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Noah's Ark Facts/Sermon

1. Play Bill Cosby's Noah Sketch

2. Most familiar story from the bible according to recent studies

3. Lots of flood stories around the world

1 volume I found contained 302 flood stories dealing with the end of civilization and the survival of one person or group, all as the result of a Great Flood.

A popular conjecture follows that so many similar stories must mean they stem from some Historical Fact. BUt a closer look shows more differences in detail than similarities in general. Rasing the questions does universal belief arise from universal fact. NO Many reasons for universal belief.

4. Flood stories just from the 'Biblical Lands' Syro-Palestine and Mesopatamia.

These stories are strikingly similar to the Biblical Noah story. And it is possible in an area of closely related languages and trade routes that one story could be passed down an survive. The a form of this Noah story exists in non-Jewish or (extra-biblical) texts from many cultures in the region.

5. Is there Physical Evidence of Noah's Flood.

There is evidence that Mesopatemia where the Noah story takes place was prone to infrequent but enormouse floods. Archeologists have found evidence of alluvium layers on seven mountain's in the area. An alluviam layer is sediment deposited by flowing water. An alluvium deposit at the peak of these mountains would indicate a flood of Noah-like proportions. The problem is that in dating the flood evidence archeologists conclude that the flood evidecne pre-dates or comes before the biblical account. But if the biblical date is off it is possible. Other explanations for the evidence are an earthquake or a tidal wave, or the Galcial melt of the last Ice Age. Evidence exists for the flood if one rejects conflicting explainations, or assumes that the date of the event is undetermined. The area did have a big flood of some kind at some point prior to the Noah event.

6. Is there Physical Evidence of the Ark.

One would have to say that if we found the ark and could date it to the biblical period that would be pretty conclussive evidence that this really happened. Number of expeditions to the area, leading to many claims of evidence but all are problematic

or suspect for one reason or another. Their is no existsing authentic photographic evidvidence of the Ark.

What about wood from the ark?
Tinmber has been found at the top of Mt Arrat, which has no natural or biological reason for being there. Most noted of these finds was by a French Industrialist Feranad Navarra in 1955 and 1969. The wood he found has since been termed the Navarra Wood. It has been tested in labs all over the world, including by the FBI and CIA at one point. It has been dated to be older that eight or sevent century C.E. Making it ony 1,200 years old. It should also be noted that while some wood has been brought down from the Mt. Lots of wood has been carried up there to errect crosses, and temporary research buildings.

Satelitte photos show what might be the outline of a wooden boat under the ice cap at the top of the peak, but datingt hat is impossible, and getting too it equally difficult. But the Navarra Wood is so far the best possible evidence that where their is wood their may be an Ark, wether it is Noah's or another ship remains to be discovered.

7. But we need not prove the story to learn something from it.

If we can prove nothing else we can prove that the Noah Tlae represents a religious metaphore in the form of a morality tale, not 'history' int he modern sense.

The role of Chamas, evil doings

Modern researchers treat the tale as soemthing that once occured, while the Torah aims at warning human of every generation of what could happen to them if they too allowed chamas to become their way of life. And theough God puts the rainbow int he sky as a symbol that never again will flood waters drown us, there remains the unhappy possibility that we might destroy ourselves, drown ourselves and the earth along with us.