

The Durupinar Site & the Plausibility of its Association with Noah's Ark: A Critical Review

By AJ Koehler (Jan 2022)

Abstract: *This is a non-profit, factual, scholastic research paper entailing a critical review of ancient to recent historical writings & documents, investigations, and scientific analyses of the Durupinar Site formation, located adjacent to Uzengili, Turkey, for the purpose of re-evaluation, transformative clarification, deduced insight from overview, education, and inspiration in regards to the plausibility of its association with Noah's Ark.*

Location of Noah's Ark

Genesis 8:3 (Greek translation Septuagint, LXX) states "...and the ark rested in the seventh month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat." Mountains; not a specific mountain... rather, a region of mountains. Genesis 8:5 (LXX) continues, "And in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the heads of the mountains were seen", again the plurality. That's all the Bible has to say about the location! Nevertheless, there are plenty of other opinions, theories, and testimonies about the location of Noah's ark. Probably the most common is Mount Ararat itself (Agri Dagh). Another is a mountain called Cudi Dagi, which has been assigned at least five different locations over time. Still, there are others. For this paper, I disregard proposed locations that are inconsistent with Biblical description.

Let's look closer at the translation of "Ararat" from Hebrew. Henri Nissen summarizes common translations well, as follows¹: The Hebraic is RRT, thus read as aRaRaT or uRaRTu^{2,3,4}; the Greek translation Septuagint (LXX), quoted above, translates RRT to Ararat; the Aramaic paraphrase Targum updates RRT to Quardu (Kurdish) Mountains; the Samaritan Pentateuch translates to Kurdish Mountains; the Syriac (Aramaic dialect) Pershitta translates to the mountains of Quardu (Kurdish); the King James Version translates RRT into two different words... Ararat in Genesis, then Armenia in 2 Kings and Isaiah. Even further, the Vulgate (Latin) translates as "mountains of Armenia", the Qumran translates as Ararat, and others as Korduk⁵ (associated with Corduene⁶).

Thus, the most common translations are Ararat, Urartu, Quardu, Armenia, and Korduk. Dumikyan succinctly notes that the Aramaic Bible translation to Quardu is more recent than the Qumran and was likely a contemporary association of the Jews who were in Babylon at that time; further, the kingdom of Urartu ceased to exist after the 7th century BCE, well before their Babylonian captivity. He also says that the Syriac Pershitta translation to Quardu was simply a recent substitution of Ararat. Finally, he addresses Korduk as a modern label representing a region in Armenia used to describe an area through which the retreating Greek army traveled in 401 BCE (see map a few pages below for retreat route in blue)⁵. Mikayel Chamchians (18th century CE Armenian historian) associated Korduk with Ararat and Armenia; and further, clarifies that Mt. Baris and Mt. Masis are equivalent (with modern Mt. Ararat).⁷ Favstos Buzand (5th century CE Armenian historian) associated the region of Korduk with Armenia, Mt. Ararat, and the land of Ararat⁸ (anciently the canton of Ararat was the area South of the Araxis River, which includes Agri Dagh (Mt. Ararat)⁹). Yeghishe (5th century CE Armenian historian) writes, "Some call the mountain Ararat, Korduk, but the truth is that it is

¹ Nissen, Henri (2004). *Noah's Ark Uncovered, An Expedition into the Ancient Past*. Scandanavia Publishing House

² GERTOUX, Gérard (1995). *Noah and the Deluge Chronological, Historical and Archaeological Evidence*. Academia.edu.

³ *Noah's Ark, Found in the Mountains of Urartu (Ararat) in Eastern Turkey*. <https://faith-once-delivered.org/images/GREAT-MOUNT-ARARAT-65.pdf>.

⁴ The interlinear Bible Hebrew-Greek-English, Massachusetts, 1986, Gen. VIII 4..

⁵ Dumikyan, A.V. *The Reliability of the 19th Century French and Modern Armenological Interpretations of the Bible Information About Mt. Ararat in the Light of the Qumran Manuscripts*.

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, November 17). Corduene. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 19:49, December 7, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Corduene&oldid=1055711260>

⁷ Chamchians M. (1784). *History of Armenia*. Vol. A, p. 150. Venice.

⁸ (1933). *History of Faustus the Byzantine Armenian*. p. 33. Venice

⁹ Bailey, Lloyd R. (1989). *Noah*. p 78. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press

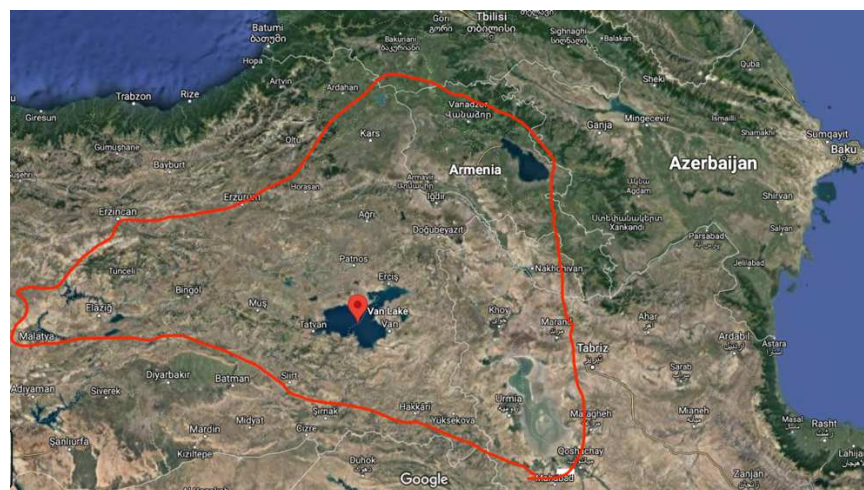
Masis.”¹⁰ And to be clear, Mt. Ararat proper (rather than the “mountains of Ararat” stated above) is referring to the volcanic mountain in central Armenia, as M.J. Saint-Martin (French Armenologist) states, “located in the center of Armenia, in the province of Bagrevand” (the historic province including Mt. Ararat proper).¹¹

Establishing that Quardu and Korduk are relatively more modern, this leaves the remaining translations of Ararat, Urartu and Armenia... which are, in fact, synonymous⁴. The trilingual Behistun inscription of Darius I “the Great” (6th century BCE) and the trilingual Persepolis inscription, dated to the time of his son, Xerxes I “the Great” (5th century BCE), clarify that Ararat translates to Urartu in Assyrian, to Armenia in Persian, and to Urashtu in Babylonian. Thus, “mountains of Armenia” equates to “mountains of Urartu” which equates to “mountains of Ararat”. Oppert (19th century CE Assyriologist) says, “...Urarta expresses literally the name Ararat, which signifies Armenia in the Biblical texts.”¹² Ultimately, from the 19th century, the Urartu translation has become preferred over Ararat and Armenia. The simple reason is that Mount Ararat, locally known as Agri Dagh by the Turks or Mt. Masis by the Armenians, wasn’t even labeled as “Mt. Ararat” until the Middle Ages (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia; Wikipedia), most likely initiated by Philostorgius^{13,14} and Faustus¹⁵, both in the 5th century CE, then solidified in the 13th century CE. Also, Urartu would have been the recognized region in the 15th century BCE about when Moses authored Genesis. Thus, mountains of Urartu.



From our earliest record, Urartu referenced a geographical region, NOT a kingdom (which didn’t occur until the 9th century BCE), just as Shalmaneser I referenced the region in his mid-13th century BCE campaign. Specifically, the region surrounds Lake Van including the Armenian Highlands to the northeast, which includes Mt. Ararat and the adjacent Durupinar Site, some of the Taurus Mountains to the southwest, and the Corduene Mountains (see discussion below) modernly labeled as south of Lake Van (but whose location referenced by ancient historians differs)¹⁶. (Left, evidentially, see Boris

Piotrovsky’s Urartu Map) More recently, a similar, yet more accurate map can be drawn by surrounding the Urartu archaeological sites.¹⁷ (Below, a modified map surrounding known Urartu archaeological sites)



¹⁰ Khachikyan, L. (1992). *Yeghishe's "Creation Commentary"*. p. 245. Yerevan

¹¹ Saint-Martin, M. J. (1818). *Historical and Geographical Memories of Armenia*. p. 265. Paris

¹² Oppert J. (1863). *Scientific expedition in Mesopotamia*. liv. I, ch. I, com. 2, p. 18. Paris

¹³ Philostorgius (1855). *Epitome of the Ecclesiastical History of Philostorgius, Compiled by Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople*. London: Henry G. Bohn, York Street, Covent Garden.

¹⁴ Crouse, Bill. *Five Reasons Noah's Ark Did Not Land on Mt. Ararat; Five Reasons Why It Did Land on Cudi Dagh*

¹⁵ Montgomery, John Warwick (1972). *The quest for Noah's Ark*. Bethany Fellowship. Minneapolis.

¹⁶ *Urartu*. <https://www.wikizero.com/en//Urartu>

¹⁷ Geissler, Rex; Franz, Gordon; Crouse, Bill (24 Dec 2008). *THE BOUNDARIES OF URARTU/ARARAT*

Perhaps adding to site confusion, the Durupinar Site is within 20 miles (and sight) of Agri Dagh. Given the lack of evidence withstanding to date, I leave the argument of locating Noah's ark on Agri Dagh proper (aka Mount Masis or Mount Baris, modernly known as "Mount Ararat") to others, as there is no scientific foundation, rather hearsay. I like Kurkjian's overview:

"It has long been the notion among many Christians that Noah's Ark came to rest as the Flood subsided upon the great peak known as Mount Ararat: this assumption is based on an erroneous reading of the 4th verse of the VIIIth chapter of Genesis. That verse does not say that the Ark landed upon Mount Ararat, but upon the 'mountains of Ararat.' Now, Ararat was the Hebrew version of the name, not of the mountain but the country around it, the old Armenian homeland, whose name at other times and in other tongues appears variously as Eirath, Urtu, etc. The prophet Jeremiah (51:27), writing in 600 BCE speaks of 'the kingdom of Ararat,' which kingdom at that time called itself Urtu. Hence, the 'Mountains of Ararat' may mean any part of the tangled mountain mass of the country. The Armenians never called the colossus of the range, Ararat; to them that mighty peak was 'Masis'". (Kurkjian, 1959, pp. 1-2)¹⁸.

Historical Origins

Before I proceed, though it may initially seem tangential to the target of this paper, there's an important foundation; the significance of which is unavoidable, being interwoven in my forthcoming argument.

Origin of Animal Species

The oldest agriculture and farming can be traced to the Armenian plateau, according to Zeder¹⁹. In her paper, Zeder demonstrates how agriculture spread from the Armenian plateau into Europe and elsewhere. (Right, modified map showing earliest sheep, pig, cattle and goat origins). Her data shows the origin, synchronistically encompassing the SAME boundary as Urartu (see above discussion), then extending along the valley Westward (and goats Eastward) following the expected migration along the rivers (discussed above), and subsequently dispersing to the fertile crescent and elsewhere; a great study though I disagree with her dating.



Baverley Davis²⁰ states "Petroglyphs found in Armenia (one of the possible sites for the Indo-European homeland) show the oldest pictures of men driving chariots, wagons, and plows, with horses doing the pulling." This coordinates with the origin of language below, as well. (Below, petroglyphs in Armenia showing animals pulling plows²¹)



¹⁸ Kurkjian, V. 1959. *A history of Armenia*. Armenian General Benevolent Union. New York. PP. 1-526.

¹⁹ Melinda A. Zeder (2008). *Domestication and early agriculture in the Mediterranean Basin: Origins, diffusion, and impact*

²⁰ Baverley Davis (2007). *Timeline of the Development of the Horse*

²¹ Tokhatyan, K.S. *ROCK CARVINGS OF ARMENIA*. Institute of History of NAS RA. https://www.academia.edu/31059293/ROCK_CARVINGS_OF_ARMENIA

Even more, "...excavations in the Armenian Highlands have turned up stone tools and the skeletal remains of human beings and animals, such as the hippopotamus, elephant, rhinoceros, tiger, horse, camel, and ox...²²" Compellingly, I understand the horse and ox... the camel and elephant... and even the tiger. But rhetorically, can someone tell me what hippos and rhinos were doing in the Highlands? Neither are amenable to domestication... both aggressive and unpredictable in battle (thus use in battle wasn't realistic and doesn't explain their remains in the Highlands), and it's not their natural habitat. At some point, hippos were in the Nile Delta because pharaoh Seqenenre lamented to pharaoh Apopi about the noise from the hippos, a harbinger of death against the Pharaoh because "according to Egyptian mythology, Menes, the 1st king of Egypt was killed by a hippopotamus."²³ Could it be that they were in the Armenian Highlands, en route to and in search of their natural habitat from their place of origin?

Nikolai Vavilov in "Asia: Source of Species" in Asia, February 1937, states, "Our studies show definitely that Asia is not only the home of the majority of modern cultivated plants, but also of our chief domesticated animals such as the cow, the yak, the buffalo, sheep, goat, horse, and pig...The chief home of the cow and other cattle, the Oriental type of horse, the goat and the sheep is specifically Iran...."

Origin of Plant Species

Regarding plants, it makes sense that they would have a less focused origin, as a worldwide deluge would not destroy seeds. Thus, these seeds would be dispersed in various areas, which could then be developed and cultivated by migrating humans to the relative locality at various points in time. Nikolai Vavilov in his fundamental paper on the Centers of Origin of Cultivated Plants (1926) suggested five regions of origin for plants, later expanded to eight. One of these regions includes the Armenia/Urartu/Ararat locality, defined in the next paragraph.

Profoundly, in "Asia: Source of Species" in Asia, February 1937, Vavilov states the following.

"The great majority of the cultivated plants of the world trace their origin to Asia. Out of 640 important cultivated plants, about 500 originated in Southern Asia. In Asia alone we have established five of the principal regions of cultivated plants.... The fifth region of origin in Asia is the Southwestern Asiatic centre and includes Asia Minor, Trans-Caucasia, Iran and Western Turkmenistan. This region is remarkable, first of all, for its richness in numbers of species of wheat resistant to different diseases...There is no doubt that Armenia is the chief home of cultivated wheat. Asia Minor and Trans-Caucasia gave origin to rye which is represented here by a great number of varieties and species...."

"As the result of a brilliant work of Dr. Sinskaya, the discovery was recently made that the home of alfalfa, the world's most important forage crop, is located in Trans-Caucasia and Iran...."

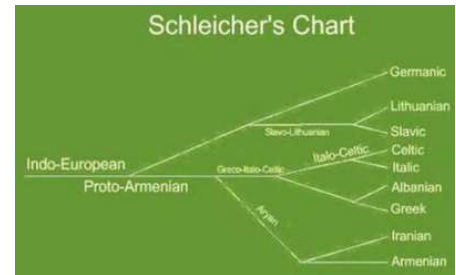
"From all these definitely established facts the importance of Asia as the primary home of the greatest majority of cultivated plants and domesticated animals is quite clear."

²² Samuelian, Thomas J. (2012). *Armenian Origins: An Overview of Ancient and Modern Sources and Theories*

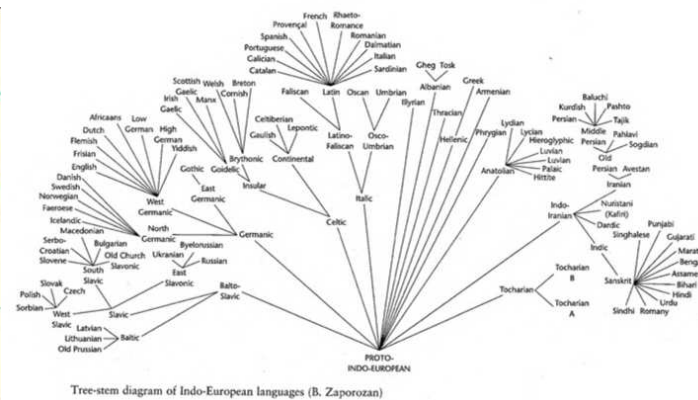
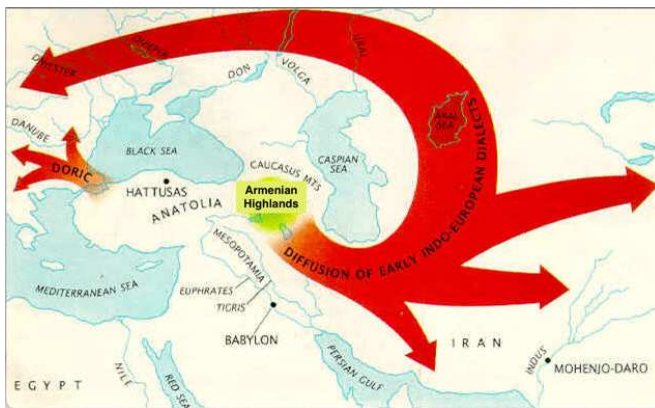
²³ GERTOUX, Gérard (2015). *Moses and the Exodus Chronological, Historical and Archaeological Evidence*

Origin of Language

Early on, in 1786, William Jones divulged his finding of the relationship between the verb-roots and grammatical forms for the Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Gothic and Celtic languages^{1,24}. In 1860, August Schleicher (and many other linguists) was convinced that all Indo-European languages were branches of the Proto-Armenian language²⁵. More recently in 1985, Thomas V. Gamkrelidze and Vjačeslav V. Ivanov discovered that the trunk of the language tree, the proto-Indo-European language, derived from the Armenian Highlands¹.



Samuelian summarizes well. “Armenian, English, French, Russian, Greek, Albanian, Hindi, Farsi, and a hundred or more other languages exhibit striking correspondences in their sound systems, vocabulary and grammar. Statistically, those correspondences could not be random; they could have resulted only if these languages came from a common source... The balance of recent research weighs in favor of the position that the original homeland of the Indo-Europeans was near the Armenian Highlands (which is supported by the spread of agriculture from Mesopotamia westward to the Balkans) and that a later dispersion of the Indo-Europeans took place from southern Russia in connection with the development of horse and ox-driven transportation... ..the basic story of the origin of the Armenian people is straightforward. It is the story of a people whose ancestors were indigenous to the Highlands, who created a distinct Indo-European language, who called themselves *Hay* [from the Armenian patriarch, Hayk, said to descend from Japheth] and were called *Armenians* or people of *Ararat (Urartu, Aratta)* by others²².” As detailed earlier Armenia = Urartu = Ararat, the source of all language. (Below left, illustration of language diffusion, and below right, an example of the language tree from B. Zaporozan)



Origin of Astronomy

Using deductive logic “by examining astro-geographical (with which latitude and in what period of the past were seen those constellations), zoo-geographical (on areas of residence of the animal represented in the Zodiac) and general archaeological data”²⁶, Maunder (1906) and Olcott (1914) concluded that the motherland of celestial figures must be Asia Minor and Armenia. Constellations were used to make it easier for orientation in the dark sky, and for sustainable and memorable images²⁶**Error! Bookmark not defined..**

²⁴ Norman, Jeremy. <https://historyofinformation.com/detail.php?id=1671>

²⁵ (4 Jul, 2017). *The Armenian Language, the Base of Indo-European Languages*. <https://allinnet.info/interesting/the-armenian-language-base/>

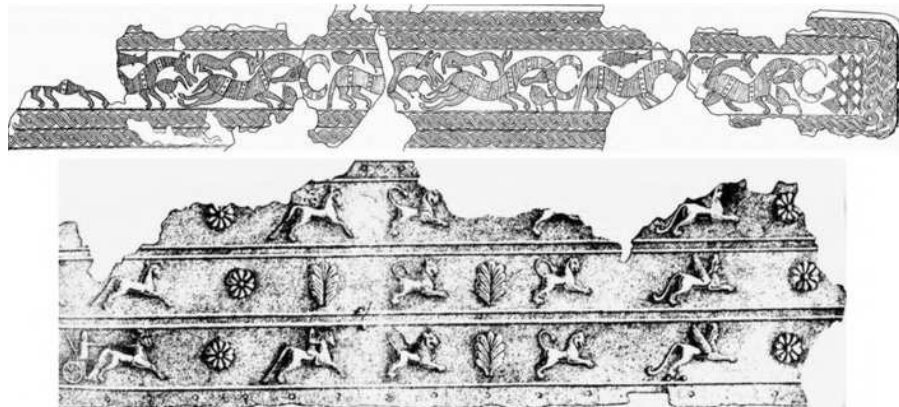
²⁶ Sokolowski, A. (16 Jan, 2014). *How ancient astronomers measured the size of the Earth?* <https://blog.world-mysteries.com/science/how-ancient-astronomers-measured-the-size-of-the-earth/>

Over the last few decades, corroboration has transpired. With “engraved star-groups, calendars, maps, astronomical centers, (Metsamor, Vardenyats, Sevsar, Zoratsqar, Portablur, etc.), findings in the archaeological sites (Astghaber, Koghges, Agarak, etc.) ... it is obvious that those who first divided the sky into constellations were prehistoric inhabitants of the Armenian Highland²⁶.” Is it a coincidence that these localities are close to the Durupinar Site; Metsamor is about 30 miles, Vardenyats is about 35 miles, Sevsar is about 55 miles, Zorats qar is about 80 miles, Nor Astghaber is 60 miles, Koghges is about 80 miles, Agarak is about 45 miles away (emphasis mine)?

The Metsamor observatory is a complex of platforms for astronomical observations (*Right*). It “predates all other known ancient observatories... that geometrically divided the heavens into constellations and assigned them fixed positions and symbolic design... The observatory at Metsamor predates the Babylonian kingdom... and contains the first recorded example of dividing the year into 12 sections. Using an early form of geometry, the inhabitants of Metsamor were able to create both a calendar and envision the curve of the earth.²⁷” Specifically, astronomers could calculate the earth's circumference and diameter²⁶. Two astronomers at different locations separated by a known distance (AB) would measure the angle above the horizon of a known star at the highest point in the night sky (i.e., at the same time). Then plug those numbers into the equation $Circumference\ of\ the\ Earth = AB \times 360 / (Angle\ A - Angle\ B)$. This is pertinent to a later discussion of longitude/latitude.

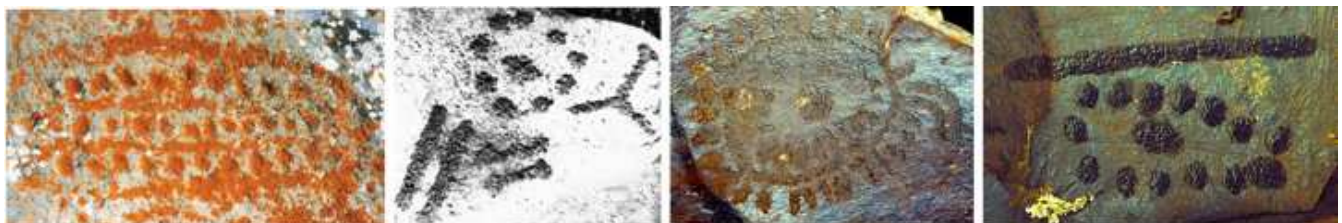


Belt-calendars discovered in Armenia, from the 3rd millennium BCE, demonstrate the early advancement in astronomy²¹**Error! Bookmark not defined..**



Bronze belt-calendars from Lchashen and Metsamor (III millennium BC)

In addition, there are many examples of rock-carvings, many of which have astronomical significance. Below are some showing where “solar (30/31-day, 12-month, 354/365-day annual) and 7, 14 and 28/29-day lunar calendars, sunrise/sunset and Earth poles’ markers are evident²¹**Error! Bookmark not defined..**”



²⁷ <http://www.ancient-wisdom.com/turkeymetsamor.htm>

Another example is seen in the Vardenyats Pass, where there are about a dozen slabs with circular carvings, discovered to be the constellations of Leo, Sagittarius, and Scorpio in 1969 (Right)²¹**Error! Bookmark not defined..**



My final example is on Mt. Sevsar, where in 1965 a complex of astronomical carvings was found; a meteor, constellations and the milky way²¹**Error! Bookmark not defined..** There are many other examples, that I'll leave to others.

Origin of Viticulture

Roughly 20 miles from the Durupinar Site, in Areni, there is a cave where the oldest winery has been discovered with a wine production press for stomping grapes, fermentation and storage vessels, drinking cups, withered grape vines, skins, and seeds; in addition to the oldest leather shoe (5,500 years old)^{28,29}. Is this really a surprise? Genesis 9:20-21 states "And Noe [Noah] began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard. And he drank of the wine, and was drunk..." Grapes were first grown for wine in the Armenian Highlands, and by 3000 BCE had spread to the Fertile Crescent, the Jordan Valley and Egypt³⁰. Further, "The discovery that wine-making using domesticated grapevines emerged in Armenia corroborates with previous DNA studies of cultivated grape varieties, states ancient-wine expert Patrick E. McGovern, a biomolecular archaeologist from the University of Pennsylvania. Those studies had pointed to the mountains of Armenia, and neighboring countries as the birthplace of viticulture²⁸." (Above right, the ancient Areni winery²⁸)



Origin of Textiles

In addition to the oldest shoe ever found, noted above, the oldest textile was discovered in Cayonu, near the headwaters of the Tigris³¹. It was woven from the fibers of the flax plant. Again, this is along the expected Westward migration along the rivers from the Durupinar Site to the fertile crescent.

Origin of the Metallurgy

Metsamor has the oldest foundry and large-scale metallurgic factory (over 200 furnaces) in the world, discovered by Dr Koriun Megatchian, and it's among the most sophisticated²⁷. "Since the fifth to fourth millennium BCE, the Armenian Plateau territory has processed and exported almost all types of minerals. Among them are: copper, tin, gold, silver, iron, lead, zinc, magnesium, antimony, arsenic, quartz, salt, and more. This is evidenced by findings from different corners of the region. Those findings are also evidence that our ancestors knew how to use minerals and how [to] establish trade relations, including the exchange of valuable minerals³²." "Recently, copper beads and their fragments as well as some pieces of copper ore

²⁸ (15 Dec 2013). *Armenia: Spread of agriculture*. The peopleofAR. <https://www.sott.net/article/360175-Armenia-Spread-of-agriculture>

²⁹ Owen, James (12 Jan, 2011). *Earliest Known Winery Found in Armenian Cave*. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2011/01/110111-oldest-wine-press-making-winery-armenia-science-ucla/>

³⁰ Vergano, Dan (19 January 2011). "Grapes domesticated 8,000 years ago". USA Today. Retrieved 2013-05-04.

³¹ Wilford, John Noble (13 Jul, 1993). *Site in Turkey Yields Oldest Cloth Ever Found*. The New York Times

³² Mkhitarian, Lilit (6 Mar 2016). *The Legacy of Armenia: Trade, Metallurgy, and Forging of Precious Metals of the Ancient World* <https://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,37864.html>

minerals - malachite and azurite - were excavated in Armenia in the Neolithic settlement of Aratashen [30 miles from the Durupinar Site]. They date to the early 6th millennium BCE and thus represent as yet the earliest appearance of copper in the southern Caucasus... The transition to extractive metallurgy between the 5th and 4th millennium BCE is also evident in the territory of Armenia³³."

Ancient Folk Medicine

Admittedly difficult to date, Armenian folk medicine extends back thousands of years, using plants, animals, minerals, etc. Flavius Josephus (and other historical writers – see below), alludes to this by making an interesting locality statement in his writings, "A district called Carron...has excellent soil for the production of Amomum in the greatest abundance; it also possesses the remains of the ark in which report has it that Noah was saved from the flood-remains which to this day are shown to those who are curious to see them." Antiquities XX. 24-25 (Loeb edition, volume 1X, pp. 403-403).

Cardamon is the 3rd most expensive spice (after saffron and vanilla) from the seed of plants from the *Elettaria* and *Amomum* genera. Linguistically, it's "root in the ancient Greek is *kardamomom*, which, according to spice scholar Gernot Katzer, is of uncertain and inexplicable origin. *Kardamomom* was often linked to a presently unidentified spice, *amomon*, as was cinnamon, or *kinnamomon*.³⁴" We do know that ancient botanist and physician, Pedanius Dioscorides (circa 40 – 90 CE), in "Materia medica", "referred to the Armenian varieties of plants, which in his own words were outstanding for their remarkable curative qualities" (Vardanyan S., 2000). "The best cluster cardamom", he wrote, "is the Armenian sort with its golden, yellowish stem and delightful aroma" (Pedacii Dioscoridis Anazarbaei, 1610).³⁵ Further, "in ancient times, the medicinal herbs of the Armenian Highland were especially well-reputed... Such ancient writers as Herodotus, Strabo, Xenophon, Tacitus, Pliny the Elder and Dioscorides, when discussing Armenia, also mentioned its natural remedies. In his work "Anabasis" Xenophon wrote about aromatic wines of Armenia, its fine beer, almond oil, sesame seed oil and turpentine, as well as fragrant perfumes (Xenophon, 1951)... such mineral remedies as Armenian clay, Armenian stone and Armenian saltpeter and soda were in great repute, as were compounds of mercury, iron, zinc and lead... Armenian medicine also made use of drugs of animal origin, i.e., prepared from organs and tissues of animals...³⁵"

Even today, cardamom is envied by Armenian children from their parents, served in tiny cups as "Turkish coffee", with its exotic aroma, or sometimes the pods are even chewed³⁶; and is still used by Bedouin nomads who carry a coffee pot with a special spout-chamber for the cardamom pods.

In discussing one of his trips the Durupinar Site, Fasold states, "The amomum grew in such profusion that I bent down to inspect it more closely... Now it grew in such abundance and vitality that it was difficult to pass through the area without getting barbed... I tried unsuccessfully to pull it out to inspect the root, but as was written almost five thousand years earlier, it 'pricked the hand of the gatherer'. Suddenly a young Kurdish boy stood by me with a knife... and deftly knelt down, cutting it loose from the ground. Placing the sole of his boot against the barbs he stripped the stalk, washed it with water nearby, and handed it to me... I ate willingly. It was not an unpleasant taste but certainly hard to describe. I had never tasted anything quite like it before. My little friend... was given the job of searching out the grandest stalks and stripping them down with his knife. I consumed them on the spot..."⁶⁴

³³ Meliksetian, Khachatur; Kraus, Steffen; Pernicka, Ernst; Avetissyan, Pavel; Devejian, Seda; Petrosyan, Levron (Jan 2011). *Metallurgy of prehistoric Armenia*. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236863542_Metallurgy_of_prehistoric_Armenia/

³⁴ (2015). Silk Routes: Cardamon. The University of Iowa; The International Writing Program. <https://iwp.uiowa.edu/silkroutes/cardamom>

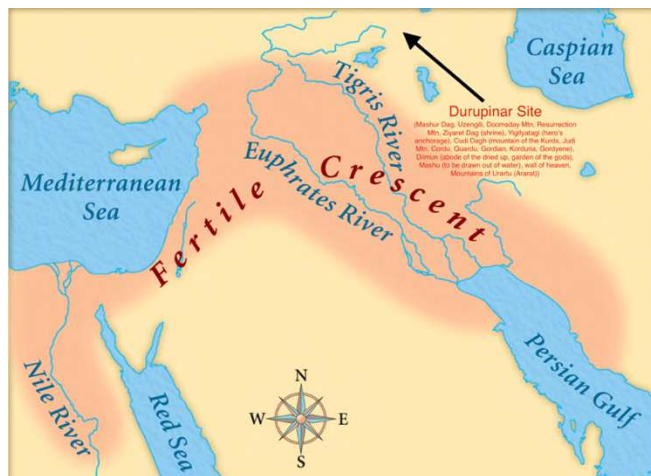
³⁵ Minasyan, Smbat (13 Jan, 2012) *The Medical Heritage of Medieval Armenia. Its Theoretical and Practical Value in the Light of Modern Science*. <https://armenian-history.com/the-medical-heritage-of-medieval-armenia-its-theoretical-and-practical-value-in-the-light-of-modern-science/>

³⁶ (29 May, 2009). *Cardamom: A taste of ancient Armenia*. The Armenian Kitchen, Cook, Eat, Kef! <https://thearmeniankitchen.com/cardamom-taste-of-ancient-armenia/>

In addition, we know from a subsequent discussion in this paper, the land surrounding the formation was being farmed by Reshit Sarihan when the initial earthquake occurred; this suggests good soil.

