



## THE FLOOD PART VII THE ARK

Have you ever considered going to the hobby store to buy some balsa wood, glue,

and other materials to make a model of the ARK? I have - I found that it cannot be done. If you try, you will find that some of the important details have been omitted. Why would God omit them? Because these other details are not for *doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

Let's take a look, first, at its size. Physically, it was a very large structure, larger than a lot of ships today (aircraft carriers excluded). It is not the physical size that is important. The NIV does us an injustice in translating the dimensions into feet.

*"Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, third, and fourth decks."*

There are four dimensions given. "That's impossible," you say, "since there are only three spatial dimensions." Yes, we can only perceive things in three dimensions. But God, who is omniscient, can see in more than three. You don't believe it?

*(You) may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.* Ephesians 3:18

How many dimensions do you see to God's love? FOUR! Let me be a bit more specific.

*(You) may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide (50 cubits) and long (300 cubits) and high (30 cubits) and deep (3 decks) is the love of Christ.* Ephesians 3:18 (as modified by me)

There you have it. The dimensions of the Ark are the demonstration of the dimensions of God's love. Let us, then, take a closer look. Three of the dimensions contain "three." (300 cubits, 30 cubits, 3 decks). We have a threefold trinity here (Three threes). The structure of the ark has the mark of the Trinity all over it.

The fourth dimension does not contain a 3. It is 50 cubits - the width.

*Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound . . . throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you . . . 'In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession.* Leviticus 25:9-13

The fiftieth year, the Jubilee year, was the year of redemption. The number 50 speaks of God's redemption. He redeemed Noah and family through the agency of the ark. So the dimensions of the ark speak of the redemption, the work of the Triune God.

Let's look at the materials. Gopher wood? When Noah asked God where he'd get all that wood, God said he'd have to "go pher it!" (Ha). Gopher is a Hebrew word (i.e. it is not translated). Pitch is a very similar Hebrew word. Both have their root in the Hebrew word כפר (kopher). It is a word that is used frequently and means "atonement." In a different form it is translated as "mercy seat" for the Ark of the Covenant. The materials of the ark all speak of God's mercy through the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

The ark was to have rooms. Actually the Hebrew word comes closer to meaning nests. These rooms were to Noah like those Jesus mentioned, *In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.*

John 4:2  
There was space for all who would enter this salvation!  
More on the ark next week!



