

In the Mountains of Ararat



By

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From the Mountains of Ararat

Photograph by Mustafa Arsin

INTRODUCTION

In peering through Noah’s window, almost “from the top,” it is *iced* and *fossilized*, but an attempt has been made to melt some of the historical impasses with: (I) expedition summaries by our tour guide, the raven; (II) a chronology of Chapters 7 and 8 of Genesis merging a minimum of three authors (doublets, *J* and *P*, and the mystery redactor, *R*); acknowledgment of the Gilgamesh and Simmons tablet epics, the above sources interspersed with relevant comments and recent theories; then finally, (III) an addenda of bibliographies that give an opportunity for you to pick through and spade into the silt of ambiguity.

From Luke 1:1

“Forasmuch as *many* have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you . . . “

As it now seems good to me, even *without* perfect understanding, to write to you a declaration of recent treks to find Noah’s ark, most surely believed . . .

I EXPEDITION SUMMARIES

Big Ararat Büyük Ağrı Dağı



By invitation, I was invited to preview ark sites on *Big Ararat* selected by a Kurdish exploration team. (The Kurds, ancient residents of the “mountains of Ararat” were in antiquity known as guardians of the Magi’s temples. But are they also guardians of the ark, also guided by a star, this time, a satellite?)

Many “ark-eologists” adorn the hotels at Doğubeyazıt annually, their eyes stars of anticipation, their satellites, the resident guides. One of those was I, tempted particularly by the area of Abich II glacier at 16,000 feet. However, due to avalanches our tour refocused on the region below the Great Western Plateau at N39.41 latitude by E44.16 longitude and at 12,800 feet/3.794 meters elevation, an area which has recently also experienced both natural and induced “avalanches,” the latter indicated by white powder ribbons one which wrapped itself over the artifacts of Çevirma, a former village at 13,000 feet (39.62 meters) already destroyed once by the 1840 earthquake/volcano. Now totally obliterated by the induced avalanches in 2007 it leaves proof of its original location only by scattered debris, debris which gasps for recognition.



Photograph by Mary Doerflein



Photograph by Mustafa Arsin

The ice cave at 12,800 feet on which extensive research was begun in 2004 and continued in 2009 by a Korean expedition. The supposed findings include “ancient” wooden compartments, The same contested as faked by other expert(s).

Our detour had unexpected compensation: Armenian ruins and a field of fossils extending from 11 (31.62m) to 13,000 feet (35.38m) elevation, doubtlessly air mailed by volcanic or avalanche express from *higher* elevations in former times. Although most scientists consider Mt. Ararat an *extinct* volcano . . .

John Seach (www.vulcanoalive.com) does not. In contrast to those who state there has been no volcanic activity within the last ten thousand years, he traces six major eruptions on Mt. Ararat: 2450 BC (note the oncoming Patten flood date of 2484 BC) also 550 B.C., and in A.D., 300, 1450, 1783 *and* 1840. Huge boulders attributed to the 1840 eruption are not ambiguous either—their statements are scattered on the Igdir plain ten miles north. Ali Çevārūn a local veteran climber remembers his fear caused by the rumbling of tremors and emissions as recently as 2001. Even NASA erupts with comments: “Pyroclastic flow deposits from Ararat overlie early Bronze Age artifacts.” (Space Shuttle image ISS002-E-10032, 2001).

But snuggled among the fossils was another silent spokesman, the dove which in flight was captured by nature itself and could not return “again unto him {Noah} any more” (Gen. 8:12), *has* now returned in an unexpected form to us . . . is that an olive leaf embedded in its beak, its eternal emblem of peace? Or is peace, like the symbol also petrified?



Discovered by Mary L. Doerflein

Photographed by Būrhan Çevārūn

Substantial evidence of aquatic life on Mt. Ararat also exists near the former Çevirma (approximate coordinates: N39.41 LA, E44.16 LO) these two fish destined to swim at 13,000 feet for us permanently. Other contemporaries were hooked by the same violent catastrophes. In one of the Asian cultural legends, it is said that Noah’s ark was led by a fish. According to Turkish tradition, the Milesians believed that the first settlers to Miletus were guided there “by the gods in the form of a dolphin.” (Yenen:398).



Discovered and photographed by Mary Doerflein



Photographed by Būrhan Çevārūn

And these molars (below) indicate other former residents which had nothing left to bite but the dust. They can however, still gnash their teeth for “I (Jesus) tell you that, if these {we} should hold our peace, the stones would immediately cry out” . . . and *have*.



Discovery and photography of this fossil series by B rhan  evar n

Similar dental fossils are displayed in the rhinoceros cases (2006) in the *Museum fuer Natur Kunde* in Berlin. The pterodactyl(s) (right above) about 5-6 feet in length and fettered only by time, still struggle to take off.

Also in this area are *several* large tree segments of petrified wood evenly cut . . .



Discovered by Ahmet  evar n they inhabit the hillsides at or near latitude 35.41.468; longitude, 44.16.230.

Trees were common on the Ararats until about 1,000 A.D. Midrashic tradition, includes the story that before the flood, Noah planted trees to use as lumber for the ark.

Besides the pterodactyls, research also struggles to take off. In recent years, it focused on five major areas: (1) Mt. Ararat, Sr., (2) the Durupinar/Akyayla location 18 miles southwest, (3) Mt. Cudi, 200 miles south near  izre, Turkey and (4) Mt. Cudi II across the Aras Valley. (Note: several Mt. Cudi’s exist, however, the etymology from the Hebrew {Judah} meaning “praise,” sometimes “excellent,” is a generic application which could apply to many locations, among them the Ararats to which the name “Cudi” was once appended), and, finally (5), the petrified or (as the opposition suggests) foliated planking in Iran.

The *featured* objective in this presentation is situated near the designer mountain, Mt. Ararat, Jr. Elegant and aloof from most studies *Little* Ararat emits furtive allusions pertaining particularly to Russian records developed by Violet Cummings in her book *Has Anyone Really Seen Noah’s Ark?* suggesting further tantalizing digging is needed.

I could hear the pterodactyls murmuring: “this tour is too extensive; she needs an escort, and we are momentarily disabled. But, look, in the far distance—is that the raven?” I looked also and saw black wings whirring and heard a caw of exaltation. Hoping I might, in fact, have reinforcements, I took another rarified breath and looked again at the bird. It did look like a raven. Could it be *the* raven? I verbally ambled on enthusiastically.



Küçük Ağrı Dağ
Little Ararat



Little Ararat (almost 13,000 feet/3.962 meters) in elevation
shares its geological flanks with its big brother.

Of previous expeditions I reported, four have been culled which though *alluding* to Mt. Ararat, Sr., may (or may not) actually pertain to *Little* Ararat.

- **George Hagopian, 1900-1910**
- **Lt. Vladimir Roskovitsky, 1916**
- **Czar Nicholas II, 1916, and**
- **Captain Gregor Schwinghammer, 1960**

From the Hagopian reports (1900-1910)

“It was absolutely petrified, just like pure stone, just like stone.”

“And snow very little on top . . .”

“Thirty-five feet high, more. . . More than that.”

Re: the roof: “Plain, *flat*.” “No windows . . . I see no door.”

“There are holes on top.” (From the *Quest for Noah’s Ark*, John W. Montgomery, p. 117). (Note: the structure on the north side was covered by gigantic volcanic boulders, offering easy access to the visible south side.)

From the Roskovitsky report

While on a routine reconnaissance flight in early 1916, Lt. Roskovitsky saw a huge wooden structure partially submerged in a small lake, on one of the slopes of the mountain. Although Roskovitsky’s document is considered fabrication by some it was not by the czar. When Roskovitsky returned with his report to Russia, Nicholas II ordered a contingent of the imperial forces to ransack the mountain and find the ark.

From Czar Nicholas II

About 150 military personnel ascended both the north and *south* sides of the Ararats. They found the ark, took measurements and photographs and submitted the account supposedly to the court. But Bolsheviks were already haunting the royal corridors. (Kneisler, HTML) says the messenger to the Czar was murdered on arrival and the reports intercepted, destroyed or stolen. Whether the ark report could have played a part later in the revolution in 1918 when the Czar and his family were also assassinated is not known.

What remained were members of the ascent teams’ verbal accounts from the soldiers who escaped the Bolshevik/communist revolution among which was that of *Lt. Peter Nicolovich Leslin* of the 261st Ahilchinsky regiment.

From *Has Anyone Really Seen Noah’s Ark*: Yes. Their Commanding Officer, Colonel Alexander Koor, writes that about July or August 1921, he and Lt. Peter Nicolovich Leslin (also a political refugee) met in Harbin, Manchuria. Leslin said his brother, Boris Vasilivich Rujansky, a member of the imperial troop investigating party mentioned discovering the ark. Leslin also said he had a report from the Senior Adjutant that Noah’s Ark was found in the *saddle* between the two peaks of Mount Ararat. (*Ibid.* V. Cummings).

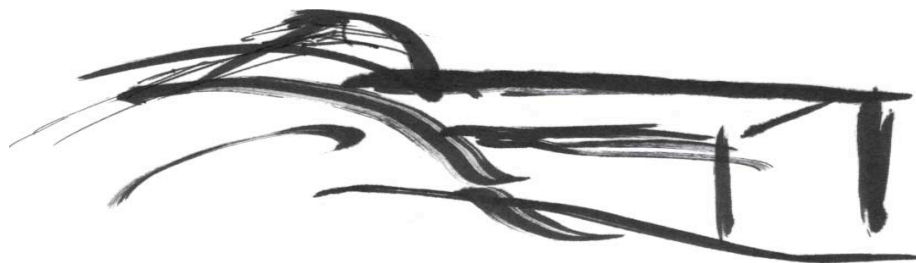
From the Captain Gregor Schwinghammer report

In 1960, Captain Schwinghammer with the 428th Tactical Flight Squadron, based in Adana, Turkey under the NATO Military Assistance Pact and on a reconnaissance mission described seeing, from the air, an enormous *boxcar* or rectangular *barge* visible in a gully about two thirds of the way up the mountain.”

