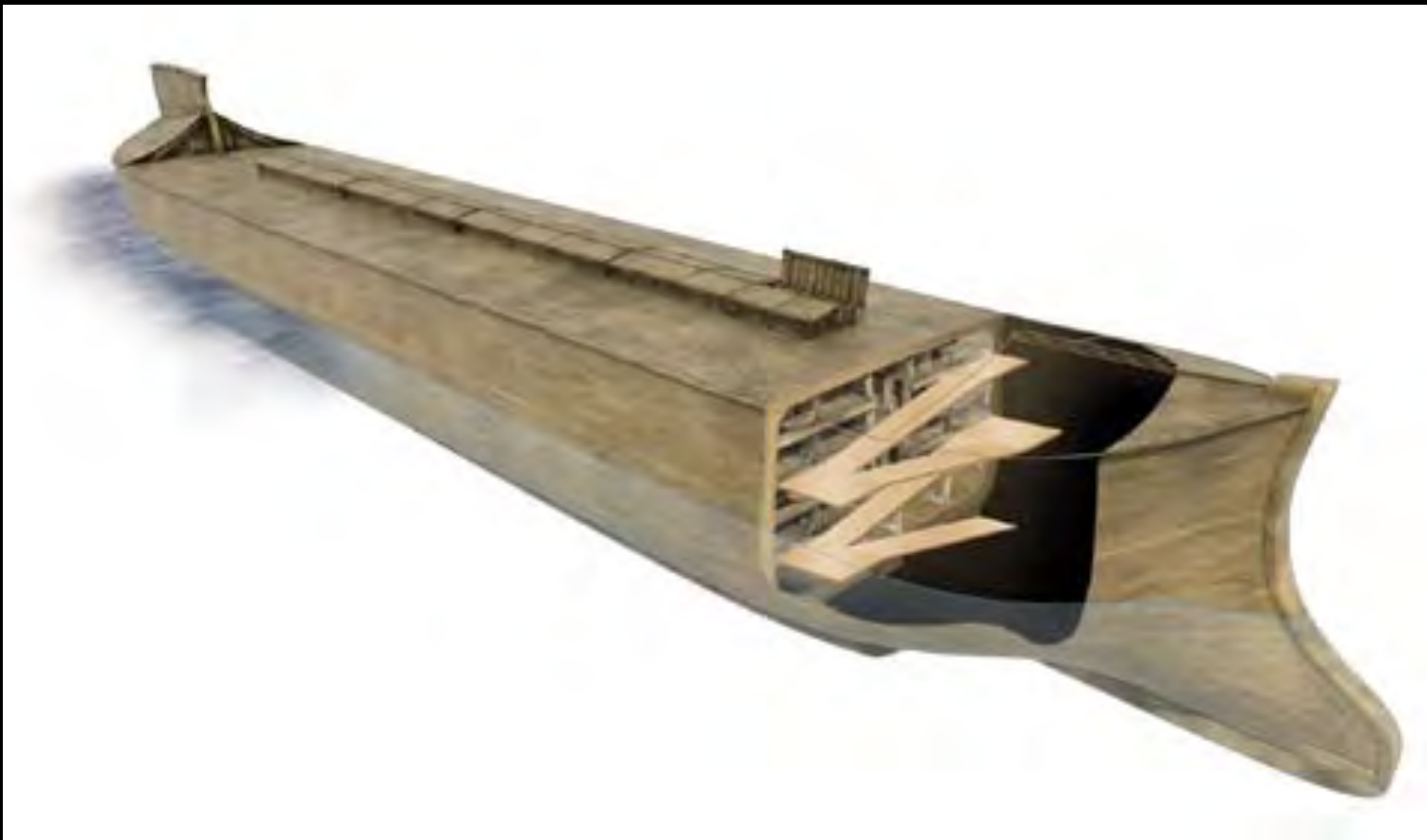


# Need for a new start...

God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup>So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth" (Gen. 6:12-13).

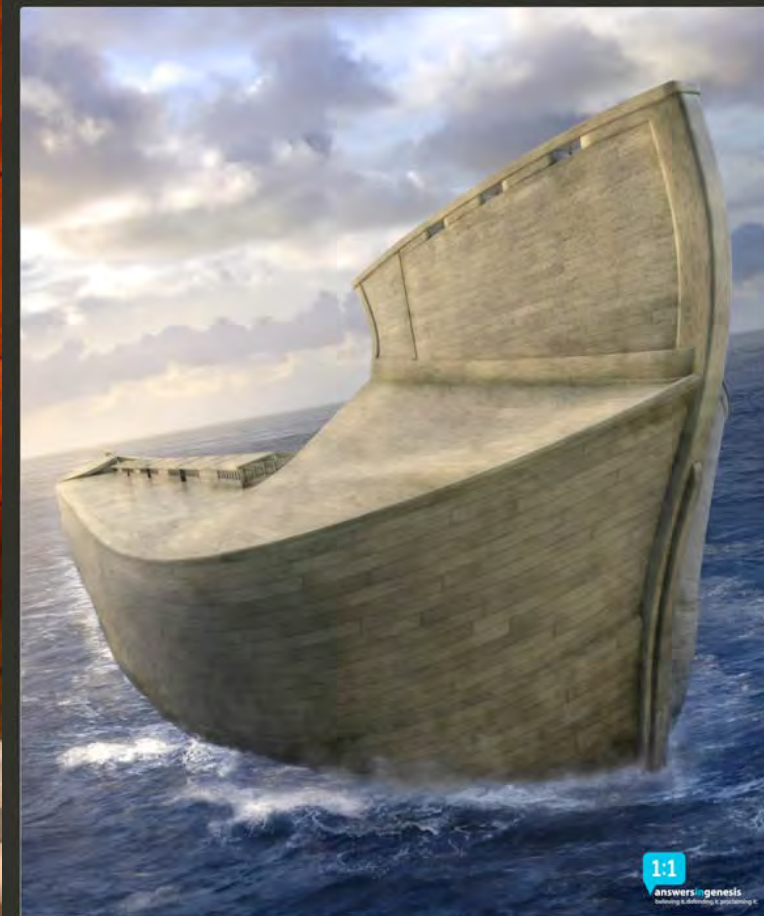






"It was **by faith** that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his **faith** Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes **by faith**" (Heb. 11:5 NLT)

**"By Faith..." (Hebrews 11)**



1:1  
answers to genesis  
building & defining a profession ©

## NOAH'S ARK

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch (Genesis 6:13-14).

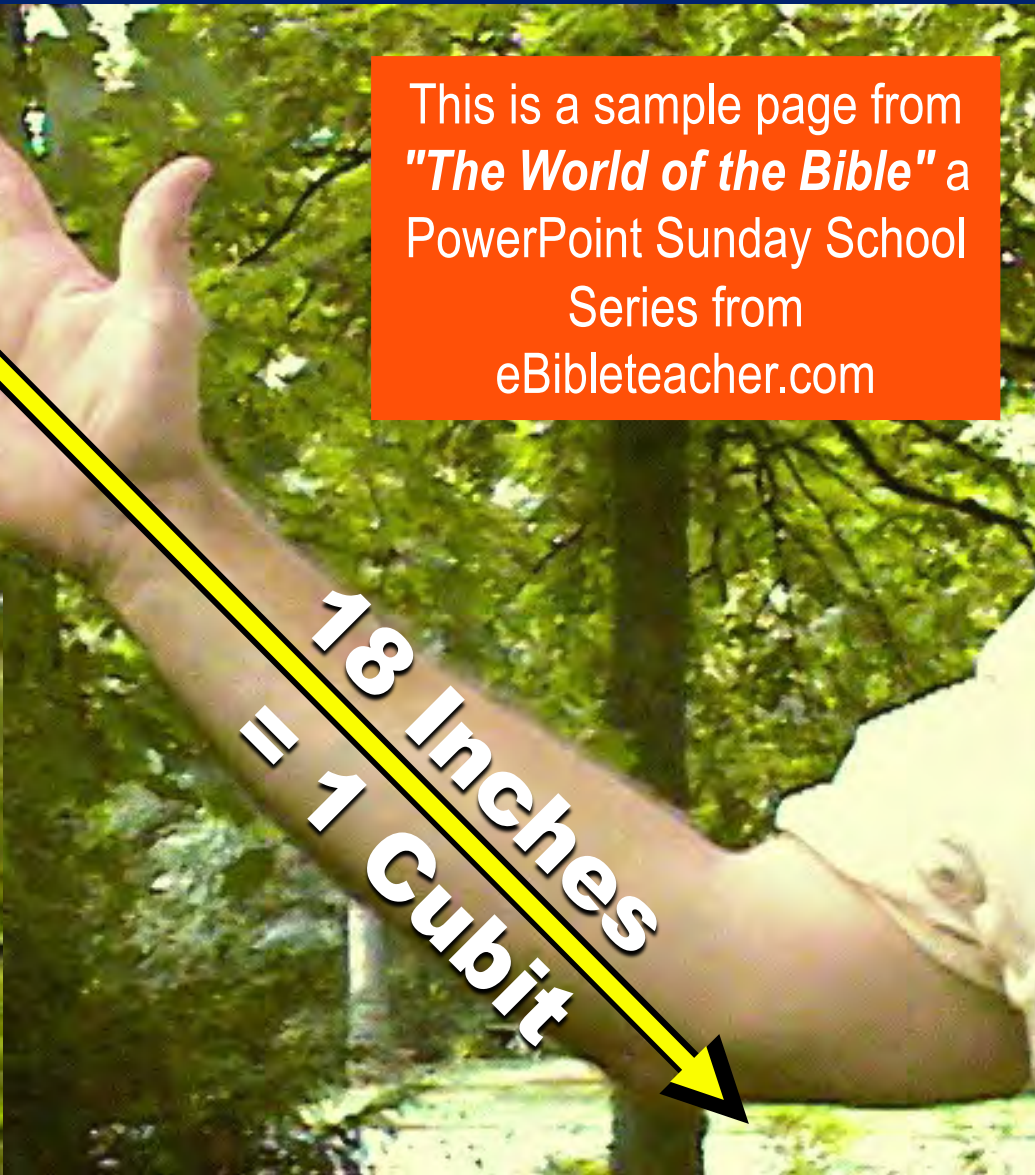






**B  
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B  
L  
E**

This is a sample page from  
*"The World of the Bible"* a  
PowerPoint Sunday School  
Series from  
eBibleteacher.com



