



# In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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The Journey 2018

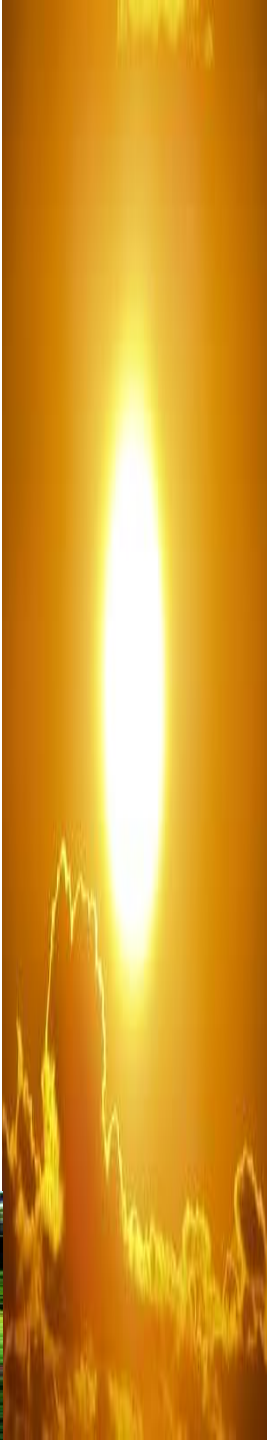
In the Beginning

Save the Date!

Sunday, 10/28/18

Class Fellowship Lunch

Hoss' Mechanicsburg



## In the Beginning

- Genesis 6:13 Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. 14 Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its breadth fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.



## In the Beginning

- Please note that this section begins with, “Then God said to Noah”, and Noah does not speak at all until we get to chapter 9, he just obeys.
- In a previous lesson we looked at these verses –
- Genesis 6:22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him. Genesis 7:5 And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.



## In the Beginning

- “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for *the earth is filled with violence because of them*; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.”
- Has it ever crossed your mind that the conditions that caused God to judge the world in Genesis 6 are the conditions that prevail on earth today?
- So we must ask, how much longer will He wait?



# In the Beginning

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:4 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned*, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5 *and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others*, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 *and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes*, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; 7 *and if He rescued righteous Lot*, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8 (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), 9 *then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment*, 10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.



## In the Beginning

- When God said, “I am about to destroy them with the earth.” it is now obvious that He did not mean “to cease to exist” in the strictest sense.
- He did bring a physical end to the men and women of that day, except for Noah and his family.
- He did bring an end to earth as it was configured at the start, but there was still an earth, and the souls of men still lived on.



# In the Beginning

- “Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood”.
- The Hebrew word for “ark” is “tebahin” (pronounced “tay-baw”) and the word’s primary meaning is “box”.
- The only other time this Hebrew word is used in the bible is to describe the basket baby Moses floated in to Pharaoh's daughter.





## In the Beginning

- So Noah was told by God to make a big box out of gopher wood.
- If I sent you out today to buy gopher wood where would you go?
- Gopher wood is not available today, and there is little consensus on just exactly what it was.



## In the Beginning

- Because no one today knows what “gopher wood” is—Noah obviously knew—the King James Version, the New King James Version, New American Standard Bible, and English Standard Version simply transliterate the Hebrew and leave it as “gopher wood.” The Septuagint (the Greek Old Testament) renders the phrase as “squared beams,” and the Latin Vulgate says “planed wood.” Many modern scholars consider “gopher wood” to be cypress because cypress wood is extremely durable.



## In the Beginning

- When we try to identify a specific tree as the “gopher wood” of Genesis 6:14, we run into several problems: First, any designation comes down to guesswork. Other theories besides cypress include cedar, pine, ebony, fir, wicker, juniper, acacia, bulrushes, and boxwood. Very likely, gopher wood doesn't exist today. Countless plants have become extinct since the time of Noah. In fact, we know very little about the kinds of wood available to Noah; no one living has seen the antediluvian world.