My report from 2004

. . . is similar to the *exterior* structural design reports of Hagopian, Roskovitsky, and Schwinghammer and others, (a rectangular/box barge) however, varies from the topographical descriptions. Roskovitsky mentioned a lake, a swamp; Hagopian is believed to be at the northeast sector of Ararat, *Sr.* Schwinghammer, however, mentions being two-thirds of the way up (“up” unspecified but *assumed* to be Big Ararat) but does not define the geographical location. Some of the inconsistencies mentioned may be resolved by the following comments. The Hagopian location has always been assumed to be high on the northern slope of Ararat, *Sr.*, however, Montgomery in *The Quest for Noah’s Ark* mentions the ascent originated from the south, via Ararat, *Jr.* Additionally, when Hagopian informed his friends he had seen the ark, they nonchalantly said “oh, we’ve seen it, too,” a comment indicating local familiarity and ease of access. The Hagopian snow depth (“little or none”) could also support the Little Ararat location theory as the subject at 8,000 foot elevation is usually without snow from May through October.

I was in the prescribed “saddle” or, more precisely, its *stirrups*, not on Big Ararat, but on the geological flank of *Little Ararat* on October 27, 2004. What I saw was an immense structure, oriented north/south, at GPS coordinates of Latitude 39.37.4 and longitude 44.21.5, classical Biblical dimensions.



It was grounded at an approximate 30 foot angle, totally flat on top (synchronizing well with Fasold’s Durupinar theory that a hull pool would insure the “vessel would remain upright on landing” {*The Ark of Noah*, pg. 141-142}).

The 2004 Ararat ark's western side and top had no visible window or door (see Hagopian above). Its dimensions (the *visible* length) were about 200 feet, the remainder being covered with *volcanic* rock and wedged into the mountain. Other expedition participants have reported seeing a rectangular "box/barge" structure, i.e., the Turkish-English trek in 1883, others stating the ark was in two parts, broken/

The height and width appeared to be in proportion to Biblical standards. Although there was no lake in the immediate vicinity (Roskovitsky) there may be at least one small lake and is a stream north of the location. Roskovitsky also mentioned a swamp which did not exist there, but does exist in the Aras valley below or the report could have referred to the sand dunes nearby at the base of Mt. Ararat, Jr. and the adjacent butte. It has been assumed that Schwinghammer at "two-thirds of the way *up*," unequivocally indicated Mt. Ararat, Sr., however, he could also have flown "up" over Little Ararat's geological flank, which merges with that of Ararat, Sr. just northeast of where the "saddle" sits? And the stirrups still dangle?

Subsequent ascent attempts

On arrival at home I immediately made arrangements to return for measurements and photos of the rectangular structure (November 22-24, 2004) but nature had made a previous appointment and arrived accompanied by snow before I did. On a second trip the following spring (May 20-25, 2005), a courier arrived at our campsite on May 22 to explain that the Turkish Army would be doing "maneuvers" in the area and everyone on the mountain, even the shepherds, must evacuate within three days. The shepherds would be trucked up from their town residencies to their flocks in the morning and back to town in the evening. Not yet wolves in sheeps' clothing or the ability to morph into convincing lambs, we left on May 24th. On a subsequent trip in 2005, I found, ominously, what appeared to be a recent, perhaps artificially induced landslide near the area and five caked cannon balls at the bottom, diameter estimated at 6-1/2 inches. On a third trip (November 11-16, 2005, on a fourth in 2007, again in 2008 and 2009) there was no visible structure, only snow . . . of many varieties.

Speculation on why this structure (sketch above known as the "Armenian Palace" in the vernacular idiom of the Ararats) has not been previously suggested as a candidate might be:

- It is not at the preferred location: situated near *Little* not Big Ararat
- It is lower than the preferred elevation
- It does not look like wood, but stone, possibly due to fossilization.

The only known photograph of the rectangular "box" existing on the Internet may be seen by referencing <http://www.neplaneta.ru/expeditions> The date of the picture may be assumed to be pre-1923, the date when wearing the Turkish fez was *illegalized* by the new president of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

It is notable that Josephus (first century C.E.) quoting from Berossus (3rd century B.C.E.) mentions that the location of Noah's ark was *accessible* to those making pilgrimages in ancient times, a statement that could apply to sites at lower elevations, i.e., the Little Ararat saddle and stirrups (8-9,000 feet/2.400-2.800m elevation), Durupinar (at 6300 feet/1,828m), and Naxuan (at 7000 feet/2.133m) the latter two on which the pterodactyls are deliberating not yet ready to take off for their analysis.

In fact, they have stopped drumming their toes on the rocks, and, on inquiry, presented an alternative idea. "This lecture has been most impressive but the raven is landing," they said "and even though it has been unemployed for centuries, we would like to suggest it as your tour escort." (We again hear the rush of strong wings) "And," interrupted the pterodactyls, "it's even wearing *tails* for the occasion." And they tell us . . . what? "Yes, it even has its own theory . . . namely,



"Does One Theory Fit All? "

What a combination of irresistibles. We sit down on a rock to listen and, upon introduction, the raven said very modestly: "Yes, I have been unemployed for close to 5,000 years but I am ready for more logistical adventures again. And I do have a theory and it fits *all* sizes, perhaps all locations. I say this even if I did *not* see what I think was the exact site of the ark as I flew here. And what I do show you may even turn out to be more negative evidence." (We nod; we are accustomed to negative evidence particularly in reference to the ark) "And," continued the raven, "if, indeed, the 'Armenian Palace,' my choice, is still extant and *proven* to be relevant, will it, if found, be *related* to the other favored findings, i.e., relics or parts of the ark on or near the summit of Big Ararat, or at the Durupinar/Akyayla "hull impression" formation? and Naxuan? the Iranian findings or Mt. Cudi(s) in the south? A question for ark-eologists—and the spade. But I cannot show you the "planking" in Iran for I do not have a visa."

We were impressed. "One theory, to fit every size?" "It is a *big* question," echoed the director "especially since we are also inadequately equipped: we have no visa either, no shovels, no sub-surface radar, no brooms."

"You do not need shovels to observe," said the raven and presented its own program: "I would like to show you even more sites—more 'formations'—a word we use when we don't know what to think. You see, I could flesh out my theory, also," it said wistfully. "Things have changed since I was here before."

"Things would change in almost 5000 years," we agreed. And after conferring, our spokesman said, "We like your proposal--only wait, there is a problem. We see *you* are formally dressed up in tails but where is your tie?"

“Oh, I will just sling a worm around my neck . . . “ The pterodactyls shivered at this breach of etiquette, but curious about the jiggling, a worm crawled out and was promptly gobbled up as accessory staff. The worm experienced only in seeing other worms grabbed up by similar beaks when, on being informed of its sudden promotion, tied itself around the raven’s neck quite gratefully. (Multiple theories of relativity, i.e., bird eats worm, are well known here.)

And with a salute to the elated pterodactyls *we* also rose to the occasion and followed the raven and our guides on horseback (about five miles) to the volcanic corridor, existing essentially between longitudes E44.20 and 44.23, a cluster of cinder cones, craters, dimpled hills and alluvial cataclysms, some rugged, other terrains as this, gentle, wishing once again for their former exalted status of being mountain peaks.



Our guide gestures toward one of the more gentle areas which wait for the next cataclysm, the region between Little (which peeks out at the upper right corner) and Big Ararat (which begins its climb at the upper left). The summit of the butte in the center is at the approximate elevation of 10,000 feet.

Sometimes the search seems to be a very long trek especially when we don’t really know where we are going; and we see by the limp saddlebags how much of our provisions we have already eaten. The guides are anxious, too, waiting for a directive to go back for food!

The horses prefer continuing the intermission nibbling exotic grasses, one of the few fringe benefits of their arduous tasks.



Then at longitude E44.21.475 known for its volcanism and latitude N39.36.988 for its tectonic propensities, stood a hook or anchor. And Mustafa Çıvaş.

“In the name of Allah, it will cast anchor.”

The *Qur'an*, Sura 11:44, Dawood translation

Discovered by Mustafa Çivaş (Chivash), the hook or anchor pictured below is at elevation 7,975 feet/30.48m, latitude N39.36.988 and longitude E44.21.475 (coordinates by a battered Garmin 201 on September 21, 2008) slightly southeast from the approximate coordinates of the ark aka the “Armenian Palace.”



The visible petrified hook or anchor fluke is about 5.5 feet high (longer if deeply grounded) and extends directly opposite the stem/stock, the latter 11-15 feet high. Whether there was second or third fluke could not be determined. Although the stem does *not* appear to be monogamous, being deeply corroded externally, underneath the red-gold silt exists a grayish flat stone a subject inviting further study.

