

Week #: 6 Text: Genesis 6:1 – 7:5 Title: Man's Wickedness; God Calls Noah

Songs: \_\_\_\_\_

Videos: \_\_\_\_\_

## Apologetics

- Apologetics is the study and practice of giving answers for the reasonableness and truth of the Christian faith. The word comes from the Greek apologia and means “to give a defense.” In 1 Peter 3:15 Christians are commanded to give an apologia to anyone who asks the reason for our hope.
- In a culture where God’s Word is constantly under attack from those both inside and outside of the church, we must always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is in us. Christianity is rooted in history—real people and events of the past.
- We can shoot down arguments and offer reasons for our beliefs, but if we don’t lead people to the soul-saving gospel of Jesus Christ, we have not successfully defended the faith.
  - Peter wrote about the early followers of Christ: “For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty” (2 Peter 1:16). The authors of Scripture accurately recorded historical events, including the miracles of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Crucifixion and Resurrection.
  - Jude informed his readers about the importance of earnestly contending “for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). The Apostle Peter also instructed his readers to “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). The Greek word translated as “defense” is from the root ἀπολογία (apologia), and it refers to a verbal defense or a reasoned statement or argument. The term “apologetics” comes from this Greek word. Apologetics is the branch of theology which deals with giving a defense of the Christian faith.
  - Paul practiced apologetics as he regularly went first to a town’s synagogue and “reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead” (Acts 17:2, 18:4, emphasis added). Paul reasoning with the religious leaders of the day does not sound like the actions of a man who had a blind faith. In fact, Paul knew his faith was defensible. He had encountered Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1–8), and he told the Corinthians that over 500 people had witnessed the resurrected Savior at the same time (1 Corinthians 15:6).
- In 1 Peter 3:15, the reasoned defense is directly connected to the hope that we have as Christians. That hope is found in Christ alone and described to us in the Bible. If we are not intentionally connecting our defense and reasoning to the authority of the Bible so that we may affirm our hope in Christ, we are not doing biblical apologetics. To make sure that we are connecting our intellectual arguments to Christ takes a special effort, and it is essential to keep our efforts grounded in Him. If we excise the center of this verse by simply saying “always be ready to give a defense,” we run the risk of focusing in vain on academic arguments rather than Christ.

## Why should we study Apologetics?

- Not having the information to answer the important questions leaves us with no basis for proving that the Bible is true. The world's lies then take over. Truth cannot continue if we do not trust that the Bible is infallibly true.
- Evolution vs Creation and the Global Flood is the foundation for the entire Bible. It is the beginning of the plan for God's salvation, and everything else in the Bible is built upon these events. If they are not true, or if they are not true as told, then the entire validity of the Bible comes into question. Evolution tries to make the foundation of the origins of the earth crumble because without a foundation everything else crumbles or is false as well. It is Satan's lie. This lie has even invaded the church, causing dissent and division, which the world then looks at as a good reason to avoid the truth.

## Evil Continually:

- The flood is about 1656 years past the creation, and in those years man had gotten to the point that everything was wicked. Their thoughts were on nothing but wickedness
- There was one righteous man found in his generation – Noah.
- The Bible says there was violence in every living thing – so not just man had become wicked. The animals had become wicked as well.
- God told Noah how to build the ark – He gave him specific dimensions, and He directed the people and animals he wished to save to that ark.
- Noah was directed to also collect all the kinds of food that were eaten by his family and the animals.
- God told Noah that there would be rain coming seven days after they entered the ark. Some theologians believe this is due to the mourning period. Methuselah's name indicates that when he died, something big would happen – that being the flood. Many say that it is possible Methuselah died, and the seven day waiting period is to allow Noah and his family to mourn the Shivah (after burial) according to the Jewish tradition.