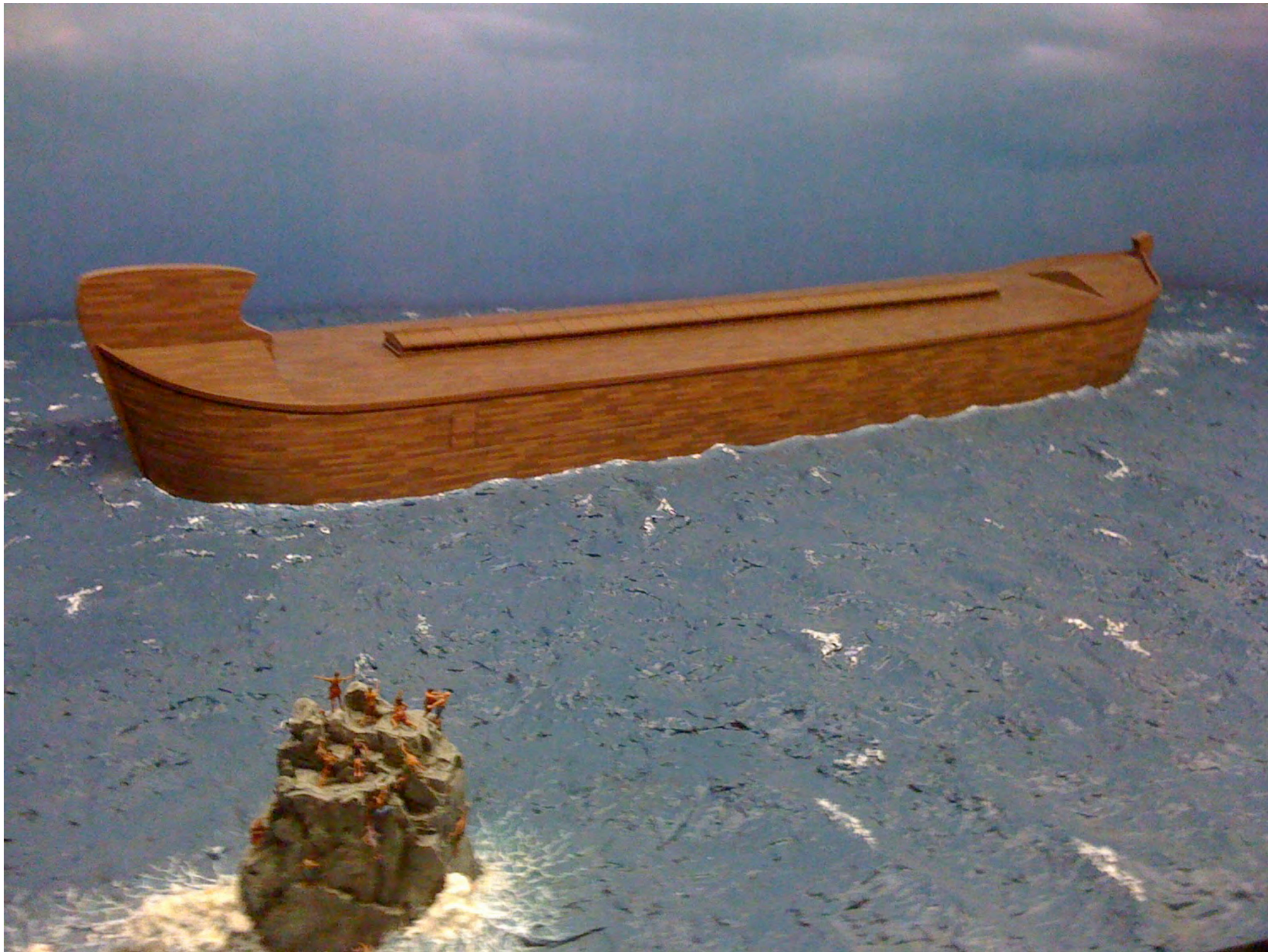
**Length Measurement**

# Noah's Ark Size

- The ark was 300 cubits long (450 feet), 50 cubits wide (75 feet) and 30 cubits tall (45 feet) Gen 6:15







# Flood Chronology

Day  
0



**God Shuts the Door**

Noah and his family sealed within the ark (Gen 7:16).

Day  
7



**Flood Begins**

Waters trapped deep in the ground break open on the land in 40 days of hard rain with volcanic eruptions, erosion, earthquakes, and more (Gen 7:12, 17). Waters cover the whole earth (Gen 7:18-20). All land creatures die (Gen 7:21-22).

Day  
47



**Day 47 of Flood—Intense Rainfall Ends**

For 110 more days, the waters cover the earth (Gen 7:24), as the rain and eruptions continue. Many layers of mud laid down, full of dead things. They have now turned into rocks and fossils.

Finally, the water begins to go down.

Day  
157



**Ark Lands on New Ararat Mountains (Gen 8:4)**

For 74 days, Noah and his family wait while the water continues to go down. A great wind (Gen 8:1) helps to drive the water off the land. The mountains continue to rise and valleys form. The flood waters continue to collect in the new oceans.

7  
Days

40  
Days

110  
Days

74  
Days

# Flood Chronology

Day  
231



## Other Mountains Appear

For 40 more days, all in the ark wait while plants begin to grow (Gen 8:7).

40  
Days

Day  
271



## Noah Sends Out a Raven (Gen 8:7)

After each of four 7-day periods, Noah sends out a dove (Gen 8:8, 10, 12). The water level keeps dropping.

28  
Days

Day  
299



## Last Dove Sent Does Not Come Back

Noah waits 22 more days while the earth continues to dry.

22  
Days

Day  
321



## Most of the Water is Off the Land (Gen 8:14).

For 57 more days, the land dries until it is dry enough for animal life (Gen 8:14).

57  
Days

Day  
378



## Leaving the Ark

Noah, his family and the animals leave the ark to make homes on the changed land.



## Noah Builds Altar (Gen 8:20)

Rainbow (Gen 9:14)

# Flood Chiasm

- 7 days of waiting for flood (7:4)
- 7 days of waiting for flood (7:10)
- 40 days of flood (7:17a)
- 150 days of water triumphing (7:24)
- **God remembered Noah (8:1)**
- 150 days of water waning (8:3)
- 40 days of waiting (8:6)
- 7 days of waiting (8:10)
- 7 days of waiting (8:12)

– Gordon Wenham, *Genesis 1–15*, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word Books, 1994)

## Ages of people when they died



Adam  930 Years



Methuselah  969 Years



Noah  950 Years



Shem  600 Years



Abraham  175 Years



Moses  120 Years



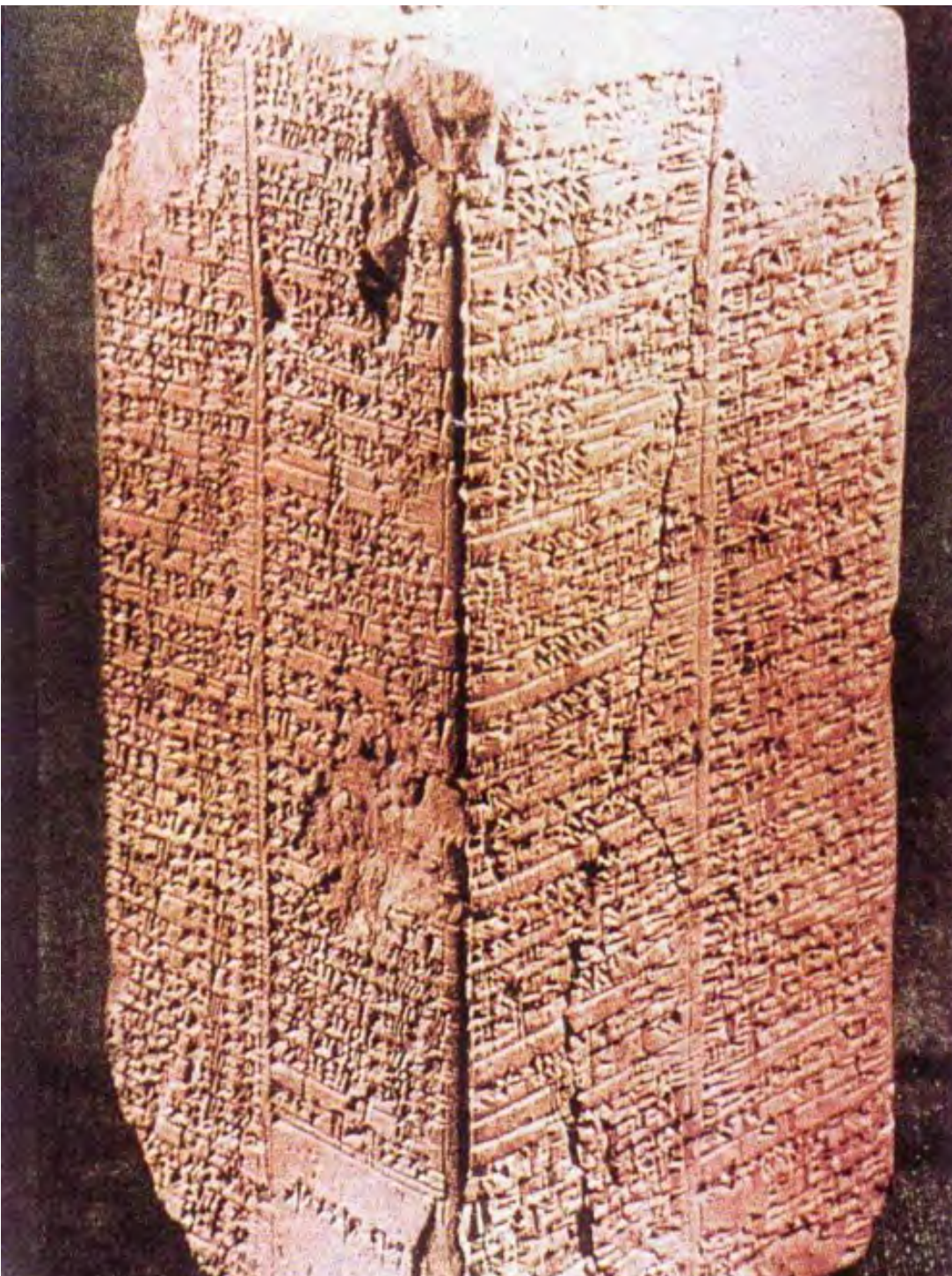
David  70 Years

The Flood explains why life spans shortened

# *Sumerian King List*

Inscribed about 1800  
BC (about 600 years  
after the Flood)

Ten of these kings  
before the Flood are  
said to have lived  
between 21,000 to  
43,200 years each  
(cf. Gen. 5)



"When kingship came  
down from heaven. . .

Alulim became king and  
reigned for 28,800 years...

