**Noah and the Ark**

**A Pennsylvania citizen, arriving in heaven, was asked to share some experience from his earthly days. The new arrival jumped at the opportunity. “I survived the Johnstown flood of 1889. Over two thousand people perished in the destruction. It was one of America’s worst disasters. I’ve told the story over and over. Now I can tell it up here.” “That will be fine,” said his guide. “But remember – Noah will be out there in the audience.” (Leslie B. & Bernice Flynn, in Humorous Incidents and Quips for Church Publications, p. 20)**

**On a recent family trip to visit Grant’s Farm in St. Louis, I was driving across the Mississippi with downtown in front of us. “Look,” I said, “there’s the Arch.” My 4-year-old niece replied, “Yep, Noah built it!” *(Amy Goebel, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**Almost all ark-hunting expeditions since World War II have been organized and financed by Americans of fundamentalist faith. They believe that every word of the Bible is literally true, and hope, by finding the ark, to prove they are right. *(Gordon Gaskill, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Be grateful for little things. It’s true that the world is getting crowded, but can you imagine if Noah had taken four of everything? *(Orben’s Comedy Fillers)***

**Did Noah take beer aboard the ark. An Assyrian tablet dated about 2000 B.C. has been translated to suggest that. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Are any of the animals on Noah’s ark specified in the Bible? Yes, a raven and a dove. In Genesis 8:7-8, they are the birds Noah sent out to see if the waters had begun to subside. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 184)***

**Noah was checking off the animals coming by twos aboard the Ark. Three camels came along, but Noah stopped them. “I have room for pairs only,” he told them. “One of you will have to stay behind.” “Not me,” spoke up the first camel. “I'm the camel whose back is broken by the last straw.” “Not me,” said the second. “I'm the one who shall pass through the eye of the needle sooner than a rich man shall enter Heaven.” “And not me,” protested the third. “I'm the one that people swallow while straining at a gnat.” “Come along,” Noah sighed. “The world will need all three of you.” (*Quoted in Capper's)***

**Children’s take on the Bible: In the first book, Guiness, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off. Noah’s wife was Joan of Ark. Lot’s wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**Noah's Ark: Ask about our couples-only cruise. *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**At six cubits and a span, Goliath’s height was somewhere between nine feet, three inches and eleven feet, nine inches. A cubit is the distance from the elbow to the end of the middle finger and can vary from seventeen to twenty-two inches. A span is the distance from the extended little fingertip to the end of the thumb and is approximately nine inches. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 169)***

**Scholars say at least 200 cultures worldwide have passed down stories about a great flood in antiquity. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Did Noah have dinosaurs on the Ark? Not according to the time-takers who say the dinosaurs died off 76 million years before the Flood. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 185)***

**DON'T LET THERE BE RAIN: The owners of a replica Noah's Ark in \Williamstown, Kentucky, are suing insurance carriers over ... rain damage. Downpours caused a landslide and about $1 million in damage to the site of tourist attraction Ark Encounter. Owners say the boat itself was unharmed and is still ready for weather of biblical proportions. *(AARP Bulletin / Real Possibilities, September, 2019, p. 46)***

**One of the earliest stories in the Bible is about the flood that God sent to punish the people of the Earth. But the story of the flood does not belong only to Hebrew history. Similar stories come from the other parts of Asia, including China, Burma, New Guinea and the South Sea Islands, and from North and South America, too. *(Simon Goodenough****)*

**Why couldn’t the animals on Noah’s Ark eat apples? Because they only let pears on board. (*Cynthia A. Peel, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**Wildlife officials in Kenya began a massive relocation program to move 400 elephants from an overcrowded coastal game park to a larger reserve farther inland. Dubbed “the single largest translocation of animals ever undertaken since Noah’s Ark,” the project will tranquilize the elephants, lift them onto large trucks and then haul the animals to Tsavo East, 85 miles away. *(Steve Newman, Universal Press Syndicate, 2005)***