## In the Beginning

- Some researchers believe the word gopher doesn't refer to a species of wood at all; rather, it refers to a process utilized to prepare the wood in the ark's construction. This is seen in the Septuagint's translation, "squared beams." Some archaeologists have suggested that gopher may have referred to a lamination process, made necessary by the enormous size of the ark (about 550 feet in length).

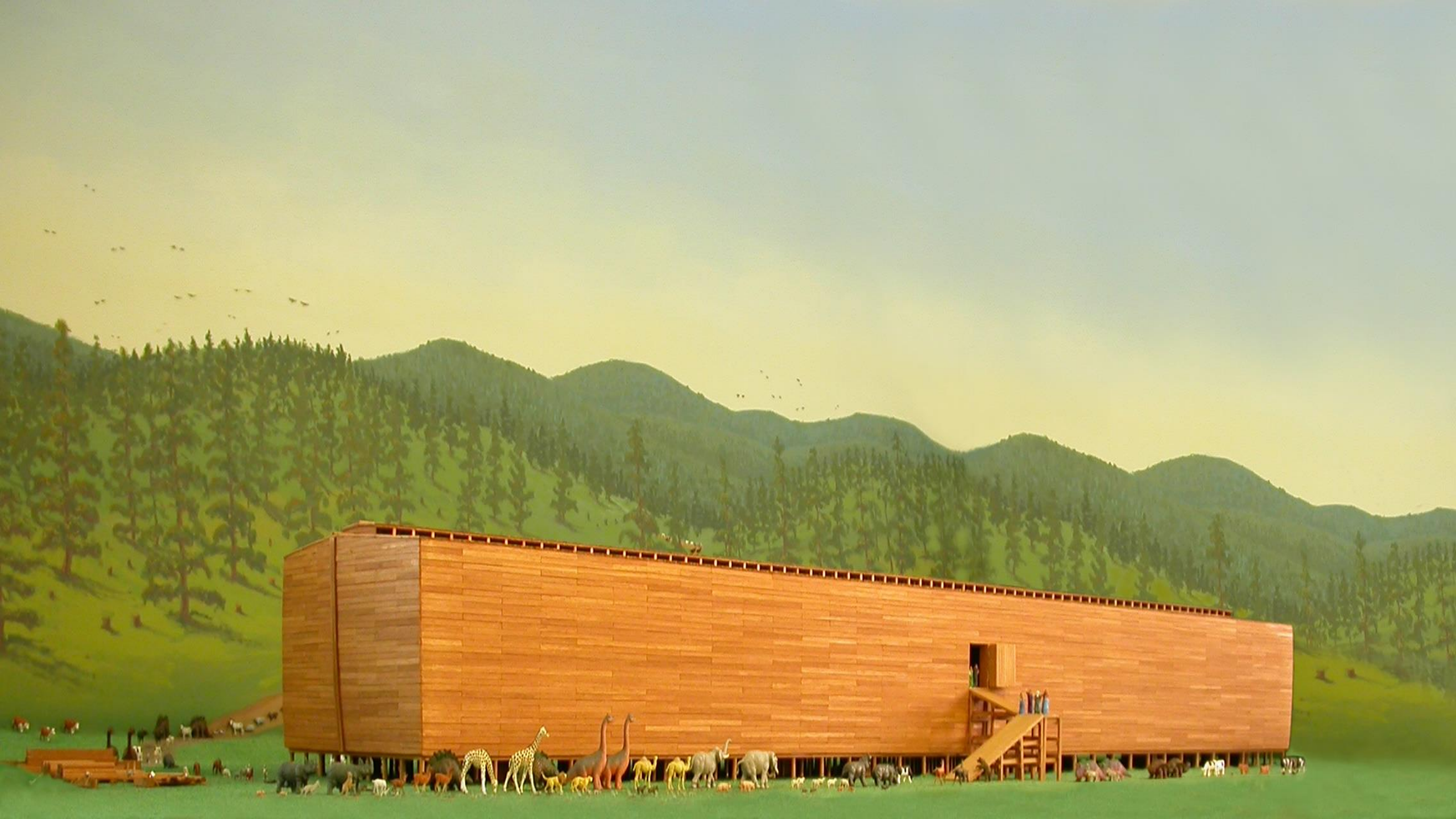
[www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org)





— Genesis 8:4 —





## In the Beginning

- As for the size of the ark – because a cubit is an inexact measurement and to make the math easy for me we will use a size of 450' long, 75' wide, and 45' high.
- That would constitute a large rectangular space of 1,518,750 cubic feet of space.
- Broken out over three floors that is a little over ½ million cubic feet of storage per floor.