Eight kings reigned for  
241,000 years. *Then the  
flood waters streamed over  
the earth.*"

## *Sumerian King List*

### King & Years of Reign

Alulim	<b>28,800</b>
Alalgar	36,000
Enmenluanna	43,200
Enmengalanna	<b>28,800</b>
Dumuzi	36,000
Ensipazianna	<b>28,800</b>
Enmeduranna	21,000
Urbatutu	18,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>241,000</b>

# AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha

90

I JUST TURNED 969  
YEARS OLD AND PEOPLE  
KEEP TELLING ME HOW  
OLD I AM. I TELL THEM  
I'M NOT OLD! THE  
EARTH IS OLD! IT'S  
ALMOST 700 YEARS  
OLDER THAN  
I AM!

www.AnswersInGenesis.org



Methuselah

Methuselah believed in an "Old Earth."

# Noah's Ark

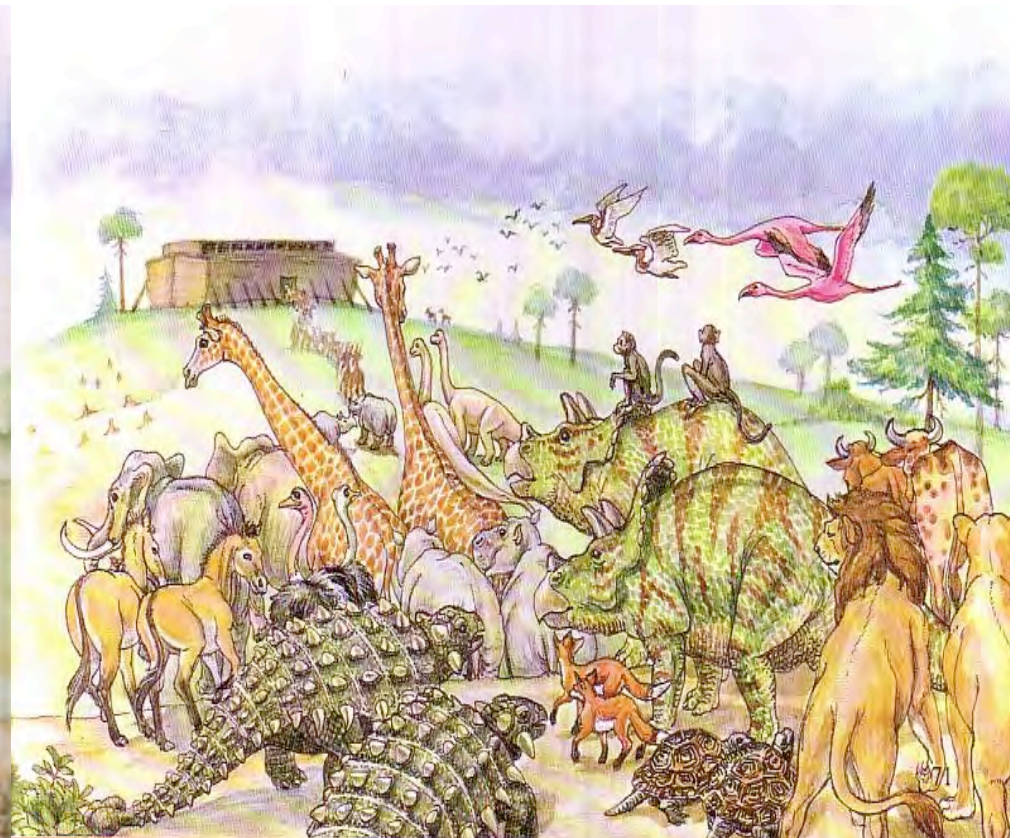
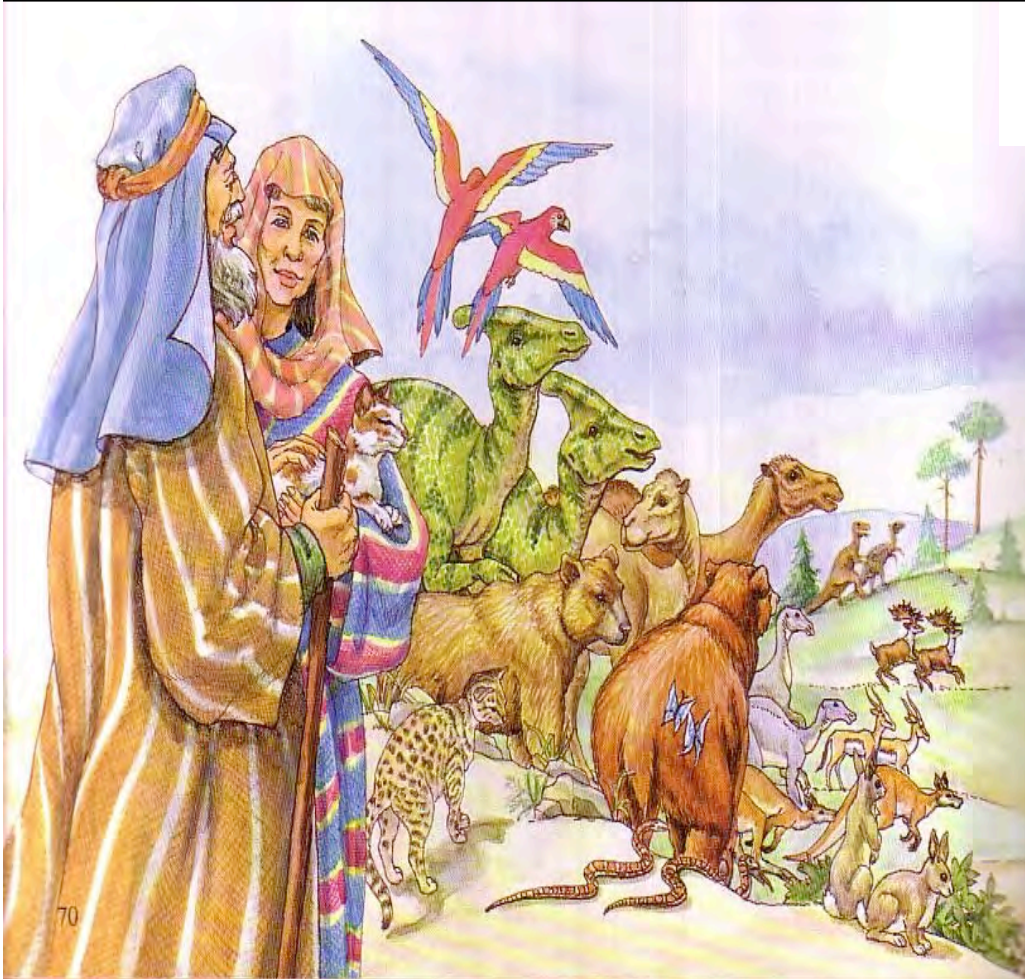
and the  
Ararat Adventure



**Why Not  
Dinosaurs on  
Noah's Ark?**

# Genesis 6:19 NIV

**"You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you."**



# The ark even had woodpeckers



*"two animals of every kind..."*

# Genesis 7



**Does it really matter if there  
really was a universal Flood?**

***Genesis 7–8***

# Dr. Hugh Ross: A Mid-East Flood Advocate

<http://www.reasons.org/exploring-extent-flood-what-bible-says-part-two>



**"The Genesis Flood may well have extended beyond Mesopotamia. Most of the place names recorded in Genesis 2–8 are associated with locations within Mesopotamia, but some are not. The notable exceptions are the Pishon and Gihon rivers, which flowed from the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula. It seems possible that the Genesis Flood inundated not only **all of Mesopotamia** but also the **entire Persian Gulf region** and much of **southern Arabia** as well."**

# Dr. Hugh Ross: A Mid-East Flood Advocate

<http://www.reasons.org/exploring-extent-flood-what-bible-says-part-two>



## Why does Ross advocate a limited flood?

1. Presupposition of old earth
2. Meaning of "world" in other OT passages

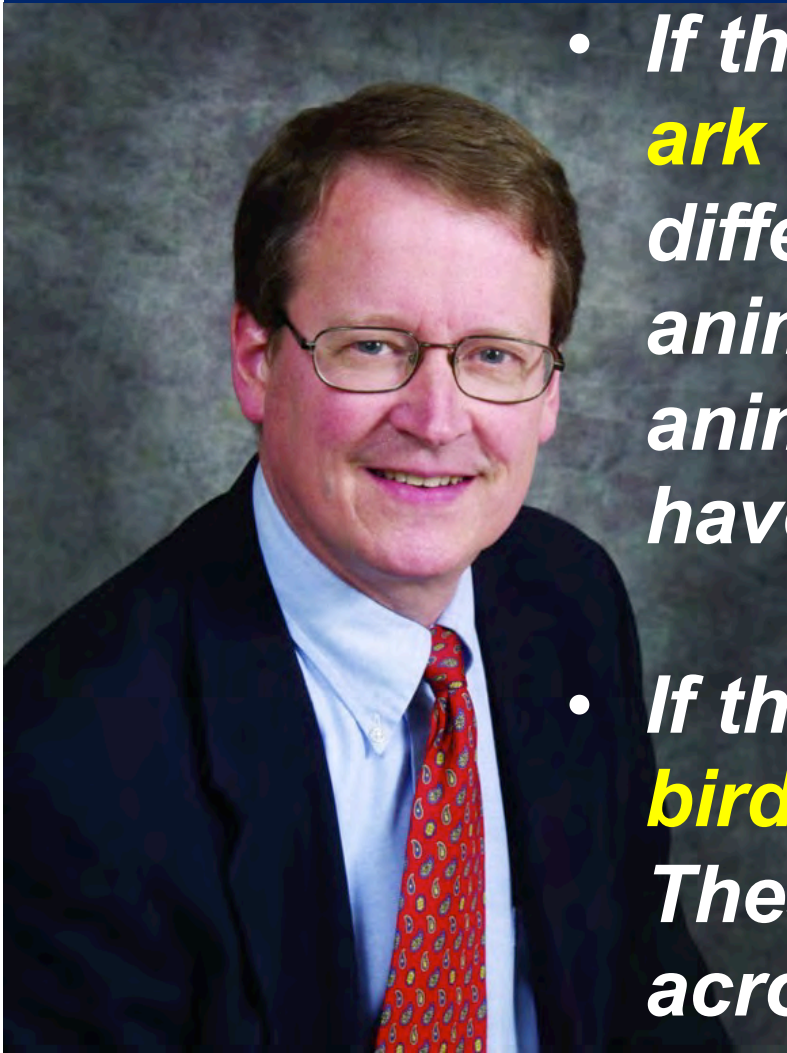
# But why not a local flood?