**Noah: “I can’t find either of the elephants!” Man: “I’m sorry to have to tell you this, Noah, but the female fell over the side in the storm.” Noah: “Where’s the other one?” Man: “He’s out there somewhere, in a rowboat.” *(Jim Unger, in Herman comic strip)***

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**First animal: “Look at this list of endangered and extinct animals!” Second animal: “Sigh. He did all that work for nothing.” First animal: “Who?” Second animal: “Noah.” *(Patrick McDonnell, in Mutts comic strip)***

**Over the years, the flood myth has remained one of the Bible’s most controversial tales. Most scientists have agreed that it was based upon a local event – the overflow of a river, a mighty hurricane or typhoon – magnified in the retelling, gilded as legend and finally concretized into the heroic stature of myth. Now, however, there is evidence that seems to indicate the Deluge might indeed have taken place. This startling conclusion comes from the independent probings of two separate disciplines: geologists who have studied the shells of a tiny sea creature which lived when it happened 11,600 years ago, and archeologists who had deciphered what was written by the hand of man some 8000 years later. *(Fred Warshofsky, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**Noah was the first businessman. He floated the first joint stock company and forced all his competitors into involuntary liquidation. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Who was the world's first, greatest and wisest financier? Noah, because he floated stock while the rest of the world was in liquidation. *(Bernie Martin, in Cappers)***

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**A Sunday School teacher was quizzing her class about their Old Testament knowledge. “What do you think Noah did all that time he was on the ark?” she asked. There was silence. “Do you think he did a lot of fishing?” “What?” sneered one boy. “With only two worms?” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in Speaker’s Sourcebook II, p. 222)***

**A farmer and a city slicker were recently fishing in the Caribbean. The fishing was outstanding, and they got to talking about their vacations. The city slicker said, “I’m here because my house burned down, and everything I owned was destroyed by the blazing fire. The insurance company paid for everything.” “That’s quite a coincidence,” said the farmer. “I’m here because my house and all my belongings were destroyed by a raging flood, and my insurance company also paid for everything.” The puzzled city slicker asked, “How DO you start a flood?” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*After a recent Texas flood a newcomer arrived in Heaven, and in true Texas style, started telling about the great disaster. In the midst of his story one of the listeners yawned and walked away. The Texan, offended, asked: “Who was that old so and so?” “Oh,” replied another, “that was only Noah.” *(Scandal Sheet, Graham, Texas Rotary Club)***

**While an English businessman was visiting the United States he saw on television news in his hotel room that the Thames River was flooded very near his home. Anxiously, he e-mailed his son: “Tell me all about the flood.” His son happened to be away in Scotland and had heard nothing about the flood back home. Perplexed by his father’s request, he e-mailed back “Dad, look in the Book of Genesis.” (The Lutheran Witness)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Good week for: Biblical literalists, after a team of evangelical explorers claimed to have found pieces of wood atop Mount Ararat in Turkey that were once part of Noah’s Ark. “It’s not 100 percent that it is Noah’s Ark,” said one explorer, “but we think it is 99 percent.” (The Week magazine, May 7, 2010)**

**If Genesis is literally true, every one of us has descended from Noah. *(Gordon Gaskill, in Reader’s Digest)***

**“What did Noah do?” I asked one girl, who was six. “He collected a lot of animals,” she replied. “That was his hobby?” “Yeah.” “But didn’t he have a special collection?” “Yeah, Bible animals.” “It was two of each, right?” “You know the story?” “I do.” “So why are you asking me?” “Well, that’s sort of my job on this show. And tell me, do you know why Noah took in two kinds of animals?” “To keep ‘em from getting bored.” *(Bill Cosby, in Kids Say the Darndest Things, p. 30)***

**According to the Bible, Noah invented wine and was the first person to eat meat. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 150)***

**How large was Noah’s ark? It was 300 by 50 by 30 cubits, according to Genesis 6:15. One cubit equals 18 inches. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 183)***

**Legends of such a flood are incredibly old and persistent. At least 6,000 years ago – long before the Bible was composed – a Genesis-like story was circulating in the Middle East; Noah had names like Utnapishtim and Xisuthros; the torrential rains lasted for six or seven days instead of 40. A Babylonian account has it that the gods drowned the human race simply because mankind made so much noise the gods couldn’t sleep! (Gordon Gaskill, in Reader’s Digest)**