Above the stem is a groove in the dirt extending possibly 25-50 feet upward luring one to consider the fluke or prong as a possible sounding device which grappled tenuously to Genesis 7:20: “15 cubits (about 25 feet) upwards did the waters prevail” implies a measurement system existing and employed on the ark as it floated across the summit. The drogue stone found on the northeast flank of Mt. Ararat, Sr. (by Ahmet Ertegrul {Paraşut}) could be one clue that the ark did float in from the north or west, Noah releasing one set of drogue stones which dropped closer to the northern base of Big Ararat at Ahura and another set at Arzep (near Doğubeyazit), the latter set caught in the current to drift further from the southern base of Ararat, Sr. to latitude 39.37.529, almost identical to the *latitude* of the “Armenian Palace” structure at 39.37.4. Only the longitude varies: the northern set of drogue stones at 44.23.308 and the longitude of the southern set further west to nearly 44 degrees, at 43.59.1. And then we also drift to these sites, with the terminology on the next page.

Other Anchor Devices

The Drogue Stones



Discovered in 1977 by Ron Wyatt on *the southern* side of Mt. Ararat at Arzep (roughly 8 miles west from Doğubayazıt at 5,360 feet (524m) lie about 40 monoliths, varying in height from 11 to 6 feet, averaging 7 tons each dropped off as the ark floated on or near the Ararat summit. The classic model (above), is about 11 feet high bearing the carved rounded hole of the drogue stone, its latitude, 39.37.529, again, its longitude at 43.59.765.

By this time, the director would not part with the raven, who, loudly objecting, was caged and put into the back seat where it refused all culinary inducements. We drove to the *northern* side of Mt. Ararat near the Ahura Village, elevation 5,702 feet/10.90 meters where the other set (approximately 40) drogue stones lay, these at latitude 39.46.476; longitude, 44.23.308, approximately nine (9) minutes variation in latitude and 64.5 minutes in longitude from the southern set shown below.



The Ahura drogue stones' obscured by time changed their first vocation to become grave markers.



Ramazan and Nuri Saltik study the intricacies of rock embroidery at Ahura.



Photography by Nuri Saltik with the author, the rock and R. Saltik.

We returned to Little Ararat--the raven released in a sulky mood: it couldn't resign for it had not been paid--for still another view of smaller anchor stones, the minimalists below, including the toroid, the doughnut shaped ring (courtesy of Ösman Belman). The exact provenance has not yet been determined by the author but appears to be near an ancient complex of Armenian barracks and underground houses near Silekosa, *also* known as the Armenian Palace.



The Babylonians named the sailors who helped handling the anchor lines for the “braking stones Buzur and Uragal.” (David Fasold, in *The Ark of Noah* quoting *Gilgamesh*).

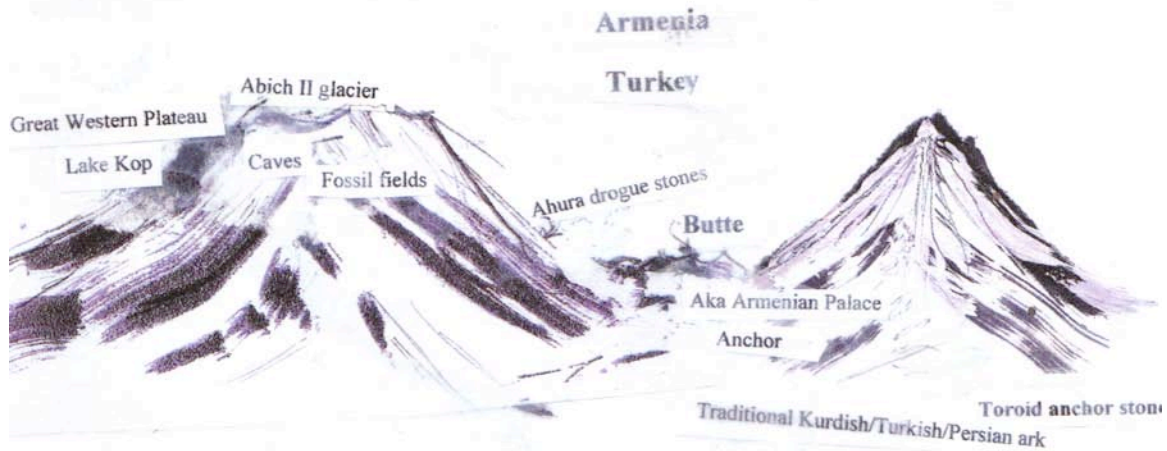
“So tell us more about your theory” we ask our eminent guide: how *does* one theory fit all?”

The raven adjusted its tie, bedraggled from its siege in the vehicle, and hopped on an anchor as its podium, soothed again by its role as a celebrity:

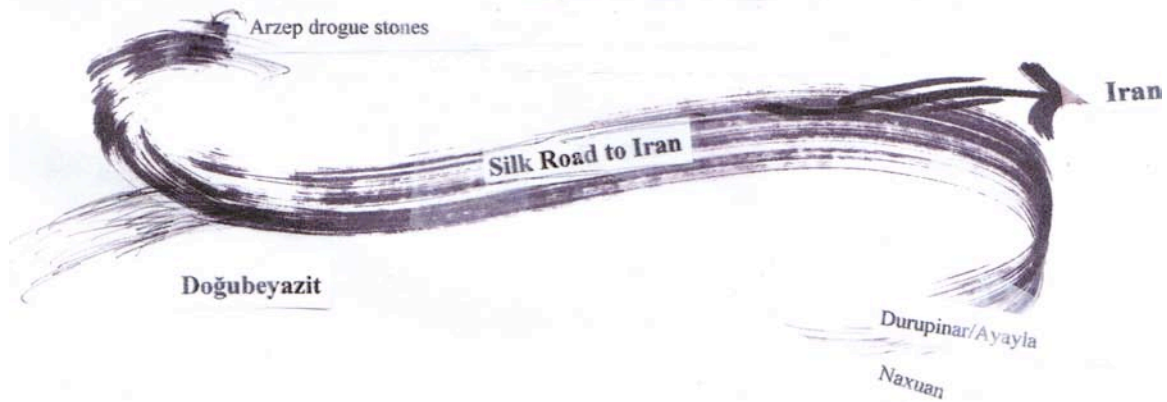
“Mentioned so far are the summit locations, (16,000-16,954 feet/4.8768m-5.165m) where most research occurs and the cave areas (13,000 feet/3.962m) near Çevırma but to secure the required Genesis plural – the mountains of Ararat—we need at least two mountains but that is not difficult because the Ararats themselves can supply the plural, their fraternal *twin* peaks.

The raven paused: “I can show you the map I pecked out (along with my bill) while I waited for you at Ahura. It’s a bit catawampus because the cage was small – but . . . how about considering a *segmented* ark?” The raven took a breath . . . so did we.

The Ararats



The Aras Valley

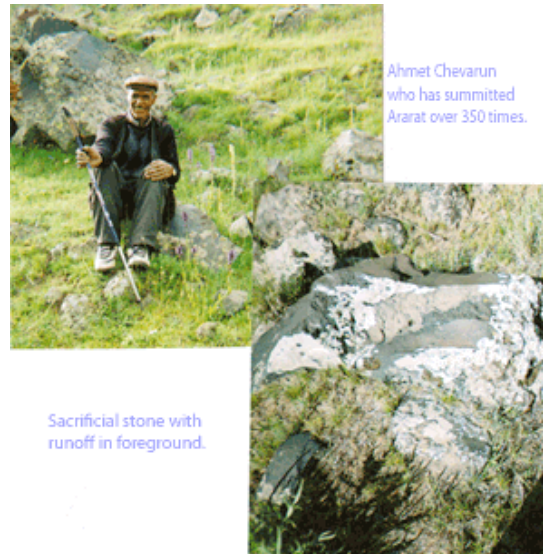


So might there be a *segmented* ark, parts of which have separated? Such as this report recently released which is sited on Big Ararat. Landing on more than one mountain is implied in Genesis. And later, I can chart the longitude emphasis of the featured formations in this study: near or at 44 degrees (I will make a table for you) and for the “western Armenian Palace,” the Çıvaş anchor *and* another candidate, the traditional Kurdish/Turkish ark—by the way, we’re going there also.

All three tabulate in at longitude 44 degrees, 21+ minutes. Afterwards, there is the Durupinar/Ayayla site at 44.14. And Çevırma again at 44.16. Is it possible that the rectangular structure (aka the Armenian Palace) might be related to the hull impression? And a theory for the locations of the drogue stones needs to be specifically developed. Were their ropes cut or dragged in order to angle the ark toward the southeast or to brake . . . or both? And Mt. Cudi in Cizre. And here, too, is a:

Sacrificial Stone

“Discovered by Ahmet Çevarün also on September 21, 2008 about 300 feet east and below the ‘hook/anchor,’ is the hewn stone (below), such stones frequently made to commemorate an event or the site of an event. The cavity on the left side was about one foot square, followed by a ridge between the cavities (to support the sacrificial neck) and a second smaller cavity with a run off for blood. The raven did not sample the leftovers, I noticed.



“But,” said the raven reading my thoughts, “I *have* sacrificed much information and you know in this area we are skilled negotiators and,” (it jumped to the ground) “in return, before we trek further, I would like to negotiate with you for a promotion . . . for . . . for a crow’s nest -- my only complaint against my esteemed boss, Noah. He didn’t give me one.”

“But why do you need a crow’s nest?” we asked. We were jolted—here out among the rocks, one of them a sacrificial stone, and far from our secretaries’ defense systems. This was a bold, still again an admirably strategic move on the part of our guide.

“I need the crow’s nest to secure the promotion,” I replied amazed at my clients’ lack of the process of logical progression.

“But the raven is going to give us a table,” interjected an astute client. “And he already made a map. Both will look good on our report.”

“Yes, a table would be especially impressive, as long as our heads are not on it,” chirped one hungry client.