- *If the Flood was local, **why did Noah have to build an ark?** He could have walked to the other side of the mountains and missed it.*
- *If the Flood was local, **why did God send the animals to the ark** so they could escape death? There would have been other animals to reproduce that kind if these particular ones had died.*



**Ken Ham** & Terry Mortenson, "What's Wrong with Progressive Creationism?"  
in *The New Answers Book 2* [<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/whats-wrong-with-progressive-creation>]

# But why not a local flood?



- *If the Flood was local, **why was the ark big** enough to hold all the different kinds of vertebrate land animals? If only Mesopotamian animals were aboard, the ark could have been much smaller.*
- *If the Flood was local, why would **birds** have been sent on board? These could simply have winged across to a nearby mountain range.*

Ken Ham & **Terry Mortenson**, "What's Wrong with Progressive Creationism?"  
in *The New Answers Book 2* [<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/whats-wrong-with-progressive-creation>]

# But why not a local flood?

- *If the Flood was local, how could the waters rise to 15 cubits (8 meters) above the mountains (Genesis 7:20)? Water seeks its own level. It couldn't rise to cover the local mountains while leaving the rest of the world untouched.*



Ken Ham & Terry Mortenson, "What's Wrong with Progressive Creationism?"  
in *The New Answers Book 2* [<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/whats-wrong-with-progressive-creation>]

# How high was the water?

"The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.  
<sup>19</sup> They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered.  
<sup>20</sup> The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than twenty feet" (Gen. 7:18-20).

# But why not a local flood?

- *If the Flood was local, **people who did not happen to be living in the vicinity would not be affected by it.** They would have escaped God's judgment on sin. If this had happened, what did Christ mean when He likened the coming judgment of all men to the judgment of "all" men in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37–39)? A partial judgment in Noah's day means a partial judgment to come.*

# CREATIONWISE



LOOK AT THAT BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW! IT'S A PROMISE FROM GOD THAT HE'LL NEVER\*AGAIN FLOOD THE ENTIRE EARTH AS HE DID IN NOAH'S DAY!

MY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE PROFESSOR SAID THAT NOAH'S FLOOD DIDN'T COVER THE ENTIRE EARTH.

\*GENESIS 9:8-17

HE TOLD YOU IT WAS JUST A "LOCALIZED" FLOOD?

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!

SO HE BELIEVES  
THAT GOD PROMISED  
TO NEVER AGAIN SEND  
A "LOCALIZED" FLOOD?



DAN LIETHA

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- *If Noah's Flood was local, **God HAS repeatedly broken His promise** never to send such a flood again!*

77j

**A local flood?**

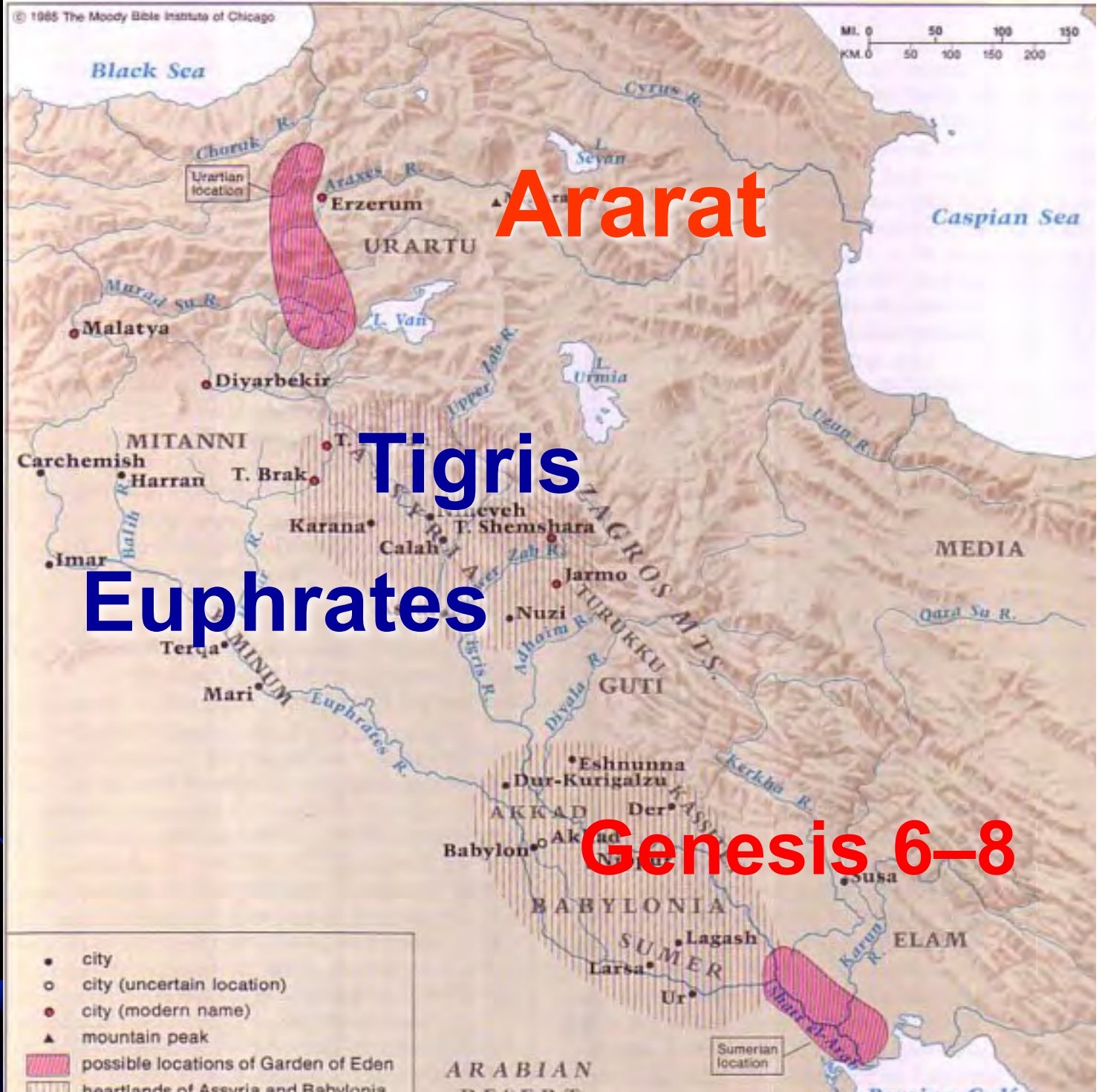


# POSSIBLE LOCATIONS OF EDEN

MAP 20

© 1985 The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

MI. 0 50 100 150  
KM. 0 50 100 150 200



Ararat

Tigris

Euphrates

Genesis 6–8

Barry Beitzel,  
Moody Atlas,  
75

# Rodinia—The World That Perished

## The transformation of Adam's world into today's world

### HELPFUL RESOURCES



#### **Faith, Form, and Time** Kurt P. Wise

Beginning with God and His Word as the standard, Dr. Wise demonstrates that the biblical witness teaches that the age of the universe is not as old as Darwinian theory contends ..... \$14.99

#### **The New Answers Book** Ken Ham, general editor

The NEW Answers Book is packed with biblical answers to 27 of the most important questions on creation/evolution and the Bible. Perfect for anyone looking to understand our world and the Christian faith ..... \$14.99

#### **Something from Nothing** Kurt P. Wise & Sheila A. Anderson

Proves that the universe is not old, and all issues concerning creation and origins can be answered not only by the Bible but also by solid scientific data and research ..... \$14.99

#### **Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together: Global Tectonics and the Flood** Dr. John Baumgardner

This NEW DVD examines how catastrophic plate tectonics could have been a major mechanism in the Genesis Flood model ..... \$12.99

The study of catastrophic plate tectonics (CPT) provides clear insight into how the earth's seven continents may have taken shape out of the supercontinent God created on Day 3 of Creation Week. This developing field of science takes an in-depth look at the earth's plates from a biblical perspective. For a look at the possible history behind the earth's modern formation, see the chart on the reverse side and the products above.

### SCIENTIFIC FACT:

The movement of the continental plates to their present positions did not take millions of years of slow plate shifting.

To order reprints of this 11x17 chart, a 24x18 laminated version, or to order items pictured above, phone 1-800-350-3232, or visit

[www.AnswersBookstore.com](http://www.AnswersBookstore.com)

In Genesis 6–8 we read of a catastrophe that impacted the earth in a way unlike any other disaster since that time. Such a catastrophe would impact not only the earth's atmosphere and inhabitants but also its very foundations. The earth's landmass during Adam's day was extremely different from the seven continents of our modern world. But what caused it to change so drastically? Catastrophic plate tectonics (CPT) is one possible contributing factor.



# THE WORLD THAT PERISHED

The transformation of Adam's world into today's world



## Rodinia

Most secular and biblical geologists believe that all the land has been together more than once. One of these supercontinents is called "Rodinia" (from the Russian word for "motherland"). Although scientists continue to debate its exact shape, when God spoke the dry land into existence on Day 3 of Creation Week (Genesis 1:9–10), He may have created a landmass similar to Rodinia.



Breakup



Pangaea



Transitional Period



## Flood Period

The worldwide Flood covered the entire globe—over the highest mountains of that day by more than 15 cubits (up to 26 ft [8m]) (Genesis 7:20).



## Today's World

Today, we are left with evidence that the continents moved apart in the past. For example, the coastlines of South America and Africa fit together, like pieces of a puzzle.

Catastrophic plate movement also explains the fascinating magnetic pattern found in ocean floor rocks. These rocks record a "zebra stripe" pattern of magnetic pole reversals, switching back and forth between north and south (see below).

### Break-Up

The Flood began with a breakup of the "fountains of the great deep" and an opening of the "windows of heaven" (Genesis 7:11; see below). This may have been the result of the breakup of the original supercontinent into huge plates of the earth's crust. These plates split, moved, and collided throughout the duration of the Flood.

### Pangaea

There is evidence that suggests that, after the breakup, the land again smashed together, forming another supercontinent called Pangaea. This temporary supercontinent formed and broke up entirely during the Flood.

### Transitional Period

Still during the flood, Pangaea broke apart, first into Laurasia and Gondwana and finally into the continents we have today. At the end of this period the Indian subcontinent slammed into the Eurasian plate, forming the Himalayan mountains.

## "Fountains" and "Windows"

When Noah, his family, and their cargo of animals were safely aboard the Ark, the Flood began.

Thousands of miles of the earth's crust (surface rock plates) split apart along lines traversing the globe. The mantle (hot rock beneath) rose to fill the voids between the splitting plates. When this 2,000°F (1,093°C) rock contacted the cool sea-

water above it, the seawater flashed into steam. This formed a line of steam jets along the boundaries of the plates (possibly the "fountains of the great deep").