## Dimensions of the ark:

- 300 cubits x 50 cubits x 30 cubits – a ratio of 6:1
  - Ancients defined a cubit as the distance from a man's elbow to tip of their middle finger.
    - In modern units, this can typically range from 45.5 centimeters to 52.3 centimeters. The Long Cubit or the Royal Cubit is said to be about 20.4”.
  - 510' length x 85' width x 51' height
    - About a football field and a half long.
    - About two school busses in length wide.
    - About three giraffes stacked in height. (as tall as ten stories high at the tip top of the bow fin)
- Volume: 1,500,000 cu ft
  - 483 Semi trailers
  - 569 boxcars - 1 boxcar can hold 240 sheep
    - It has been estimated that Noah would have needed to have room for about 35,000 individual animals. (Seven of some, two of others). Considering a sheep to be an average size of animals, 35,000 sheep could fit into 150 boxcars – only 1/3 the size of the ark. Plenty of room for Noah, the animals, food, and whatever else they needed on their journey.
    - The ark could hold 50,540,000 kg. For some perspective: the average sheep is about 23.47 kilograms, so the biblical boat could have held about 2.15 million sheep
- Floor space = 100,000 sq ft

- Made with three decks of stalls for animals and supplies.
- If it is built to the Bible’s specs, it has been proven to be sea worthy.
- Perfect size:
  - Any longer: it would break apart
  - Any taller: it would tip over
  - Any wider: it would make the people and animals sick
- How Many Animals?
  - It is estimated that there are now on earth between 2 million and 50 million species. The number that is agreed upon as being the most reasonable estimate is 8 million.
  - If Noah had to take male and female of each species, that would mean 16 million animals. That is completely out of the scope of what could happen on that size of a ship.
  - The number of animals needed on the ark could be reduced to “kinds” instead of “species” and then suggesting that God introduced the possibility of endless hereditary variety into the genetic material of passengers and animals on the ark.
- Which animals were included:
  - Land-dwelling air-breathing creatures
    - Birds
    - Animals
    - Every creeping thing (this would be lizards, snakes, etc – amphibians)
- Which were not included:
  - Marine life – marine life covers the majority of the species of those 8 million animals
  - Insects – technically not air-breathing
- The animals that entered the ark were KINDS:
  - Genesis 7:14 – two of each KIND not each SPECIES
- Taxonomy: the classification of organisms
  - Taxonomy is the branch of biology that classifies all living things. It was developed by the Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus, who lived during the 18th Century (1735), and his system of classification is still used today. Linnaeus invented binomial nomenclature, the system of giving each type of organism a genus and species name. He also developed a classification system called the taxonomic hierarchy, which today has eight ranks from general to specific: domain, kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, and species.

Domain	3	(relatively new ranking – only since around 1990; Bacteria, Archaea, Eukaryota)
Kingdom	6	Plants, Animals, Protists, Fungi, Archaeobacteria, Eubacteria
Phylum	32-40	Also called Division; splits kingdoms into multiple groups; a label used to group living things together based on common features.
Class	94-108	Ex: Mammalia (mammals), Aves (birds), Reptilia (reptiles)
Order	420-450	Ex: some orders of Mammalia are: Carnivora, Cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises), Primates
Family	6k-8k	---Kind falls here--- Some families in the order Carnivora, for example, are Canidae (dogs, wolves, foxes), Felidae (cats), Mephitidae (skunks), and Ursidae (bears).
Genus	110k	Ex: the first part of an organism’s scientific name using binomial nomenclature; the second part is the species name.
Species	1m-8m	For example, <i>Ursus americanus</i> is the American black bear, while <i>Bufo americanus</i> is the American toad.

- All dogs belong to the family Canidae – it doesn't matter what species, or breed, it is all the same family.
- All cats belong to the family Felidae.
- It is said to be at this FAMILY level is because most at that level can breed with one another and produce offspring.
- Genetically, the family level is where you see the resemblances in DNA
  - Ex: zebras, donkeys, and horses all resemble each other and can be bred with each other to produce another breed of animal (such as the mule)
- There are close to 400 breeds of domestic dogs. Noah did not have to take all on the ark – he only needed one female and one male dog. Most of these breeds have only been around during the last 500 years, when people began specifically breeding dogs to make the variations that now exist.
- Even with all those breeds, there are only about 35 dog species. It's reasonable to say that if in 500 years we can attain over 400 breeds, then it isn't unlikely that 35 species could have come from one dog couple on the ark thousands of years ago.
- Answers Research Journal article breakdown of what was needed on the ark, as determined by the animals on earth today as well as those found in the fossil record:

	Kinds	Animals
Mammals:	546	1,644
Birds:	285	3,690
Reptiles:	320	928
Amphibians:	248	496
TOTALS:	1,399	6,758

- Some he took two of each, and others (clean animals) he took seven of each.
- Dinosaurs:
  - Were dinosaurs on the ark?
    - Yes. There are a lot of extinct animals today, not just dinosaurs, which would have been represented on the ark in some way.
  - How did they fit on the ark?
    - The average size of a dinosaur is buffalo size.
  - There are only about 60-80 dinosaur kinds – less than 200 total on the ark would fit this category.
- The animals on the ark would have been young/juvenile animals. This would give them the longest time after the flood to reproduce and fill the earth again. God didn't send old animals who could not reproduce.
  - The age would naturally determine that the animals were smaller in size – so elephants, or even dinosaurs, would have easily fit, even if they were the largest of their species.
  - Everything starts out small – the largest dinosaur eggs found in the fossil record are about the size of a football.
- What did these animals eat?
  - It is very possible that the animals God chose were specifically chosen because they were vegetarian (for at least the period of time they were on the ark). They might have become meat eaters later on down the line, but originally God made animals (and man!!) to be vegetarians. So it would not be hard to imagine that He would have guided those animals who would be safest to Noah.
    - While rare, there are lions and tigers even today who refuse to eat meat- they are vegetarians.
  - It is not specified in scripture what supplies Noah took on the ark, just that he prepared. It is possible that dried meat could have been part of those supplies.

## Genesis 6 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

In time, when men began to multiply on earth, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were attractive; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. <sup>3</sup> *ADONAI* said, "My Spirit will not live in human beings forever, for they too are flesh; therefore their life span is to be 120 years." <sup>4</sup> The N'filim were on the earth in those days, and also afterwards, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; these were the ancient heroes, men of renown.

<sup>5</sup> *ADONAI* saw that the people on earth were very wicked, that all the imaginings of their hearts were always of evil only. <sup>6</sup> *ADONAI* regretted that he had made humankind on the earth; it grieved his heart. <sup>7</sup> *ADONAI* said, "I will wipe out humankind, whom I have created, from the whole earth; and not only human beings, but animals, creeping things and birds in the air; for I regret that I ever made them." <sup>8</sup> But Noah found grace in the sight of *ADONAI*.

<sup>9</sup> Here is the history of Noah. In his generation, Noah was a man righteous and wholehearted; Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup> Noah fathered three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. <sup>11</sup> The earth was corrupt before God, the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw the earth, and, yes, it was corrupt; for all living beings had corrupted their ways on the earth.

<sup>13</sup> God said to Noah, "The end of all living beings has come before me, for because of them the earth is filled with violence. I will destroy them along with the earth. <sup>14</sup> Make yourself an ark of *gofer*-wood; you are to make the ark with rooms and cover it with pitch both outside and inside. <sup>15</sup> Here is how you are to build it: the length of the ark is to be 450 feet, its width seventy-five feet and its height forty-five feet. <sup>16</sup> You are to make an opening for daylight in the ark eighteen inches below its roof. Put a door in its side; and build it with lower, second and third decks.

<sup>17</sup> "Then I myself will bring the flood of water over the earth to destroy from under heaven every living thing that breathes; everything on earth will be destroyed. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you; you will come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife and your sons' wives with you.

<sup>19</sup> "From everything living, from each kind of living being, you are to bring two into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they are to be male and female. <sup>20</sup> Of each kind of bird, each kind of livestock, and each kind of animal creeping on the ground, two are to come to you, so that they can be kept alive. <sup>21</sup> Also take from all the kinds of food that are eaten, and collect it for yourself; it is to be food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup> This is what Noah did; he did all that God ordered him to do.

## **Genesis 7 Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)**

Adonai said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household; for I have seen that you alone in this generation are righteous before me. <sup>2</sup> Of every clean animal you are to take seven couples, and of the animals that are not clean, one couple; <sup>3</sup> also of the birds in the air take seven couples — in order to preserve their species throughout the earth. <sup>4</sup> For in seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights; I will wipe out every living thing that I have made from the face of the earth.” <sup>5</sup> Noah did all that Adonai ordered him to do.