The raven which normally associated all tables with falling crumbs also noticeably perked up. ‘Of course, it mused later, mine are also crumbs . . . of information.’

We hurriedly took out more paper to submit a request . . . enough paper that . . . the raven suitably mollified, led us further down to a valley near the village of Şigmirzo. It was July 18, 2009.

“Archival information is scant” the raven offered but added another hard crumb: “I need again myself to pinpoint our landing location. Even though I am such an experienced flight attendant, the ridges’ contours have been altered by time and even I am confused, especially when the ‘aka Armenian Palace’ seems to have disappeared. You must realize,” the raven added “that when the ark finally anchored and we disembarked, I as well as every passenger was occupied with the delicate operation of continuing its species, and developing epigenetics favorable to the environment. We were just glad the voyage was over. What *was* of ultimate priority then was:

- preening and courting: we spent a lot of time on this (that is why we birds are among the sartorials; we wear tails while the orca dolphins and penguins are even more formal—they have their tuxedos), and
- acquiring the implements of survival: first standing in line for my intended and my rations, then fertilizing the soil for planting and, finally, hulling seeds, that, I must confess, we mostly hulled by eating.

“And now almost 5,000 years have passed and policies and procedures also seem to have mutated exponentially;” it sighed, and continued: “we do seem to be still dominated by the human factor; but we also have autonomy. *We* can take ‘the high road’ and fly above almost any situation.”

The thought of the raven taking off for the ‘high road’ at this juncture was alarming. (We automatically take out more paper for its soothing effect.)

“In the meantime . . . while you are considering my request for promotion, here is Option One for another site. It is the *traditional* Turkish/Kurdish ark favored by both Turkish and Kurdish residents also by the Persians’ version and, as I understand, reiterated even by the Mayans/Incas/Aztecs, that Central America trinity, descendants of the Olmecs who date their records to 3,000 years ago. Of course, not as ancient as my records!

“And as for the accuracy of my GPS,” (the raven sighed again but continued): “I must apologize since it was in a flash flood as I flew out; however, with these caveats the coordinates are 39.35.418 latitude and also again the 44 degrees, 44.21.088 longitude; the elevation is 6,645 feet/18.28m (quite low) but you must realize the ark may have moved from its original sites, nudged by the volcanoes and propelled down with currents, whereas the anchor nudged firmly in rock remained stationary.”

The raven pecked again at the desolate ground looking for a snack. “I think this ground is still cursed.” it muttered *sotto voce*. But on finding an insect, it acquired protein and with it, fortitude and cawed louder to its clients “I must apply for a raise, too. You see, both the dove and I worked long hours during the flood and employment is no longer gratuitous. The pterodactyls will confirm that.” (We heard distant thumps.)

The raven looked at the mounting mountain of paper we were hastily scattering. “I see our saddle bags *are* limp; I think I will go *out* for dinner” (and he adjusted his bow tie). “We still have leftovers from our original plantings even if they are dwindling—but I will order more provisions for everyone and return with them later. *Bon appetite*.” And the raven flew off. Another bold strategic move, we agreed. We looked down to confirm the culinary status of our saddle bags again. There was no status. Instead we saw:



. . . a partially structured, partially collapsed mass of rocks oriented east/west which, overall, resembled the cartoon-like drawings for children’s comic books. It *seemed* much smaller than the Biblical ark measurements but, on further examination, had at its anticline, a level plateau with potential to stretch leisurely even more than the required 450 feet using the Hebrew cubit of 18 inches or 515 feet (see the Ezekiel 40:5 cubit of 20.6 inches in length, commonly referred to as the Egyptian and/or Hebrew royal cubit).

“But if not the ark, could it be Noah’s altar?” we asked in awe?

Genesis: 8:20-22: And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord, and took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour: and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake: for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.

Was the promise of seasons made because the earth had just tilted 23 degrees?

At the inception of the flood Noah preempted Spencer’s theory of survival of the fittest to choose who would live; now he must select those to die. Perhaps not knowing what animal(s) God had sacrificed for the clothing of skins for Adam and Eve so they could be fashionably attired, Noah chose one of each clean species, animal and fowl, enough skins to cover untold magazine covers in the future *and* the inherent sins of many Adams and Eves until the ultimate sacrifice should come, the Messiah.



At the pinnacle of the level structure (left) is an unusual overlap (center) and (right) indications of charred wood (now petrified). The level platform extends only 4–6 feet as the hillside moves in to “bury” it.

But if not the altar, *could* it be the ark? Or is it just another unusual “formation”?

The word “bury” may be more significant than expected for this “formation” also resembles Varuna’s house of clay, an edifice described in Persian records as Noah’s ark. “Vara” meaning “house of clay” implies an underground fortress, in this case, a structure totally immersed in soil, in which mankind would have ridden out the deluge (brianshouse@yahoo.com).

What if the layers buried beneath the soil revealed a cavity of 515 feet (the 20.6” cubit) or 450 feet (the 18” cubit)? Measurement of the *visible* structure indicated that the *width* at the top of the “forecastle” was 13’9” necessitating *each* deck extend 36 feet outward for the width to increase to almost 85 feet (the biblical minimum requirement using the 18” Hebrew cubit). The existing height of the *visible* forecastle was also about 13 feet *excluding* the hull portion which would require an additional depth of 37 feet to attain the Biblical standard. The terrain potential exists.



This *listing* "ark" (left) may be the original inspiration for the "cartoon" designs (i.e., right, by Google) which frequently appear in secular literature.

As mentioned, sufficient space stretches out at the top of the anticline shown on the previous page to accommodate the traditional length of 300 cubits required by Genesis 6:15, the prow to the stern (not shown). However, if the rock protrusion in the *immediate* rear is used as the stern, it might appear to be a third option, a dinghy, perhaps used to carry the material treasures, i.e., the gold, silver and gems (lapis lazuli) mentioned in the *Gilgamesh Epic* or the plates if such written treasures could be safely secreted there.



Adjacent to the *traditional* Kurdish/Turkish ark site is the oval or *Omega* configuration (upper right). If there is/was an entrance, it is now barred by rock. Notice also the horizontal/vertical angulations in mid- and lower left, seemingly squared off segments. A gigantic plate with squared corners also exists at Lake Kop *below* the Great Western Plateau at Ararat, Sr.

Cross Cultural Connection Possibilities

Is there a cultural bridge to explain the similarities of Persian/Central American traditions? Or might a tower with scattered population be a better analogy? On a visit to the Tower of Babel, God was not impressed; in fact, he appeared to be concerned about a serious issue: the potential *collective* ingenuity of his creation. "This *they* *begin* to do and now nothing will be restrained from them (Genesis 11:6; see also Obadiah 1:4) so the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of *all* the earth: and they left off to build the city" (Genesis 11:8).

At least five known possibilities occur to explain how geographic diversification and its epigenesis, cultural meld between ancient eastern and modern western could intersect, all embedded either in the tentacles of the Atlantic rift i.e., Thor Heyderdahl's voyages or as shown in the *Museo Nacional de Antropologia* in Mexico City, migration of Central Americans via island hopping in the Pacific, or in the Gavin Menzies series regarding massive world exploration by the Chinese.

Peleg's era (Genesis 10-25): In a geographical leap when the earth divided, did the Olmecs, progenitors of the Aztec, Inca and Mayan tribes accidentally step from an eastern tectonic plate to a western plate? Or western to eastern? Riding alongside to a new niche with a contingent of Persians from Chaldea or Babel? (Compare Olmec statuary with that of monks in Tibet of similar physiognomy each again different but also similar to the visage style employed at Nemrut.)

Emigration to the "land of promise." Among those "scattered" at the Tower of Babel were the progenitors of the Mormons. The author in the *Book of Mormon* writes: "I do *not* write those things which transpired from the days of Adam until that time (the Tower of Babel) but they are had upon the plates, and whoso findeth them, the same will have power that he may get the full account. But behold, I give not the full account, but a part of the account: I give, *from* the tower down until they were destroyed . . . he that wrote this record was Ether (from Ether 1:4-6)," the same person who continues on to record "Jared's" story:

Jared I was the great, great grandfather of Noah; the subsequent Jaredites, descendants of Seth "which subsequent Jared "came forth with his brother . . . from the great tower {of Babel} at the time the Lord confounded the language of the people and swore in his wrath that they should be scattered upon all the face of the earth" (Ether 1:33).

"And it came to pass that the Lord did go before them as he stood in a cloud and gave directions whither they should travel. And it came to pass that they did travel in the wilderness, and did build barges in the wilderness and crossed many waters . . . " (Ether 2:5-6). But this was to be a temporary location for 4 years when the Lord "would not suffer that they should stop beyond the sea in the wilderness, but he would that they should come forth, even unto the land of promise . . . " (Ether 2:7)

And they built eight new barges during the four years, "exceedingly tight for behold, ye shall be as a whale in the midst of the sea . . . nevertheless I shall bring you up again out of the depths of the sea" (Ether 2:24). "And there was time on this voyage (344 days) for much historical review: 'good night stories about a great closed chest as well as those of the Tower of Babel that occurred in their own "tight barges" themselves closed chests.

The Mayan Calendar in its present form will complete a long cycle which originated in 3113 B.C. in 2012 A.D., when the "sun conjuncts at the intersection of the Milky Way and the plane of the ecliptic . . . and will create a cosmic cross, called the Sacred Tree, the World Tree or the Tree of Life." (definition, courtesy of Jim Papp, "21 [23] December 2012, *The Mayan Calendar End-Date*"), (<http://www.planetpapp.com>).