The immense and incredibly powerful steam jets shot tens of thousands of feet into earth's atmosphere. Significant amounts of seawater were also lifted into the atmosphere. For several weeks, this

fell to the earth as intense global rain (possibly the "windows of heaven").

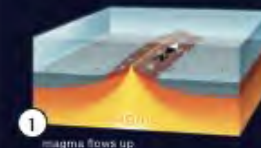
The rising of the mantle through earth's crust also resulted in a temporary rise in the global sea level, causing the oceans to flood the continents.

These simultaneous activities resulted in the dramatic shifting of the earth's crust to produce today's seven continents.

### Magnetic Reversals

Within the catastrophic plate tectonics model, heat was rapidly lost from earth's outer core. This cooling resulted in the earth's magnetic field quickly reversing during the Flood. These magnetic reversals were expressed at the earth's

surface as short periods of normal magnetization alternating with short periods of reversed magnetization. Illustrations 1–3 show how the reversals were expressed as a "zebra stripe" pattern on either side of the mid-ocean ridge.



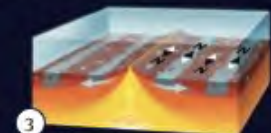
1

magma flows up



2

magma spreads and cools rapidly



3

rapid cooling leads to magnetic field reversals

# Genesis 8

# Flood Significance

- **God's righteous judgment**
- **God's gracious redemption**
- **Water baptism (1 Pet. 3:20-21)**

NLT 1 Peter 3:20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.  
<sup>21</sup>And this is a picture of baptism. . .



# 270 Flood Legends



**Babylonia**



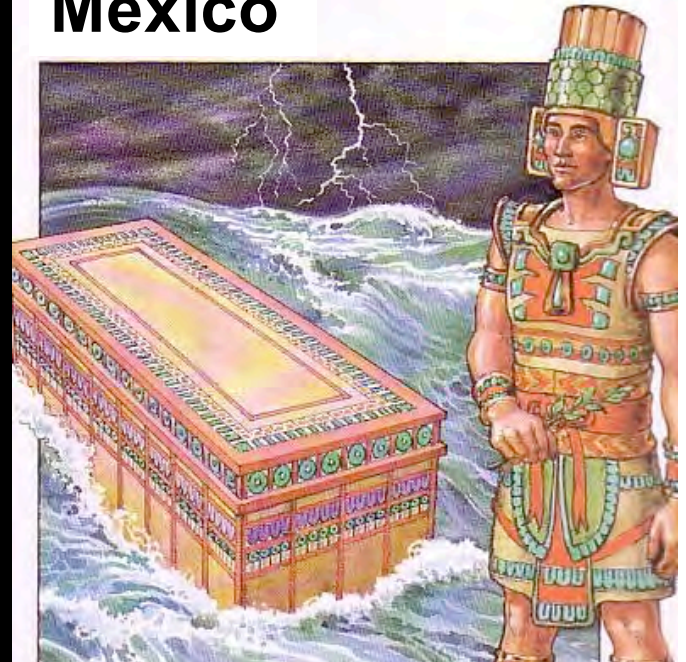
**Hawaii**

83c



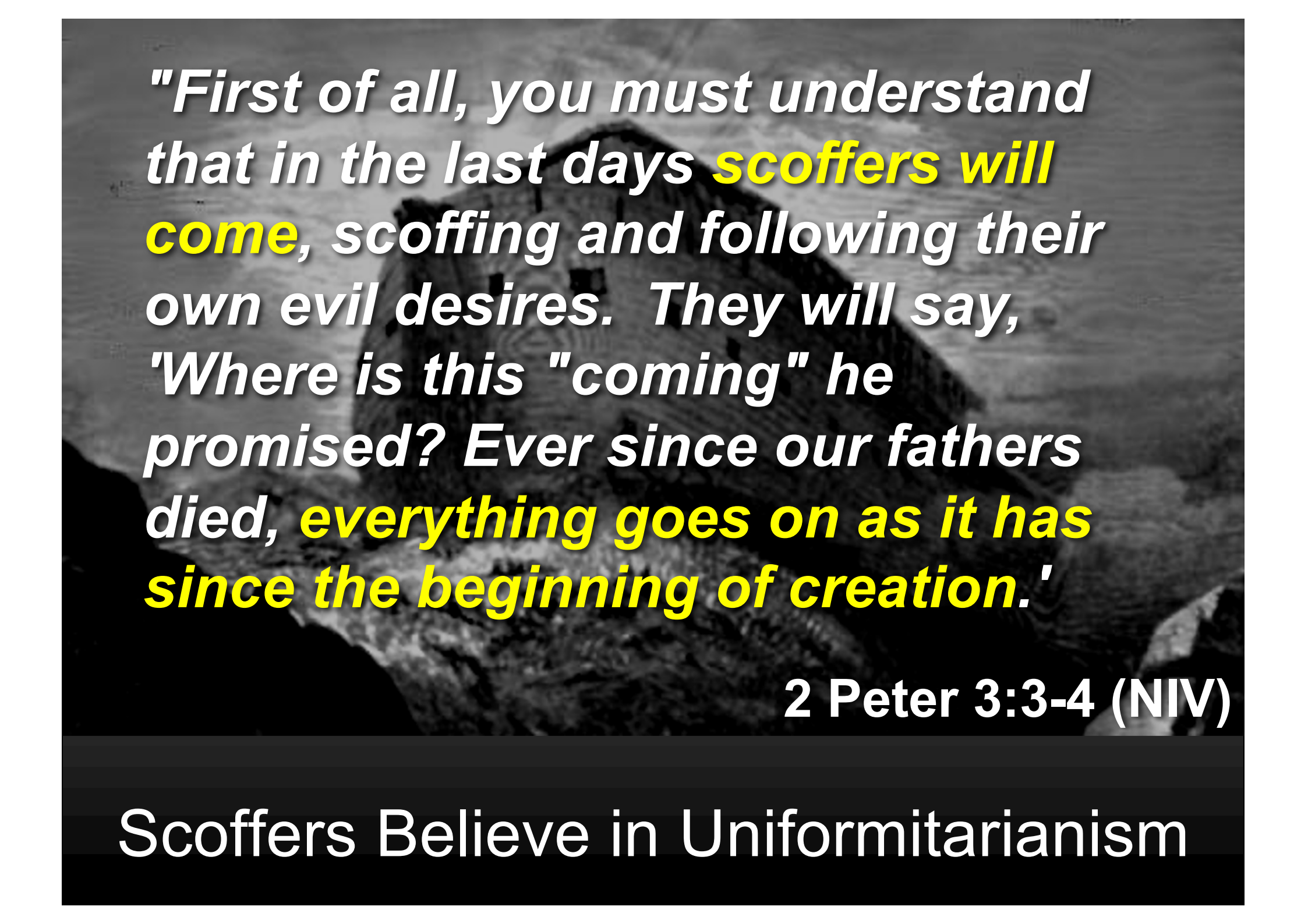
**China**

**Mexico**



## Common Elements:

- universal flood
- boat saved
- family passengers



*"First of all, you must understand that in the last days **scoffers will come**, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this "coming" he promised? Ever since our fathers died, **everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.**'"*

**2 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV)**

**Scoffers Believe in Uniformitarianism**

*"But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and **the earth was formed out of water** and by water. By these waters also **the world of that time was deluged** and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."*

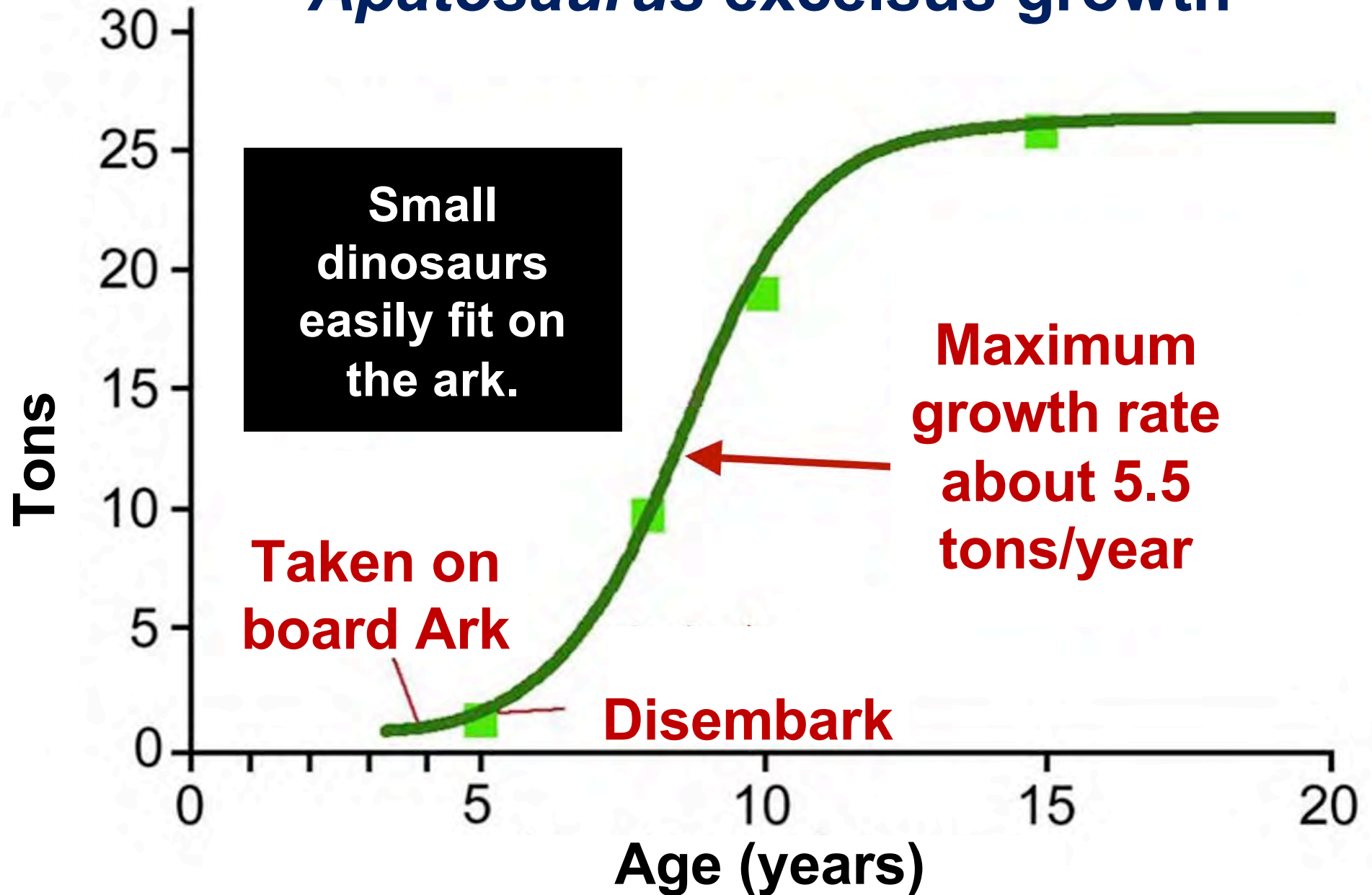
**2 Peter 3:5-7 (NIV)**

**Scoffers Doubt the Flood**

**Adam and Eve lived with dinosaurs centuries earlier, so why would we think that dinosaurs died out by the Flood?**



# *Apatosaurus excelsus* growth



After Erickson *et al.*, Dinosaurian growth patterns and rapid avian growth rates, *Nature* 412(6845):429-433, Figure 2.

