

“I SHALL BRING UPON THE EARTH A FLOOD”

The story of NOAH and the great flood is one the best known of all biblical tales. We read in the Book of Genesis concerning the wickedness and corruption of mankind that existed during that period of time. An angry God issued a warning: repent and correct your ways, or suffer the consequences. After 120 years passed without any change in man’s attitude and actions, the Creator of all decided to destroy the works of His hands by sending a flood upon the earth.

Among the entire human race, only Noah and his family remained faithful to God. For their obedience and loyalty, God promised to spare their lives. Noah was instructed to build an ark, which would provide safety for him, his family and two of every species of animal and bird when the rains came. The dimensions of the ark are astounding: 450 feel long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high!

For 40 days and nights the rain fell, destroying everyone and everything except those in the ark. After some 150 days, the waters slowly began to recede. The ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat, which are located in present-day Turkey. Still, Noah remained in the ark. After a year had passed, he released a dove from the ark. That evening, the dove returned with a branch from an olive tree in its beak as a sign of God’s reconciliation with mankind. After waiting 7 days, Noah release the dove again. When it did not return, Noah knew that it had found a home. The earth was dry again! Noah and his family left the ark and immediately offered a sacrifice to God. In return, God blessed his righteous servant, and promised never to destroy the world with a flood again, sealing His promise by sending a beautiful rainbow! We should note that nearly all ancient civilizations give some account of the world-wide flood in their writings.