

Science in the Bible

The Paths in the Seas

Psalm 8 is a beautiful psalm (worship song) in the Bible, written by King David, about 1,000 BC. It is a song that praises God for creation and that God has given man a special place in His world. Part of that psalm says, ***“You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands...even the...fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas”*** (Psalm 8:8).



That last phrase especially grabbed the attention of oceanographer, Matthew Maury. He told his son, *“If God said there are paths in the sea, I am going to find them.”* And he did. He consulted old ships’ logs, floated ‘drift bottles’ from which he was able to detect ocean currents, kept detailed records of wind activity (inspired by Ecclesiastes 1:6, in the Bible) and soon worked out *the Gulf Current* (from the Gulf of Mexico), *the Japanese Current*, and *the California Current*, to name a few. With this information he wrote pioneering textbooks on sea navigation and reduced long journeys by several weeks. Today, a monument in Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia credits him as, *“...the genius who first snatched from the oceans and atmosphere the secret of their laws. His inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalm 8:8; Ecclesiastes 1:6.”* So again, the Bible has been proven to be scientifically accurate!

Genesis Issues

“How did Noah get all the animals in the ark?”

Back in the second century AD, a sceptic called Appelles argued that Noah’s ark could not even hold two elephants, and therefore the Genesis account of the flood was obviously a myth. Sadly, in our day there seem to be as many who are ignorant of the facts as Appelles was. For a start, when people argue, ‘How could Noah get all the animals in the ark?’ they need to be challenged: ‘So, *how big was the ark?*’ In most cases, they haven’t a clue! The Bible says, ***“The length of the ark shall be 300 cubits, its width 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits”*** (Genesis 6:15). By these dimensions we can see that the ark was a long chest (hence the word ‘ark’ not ‘boat’) - not the type of comical ship seen in children’s books about Noah. It was a big, long, wide cargo vessel with a volume of 1,396,000 cubic feet (assuming one cubit = 17.5 inches). This would give the ark masses of room for the task. Especially if he tiered the stalls inside.



And remember, Noah didn’t have to take all the SPECIES of land animals on the ark, just representatives of different KINDS (Genesis 1:24). In other words, not every type of dog, wolf, etc. because they could breed variety. And when it came to larger animals, he may well have taken only the young, which are smaller and possibly hibernating. No problem after all!