# Dinosaurs Lived Recently



- Behemoth--giant vegetarian (Job 40:15-24)
- Leviathan--ferocious meat eater (Job 41)
- British King Morvidus was killed by a monster by being "gulped down... as a big fish swallows a little one" (336 BC)
- A monster was killed in 1693 in Bedd-yr-Afanc, England
- Monsters have been reported in nearly 200 places in England alone



# *Beowulf* & the Creatures of Denmark

- Danish poem extols Beowulf (AD 495-583)--later king for 50 years
- The monster Grendel ("grinder, destroyer") preyed on Danes 12 years (AD 503-515)
- This hero cleared monstrous animals from the sea lanes between Denmark and Sweden
- He then pulled out Grendel's small arm, who retreated to his cave and bled to death



# Japanese Fisherman's Dead Monster

(*The Times* 21 July 1977)

- Two tons & ten meters long
- Caught at 330 meters deep ocean near Christchurch
- Plesiosaurus: huge, small-headed reptiles with long neck and four fins
- Photographed and sketched by marine biologist Michihiko Yano
- Captain threw it back into sea for fear of contaminating his fish.
- Soon after BBC reported it to be a shark (30 July 1977)!



# Is *This* a Shark?!

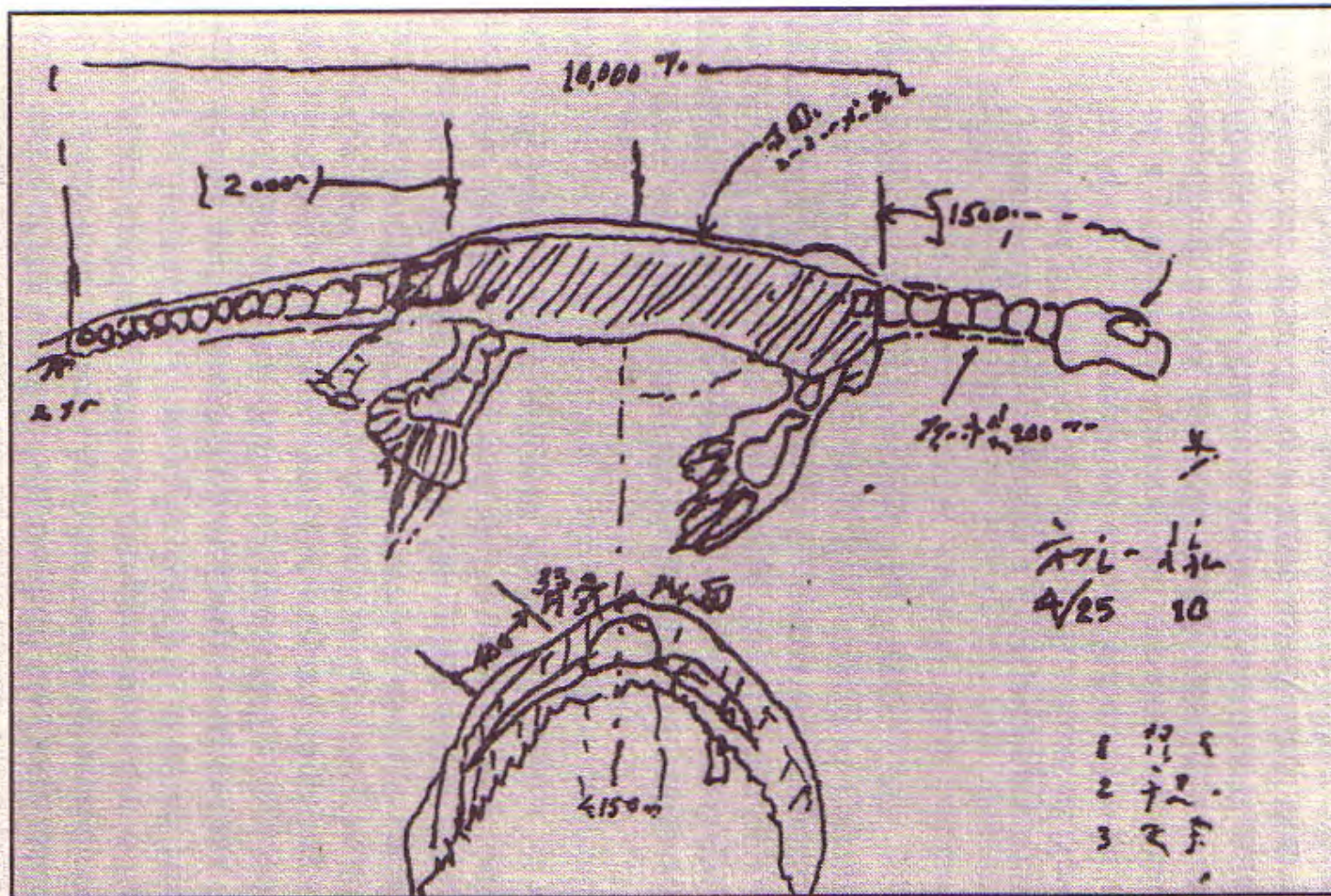


Figure 10.1 The drawing and measurements made by Michihiko Yano of the creature's skeleton that was dredged up off the New Zealand coast in 1977, and which the BBC and British Museum of Natural History would assure us was the body of a dead shark.

A satellite photograph of Mt. Ararat in eastern Turkey, showing the mountain's snow-capped peak and surrounding terrain. A white arrow points from the text 'Mt. Ararat' to the mountain's peak.

**Mt. Ararat**

- **A view from space of snow-covered Mt. Ararat and Little Ararat--inactive volcanoes located in eastern Turkey. Mount Ararat rises over 3 miles above sea level. This mountain is the traditional resting place of Noah's ark.**

# Genesis 9

# The Meaning of Each Patriarch's Name in the 10 Generations

## Genealogy of Genesis 5

(with their Hebrew meaning.)

אָדָם	Adam	=	“Man” (is)
שֵׁת	Seth	=	“Appointed”
אֵנוֹשׁ	Enosh	=	“Mortal”
קֵינָן	Kenan	=	“Sorrow” (but)
מַהֲלַאֵל	Mahalael	=	“The Blessed God”
יָרֵד	Jared	=	“Shall Come Down”
חֵנוֹךְ	Enoch	=	“Teaching”
מֶתוּשֶׁלַח	Methuselah	=	“His Death Shall Bring”
לָמֶךְ	Lamech	=	(the) “Despairing”
נֹחַ	Noah	=	“Comfort, Rest”

# Worship & the Rainbow



# Noah Wasn't Perfect

"Ham, the father of Canaan, saw that his father was naked and went outside and told his brothers.  
23 Then Shem and Japheth took a robe, held it over their shoulders, and backed into the tent to cover their father. As they did this, they looked the other way so they would not see him naked" (9:22-23 NLT).



# Noah Wasn't Perfect

"When Noah woke up from his stupor, he learned what Ham, his youngest son, had done. <sup>25</sup>Then he cursed Canaan, the son of Ham:

'May Canaan be cursed!  
May he be the lowest of  
servants to his  
relatives'" (9:24-25 NLT).



# Gilgamesh Epic Tablet XI

- Nineveh,  
Iraq
- 650 BC
- Flood  
story  
similar to  
Gen. 6–9



## Gilgamesh Epic

### BABYLONIAN VERSION OF THE FLOOD (2000 BC)

#### *Babylonian Mythology*

- Many gods (Polytheism)
- Gods quarrel /disagree
- Confusion as to why the Flood came
- Adad - thunder  
Ninurta- winds  
Annunaki - lightning

#### *Biblical Account*

- One God (Monotheism)
- A Holy God
- God punished the corrupt people
- Creator / Sustainer of all - executes judgment

# 270 Flood Legends



**Babylonia**



188g

**Hawaii**



**China**

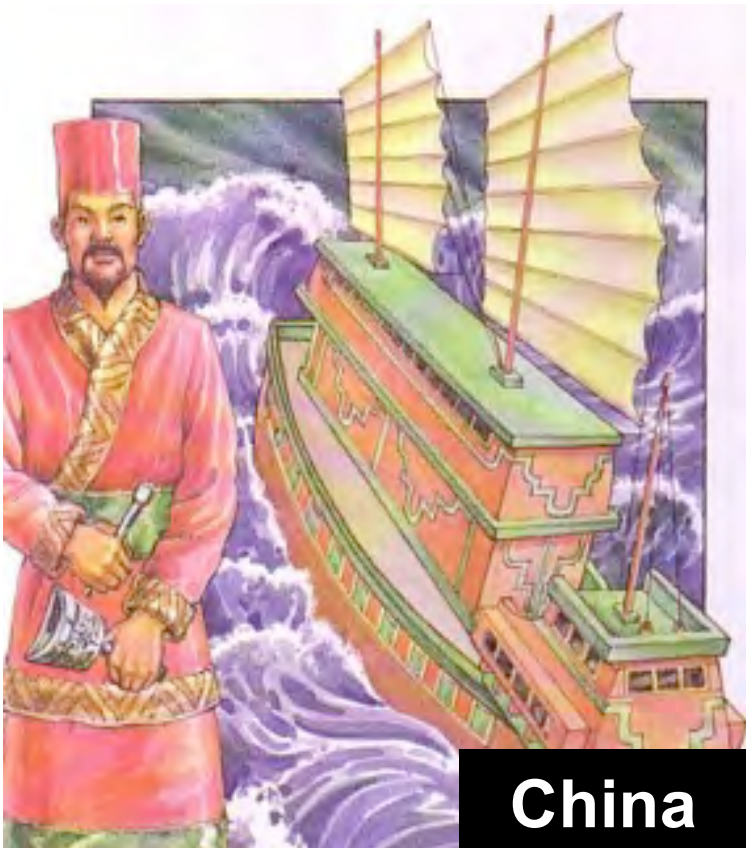
**Mexico**



# Chinese Character for Boat

船 = 舟 + 八 + 口

Vessel      Ship      Eight      Person



Ship      Eight      Mouth of Person



# Types of Pagan Literature

## 1. Historical

- a) Assyrian (e.g., Tiglath-Pileser)
- b) Egyptian (histories of pharaohs)
- c) Babylonian Chronicles
- d) Persian (e.g., Cyrus Cylinder)