**What kind of lights did Noah install on the Ark? Floodlights! *(June Van Langren, in Country magazine)***

**A MODERN-DAY NOAH’S ARK: Among the refugees that crossed the Polish border was an unlikely group: six lions, four tigers, two caracals (African wild cats), an endangered African wild dog, and a capuchin monkey, all sharing space in a cramped truck. One lion’s crate was held shut by cages placed against it. With war encroaching, the menagerie had been plucked from a preserve for abused wild animals by the Dutch animal rescue organization AAP – Dutch for ape. After skirting roadblocks and live fire, the truck entered Poland, and the animals were sent to rescue centers in Spain and Belgium. Soon after, the wild dog was spotted playing and chasing his own tail. It was a welcome sight, says AAP’s director, David van Gennep. “After everything they have been through, our first goal is to see them develop into healthy, normal animals.” (Paul Robert, in Reader’s Digest, the July/August, 2022 issue, on page 93)**

**With variations, that Biblical account of a great, universal flood is part of the mythology and legend of almost every culture on earth. Even people living far from the sea – the Hopi Indians in the American Southwest, the Incas high in the Peruvian Andes – have legends of a great flood washing over the land, covering the tops of the mountains and wiping out virtually all life on earth. *(Fred Warshofsky, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Noah says to the animals: “Sorry, we're overbooked. Will someone give up their seat for a $25.00 voucher on the next cruise?” *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

**In addition to the animals there were eight people on Noah’s ark. Noah; his wife; his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and their wives. There were three decks on Noah’s ark. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 169)***

**I was teaching the story of Noah’s Ark to my kindergartners. Afterward, I told the class to draw and color the Ark and to be sure to put all the animals inside. Then we talked awhile about the flood and the dove. Toward the end of class, I asked the children to open their Arks and let all the animals out. As I walked around to check on the children’s work, I came to a girl sitting upright with her arms folded. “Where are your animals?” I asked. “They’re not coming out,” she said. “They were naughty during the trip.” *(Sister Vincenza Gagliostro, S.S.N.D., in Catholic Digest)***

**Noah says to the two unicorns trying to get on the Ark: “Sorry, we’re all filled up. May I give you a rain check?” *(Parade magazine cartoon)***

**“Did you ever read the Bible?” I asked another very young man. “A little,” he replied. “But I’ve heard your record about Noah.” “You have?” “Yeah, my dad made me hear it.” “And what did you think of it?” “It was okay.” “You liked it that much. Well, part of the record is based on that record.” “I didn’t know that.” “Most people don’t. It’s the part about Noah. Do you know what happened to Noah?” “Yeah, he took all the animals and built an ark and then it rained a lot for a few years and then it cleared up.” “Must have been El Nino. So what happened to the animals?” “They put ‘em in a zoo.” “There were zoos in those days?” “Don’t you know that?” *(Bill Cosby)***

**Does it make much difference, really, if the ark is found? By now it is immortal. If it did not find refuge in the heart of this mountain, it has found a safer refuge in the human heart. Here it has lived for thousands of years, and here it will live forever. *(Gordon Gaskill, in Reader’s Digest)***

**There is hardly a book of either Old or New Testament that has not been questioned, either wholly or in part, by some reputable scholar. On the other hand, the Bible contains much that is relevant today, like Noah taking forty days to find a place to park. *(Curtis D. MacDougall)***

**Noah’s ark must have been roomy indeed. There are presently some three million species of animals on earth. Of these, only a few thousand are mammals. (James Meyers, in Mammoth Book of Trivia, p. 6)**

**I don’t believe Noah could have rounded up all the animals in one herd without the skunk causing a stampede. (Will Rogers)**

**When the snakes were leaving the ark, Noah told them to go forth and multiply. The snakes replied that they couldn’t do that because they were adders. (Lowell McMeeken, in Reminisce magazine)**

