





FRANCESCO SEPIONI

# **NOAH'S ARK BETWEEN MYSTERY AND REALITY**

**HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS  
AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE  
OF A NEVER-ENDING STORY**



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*«To tell God's stories is to glorify Him»*

Dedicated to all those in search of the truth,  
not content with second hand knowledge,  
but who themselves are researchers and discoverers



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## INTRODUCTION

Seeking the Truth, in all aspects of our lives can be seen as an obligation for human beings. Research allows for advances to be made in science and to honour knowledge, thus raising our awareness of the evolution of events related to our existence and as a consequence, allowing us to make the best decisions for the future of the species. This book is an invitation to reflect, with the aim of leading the reader to pose questions regarding the certainties that modern culture teaches us. The focus is firmly placed on a question that has rarely been dealt with and which has been relegated to the sphere of mythology and faith: The Great Flood and the existence of Noah's Ark. These subjects, described in the Bible, (in The Book of Genesis to be precise), have been defined by the majority of people as mythological legends; a clash between the Darwinian theory of evolution and The Bible. The vast amount of scientific and historical evidence presented in this book, all of which share remarkable similarities, is intended to legitimise the science and the stories and bring to light the truth that has often been hidden. Accounts other than biblical, unassailable geological proof, eye witness reports, remnants found and satellite photos: the legend thus becomes reali-

ty. The Ark sits on Mount Ararat and is covered with centuries of ice; the most important archaeological find of all time finally has its resting place...

## CHAPTER 1

# NOAH'S ARK

### 1.1 History of an Ancient Mystery

Noah's Ark has lured many explorers to Mount Ararat in western Turkey. Here they have been challenged by steep unstable slopes covered with volcanic rocks, glaciers, deep fissures masked by snow, howling winds, temperatures that descend to minus 40° in winter, avalanches, wild animals and even terrorists during the 90's. All this for a single goal: the Truth.

The myth of the Ark has also attracted the attention of the CIA and KGB, but nevertheless it still remains one of the most intriguing and fascinating mysteries from the past that is yet to be resolved. A peculiarity that emerged from this research lies in the fact that all of the photos of this mysterious object, taken by private individuals, have completely disappeared and furthermore, one of the owners of this photographic material was killed. With the passing of time, many other explorers have died, taking with them to the grave their knowledge of this ancient mystery.

My proposal in this work is to determine, with a scientific approach, if the Ark actually exists and to pinpoint its location.

To understand the importance surrounding this mysterious structure in today's world, it is timely to quote an affirmation made by the ex director of National Geographic: «it would be the greatest archaeological discovery in the history of mankind and the most significant event since the Resurrection of Christ. It would have the capacity of being able to change current scientific thinking»<sup>(1)</sup>.

Before undertaking the voyage of discovery of the Ark, it is necessary to begin with this axiom: «if you want to comprehend mathematics you have to understand numbers». In the same way, if you want to comprehend the mystery of the boarding of Noah's Ark you have to understand, in a scientific manner, the Bible, and in particular the part regarding Genesis in which the Great Flood is described. And further, it is important to be clear about what is intended by Noah's Ark from a structural point of view, identifying some of its specific characteristics. Our voyage of discovery of the incredible "mystery" begins.

## **1.2 The Universal Judgement and Civilisation at the Time of Noah**

The Great Flood was a catastrophic event that submerged all the continents on earth. The only survivors were a man and his family together with pairs of various animals, and this was thanks to the Ark that had been constructed according to God's command. Throughout different cultures, the narration of the

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(1) D.W. BALSIGER, C.E. SELLIER, *In Search of Noah's Ark*, Sun Classic Book, Los Angeles 1976 p. 11.

Flood varies little. In Book Six of Genesis, it is written that the Lord “exterminated” man and his beasts as a result of the violence on earth at that time. During the era of Noah, men were intelligent and progressive in the fields of both mathematics and astronomy, but their souls were filled with an unimaginable wickedness. From the accounts of Greek and Hebrew writers it is clear that this was a society in which corruption and violence reigned but at the same time they point to its characteristic of a progressive civilisation which is evidenced by the presence of the gigantic rock formation of Stonehenge, by the Egyptian Pyramids and the high altitude Mayan civilization that was able to calculate the calendar year. In addition there are numerous archaeological remains of metal tools including swords and hammers which require a high degree of mastery in the field of metallurgic engineering and therefore a skill in the art of forging. At this point we could reasonably assume that Noah had all the necessary tools and the technology for the construction of a vessel of such vast dimensions. Let us also reflect on the fact that this ancient civilisation, for all its advancements, just vanished without explanation, being swept away, most likely by the waters of the Great Flood.

Thanks to references made by Noah in Genesis and also to computerised astronomical charts, the beginning of the construction of the Ark can be reasonably placed around the year 2465 BC, with the rain arriving around 2345 BC.

### **1.3 The Ark: Architectural and Structural Characteristics**

The historical account from Genesis 6, 14-16 sets out the instructions issued by God for the construction of the ves-

sel: «make an Ark from cyprus wood, divide the Ark into compartments and spread bitumen all over the inside and outside».