## 2.



# Wisdom Literature Parallels

## Amen-em-opet

"Give thine ear, and hear what I say, And apply thine heart to apprehend; It is good for thee to place them in thine heart, let them rest in the casket of thy belly; That they may act as a peg upon thy tongue" (chap. 1)

## Proverbs 22:17–24:22

"Incline thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, And apply thine heart to my doctrine; For it is pleasant if thou keep them in thy belly, that they may be established together upon thy lips" (Proverbs 22:17-18)

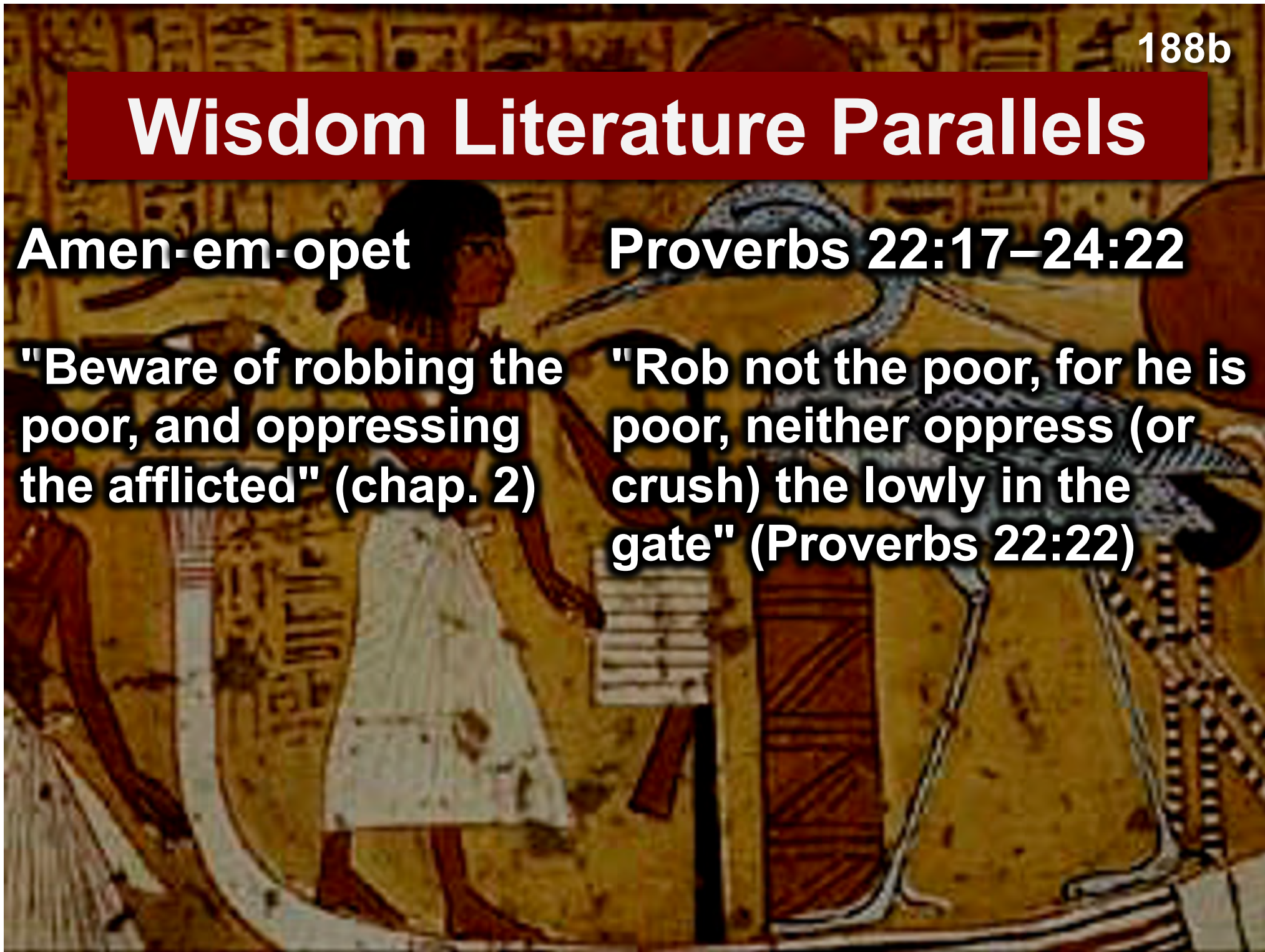
# Wisdom Literature Parallels

**Amen-em-opet**

**"Beware of robbing the poor, and oppressing the afflicted" (chap. 2)**

**Proverbs 22:17–24:22**

**"Rob not the poor, for he is poor, neither oppress (or crush) the lowly in the gate" (Proverbs 22:22)**





# Types of Pagan Literature

## 1. Historical

- a) Assyrian (e.g., Tiglath-Pileser)
- b) Egyptian (histories of pharaohs)
- c) Babylonian Chronicles
- d) Persian (e.g., Cyrus Cylinder)

## 2. Wisdom

- a) Instruction of Amenemope
- b) Egyptian Love Songs



# Wisdom Literature Parallels

- Amen-em-opet
- Egyptian Love Poems
- Proverbs 22:17–24:22
- Song of Solomon

"If only I were a laundryman of my sister's garment even for one month! I would be strengthened by grasping [the clothes] that touch her body (Arnold, 192)

"Your clothes are scented like the cedars of Lebanon" (4:11)



# Types of Pagan Literature

## 1. Historical

- a) Assyrian (e.g., Tiglath-Pileser)
- b) Egyptian (histories of pharaohs)
- c) Babylonian Chronicles
- d) Persian (e.g., Cyrus Cylinder)

## 2. Wisdom

- a) Instruction of Amenemope
- b) Egyptian Love Songs
- c) Hymns & Prayers



# Wisdom Literature Parallels

- Amen-em-opet
- Egyptian Love Poems (Arnold, 192)
- Mari Letters
- Babylonian Theogony
- Babylonian Theodicy
- Proverbs 22:17–24:22
- Song of Solomon
- Akkadian Prophecies
- Murders for Sovereignty
- Dialogue on the Suffering of "Job"



# Types of Pagan Literature

(Continued)

## 3. Prophetic

### a) Mari Prophecy Texts (1800-1760 BC)





# Types of Pagan Literature

(Continued)

## 3. Prophetic

- a) **Mari Prophecy Texts**  
(1800-1760 BC)
- b) **Marduk Prophecy**  
(*Readings from the ANE*, 215)

## 4. Letters

- a) **Amarna Letters**
- b) **Lachish Ostraca**

## 5. Legal (pp. 190-191)

- a) **Similarities**
  - 1) **Hittite Treaties** (suzerain-vassal covenants)
  - 2) **Exodus-Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Josh. 24**

### **Hittite Treaty Format**

(15<sup>th</sup> Century BC, p. 190)

1. **Preamble (speaker intro)**
2. **Historical Prologue**
3. **Stipulations (terms)**
4. **Deposit of Document**
5. **Call for Divine Witnesses**
6. **Cursings & Blessings**

# Laws Before Sinai



**Hammurapi**

**1800 BC**  
**Babylon**



**Moses**

**1400 BC**  
**Mount Sinai**

# Law Codes Parallel to Exodus

## Sumerian

- Reform of Uruinimgina
- Laws of Ur-Nammu
- Laws of Lipit-Ishtar

## Akkadian

- Laws of Eshnunna
- Laws of Hammurapi
- Middle Assyrian Laws

## Hittite

- Hittite laws of Murshilish I or Khattushilish I

# Jewish Laws Were Fairer

## Offense

## Hammurapi

## Moses

Stealing

Death ( § 4)

Restore 2x  
(Exod 22:9)

Burglary

Death ( § 21)

Restore 2x  
(Exod 22:7)

Harboring  
Slave

Death ( § 16)

No offense  
(Deut 23:15)

Injuring  
Slave

Master paid  
( § 199)

Slave freed  
(Exod 21:26-27)

# Jewish Laws Were Fairer

## Offense

Injure rich man

Injure poor man

Kill rich's daughter

Injuring Slave

## Hammurapi

Same as OT  
(§ § 196-197)

Fined one mina of silver ( § 198)

Kill injurer's daughter  
( § 209)

5 silver shekels fine  
( § § 211, 213)

## Moses

Injurer gets same injury

Injurer gets same injury

No class distinctions

No class distinctions

# Hammurapi's Laws in Genesis 192a

1. The **adoption** law made Eliezer Abram's heir (Gen. 15). § 191.
2. The **giving of Hagar** to Abraham (Gen. 16) and of Bilhah (Gen. 30:4) and Zilpah (Gen.30:9) to Jacob, accorded with this code. § 146.
3. The **purchase of Machpelah** by Abraham (Gen. 23) was conducted in strict conformity with its commercial enactments. § 7.
4. The penalty of **death for stealing**, proposed by Jacob to Laban (Gen. 31:32), came from this code that punished sacrilege with death. § 6.

5. The **taking of life by burning**, with which Judah threatened his daughter-in-law Tamar (Gen. 38:24), is also according to the Babylonian code. § 110.
6. The proposal of Joseph's steward, that the one with whom the cup was found should die (Gen. 44:9), harmonized with the law punishing with **death for any theft from a palace**. § 6.

7. The giving of a **special portion by Jacob to his favourite son Joseph** (Gen. 48:22) was provided for by this code. § 165.
8. The **cutting off of Reuben from his birthright** (Gen. 49:4) was the prescribed way of punishing his offence according to Hammurabi's law. § 158.
9. The **inability of Abram to sell Hagar** (Gen. 16:6) accords with Hammurabi, as she was a maidservant who bore Abram children. § 119.

