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NOAH'S ARK

The twentieth century has seen **many** attacks challenging the historical accuracy of the Bible. However scientific advance may actually provide modern proof of **Biblicaa** revelations. Scientists• examinations of the Holy Shroud and expeditions to Mount Ararat appear to have confirmed two of the great events of the Scriptures: the crucifixion of **Christ** and the landing of Noah's **Ark.**

Some 14,000 feet high up on Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey is a giant wooden ship, portions of which have been seen by about 200 people in the last century. How did it get there? There is no nearby source of **timber.** No trees gro,v •n this mountain or within a hundred miles of the ship. It is not logical that any ancient civilization would build an immense rectangular wooden vessel; thought to be 450 feel long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high1near the top of a high, barren mountain peak.

Mount Ararat is inaccessible for many reasons. Not only is it an icy and difficult mountain to climb, but it is located in a restricted military zone close to the Turkish-Russian border, just 40 miles from a Soviet missile base.

The Turkish minister of the interior has banned most of the expeditions that have tried to climb Mount Ararat in the last six years to examine the ark. The Russians are very suspicious and will not let any American airplanes or helicopters fly over Mount Ararat, being convinced that they would be part of a CIA espionage plot.

(more)

A few 'expeditions have reached tlie ark on foot and brought back pieces of wood that scientists tell us date from the time o·r **Noah.** Biblical scholars generally agree that the Great Flood. ooourred about 5,000 years ago.

The French archaeologist i ermmd Navarro 1natle several e.1::pe• di tions **h** up Mount Ararat beginning in 1952, when he found a larg(mass of dark wood **in1bedletl** in the glacier about 13,000 feet high.

In 1955 and 1968; Navarra brought ln1ok timbers :found in the ice of Mount Ararat. They were examined by Nobel Prize winner Dr. l-Iel vin A. Cook, who ooncltuif)d that the wood was of the right age to haVt} been Noah's Ark.

Among the five pieces o:f planking that Nirvarra brought back in 1969 was a fi've-foot l.leam that had lHHm hand-hewn and squared, aud had mortise and tenon joints. The beam :nmtched the ·wood recovered from the ark by James Bryce in 1876.

The Oenter of Forestry Research and Analysis in I'aris con f:i.rmed that the wood was wb.ite oak a11d had a.n age of about 4,500 years. It ia a type o:f white oalt that grows 011ly i:n the Medi ter:r.anean region where Noah ;:i.s believed to have built the ark. Other wood experts also estb1ate the age of the wood to be about 5,000 years.

In 1973 Thomas B. Turner of the McDonnell-Douglas **.J.s84l!! e aaqtt es** Company in st. l.iouis told of an Earth Reseurces '.1¹e hnology Satellite {I RTS) pllotograph that possibly showed Noah's Ark in the same quadrant Id 011 Mount Ararat where previous ground explorers ha, found the hant1-he111Jn timbers.

The search for Noah's Arc continues to be a fascination :fla: to many people, including Dr. John Montgomery who has cl:f.mbf.;d Mount Ara.rat many times. n He and Tom Crotser, who has pbot,,grapbed the gunwalo planking of the ark• a bow in the ice near the top of Motmt Ararat, are convinced that civilization was .rnved, ,jttst as ·tho Bible ia aohes, by Noah and his Arc at the tb1e of -the Great Flood.

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