

IN SEARCH OF NOAH'S ARK

by Berlin Chumbley

In the December, 1996, issue of *Popular Mechanics*, in an article entitled "Ancient Mysteries of the Bible," author Mike Filon, examines some of the Bible's most astounding events, in light of modern scientific methods. He suggests that, "*Technology and a better understanding of natural processes may explain how these seemingly impossible events occurred.*"

The article discusses whether or not events such as, the burning bush, Moses parting the Red Sea, Lot's wife turning to salt, the raising of Lazarus, and various other "*astounding events,*" could be explained by scientific methods. But it was Noah and the ark which drew top billing in his article.

Explorers, archeologists, and theologians, have for centuries attempted to uncover physical evidence that would solve the mystery of the "*gopher wood boat.*"

In recent years, according to the article, researchers have located a site which contains a buried, ship-like object, which supposedly conforms to the dimensions given by God in Genesis 6:15. Other researchers believe they have located "*dengue stones,*" which in ancient times were dragged behind ships to stabilize them, and that images returned by ground-penetrating radar have indicated unusual levels of ironoxide distribution, which may suggest metal fittings buried below the surface. And the search continues.

What Does All This Mean?

To many, the discovery of Noah's ark, might mean the difference between believing or disbelieving the Genesis record. But to the Christian, whether physical evidence is found or not, doesn't change the fact that through faith, we believe it to be so. "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen*" (Heb. 11:1).

I believe in Noah's ark the same way I believe in the burning bush, the raising of Lazarus and that Moses parted the Red Sea---through faith! Whether or not physical evidence of these ancient events is ever found, doesn't make or break my faith. God said it, I believe it---case closed!

So, let the explorers, the archeologists and the theologians continue to search for the ark. Personally I believe they are looking for the wrong thing. Think about it. If Noah was concerned with providing adequate housing for his family after the waters had receded, he would have dismantled the ark and built houses from it.

So maybe the explorers need to stop looking for Noah's ark, and begin searching for Noah's house!