**The Lord told Noah, “In six months I’m going to make it rain and flood the Earth. I want to save a few people, and two of every kind of animal. Build an ark.” Six months passed and rain began to fall. The Lord saw Noah in his yard, weeping. “Noah,” shouted the Lord. “Where is the ark?” “Lord, forgive me,” Noah begged. “There were problems. First had to get a building permit for the ark, and your plans didn’t meet code. So I had to hire an engineer to redraw the plans. My neighbors objected, claiming I wasn’t zoned to build an ark in my yard. “When I started gathering up animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. Just when I got the suit dismissed, EPA notified me I couldn’t complete the ark without an environmental impact statement on the flood.” The sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. “You’re not going to destroy the Earth?” Noah asked. “Wrong!” thundered the Lord. “I will smite the Earth, but with something worse than a flood.” “What’s that?” Noah asked. “Government,” said the Lord. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**A survey once disclosed that 12 percent of Americans believe that Joan of Arc was Noah’s wife. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 122)***

**Dolly says while being irritated by a mosquito landing on her arm: “I wish Noah had swatted his two skeetos.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**“Just the same” exclaimed Noah's wife. “I'd feel much safer if those two termites were locked up in a metal box.” *(Delia Sellers, in Abundant Living magazine)***

**Pennsylvania's vintage ark: Like its biblical namesake, the Noah's Ark at Kennywood theme park has survived against seemingly insurmountable odds, said Brad MacDonald in the Los Angeles Times. When it opened in 1936, the ark was one of several fun houses at the Pittsburgh-area park. Visitors stepped onto the rocking boat and into a maze filled with surprises -- including shaking floorboards and appearances by pairs of animals. The park's other funhouses began shutting down in the 1950s to make room for new thrills, but unlike three dozen similar arks around the country, Kennywood's hung on, while changing with the times -- "usually for the worse." A 1996 makeover tried to create a more educational experience and even replaced the whale's-mouth entrance that forced visitors to step across a squishy tongue. That pleased no one, and the ark has now been restored to its kitschy glory. Live animals are back, as are the vibrating floors, and, yes, that squishy whale tongue. *(The Week magazine, May 27, 2016)***

**When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles, same as you. For 40 days he drove the ark, before he found a place to park. *(Dorothy Stauffer, in Reminisce magazine)***

**If Noah had been truly wise, he would have swatted those two flies. *(Helen Castle, in National Enquirer)***

**As the Energizer Bunny starts to come on board the Ark, Moses points to the boarding sign which reads: “Ark Boarding. Must have two of a kind in your party.” *(Gospel Communication International, Inc. cartoon)***

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**In a poll, 12 percent of adults believed Joan of Arc was “Noah’s wife.” (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 261)***

**Dolly asks Billy: “Know who Noah’s wife was?” Billy: “ Joan of Ark.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

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**A remarkable thing about this Ark that Noah built -- there was only one window in it. It was not a little porthole on the side of the ship. And it wasn’t a skylight. Noah was preparing for heavy rain and he probably had had some experience with skylights and how leaky they can be. The only window was up under the roof as high as it could be put. Why was the window there? Because of what I call the Golden Key. It was constructed in this way so that Noah and those with him in the Ark would be obliged to look up at the sky. Up! That was the only way they could look out. In this way they could not look around at the flood and fill themselves with more fear. *(Emmet Fox, in Diagrams for Living, p. 49)***

**As one of Noah’s family members comes on board the Ark with his suitcase, he asks Noah: “Have you got a window seat?” *(Jim Unger, in Herman comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The story of Noah’s Ark was written earlier than the biblical version – in the Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh. The “Noah” of this epic is Utnapishtim, who is supernaturally warned to build a boat in which to survive the deluge. Similarity extends even to the sending out of birds to see if dry land has appeared. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 377)***

**My wealthy friend gave me a tour of his new yacht, and I was truly impressed. “It seems to have two of everything,” I remarked. “Two bathrooms, two television sets, two ship-to-shore telephones.” “Yes,” he chuckled. “I believe they call it state-of-the-ark technology.” *(Anya Laurence, in Reader’s Digest)***

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