

Mount Cudi — True Mountain of Noah's Ark

Bill Crouse and Gordon Franz

(A defense of the Cudi Dag site has been published previously by Bill Crouse in *Archaeology and Biblical Research* vol. 5, #3, Summer 1992; *TJ* vol. 15(3); and in *The Explorers of Ararat*, edited by B.J. Corbin, chapter 7.)

For its historical claims the first eleven chapters of Genesis are possibly the most attacked section of the entire Bible, and the story deemed most implausible, without a doubt, is the story of Noah's Ark. That there could be such a great flood, a ship of 450–500 feet in length containing pairs of every air-breathing animal in the land, and only eight survivors, is usually treated by most critics as the equivalent of a nursery tale for children. Hence, it's no secret that theological liberals view the Biblical story of Noah's Ark as "the impossible voyage,"¹ and we suspect, for many evangelicals, the search for Noah's Ark constitutes "the impossible quest."² Though evangelicals fully believe that the Flood was a historical event, the attempt to discover the Ark's remains stretches credulity. The whole issue of the search for Noah's Ark is not helped by the fact that its "discovery" is frequently announced by a press that is not only gullible, but also enables the spread of sensational stories by indulging those looking for a moment of publicity.

All would agree that the discovery of the Ark's remains would be a find unprecedented in the history of archaeology. Finding an artifact from antediluvian times would be second to none, with the potential to alter the currents of thinking in several disciplines. Nevertheless we do make such a claim, as we believe the German geologist, Dr. Friedrich Bender, discovered remains of Noah's Ark of the Biblical Flood story in 1953. His scientific test results, coupled with other historical studies presented here, give credence to the idea that the final berth of Noah's ship has, in fact, been located. (See the Bender article later in this issue.)

The modern search for Noah's Ark began in 1948 when an alleged eyewitness claimed he stumbled onto the Ark high on the snowcap of Mt. Ararat (Smith 1950: 10). Since then others have made similar claims. Based on these alleged eyewitness accounts, many expeditions have been launched, innumerable hours have been spent in research, and large sums have been spent trying to verify what many critics said was a waste of time.³



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