Göbekli Tepe: Might the “cosmic cross” be related to the excavations at Göbekli Tepe, a temple complex in southern Turkey near Şanlıurfa (Urfa)? These ruins dated about 9,500 BC make their historic ten ton (similar to the drogue stone weight), T-shaped imprint (crosses?) on 22 acres. And only five percent of the site has been uncovered according to the director, Klaus Schmidt of Germany who says: “The religious purpose of the site is implicit.” I ask: Were the animalistic figures Cain’s or Nimrod’s memorial to the Garden of Eden?

“Religion appears so early in civilized life—if Schmidt is correct—that some think it may be less a product of culture, than a cause of it, less a revelation than a genetic inheritance” (*Newsweek*, 1 March 2010). After 8,000 BC, the site was ruthlessly “buried.” Could the flood have helped? A few calculations indicate that two cycles of 5,165 years of the Mayan’s would indicate segments from 2010 AD back to 8,320 BC not 9,500 but within logic when one considers the life of a year could vary due to rotation and revolving speed alterations, the latter once 290 days. And could the T-shaped pillars now being unearthed relate to the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, both sacred? And there was another cross as well.

The Hindu calendar, in agreement with the Mayan with the exception of a two month difference begins its new cycle of Satya Yuga, Pisces to Aquarius on *February 21, 2013*.

Longevity decreased sharply from 8-9 hundred years prior to the Tower of Babel, then 4 to 5 hundred after Babel and later after Peleg’s era to the 200’s. Genealogical summaries were rampant, “generations” etymologically reduced by definition to “inscriptions” composed by the “sons of Noah” in Genesis 10 and 11, all perhaps crowding to get in the census of existence.

Otherwise than the sound of chewing on scraps of pita bread, our expedition was silent as we pondered the implications.



And the raven and our guides returned throwing sacks of new inventory to the ground.

The director, quite relieved to see provisions, opened the first box and graduated from chewing on bits of pita bread to Halva. “Ah,” he said elated as the guides unpacked French bread, vegetables and fruits and started a fire for çay, tea, more than enough for the prerequisite three cups, then the barbeque for kabobs. “Ah,” said the director, again.

“Ah,” said the raven as he viewed the director and his clients were on the last course, puddings. It felt this the appropriate time and asked: “Have you made a decision about extending the tour . . . and my request for promotion”?

“More strategy? Actually, very good strategy,” laughed the director but he was prepared. He picked up more paper, “you may submit a *request* for a decision.”

It was the raven’s turn to ponder but accustomed to the vacillations of the negotiation table, hopped over to the guides who were fanning flames to get hot water to wash the dishes. The raven croaked *sotto voce* to the guides. “I am at a conversational precipice.”

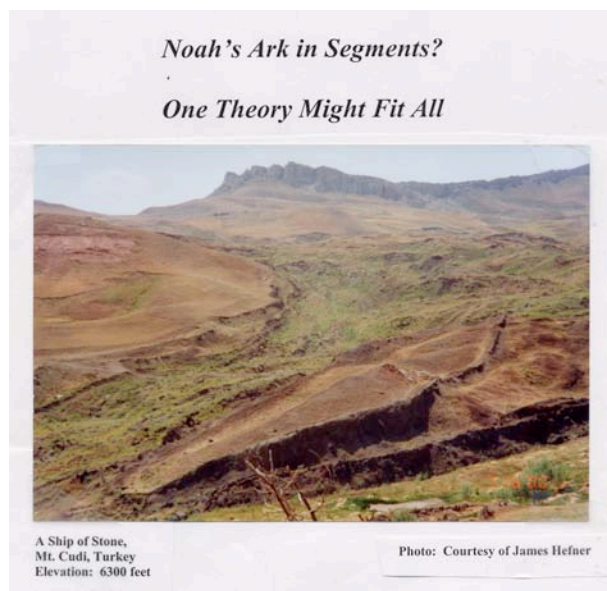
“No,” they said, and paused: “You know we have other more obliging cliffs we could saunter by . . . or there is always the swamp.” The raven bobbed its head amusingly and went to nibble dessert from its clients’ saddlebags and feed its bow tie (wiggling for equal rights as well). The guides packed leftovers to leave for the shepherds who enjoyed culinary adventures left by tours, “washed” the dishes, and collected the horses

And the raven hearing no objections to its invitation, decided, rather than risk being caged again, to rise above another delicate situation. It twisted its beak and took off. So did we and rode horseback carefully down to Silekose, then drove by car via the precipices to Inik (Enoch?) and across the Aras Valley to Akyayla, the White Plain, the director regularly scouring the sky to be certain the raven was still above. I was.



The Durupinar Site on Akyayla Dağı

First noticed by a Kurdish resident after an earthquake in 1948, Durupinar is at 6350ft (1,828m) elevation 16 miles southwest of Mt. Ararat on the Akyayla Dağı (White Plain)



and christened after the Turkish officer who first identified it from a photograph of interest from aerial files (1959). It has been the focus of both intensive research *and* criticism by both geological experts (some maintaining it is merely a double hanging syncline) versus marine experts (who claim iron deposits at regular intervals). In extensive research initiated in 1977 by Ronald Wyatt, in 1985 by mariner David Fasold and verified by Samuel Windsor in 1997 evidence of regular iron deposits during sub-surface radar tests was found. Excavation permit requests have been submitted according to Zaphir Onay, Kurdish liaison with

Anchorstone.com (sponsor) and the Turkish government.

“See,” we teased the raven while reading documents at the adjacent Visitors’ Center, “only *requests* have been submitted to Turkey.” The raven still mulling over the bureaucratic, even ominous implications of only allowed permission to submit a *request* for a request still chose the optimistic stance. “It’s almost August,” he said to himself and thoughtfully started collecting rushes--but *precocious* rushes--from the roof of a shepherd’s hut nearby in preparation to build the crow’s nest (Maybe I could get an owner/builder permit issuance, it thought. At least, I have more paper and could make even a larger nest. It looks like my recall from retirement may be permanent.)

Samuel Windsor was thinking as well but about a different kind of hull. Sam, a marine engineer from Orcas Island, Washington state, confirmed previous research by Ron Wyatt and David Fasold in an attempt to resolve problems on the ship’s hull *impression* at Durupinar. Using a metal detector and frequency generator he *independently* verified in 1990 the regular spacing of the iron objects originally discovered by Wyatt in 1977 and Fasold in 1985. Windsor said:

The number and regularity of their apparent locations suggests fastening devices of some sort. My speculation is that the iron objects were metal binders used to grip and hold fast wound rope material used to assemble bundles of the ark’s constituent reeds. I think the use of logs and reeds (theory of David Fasold) rather than metal as a structure and shell was the desire to avoid electrical conductivity. My belief is that the ark builders had access to a technology including iron smelting, alloying for particular properties, i.e., nickel and other elements. These elements and their proportions struck me as similar to a cross between a modern martensitic steel alloy and a modern chrome-moly steel alloy.

Although the Hittites are credited with the discovery of iron smelting *circa* 1500 B.C.E. I mention {in a} panel near the entrance of the Ataturk Museum in Ankara, Turkey, 30 feet to the left, is a showcase containing a jeweled, gold handled dagger with an accompanying note indicating the blade shank is made of iron with a surface hardness of 400 on the Brinell scale. The note concludes ‘this hardness indicates the blade was carbonized in a heat treatment process.’ My {Windsor’s} point in mentioning the dagger is not to suggest it was steel but to point out that the use of carbonizing hardening on this dagger shows the knowledge of this aspect of metallurgy predates the discovery of case hardening using nitrogen in the 8th century C.E.

David Fasold first suggested the ark may have been made of reeds, one of the hypotheses successfully tested by Thor Heyerdahl. The recipe indicates that reeds must be cut only in August thereby maintaining a consistent resistance to moisture. (The raven adds more rushes choosing only those most waterproofed.)

Windsor not noticing continues: Dr. Barry M. Warmkessel notes in his abstract: ‘It {the relic} offers details of alien engineering principles involving the Golden Ratio. Its metallurgy shows ironwork not even possible 3200 years ago as well as the presence of other metals (e.g., titanium and aluminum) that would have been difficult to fabricate even in the early 20th century , the quotation above from www.barrywarmkessel.com

Great care should be taken to leave the soil metallic balances as they now are.”

Naxuan

Neighboring Akyayla Dağı is Naxuan first identified as a site of interest in 1997 by David Allen Deal in scanning area photogrammetry.



Graphs reveal hundreds of rectangular lines denoting both residential foundations and sarcophagi on the hills above Durupinar near the village of Uzengili. Note again the comments of Berossus and Josephus who favor a lower ark location elevation due to the accessibility factor. In this case it is 7000 feet. The rectangular structure at 8000 and Turkish Kurdish Persian formation at 6500 also qualify.

(Left: Zaphir Onay and Hassan, curators.)

While the raven waited gathering more rushes and admiring a shining new black feather that had automatically appeared in its clothing repertoire, news of a financial recession came over his clients' laptops. Seeing its architectural hopes of infrastructure further dwindle, the raven cawed for a supply of monetary rebar by submitting its invoice but soon, its training for duty even in disaster overwhelmed the note of distress and before flying off to apply for an intermediate stimulus package, it courteously recommended securing full disclosure of Naxuan by referencing meshanaxuan@yahoo.com.



In flight . . .

the sound of applause caused the raven to wheel back. His clients were smiling in great appreciation and one was seen signing a paper which he walked over to give to the raven whose bundles of rushes had become untied as it scuttled once again to the ground.