## General Law-Code Differences of the Babylonians vs. the OT

Issue	Hammurapi	Moses
Law-Code Basis	The king's word	The character of Yahweh
Motive not to sin	Offense to a god's whims	God's holiness: "Be holy as I am holy" (Lev. 19:2) and love for Him (Deut. 6:4-5)
Government	Civil	Theocratic
Social distinctions	Many	None
Punishment	Harsh (death penalty common)	Reasonable (capital punishment used sparingly)
Deities	Polytheistic	Monotheistic
Women	Abuse allowed	Respected
Slaves	No rights (no rest, permanent status)	Rights (Sabbath rest, freed after 6 years)
Human life	Cheap & Expendable	Highly valued

# Table of Nations

## JAPHETHITES



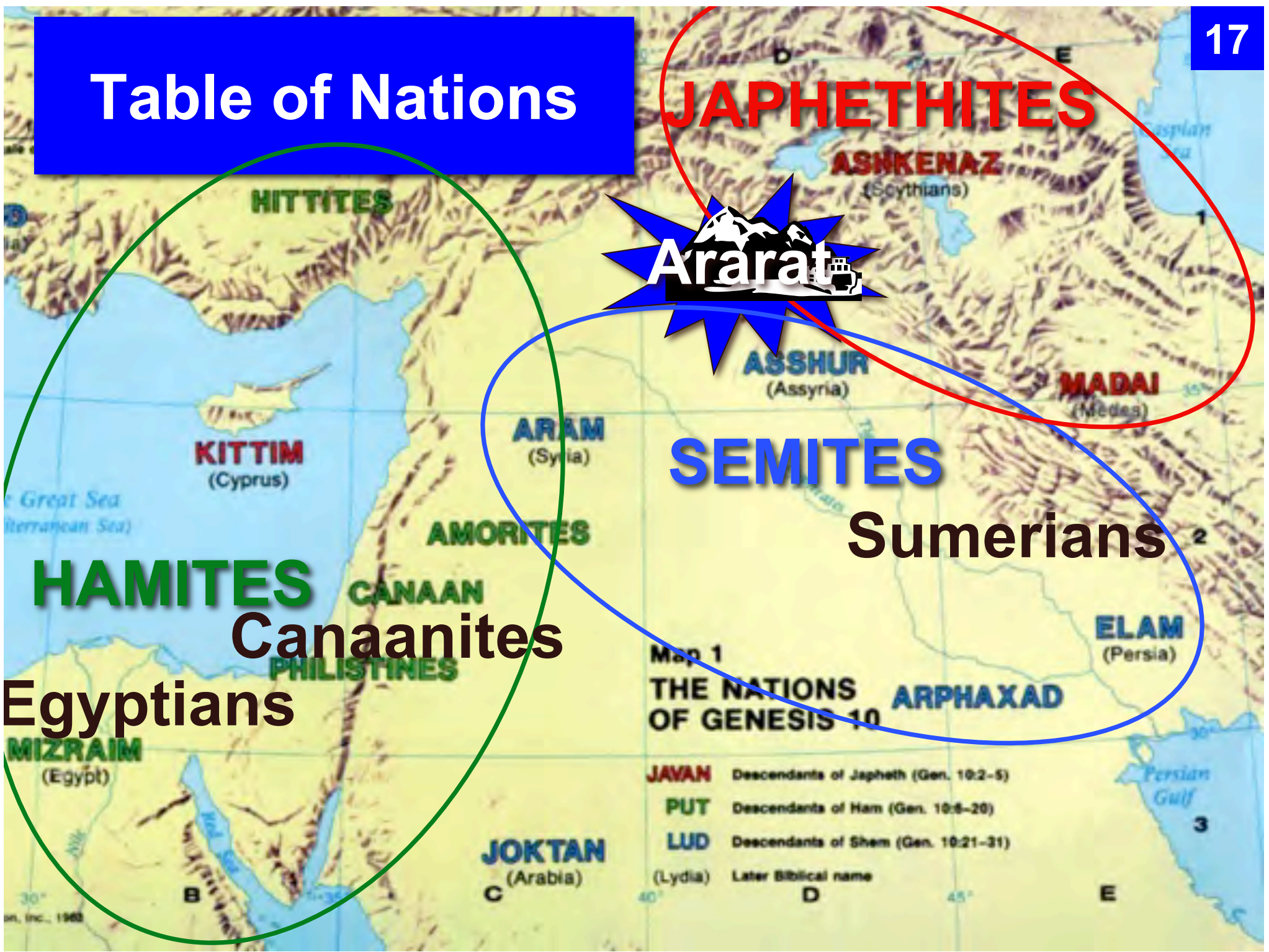
## SEMITES

Sumerians

## HAMITES

Canaanites

Egyptians

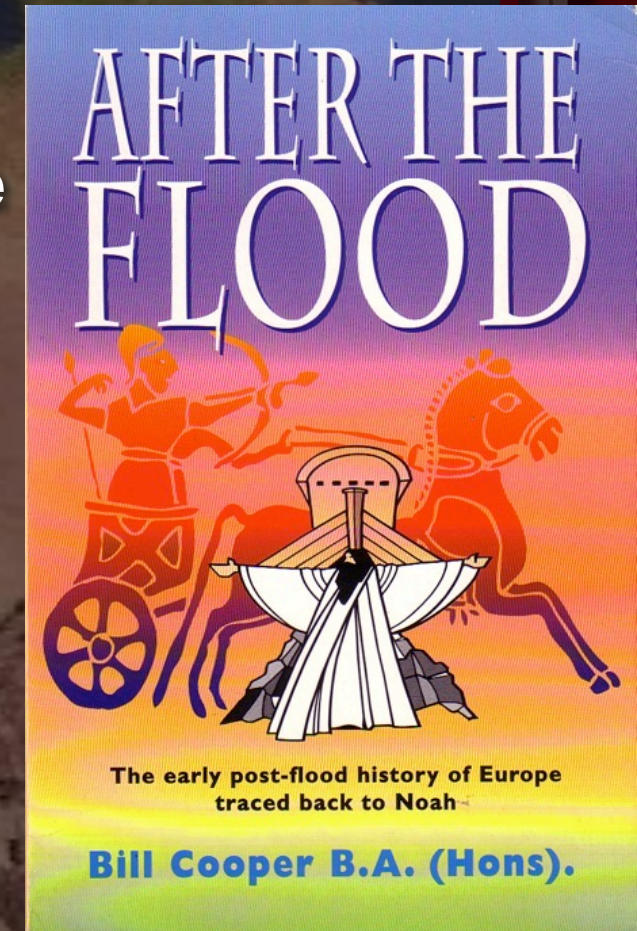


Map 1 THE NATIONS OF GENESIS 10

- JAVAN** Descendants of Japheth (Gen. 10:2-5)
- PUT** Descendants of Ham (Gen. 10:6-20)
- LUD** Descendants of Shem (Gen. 10:21-31)
- (Lydia) Later Biblical name

## Is the Table of Nations Accurate (Gen. 10–11)?

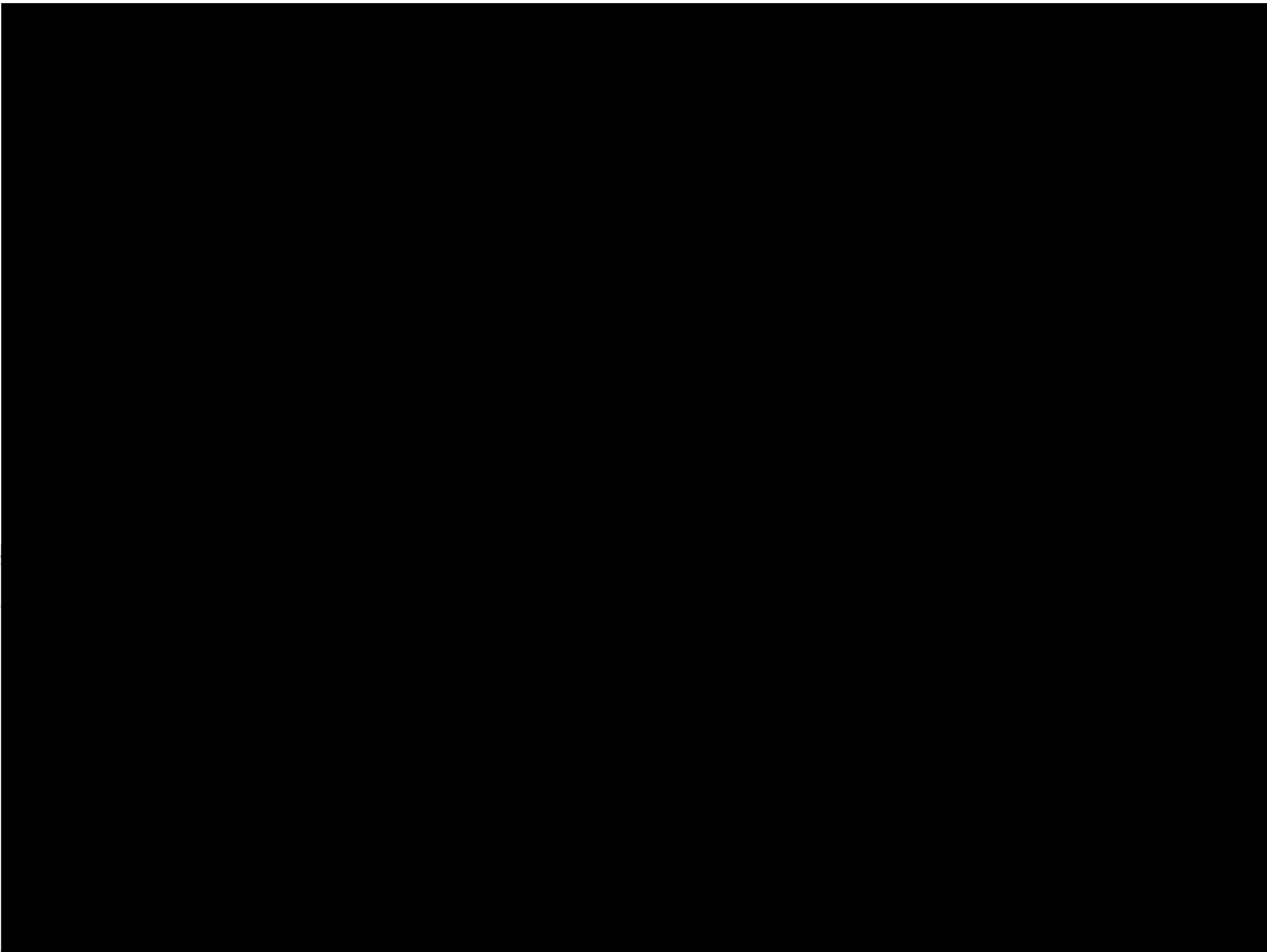
"Having constructed the Table of Nations into a simple genealogy, I wanted to see how many of its names were attested in the records of other nations in the Middle East... [I saw that] the Table of Nations had listed all the families and tribes of mankind in their correct groupings, whether those groupings were ethnological, linguistic or geographical. All the names, without exception, were accurate, and in more than twenty-five years of searching and analyzing, I uncovered not one mistake or false statement of fact in the Table of Nations."



Bill Cooper, *After the Flood* (Chichester: New Wine, 1995), 38-39

**"The earth is the LORD's"**





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