

**Essay from the bald pastor
#138 - Noah –**

Many parents in the US name their kid Noah whether it's a boy or a girl. Regardless to say, the reason for its popularity is that Noah was a pioneer. He accomplished an extraordinary assignment on his own without buckling under authorities and paved the way to the "New World" to become the foundation for new humans. Like Steve Jobs and Iron Man, people see him as a typical loner American hero. Although it's biblically quite irrelevant, the recent *Noah* the movie faithfully reflects the absurdity of the story and the strong personality of each character. And the result is very Hollywood. However, the actual story of Noah is not as simple as it's depicted in the film.

In fact, people have claimed since more than a century ago that the remains of Noah's ark had been found near Mt. Ararat in Turkey just as described in the Bible, and there are even reports that such claims have been verified by satellites. Yet, they lack credibility. Rather, the existence of the remains replaced the significance of the ark with tasteless curiosities similar to "Who saw a ghost?" Looking at a series of events from Genesis Chapter 1 to Chapter 6, in which Noah appears, however, there are structural facts that modern science has ignored. They include geology, earth environment, aerology, etc. Among them, I think the most notable one is iron. Therefore, I praise the movie for acknowledging the subject.

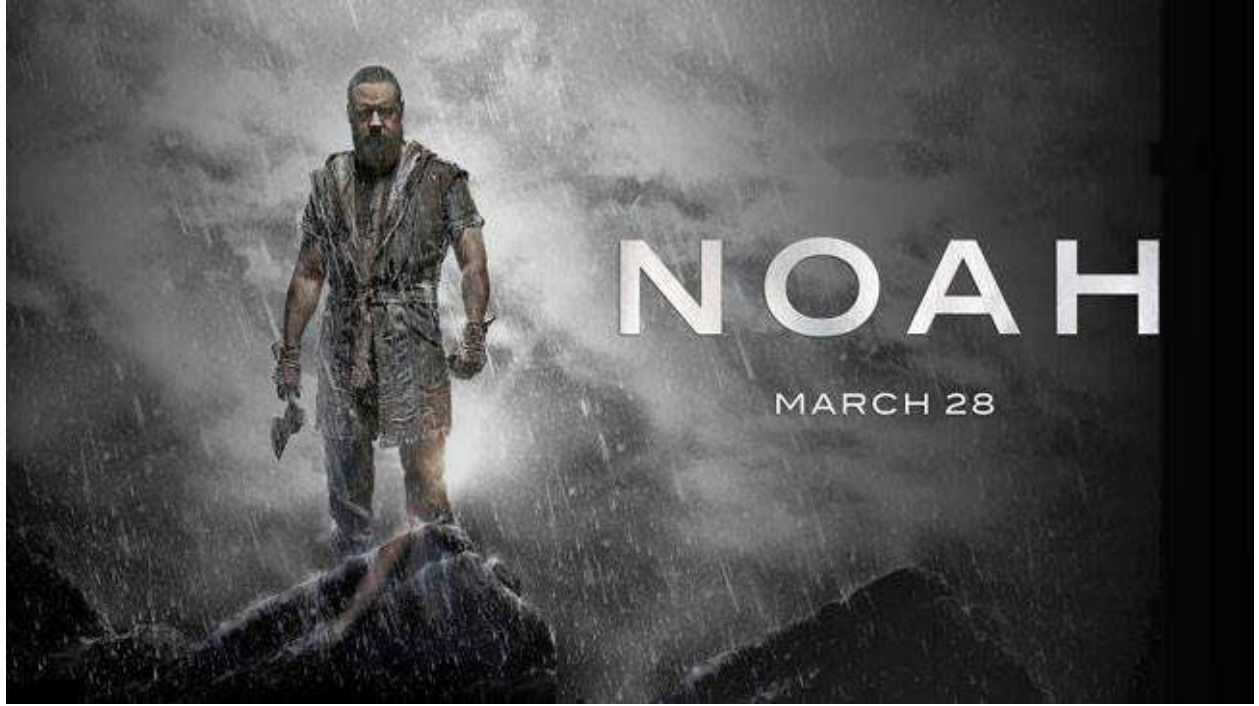
As it is widely known, iron is said to have been invented around 1500 BC, and a Hittite who is believed to be the inventor even became a relative of Prophet Moses. However, the inventor of iron, Tubal-cain, whom you see in the film, lived way before that. The 10th generation from Noah to Abraham goes back 4,400 years, and Tubal-cain who lived three generations before Noah goes back 5,000 years (calculated based on the Bible). Pyramids, the ark, and the Tower of Babel wouldn't have been possible without iron. In Japan, with the wide spread of iron around the 10th century came samurais. Iron made big constructions possible and resulted in the transition from castles on the plains to early-modern castles with a tower. Furthermore, the improvement of tools led to the increased food production and promoted agriculture. There would've been no civilization without iron. And thus, the Bible makes sense scientifically.

Meanwhile, as the film portrays, people repeatedly turned their back on God, got self-absorbed in their technologies and intelligence, and took the road to destruction. The same is happening today.

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:7

Faith is to trust God on "things not yet seen." Noah is depicted relatively as a commoner both in the Bible and the film. The reason why such regular guy could inherit justice is not because he was smart or successful but because he believed in God. The truth not depicted in the film is that anyone could get on the ark for free. That means people ignored the warning and decided not to get on it. They did so because they didn't believe it. The same can be said today. If you believe in Jesus Christ, you'll be saved and an eternal life will be guaranteed with no cost. Yet, only few believe it. The ark symbolizes the salvation by Jesus Christ and a warning for the final judgement to come in the future. 5-29-2014



NOAH

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