“More paper is coming. This is just baksheesh – Thank you! But just one more question: we want to know how all this was written down?”

The raven smiled. “On rock, of course” but seeing his clients perplexity, said graciously “but don’t be concerned: as you know it ended up on *paper*. And in this case, you then need one more tour encore. Remember the ‘inscriptions’ of Adam, of Noah . . . all thirteen generations in Genesis? And did you notice when we were climbing that there were letters geologically engraved in rock? Nature’s calligraphy!

“Look over here on the right. May I introduce Nursin Ceylan. He has a long talon.”

“*Merhaba*,” welcomed Ceylan. “See,” and he motioned higher on the rock, “even on this one rock you have several. As you know when rock is hot; it is also soft! You can even find a sample of rock putty in the State of Washington, in the United States! When you are ready to incise, just choose one letter design at a time, assign to it *meaning* and arrange in cognitive sequence. Soon you would have the entire story.

“That’s how *I* think the ancients wrote their ‘generations,’ their inscriptions.

“There are more rock characters than this picture shows,” he continued, “Sanskrit, Persian, Hebrew, even Roman numerals, just waiting to get onto a calendar and one cardinal number, 5 – no wonder cardinals developed later. There are not as many and . . .



“See, here, for instance. As you know, ‘C’ is the popular Roman numeral for one hundred *and* it’s also the letter ‘C’.

“C?” cried the raven. “It’s perfect; we can continue with Chapter 2. And I could make out another invoice.”

“And please don’t forget me,” whispered Ceylan. And to buttress his commission he added louder. “And I see a tiny letter ‘c’ next to it—it’s almost the complete sign for copyright . . . and we have already applied.

The raven pulled out his newly grown feather, dipped its tip in the resultant drop of blood, and co-signed its new certificate with his own blood.

And stamped it with its own battered logo.



And now in its most awesome croak, it called: “. . . Ceylan, it’s time . . . the scrolls.”



On the land bridge between the two Ararat peaks. The “aka Armenian Palace” is/was below and to the right of the miniature summit from this viewpoint.

II Chronology and Commentaries of Noah’s Flood

The rise (150 days) and fall (150) days of the flood is estimated simply as 300 days plus the 10 additional days required for the earth to hang on its clotheslines of latitude and longitude to dry out. The episodes of the raven and dove are included *in*, not added *to* the spiral ascent and descent (the Fasold concept). It has been assumed that the Noachian year, as many authors suggest, included 300 days only, indicating either an observance on the more reliable moon *or* a reduced solar year, the latter intimating previous turbulent changes in the earth’s orbital path as Patten implies. There have been radical changes in orbital swings resulting in historic calendar adjustments to accommodate the earth’s expanding waistline and consequent decreased life expectancies, i.e., the last twinge, our Gregorian calendar which tightened in 1582 A.D. to achieve closest accuracy to current orbital patterns. The Mayan calendar needed no adjustment and remained the same targeted to end its era of the 5th Sun in December of the year 2012.

But Noah’s calendar has *rewound*; the ark has been completed and the cargo stored aboard; the animals are assembling at the door for Mars is hurtling toward the earth at 30,000 miles per hour (Patten), Noah issues the boarding cards in haste . . . for God is not willing that any should perish. Only man disagrees, ever clamoring to eat the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

CHAPTERS 7 and 8

And the Lord said unto Noah, “Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female to keep seed alive upon the face of the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

And Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him (7:1-5) (J)

Most scholars agree that the seven days of Genesis 7:4 appear to have been (1) a memorial to Methuselah and (2) final preparations to board the ark. Genesis allots 40 days and nights for the precipitation and 110 for final inundation with 160 days for flood recession; Gilgamesh appropriates only 6 days of inundation, although were the six days equivalent to six weeks, the equation: 6 weeks x 7 days or 42 days total would correspond closely to the Biblical narration. Since Gilgamesh did not engrave his account in stone until his return to Uruk (now Warka in Iraq), it is also possible that the numbers were dyslexised. Gilgamesh also employed the number “120” in his concept of the ark measurements: 120 x 120 x 120 cubits, a *cube*, or as suggested by Fasold, measurement by volume for when calculated thusly, both the Gilgamesh and Genesis accounts are similar although the latter intimates a *rectangular* structure: 300 x 50 x 30 cubits, a golden ratio tailored to prevent capsizing. The newly translated Leonard Simmons tablet from Babylonia suggests the shape of a round coracle for the ark and, in agreement with Gilgamesh and Fasold, reed construction. The Mayan Calendar incorporates the number 120 as a time cycle; Genesis, the number 120 as future life expectancy of humanity (Gen. 6:3) *or*, perhaps, the days in a Mayan cycle, the life expectancy factor later adjusted to 70 (Psalm 90:10), *perhaps* another result of orbital changes, and an indication when the account may have actually been first redacted from previous inscriptions.

And Noah was 600 years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth (7:6) ®

Suggested dates for the inception of the flood vary from 3246 B.C. (The *Septuagint*) to 2998 B.C.E., the *Samaritan Pentateuch* (Warmkessel, 2003:1) (both fairly close to the Masoretic text, and Mayan and Hindu cyclic calendars of 3113-4). Modern authors suggest (1) October 24, 2484 B.C. (Patten, based on the

orbital path of Mars), and (2) May, 2420 B.C. (Deal). Göbekli Tepe, the immense ceremonial site in southeastern Turkey, stuns *traditional* dating: the source of “belief” expressions in its temple complex is estimated with an origin time of 9,500 BCE, *Newsweek*, March 1, 2010. May these diverse dates between tradition and modern calculations be resolved? Is it too early for Cain and Nimrod, Genesis earliest city builders? “City” in Hebrew means only “an enclosed place.” Too early for the Tower of Babel? It, too, was buried. By the flood? Or unless, as noted by Immanuel Velikovsky in *Worlds in Collision*, heat and pressure create inaccurate impressions of age, and did.

Of many prevalent theories of the *cause* of the flood, author, Donald W. Patten in conjunction with Ronald Hatch, orbital analyst, Livermore and Loren Steinhauer, physicist, MIT, traces a cyclic pattern of the planet, Mars which though normalized since 701 B.C., staged in its previous era a dramatic cosmic event every 54 years and a catastrophic upheaval every 540 years intensified due to tussling gravitational stresses of Jupiter and Saturn (1999:6). Note that the orbit of the newly discovered planet in 2003, 2003UB313, named *Idris*, is estimated at *560 years*. A contributing culprit? David Allen Deal suggests a meteoritic collision with the earth, resulting in an axis shift of 30 degrees (2005:23) and should more planetary involvement be necessary, again note Immanuel Velikovsky who in *Worlds in Collision* challenged uniformitarianism, promoting Venus’ as a later introduction to the solar system (also a Mayan theory) and as the motivating factor in the Hebrew exodus later in Egypt. And when experts and theories collide, there are even more catastrophes available to supply any calendar.

Bombarded by such statistics, family histories, his own observations, probabilities, dark clouds on the horizon, thunder and imminent predictions, Noah finished distributing the boarding passes to an anxious procession . . . and

. . . went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons’ wives with him into the ark because of the waters of the flood (7:7) (J). **In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem and Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah’s wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark (7:13) (P)**

They and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort (7:14). (P) Of clean beasts and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of everything that creepeth on the earth (7:8) (J)

They went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God commanded Noah (7:9) (J). **And they went in unto Noah into the**

ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the *Lord shut* him in (7:15-16) (P).

Two separate Biblical accounts of the same subject are juggled between (a) Genesis 7:7-10 and (b) Genesis 7:13-16 perhaps also authored separately by the sons of Noah (as intimated in the genealogical tables in 10:32).

Genesis 1:9 implies that geological conditions during that era may have been different. "Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto *one* place, and let the dry land appear." Consequently, the seas were coalescent and the landmass, when finalized, a separate but contiguous entity until the time "when the earth was divided." In Genesis 2:19, God brings each formed species to Adam to be named (before migration to a location of choice before the "continental drift"). If the same topographical circumstances pertained *after* the flood, i.e., *one* landmass, dispersal of the species to their established realms before the division of the earth would have been facilitated.

Note too that prior to Noah's life, there was, at least, one disastrous catastrophe, the eviction of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden (another episode fueled by Mars with its two satellites the flaming swords? Genesis 3:24). A second catastrophe now appears as the flood and, as previously mentioned, with impending calamities scheduled in Genesis 11:1-9: the third, the Tower of Babel when the earth was divided *linguistically* and a fourth, in Genesis 10:25, when the earth was cloven *geologically* during the time of Peleg.

And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth (7:10) (J). In the 600th year of Noah's life, in the 2nd month, the 17th day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened (7:11) (P).

Of the various dates previously suggested for the inception of the flood, Patten as noted, selected October 2484 B.C. based on Mars' orbital cycle. Genesis 7:11 suggests the calendar pivot may have circled around Noah's birthday although it does not specify what part of the year, perhaps due to a permanent cloud canopy before the flood.. As the yearly *seasonal* cycles of spring, summer, autumn and winter developed efficiently, after the flood (and as mentioned earlier during which the earth may have tilted to its 23 degree angle), the *autumn* date was designated as the *civic* new year, based as the *Midrash* states on the date of *creation*, now designated as a time of self analysis and at *Yom Kippur*, resolution. However, in Exodus 12:2, the proclamation designated the new year was to begin not in autumn but in the spring at the date of the Passover, the *ecclesiastical* new year and calendar of festivals.

If Noah (assuming Utnapishtum and Noah were the same) had launched the ark at Shurrapak (Gilgamesh 1967:105), he traveled about 570 miles to the Ararats.

Of interest is the fact that 570 miles divided by 14 miles per day (David Fasold's drift theory {1988:294}) would equal about 42 drifting days between Shurrapak and the Ararats. Lorence G. Collins, of California State University, Northridge however, dilutes the theory mentioning a total *absence* of available volcanic rocks for drogue stone use in Mesopotamia (csun.edu/~vcgeo005). Gilgamesh also postulates a south wind, (1967:108) substantiating other scholars' theories that the origin of the flood waters were eruptions from the Indian Ocean in a great gravitational tug by Mars. Another recent theory quoted by Robert Ballard during his diving expeditions on the Black Sea pinpoints the melting ice in the Arctic as the culprit. Opposing viewpoints may be more understandable if electromagnetic reversals occurred.

Genesis, however, does *not* cite the location of the ark's launch. If it originated near the present Ararats, the problem of the availability of the mysterious drogue stones might be resolved: the use of basalt or andesite (native to the Ararat region) and red/gold sedimentary rock attributed to Mars deposited in an earlier catastrophe, i.e., Eden. With this optional model, the Ark may then have been built near the fabled, but destroyed Garden of Eden, located near the Ararats (northern Turkey one of the suggested historical sites) as no *mass* antediluvian migration is reported prior to the flood. Only Cain left to build his city (his enclosed walls) "east of Eden." However, this location could nullify Göbekli as Cain's creation since it appears northerly from the Persian Gulf *unless* a magnetic reversal occurred. *After* the flood (Genesis 11:1-2), mass migration began to the Plain of Shinar, *toward* Shurrapak.

But if constructed *locally*, the ark could have drifted northwest remaining essentially in the same area stabilized during turbulent storms by the drogues rather than forging north at the total mercy of the wind and currents as the Gilgamesh account would imply. Since Anatolia is part of the great Alpine-Himalayan mountain belt," (Yenen:88) Mars had a substantial arc to enhance its topographic designs. Other scholars (Fasold/Deal}) suggest a launching origin in the west, i.e., even the Americas (2005:139).

And the rain was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth (7:17) (J).



Except for this alpaca – left behind.

And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made (8:6) (J).

Gilgamesh: “And he looked out and there was water, water everywhere.” (Quote continuing, Noah/Utnapishtim relating): “I looked at the face of the world and there was silence . . .all mankind had turned to clay . . . the light fell on my face ... I wept; the tears streamed down my face, for on every side was the waste of water (Gilgamesh, 1967:108).

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: (7:21) (P), all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man and cattle and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heavens; and they were destroyed from the earth and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark (7:22-23) (J).



Discovery and photography by Mary L. Doerflein

Then: a sheep's head, the ear lobe at lower left; its eye, black obsidian; the reverse side obliterated.

And now . . .

The taphonomy of the Tsunami disaster of December 26, 2004 illustrates one inundation in a *modern* society . . .

From *The New York Times*, January 21, 2005, almost four weeks after the Tsunami: “. . . On Monday, searchers found 2,440 bodies; two days before, the number was 2,972. The official count of the dead buried in Aceh was 92,750 on Thursday. Mr. Susila estimates at least 10,000 more bodies are scattered under collapsed houses, ground into the mud, mixed with the millions of tons of mud and debris . . . The fact is, no one knows how many bodies remain.

A year later they did: the final count was . . . 216,000 people dead or missing (or quoting Gilgamesh: “turned to clay”), this from only *three* waves . . .

Just in early 2010, six earthquakes occurred, a 7.2 in Haiti (January 12), an 8.8 in Chili (March), a 7.2 in northern Mexico, a 7.7 in Indonesia, and a 6.9 in China and 6.5 in Taiwan (April), and . . . and . . . just the foregoing altering the contours of the earth by several inches. Advance indications for 2012? Or Revelation? Or to be attributed to CERN, the Hadron Collider?



And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth (8:7) (P).

Genesis 8:6-12 appears to have been authored separately by the designated ornithologist (P), the raven employed *first* on avian duty from 40 days after the deluge's inception with the duration of its tenure until the "ground was dried," about 270 days. Studies show that:

In Chartres, France, from the Noachian stained glass window in the cathedral, Panel 29, a raven devours a floating corpse for, in the sea, bodies' autolysis is twice as slow as on land; in water 45 degrees or less, there is little decomposition.

The Gilgamesh raven also gained weight scavenging but its flight time was curtailed suddenly by Gilgamesh who ended his flood episode, writing that Noah saw land 14 leagues away (33-54 miles) and *grounded* the ark on Mt. Nisir (1967:108). Genesis however demands overtime from its raven which does extended surveillance from the window sill even then longing for modern, updated equipment, a crow's nest with which to continue observations "upon the face of the waters which . . .

. . . prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills that were under the whole heaven were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered (7:18-19) (J).

Donald Patten computes the extremely close fly-by of Mars at perhaps 15,000 miles distance from the earth with resulting sub-crustal tides rising 10,000 feet high/3.048m (1988:32). *If*, he writes, Mars were closer, i.e., 12,000 miles distance from the earth, magna tides would rise to 18,000 feet/5.486m; if at 10,500 miles to 26,689 feet/7.924m. (For the ark to attain the summit of Big Ararat {16,945 feet}, the figure of nearly 12,000 miles for Mars's distance from the earth would be required.)

And the waters prevailed upon the earth an 150 days (7:24) (P).

*

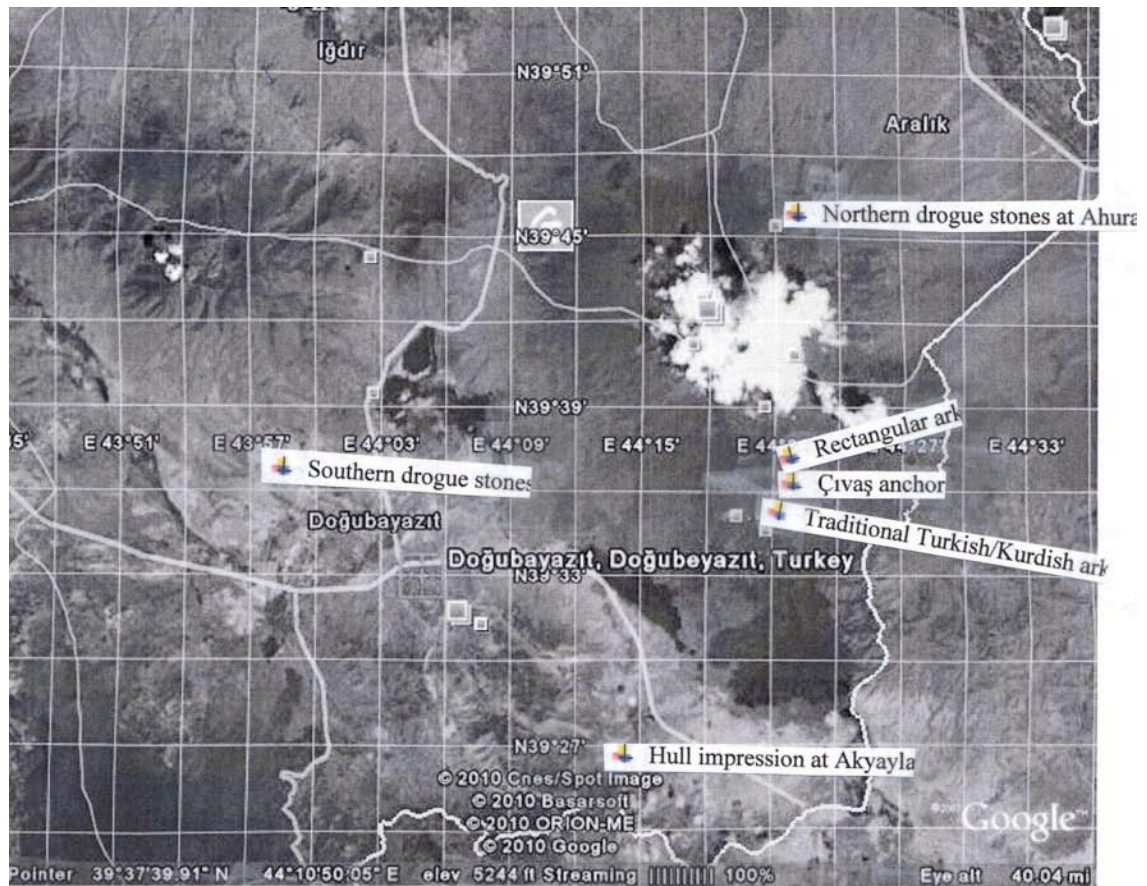
And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged. The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven restrained (Gen. 8:1-2) (P).

Whereas there had been a south wind (Gilgamesh 1967:108) and current, there was now the Genesis “wind” (Gen. 8:1) presumably from the north or northeast. Several expeditions note relics or unusual formations found on the north side of Mt. Ararat, i.e., the recording of Frederick Parrot (1829) who saw relics from the ark at St. James monastery (near St. Jacob’s about 7,000 feet elevation), destroyed by the severe earthquake in 1840; Fernand Navarra, who in 1955 at an elevation of 13,800 feet/39.624m found wood near Lake Kop in *deep* moraine estimated first at 5,000 years old by tests performed in Cairo and Paris, disputed later by a radio carbon analysis reckoning 2,000 years of age; see also sightings of Palego (mmmgroup.altervista.org). Currently, other organizations are investigating “anomalies of interest” on Ararat, i.e., The Center for Judaic Studies at Liberty University in 2009 close to the summit of Ararat; a second location on a ridge at the level of 15,300 feet on the northwest corner of Mt. Ararat, identified by Porcher Taylor of the University of Richmond (Virginia) from a resolution image taken by Quick Bird Satellite in 2003 (CNN release of March 13, 2006); also in 2009, findings at 13,000 feet elevation reported by Noah’s Ark Ministries, International in *hurriyetdailynews.com* on April 26, 2010 (contested by Center for Judaic Studies and {for inaccuracies} by this author); and in 2003, a drogue stone found on the northeast flank of Mt. Ararat by Ahmet Ertugrul, a Kurdish guide from and resident of Doğubeyazit, the latter indicating the returning ark may have approached the Ararats from the north or as theorized by Fasold and Deal from the west, even as far west as the Americas (1955:139), such extreme distances modified, however, if the earth was at that time in one landmass.

And the ark rested (*nuach*, Hebrew, was *caused* to rest; *intentional*?) in the seventh month on the 17th day of the month upon the mountains of Ararat (8:4) (P).

Although Young’s *Concordance* suggests the nuance of *caused* to rest (implying an intentional action) in other references citing the *nuach* variation, it is omitted in Genesis 8:4. This presentation does not agree believing the nuance here also has intriguing possibilities denoting *intentional* action (or inaction). The previous allusion to the measurement of “15 cubits upward” implies the ability and equipment to make soundings, another indication that when Noah rested he may have known that the water had receded and the *nuach* “resting,” was a *controlled* action. And he “rested” 74 days with nothing but water in sight.

While the winds had blown and the guides explored, the raven had fashioned another quill from one of its feathers and been quietly writing. “I have the table finished now,” it cawed. “The rain has stopped; we can stop and rest, too.”



The Table

Google depiction of the exploration area in the Mountains of the Ararats, emphasis on features at longitude 44 degrees. All GPS data are close approximations taken with a Garmin 201.

Feature	Longitude	Latitude	Elevation
Southern drogue stones at Kazan	43.59.1	39.37.529	5,360 feet
Hull impression at Akyayla (High Plain)	44.14.05	39.26.11	6,350 feet
Formation is 515 feet long, 188' wide			
Traditional Turkish/Kurdish ark	44.21.088	39.35.418	6,645 feet
Çıvaş anchor (Visible prong 5', stem 11')	44.21.475	39.36.988	7,975 feet
Rectangular ark (aka Armenian Palace)	44.21.5	39.37.4	8,000 feet
length visible to 200 feet in length, then covered by huge volcanic boulders (2004). In 2005, the structure disappeared.			
Northern drogue stones near Ahura	44.23.308	39.46.476	5,702 feet

Of interest to the author was the arc of three formations: (1) the rectangular structure, (2) the Kurdish/Turkish traditional site and (3) the Çıvaş anchor which appear to be in close proximity, almost alignment. The anchor, perhaps because of its decreased weight may have drifted further east. The “hull impression,” if part of the equation drifted south to a lower elevation of 6350 feet.

“See,” explained the raven, “I left the clouds on the summits of both Ararats so you can be correctly oriented.”

The table was most impressive—we knew our superiors would agree. And finally the 53rd day of the “rest” came -- time for us to get up from our Sabbaticals and watch Noah’s other reconnaissance agent take off:

. . . and he sent forth a dove from him to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground. But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him in the ark, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. Then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark (Gen. 8:8-9) (J).

Both Gilgamesh and Genesis (8:8-12), (the author, P) cite the ornithology stories anachronistically possibly indicating a different historical access source.

And he stayed (*chul*—meaning to *cause* to stay {Young: 933}) yet other seven days and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark and the dove came into him in the evening and, lo, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf, so Noah knew that the waters were abating from off the earth (Genesis 8:10-11) (J).

Again, relevant topographical conditions, i.e., the wind, and fluid dynamics determined the abatement speed. Rashi, the most famous commentator of the *Midrash* suggests an *initial* recession speed of 4 inches a day, with other experts suggesting up to 113 feet *average* per day (Ararat’s peak to sea level) intensifying in abatement speed as the water level dropped. Only a minimum of 15 cubits (25 feet) of abatement was required before land (the peak of Mt. Ararat) would appear; consequently, the dove could have plucked a *fresh* leaf which had as little as one or a few days of complete inundation, depending on the scholarship of one’s choice.

Although not from an olive tree, this fossilized leaf (right) with a sub-tropical ambience might indicate that climate at the time of the flood was warmer. Although the fossil was found at approximately 11,000 feet on Mt. Ararat, again, it would have originated from a higher elevation.



And he stayed (*yachal*—to wait with hope {Young: 933}) yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove which returned *not* again unto him any more (Gen. 8:12) (J).

But the summit of Mt. Ararat, “Nisir” (termed salvation) by Gilgamesh did appear. And there were to be more summits.

The *Qur'an* cites the anchorage as Mt. Cudi (pronounced Judy), its etymology cited previously noting “praise,” as “excellent or approved,” mutations from *yehudi*, *Judah*, *etc.* (The word *Ararat* itself is an appellation derived from *rrt*, *Urartu* meaning Armenia, applied by Faustus of Byzantium to the mountain in the 4th century A.D. and possibly first in world literature, in the King James biblical translation of 1611 A.D.)

*

And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen (8:5) (P).

The second highest peak, Mt. Ararat’s “twin,” now appears at almost 13,000 feet elevation offering a second landing option. The elevation difference between the Ararat peaks is *about* 4,000 feet, consequently, the formula 4,000 divided by 74 (“resting” days) would have required an *average* recessive level of 54 feet per day (the Fasold concept). It would also achieve the minimum figure to observe the plurality of mountains and tops of mountains (Gen. 8:5). And at 8,000 feet elevation, a relatively safe place for the ark to “rest.”

And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred 150 days the waters were abated (8:3) (J).

*

And it came to pass in the 601st year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: (8:13a) (P) and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked and behold, the face of the ground was dry (8:13b) (J).

And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried (8:14) (P).

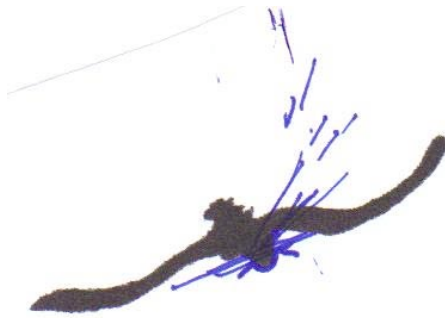
And God spoke to Noah, saying: (8:15) ‘Go forth . . . (8:16) (and) bring forth with thee *every* living thing that is with thee . . . (8:17) (J).

And Noah went forth . . . and every beast and every creeping thing and . . . (Gen. 8:18-19).

And I do set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth (9:13).



And it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the clouds. And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. (Genesis 9:14-15)



“Never more!” Poe’d the raven to his tour and, gathering his rushes again, flew away with his modernized equipment to start the crow’s nest, payment or not. While flying it remembered the signed paper it had been given and pulled it out to read. The coveted certificate stated guaranteed employment to the raven for tours throughout the 21st century, included overtime, a per diem and staff accessorization, and was duly authorized, signed by no less than the multi-lingual Yahweh . . . in English!



The raven gasped. And the rushes fell again. The worm, wiser, having considered the project completed, had already untied its cravat, slid into the stem of one of the falling reeds, its own “closed chest” and fell gently to earth.

The raven swirled down with them and landed near a man sitting disconsolately on a rock.

Noticing his dejection, the raven asked the man: “Why do you look so disappointed? Maybe I could help you; I just finished a tour. And I will have a new crow’s nest, a perfect observation point. See, here is my tour authorization.”

“What are you going to observe?” asked the man in the PKK, the Kurdish Workers Party’s uniform.

“Oh,” answered the raven, “I am still looking for Noah’s ark. It’s the world’s greatest icon. And I was on it. Also”

“Didn’t you know?” interrupted the Kurdish soldier. “. . . Noah’s ark has gone to heaven.”

I fluttered closer to him. “What do you mean?”

“It was destroyed by the Turkish army in 2005. . . .” the soldier said, “ and many of us were killed, too—our dead keep *their* own vigils in the *mausolea* nearby.

“This area was to be part of *our* country, Kurdistan, in 1920, after the Treaty of Sévres was negotiated. Four countries signed the treaty but deliberations stagnated while Turkey fought Turkey. Atatürk won for the Turkish National Movement. The Ottomans were out in Istanbul and Ataturk was in at Ankara. The Ottomans had agreed to Kurdistan but Atatürk disagreed. But *we* still claim this as part of Kurdistan. It was to include the frontier of Persia (now Iran) as far as Mt. Ararat.”

“But that is a debt of honor that Turkey owes you. And it has taken the ark, too, you say. The ark was my savior,” croaked the raven hoarsely.

“Ours, also. It sheltered us, too, especially in the winter. That’s probably why Turkey will *say* it was detonated. But maybe you will not need it.”

“Not need it?” I expostulated.

“Don’t you have a new savior now?” queried the soldier very gently?

*



anonymous

And, until the *ultimate* destination is attained for all humanity and animals, I hope I do not need to throw too much impulsive verbal cargo overboard. I apologize (copiously) to Yahweh for any suggestions bordering on or judged actual heresy and hope that my reservation continues to remain in *his* always updated book of life. And . . .

Trusting also that this account will not be buried in alluvial deposits as the ark, even that of time, and that I, too, may remain in the mountains of Ararat.

. . . in the crow's nest.



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