**‘Let the Construction Begin’**

***13And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14Make yourself an ark of gopherwood\*; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15And 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. 16You 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, and third decks.***Genesis 6:13-16

As I read this passage, I marvel at God’s specifics. He doesn’t always give such detail, but He did with Noah and this particular project. God tells Noah what materials he was to use in the building of the ark, and details concerning its length, width, and height. It was to have a door in its side, a window, three decks, rooms within it, and how it was to be finished.

If we want to compare the ark with something most of us are familiar with, we can compare it to an American professional league football field. A football field is 100 yards by 53.5 yards (300 feet by 160 feet). The ark with its length and width, using the standard cubit measure of 18 inches per cubit, would have been 450 feet by 75 feet or roughly one and half times longer than a football field and just a little less than half its width. When we add its 45 feet in height, we calculate that the ark’s volume would have been approximately 5275 cubic feet (ft3). Jeff Kinley in his book, *‘As It Was In The Days of Noah’* states it could hold 522 standard railroad boxcars.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftn1) It was quite large!

We also need to see that God doesn’t appear to have given Noah any instructions on adding a wheel house, a rudder, or sails to the ark. The lack of these things makes the ark a three deck rectangular box, which have no way of being steered. It would be tossed about by the wind and waves. Though it was an enclosed space, it did have some ventilation because last cubit of the ark wasn’t finished with pitch, meaning that the last cubit wasn’t water or air tight. To do so, would have made the ark a very bad place for Noah, his family, and the creatures with him. Noah might not have known what he was doing, but God did. He made sure that the creatures on the ark would have the air they needed to survive the ordeal.

Did God give Noah further instructions as the work progressed? I suspect He did. We have no indication that Noah had ever done anything like this in his life. Quiet nudges and passing thoughts on how something was to be done, would have been welcomed as the project progressed.

Perseverance was going to be needed to build something so huge. This was not a project that could be accomplished in a short period of time. This was going to take a while to do. It would take one hundred and twenty years to be exact!

Would Noah have gotten the support of the people around him? Not in that wicked generation! Noah was building the ark on dry land. In fact, there had never been rain upon the earth, much less a flood of waters which would destroy everything! Noah would likely have had many people walking by shaking their heads and wagging their fingers at him. They must have thought that Noah was crazy. Noah probably didn’t have a lot of support from his community but he did have one thing going for him. He knew he was doing what the Lord had told him to do.

\* **What is gopherwood?** No one knows. The Hebrew letter’s G P R which is transliterated ‘gopher’ is used here in verse 14 and nowhere else in the Bible. Whatever it was, there was plenty of it on hand for Noah to build the ark.

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/02/%22%20%5Cl%20%22_ftnref1) Kinley, Jeff.  *‘As It Was In The Days Of Noah.’*  Harvest House. Eugene, Oregon. 2014. p.30.