# In the Beginning

- Imagine a train going by on the tracks and you start to count the box cars – you would count all the way to 522 in order to approximate the capacity of the ark.
- Remember that Noah was bringing 2 of every “kind” of animal in the world so let’s assume 1,000 “kinds” of animals. (from Answers in Genesis)
- And let’s further assume that the average size of all of the “kinds” was the size of a German Shepherd.



## In the Beginning

- Let's continue to assume that Noah used just the lower two floors for the animals.
- And let's make it even harder – let's count only the floor space so  $67,500 \text{ SF} / 2,000 \text{ animals} = 33.75 \text{ SF}$  of space per animal.
- And this doesn't even take into account the “rooms” or compartments that were on the ark.



# Rooms or Compartments



## In the Beginning

- Mankind would never again build a vessel as large as the ark until the 19<sup>th</sup> century – they did not feel safe in doing so.
- As time went on and the size of ships grew it was determined that a good ratio of length to width for stability was from 8:1 to 6:1.
- The ark was exactly a 6:1 ratio of length to width – was God lucky or what! 😊



## In the Beginning

- With its squared off bottom the ark would have been nearly impossible to tip over and sink.
- A ship with a tapered and rounded bottom has to be careful of wave angles as it sails in rough seas, but not so with the ark.
- A big rectangular box, with most of its weight on the lower two floors probably could not capsize.