After having heard the order from God, Noah began the construction of this immense Ark with a «wood from a resinous tree» (lit. “Tree of Gofer”). The tree in question was the cyprus, a long-living and robust species that was commonly found in that part of the world; it was the preferred wood used for boat building by the Phoenicians and Alexander the Great and it continues to be chosen today for its impermeability and resistance to decomposition. Based on the type of wood used and its diffusion in certain parts of the lands at that time, it is believed that the site for the construction of the vessel was Mesopotamia, now Iraq. Furthermore, the instruction to Noah was not just to caulk the beams, but to «cover the Ark with pitch inside and outside», and this was evidently done after the structure was built, in order to prevent water from seeping into the vessel. Tar is found in various areas of the Middle East and during the Roman Age small agglomerates could be found floating in the Dead Sea. The dimensions of the vessel are presumed to be 150 metres in length, 25 metres in width and 15 metres in height: an enormous boat, similar to the shape of a shoe box and covered in dark brown tar resembling shellac. This image corresponds perfectly to the description given by most of the witnesses. The internal space was measured at 1.5 million cubic metres with the capacity of transporting the equivalent of 170 wagons, and it weighed approximately 4000 tons, all of which required around 10,000 axles for its construction. Moreover, the Guinness Book of Records claims that the Ark was the biggest timber ship ever built; we are dealing with an im-



posing vessel constructed to resist the violent forces of the most powerful catastrophe that had ever hit the earth<sup>(2)</sup>. Figure 1.1<sup>(3)</sup>.



Figure 1.1

Contrary to the commonly held perception of a traditional vessel, the biblical Ark was essentially a parallelepiped rectangular shape which did not need to be steered, but simply had to float. According to the most recent research, the deck was fitted with a central light well, (Tsohar), which performed a dual function: to provide lighting and fresh air.

(2) Cfr. Ivi, pp. 31-33.

(3) [https://www.noahsark.it/dimensioni\\_arca.htm](https://www.noahsark.it/dimensioni_arca.htm).

Careful research<sup>(4)</sup> was able to establish that this source of daylight on the Ark, an opening placed in the centre of the deck, had the capacity of illuminating up to 70% of the internal space. On the other hand, if an opening had been placed along its external perimeter, it would have meant a great reduction in the amount of light entering the vessel, of around 30%, and only the upper deck would have benefitted. The lower decks would have remained in darkness and would also have been airless. Only a centralised inflow and outflow system would have allowed for the constant renewal of oxygen necessary for all the living creatures on board. This characteristic is fundamental in determining the truth of the Ark's existence, or whether it is merely a legend... further ahead we will discover together!

## 1.4 Navigation

Shipbuilders who conducted thorough surveys claim that the ratio between length and width, (of 6 to 1), would have made the vessel slow, but one of the most stable ever constructed. These proportions would also have provided an enormous carrying capacity and greater stability during its navigation. Professor Henry Morris, a lecturer in engineering and hydraulics, has written an interesting research document regarding Noah's Ark<sup>(5)</sup>. In an interview, replying to a question about the stability of the vessel, he states:

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(4) Cfr. <http://web.ticino.com/gate84/index.htm>

(5) Cfr. H.M. MORRIS, *The Genesis Record. A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Book of Beginnings*, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids 1976.

According to what we have been able to calculate, the hydrodynamic strength would have ensured that was it very stable. It is possible to demonstrate that the equilibrium between the forces of buoyancy, gravity and weight would have allowed the Ark to remain upright only if it was oriented from zero to 90°. The effect of this orientation would have been such that it could bring the vessel to an upright position. It would have been impossible for a vessel of these proportions to capsize.<sup>(6)</sup>



**Figure 1.2**

To provide a more accurate description of the Ark, it is helpful to refer to the evocative and eloquent paintings<sup>(7)</sup> by E. Lee which were based on precise descriptions provided by an eyewitness, G. Hagopian.

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(6) D.W. BALSIGER, C.E. SELLIER, *In Search of Noah's Ark*, pp. 117-118.

(7) <https://www.noahsark.it/testimoni%20oculari.htm>.



**Figure 3**

In an experiment carried out on a model of the Ark, submitting it to the force of 60-metre-high waves, it not only proved itself seaworthy, but it also proved to be very resilient. The low position of the metacentre gave it an incredible stability. The more it became submerged in the water as a result of its considerable weight, the more stable it became. It must be stressed that this vessel was not geared to reach a particular destination, nor was it headed in a particular direction.

On board the Ark, there was no space required for a motor or for combustible provisions in order to propel the vessel to a certain destination; it simply floated with its occupants aboard and with sufficient food supplies to last for a year or more<sup>(8)</sup>.

## **1.5 Passengers**

Who were the passengers on board this vessel? According to the biblical report, (Genesis 6:18-20), God said to Noah:

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(8) D.W. BALSIGER, C.E. SELLIER, *In Search of Noah's Ark*, pp. 117-118.