Origin of Armenians

Perhaps the most intriguing is the origin of the Armenians themselves. How do we determine this? Genetics show that Armenians are indigenous to, and form a distinct genetic isolate in Armenia; and further, modern Armenians have the least genetic distance from ancient Armenian skeletons than other neighboring peoples; and they share affinity with Neolithic farmers (the first agricultural revolution, as described above).^{37,38} So, let me boil this down. The Armenians share genetic data with the earliest farmers who migrated elsewhere; this is precisely my discussion above. Further, historians don't know where the Armenians originated...³⁸ rather, it appears that their origin is actually themselves (genetically); the proverbial genetic "end all be all" of mankind. If the Armenian Highlands are the starting point of postdiluvial mankind, aren't these results what we would expect to see genetically?



Interpretation of Historical Origins

If so many significant origins (animal & plant species, language, astronomy, viticulture, textiles, metallurgy, medicine, Armenians) erupt from the same area, the Armenian Highlands, it would not make sense for the resting place of Noah's Ark, or post-diluvial humanity, to have come from somewhere else other than the Armenian Highlands. It certainly doesn't make sense for Noah's Ark to come to rest on one of the mountains bordering the fertile crescent (i.e., the Zagros Mountain range or Taurus Mountain range), and subsequently head into the Armenian mountains to initiate these significant origins, abhorring the fertile valley before them directly to the South. In fact, the Bible tells us otherwise.

Migration

At some point, some of Noah's descendants, and possibly Noah himself (as he lived 350 years after the deluge), began migrating away from the ark landing. We know some headed to the fertile crescent of Mesopotamia, the origin of civilization. Genesis 11:2 (LXX) states "And it came to pass as they moved from the east, they found a plain in the land of Senaar [Shinar], and they dwelt there." As with other translated words/phrases there is potential for controversy, thus "from the east" has been suggested by some to mean "in front of", or "from the rising" (of the sun), and others even reverse the direction to "as they traveled eastward" or "eastward". This manipulation is not necessary, as there is a starting point (the mountains of Urartu (Ararat)) from which they traveled "from the east" (westward), and an endpoint (land of Shinar). The actual route between isn't relevant because it has no significance, but it makes sense nonetheless, as I'll describe. I think Richard Lanser states it crisply, "This translation of the Hebrew as "from the east" seems to be the most straightforward rendering, treating the Hebrew word *miqqedem* as a combination of the preposition *min*, "out of, away from," with *qedem*, "front, east." The ancient Greek Septuagint and Latin Vulgate translations likewise opt for the "from the east" translation, providing a historical precedent indicating

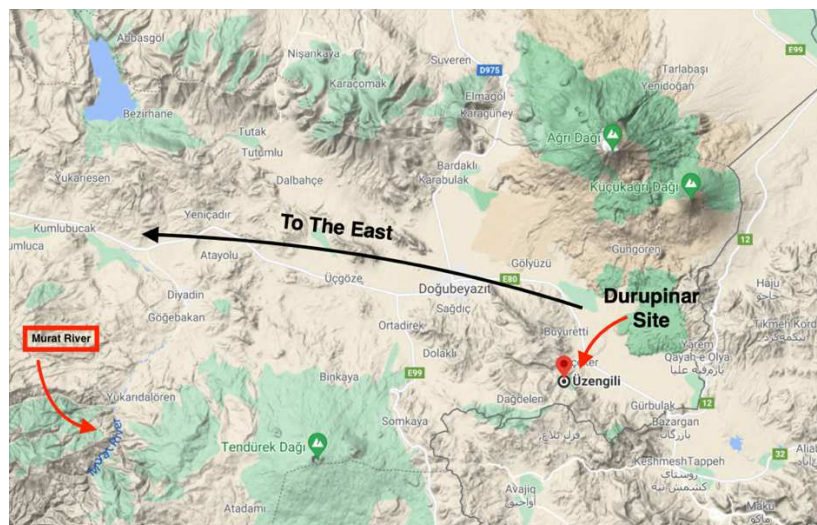
³⁷ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, August 1). Origin of the Armenians. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 01:28, October 14, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Origin_of_the_Armenians&oldid=1036520471

³⁸ Haber, M., Mezzavilla, M., Xue, Y. *et al.* Genetic evidence for an origin of the Armenians from Bronze Age mixing of multiple populations. *Eur J Hum Genet* 24, 931–936 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1038/ejhg.2015.206>

it is accurate.³⁹ Dr. Roy Knuteson, Ph.D. in New Testament Greek states, "The Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek in 250 BCE reads: from the east. This is significant since these Greek-speaking Hebrews knew the exact equivalent of the Hebrew into the Greek and chose a preposition (apo) that only means 'from,' not 'in,' or 'towards,' or 'eastward.'" Human nature, and common sense, would undoubtedly find most travelers heading down from the highlands to the valley then following a river. Obviously, immediate access to water makes travel much easier, especially with animals in the caravan, and at that time there was unlikely an adversary which might otherwise alter travel routes, so human nature would suggest the easiest route. Therefore, following the map below, traveling "from the east", proposed from the Durupinar Site in the mountains of Ararat/Urartu (tip of arrow on map below), the travelers would rendezvous with the Murat River (Above right, Murat River starting at the hook in the river beside the tip of the arrow on the map from *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2012, Revised).

The Murat River originates in the heights a few miles west of the Durupinar Site, north of Lake Van⁴⁰ (See topographical map below from Google Maps), and is a major contributor to the Euphrates River, which in turn, is one of the two well-known rivers feeding Mesopotamia. The other major river is the Tigris River, originating from Lake Hazar, in the Taurus Mountains, located a few miles from the Euphrates⁴¹, as well as a few miles from the Murat River.

Shinar, the destination, is equivalent to southern Mesopotamia, and often associated with Sumer, the earliest civilization in Mesopotamia⁴².



Clearly, there were some of Noah's descendants who did migrate East along the Araxes River Valley, which is equidistant (yet opposite) to the Murat River. Remember, though, as Stephen Armstrong emphasized, the emphasis by Moses was the contrast between the "seed" line of Peleg (the line to Abram... the "good side", heading West) and the opposing line of Joktan (the line to Nimrod & the Tower of Babel... the "bad side", heading East)⁴³. Curiously, notice above how the origin of sheep (i.e., believers) moves West, while the origin of goats (i.e., unbelievers) moves East (God has sovereignty and a sense of humor! Also, Matthew 7:7). Thus,

³⁹ Lanser, Jr, Richard D (2007). *An Armenian Perspective on the Search for Noah's Ark*

⁴⁰ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, March 12). Murat River. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 19:07, May 19, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Murat_River&oldid=1011734082

⁴¹ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, May 8). Tigris. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 00:06, May 20, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tigris&oldid=1022089443>

⁴² Wikipedia contributors. (2020, December 17). Shinar. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 18:16, May 23, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Shinar&oldid=994821199>

⁴³ Armstrong, Stephen (2011). https://media.versebyverseministry.org/images/uploads/Genesis_11B.pdf

despite not being mentioned specifically by Moses, we nevertheless see secondary evidence of other descendants' migration; examples as in the origin of plant and animal species, language, etc., noted above.

Proposed Corduene Mountains

As the saying goes, "boots on the ground", if a person stands beside Lake Van and faces East, then South, and then West, (*Below, three Google Maps East, South, then West from Lake Van*) there is no visible differentiation in this



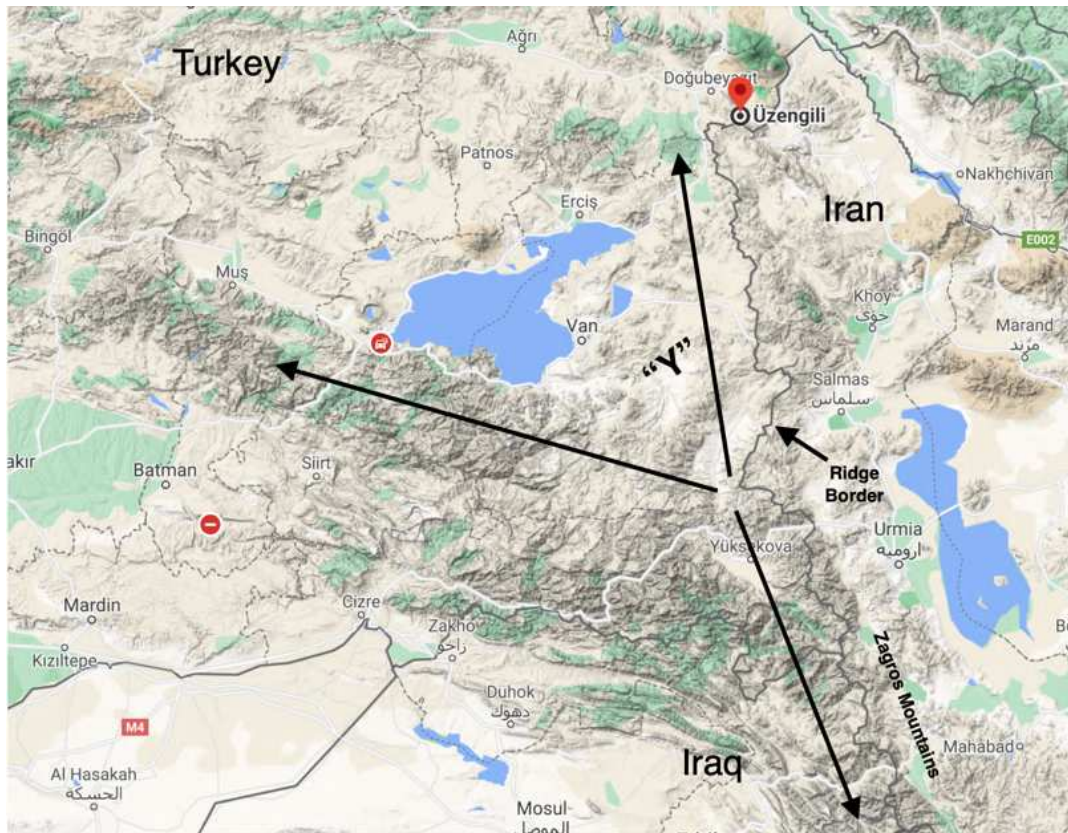
mountain range; i.e., it naturally appears to be the contiguous. Topographically, as shown below (google map on next page), the mountains surrounding Lake Van on the Southwest, South, East and Northeast sides are, in fact, continuous, and thus in ancient times and throughout history, would almost certainly have been regarded as the same mountainous region. This holds true, regardless of whether the mountains are separated by a subterranean tectonic plate (the Arabian plate thrust against the Eurasian plate is the ridge along the south of Lake Van – the

Taurus Mountains – then extending along the Zagros Mountains – all the way down to the Persian Gulf), which wasn't even realized until 1915 by Alfred Wegener; OR whether someone later labeled various parts of these mountains/ridges with different names to coincide with various localities, kingdoms, or ethnic clusters.

Following the Zagros Mountain ridge from the Persian Gulf Northwest, it essentially forms a "Y" around Van Lake, with one arm following the Iranian border and extending right between Lake Van and Lake Urmia (see map below), the other arm forming the Taurus Mountain ridge. My point is, if ancient writers were referring to the Corduene Mountains (or region), whose intended location at that relative point in history is still unclear to us today, then a 50-mile arm of continuous mountains from this "Y" to the Armenian Highlands, would certainly have been considered part of



the same mountain range (i.e., Corduene), and this is even demonstrated on various historical maps (demonstrated below). Further, this upper arm even forms a natural border with Iran. Interestingly, what is prominently seen (in your face) when facing North at the end of this proposed Corduene Mountain ridge... is Agri Dagh (Mount Ararat); remembering that Agri Dagh is the end of a completely separate mountain range, the Anti-Taurus Mountains, with a distinct valley separation between them. In other words, the Anti-Taurus Mountain ridge has a clear separation from the proposed Corduene Mountain ridge. (*Above right, evidentially, the view "Mt. Ararat" & "Little Ararat" at the proposed end of the Corduene Mountains at the Durupinar Site³; below, topographical map from Google Maps noting the "Y" of the Zagros Mountains with no discernible gap until the Durupinar Site, and the ridge border to Iran*)



Corduene Mountains, not Kingdom

First, to be clear, most historical references (see discussion below) are directed to the mountains, not the kingdom, which has added even more potential for confusion. The Corduene Kingdom only lasted about 100 years (189 – 90 BCE)⁶, is typically labeled as the area South and East of Lake Van over to the Zagros Mountains, and wasn't well-defined. Thus, the Durupinar Site, which is only about 40 miles Northeast of Lake Van, could potentially have been within the Kingdom anyway. There are some who actually equate the ancient Corduene Kingdom with Kurdistan^{44,45}, a much larger ill-defined region surrounding Lake Van, strikingly similar to Urartu described above and earlier in history, and that certainly includes the Durupinar Site.

Etymology

The name Kurd derives from Karda, which is, in various languages, the common root for Corduene, Cordyaeen, Cordueni, Cordyene, Cardyene, Carduene, Gordyeni, Gordyene, Gorduene, Gordyene, Gordyaea, Gordian, Korduene, Kordyoui, Karduchi, Kardeuni, Kardaye, Qardu, Quardwaye, etc., referenced in various historical writings^{6,46}. Jacob Neusner, one of the most published authors in history, an academic in Judaism, likewise identifies Qardu (Qadron) with Corduene⁴⁷. Korduk and Gortouk are likewise correlated^{15,7}. In addition, Kurdistan is sometimes mentioned, which is a likely a more recent term.

⁴⁴ Kurdistan.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kurdistan4all/871106291/#:~:text=The%20tract%20to%20this%20day%20known%20as%20Kurdistan%2C,the%20Carduchi%20%28Greek%3A%20Καρδούχοι%29%2C%20as%20Cardyeneor%20Cordyene.>

⁴⁵ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, December 15). Kurdistan. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 18:40, December 21, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kurdistan&oldid=1060372210>

⁴⁶ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, May 31). History of the Kurds. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 19:00, June 2, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=History_of_the_Kurds&oldid=1026049779.

⁴⁷ Neusner, Jacob (1964). *The Jews in Pagan Armenia*. Journal of the American Oriental Society, pp.230-240

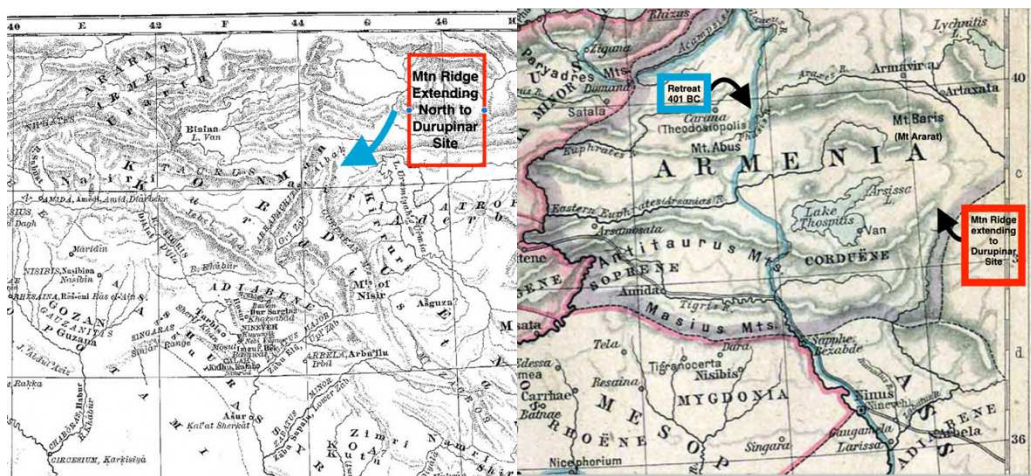
Unknown Ancient Reference

The actual location of the “Corduene” Mountains referenced by early historical writers, like Berossus, is simply unclear; not dissimilar from the ill-defined borders of the Corduene Kingdom and Kurdistan. Further, in antiquity, the East end of Taurus Mountains and the Northwest end of the Zagros Mountains had no definite boundary, rather are variably garbled together with the Southern end of the proposed Corduene Mountains, depending on the historian or geographer.

Maps

Historical maps are likewise inconsistent in regards to the Corduene Mountains (see below); one labels them originating from the northern part of the Zagros Mountains extending up the East side of Van Lake; another labels them as the mountain range South of Lake Van then extending up the East of Van Lake; another is consistent with my proposed location, labeling the ridge from the Zagros Mountains extending up to the Durupinar Site; another places them North to Northeast of Lake Van (Ptolemy’s *Cosmographia*)⁴⁸; and another labels them on the east of Lake Van and likely extending North (Ptolemy’s *Geography* V, Asiae III tab, see later map and discussion)¹⁵. You can see that Ptolemy has the Corduene Mountains on the East side of Lake Van in one of his maps and North Northeast in another, thus if one was to combine his maps, it would match my proposed location. So, even being inconsistent, the end of the Corduene Mountain ridge, whether originating from the Southwest, or from the Southeast, or from the East side of Lake Van, still ends at the Durupinar Site. There is no significant visual demarcation, or landmark, that would cause it to be labeled as another mountain ridge; and the Durupinar Site is about 40 miles Northeast of Lake Van.

(Below left, historic map showing Corduene Mtn Ridge extending North from the East as an extension of the Zagros Mountains, from *Encyclopaedia Biblica*; below right, historic map (with the 401 BCE retreat in blue) showing Corduene Mtn Ridge extending North from the Southwest as an extension of the Taurus (labeled incorrectly Anti-Taurus) Mountains, from page 20 of Shepherd’s 1923 *Historical Atlas*; further below middle, Calmet’s *Dictionnaire Historique de la Bible* (1722) map showing Corduene Mtn Ridge extending from Zagros Mtn’s to Durupinar Site; further below middle, Ptolemy’s *Cosmographia* showing NNE position of Corduene Ridge; see later discussion for Ptolemy’s map)



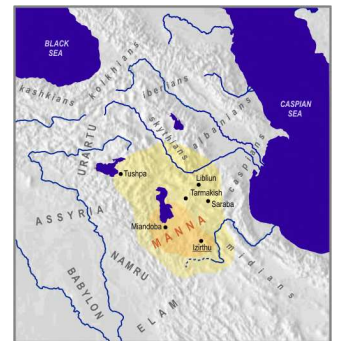
⁴⁸ Jacobus, A. D. S., Nicolaus Germanus, A. 1. C. S. & Ptolemy, 2. C. A. (1460) *Cosmography*. [Place of Publication Not Identified: Publisher Not Identified, to 1466] [Pdf] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2021668203/>.

Richard Lanser summarizes very well the Berossus “wellspring”⁵¹, noting that many other historians have quoted Berossus; including Vitruvius, Pliny, and Seneca VIA Poseidonius of Apamea; Tatianus, Josephus, Abydenus (Eusebius and Syncellus VIA Abydenus), and Sextus Julius Africanus VIA Alexandor Polyhistor.

Sextus Julius Africanus does add more detail, circa 200 CE, when Armenia was a nation-state in the Parthian Empire, ^{50,51} (the Parthian Empire was from about 174 BCE to 224 CE⁵²) stating, “And the ark settled on the mountains of Ararat which we know to be in Parthia”⁵³, completely consistent with the Northeast Urtu region & Durupinar Site noted above. To attest, the rock carvings in the proposed Corduene Mountains, in the Kasrik Canyon near modern Cizre, Turkey, are Parthian.⁵⁴ (*Below, Northern and Western Extent of Parthian Empire, modified from Google Maps* ⁵⁴)



Nicolaus of Damascus in the 1st century CE adds, “there is a great mountain, called Baris, in Armenia, above the Minias [Manna, Mannu, Manai, Mana, Minyas, Minni], where, according to the history, many have found salvation during the Flood, and one, having been carried on the Ark, got down on the peak and the residues of the latter have been preserved for a long time.” Montgomery¹⁵ addresses Minyas, and its equivalence to Minni & Mannu, being closely connected to Ararat. Krkyasharyan states, “The country of Minias in the form of “Minni” (“Manna” in the Assyrian cuneiform inscriptions) is always mentioned with the Ararat in the Bible⁵⁵” (Jer 51:27). Sayce attests that Manai was Southeast of, and adjacent to, Urtu, using Shalmanaser II and Sargon’s records.⁵⁶ This, too, is consistent with Northeast Urtu, being immediately above Minias. (*Right, see map of Manna*⁵⁷, remembering that the Durupinar Site is just to the right of the hook of the Murat River, and thus above Manna)



⁵⁰ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, June 5). Parthian Empire. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 20:12, June 11, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Parthian_Empire&oldid=1027021529. Parthia would retain firm control over Armenia—with brief interruptions—through the Arsacid Dynasty of Armenia.

⁵¹ Lanser, Richard (2006). <https://biblearchaeology.org/research/contemporary-issues/2848-noahs-ark-in-iran>

⁵² Nadooshan, Farhang Khademi; Moosavi, Seyed Sadrudin; Pour, Frouzandeh Jafarzadeh. (Sep 2005). *The Politics of Parthian Coinage in Media*. Near Eastern Archaeology, Vol. 68, No. 3, Archaeology in Iran (Sep., 2005), pp. 123-127. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25067611>

⁵³ Bailey, Lloyd R. (1989). *Noah, The Person and the Story in History and Tradition*. University of South Carolina Press

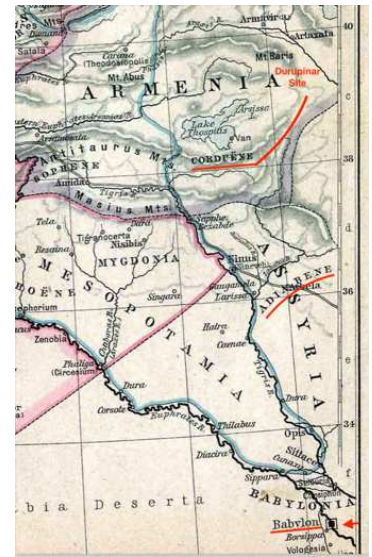
⁵⁴ Algaze, Guillermo (1988). *A new Frontier: First Results of the Tigris-Euphrates Archaeological Reconnaissance Project*. Journal of Near Eastern Studies, vol. 48, no. 4 (Oct. 1989): 250

⁵⁵ Krkyasharyan, S. M. *Ancient Greek Sources A*. page 102, note. 120

⁵⁶ Sayce, A. H. (1882). *The Cuneiform Inscriptions of Van, deciphered and translated*. The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland xiv

⁵⁷ www.azerbaijan.00page.com/manna.html

In the second century CE, Hippolytus wrote, "...and both the dimensions and the relics of this Ark are, as we have explained, shown to this day in the mountains called Ararat, which are situated in the direction of the country of the Adiabene {Iran}. In fact, from Babylon, the direct route to the Durupinar Site would be straight North, through Adiabene, following the Zagros Mountains, then continuing along the proposed Corduene Mountains to the end. Again, "boots on the ground", both mountain ranges have appeared continuous. I can imagine someone in Babylon saying, "just keep heading north, and you'll see it". (Right, follow along the longitudinal meridian from Babylon to Durupinar Site through Adiabene, from page 20 of Shepherd's 1923 Historical Atlas)



Josephus also states, "After this, the ark rested on the top of a certain mountain in Armenia... [Thackeray translates "it landed on the heights of the mountains of Armenia"] the Armenians call this place The Place of Descent; for the ark being saved in that place, its remains are shown there by the inhabitants to this day." (The Antiquities of the Jews, William Whiston translation, ch.3, section 5). Thus, he reiterates Armenia, and the local name, "The Place of Descent" (more below).

Josephus mentions Noah's ark again elsewhere, stating, "This author [referring to Berossus], following the most ancient records, has, like Moses, described the flood and the destruction of mankind thereby, and told of the ark in which Noah, the founder of our race, was saved when it landed on the heights of the mountains of Armenia" (*Against Apion* pp 128-30). Here again, we see reference to the Armenian Highlands.

Duplicated from earlier in this paper in a different context, Josephus (yet another time he mentions Noah's Ark) also stated, "A district called Carron...has excellent soil for the production of Amomum in the greatest abundance; it also possesses the remains of the ark in which report has it that Noah was saved from the flood-remains which to this day are shown to those who are curious to see them." Antiquities XX. 24-25 (Loeb edition, volume 1X, p. 403). Montgomery¹⁵ speaks to the "district of Carron" regarding its difficulties, "It is not Carrhae, which is in Northern Mesopotamia. The emendation to Gordyene [Corduene]... is more acceptable geographically, since it is closer to Ararat... Hence, the reading by J. Macquart... is Kardou." The Corduene Mountains especially makes sense regarding Josephus because otherwise his three mentions of remains of Noah's Ark would be contradictory, several of which were even from the same book (*Jewish Antiquities*)... within which he already referenced the Cordyaeans. Going further, Montgomery explains that Josephus was vigilant about historical accuracy. Josephus thus equates the Armenian Highlands and, at least a portion of the Corduene Mountains.

The Jewish Aggadah (written no earlier than the 2nd century BCE, but orally thought to be much older), a critical interpretation appearing in the Talmud and Midrash, states the ark landed in Corduene in Armenia.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, November 17). Corduene. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 19:23, December 8, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Corduene&oldid=1055711260>

Jerome, a 4th century CE historian and theologian, has been accused of being geographically challenged when he stated, “‘Ararat’ is region in Armenia, through which the Araxes flows, of extra-ordinary fertility, lying at the roots of Mount Taurus, which reaches to that point. Therefore the ark, in which Noah and his children were preserved, was borne, on subsidence of the deluge, not to the mountains generally of Armenia which is called Ararat, but to the most elevated summits of Taurus, which overlook the plains of Ararat.”⁶¹ In actuality, it's a matter of perception and interpretation. Remember, he lived in modern-day Croatia, about 1400 miles away by ground, and therefore would not necessarily be familiar with local names, rather would use larger well-known icons, like the Taurus Mountains. Most would agree with him, that Ararat (the region, the mountain, the province) is in Armenia, and that the Araxes River flows just North of Agri Dagh in the Ararat Plain, of which springs extraordinary fertility (even today, though encompassing only 4% of Armenian land, the plain yields 40% of produce⁶²). The point of contention arises with the Taurus Mountains; however, again, this is consistent with the Durupinar Site from Jerome’s perspective. As earlier stated, the boundaries in antiquity between the confluence of the Taurus Mountains, the Zagros Mountains, and the Corduene Mountains is ill-defined with wide variation. The Taurus Mountains, specifically, add another level of confusion when addressing the Anti-Taurus Mountains, which bifurcate from the Taurus Mountains in the Western Turkey, leading to errors in labeling and references (some maps even label the Taurus Mtn’s as Anti-Taurus Mtn’s). The Anti-Taurus Mountain ridge ends with Agri Dagh (Mt. Ararat), and is thus separate from the Taurus Mountains, a distinction actually made by Jerome (“not to the mountains generally of Armenia which is called Ararat, but to the most elevated summits of Taurus”). The Taurus Mountains are a prominent landmark because they extend over 700 miles along the Southern part of Turkey, naturally a geographic anchor, which is how I believe Jerome viewed them; thus, he avoided the confusion of smaller local mountain names and boundaries. Even more, there were actually some historian/cartographers who labeled the mountains surrounding Lake Van (and thus the Durupinar Site mountain) as the Eastern Taurus Mountains. Regardless, using this Taurus anchor, Jerome addresses

the “roots of” the Taurus Mountains that “reaches to that point” (the point of Mt. Ararat and the Ararat Plain) to simplify his description; and, in fact, the Taurus Mountain RIDGE extends from Lake Egirdir in Western Turkey, continues across Southern Turkey, along the South of Lake Van, then without any visible demarcation, extends North along the Eastern side of Lake Van (equivalent to the proposed Corduene Mountain ridge), ending



at or near the Durupinar Site; in other words, the proposed Corduene Mountain ridge IS a “root” of the Taurus Mountains in that context. *(Above Right, the full extent of the Taurus Mtn ridge (in red), the Corduene “root of” Taurus (in bright green), the Durupinar Site (in teal - circled) with a view to the Ararat Plain (in yellow), and the Anti-Taurus Mtn range ending at Agri Dagh (Mt. Ararat) (in brown), modified from Google Maps)*

The Zagros Mountains were also a major icon, thus Jerome would not have confused them with the Taurus Mountains, even though the ridges coalesce. Stabo similarly states, “Towards the North, there are many forks which branch away from the Taurus.”⁶³ Finally, Jerome describes the ark as being on the “most elevated



⁶¹ Jerome. *Opera Sancti Hieronymi* II, 12. Comment in Isaiam
⁶² Wikipedia contributors. (2021, December 22). Ararat Plain. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 16:31, December 23, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ararat_Plain&oldid=1061593398
⁶³ Bohn, H.G. (Jan 1856). *Geography of Strabo*. Vol. II. London

summits of Taurus”, which may seem arbitrary, yet the peak above the Durupinar Site is 8200 feet, compared to the highest peaks of 10-12,000 feet in the Western and Central Taurus Mountain range; thus, the Durupinar Site peak is demonstrably one of the most elevated summits (note the plurality) of this range. In addition, this peak overlooks the plain of Ararat, which can’t be said of any other part of the Taurus Mountain ridge or other “root”. So, the 8200-foot summit that overlooks the Ararat Plain, pinpoints the Durupinar Site mountain.

(Above Right, evidentially, a view from the lower foothills of the Durupinar Site mountain... the Ararat Plains visible (to the right of “little” Ararat, Kucukagri Dag) even from below the 8200 ft peak, from Google Maps; Above in the “Proposed Corduene Mountains” section, a picture from above the formation also demonstrates the visible plains)

As stated earlier, Chamchyants associated Korduk (Corduene), Armenia, and Ararat stating, “... instead of the land of Ararat some call Ararat, some - Armenia, and some others Korduk”⁷. Xenophon solidifies Korduk as at least a portion of the Corduene mountains in his description of the retreating Greek army through the region in 401 BCE.⁵ Korduk is not dissimilar from Gortouk mentioned by Flavius; regardless, they both have the same association to the Corduene Mountains.

Looking at a modified addended chart inspired by Spencer & Lienard⁵⁹, it becomes clear that the Corduene Mountains were the second earliest historical location of Noah’s Ark, and this label has persisted throughout history. In contrast, Al-Judi (equated to Cudi Dagi – see discussion below) begins with Mohammad over 1000 years later then parallels Corduene’s persistence through time. Likewise, Mount Ararat is a relatively modern label.

Date Reference	Date	Author	Mt. Nizer [Nisir]	Minni	Corduene [Gordaeen]	Al-Judi	Parthia	Agri Dagh [Ararat]
650 BCE	650 BCE	Epic of Gilgamesh	X					
550								
450								
350								
250	275	Berosus			X			
150								
50								
50 CE	0	Nicholas of Damascus		X				
150								
250	200	Targum of Onkelos			X			
	200	Sextus Julius Africanus					X	
350								
425	5 th century	Philostorgius						X
450	5 th century	Faustus			X			X
550								
650								
750	8 th century	Mohammad				X		
850								
950	10 th century	Al-Mas’udi				X		
	10 th century	Ibn Haukal				X		
	10 th century	Samaritan Pentateuch			X			
1050								
1150								
1250	13 th century	Eelmmacin				X		
	1255	William of Rubruck						X
1350	14 th century	Jordanus						X
	1360	Mandeville						X
1450								
1550	1540	Munster			X			
	1558	Nicolas de Nicolay			X			
1650	1662	Olearius						X
	1684	Chardin						X
1750	1734	Sale			X=	=X		
1850	1829	Parrot						X
	1843	Ainsworth			X=	=X		
	1877	Bryce						X

At least from the 3rd century BCE, multiple historians triangulate physical ship remains, which were visited, seen, and even scavenged by contemporaries; and associate Agri Dagh (Mt. Ararat) with the Corduene Mountains. Regardless of which cultural flood story (containing their inherent inaccuracies) that relative historian had predilection; or the historian's contemporary biases from the ruler they served; or their respective nationalism; those remain frankly irrelevant in light of the historical fact that ship remains were identified in a consistently described region.

