

Introduction:

1. You just might feel sorry for the poor guy. He has the biggest building project ever given to any one man. He has the seemingly impossible task of building a huge boat that will save the world.
 - a. He has to go out and collect animals from all over creation.
 - b. He knows he is going to be up against deadlines.
 - c. What if the boat leaks? What if it doesn't even float?
 - d. What if it's not big enough to hold all those animals?
 - e. What if he can't take care of all those animals—feeding them, cleaning up after them?
 - f. And, was it two of each kind or seven of each kind? What if he doesn't get that right?
 - g. And if the whole world is to be flooded, how high up will the ark be...above the mountains where the air is too thin to breathe?
 - h. Speaking of breathing, how are we going to get enough air into the ark with only one window?
 - i. Or, maybe it will be a local flood, and we won't have to build an ark, just go to higher ground.
 - j. Or, maybe it won't be a really big flood; after all, where would that much water come from?
2. Poor Noah may have had a hundred questions. On top of all that, God told him to preach a message of repentance to the world. How could he find time to build a boat, collect those animals, and preach to the world? And "Besides," he thinks to himself, "I am way too old for a project like this."
 - a. Did Noah have questions like these? Maybe, but it is certain we have questions about it!
 - b. Our Bible reading is from Genesis. Here are questions you may have from chapters 6-8.

The Lesson:

I. How long will it take to build the ark?

- A. There was lots of time, but he didn't have forever! God had a deadline! See Genesis 6:3.
- B. It seems that he had 120 years. God's Spirit in Noah gave a message of repentance that was to be preached while the ark was being prepared, 1 Peter 3:18-20; 2 Peter 2:5. He had time!

II. What if the boat isn't big enough for all those animals?

- A. The boat is big, Genesis 6:15-16, about 450' x 75' x 45'. It was made with three stories inside; each deck could hold seven basketball courts. The ark's volume was equal to 550 rail cars.
- B. Noah did not have to take full-grown animals. He had only to take the various "kinds," a broad classification. Two horses would suffice; he need not take every variety or species. The genetic code for all horses could be found in the pair he took. The number of animals is not large.

III. What if the boat doesn't float, or if it leaks?

- A. God made provision to prevent leaking, Genesis 6:14. All the barge-like boat must do is float.
- B. It is not for travelling, but for preserving. The configuration is perfect for floating.

IV. How could Noah collect all those animals?

- A. He didn't have to. The animals came to him, Genesis 6:20; 7:9.
- B. We are not told how they came, but in some way they were directed by the Maker of animals.

V. What about the feeding and care of all the animals?

- A. While this would seem to be a major task, it is accounted for in Genesis 6:21; 8:1.
- B. The fact that God "remembered Noah" potentially covers every problem we can imagine.

VI. Was he to take the animals by twos or by sevens?

- A. Both, depending on the animal: the unclean by twos; the clean by sevens, Genesis 6:19; 7:2.
- B. Why take more of the clean? Maybe because of the sacrifices after the flood, Genesis 8:20.

VII. Will the flood just be local or will it be worldwide?

- A. If it was local, why build the ark? It is worldwide, Genesis 6:17; 7:17-20. It covered mountains.
- B. Would the air be too thin to breathe at mountain height? Atmosphere moves with the water.

VIII. With only one window how could they breathe?

- A. The ark had but one window, Genesis 6:16. We must envision the window, not as a singular pane, but one made of many panes that may have run the length of the ark.
- B. You don't have to think very long in order to see the need for a good cross-ventilation system.

IX. Is there enough water to flood the whole earth?

- A. Scripture accounts for that in Genesis 7:11. The text speaks of water beneath the earth and above the earth. It is believed by many that a "vapor canopy" consisting of immense amounts of water once existed in the upper atmosphere of the earth. See Genesis 1:7.
- B. We must understand that our planet would be radically changed by such a cataclysmic event.

X. Is Noah too old to take on such an immense project?

- A. He must have been near 500 years old when God gave him this task, Genesis 7:11; 6:3.
- B. Noah is no different than others before the flood. Apparently many people were superannuated, Genesis 5:5ff; 5:27; 9:29. After Noah's time, man's age drops radically. Abraham lived 175 years; Moses, 120 years. But even Moses, the author of Genesis, said that the norm for man in his time was only 70-80 years, Psalms 90:10. We don't know why men were superannuated before the flood, or why it changed afterward, though various theories are suggested.

Conclusion:

1. Don't speak of "poor Noah." He did just fine, as he did what God told him to do, Genesis 6:22.
2. There may be other things about the flood that we haven't explored. More important than questions are the consequences of acknowledging that the flood was a great judgment upon the earth. The fact that God judged the earth in the past is evidence He will do it again, 2 Peter 3:5-7.