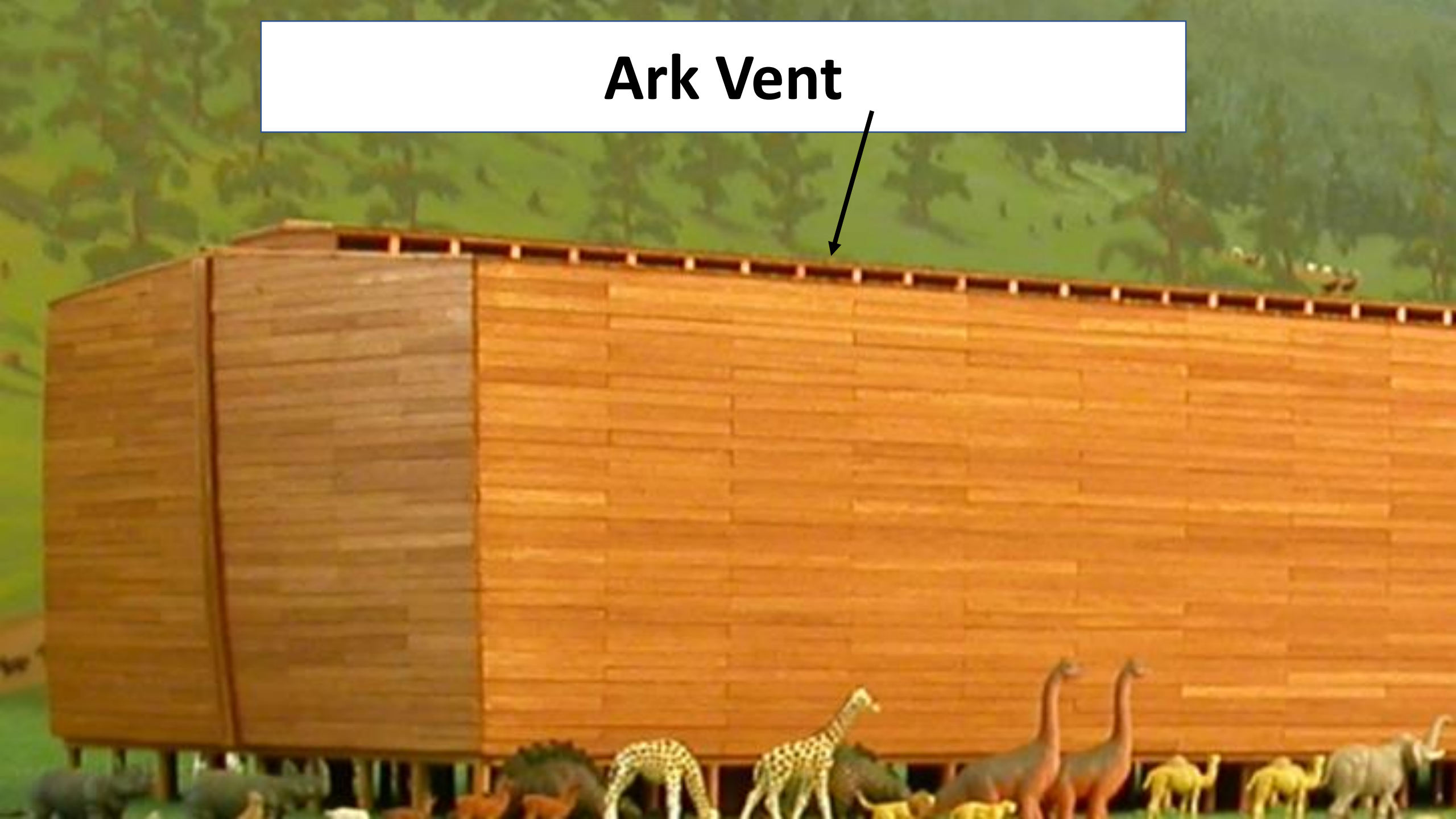


## In the Beginning

- 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.
- The “window” was really not a window at all, but more like a giant running vent all around the ark just below the roof that was roughly 18” high.



**Ark Vent**



# In the Beginning

- Genesis 6:17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. 19 You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground **will come to you** to be kept alive. 21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.” 22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.





## In the Beginning

- Genesis 6:17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. **Everything on earth will perish.**
- Notice that God is taking credit for the coming disastrous judgment, **“I am going to bring”**.
- It seems that God has no trouble taking credit for the judgments He brings – He readily owns them and if we see them correctly we will say, “God is good”.



## In the Beginning

- You've probably heard people rail against the God of the Old Testament – that He is harsh and angry.
- Often the same people say, “we prefer Jesus because He was not so angry and judgmental”.
- John 5:22 “Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son”.



# In the Beginning

- So if you've ever wondered exactly who it is that is sitting on the Great White Throne of Revelation 20, it is clearly Jesus.
- And if you've ever wondered why the Bema Seat judgment is also called the Judgment Seat of Christ it is because Jesus is that judge as well.
- All judgment is assigned to Jesus and when He judges He will make perfect evaluations and execute appropriate actions.



# In the Beginning

- Mankind's real complaint against God's judgment is that they want to avoid accountability. When they are wronged, they want justice, but for some reason it is not okay with them that God can judge.
- God would not, and could not, be good if He did not judge sin.
- God made all things good and in order to preserve what was still "good" He had to judge the world through the flood.



## In the Beginning

- When we get to heaven and the Great White Throne judgment is part of history, there will be billions of souls in the Lake of Fire, and we will say “*God is good all the time*”.
- It’s not that we will be glad that the wicked are in hell, but we will rejoice that God is just and will not tolerate sin.
- Because if God is not just, and if God does not judge sin, then God is not good.



# In the Beginning

- To take this a step further – no one would ever enjoy a world where sin is unchecked and unjudged.
- Think of all that irks you in this life and you can trace the root cause of those things to sin.
- When one is made for righteousness and for God's purposes, it is impossible for that one to be content, happy, (choose your own word) apart from Him.



# Questions