Modern Proposed Ship Remains

The first report in the modern era was in November, 1948, as seen below¹. It occurred after a series of three earthquakes in May, 1948⁶⁴; interestingly, the same month & year (and perhaps the same day) that Israel again became a nation, as some have looked for relevance. There is, however, controversy as to the actual intended location of this report, specifically, between Agri Dagh (Mt. Ararat) and the Durupinar Site. As relayed by David Allen Deal⁶⁵, Reshit Sarihan, a tenant farmer/shepherd, noticed the boat-shaped structure in the melting winter snows the morning after the series of earthquakes, as a result of the surrounding earth collapsing from liquification. Reshit notified his landlord, Shukru Asena, who lived in Dogubayazit (a town to the East); subsequently, Mr. Asena contacted Edwin B Greenwald, a UPI writer in Ankara, Turkey's capital. Mr. Asena reportedly told Mr. Greenwald that in the province of Agri (note that Mt. Ararat is called Agri Dag), two-thirds the way up a mountain near his village, Reshit had discovered Noah's Ark in a gorge with one of its ends sticking out of the snow.

As you can read below, this was not what was reported. Therefore, either the whole story was false (and nevertheless the Durupinar Site remains today in Uzengili), or there was a critical error in the translation from Mr. Asena to Mr. Greenwald (of note, there are no farms or livestock two-thirds the way up Agri Dagh (Mt. Ararat proper)). Reshit was later located by Dave Fasold, stating the ark he found was on the mountain where he lived in Uzengili. (*Below top, evidentially, original article of Associated Press, 1948*)

Turk Reports 'Ship' Atop Mt. Ararat

By EDWIN B. GREENWALD

ISTANBUL, Nov. 13 (AP)—The petrified remains of an object which peasants insist resembles a ship has been found high up Mt. Ararat, biblical landing place of Noah's ark.

Apparently hidden for centuries it came to light last summer when unusually warm weather melted away an ancient mantle of snow and ice.

While various persons from time to time have reported seeing objects resembling a "house" or a "ship" on the mountain, Turks who have seen this new find profess it to be the only known object which could actually be taken as the remains of a ship.

Shukru Asena, a 63-year-old farmer who owns large acreage in that far-off eastern frontier district, told about the discovery in an unheralded visit to the Associated Press bureau here. This is his story.

Early in September a Kurdish farmer named Reshit was about two-thirds the way up the 16,000 ft. peak when he came upon an object he had never seen before, although he had been up the mountain many times. He moved around it and then climbed higher to examine it from above.

There, Reshit said, was the prow of a ship protruding into a canyon down which tons of melting ice and snow had been rushing for more than two months. The prow was almost entirely revealed, but the rest of the object still was covered.

The contour of the earth, Reshit said, indicated the invisible part of the object was shaped like a ship. The prow, he added, was about the size of a house.

Reshit climbed down to it and with his dagger tried to break off a piece off the prow. It was so hard it would not break. It was blackened with age. Reshit insisted it was not a simple rock formation.

"I know a ship when I see one," he said. "This is a ship."

He spread the word among little villages at the base of the mountain and peasants began climbing up its northern slope to see the weird thing he had found. Each who came back said it was a ship.

There is no folklore there about the ark. Shukru Bey said, and persons who saw Reshit's find came away in great surprise. There are no cameras in the wild, isolated country where Turkey, Russia and Iran meet, hence no one came away with a picture. The snows have been falling again, perhaps have covered it again by now.

An expedition from America last September was reported hoping to see if it could find remains of the ark preserved in the ice atop Mt. Ararat, but no one in that eastern area has reported any foreign visitors.

(In Annapolis, Md., Frederick Avery, model ship maker for the naval academy museum who was to have been a member of the American expedition, said the trip had been "called off for the time being".

Avery said the "international situation and fighting in that area" had complicated plans and that the expedition could not get clearance and get ready in time. Mt. Ararat is frozen 10 months of the year. August and September are the only months of thaw.)



TELLS OF FINDING ARK—Shukru Asena, bushy-mustached farmer from eastern Turkey, said that startled peasants had found the petrified remains of a ship high up Mt. Ararat, biblical landing place of Noah's Ark. It was brought to light by extraordinarily heavy thaws that washed away the ship's ancient mantle of ice and snow. Here, Shukru Asena points out the location of Ararat on a map.

⁶⁴ Fasold, Dave. *The Ark of Noah*. Scandinavia Publishing House

⁶⁵ Deal, David Allen (2005). *Noah's Ark, The Evidence, The Bible, The Flood, Gilgamesh & Mother Goddess Origins*. Kherem LaYah Press

Ultimately, on September 11, 1959, Captain İlhan Durupınar (namesake for the site), of the Turkish army, noted an anomaly on the NATO Geodetic Survey (earth's surface survey accounting for the earth's curvature) aerial images he was investigating. This was published in Life Magazine about a year later, in 1960. *(Right, aerial picture similar to what Durupınar would have seen).*



First Expedition

Hardly worth mentioning, in 1960, an expedition from the United States went to the Durupınar Site, and performed an initial “excavation” with dynamite. Frankly, I’m not sure when dynamite became an archeological tool, but without surprise, nothing was found. *(Below, notes the digging, apparently for placement of dynamite, and the resulting explosion⁶⁶)*



The hole is persistently evident in the wall of the formation⁶⁷.



Dimensions

The dimensions of the structure at the Durupınar Site, since 1948, have had only slight variation with different investigators, though some variation would be expected due to subsequent earthquakes, erosion, and deterioration. Also there appears to be variation in what part of the structure was measured.

- In August 1979, the length was 515 feet, (512 feet with a 3-foot tail that appeared broken off)¹.
- In June 5, 1985, Fasold measured 515 feet length, 538 feet with bow extension, and widest width of 138 feet⁶⁴.
- In August 7, 1985, Maylon Wilson, John Baumgardner, and Ron Wyatt measured the length to 515.7 feet and the length with bow extensions to 531 feet, using surveyor transit⁶⁴.

⁶⁶ (17 Jun, 2015). *Noah's Ark – Ron Wyatt's Story*. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loTkguzRaCU>

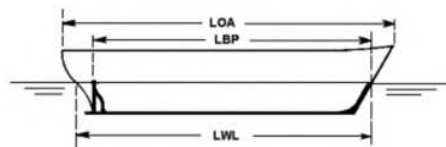
⁶⁷ (25 feb, 2021). *Noah's Ark Resistivity Scans Pt 2 THE SCANS*. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sz2IT7T4vNs>

- In June, 1990, Samuel Windsor confirmed some of David Fasold's measurements⁶⁸ and in 1991, used Fasold's measurements in a computer program (mirroring the undamaged side), and determined the average width was 85.6 feet (49.85 cubits)⁶⁹.
- In 2014, during Resistivity testing by John Larsen, the length was 515.9 feet (157 meters), adjusted width was 85.96 feet (26.2 meters), and height of the 3 levels was 51.5 feet (15.7 meters)⁷⁰.

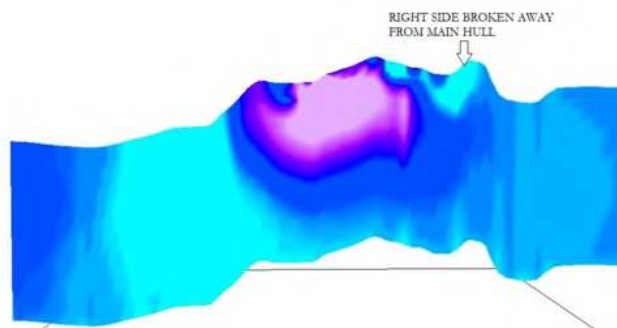
Genesis 6:14-15 (LXX) states: "Make therefore for thyself an ark of square timber; thou shalt make the ark in compartments, and thou shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And thus shalt thou make the ark; three hundred cubits the length of the ark, and fifty cubits the breadth, and thirty cubits the height of it." A cubit is simplistically the distance from a man's elbow to fingertip, which obviously would have some variation, and certainly would be relative the respective man's height. Various ancient cultures established standard cubit lengths, perhaps to avoid this variation. Some have suggested that Moses, obtaining his knowledge in Egypt (Acts 7:22, "And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds"), and subsequently authoring Genesis, would have used the Egyptian royal cubit (20.61 or 20.83 inches, deduced from 14 cubit rods that have been found⁷¹). Even if this was the case, we still don't know what Noah actually used; and if for convenience, Noah used his "personal" cubit, we don't know Noah's height to estimate HIS cubit length. Nevertheless, if we use the Egyptian royal cubit rods as reference, 300 cubits = 515.25 feet or 520.75 feet, 50 cubits = 85.88 feet or 86.79 feet, and 30 cubits = 51.53 feet or 52.08 feet.

The dimension measurements, as with modern ships, are likely not linear, but rather serve a volumetric purpose. The volume is referred to as tonnage (length x depth x width), often calculated in sections to account for curvature variations, with the total volume expressing the carrying capacity⁷². It should be no surprise that Noah would be concerned with carrying capacity. Nevertheless, we also don't know what part of the ark was actually used for the dimensions, and this was likely the first ship ever built. In modern times, however, there are various ways to measure ships, depending on the context⁷³. Depth and width have more variation in dimension due to greater curvature.

For length, some use length overall (LOA), some length between perpendiculars (LBP), and others length on the waterline (LWL).



Width is notably the most variable of the three axis dimensions, and deserves more discussion. The structure appears to have been damaged by a limestone projection on one side. Some have suggested that this damage has artificially elongating the width by either splaying the hull out from the keel as the superior support is lost, or from damage on the undersurface resulting in separation and widening of that section. The latter scenario appears more likely from the resistivity testing (see cross section to the right)⁷⁰. Regardless, width is the average width if referencing volume, or the greatest width if referring to overall dimension. Realizing that the carrying capacity of the ark inherently was an objective, the volumetric measurements would have been used, specifically the average width. As noted above, this



⁶⁸ Windsor, Samuel R (1995). *NOAH'S ARK: ITS GEOMETRY*. <https://creationism.org/patten/WindsorNoahsArkGeometry.html>

⁶⁹ Patten, Donald W (1995). *A DEBATE THE SITE OF NOAH'S ARK: AT UZENGILI (NISIR)*. <https://creationism.org/patten/PattenSiteNoahsArk.html>

⁷⁰ (2014). *THE RESULTS OF THE SUBSURFACE IMAGING PROJECT OF NOAH'S ARK*. John Larson investigator. <http://noahsarkscans.nz>

⁷¹ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, June 21). Cubit. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 19:27, June 30, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cubit&oldid=1029776579>

⁷² Phillips, Robert (1920). *How A Ship's Gross Tonnage Is Computed*. <https://www.gjenvick.com/OceanTravel/ShipTonnage/1920-ComputingGrossTonnageOfAVessel.html>

⁷³ (2009). *Basic Naval Architecture and Ship Dimensions Explained*. <https://www.brighthubengineering.com/naval-architecture/26220-what-are-the-basic-dimensions-of-a-ship/>

measurement was accomplished by Windsor, with a result of 49.85 cubits (85.6 feet). Noteworthy, this I easily reproduced by hand; by simply placing the outline of the site on graph paper, and mirroring the undamaged side, I used 56 cross sections (the number of squares on my graph paper), and obtained 86.27 feet... very close to 50 cubits.

Depth obviously wasn't measured by any ground surface investigations; however, the subsurface resistivity testing did measure it, detailed above⁷⁰. In the modern era, depth is typically measured from the underside of the deck to the bottom of the keel. Given the curve from bow to stern, as in the width measurement, it is conceivable that the 30 cubits was an average as well, again referencing volume. More below in resistivity discussions.

The bottom line is, we don't know the actual length of the Noah's cubit, and we don't know the reference points for the dimensions that he was given. Nevertheless, whether the cubit was 20.61 inches, or 20.83 inches, or even somewhere in between, the dimensions of the structure at the Durupinar Site are consistent, within a very small deviation, with Biblical ark dimensions.

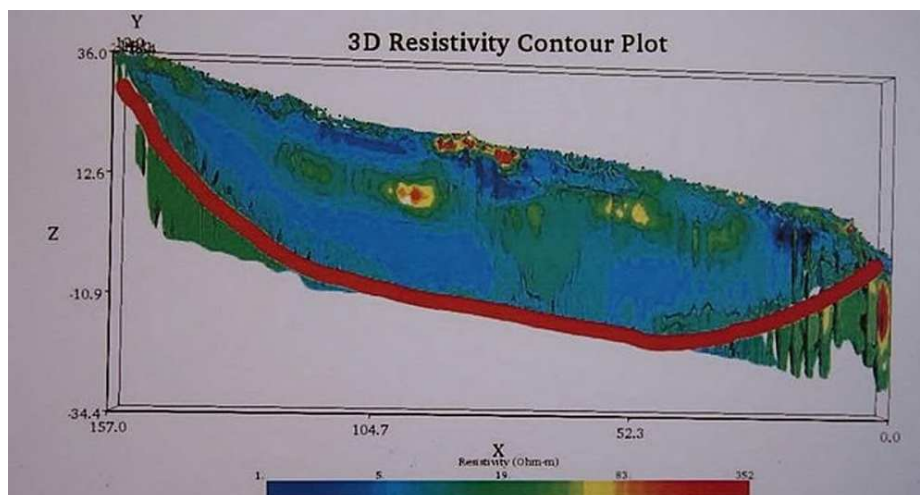
Shape

Genesis 6:16 (LXX) states, "Thou shalt narrow the ark in making it, and in a cubit above thou shalt finish it, and the door of the ark thou shalt make on the side; with lower, second, and third stories thou shalt make it."

So, immediately after giving the dimensions of the ark, the Bible states "Thou shalt narrow the ark in making it...". The ark wasn't rectangular, it was tapered.

Further, the Hebrew word for Noah's Ark and Moses's ark (basket), both with buoyancy references, are both *tevah*, whereas the Hebrew word for the Ark of the Covenant is *aron*. *Tevah* is associated with watercraft, whereas *aron* is associated with a box. The Hebrew language suggests a distinct difference, even if Genesis didn't plainly state it.

Resistivity testing, discussed more later, demonstrates a tapered shape to the formation. Thus, the Durupinar formation, is consistent with Genesis. (Below, resistivity contour plot, demonstrating the taper⁷⁰; other examples later).



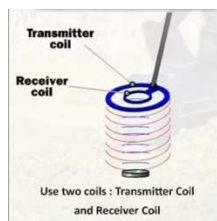
1978 Earthquake & Sampling

In August, 1979, after the 1978 earthquake, Ron Wyatt returned to the site. Significant soil had been dropped from the sides of the formation, and there was a crack along the entire length of the formation, suggesting an internal structure forming a plane of weakness, almost 90 degrees perpendicular to the impaling limestone outcrop. He obtained deep samples from the crack, as well as outside the formation. These were



analyzed at Galbraith Labs in Knoxville, TN. The results found 4.95% carbon inside the formation, while only 1.88% outside the formation; in addition, soil samples found 11.55% ferric oxide from inside the site, and only 0.77% from outside⁷⁷. The carbon differential suggested a possible biological etiology, while the iron discrepancy implied potential for human intervention. (Above, longitudinal crack in the formation⁷⁴)

Metal Detection



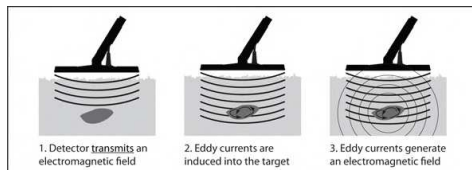
With knowledge of iron at the site, in August, 1984, a Whites Electronics ferromagnetic metal detector (Coinmaster 6000/Di professional), was obtained and used at the site. A ferromagnetic detector typically uses 2 coils; a transmitter coil creates a magnetic field, and a receiver coil passively detects magnetic field differences when a metallic substance passes within its detection

zone. 13 longitudinal lines of metal readings were identified within the site (Right, evidentially, the illustrated lines⁷⁷). Along the outer proposed hull of the formation, metallic readings were discovered every 9 feet^{75,76}. Later, in October of the same year, Turkish officials reproduced these metal detection findings, using the same metal detector⁷⁷.



Colonel Jim Irwin, the astronaut, accompanied Ron Wyatt for this trip, including the metal detection just stated. During this visit the proposed initial landing site was identified, where Irwin obtained one rock from for analysis (discussed later). Irwin stated, "Yea, we got some real positive readings, didn't we! The spacing made it... ah... appear like... ah... very much like it was... ah... a man-made object, no doubt about that."⁷⁷

In March, 1985, referred by Jim Irwin, David Fasold used a pulse induction metal detector and a molecular frequency generator at the site. Pulse induction metal detectors use one coil for the transmitter and receiver, sending electrical pulses into the coil (about 100/second) which creates a magnetic field; when passed over a



⁷⁴ (15 May, 2018). *The REAL Noah's Ark FOUND by Archaeologist Ron Wyatt! - Short Documentary*. [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQwfU7DvUyE>

⁷⁵ <https://www.arkdiscovery.com/noah-index.htm>

⁷⁶ *NOAH'S ARK- The Early Years*. <https://wyattmuseum.com/noahs-ark-the-early-years/2011-697>

⁷⁷ Wyatt Archaeological Research (2012). *Original Noah's Ark Documentary*. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7MNo5ASK5s&t=1210s>

metal object, eddy currents create the opposite magnetic field and this is detected. He likewise found lines of metal readings longitudinally and on the sides.

June, 1985, brought Wyatt, John Baumgardner (a geophysicist from Los Alamos National Laboratory) and Fasold together with all 3 metal detectors⁷⁷. Fasold located the iron foci



(most about 21 inches apart⁶⁸), formed the same longitudinal lines he had identified in March, and began running ribbons longitudinally and transversely, measuring the proposed bulkheads and proposed moon pool, and noting the line distortion at the rock intrusion. It was during this visit that Baumgardner found an iron angle bracket⁶⁴ (discussed later), performed metal detection, and stated, "I have no doubt in my mind there's... this has to be a man-made structure. It's full of metal, and the metal is... has a regular pattern to it, and the size of the thing, and the shape of the thing, is such that it's almost certainly a large boat."⁶⁶ (Above left, evidentially, black and white photo demonstrating ribbon placement⁶⁴; above middle, evidentially, color photo demonstrating ribbon placement from another source⁷⁷; above right, evidentially, Baumgardner metal detecting on the top of the formation⁶⁶)

Concurrently, metal deposits were noted at regular intervals along the outer aspect of the formation, the proposed hull. (Below left, evidentially, metal detection with flagged iron foci along the outer formation⁷⁷; below right, evidentially, 2 different types of metal detectors used on the side of the formation)



Fasold continued detailed measurements of the proposed bulkheads, starting from the pointed end of the formation. From there to the first proposed bulkhead was 47', and the width of the formation at the first proposed bulkhead was 35'. (Below, evidentially, view from pointed end of structure to first proposed bulkhead – and beyond; Right, evidentially, measuring the width of the first proposed bulkhead⁶⁴)



The distance from proposed bulkhead 1 to 2 was 40.5', and the width of the 2nd proposed bulkhead was 63'. (Right, evidentially, view with pointed end at the top, then 1st then 2nd proposed bulkhead⁶⁴)



The distance from proposed bulkhead 2 to 3 was 29.5' (there is no picture), and there was no recorded width of the 3rd proposed bulkhead by Fasold. The distance from proposed bulkhead 3 to 4 was 20', and the width at the 4th proposed bulkhead was 86'. (Below, evidentially, view with pointed end at the top, then 3rd to 4th proposed bulkhead⁶⁴)



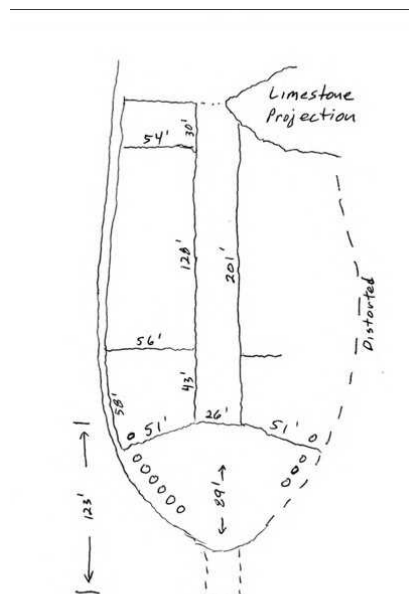
The distance from proposed bulkhead 4 to 5 was 31', and the width at the 5th proposed bulkhead was not recorded. (Right, evidentially, view toward pointed end at the top, and 4th to 5th proposed bulkhead⁶⁴)



The distance from proposed bulkhead 5 to 6 was 46', and the width at the 6th proposed bulkhead was 120'. Fasold described the 6th proposed bulkhead as "very thick, and appeared to be made up of three transverse lines that ran from one side to the other...".⁶⁴ In addition, it appears that this proposed triple bulkhead is where the formation is "snagged" on the limestone projection. (Below left, evidentially, view toward pointed end at the top, then 5th to 6th proposed bulkhead⁶⁴)



From the proposed 6th bulkhead to the blunt end of the formation, the remaining proposed bulkheads did not extend fully from side to side, rather, there was a 26' gap that ran for 201', the proposed moon pool or hull pool. (Below, sketch of Fasold's data of blunt end of formation)



Summary of proposed bulkhead data from Fasold:

Proposed Bulkheads	Distance Interval	Comment
0-1	47'	"0" refers to pointed end
1-2	40.5'	
2-3	29.5'	
3-4	20'	
4-5	31'	
5-6	46'	"6" was 3X thick
6-7	30'	
7-8	128'	
8-9	43'	43' is central (58' is lateral)
9-10	89'	"10" refers to blunt end

Proposed Bulkhead	Width	Comment
1	35'	
2	63'	
3	Not recorded	
4	86'	
5	Not recorded	
6	120'	
7	54' + 26' + [54']	26' void, [] is assumed
8	56' + 26' + [56']	138' is the widest width
9	51' + 26' + 51'	Each 51' proposed bulkhead is angled

**201x26' no bulkhead extending across middle

It's striking that the Epic of Gilgamesh (see discussion below) alludes to deck bulkheads, stating "... I divided them into nine sections with bulkheads between."

In August of 1985, despite a radar attempt being thwarted, Wyatt laid out ribbon along metallic lines again, with rocks on each position where metal was located^{77,70}. (Below, evidentially, ribbon laid out with the pointed end of the formation at the top⁷⁷)



Beginning in the picture above right, then completely in the picture below, the distortion from the limestone protrusion can be seen. (Below, evidentially, from one side of the formation looking across to the rock outcropping on the opposite side⁷⁷)



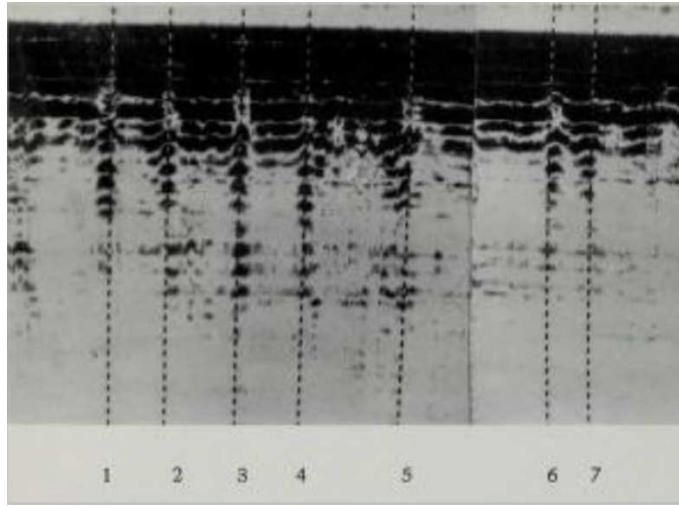
Surveyor, Hans Lind, subsequently confirmed longitudinal lines about a meter apart via metal detection, described by Nissen, but it wasn't otherwise documented.¹

Initial Radar Scanning

In June, 1986 through November, 1987, Wyatt and Fasold used an SIR-3 (subsurface interface radar) obtained from Tom Fenner (who had been turned away in August of 1985) of Geophysical Survey Systems, Inc.^{77,1} Subsurface Interface Radar uses electromagnetic signals sent through a transducer pulled or wheeled over the ground to located objects in the soil. This was performed at the formation as can be seen below. *(Below top left, evidentially, SIR being performed; Below top right, person pulling the transducer; Below lower left, interpreting; Below lower right, the graphic results^{77,70})*

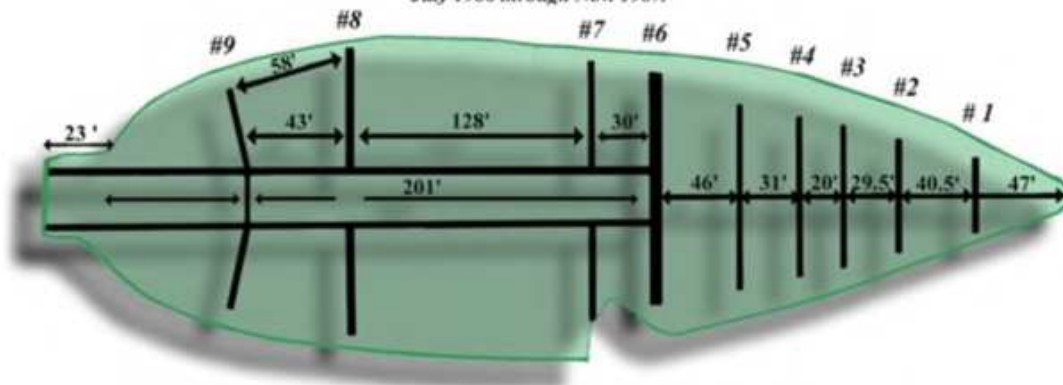


The radar results confirmed the metal detection results for the proposed bulkheads above. They also noted longitudinal proposed deck joists. Wyatt independently had similar radar findings.⁷⁷ *(Below top, evidentially, radar results for proposed bulkheads 1 through 7⁷⁷; below bottom, evidentially, illustration of the full results⁷⁰)*



Radar Scans

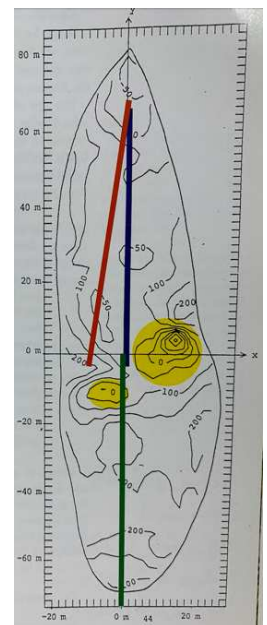
Radar scans performed with Geophysical Survey System SIR 3.
July 1986 through Nov. 1987.



Magnetometry and Seismic Studies

In 1987, other non-invasive studies were performed. In addition to radar, magnetometer and seismic measurements all showed evenly layered material 15-25 feet subsurface.¹

Magnetometers are used in archaeology, geophysical studies, mineral exploration, etc., by detecting differences in the magnetic field of subsurface material. They are better used for discovering concentrated areas of ferrous metal (like an underground vehicle, underwater submarine, etc.)⁷⁸. Concentrated areas would not be expected in this formation because the metal used would have been smaller localized amounts, and those areas would be expected to have at least partially dissipated and dispersed with time. What it demonstrated was the absence of magnetism in the limestone projection, the proposed impaler (iron wouldn't be expected to infuse the limestone projection); and with that, a build-up of magnetism around the limestone (consistent with ferrous seepage); and even further, a graduated magnetism from uphill to downhill; the downhill portion of the formation increasingly higher (again, consistent with ferrous seepage). As the saying goes, "everything runs downhill". (Right, evidentially, highlighted areas of limestone, and numbered areas of magnetism¹)



⁷⁸ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, September 17). Magnetometer. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 00:15, October 12, 2021, from <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Magnetometer&oldid=1044796767>

Seismic testing uses an acoustic source with multiple geophones. This demonstrated two high amplitude straight lines down the middle of the formation, both 2400-3300 m/s; the red line to the right was only 1500 m/s and presumed to be deviated from the limestone formation.¹ (Right above, evidentially, lines in relation to the formation¹)

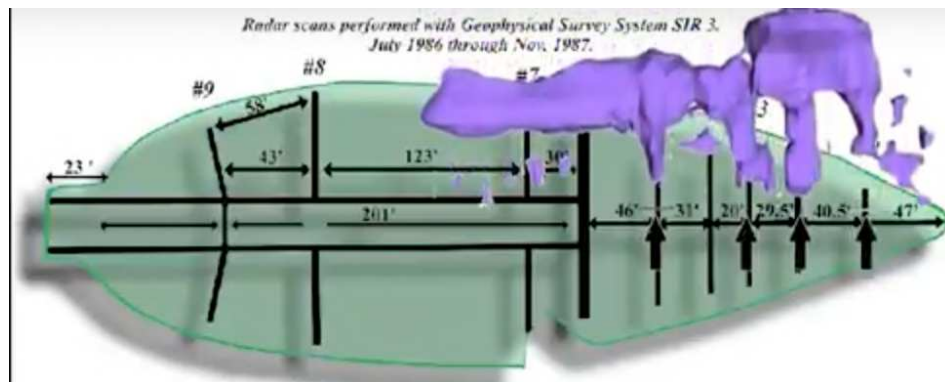
Resistivity Testing (images in this section, evidentially^{79,67,80,70,81})



Electrical Resistivity Tomography is a method used for subsurface surveys, often used to determine depth to bedrock, ore deposits, underground structures, grounding locations, etc. It's accomplished by placing electrodes in the ground then measuring the resistance across the area of interest. As noted already, this was performed by John Larsen in 2014, using a SuperSting R1 IP. He evaluated 10 parallel configurations on the longitudinal axis of

the site, and 3 on the transverse axis (see illustration left⁶⁷), and also used a laser surveyor transit for 3D image application.

To start, the resistivity results confirmed the earlier metal detection and radar scans for the pointed end proposed bulkheads. Note the purple resistivity results continue to depth, and confirm the earlier radar scans.



Further, the presumed decking and bulkheads have the same resistivity as the hull, both above and below the ground level, and neither extend beyond the edge of the formation.

