

OUR ENGAGEMENT ANNIVERSARY AND NOAH'S FLOOD

I see that it is May 5. I love May 5—always have.

For one thing—it's just a few days before my birthday, a day I always looked forward to.

For another thing—it is Cinco de Mayo, a party day for tacos and margaritas.

For the most important thing—it is the anniversary of our engagement to be married!

We celebrated that diamond ring. I had to borrow money (from her) to buy it. We went on a picnic on a sunny afternoon at Lincoln Park in West Seattle. We were committing for the long haul. Who could have predicted that we would have 66 years (and counting) on this lifetime journey?

I was originally going to devote this page to Noah. He set an example few can duplicate. (I'm pretending the story is fact against overwhelming scholarship to the contrary). Genesis says he lived 600 years before the famed flood and 350 years after.*

I was going to talk about his building of that Ark. I loved that story and read a children's version to all of my kids. There are some people who still actually search for remnants of that big ship on Mount Ararat, Bible readers often have a hard time confusing biblical story and myth with fact and history.

If one were to politicize this story it is ripe for discussion with the questions of climate change and global warming and human involvement. