

It Might Be Today

NOAH'S ARK FOUND?

If the prophecies of the Bible are to be taken literally, then a case can be made that we are living in the last days they predict.

If these are the last days, then we ought to be able to see in the news certain trends that corroborate the centuries-old prophecies found in the Bible.

We like every week to bring what we call a Prophecy Update to do just that. This week I want to talk about Noah's Ark.

In His famous discourse on the Mount of Olives, Jesus mentioned Noah with regard to events in the Great Tribulation. He said,

Matthew 24:37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

The apostle Peter also referred to Noah when discussing the Last Days. So whenever I see or hear something about Noah in the news it peaks my interest.

This week a remarkable story was posted on FoxNews.com (and elsewhere). It's title was the question, *Has Noah's Ark Been Found on Turkish Mountaintop?*¹

Excerpts:

A group of Chinese and Turkish evangelical explorers say wooden remains they have discovered on Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey are the remains of Noah's Ark.

The group claims that carbon dating proves the relics are 4,800 years old, meaning they date to around the same time the ark was said to be afloat. Mt. Ararat has long been suspected as the final resting place of the craft by evangelicals and literalists hoping to validate biblical stories.

¹ <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/04/27/noahs-ark-found-turkey-ararat/>

Yeung Wing-Cheung, from the Noah's Ark Ministries International research team that made the discovery, said: "It's not 100 percent that it is Noah's Ark, but we think it is 99.9 percent that this is it."

... the evangelical ministry [is] convinced that the current find is in fact more likely to be the actual artifact, calling upon Dutch Ark researcher Gerrit Aalten to verify its legitimacy.

"The significance of this find is that for the first time in history the discovery of Noah's Ark is well documented and revealed to the worldwide community," Aalten said at a press conference announcing the find. Citing the many details that match historical accounts of the Ark, he believes it to be a legitimate archaeological discovery.

"There's a tremendous amount of solid evidence that the structure found on Mount Ararat in Eastern Turkey is the legendary Ark of Noah," said Aalten.

Representatives of Noah's Ark Ministries said the structure contained several compartments, some with wooden beams, that they believe were used to house animals. The group of evangelical archaeologists ruled out an established human settlement on the grounds none have ever been found above 11,000 feet in the vicinity, Yeung said.

During the press conference, team member Panda Lee described visiting the site. "In October 2008, I climbed the mountain with the Turkish team. At an elevation of more than 4,000 meters, I saw a structure built with plank-like timber. Each plank was about 8 inches wide. I could see tenons, proof of ancient construction predating the use of metal nails."

We walked about 100 meters to another site. I could see broken wood fragments embedded in a glacier, and some 20 meters long. I surveyed the landscape and found that the wooden structure was permanently covered by ice and volcanic rocks."

Pardon the pun, but not everyone is 'on board' with the legitimacy of this find. Dr. Randall Price was a member of the team that made this initial discovery in 2008. WorldOfTheBible.com, a group dedicated to biblical archaeology, posted the following statement:

After the public announcement was made of this discovery., Dr. Price issued a private communique giving his opinion concerning the discovery. This was sent exclusively to a select e-mail list of his ministry supporters and was not intended for the public. Unfortunately, this document was posted on the web without his authorization and has been widely quoted by various news sources to the effect that Dr. Price asserts the structure is a hoax perpetrated by the Kurdish guide and his partners to extort money from the Chinese evangelical Christians.²

² <http://www.worldofthebible.com/news.htm>

It doesn't mean this is definitely not the ark. The article goes on to say "while he has reservations about the nature and procedure of the Chinese-Turkish expedition and the artifacts related to it, [Dr. Price] believes that a decision concerning this matter must wait until independent examinations of the site and the structure can be made and published."

We agree. Let's wait and see.

By the way: Some of you may have received a forwarded e-mail this week from a friend that claims the skeletons of a race of giants have been unearthed in Greece. The claim is that these are remains of the "mighty men," the giants, of Noah chapter six. It's a hoax. National Geographic, in 2007, reported, saying,

The hoax began with a doctored photo and later found a receptive online audience - thanks perhaps to the image's unintended religious connotations. A digitally altered photograph created in 2002 shows a reclining giant surrounded by a wooden platform - with a shovel-wielding archaeologist thrown in for scale. By 2004 the "discovery" was being blogged and emailed all over the world - "Giant Skeleton Unearthed!" - and it's been enjoying a revival in 2007.³

Jesus and Peter indicated Noah would be in the news in the last days and he is. A story like the possible discovery of the ark is exactly what you'd expect from a literal reading of the Bible.

As Christians, we're not really waiting for any particular 'find' or event. Nothing needs to happen before Jesus returns to resurrect and rapture the church. But as we see the news trending towards the fulfillment of prophecy, it encourages us in our waiting.

And that's why I like to end these updates by saying, Get ready, stay ready, keep looking up. ***Ready or not, Jesus is coming!***

³ <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/12/071214-giant-skeleton.html>