Contour Views

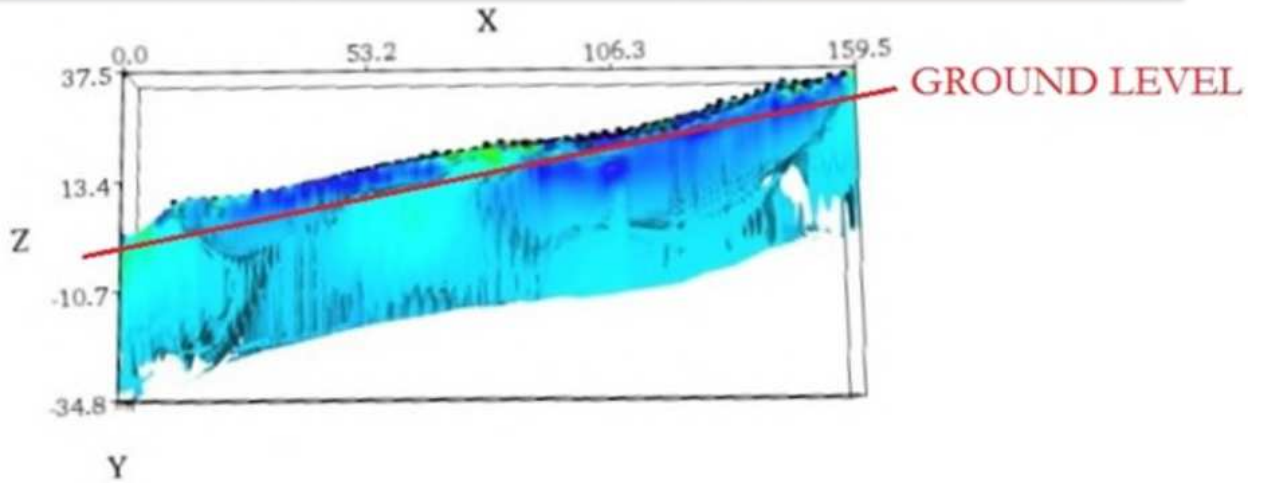
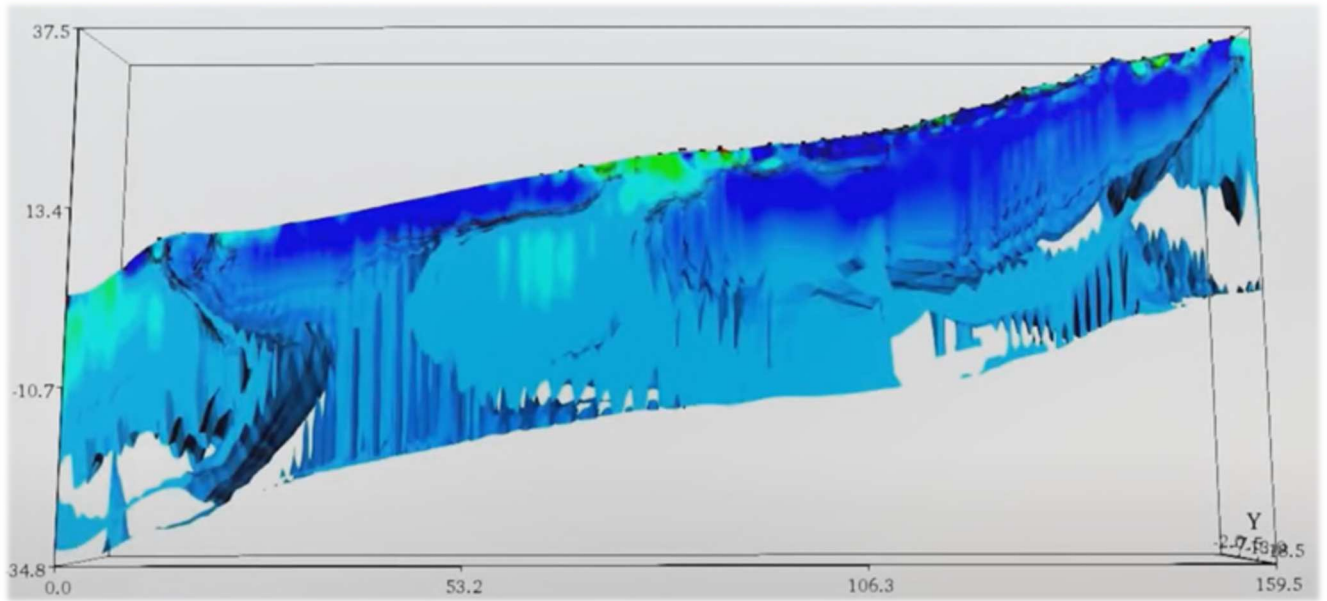
The bow and stern areas of the structure appear to be the most intact subsurface, both demonstrating curvature expected from a vessel. The first picture demonstrates the overall profile view, and underneath a similar view with ground level representation. (Below top, note full lateral view of formation; below bottom, full view with ground level representation)

⁷⁹ (5 Feb, 2021). Noah's Ark Resistivity Scans Pt 1: a tour of Noah's ark as the scans are done. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXjDdxQhRKI>

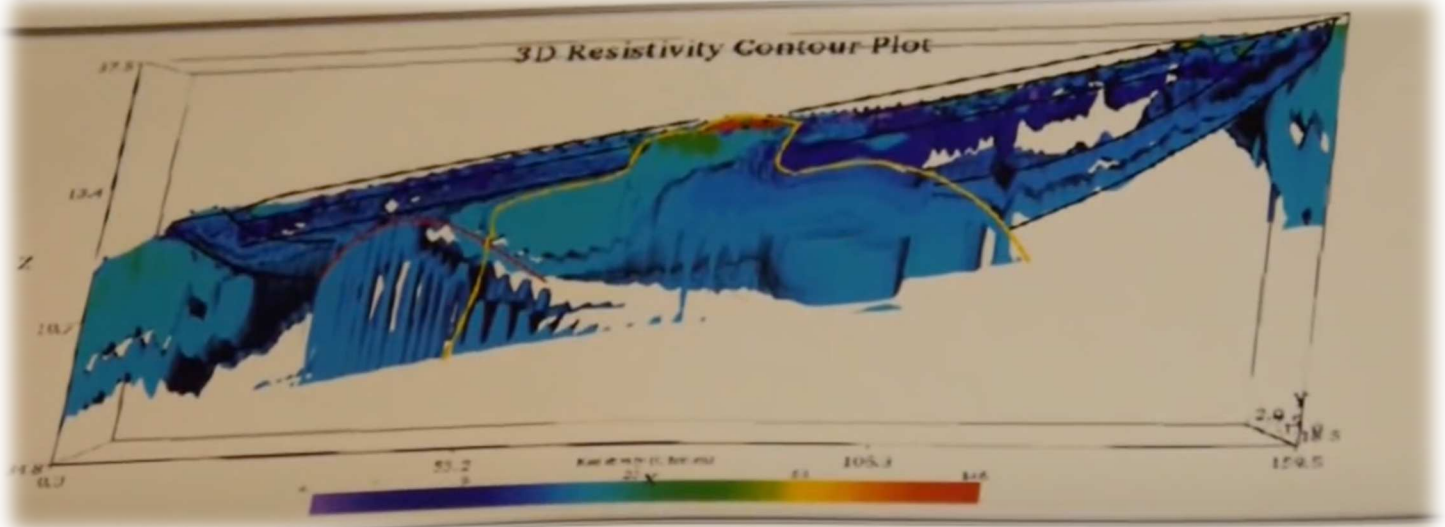
⁸⁰ Kelly, Michael (17, Sep 2018). THE REAL NOAH'S ARK FOUND / IN PLAIN SIGHT. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10diTOvszYU&t=362s>

⁸¹ (6 Jun 2017). Archaeological Finding- Noah's ark, giants' finger, the cave of ark of the covenant, Gomorrah, Babel. [Video]. YouTube.

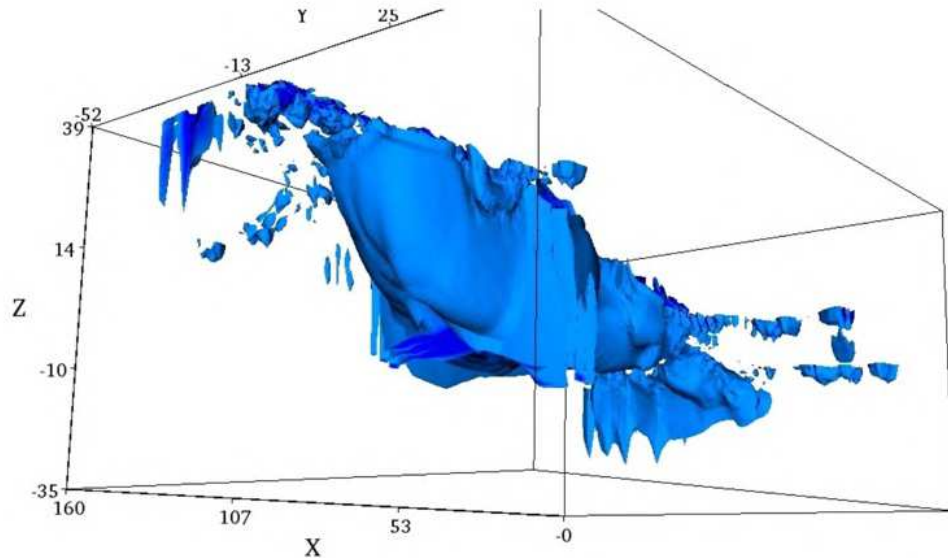
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vfBfCkH49D8>



A different sideview angling down from the blunt end of the formation, the black outline demonstrates the taper and curve of the upper aspect of the formation; while the yellow outline demonstrates the limestone projection and distortion. (Below, full contour sideview downward demonstrating limestone projection and curvatures)



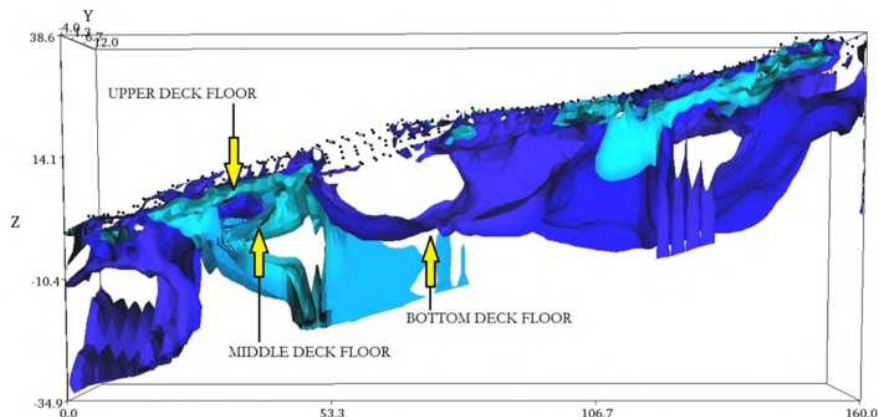
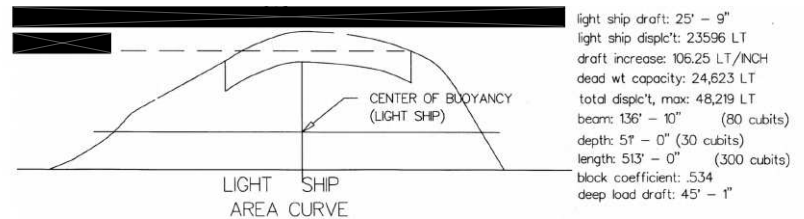
The pointed end resistivity results especially demonstrate a tapered 3D view. (Below, 3D curvature of the pointed end (upper end))



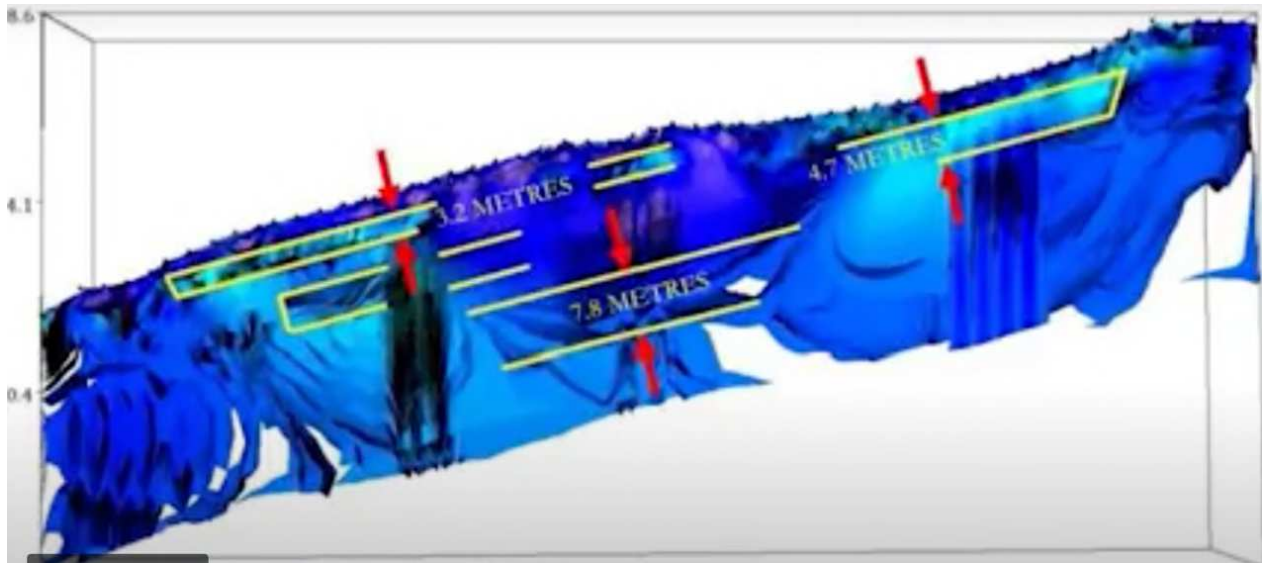
Level Views

Genesis 6:16 (LXX) states “...and the door of the ark thou shalt make on the side; with lower, second, and third stories thou shalt make it.” Resistivity imaging can isolate three distinct surfaces within the proposed hull, each parallel, at approximately 12 degrees (same grade as the formation and proposed hull), each with the same resistivity as the inner structure but abruptly different from the spaces between, and those surfaces extend across the width of the formation⁷⁰. No similar surface exists adjacent to the formation. As introduced above, the issue of average depth again arises. Note that the total depth of all 3 cavities = 15.7 meters =

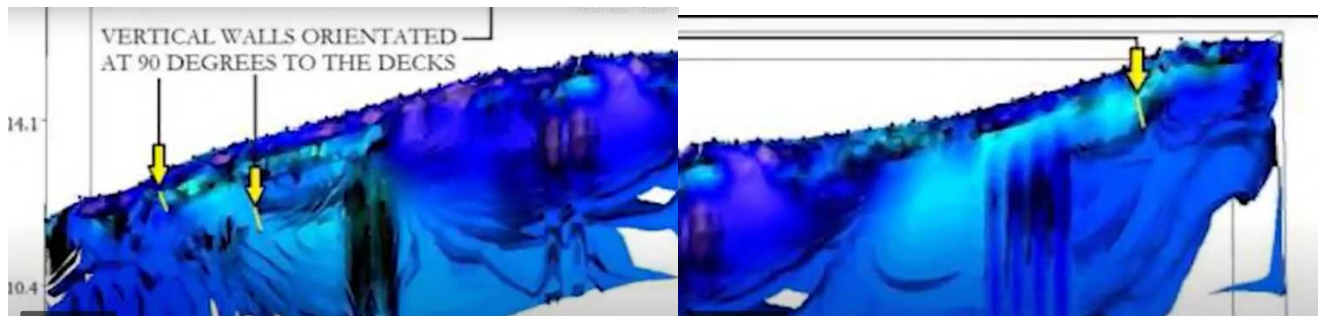
618.11 inches = 30 cubits. Further, in Windsor’s computer analysis (more below), he demonstrates that 30 cubits is functionally viable. (Right, see his depth profile⁸²) However, there appears to be some measurable depth between the floor levels, and below the lower level (extending to the curved keel); this admittedly could simply be artifact from deterioration. There is no way to accurately interpolate the average depth, as we did with the width, because there is no full-length keel line. All things withstanding, an average depth of 30 cubits is logically conceivable. (Below, Longitudinally, the resistivity shows three proposed deck levels)



⁸² Windsor, Samuel R (2015). NOAH'S VESSEL: 24,000 DEADWEIGHT TONS. <https://creationism.org/patten/WindsorNoahsVesselInTons.html>

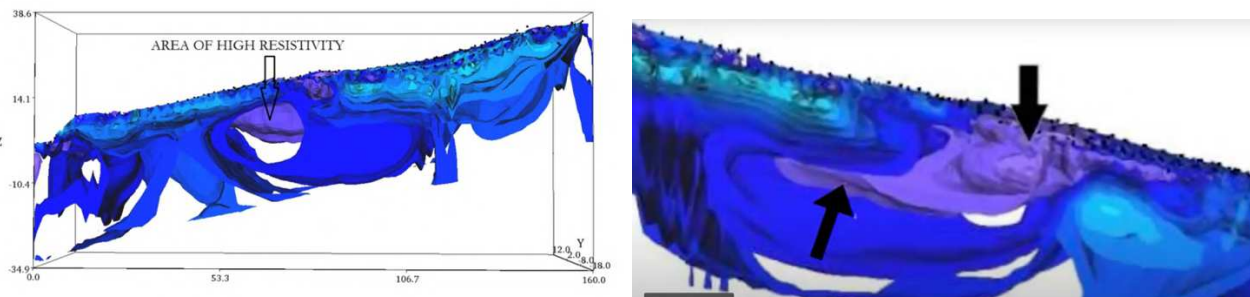


Further, within these deck levels, there are several perpendicular vertical walls (two on the rounded end and one on the pointed end), that are 90 degrees from relative horizontal (accounting for the grade of the slope and proposed hull), and that have the same resistivity as the surfaces and inner structure⁷⁰.



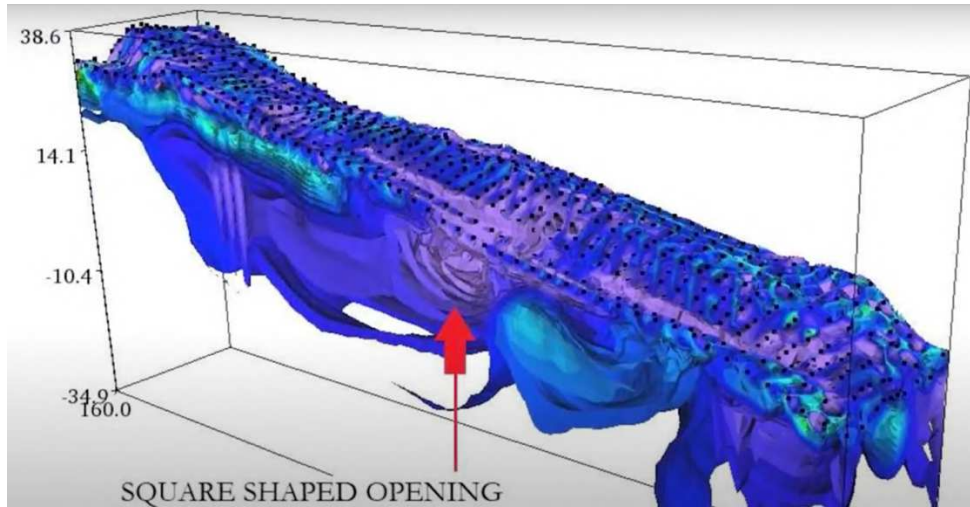
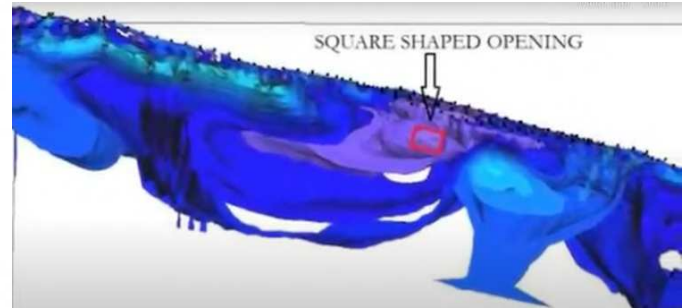
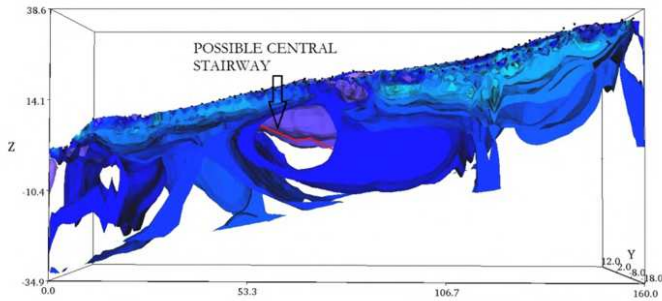
Cavity Views

Within the levels in the central area of the structure, there are 2 areas of high resistance. The larger area appears to be a corridor or atrium, and is about 40 meters long⁷⁰. Connected and adjacent on the 2nd deck level, the smaller area connects to the hull with a square opening, approximately 4 x 5 meters (7.64 - 7.56 x 9.55 - 9.45 cubits, equal to 13.1 x 16.4 feet). (Below, high resistivity area from one side, then the same area from the opposite side)

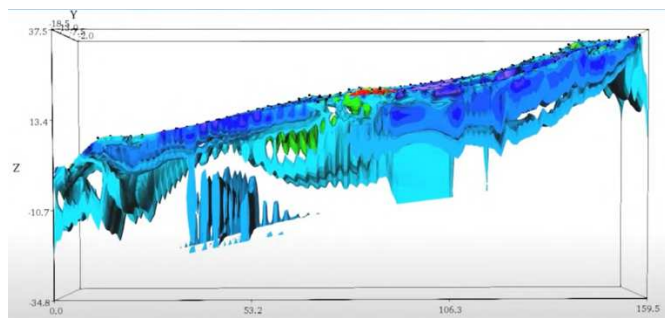


At the bottom edge of the larger cavity, there appears to be a 35-degree incline (relative to the internal flat surfaces), which could be a ramp, with a landing in the mid-portion that is the same level as the middle deck, and connects to the area of the proposed door. The square opening in the smaller cavity in the side of the hull

is consistent with Genesis 6:16 above. (Below top, the same views just presented above with illustrations of the proposed ramp and door; middle, 3D view of the smaller high resistivity area extending to the hull; lower, plan view of side opening)



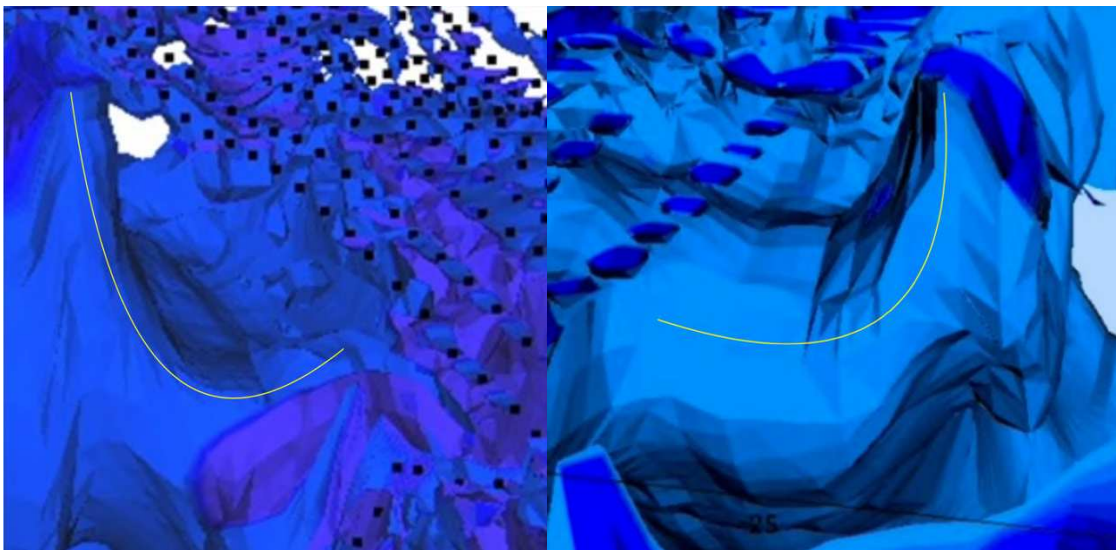
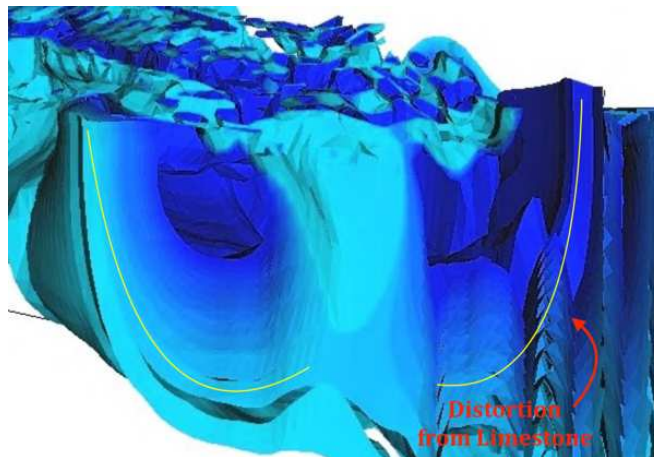
There are also compartments at different depths that run parallel to each other, and run the width of structure, i.e., proposed rooms. We'll address this more later with the recent radar results. (Below top, proposed rooms in blue⁸⁰; below bottom, purple/blue equally-spaced cavities⁸¹)





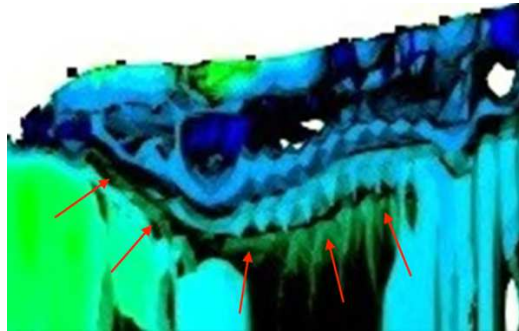
Proposed Ribs

Resistivity cross-sections show uniform and symmetrical curvature of proposed ribs. Further, each proposed rib is tapered, becoming thicker at the centerline proposed keel. Also, notice the central mass; this would be expected if a proposed central longitudinal moon pool was present, discussed below. (Below, top, cross-section near the blunt end of the formation with yellow thin lines placed to highlight the curves; bottom, the left and right rib curvature separately, with yellow thin lines to highlight the curves)



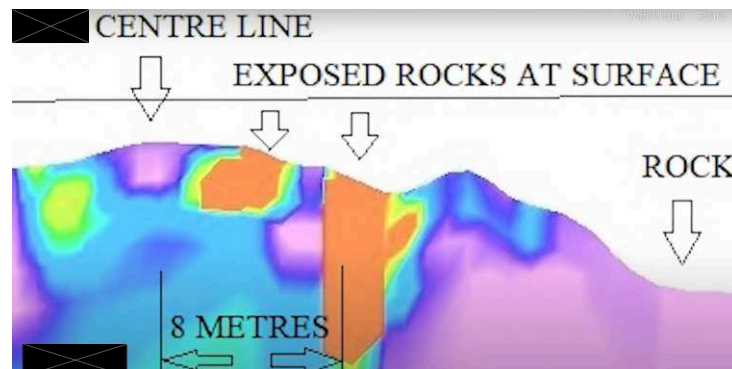
Proposed Hull Margin

There is a clearly defined layer (dark green) that is hull-shaped, has different electrical resistance than the surrounding rock, and does not follow the irregular shape of the rock or appear to be influenced by it.⁷⁰



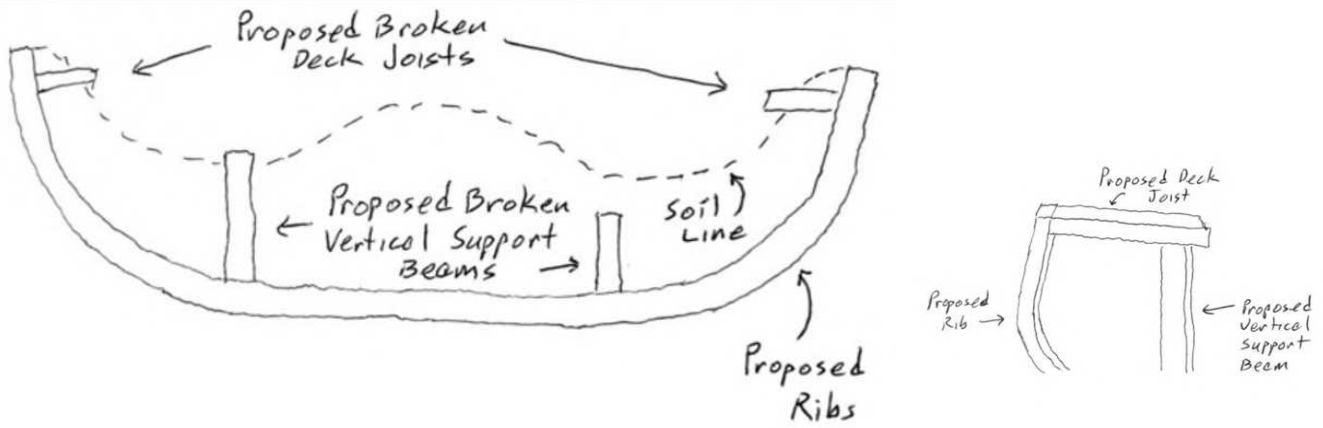
Damage from Limestone Projection

As introduced above, it appears that this structure was damaged when impaled on a limestone projection, disrupting the undersurface. At some point in history, there was a visible flow that occurred from higher on the mountain, which likely resulted in the damage/impalement (see discussion below). Looking at the surface, visual insight would suggest that the limestone projection protrudes halfway into the structure. However, resistivity testing suggests otherwise^{66,67}. Resistivity demonstrates that the limestone projection protrudes only into the edge of the structure, a few meters. Deduction thus suggests that the impalement resulted in a fracture of the limestone projection, that subsequently fell over onto the structure's surface.



Proposed Deck Joists & Support Beams

As in construction of buildings, ship construction requires joists (horizontal support beams) to support floors ("deck joists" below). If the span is significant enough, then vertical support beams will be required in the middle to avoid sag or potential collapse of the deck and deck joists above. Knowing this, where would we expect the weakest point of this construction? The weakest point is at any joint, like the junction of the joists and the ribs, or the junction of the joists and vertical deck supports. With that knowledge, how would the weakest point be strengthened? Metal. In fact, the protrusions give strong metal detection readings, as Fasold mentions in one of his photos below.



The formation contains periodic horizontal protrusions from the side walls, as well as periodic vertical protrusions inside the formation⁷⁰. (Evidentially, Below top, see horizontal deck support protrusions⁷⁵; below second⁶⁷; below third left⁶⁷; below third right⁷⁰; below fourth⁷⁷; below fifth, left & right⁶⁴; below sixth⁷⁰)





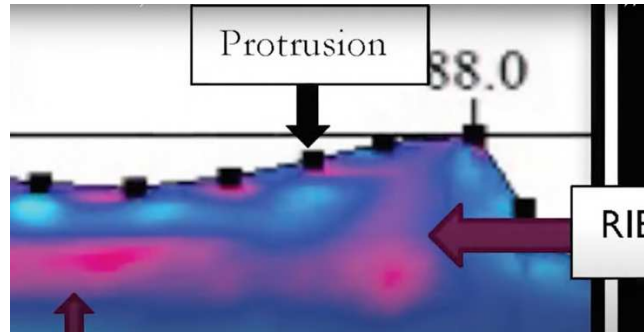
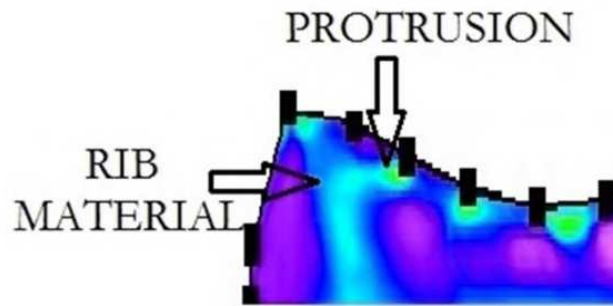
The upper deck support beams ran transversely from port to starboard, and at this point spanned a distance of 138 feet. Numerous vertical supports for these can be found running athwartship, and all give strong iron readings.



In 1985, prior to being lost to erosion, Fasold documented a proposed rib column with an in situ, horizontal projection⁶⁴. (Right, essentially, proposed vertical intact rib column, with horizontal projection consistent with proposed deck joist, near top right⁶⁴)

Resistivity results, two-dimensional view, clearly demonstrate a right angle, proposed remnant of a horizontal support beam (deck joist), at the point of a visible protrusion on the inner aspect of the formation. (Below, essentially, 2 different protrusions with subsurface resistivity right angles^{67,81})





The formation also has regular prominences consistent with proposed vertical support beams. These were also noted in Fasold's field data, as illustrated earlier. (Evidentially, below top left⁶⁶ and top right⁸⁵, distal views of proposed vertical support beams; below bottom left, closer views⁸³; below bottom right, measuring them⁸⁴)



⁸³ <https://truediscoveries.org/noahs-ark/>

⁸⁴ (9 Apr 2018) Noah's Ark Found! With Evidence/Pictures! FULL, Remastered Documentaries [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENZV6I250SQ>

Proposed Ribs

In addition to the resistivity evidence of proposed rib structure, these are echoed externally as well. Around the periphery, in the walls, there are periodic voids (where porous petrified structures have fragmented and fallen away) that are consistent with proposed petrified ribs. In some areas, some of the proposed rib structures are still visible, and this was also seen in the mini-excavation below. (*Evidentially, below top left & right, in situ proposed petrified ribs⁷⁷; below bottom, these voids are visible along the entire side of the outside wall of the formation⁶⁷*)



Looking closer, it is similarly evident, where erosion hasn't already occurred. (*Evidentially, below left⁷⁰, right¹²⁷*)



Here are other views, even closer. (*Below, evidentially, void at top, erosion debris midway down, then in situ proposed rib near bottom*⁸⁵)



There have even been times where erosion has resulted in the proposed ribs becoming more evident, as seen below³ on the left side of the rounded end of the formation. Another was shown above with a proposed deck joist.



Excavation

In October, 1990, a superficial excavation was performed on the eastern side of the formation (the left side when standing at the bottom of the hill and looking up the hill), to document and study the proposed ribs. The area was smoothed with an extended sharpened shovel. A noticeable color and texture difference was revealed; the proposed rib beams being lighter in color and harder in texture. (*Evidentially, below left, shows the smoothing*⁷⁰; *below right, notes finished area*⁷⁰; *bottom, notes rib position diagram*³)



⁸⁵ <https://wyattmuseum.com>



Running horizontally over this area was a visible darker discoloration, which is a proposed external keelson (fastening the transverse members).⁷⁰



Fossilized Wood

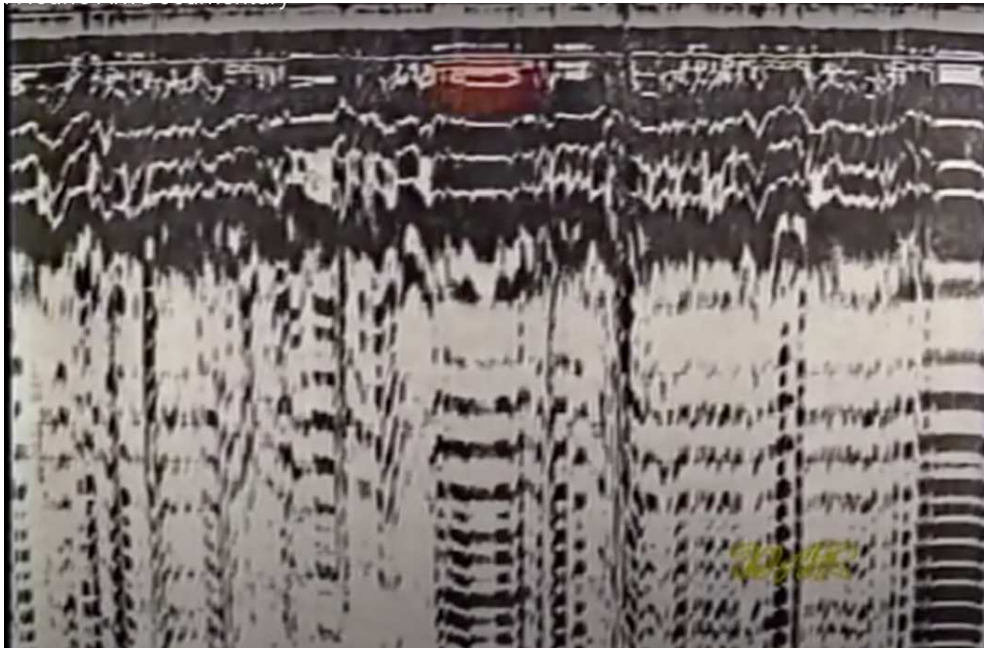
The question of what time period fossilization requires to form pervades modern arguments, often stated to be millions of years. However, fossilization can actually occur within years with the right conditions^{86,87}. Thus, thousands of years is certainly plausible for fossilization to occur. There are various formations where a petrified tree is seen growing through large amounts of sediment (polystrate trees), specifically stated to be millions of years' worth of sediment. How can a tree grow for millions of years? I will leave the argument there. (Below, evidentially, Don R Patton shows example from Cookeville, TN; Bob Jones Earth Science shows example from Germany; Derek Ager shows example from Great Britain)



⁸⁶ Butt, Kyle (2004). *Questions and Answers: Millions of Years to Petrify Wood?* <https://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=9&article=635>

⁸⁷ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, July 25). Petrified wood. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 19:57, August 4, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Petrified_wood&oldid=1035351910

In June, 1987, at the ceremonial ground-breaking for the visitor's center at the formation, with officials from Ankara, local officials, military officials, scientists, and journalists, the Governor asked Wyatt to demonstrate the radar that he and Fasold had been using^{1,77}. He obliged and resulted the following scan near the middle of the formation (*Below, evidentially, the radar scan, note the highlighted red area⁷⁷*).



When describing the results, Wyatt noted a possible intact specimen a couple of feet down. The Governor ordered a soldier to dig it up, retrieving a quadrangular rock that appeared to be petrified wood. The Governor wanted it tested, thus it was taken to Galbraith Labs (Knoxville, TN). Results found 0.7019% organic carbon (prior living carbon); calculated from 0.7100% total carbon - .0081% inorganic carbon. Additionally, 13.04% iron was seen (*see analysis results to the right⁷⁷*)

	Analysis
Calcium %	0.075
Iron %	13.04
Carbon % (total)	0.71
CO ₃ % (inorganic carbon)	0.0081

A wedge was removed from one of the edges, revealing proposed layering consistent with lamination; in addition, the end appeared to have a substance that had oozed out prior to fossilization. (*Below top left, evidentially, the proposed fossilized timber upright⁷⁷; below top right, evidentially, the specimen flat⁷⁰; below bottom left, evidentially, notched end with proposed petrified ooze⁸¹; below bottom right, evidentially, 4 visible layers⁸¹, arrows pointing to junctions between the 4 visible layers*)





Several specimens that looked like petrified wood, were sent for analysis as well, all showing organic carbon, as well as iron and aluminum. *(Below, evidentially, 3 specimens from the site⁶⁶)*



Fossilized Metal Fittings

In June, 1991, with a tour group, Wyatt discovered a fossilized object that appeared consistent with a rivet. It is approximately 3.5" in diameter with the inner depression about 1.25", and from a lateral view appears to be about 1/4" thick. *(Below left, evidentially, the initial discovery⁷⁷; below right, evidentially, plan view⁶⁶)*



This was analyzed (see below for main components⁷⁷) noting aluminum, titanium and iron, as well as manganese and carbon. Aluminum does not occur naturally, rather has to be extracted from bauxite, and is relatively common in the earth's crust⁸⁸. It is also used in the deoxidation of steel. Titanium does not occur naturally, either, rather has to be extracted from mineral form, and is rather rare in the earth's crust⁸⁹. Titanium is on par with the strength of steel but half the weight. Combining titanium and steel (titanium steel alloy) increases steels tensile strength and resistance to corrosion. Manganese is essential in removing oxygen and sulfur from iron ore to form iron, and also in forming steel⁹⁰. Standard steel has a residual manganese of < 1%, which is seen here. Carbon is also used for making steel, and can only contain up to 2% and still be called steel, as is the case here. This analysis also showed 1.33% magnesium and 2.7% sodium, which are both used in refining titanium⁹¹.

	%
Aluminum	8.62
Titanium	1.92
Iron	10.38
Manganese	0.21
Carbon	1.88
Magnesium	1.33
Sodium	2.7

Richard Rives later took other samples from the proposed rivet; two from the proposed rivet proper, and two from 1 cm away in the proposed petrified wood. He had them analyzed at an international corporation specializing in metallurgy. The two samples from the proposed petrified wood showed 1.88% and 1.97% carbon. The two samples from the proposed rivet showed only 0.14% and 0.13% carbon. This is consistent with metal in the proposed metal rivet within timber. (Below left, results of proposed petrified wood and rivet analysis; below right, actual lab results)⁸⁵

⁸⁸ Wilson, Michael (April 8, 2019). *Does Aluminum Occur Naturally?* <https://www.restaurantnorman.com/does-aluminum-occur-naturally/>

⁸⁹ (October 14, 2019). *6 Surprising Facts About Titanium.* <https://monroeengineering.com/blog/6-surprising-facts-about-titanium/>

⁹⁰ Cannon, William F. (August 2014). *What is Manganese? How is it Used? Adapted from USGS Fact Sheet 2014-3087.*

<https://geology.com/usgs/manganese/#:~:text=Elemental%20manganese%20readily%20combines%20with%20oxygen%2C%20carbon%2C%20and,from%20a%20small%20number%20of%20manganese%20mining%20districts.>

⁹¹ (1994). *UNDERSTANDING THE REMAINS OF NOAH'S ARK.* <https://wyattmuseum.com/understanding-the-remains-of-noahs-ark/2011-693>

Element	Proposed Petrified Wood Sample 1	Propose Petrified Wood Sample 2	Proposed Rivet Sample 1	Proposed Rivet Sample 2
Al	8.26	8.62	8.16	8.51
Si	21.0	22.1	20.4	21.1
Ti	1.89	1.92	1.60	1.61
Fe	10.38	8.72	8.66	8.67
Mg	0.99	1.20	1.25	1.33
Mn	0.21	0.18	0.19	0.17
Na	2.64	2.70	2.38	2.48
C	1.88	1.97	0.14	0.13

TABLE 1 - QUANTITATIVE ELEMENTAL ANALYSIS (ALL VALUES IN %)

Element	Location 1 Sample 1	Location 1 Sample 2	Location 2 Sample 1	Location 2 Sample 2
Si	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Al	8.16	8.62	8.16	8.51
Fe	21.0	22.1	20.4	21.1
Ti	1.89	1.92	1.60	1.61
Mg	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Ca	10.38	8.72	8.66	8.67
Mn	2.64	2.70	2.38	2.48
Na	0.99	1.20	1.25	1.33
P	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
K	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.97
Cr	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Mn	0.21	0.18	0.19	0.17
Ba	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Co	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Zn	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Cu	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
Ag	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
As	2.64	2.70	2.38	2.48
Sr	2.64	2.69	2.37	2.32
Pb	1.88	1.97	1.61	1.61
Hg	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.09
TOTAL ANALYSIS	52.74	53.10	49.49	49.99

There have been other metallic anomalies noted as well. In 1984, circular adjacent metal oxide areas were seen along the sides of the formation. (Evidentially, below left, actual area; below right, illustration of proposed rivets)⁷⁷



Some samples taken in October, 1984, were distinctly different. Four samples, postulated to be from metal fittings had the following analysis from Galbraith Labs, while control samples had 0.54% iron and 0.77% ferric oxide. (Below left, analysis results; below right, evidentially, actual lab results)⁷⁷

	#1	#2	#3	#4
Carbon	1.17	3.08	2.27	3.38
Aluminum	6.06	2.34	6.04	5.04
Alumina	11.45	4.42	11.41	9.52
Iron	8.08	13.97	8.60	3.81
Ferric oxide	11.55	19.97	12.30	5.45

Dear Mr. Wyatt:

Analysis of your compounds gave the following results:

Your #.	10/11/84	10/11/84	11/15/84	11/15/84
	OHK	OHK	OHK	OHK
Your #.	G-340	G-341	G-3213A	G-3213B
% Carbon	1.17	3.08	2.27	3.38
% Cl ₂ as Cl	0.76	2.28	2.44	0.28
% Aluminum	6.06	2.34	2.34	5.04
% Al as Al ₂ O ₃	11.45	4.42	4.42	11.41
% Copper	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.001	< 0.01
% Tin	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.6	< 0.6
% Iron	8.08	13.97	13.97	3.81
% Fe as Fe ₂ O ₃	11.55	19.97	19.97	12.30
% Manganese Dioxide				
% Calcium Oxide				
% Strontium				
% Potassium Oxide				
% Magnesium Oxide				

In 2001, after identifying and sampling another proposed rivet and rod at the site, Ken Fisher sent them for analyses at Galbraith Laboratories. This confirmed the above findings. (Evidentially, below top left, partial rivet "in vivo"; top right, partial rivet "in vitro"; middle upper, rivet analysis; middle lower left, rod "in vivo"; middle lower center & right, rod "in vitro"; lower, rod analysis)⁹²



⁹² <https://noahsarkdiscovery.com>

 **Galbraith Laboratories, Inc.**
Accuracy with Speed - Since 1950

LABORATORY REPORT

Mr Kevin Fisher
1110 Marbleton Rd
Unicoi TN 37692

Report Date: 02/05/01
Purchase Order #: VISA,Fisher
Fax Number: 423-

SAMPLE ID	LAB ID	ANALYSIS	RESULT(S)
Ark-Rivet	I-1897	Iron	8.38 %
		Aluminum	8.35 %
		Titanium	1.59 %



 **Galbraith Laboratories, Inc.**
Accuracy with Speed - Since 1950

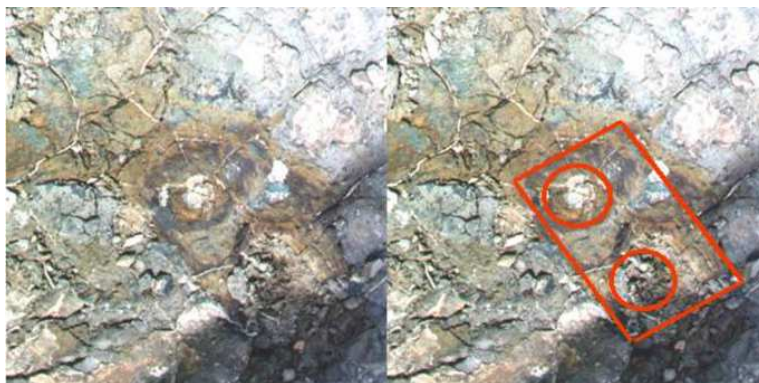
LABORATORY REPORT

Mr Kevin E Fisher

Report Date: 06/29/01
Purchase Order #: VISA,Fisher
Fax Number: 423-

SAMPLE ID	LAB ID	ANALYSIS	RESULT(S)
Ark-Rod	J-9175	Aluminum	8.08 %
		Iron	8.24 %
		Titanium	1.34 %
		Magnesium	3.82 %

Other rivet/rod evidence has been identified at the formation as well. (Below, a plate with two proposed rivets³)



Metal plate with 2 rivets imbedded in a petrified timber. Size= approx. 4" x 8"

Illustration of the location of the plate and rivets. Notice the rust stains.

Fisher also identified an embedded nail or pin at the site, stated to contain aluminum as well⁹², the analysis of which I don't have. (Right, evidentially, see embedded nail⁹²) A nail is also seen in the fossilized wood specimen noted above.

(Left, evidentially, embedded nail end⁸⁴) Philostorgius (5th century CE church historian) does specifically address nails, stating, "The Euphrates, however, to

all appearance, takes its rise among the Armenians; in this region stands the Mount of Ararat, so called even to the present day by Armenians, the same mount on which the Holy Scripture says the ark rested. Many fragments of wood and nails of which the ark was

composed are said to be still preserved in those localities..."¹³



In May, 1985, Baumgardner noticed a rectangular beam protruding from the side of the formation with iron flakes. There, an angle bracket was found, appearing to be wrought iron that had been stretched and hammered. He tested it at Los Alamos Labs and it was found to be 91.84% iron⁷⁵. (Below, evidentially, Baumgardner holding the bracket)⁷⁷



This appears to be very similar to a later find that appeared to be a post with a fossilized metal cap, containing a cruciate fold. To my knowledge, this later specimen wasn't analyzed. (Right, evidentially, cruciate metal covering proposed post⁸⁴)



Wyatt brought other proposed ballast stones home from his October, 1984, trip, and the analysis from Galbraith Labs showed two with mainly manganese, one with mainly titanium, and one with much aluminum. (Below left, 4 sample analysis results⁷⁷; below right, evidentially, two of the proposed slag specimens⁷⁷)

	Manganese	Titanium	Aluminum
#1	84.14%	0.12%	3.24%
#2	87.26%	0.25%	5.27%
#3	1.12%	2.63%	27.00%
#4	0.00%	74.26%	7.00%



Ultimately, the question occurs... did the antediluvians have the knowledge for metallurgy? Genesis 4 specifically tells us that three of Lamech's sons were individually given knowledge of animal husbandry, music, and metallurgy.

Genesis 4:19-22, "And Lamech took to himself two wives; the name of the one was Ada, and the name of the second Sella. And Ada bore Jobel; he was the father of those that dwell in tents, feeding cattle. And the name of his brother was Jubal; he it was who invented the psaltery and harp. And Sella also bore Thobel; he was a smith, a manufacturer both of brass and iron; and the sister of Thobel was Noema." [Some translate Thobel as Tubal-Cain]

We also know from the discussion above that metallurgy was contemporary to the very early postdiluvian period. Thus, either these early postdiluvian peoples became very industrious and crafty in a short period of time, or more likely, they had knowledge of metallurgy passed down through Noah.

Gopher wood

I'm not sure if the translation of "gopher" in Genesis 6:14 is relevant, but it's interesting nonetheless. It's the only time this word is used in the Bible, so there is no context^{93,95}. The Septuagint translates it as "squared timber" which would certainly be consistent; the Latin vulgate translates as "smoothed wood", which would also be consistent⁹⁴. Deal suggests that there was a scribal error as the "g" and "k" in Hebrew are very similar, thus "gopher" should be "kopher" (meaning pitch), resulting in the translation being "pitch-covered wood"⁶⁵. This seems redundant because God's next command is to cover the ark with pitch inside and out. Another argument is made by Elke, "Keeping in mind that the ancient Jews spent many years in Babylonian exile and had lots of time and opportunity to absorb Akkadian words into their vernacular language, the most logic[al] answer is to look to the Akkadian language first for an explanation of the word gopher. What if the word gopher isn't a designation of a wood species at all? What if it is about usability or quality? Here the Akkadian word 'gapāru' comes to mind. It shows the same root" גפר / קרן": gapāru = (to be) of good quality, (to be) superior. The West-Semitic equivalent would be "gbr": Hebrew and Aramaic '(to be) strong', '(to be) superior'."⁹⁵

Olen Batchelor makes an interesting argument, suggesting that the evidence of antediluvian trees is in the coal deposits. He references *Acadian Geology, The Geologic Structure, Organic Remains, and Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island* by J.W. Dawson, and *Historical Survey of the Floating Mat Model for the Origin of Carboniferous Coal Beds* by Steven Arthur Austin, which describe how the antediluvian atmosphere was different, and as a result, allowed carboniferous trees, like Sigillarioid trees, which encompass a large amount of the coal deposits. Sigillarioid trees had inner lighter core, but bark that was highly water-resistant and almost indestructible (like bamboo but better), allowing for coal formation rather than petrification. In addition, this would obviously also be advantageous in the construction of a boat. He suggests the root word may translate to gaufre, meaning waffle or honeycomb, which is the pattern seen in the bark of the Sigillarioid trees.⁹⁶ (Right, essentially, fossil and drawing of proposed Sigillarioid tree⁹⁶)



⁹³ Chaffey, Tim (2020). *Gopher Wood: The Mystery of the Ark's Timber*. <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/gopher-wood-mystery-arks-timber/>

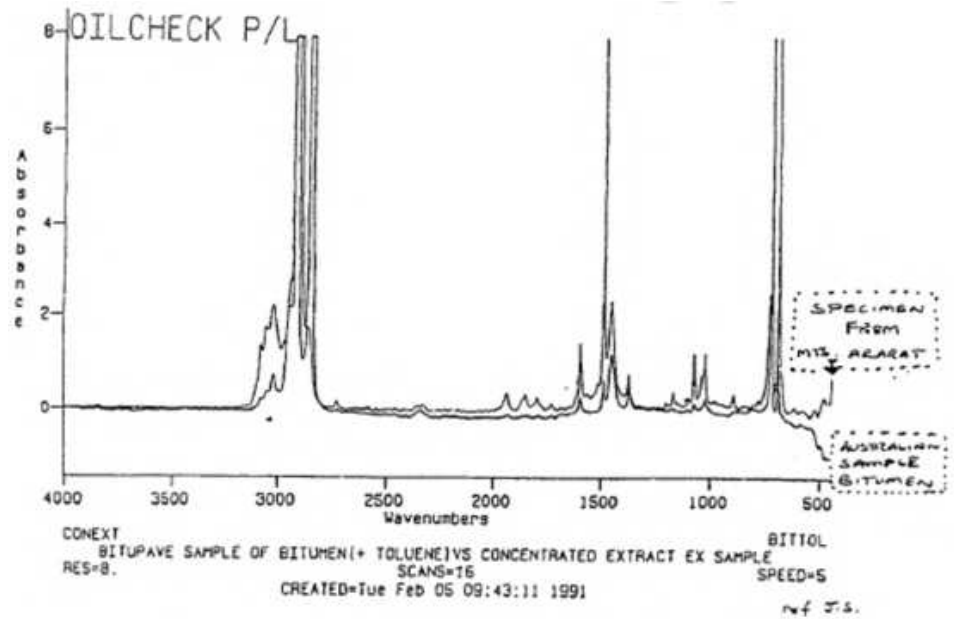
⁹⁴ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, September 9). Gopher wood. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 19:47, September 21, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Gopher_wood&oldid=1043322248

⁹⁵ Elke, Baumgarte. Gopher wood. https://www.academia.edu/9914187/Gopher_wood

⁹⁶ Batchelor, Elon. (23 Apr, 2021). NEW Biblical Mystery Noah's Ark Construction Gopher Wood SOLVED! 2021. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0RDG-Maliw>

Pitch

In the summer of 1990, Jack Bouma, an engineer/architect found a black tarry substance which appeared to have oozed out of a possible “deck support” on the eastern edge of the formation, and sent it for analysis. “Positive identification of the sample was made on the basis of analysis of a concentrated extract submitted to Oil Check Pty of Sydney, NSW – and compared by them with a bitupave sample of bitumen. Sydney industrial chemist, Jeff Smith, who arranged with the Oil Check Laboratory to conduct the test, states; ‘The trace produced by the analysis was compared by the oil laboratory with a standard trace from asphalt or bitumen. Beyond a shadow of a doubt the substance identified as pitch.’”⁸³



Nissen reports another instance where Niels Lind, an engineer, obtained a hard black greasy specimen from a hole in the side of the formation that smelled like pitch¹. (Below left, evidentially, view from the side of the formation looking at the hole; below right, evidentially, close-up view the hole¹)



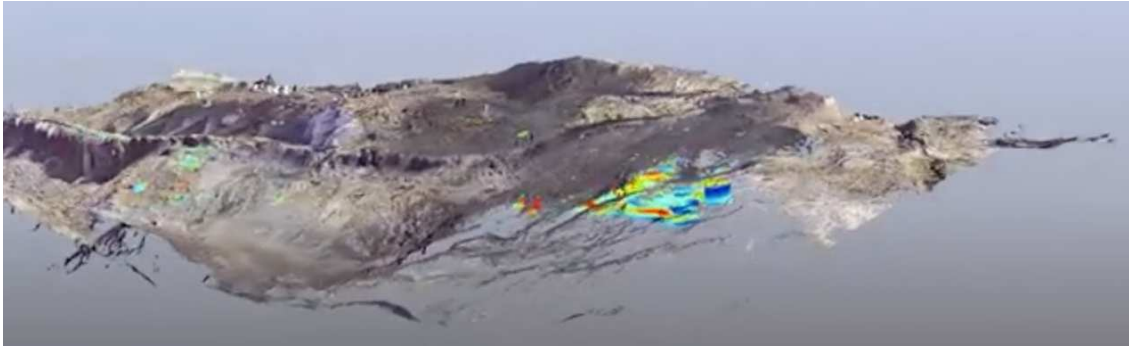
Genesis 6:14 states “Make therefore for thyself an ark of square timber; thou shalt make the ark in compartments, and thou shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.” The Epic of Gilgamesh, likewise, states “The carriers brought oil in baskets, I poured pitch into the furnace and asphalt and oil; more oil was consumed in caulking, and more again the master of the boat took into his stores.”

These instances are intriguing when we remember the statement by Berossus above, “It is said, there is still some part of this ship in Armenia, at the mountain of the Cordyaeans; and that some people carry off pieces of the bitumen, which they take away, and use chiefly as amulets, for the averting of mischiefs” (*Antiquities* 1: 3: 6 [LCL 93]).

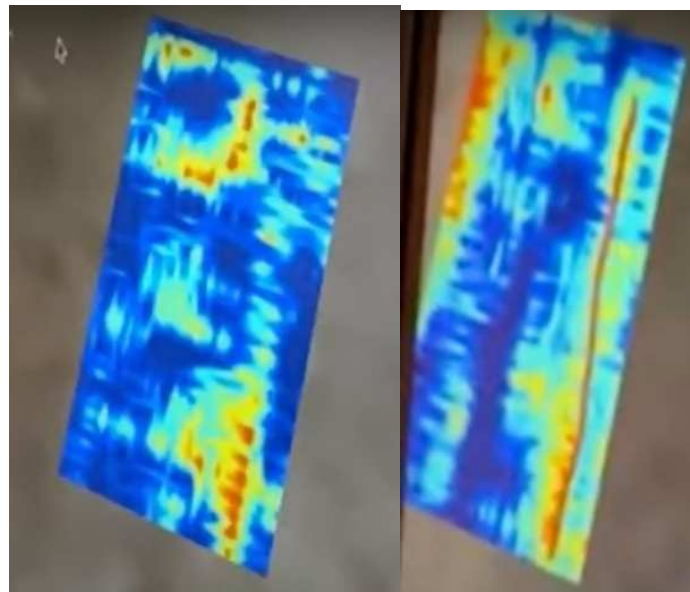
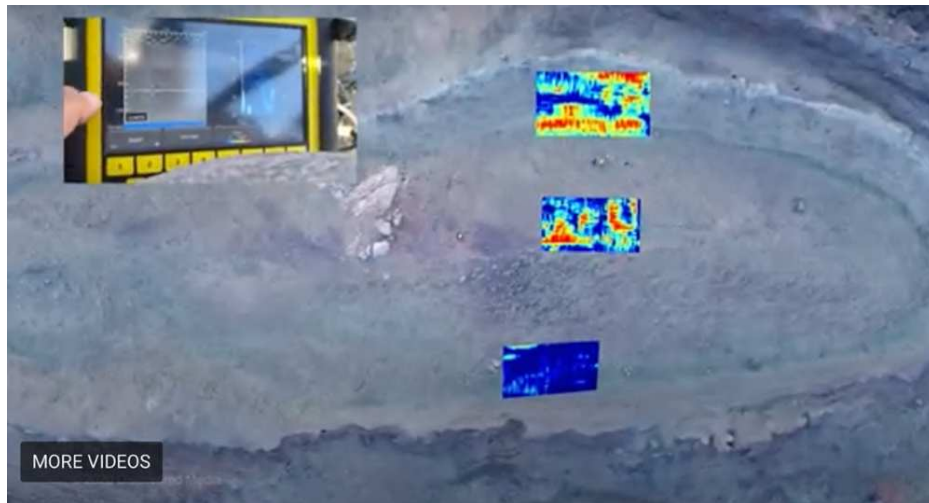
GPR/LIDAR

In 2019, ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and LiDAR were performed at the site by Topa 3D (Oregon). The Lidar doesn’t appear to give any new information, as I would expect. It’s better served creating 3D images

where there is significant ground cover, like tree canopy, etc. (Below, evidentially, a combined image with LiDAR and underlying GPR (ground-penetrating radar)⁹⁷)

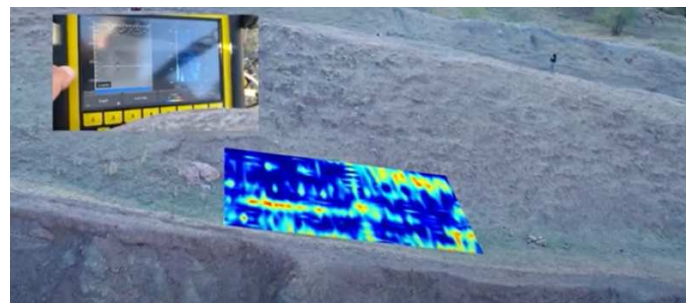
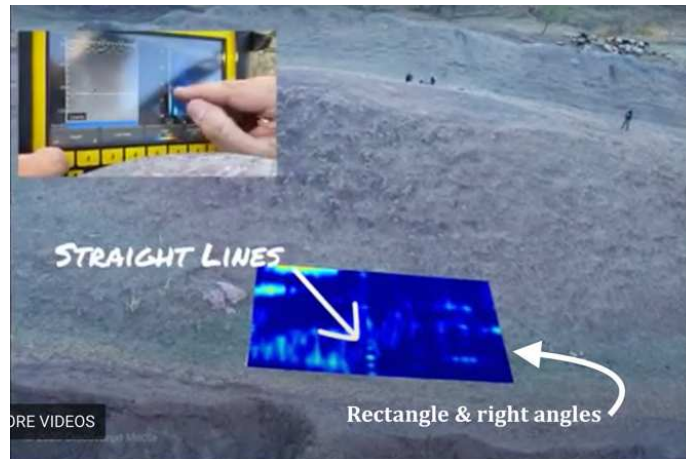


The GPR, however is significant. Let's look at a larger view of the formation with some examples of the radar in different locations. There is unquestionably underground structure that is unnatural. (Below top, evidentially, several GPR results laid out over the formation, with limestone projection, and specifically note the straight line in the middle rectangle is consistent with the 201x26' section and the line 90 degrees from that consistent with proposed bulkhead #8 noted in Fasold's radar⁹⁷; below bottom, evidentially, close-ups of the middle and upper radar rectangles⁶⁷)

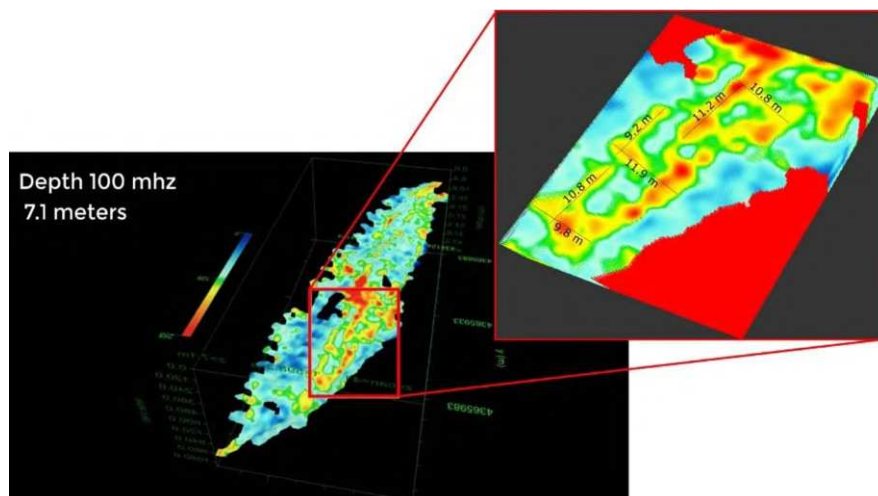


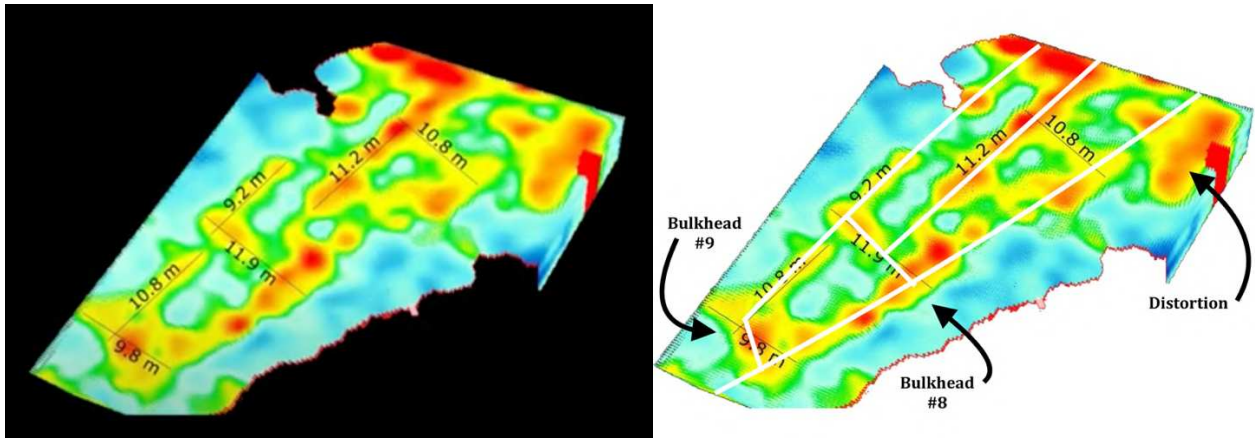
⁹⁷ <https://discoveringhisgrace.com>

Looking closer, there are clear straight lines, right angles, and rectangles... not seen in nature. (Below top & bottom, evidentially, straight lines, rectangles, right angles)⁹⁷

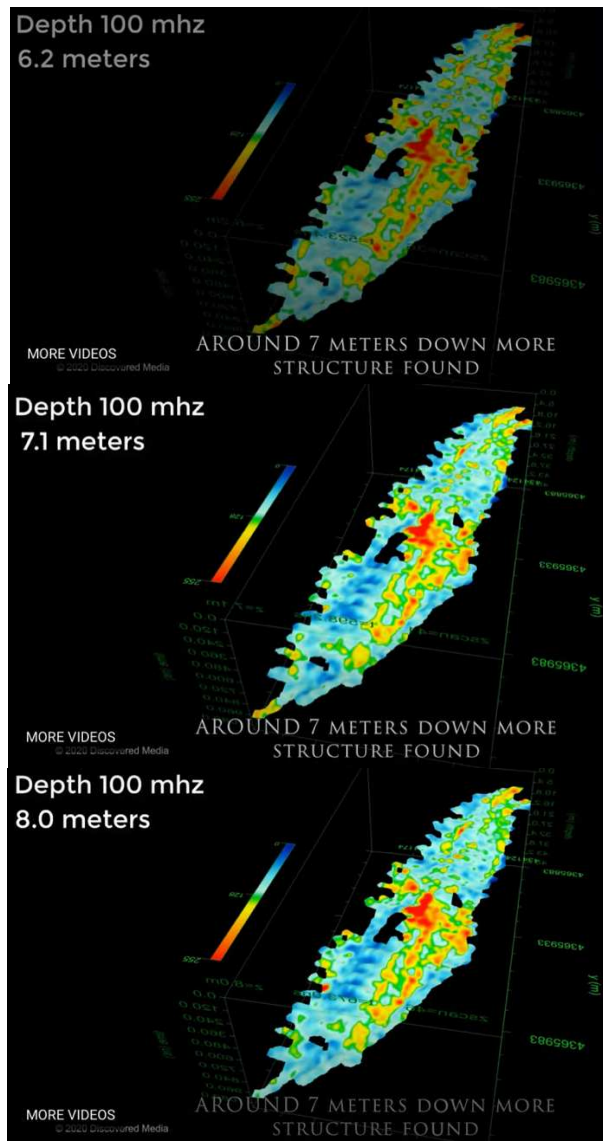


With the full view of the structure, we can magnify a prominent area. The unnatural structure becomes unmistakable, again with straight lines, right angles, and proposed rooms. Careful attention to the magnified area shows measurements placed by the investigator on the image that certainly give a scale reference, but are offset (I believe arbitrarily). If we align the nodules of radar (the densest signals), however, the lines (proposed walls) probably aren't offset as is demonstrated with the scaling, rather likely extend straight through as we seen in modern construction, and in fact, appear to follow the contour of the proposed hull. In addition, the area in the upper right is consistent with the distorted area from the limestone projection. Even more, by doing this, proposed bulkhead #8 and the angled proposed bulkhead #9 become evident, confirming the prior radar scans (emphasis mine). (Below top, evidentially, the full formation radar at a specific depth⁶⁷; below bottom left, evidentially, the selected area in magnification... the measurements placed on the original images obtained as a scale reference; below bottom right, evidentially, the longitudinal lines (proposed walls and proposed hull) and transverse lines (proposed bulkheads #8 & #9)⁹⁷)

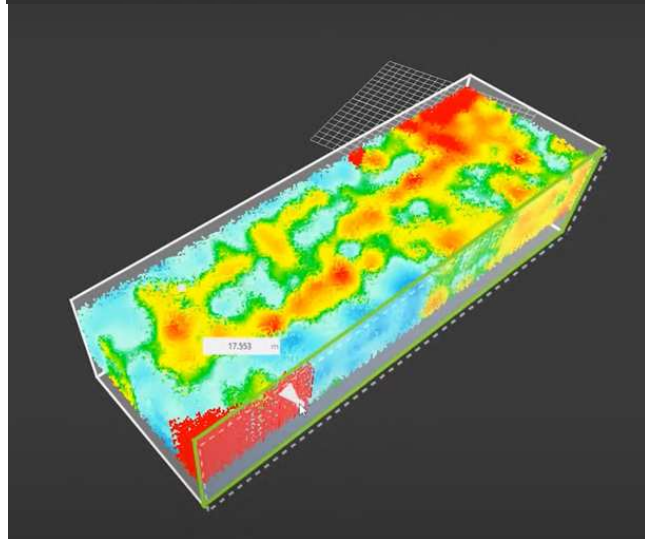
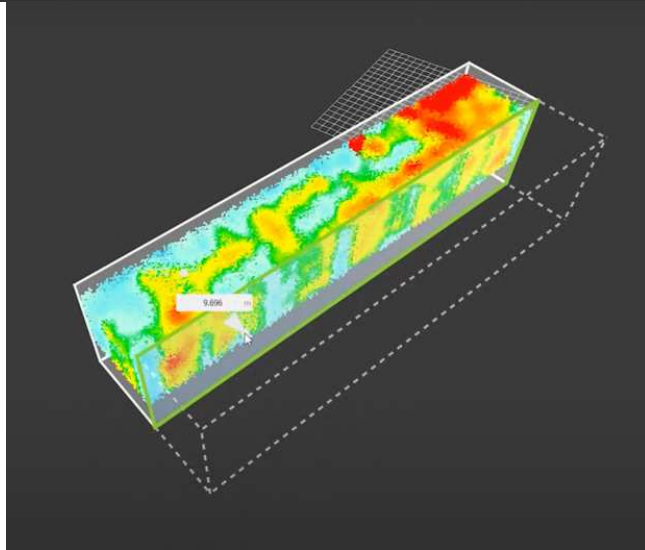
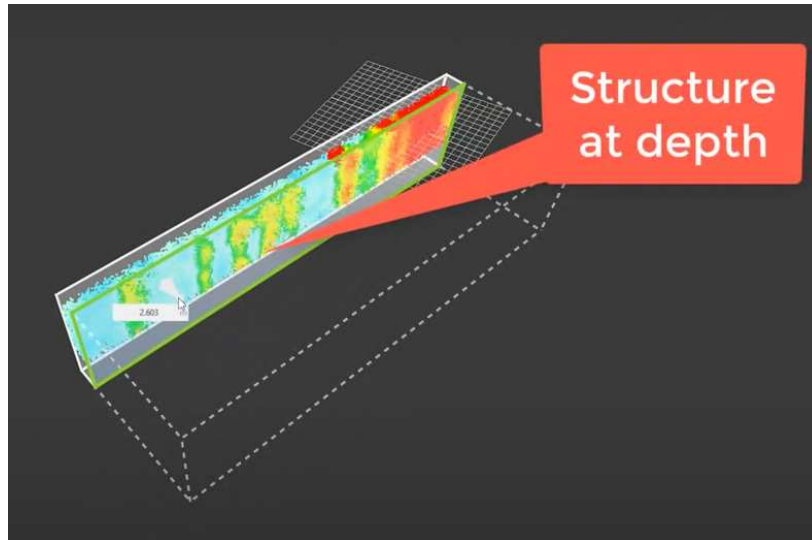




Further, looking at the formation through depth, the unnatural structure persists **TO depth**. In other words, this is not an anomaly at one specific level. (Below, evidentially, the initial image at 6.2 m (20.3 feet), the second at 7.1 m (23.3 feet), and the third at 8 m (26.3 feet)⁹⁷)



A side elevation also demonstrates the persistence of structure at depth. (Below, evidentially, persistence of unnatural structure throughout 3 vertical sections of the formation radar⁹⁷)



Initial Landing/Settlement/Flow/Steale

Initial Landing

In 1984, prior to tighter control imposed on those approaching the Iranian border, Orhan Baser and Wyatt were able to explore further up the mountain from the formation, even to the border ridge^{70,1}. Just below the

white escarpment mountain ridge, they discovered a 120 x 40 feet impression rimmed with the appearance of petrified wood along the bottom^{66,1}, and strange looking rocks that were heavy, green-tinged, and had the appearance of slag⁷⁵. The shape of the impression is also congruent with the formation, being wider at one end, and pointed on the other. *(Below, evidentially, two images of proposed petrified wood base⁷⁷)*



One strange rock (proposed ballast stone from slag), found at the proposed initial landing, was given to Colonel Jim Irwin for analysis, who had accompanied Wyatt on the trip *(Right^{66,77})*. He had it analyzed at Los Alamos National Laboratory by Dr. John Baumgardner with results showing 31.44% manganese, 41.95% titanium, no iron, 11.33% silicon, and 7.19% aluminum, among other constituents (stating “tailing of aluminum aloid production”); in addition, they displayed the appearance of slag under electron microscopy^{85,75}. *(Below, the detailed results⁷⁷)*



MNO	31.44
TI02	41.95
MG0	2.50
FE203	0.00
SI02	11.33
AL203	7.19
NA20	4.56

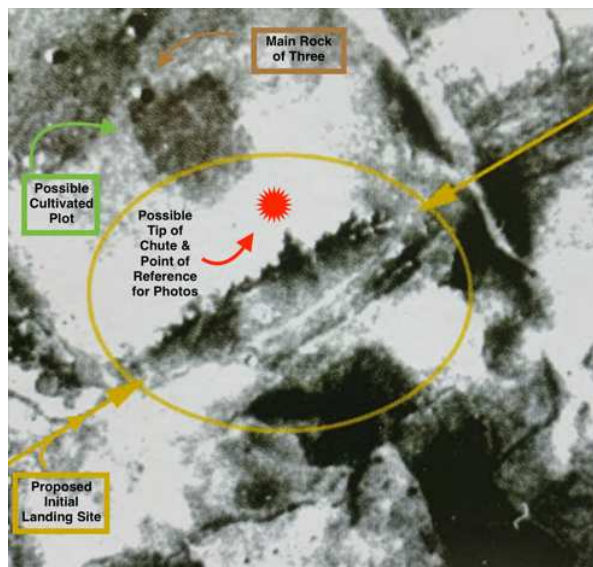
Initial Settlement

If the proposed initial landing site is correct, then we can be certain that, at least for a transitional period of time, they would have established a settlement nearby. Interestingly, there is a large plateau adjacent to the proposed initial landing site, just under the white escarpment mountain ridge, as we'll discuss. David Allen Deal spent much time investigating this area, in person in 1998⁶⁵.

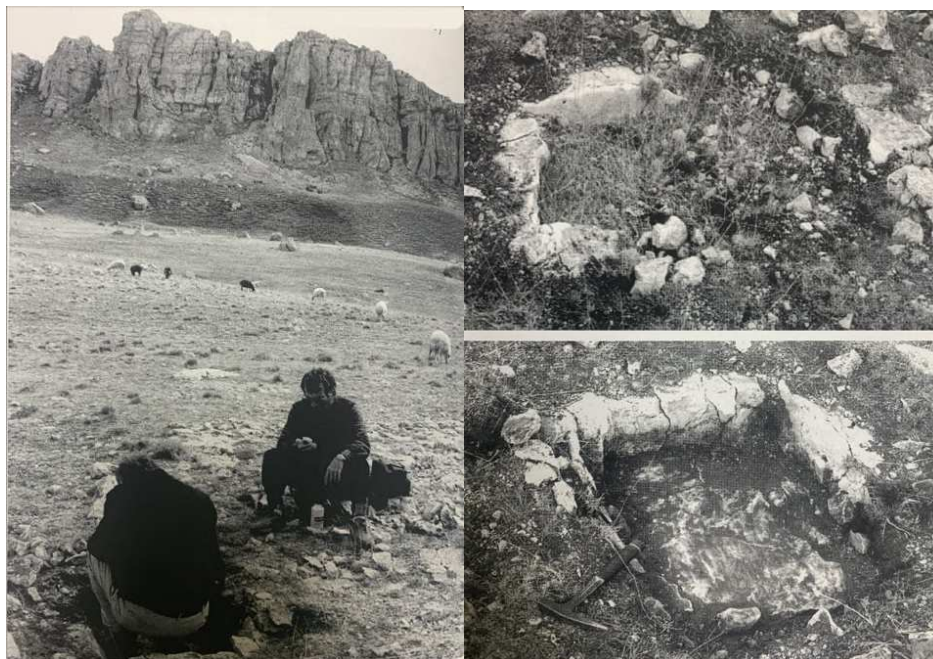
There is an elliptical area just below the white escarpment mountain ridge... A magnified view (*Right¹ modified*) shows better



detail. Here we see the 120 x 40 feet area mentioned above. The three large boulders, forming a triangle, can be seen on the magnified image to the right and on the large image below as well, giving a better perspective of the size of the area under the white escarpment mountain ridge. Deal suggests that the main rock, which has



surrounding rocks suggestive of a prior foundation, could have been used as a thermal mass (heat sink) for a proposed shelter. (*Above left, evidentially, large bolder, with rocks around the base⁶⁵*) That is possible, though difficult to prove. What's more convincing, however, are in-ground hearths that he excavated nearby. These have a rock foundation, with smaller rocks surrounding them, and would have served as the center point of a dwelling. Logically, this location, being almost at the top of the mountain in an exposed area, away from water, would not be the place we would expect someone to place a residence, unless they had some other reason to be there. This too is difficult to date, yet is consistent with my hypothesis. (*Below left, evidentially, we see an overview of the white escarpment mountain ridge, noting two of the 3 rocks of the triangle mentioned above; below right top, the natural unexcavated hearth; below right bottom, the excavated hearth⁶⁵*)



We also see a rectangular area, with the main large boulder at the back, that is currently covered with various weeds⁶⁵, and is curiously different from the adjacent area, suggested to be a prior cultivated area (garden). (*Below, evidentially, again see the main boulder at the back of the proposed plot, looking from the red * on the map above⁶⁵*)



In addition, there appears to be a chute immediately adjacent to the proposed initial landing, that aligns with the proposed location of the side door in the formation, and would have been a necessity for animal disembarking⁶⁵. *(Below, evidentially, looking from the red * location on the annotated image further above, down towards the formation, the proposed chute is clearly visible⁶⁵)*



Flow

At some point in history, there was clearly a flow or landslide of some matter (i.e., mud, dirt, lava) from either higher on the mountain or from a mountain now devoid of all substance (and thus not visible), to the formation and beyond. In addition, why is the lower part of the proposed keel/hull not evident in the resistivity scans of the formation? We've already looked at the proposed initial landing site as a plausible explanation.

Next, let's look at the initial photograph of the area with some annotation, a very helpful image from Nissen. *(Below right, NOTE: North is down in this picture, as this has been the standard view of the formation, likely due to the Iranian border being at the top)*

Looking at the image right, there are a couple narrow chutes (one is highlighted with the proposed route), that were obvious tracks of flow, that then spread out in various places. We know from Bernoulli's Principle and the Venturi Effect that a slow-moving fluid exerts more pressure. Knowing this, when narrowing of the chute occurs, the pressure decreases and the velocity increases. Further, Newton's Second Law of Motion tells us that if a fluid is flowing from an area of high pressure (wider area of flow) to low pressure (narrower area of flow), then the amount of pressure behind the flow is greater, resulting in acceleration through the streamline. All said, this translates to significant energy.

Perhaps academic, as the occurrence of the flow is indisputable, but the flow had to originate from something; and the flow should trace in the direction of that origin, or to that origin. We'll address this more later.

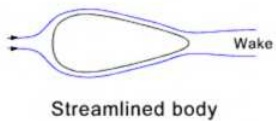
Looking at the surrounding area topographically and three-dimensionally, one important conclusion becomes obvious. In a proposal for terrain stabilization (including forestation, drainage, and retaining walls), Dr. Bayraktutan and Dr. Baumgardner created a watershed topographical map with elevations (*below left, evidentially, remember North is up in this illustration, in contrast to the large photo above*¹); this clearly shows an inverted hourglass pattern (narrowing to the North)¹. Google Maps (*below middle, remember North is up in this illustration, in contrast to the large photo above*) shows a 3D view which is essentially identical in demonstration of the inverted hourglass pattern⁹⁸. Thus, in addition to the specific focused flow chutes with fluid dynamics addressed above, the Bernoulli and Newtons laws apply macroscopically as well to the bowl pattern of the area; in other words, the immediate surrounding terrain flows down to a narrowing at the Northern end. What's more, look at the Iranian/Turkish border; it is along this border ridge where the peak of elevation occurs. There should be no argument that fluid flows downhill. All of this is important because the flow must have originated from, or close to, the peak of elevation. This is also the direction the flow chutes point, in the original photograph above. We'll continue this line of thought below. (*Below right, the image above rotated 180 degrees to show North up*)



⁹⁸ <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Turkey/@39.4353618,44.2346685,13z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x14b0155c964f2671-0x40d9dbd42a625f2a!8m2!3d38.963745!4d35.243322!5m1!1e4>



To gain another perspective, when standing below the formation, looking up the mountain, the “bowl” shape is clear. (Below, evidentially, view of “bowl” with bottleneck at bottom⁹⁹)



Regarding the hydrology of natural formation by flow, Windsor⁶⁸ points out that the round end always points into the flow (the leading edge), and the flow leaves at the sharp end, as can be demonstrated in a backyard sandbox with a hose. This formation is in direct opposition to that, and thus inconsistent with a natural formation.

⁹⁹ <https://www.discoverednoahsark.com>

Certainly, wood in contact with soil is known to deteriorate quicker than open air exposure alone due to alternating wet and dry conditions, moisture, microbes, insects, etc. Specifically, the weakest point and likely fracture line is at or close to the soil line, as the deeper parts lack oxygen, just as we see with fence posts (right). Thus, if the original landing was where the formation is seen today, deterioration would be expected to be worse closer to the soil line, which wouldn't explain the missing part of the keel/hull on resistivity testing. If, however, there was another initial landing site and the position of the formation today is secondary, then deterioration at the ground level would be expected to have weakened the lower areas, creating a susceptible point of weakness that would then have been more likely to have fractured during a flow event; and further, that would be expected to leave a portion of the lowest keel/hull behind in the initial landing site.



Stela

Just beyond the proposed initial landing site, at the top ridge on the Iranian border, Wyatt and Orhan Baser found a pile of broken pieces (being used as a border marking), with pictographs and writing on them, determined to be a stela. These individual pieces were photographed and later pieced together.⁷⁵

It is also said from the above reference, "This stele contained numerous inscriptions in what looked like three different forms of writing", and "The rest of the inscription featured several animals". These, however, are not clearly seen in the images or illustrations. (Below top, evidentially, picture of Iranian border marker with embedded stela⁶⁶; middle, evidentially, illustration of pieced-together stela containing a tapered ship consistent with the formation, with 8 faces, 2 ravens, the unique mountain contour (minus the middle mountain⁶⁶); bottom, evidentially, photo of the iconic ridge, placed to the left for comparison with the middle illustration, noting missing mountain⁹⁷)



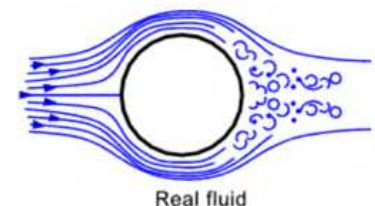


Comparing the Stela illustration and photograph, we can correlate the two small hills laterally on the left, as well as the saddle-seat mountain to the right of those (near middle of picture). However, even further to the right, at the border ridge, highest elevation, there is a clear discrepancy. The mountain that existed as some point in history, that was present at the time the stela was created, is no longer in existence. To state the obvious, there is a missing mountain at the top of elevation, at the convergence of the flow chutes. This must have been the source for the flow.

Initial Landing Fluid Mechanics

Fluid mechanics, and the study of such, is a mathematically complex field. Nevertheless, I believe common sense can simplify. So, to start, in the Northern hemisphere, water moves to the right in a clockwise fashion (Coriolis effect). The proposed initial landing site is in a bowl with a concave mountain ridge at the back bowl, as shown previously. Thus, by knowing the proposed endpoint position, we can dissect the fluid mechanics and determine if logic prevails.

Looking at simple flow hydrodynamics around a cylinder, there is a small area straight into the cylinder where an object would stop or pause (*Right, see straight line into upstream side of cylinder (circle)*)¹⁰⁰. However, with only slight deviation away from center, that object would succumb to lateral displacement and be pulled around into the lateral flow.



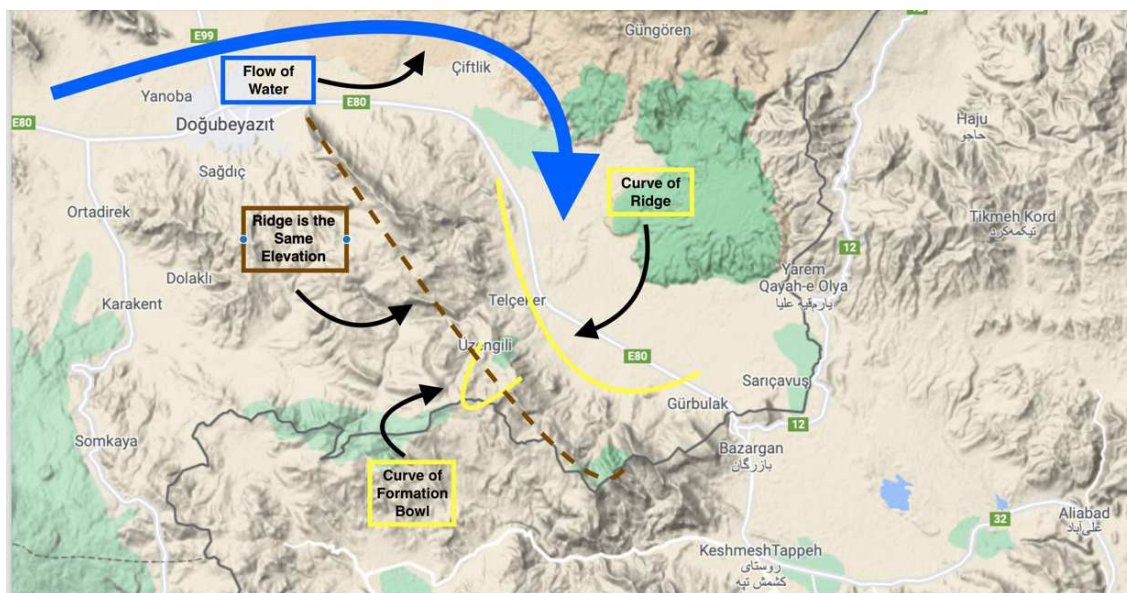
¹⁰⁰ Roymech.org (2020). https://roymech.org/Related/Fluids/Fluids_Drag

0.38	1.16
0.42	1.17
0.47	1.20
0.50	1.55
0.59	1.55
0.80	1.60
1.05	1.98
1.17	2.00
1.17	2.05
1.38	2.20
1.42	2.30

So, what shape would give the greatest coefficient of drag, and the largest “safe area” for a floating object to moor? Wikipedia gives a list of shapes with their relative coefficient of drag, positioned in a flow from left to right (*Left, list of shapes with coefficient of drag¹⁰¹*). The two shapes with the highest coefficient of drag, and the most likely to have a “safe area”, even with potential resulting eddies, are concave structures; and for that matter, even a straight line has a relatively high coefficient of drag. Inherently, this makes sense if we look at shipping ports; many are in concave or teardrop inlets.

Now, evaluating the terrain around the formation (*Below see modified topographical map from Google Maps*), as the water was receding, the water would have flowed from West to east, likely around the ridge (noted to be roughly the same elevation along the full extent), in a clockwise rotation. If this is the proposed ark, then we should also be able to follow the drogoue stones (see below), and in fact, many of them are found in Kazan (formerly Arzap), just Northwest of Dogubeyazit; and another in Ankara, about 650 miles West of Kazan. This is consistent with the West to East flow. Further, notice there are actually two concave curves that form a “double-hat” to create “safe areas”; the first being the ridge curve, and the second being the “bowl” (discussed earlier) of the Durupinar Site formation.

The fluid mechanics requirements of the earth and local area around the Durupinar Site that would have to be present in order to satisfy known science are, in fact, present.



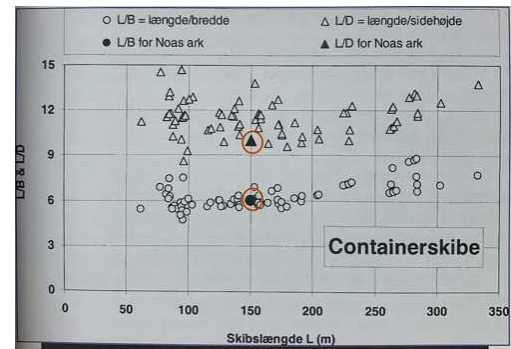
Evidence of Intelligence in Design

If this formation is, in fact, Noah’s Ark, a design by God, it goes without saying that we should see clear evidence of intelligence in the design.

¹⁰¹ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, October 12). Drag coefficient. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 02:30, October 26, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Drag_coefficient&oldid=1049585397

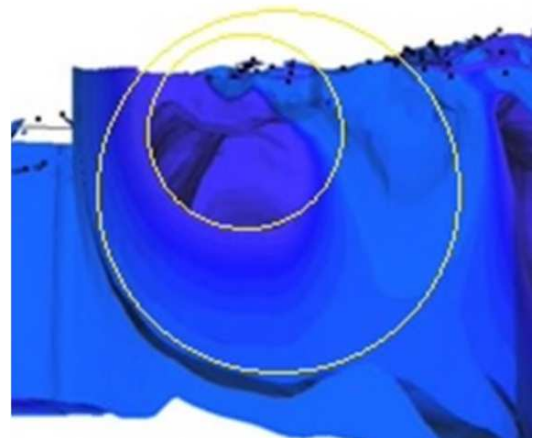
Dimensions

What about the dimensions... do they relate anything in this regard? Henri Nissen expounds that the length/height and length/width ratios of this formation are equivalent to normal modern construction practice¹ (*evidentially, graph to right*). He further states that the roof ridge being raised one cubit (Gen 6:17, "...and in a cubit above thou shalt finish it"), which is 1/50th of the width, is the same standard used today by the United Nations Maritime Organization and internationally for ship building. Finally, he connects that the dimensions would meet the European Union stability standards for animal transport; a practical necessity.



Hull Shape/Type

What about the hull type and shape? Shawn Buckles gives insight¹⁰². The proposed hull of the formation would be classified as a displacement hull. Displacement hulls are bulky round hulls with round bilges (where the bottom meets the vertical side). They use buoyancy to support their weight. The amount of water it displaces equals its weight. Again, resistivity demonstrates this, looking at a cross-section of the proposed hull⁷⁰ (*evidentially, right⁷⁰*).



So, why does the hull type matter? Let's look at the advantages of the displacement type.

- It's the most reliable & efficient shape in rough water; hard to sink. Certainly, I would expect rough waters with the flood.
- It's the most buoyant hull type. I would expect both the ship itself (wood), and the cargo (animals, food, fresh water, seeds, etc.) to have significant weight.
- It has the most cargo capacity. As discussed earlier, capacity must have been a major consideration.
- It's a stable ride. Nice for the animals, and I would also expect that weight to shift randomly (live animals, water carried onboard, etc.).

Now, I would expect you to ask what the disadvantages of this type of hull are. Exceptionally, these are essentially negated in the context of the Noah's Ark.

- Slow speed. Well, that's not relevant to the ark... they had nowhere to go; rather, the purpose was to stay afloat.
- It has potential to roll. A keel will counteract this; and there was likely a keel in this proposed ship, and probably even external keelsons on the proposed external hull. In addition, drogue stones (sea anchors) would counteract this; many have been found beside or within the vicinity of the formation, as discussed earlier.

¹⁰² Buckles, Shawn. *A Complete Guide to Displacement Hulls (Illustrated)*. <https://improvesailing.com/guides/displacement-hulls-explained>

Anti-leak Provisions

Remember Genesis 6:14 (LXX), “Make therefore for thyself an ark of square timber; thou shalt make the ark in compartments, and thou shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.” Nissen calls attention to the “compartments”¹. Anti-leakage provisions are called “securing the ship’s aptitude to float”. In modern maritime design this is accomplished via bulkheads (periodic transverse watertight divisions in the hull), as has been proposed above already, in this formation. Even if this wasn’t the direct intention of the “compartments”, knowing the ark must have had many rooms for the various animals, there would most certainly have been main divisions (bulkheads) from which the rooms and hallways were built off, and that support the deck(s) above. This is no different than “weight-bearing” walls in home construction that can’t be removed (for example, to create an open floor plan) lest the structure above that level collapse.

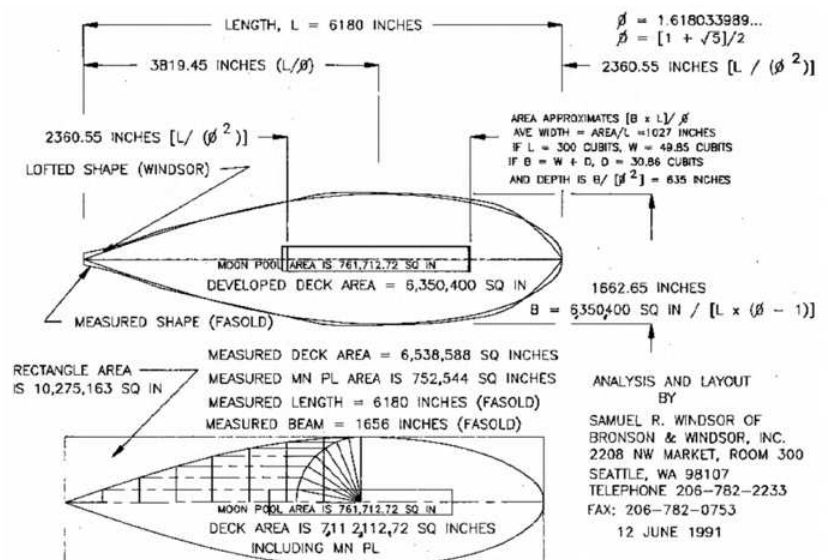
Moon Pool

The proposed moon pool is a hole in the central hull of a ship that penetrates from the deck to the water. Perhaps you’ve seen this in offshore drilling rigs, or research vessels. What good is it... especially in the ark? Windsor summarizes it well, “The Ark’s moon pool provided forced air ventilation via the roof opening (wave action), access for handling anchor stones, access for dumping garbage and manure, and provided a “softening” of the buoyancy amidships.” He continues describing the amazing placement of the moon pool in regards to steering. Steering can be performed (at least to some degree) with anchors, but care must be taken to avoid becoming “in irons” (where a ship is pointed into the wind with inability to turn). This can happen if the anchor tow line originates from the stern (back of the ship). Thus, for appropriate anchor handling, I would expect to see the aft end of the moon pool aft of midships; in other words, the center of lateral water resistance should be just forward of the “drag point” of the steering anchors⁶⁸. And that is, in fact, the case in this formation. “The moon pool is located far enough back to permit dragging a sea anchor and flailing anchor with the bow held forward. Yet it is far enough forward to allow the vessel to turn without putting the vessel in irons.”⁸²

Shape/Area

Let’s look at some computer analyses. Donald Patten introduces Samuel Windsor and his associate well, “Samuel Windsor (mechanical engineer, Wichita St., 1959) is co-owner of the firm, Bronson & Windsor, Seattle. This is a... firm... specializing in marine engineering and naval architecture. Windsor’s co-owner, L. E. (Bud) Bronson, has degrees from the U. S. Naval Academy (B.S. 1961) and from the school of naval architecture (M. A., Univ. of Mich., 1972).” Windsor⁶⁸ states that, in 1991, he entered Fasold’s iron loci data and dimensions (having traveled with him to the Durupinar Site and confirmed his findings) into his computer (AutoCad) for analysis (reference his paper for detailed criteria).

The modern design method for the plan view (top down), called “determining its camber”, as described by Windsor⁶⁸, lofts (draws or lays out) the lines of the vessel, using “calculated offsets [the shape of the hull in a coordinate system – using

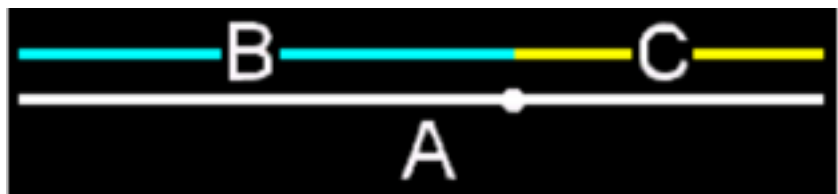


coordinates to plot the shape in a space] and curve fitting techniques”. The coordinates are the distances from the centerline of the ship to the hull/deck edge extending to the bow. That sounds complex, but it’s actually fairly simple. In other words, (*Evidentially, use above second image and follow along*⁶⁸) start with a circle (only ¼ of circle on illustration) at maximum beam (widest point of width). Divide the distance from maximum beam to the bow into equal spaces (8 spaces above), and divide the ¼ circle into the same number of spaces. Draw parallel lines along the longitudinal centerline, from the 8 circle intersections to the 8 length intersections. Finally, draw the hull/deck curve by connecting the intersections of the longitudinal and transverse lines. Using this process, the computer produced the resulting shape, without any other imposed pattern or shape entry other than the iron loci points and overall dimensions. The modern design overlaid on the Durupinar formation image (*Above first image, compares formation and computer model*), evidences minuscule variation. Further, as mentioned above, the placement of the proposed moon pool, bisected equally at maximum beam, is remarkable.

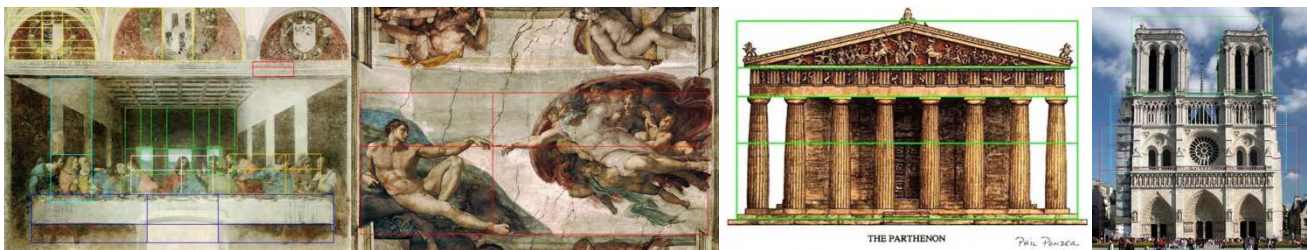
The area of the usable deck (total shape area minus the proposed moon pool area), that is 6,350,400 sq inches, is curious. 6,350,400 sq inches/144 = 44,100 sq feet (close to one acre). The area of the vessel in Epic of Gilgamesh was 120 x 120 Babylonian cubits (One Mesopotamian cubit = 21 inches¹⁰³), which is 6,350,400 sq inches = 44,100 sq feet. Exactly the same. Curious coincidence? More later.

Phi

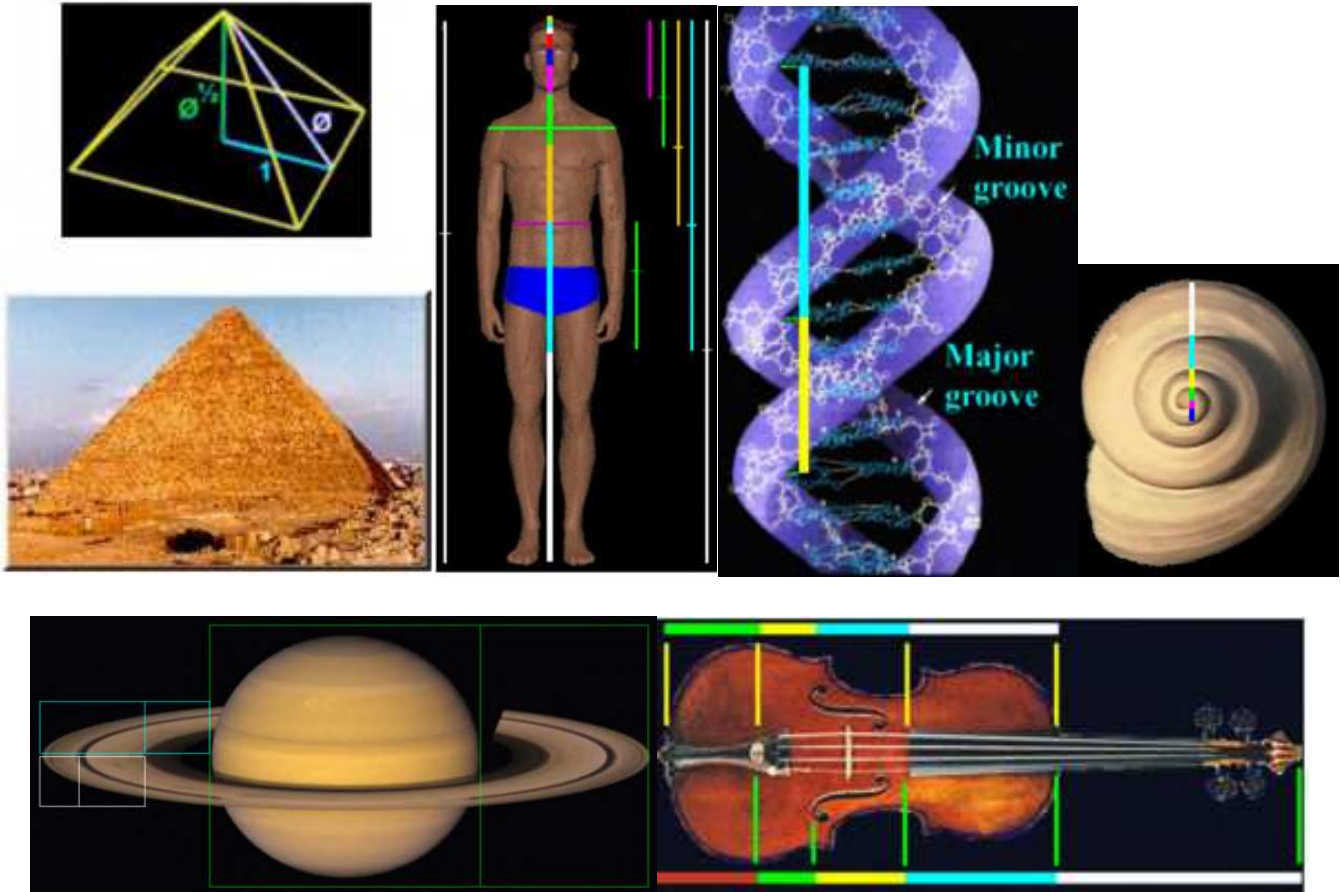
Phi (represented symbolically by a Φ with a slash through it) is an irrational number, the “golden ratio” or “golden number”, 1.6180 (and the inverse, .6180). Graphically, it’s demonstrated



to the right, $A=B+C$; $A/B=B/C$. And intriguingly, it shows up throughout the universe. For example, in art and architecture; in the human body and DNA; in the planets and orbital periods (Mercury has -3 power of phi, Venus -1, Earth 0, Jupiter 5, Saturn 7); in music and in nature; etc. For many more examples, in depth overview, and much more information, see <https://www.goldennumber.net>.



¹⁰³ Stone, Mark H. (30 Jan 2014). The Cubit: A History and Measurement Commentary. *Journal of Anthropology*. Volume 2014, Article ID 489757, 11 pages <http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/489757>



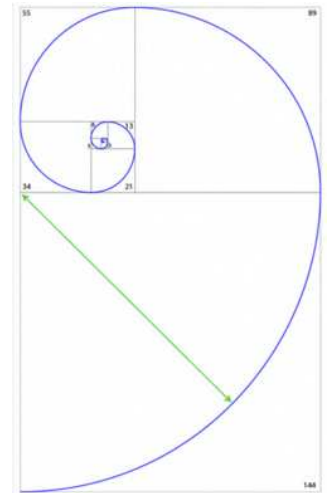
Windsor gives a compelling overview,

“Artists are interested in "phi", because the "phi" proportion is the most pleasing proportion for landscape paintings. A rectangle with phi as the width and one as the height is the "golden rectangle", so widely used in paintings. In marine biology, "phi" is of interest because the shell of the chambered nautilus spreads out like a phi spiral. Botanists are interested in "phi" because the phi spiral it describes the sequence of branches coming off the trunk of a tree. And the phi spiral is noted in the seed pattern in the sunflower. Marine engineers are interested in "phi" because at the coast line, phi describes the curve of incoming breakers. Meteorologists and climatologists are interested in phi because "phi" describes the spiral circulation of air in dust devils, in tornadoes, in typhoons, in hurricanes and in cyclones. Naval vessels are designed with "phi" in mind. It relates to minimizing water resistance for oceanic voyages. Phi (1.6180...) happens to be the ratio involving the least friction in nature. Or, put another way, Nature "loves" phi. “

If we see phi throughout the universe (throughout God’s design), macroscopic to microscopic, should we expect to see it in this formation as well, if God designed it? Perhaps. The absence of phi wouldn’t negate the formation’s legitimacy, but its presence certainly enhances it. Here’s what is evidenced.

- In the formation, the total length is 6180 inches, while the distance to the maximum beam (the widest width) which ALSO is the center of the proposed moon pool, is 3819 inches⁶⁸. The ratio is 1.618. In addition, the total length (6180) to the remainder of the length (2361 inches (6180 – 3819)) = ϕ^2 ; and the ratio of 2361/6180 is .382 (the square of the inverse of phi).

- The rectangle outline of the formation is 10,275,177 sq. inches (*see above*), while the developed deck area of the formation is 6,350,400 sq. inches⁶⁹. This ratio is 1.618.
- The maximum formation width is 1662 inches, while the average width is 1027 inches⁶⁹. This ratio is 1.618.
- The length of the proposed moon pool is 2360 inches, the total length is 6180 inches. This ratio is the same as above, ϕ^2 .
- Fasold identifies that the approximate width of the moon pool (26.5') x ϕ = 43' (interval from the only angled proposed bulkhead (#9) to the prior proposed bulkhead (#8)). Interestingly, the adjacent largest span between proposed bulkheads is approximately 128', approximately 3 times the prior span (and thus interval of ϕ).
- Gray states that the curve on the North end of the formation (towards the blunt end) is based on the phi spiral¹²². (*Right, the phi spiral*)
- The height of the ark was 30 cubits; that's 51.5 feet; that's 618.0 inches (this is ϕ)¹²².



Compartments/Available Space

Genesis 6:14-15 (LXX) states: “Make therefore for thyself an ark of square timber; thou shalt make the ark in compartments...”. “Ernst Mayr (probably the leading taxonomist in America) calculated that there are about one million animal species. Of these, 60% are sea animals... Of the remaining, 70% are insects. Thus, there are less than 20,000 species [his number was 17,600] of land animals (mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians). Since the average size of all the land animals is no bigger than a house cat, you could comfortably fit two of each species in just 41 per cent of the Ark space... On the radar scans... the Ark contains small rooms (cages)... The size of the cages indicates that the animals were all small – probably just weaned. (That would make sense. If you wanted to preserve an oak tree, you wouldn't take a full-grown tree on board, but simply an acorn. So, with the animals...)”⁸³ Woodmorappe suggests only 15% were greater than the size of a sheep, and estimated 8000 “kinds”.¹⁰⁴ Morris estimates 35,000 vertebrate animals.¹⁰⁵

Drogue Stones

Drogue stones were used in ancient ships as anchor stones, typically with a hole at the top of a relatively flat stone (rock). Drogue stones were used in turbulent waters because the flat surface of the stone would create drag and prevent the ship from slipping sideways in a wave; in calm waters, they hung and “sounded” for the bottom; and they could be used to manipulate the ships direction. Those found at, or in the vicinity, of the formation weigh from 4 to 10 tons, the largest ever found. These have been identified at the top of the ridge above the Durupinar formation, around the formation, many at Kazan, and even one in Western Turkey; along the expected flow, as discussed above. (*Above right, illustration of location of drogue stones and water flow from Google Maps*) As discussed above, the locations of the drogue stones are consistent with the water currents in the Northern Hemisphere.



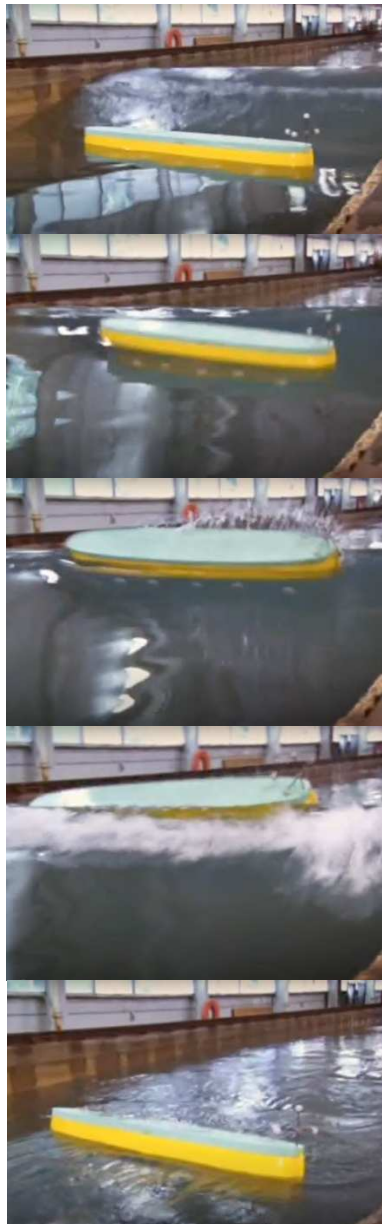
¹⁰⁴ Woodmorappe, John (1 Jul 1996). *DOWNLOAD NOAH'S ARK: A FEASIBILITY STUDY*. Inst for Creation Research

¹⁰⁵ Whitcomb and Morris (1961). *The Genesis Flood - The Biblical Record and Its Scientific Implications*. pp.65-70

A specialized type was a flailing anchor, like the one found at Kazan. A flailing anchor in Kazan, as described by Windsor⁸² is shaped like one wing of a butterfly (*Right*), and the hole is about 1/3 the way down from the top. The line is banded around the full girth of the stone, the tail is brought through the hole then tied to the drag line, forming a bridle. Then, the stone will drift to one side when the wind blows the vessel, and with serial maneuvering of the heavy drogue anchors and the flailing anchor, the vessel can be worked crosswind.



The effect of drogue stones on an appropriately weighted, and to scale model of the ark was evaluated in a wave pool. Without the drogue stones, the model quickly swung sideways exposing the windward side, then ultimately capsized. With the drogue stones attached, however, even swells much larger than the model did not capsize it.¹⁰⁶ (*Below, series of pictures demonstrating large lateral wave's inability to capsize... note the white drogue stones visible in the water beneath the model*)



¹⁰⁶ (14 Dec, 2010). Tests Show Drogue Stones Effectiveness on Noah's Ark. [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O8wGjwyS7o>

Windsor further addresses the rope holes in the stones. Drilled by an, as of yet, unknown technique, the smallest stone has a 3-inch diameter, and curved from the centerline to a 9.5-inch radius; the largest has a 4.5-inch diameter, curved from the centerline to a 12-inch radius. The large curve assures no fraying of the rope fibers with the bending through the eye of the anchor. "Today's requirement of breaking strength (5 times rated load) would mean the rope used in the 3-inch hole (about 2-3/4 inches diameter) would have a breaking strength of 42,000 lbs. This is well within the capacity of hand wound hemp⁸²."

Genesis 8: 3-5 states, "And the water subsided, and went off the earth, and after an hundred and fifty days the water was diminished, and the ark rested in the seventh month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat. And the water continued to decrease until the tenth month. And in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the heads of the mountains were seen." So, the question is, how was the ark "rested" for just over 2 months, yet there was no land visible? There must have been a submarine fixation, such as drogue stones tethering the ark in place.

Being a necessary element to ancient ships, their presence is consistent with the ark. All are larger than any previously discovered anchor stone. Some of these local drogue stones are shown below (lettered arbitrarily).

Drogue stone A, located at the top of the mountain, above the formation.^{1,127}



Drogue stone B.¹²⁷



Drogue stone C.¹⁰⁷



Drogue stone D.¹²⁷



Drogue stone E.^{127,64}



Drogue stone F.¹²⁷



Drogue stone G.¹²⁷



Drogue stone H.⁹²



Drogue stone I.^{64, 127}



Drogue stone J.⁹²



Drogue stone K.



Drogue stone L.⁶⁴



Drogue stone M.⁷⁷



Drogue stone N.⁸³



Drogue stone O.⁸³



Drogue stone P.⁷⁷



Drogue stone Q.⁷⁷



Drogue stone R.⁸⁴



Local Names

City/Town Names

In 1948 the village of Uzengili was renamed from Nasar, its prior name, which according to Patten is analogous with Nisir; and even Uzengili has overtones of the Ark story, he says⁶⁹. The modern city name of Uzengili, named the same year the Durupinar Site was discovered and thus likely spawned from a visual and photographic artifact when the site is viewed from the top or angled down, an apparent image of a crowned figure lying in a casket, turned slightly to the right, with the point of the limestone outcropping, just left of its center, exactly where a heart would be in the human figure. This is said to loosely translate to “Little Boogeyman”, but more specifically the legendary Arabic giant, “Uzengil”⁶⁵. Either way, I don’t see any relevance of the modern name, Uzengili, other than its dating correlation with the presentation of the Durupinar Site.

Nisir, however, is relevant because of its appearance as Mt. Nisir in the Epic of Gilgamesh. As Deal addresses, the Shemitic spelling is nsr; vowels are essentially not used⁶⁵; likewise, with Akkadian and Sumerian. Therefore, Nisir or Nasar or other variations would be appropriate. In the Akkadian flood story, Atrahasis, first written mid-17th century BCE (but likely orally older), Noah’s boat is called nasirat napistum (meaning “life saver”); further, in the Pakistani dialect of Urdu, the word Nasar means “to make a sacrifice”⁶⁴. (Right, evidentially, town of Nasar adjacent to Durupinar Site)



“A mountain or mountain range of that name is reported from the annals of King Ashurnasurpal II of Assyria (833-859 BCE). The annals place it south of the Lower Zab (Wallis Budge and King, 1902, *fide* Montgomery, 1972)”.⁵⁹ This correlates to the modern-day Pir Omar Gudrun Mountain, in the Zagros Mountain range. However, given the amount of attention Gilgamesh gives to Mt. Nisir being double-peaked (Pir Omar Gudrun isn’t), it’s incorrect location outside the Corduene Mountains, the fact that Berossus (who knew the location of the ark) didn’t associate the Ark with it, etc., Pir Omar Gudrun Mountain is incongruent.

A modification to the Mt. Nisir translation can be suggested, due to the ambiguity of "'KUR-ú^{KUR} *ni-sir* held tight the boat.' The Sumerian word KUR can mean land or country or hill, but not mountain. In Akkadian, KUR with the phonetic complement -ú is read as *shadû* which can mean hill or mountain. The second KUR is a determinative indicating that *nisir* is the name of a hill or land or country (or in Akkadian a mountain). But Thompson [R. Campbell Thompson, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Clarendon Press, 1930, page 63, lines 140–141] read this determinative as *matu*, an Akkadian word for country. The country Nisir may have got its name from *nisirtu* which means a locality that is hidden, inaccessible, or secluded.¹⁰⁸ Thus, a hill, an area, a small mountain, or a secluded area are possibilities, which would likewise be consistent.

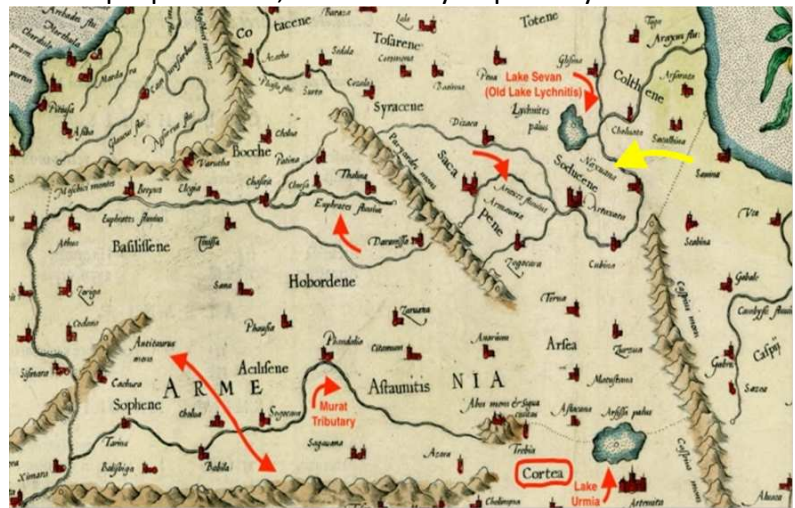
Moses Chorenesis, the earliest known Armenian historian, 5th century CE, equates Nisir to Seron (srn).

“Nachidsheuan [Naxuan], which signifies, the first place of descent, and is a lasting monument of the preservation, in the ark, upon the top of that mountain, at whose foot it was built, as the first city, or town, after the flood... there was another town related by tradition to have been called Seron, or the place of dispersion, on account of the dispersion of Xisuthrus’, or Noah’s sons from thence first made.”

Deal mentions that the Hebrew word for sharp rock outcropping is Tsar (tSAR) which is applicable; the common syllable is sar (or sir). He further presents archaeological work noting multiple ancient foundations, mounds, sunken hearths, and graves for both proposed Seron and proposed Naxuan⁶⁵. A 1941 map of the modern Uzengili, labels it Sar (abbreviation for Nasar)⁶⁴.

Seron, the “second” city, and the lower location of the proposed ark, is inherently implied by Moses

Chorenesis, by labeling Naxuan as the “**first** place of descent” (defined by Josephus Flavius). “Nax-xuan is a Greek interpretation for the Hebrew, *noach tsywn*, ‘Noah’s Zion,’ or ‘Noah’s capital,’ a name given to the city by later generations”¹⁰⁹, the first post-diluvial city. The “foot” of a mountain arguably generally refers to the foothills extending from the base up to the mountain. The proposed Naxuan, adjacent to the proposed first landing of the ark, is, in fact, in the foothills of the mountain, and has significant evidence of ancient habitation as well as burials⁶⁵. It was labeled by Ptolemy (*Geography* V, Asiae III tab)¹⁵



Error! Bookmark not defined., and although in the general area we’re discussing and thus alluring, we really don’t know if he was talking about the “Naxuan” referred to by Moses Chorenesis, and we really can’t give any weight to the location because the inaccuracies of his map are self-evident. The current city of Nakhchivan that some like to associate with Naxuan, if that were true, is, on Ptolemy’s map, not even close to the actual known location (which is equidistant between Lake Seven and Lake Urmia, about 40 miles from the Durupinar Site), so in that regard, on his map, his labeled “Naxuana” would actually be closer to the proposed Naxuan in this paper, adjacent to the Durupinar Site.

¹⁰⁸ Wikipedia contributors. (2018, July 29). Mount Nisir. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 00:11, November 28, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Nisir&oldid=852495911

¹⁰⁹ JOHNSON, ROBERT BOWIE (9 SEP 2021). *Evidence that Noah’s Ark Landed on a Mountain 17 Miles South of Ararat*. <https://www.ancient-origins.net/human-origins-religions/noahs-ark-south-ararat-009725>

Mountains

First, let's address Mesha. Mesha (msh in Hebrew) means "to be drawn out of water" (similar to Moshe in Hebrew meaning "saved through water"), Gilgamesh means "the man who revealed Mesha" in Hebrew (gl = the revealer of, gm = even, mesh = mashu or mesha)^{109, 65}. Further, credence is added by the locals referring to the hillside extending up to the escarpment as "Mashur" and "Masher".

Fasold describes his direct interaction with the locals, "...Not only had the Kurds been recorded on video during our last trip saying 'Meshur'... when pointed up to the mountain..., When on the mountain, Fasold asked again. 'And here,' I questioned. 'Meshur'. '[No]' he corrected me. 'Mahser, Mahser'.⁶⁴ Deal, who also interacted directly with the locals tries to clarify by stating that the hillside leading up to the escarpment is known as both Mashur ("resurrection day") and Masher ("doomsday") by the Kurds.⁶⁵ The Epic of Gilgamesh states, "So at length Gilgamesh came to Mashu, the great mountains about which he had heard many things, which guard the rising and the setting sun. Its twin peaks are as high as the wall of heaven..." Of note, the word for twins (aka twin mountains) in Akkadian is Mashu; the escarpment generally runs North/South, thus would "guard" the sun; the white wall escarpment could easily be viewed as a "wall of heaven" (the mid-section is known as Yigityatagi -"Hero's anchorage or bed"¹¹⁰).

This brings us to Genesis 10:30 (LXX), which address initial genealogy of Noah's sons, as well as the location of settlement of three groups; Nimrod, the Canaanites, and Joktan's sons. "And their dwelling was from Masse, till one comes to Saphera, a mountain of the east." Some suggest this means Joktan's sons moved from Mesha (near the Durupinar Site) to Sephar (likely the Southern Arabian Qafar); however, this is out of context with the settlement locations of Nimrod and the Canaanites (in fact, the boundaries of the Canaanites are discussed), earlier in the chapter. Thus, more likely Mesha represents the Western boundary of Joktan's sons' settlement in Arabia, while Sephar represents the Eastern boundary. Nevertheless, this doesn't minimize the indigenous knowledge of Mashur and Masher, as Indigenous knowledge is typically found to be reliable and useful^{111,112,113}.

Possibly the most controversial mountain label is Cudi Dagi. Fasold exclaimed there were four mountains labeled as such in Turkey, and one in Arabia.⁶⁴ Given our discussion earlier, the Bible excludes Arabia; the other Cudi Dagi labeled sites in Turkey are void of evidence. Addressing the locals, Fasold states, "... then [I] pointed up to the source of the flow and the peak of the escarpment high above. 'Cudi' (Judi), replied the village elder with a smile... the western peak [Southwestern] of the escarpment above... was called Judi (spelled Cudi in Turkish but pronounced the same) by the local Kurdish/Turks of the area..."⁶⁴ Deal also labels the Southwestern peak as Cudi Dagi (Judi); while the Northeastern peak he calls Ziyaret ["voluntary pilgrimage"], and the "saddle" ridge between, Yigityatagi ("Hero's anchorage or bed")¹¹⁰, and Fasold appears to agree with this labeling.

The Qur'an (*Houd Sura 11:44*) states, "The ark rested on Mount Judi", yet doesn't give its actual location. Kasimirski discloses that Judi corresponds to Jordi, the mountains of Korduk¹¹⁴ (emphasis mine), and we've discussed Korduk's association earlier. Cudi in Kurdish & Turkish, equates to al-Judiyy in Arabic, and Qardu in

¹¹⁰ Deal, David Allen. *NAXUAN, THE LOST CITY OF NOAH FOUND!* <http://www.noahsarksearch.com/davedeal.htm>

¹¹¹ Bruchac, Margaret (2014). *Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge*. https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1172&context=anthro_papers

¹¹² Chikodzi, David. (2013). Reliability of indigenous knowledge in monitoring and mapping groundwater fluctuations in Zimbabwe. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*. 3. 231-241.

¹¹³ Nicholas, George (14 Feb 2018). *It's taken thousands of years, but Western science is finally catching up to Traditional Knowledge*. <https://theconversation.com/its-taken-thousands-of-years-but-western-science-is-finally-catching-up-to-traditional-knowledge-90291>

¹¹⁴ Kasimirski, M. (1865). *The Koran, New translation Made on the Arabic Text*. p. 175. Paris

Aramaic, as well as Kurda and Kurd.¹¹⁵ Deal states that Judi is an Arabic pronunciation due to the difficulty in pronouncing the Shemetic kH (cHayth); a guttural explosive growl sound; it may be translated as C, Kh, Ch, and even Jh, hence “Judi.”¹¹⁰ Ter-Ghevondyan states, “The Armenian legend of the mountain Masis having passed through the Arabic environment was filled up with new materials... the basis of which is Armenian, but it got an Arabic coloring over the time”¹¹⁶, so perhaps, like other religions, Mt. Judi wasn’t even a linguistic variation or pronunciation variation, but rather a borrowed & modified Biblical concept.

Cudi Dagi means “mountain of the Kurds”, just as the mountains of Corduene mean “mountains of the Kurds”.¹¹⁰ Would it not make sense that Cudi Dagi, the mountain of the Kurds, is at the end of the Corduene Mountain range, the mountains of the Kurds?

Region/Area

The Epic of Gilgamesh further describes the area as “in the land of Dilmun, in the garden of the sun”. Dilmun means “the abode of the dangling (dried-up),” which seems fitting; further, both “Mesha and Dilmun attest to Noah’s salvation from the Flood at this location.”¹⁰⁹

Cultural Flood Stories

Many, even most, cultures have a flood story¹¹⁷. Other researchers have extensively documented this; thus, I decline, except for one. That being, the arguably oldest known literature¹¹⁸, the Epic of Gilgamesh, to which I’ve eluded throughout this paper, and is thus relevant; originally identified from the library of Assurbanipal in Ninevah, dating from about 650 BCE⁵⁹. Initially written in Sumerian (the early Mesopotamian language), dating to 2000 BCE², about a King of Uruk, Gilgamesh. Despite popular opinion, Gertoux presents a convincing case for the Biblical story being older (even if the date Moses actually penned Genesis was later, the Biblical story predates it)².

My intent is to briefly magnify the accord of specific germane elements between the Bible, the Epic of Gilgamesh, and the Durupinar Site; the number of bulkheads (nine) noted above, the identical amount of usable deck area (about an acre), landing on the twin-peaked mountain crossed by Gilgamesh called Mt. Mashu, Mt. Mashu being near the headwaters of the two rivers (Tigris & Euphrates discussed above), the “wall of heaven” between the twin peaks that guards to rising and setting sun, the use of pitch/asphalt on the ark, the mountain of Nisir, etc.

One point not addressed yet from the Epic of Gilgamesh... the headwaters near Mt. Mashu. Focus for a moment on Ptolemy’s map discussed earlier (*Geography V, Asiae III tab, see later discussion*)¹⁵, looking at the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. The headwaters of the Euphrates are the Murat River (discussed and demonstrated above, within 20 miles of the Durupinar Site), and the Karasu River (draining the Erzurum Province, labeled as Euphrates on his map, within 100 miles of the Durupinar Site); this is consistent with the Epic of Gilgamesh. Ptolemy’s map also incorrectly lists the headwaters of the Tigris being Lake Van, about 40 miles from the Durupinar Site; nevertheless, obviously believed at that time and historically, and thus again consistent. The Tigris actually rises from Lake Hazar, much further to the west; Ptolemy’s confusion likely resulted from a tributary of the Tigris on an important caravan route through the Taurus Mountains, the Bitlis

¹¹⁵ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, August 21). Mount Judi. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 02:03, December 7, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Judi&oldid=1039932164

¹¹⁶ Ter-Ghevondyan A. (2003). *The Arabic Conversation on Mount Masis: Collection of Articles*. pp. 226, 229. Yerevan

¹¹⁷ Isaak, Mark (2 Sep, 2002). *Flood Stories from Around the World*. <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/flood-myths.html>

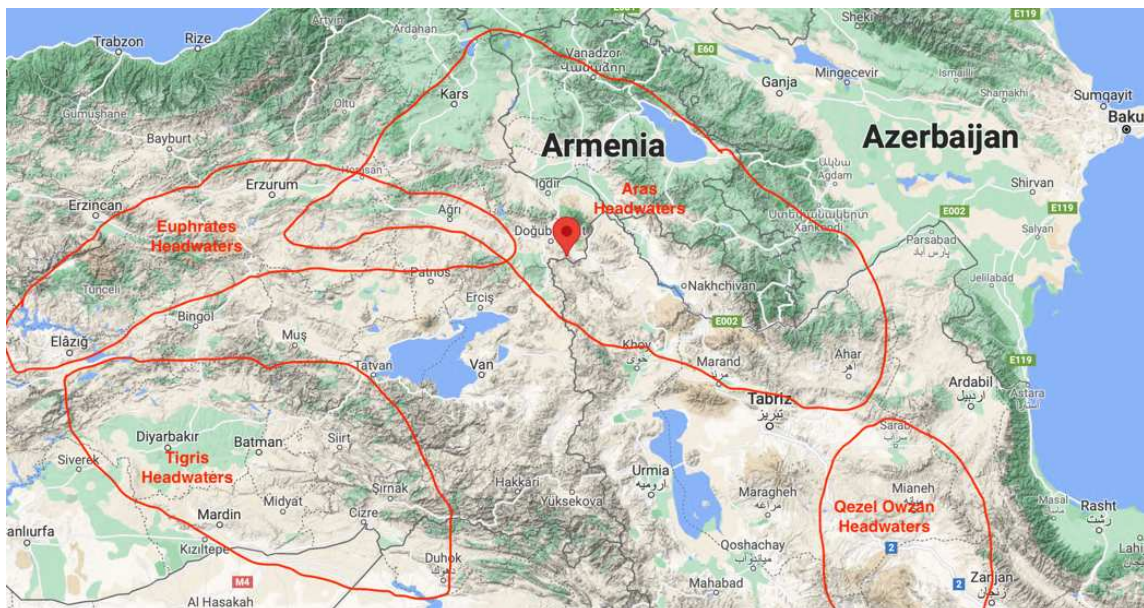
¹¹⁸ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, November 1). Epic of Gilgamesh. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 01:43, November 5, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Epic_of_Gilgamesh&oldid=1053026991

Stream & River, that originates within 3 miles of Lake Van (again, one of the few lakes in the world without an outlet).

Knowing the proposed Durupinar Site's proximity to the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates, I'm led to at least inquire about the purpose of landing at this location, realizing the answer may be unattainable. Nevertheless, looking at a map with the surrounding headwaters of the Euphrates, Tigris, Aras, and Qezel Owzan Rivers... the centrality of the Durupinar Site to these 4 headwaters is obvious.

Impressively, the Aras River (aka Araz, Arax, Araks, Araxes), was also known as the Gaihun-Aras. "Easton says 'it is probable that the Gihon is the ancient Araxes, which, under the modern name of the Arax, discharges itself into the Caspian Sea.' And from the Keil & Delitzsch Commentary 'The Gihon ... is the Araxes, which rises in the neighborhood of the Euphrates, flows from west to east, joins the Cyrus, and falls with it into the Caspian Sea. The name corresponds to the Arabic Jaihun, ...' Even as late as the last century, Victorian atlases and encyclopedias were still naming the river as the Gaihun-Aras."¹¹⁹

"Pison has been identified with a certain river Phasis known to the ancient Greeks, which rose in the Caucasus and flowed into the Black Sea. The name however being a Hebrew (West Semitic) name derived from the old Iranian Uizhun, where the Iranian vowel 'U' had been converted into the Semitic labial consonant 'P'. Thus, we have Uizhun to Pizhun to Pishon. The river Uizhun (the modern Qizil Uzun; Persian Qezel Owzan) is thus identified as the Biblical Pishon which flows down from the mountains of Kurdistan and empties into the southern basin of the Caspian Sea."¹¹⁹



If this is the proposed Ark landing site, the centrality in relation to the headwaters of the Euphrates, Tigris, Pison, and Gihon queries the possibility of a post-diluvial beginning in a similar location as the original ante-diluvial Eden; frankly, I would expect nothing less from a sovereign God.

Longitude/Latitude

As discussed earlier, there is irrefutable evidence of advanced astronomy, trigonometry, and mathematics in the ancient Armenian Highlands, and in fact, the oldest known; predating the Babylonians. They knew the

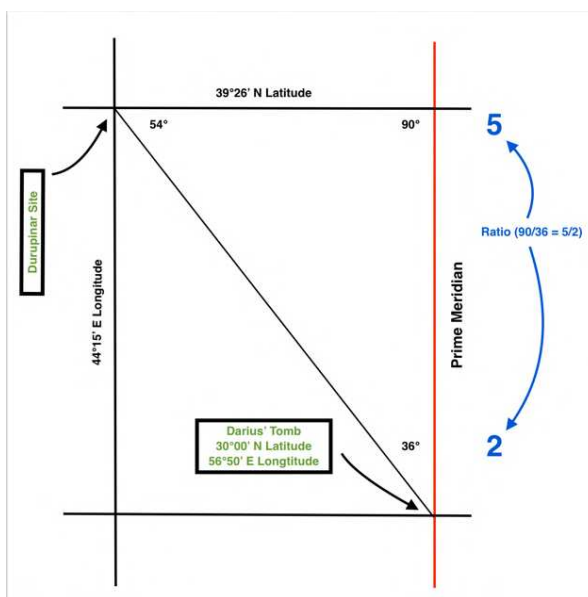
¹¹⁹ Ararat, the Cradle of Civilization? <http://www.accuracyingenesis.com/ararat.html>

curvature of the earth and the celestial sphere. Collaterally, we know that Arphaxad (son of Shem), born 2 years after the deluge, was the progenitor of the Chaldeans (according to Josephus), a subgroup from the Armenians who spoke an Armenian dialect and who were a subset of Babylonia¹²⁰ (where Berossus is known to have lived and wrote). Knowing this, we can infer that the Babylonians obtained this knowledge from the Armenians.

A clay tablet found in the 1930's (right¹²¹) demonstrates that the Babylonians used "base 60" trigonometry; 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 360 degrees in a circle, etc.¹²¹. Likewise, 1 degree of longitude/latitude = 60 minutes; 1 minute of longitude/latitude = 60 seconds. The prime meridian is longitude that is assigned "0" (varied in ancient times depending on the ruling nation; currently it runs through Greenwich, England), then it's labeled East/West relative to that point; the equator is the latitude assigned "0", then labeled North/South relative to that point. The celestial sphere uses a similar system to identify the position of celestial bodies; degrees, arcminutes, and arcseconds, using the vernal equinox as the origin (the relative reference point).



Berosus wrote that the ark was 5 stades (laths) in length and 2 stades (laths) in breadth (Syncellus, *Chronological Excerpts*, 54), much too large for a ship. Fasold⁶⁴ determined that this may instead be a reference to degrees, potentially even giving the location of the ark. In Berosus's day, in the Chaldean context, the prime meridian ran through Darius' tomb in Persia. The tomb had a latitude 30 degrees, 00 minutes N (same as the Cheops pyramid in Egypt), with a longitude of 52 degrees, 50 minutes E. A right-angle triangle with one of the angles 36 degrees (as used for ancient surveying) gives a ratio of 5 to 2. Putting the 36-degree point of this right-angle on Darius' tomb, and subtracting the arks known length converted to degrees (300 cubits = 515 feet; 515/60 = 8.58333 = 8 degrees, 35 minutes) gives us the proposed longitude of the ark, 44 degrees, 15 minutes E¹²². With this longitude, and the knowledge of the ark being in the Corduene Mountains (see prior discussion), a person could find their way. In reality, the pilgrims that were actually courageous enough to make the journey and couldn't

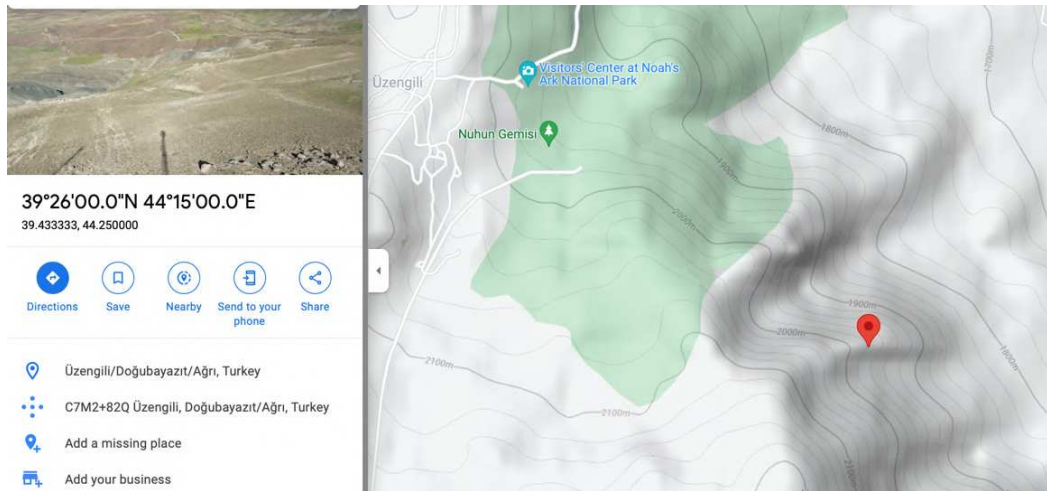


navigate by the stars, could have likewise been given simple instructions to follow the Corduene Mountains, past Minna then into Urartu, and when you come to the end of the Corduene Mountains, with the lofty Agri Dagh right in front of you, you're there. Interestingly, by deduction, it was also found that the latitude could be determined using the known combined length and height of the ark (300 + 30 cubits = 330 cubits = 566 feet) converted to degrees (566/60 = 9 degrees, 26 minutes), and adding that to the latitude of Darius' tomb, already mentioned, giving 39 degrees, 26 minutes N¹²². (Above right, triangulation of longitude/latitude)

Having said all this, we only have fragments of Berosus' translations, and it's really only conjecture to suggest they needed or used longitude and latitude to mark or navigate to/from the ark. Frankly, it goes without

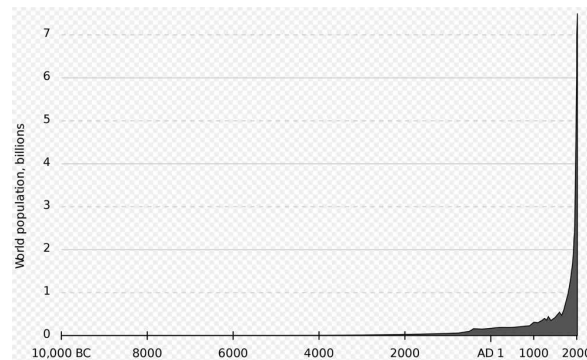
¹²⁰ Heater, Homer (10 Oct, 2014). *The Rise Of The Neo-Babylonian (Chaldean) Empire*. <https://bible.org/seriespage/19-rise-neo-babylonian-chaldean-empire>
¹²¹ (2021). *Babylonian and Greek Trigonometry: The Land that Impacts Mathematics*. <https://primalderma.com/babylonian-and-greek-trigonometry-the-land-that-impacts-mathematics/>
¹²² Gray, Jonathan (2003). *The Ark Conspiracy*. <https://www.archaeologyanswers.com>

saying, that those who traveled FROM the ark, knew where it was already. Certainly, Aphraxad, would have known and conveyed this. Nevertheless, for interest's sake, what does the map look like when plugging in the above coordinates? (Below) Grippingly, the pin is approximately 3000 feet from the Durupinar Site (aka Nuhan Gemisi on the map) at the end of the proposed Corduene Mountains.



Population growth

Population growth directly relates to the timing of this structure. If this is the proposed Noah's ark, and thus the origin of postdiluvial mankind, then in theory, from the current and historical population estimates, with standard expected growth rates, and with absolute historical chronology, we should be able to deductively hone in on a time period for the deluge, and with it the initial landing of the ark and beginning of postdiluvial mankind. Estimates for world population vary depending on the author and period of time. Nonetheless, as a whole, the graphs and estimates are similar and logarithmic, like the one below from Wikipedia¹²³.



What strikes us immediately is the recent exponential growth. Notwithstanding, focus on the 4th millennium BCE (4000 BCE to 3000 BCE). What population do you see? Essentially minimal... still a straight line. Using a “reasonable person” standard, as used in law, one should question suggestion of earlier existence of humankind prior to the 4th millennium BCE, because that should simply shift the exponential curve to the left (which evidently didn't happen). Such debates would admittedly be an exercise in futility for many reasons, the main one being that we don't have ancient worldwide data, rather only the estimates of such which are based on speculation and conjecture.

¹²³ Wikipedia contributors. (2021, October 11). Estimates of historical world population. In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 23:55, October 28, 2021, from https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Estimates_of_historical_world_population&oldid=1049318101

What I would like to explore is the plausibility of the late 4th millennium BCE being the postdiluvial origin of mankind. Gérard Gertoux¹²⁴ gives great insight and has done extensive work on this, as well as absolute historical chronology. He points out, too, that this time period “corresponds to the appearance of writing which is the best evidence of human existence.”

Gertoux states that although we can't ignore an infant mortality rate or the effects of famine & epidemics, etc., none of these nor the two world wars, have substantially altered the world's growth rate (the change in population over a unit time period). That is true, yet there has been minor variation, from about 0.4% throughout ancient history to 1700, a spike that peaked at 2.1% in 1968, and then now being about 1.08%¹²⁵. Exponential growth occurs at a constant rate, and we know that the world population has grown at an exponential rate throughout history; knowing this, we can use the “rule of 70” to approximate the doubling time of the world population¹²⁶. Doubling time = 70/growth rate. If we use a historical rate of 0.4%, that gives a doubling time of 175 years. Thus, the question is, does a 0.4% population growth rate, with a doubling time of 175 years, result in a world population of at least 600 million in 1700¹²⁵ (every well-known statistician or statistical entity estimates at least 600 million in 1700)? Yes, it does (see next chart).

Date	World Population
3170 BCE	8
2995	16
2820	32
2645	64
2470	128
2295	256
2120	512
1945	1024
1770	2048
1595	4096
1420	8192
1245	16384
1070	32768
895	65536
720	131072
545	262144
370	524288
195	1048576
20	2 million
156 CE	4.2 million
331	8.4 million
506	16.8 million
681	33.6 million
856	67.1 million
1031	134.2 million
1206	268.4 million
1381	536.8 million
1556	1.1 billion
1731	2.2 billion

Finally, looking at absolute historical chronology with astronomical and historical anchors lends significant credibility to the late 4th millennial BCE origin. Again, Gertoux deserves significant credit for this from multiple papers, much of which is outlined graphically at <https://time.graphics/editor/478378>, or by searching “AJ Koehler” on the public timelines at <https://time.graphics>. Gertoux specifies that “according to the royal lists the Deluge took place around -3000 +/- 200 (depending on variants and corrections) and according to the biblical text it took place c. -3170 (Septuagint).”

"One of the reasons that the earth cannot be billions of years old is because, to put it plainly, there aren't enough people here."¹²⁷

¹²⁴ Gertoux, Gérard (2015). Noah and the Deluge Chronological, Historical and Archaeological Evidence

¹²⁵ Roser, Max (Nov 2019). *Future Population Growth*. <https://ourworldindata.org/future-population-growth>

¹²⁶ Elbel, Fred (1995). *Exponential growth, doubling time, and the Rule of 70*. <http://www.cairo.org/reference/exponential-growth-doubling-time-rule-70>

¹²⁷ <http://ancientnostalgia.weebly.com/flood.html>

Conclusion

Systematically, to be Noah's Ark, the Durupinar Site formation should be biblically correct in location and dimensions and shape, and it is. Historical origins of domesticated animals, common plants, language, astronomy, metallurgy, etc., should be from that region, or close to it, and they are. Armenians should historically and genetically originate from Armenia, and it appears they did. References by historians throughout history to the location and findings at the Ark should be compatible, and they are. If the Ark was constructed of wood, analysis should demonstrate a difference in carbon between the formation and the immediate adjacent area, and it does; and it incidentally showed an iron differentiation. Knowing now the iron differentiation, if it is relevant, a pattern could be demonstrated, and it is; in addition, an overall iron seepage pattern should be consistent with gravity, and it is. Because an iron pattern is determined, then if it's man-made, it should be regular and reproducible, and it is; reproduced by metal detection by different investigators at different times, radar, resistivity, seismic testing, and radar again; and it incidentally shows other metals that don't occur naturally and a structural pattern. Knowing now that other unnatural metals are present, if these metals are a result of metallurgy, then the appropriate refining ingredients for formation, and by-products from alloy formation, should be present, and they are; further, knowing unnatural metals are present, there may be evidence of their use a structure, and there is; further, if evidence of metal and wood are confirmed, some specimens containing both may be found and confirmed, and they are. Knowing that a structural pattern is present, it could be visualized superficially, and it is; it could be demonstrated internally to depth, and it is. Because it's demonstrated at depth and superficially, it should be reproducible, and it is; reproduced by metal detection, mini-excavation, visual and photographic external structural patterns, radar, seismic testing, resistivity testing, and radar again; and it incidentally demonstrates a tar-like substance. If the tar-like substance is pitch, then its analysis should be consistent with asphalt/bitumen, and it is. If this structure is the Ark, known to be designed by God, it should evidence signs of intelligence, and it does. If this is the Ark, there could be evidence of habitation adjacent or close, and there is. Knowing there was habitation, the local names and etymology should be consistent, and they are. If this structure is a ship, there could be evidence of anchors in the immediate and surrounding area, and there is. Knowing there are anchors, they should be distributed in a pattern consistent with the expected flow of the earth, and they are; further, the holes should mathematically be consistent with the caliber of rope required for the weight, and they are. Knowing it was a ship, it should have landed in a location that is consistent with fluid mechanics, and it did.

If that doesn't give you pause...

Summary of major points.

- Biblically, the resting place of Noah's Ark was in the mountains of Urartu, aka Armenia, aka Ararat
- Historical Origins
 - The origin of domesticated animals is the Armenian Highlands, condensing in Urartu
 - 500 of the 640 important cultivated plants originate from Armenia
 - Language originated via the proto-Indo-European base from the Armenian Highlands
 - Astronomy originated from Armenia
 - Viticulture originated from the Armenian Highlands
 - The earliest textile was discovered near the Tigris headwaters and earliest shoe in Armenia
 - The origin of metallurgy was from the Armenian Highlands
 - Some of the earliest folk medicine was seen in Armenia
 - Armenians originated from Armenia!
- Migration from the Ark landing was to the East for some, which is consistent with historical origins above.
- Corduene Mountains
 - The arm or "root" mountain ridge from the confluence of the Taurus and Zagros Mountains has been labeled the Corduene Mountains

- The etymology for Corduene is extensive, leading to confusion
- Historical maps are inconsistent, yet some are consistent and most are partially consistent with my proposed location
- Berossus states the Ark was in Corduene (or Korduk) Mountains; the Durupinar Site is at the end of the Corduene Mountain ridge
- Sextus Julius Africanus states the Ark was in Parthia; the Durupinar Site was within the Parthian Empire
- Nicolaus of Damascus states the Ark was above Minias; the Durupinar Site is above the historic Country of Minias
- Hippolytus states the Ark was in the direction of Adiabene; from Babylon, the Durupinar Site is directly North, through Adiabene
- Josephus states in one passage that the Ark was in the Armenian Mountains in a place called The Place of Descent, in another in the heights of Armenia, and elsewhere in a district called Carron. Montgomery adds that Carron is consistent with Gordyene [Corduene]; Macquart with Kardou. Josephus thus equates the Armenian Highlands with Corduene; the Durupinar Site is at the end of the Corduene Mountain ridge
- The Jewish Aggadah states the Ark landed in Corduene in Armenia; the Durupinar Site is at the end of the Corduene Mountain ridge
- Faustus associates Mt. Ararat (Mt. Masis) and Armenia with Corduene via the canton of Gortouk. Montgomery suggests that Gortouk corresponds to Ptolemy's Cortea. The Durupinar Site is at the end of the Corduene Mountain ridge
- Jerome states the Ark was not on Ararat, but on the elevated heights of the roots of Mount Taurus overlooking the Ararat Plains; the Durupinar Site is at the end of the Corduene Mountain ridge, a "root" of the Taurus Mountains, overlooking the Ararat Plains
- Chamchyants associates Ararat, Armenia, and Korduk [Corduene]; The Durupinar Site is at the end of the Corduene Mountain ridge
- Other than Mt. Nisir (Epic of Gilgamesh), Corduene is the earliest historical reference to Ark location
- The Durupinar Site was revealed in May, 1948, publicized in November, 1948, seen aurally by Durupinar September, 1959, and in Life Magazine in 1960.
- The Dimensions have consistently measured nigh 515 feet length, nigh 86 feet average width (volumetric index), and nigh 51.5 depth; consistent with Biblical 300 x 50 x 30 cubits using an Egyptian cubit
- The Durupinar formation is tapered, consistent with Biblical instruction
- August, 1979, laboratory analysis of the Durupinar formation differentiated inside (4.95% carbon and 11.55% ferric oxide) with outside (1.88% carbon and 0.77% ferric oxide) by Wyatt
- Metal Detection
 - August, 1984, ferromagnetic metal detection noted regular periodic readings forming longitudinal line patterns inside, and about every 9 feet on the outer wall of the formation by Wyatt with Colonel Jim Irwin
 - October, 1984, confirmed the metal detection findings with the ferromagnetic detector by Turkish officials
 - March, 1985, metal detection longitudinal line patterns confirmed, and transverse lines (proposed bulkheads) identified with pulse induction & molecular frequency metal detection by Fasold. 9 bulkheads are consistent with the Epic of Gilgamesh
 - June, 1985, metal detection longitudinal line, transverse line, and outer wall foci confirmed by Baumgardner with Fasold and Wyatt
 - August, 1985, metal detection longitudinal line, transverse line, and outer wall foci confirmed again by Wyatt
- 1984, 120 x 40 feet proposed first landing identified above the Durupinar formation showing proposed petrified wood in base. Samples analyzed showed organic carbon, aluminum, titanium and manganese
- 1984, Colonel Jim Irwin analyzed a specimen from the proposed initial landing site showing showing 31.44% manganese, 41.95% titanium, no iron, 11.33% silicon, and 7.19% aluminum. This was labeled "tailings" by Baumgardner
- October, 1984, in situ proposed rivets were identified and analyzed, showing high levels of aluminum (doesn't occur naturally) and iron
- March, 1985, Fasold identified Amomum, consistent with writings by Josephus
- May, 1985, proposed angle bracket identified by Baumgardner analyzed showing 91.84% iron
- June, 1986 to November, 1987, radar scanning confirmed proposed bulkheads
- 1987, Magnetometry showed the absence of magnetism in the limestone projection, a build-up of magnetism around the limestone, and graduated magnetism from uphill to downhill
- 1987, Seismic testing showed two straight lines down the middle of the formation, both 2400-3300 m/s
- 2014 Resistivity Testing by Larson
 - Confirmed metal detection and radar proposed bulkheads
 - Curved contours were confirmed in 2D and 3D
 - 3 levels are visualized with 3 vertical walls, biblically consistent
 - A proposed door is identified, biblically consistent

- A large central cavity is identified
- Proposed rooms/compartments are identified, biblically consistent
- Proposed structural hull ribs are visualized
- Proposed deck support beams and vertical support beams are identified
- The limestone projection is found to protrude into the formation less than it appears visually
- Proposed deck support beams and vertical support beams are identified superficially, confirming the resistivity tests
- June, 1987, proposed laminated fossilized wood excavated with radar assistance by Turkish officials & Wyatt, and analysis shows 0.7019% organic carbon (prior living carbon) with 0.0081% inorganic carbon
- 1990, tarry substance from Eastern wall of formation identified by Bouma, and spectranalysis identical to asphalt/bitumen. This substance was confirmed at another time by Nissen. This is also consistent with the Epic of Gilgamesh
- October, 1990, superficial excavation performed demonstrating proposed hull ribs, confirming resistivity tests. Prior and current photographic evidence of proposed rib portions in situ, and periodic proposed hull distortions from deteriorated proposed ribs is consistent
- June, 1991, proposed rivet identified by Wyatt, and analysis showed high levels of aluminum (doesn't occur naturally), titanium (doesn't occur naturally), iron and several other minerals involved in metallurgy. This was further analyzed by Rives, showing 1.88% and 1.97% carbon in the proposed petrified wood section, while only 0.14% and 0.13% carbon in the proposed rivet section. This is consistent with prior in situ analysis.
- 1998, Deal identified evidence of ancient habitation, such as rock foundations & hearths, adjacent to the proposed initial landing site, a chute that would coincide with the proposed door, and a potential cultivated plot
- February & June, 2001, other proposed in situ rivets were excavated and analyzed by Fisher, confirming high levels of aluminum, titanium, and iron. He also identified proposed fossilized nails containing aluminum
- Many drogue or anchor stones are found around the proposed initial landing site, the Durupinar formation, Kazan, and even Ankara, in line with West to East current. The holes within them are large enough to contain the caliber of rope to support the weight. This is consistent with ancient ships.
- 2019, radar was performed by Topa 3D, showing straight lines, right angles, rectangular spaces, and proposed bulkheads, confirming at least proposed bulkhead #8 and #9, and the proposed central cavity, all to depth
- A stele identified at the top of ridge above the formation demonstrates a missing mountain which must have been the source of the self-evident flow that relocated the formation. This is consistent with flow mechanics and the shape of the bowl above and surrounding the formation.
- Fluid mechanics, the Coriolis effect, and the double bowl shape of the surround area are consistent with necessities for landing the Ark.
- Evidence of Intelligence in Design
 - The dimensions are equivalent to normal modern construction practice and would meet the European Union stability standards for animal transport. The roof ridge being raised 1/50th of the width (1 cubit), is the same standard used today by the United Nations Maritime Organization and internationally for ship building
 - The proposed hull is a displacement type, with significant advantages, and essentially no contextual disadvantages for the Ark
 - Anti-leak provisions of pitch, proposed bulkheads, and proposed compartments are present
 - The proposed moon pool would allow for ventilation, softening of buoyancy, handling of anchor stones, etc., and is placed perfectly, bisected exactly at maximum beam
 - Modern design method results by Windsor is almost identical to the Durupinar formation shape & area. The area of 6,350,400 sq inches is exactly the same as the Epic of Gilgamesh
 - Phi is seen in the total length, the center of the proposed moon pool (identical the maximum beam), multiple proportions of length & maximum beam, the area of the surrounding rectangle to the proposed deck area, the maximum formation width to the average width, the ratio of total length to proposed moon pool length, the width of proposed moon pool to distance between proposed bulkhead #8 & #9, the curve on the North end of the formation, 30 cubits in inches
 - Compartments would fit all land animal kinds with half or more space remaining for resources like food, water, etc.
- Until 1948, the city adjacent to the Durupinar formation was called Nasar, equivalent to Nisir in the Epic of Gilgamesh. Moses Chorenensis equates Nasar to Seron, in addition to associating Naxuan to the community adjacent to the proposed initial landing site. Even today, the proposed Mt. Mashu is known as Mt. Meshur and Mashur, as well as Cudi Dagi.
- Most cultures have a deluge story, the earliest was the Epic of Gilgamesh. It parallels in many ways; the number of 9 bulkheads, the identical amount of usable deck area, landing on the twin-peaked mountain crossed by Gilgamesh called Mt. Mashu, Mt. Mashu being near the headwaters of the two rivers (Tigris & Euphrates) as in the Epic but actually central to 4 headwaters, the "wall of heaven" between the twin peaks that guards to rising and setting sun, the use of pitch/asphalt on the ark, the mountain of Nisir, etc.
- Assigning values from the Durupinar formation to one of Berossus's comments in longitude and latitude, pins within 3000 feet

- Population growth is consistent with postdiluvial origin in the 4th millennium BCE
- 2021, resistivity testing and ground penetrating radar have again been performed by Turkish officials, results pending

Appendix Editorial Discourse

Whether you believe in God, or not, my opinion is that the Durupinar Site really doesn't matter... Or at least it shouldn't.

First, if this is the Ark, is it meant as a sign or a miracle? Daniel Sulmasy¹²⁸ thoroughly defines a miracle; “Based on arguments from theology and the philosophy of science, a miracle may be defined as: (1) a real, individual event, the occurrence of which must be (or must have been), at least in principle, susceptible to empirical verification; (2) an event which must be extremely unusual or historically unprecedented from the perspective of empirical scientific knowledge; (3) must evoke widespread wonder; (4) must be something freely given by God and not conjured; (5) must be understood as a special sign from God that transcends the bare facts of the case and communicates a spiritual message; and (6) must have been affirmed as a miracle by the community of believers to whom the message of the miracle must be addressed, at least indirectly.”

Using Sulmasy's definition, let's evaluate in context of the Durupinar Site.

- (1) See Scientific Conclusion above.
- (2) The flood was unprecedented, a “one and done” event; likewise, the ark and the purpose of such was one-of-a-kind, thus inherently extraordinarily unusual.
- (3) Most cultures acknowledge the wonder of the flood and the ark.
- (4) The ark was designed by God, and the flood was a result of God's word.
- (5) The spiritual message is God's avenue to salvation from coming judgement.
- (6) Here's the crux of it all. It all comes down to belief, or faith.

Faith! “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”, Hebrews 11:1. Faith is complete trust or confidence in God, WITHOUT seeing anything. And faith comes from God. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...”, Ephesians 2:8.

From conception, man is inherently opposed to God, whether they realize it or not. Human nature from Adam is persistent and consistent throughout history to today. “...the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so...”, Romans 8:7. Those who don't believe do so because they inherently don't want to. And if you don't believe in God, then Romans 8:7, and probably anything quoted from the Bible for that matter, is admittedly irrelevant. In fact, if that is the case with you, I would expect that you would ask for more evidence... perhaps another sign, which would likely still not be enough. “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead [a miracle],” Luke 16:31. Armstrong¹²⁹ addresses this; the typical response of someone opposed to God is to ask for a sign and question; they “demand that God prove himself to their satisfaction... demand that the Bible is accurate before they will believe the gospel... [essentially] demanding that God remove the need for faith, until a person is given eyes to see by the Holy Spirit”, a gift from God as already stated. Armstrong continues, “Jesus knew that faith was not the product of persuasion or analysis or reasoning... saving faith is a supernatural change in the heart done by God alone.” Until then, there is no amount of convincing, or miracles/signs that will work. “...no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit”, 1Cor 12:3. Thus, the crucial ingredient to believing (i.e., faith) HAS to be the **Holy Spirit**.... what else?

¹²⁸ Sulmasy DP. *What is a miracle?* South Med J. 2007 Dec;100(12):1223-8. doi: 10.1097/SMJ.0b013e31815a9784. PMID: 18090967.

¹²⁹ Armstrong, Stephen (2014). https://media.versebyverseministry.org/images/uploads/john_2.pdf

Here's the rest of the recipe. "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ", Romans 10:17. Somewhere, somehow, sometime from someone or something, to obtain faith, a person has to hear the message; and this implies more than simply hearing auditory sound, rather it's **acceptance of the heart**. That's the second ingredient. Finally, the message potentially accepted must be the word of Christ. "For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God", 1Cor. 1:18. Either you accept it, or you don't. Finally, what is the word? The word IS Christ; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God", John 1:1, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...", John 1:14, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one", 1 John 5:7, "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God." That's the third ingredient... Christ... the gospel. If you make a cake and forget an ingredient, it may look delicious, yet it's spewed out when tasted. Likewise, you may hear or read the message, but without the Holy Spirit, it's meaningless and even sounds ridiculous. "The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand", John 10:25-28. No doubt, this puts those who don't believe in God in a tough spot... and thus, in that regard, to those who don't believe, the Durupinar Site certainly doesn't matter at all.

On the other hand, if you believe in God, Armstrong expounds, "A sign can be used by God to connect those dots in a believing mind and thereby strengthen faith and bring encouragement...", however, "...no sign can substitute for faith in the word of God."¹²⁹ Jesus said to him, "have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed", John 20:29. "...for we walk by faith, not by sight", 2 Corinthians 5:7. Here again, if the Durupinar Site is a sign or miracle, and you have faith in God, in my opinion, it isn't necessary and thus shouldn't matter.

Ultimately, perhaps the Durupinar Site is an awesome gift, a modern-day miracle to solidify your faith if you believe in God. Perhaps it's a spark to open the door of your heart, if you don't believe in God. Perhaps there is significance to the timing of this formation. Perhaps God is saying, "I was here from the beginning... and look, here's the proof." Perhaps God... my God, and your God (whether you admit it or not) ... in His unquestionable sovereignty is figuratively shaking us by our shoulders, saying "**Wake up...**, this is the END of the Age of the Gentiles... this apostate Laodicean church age is the LAST... come to me". I believe He is.

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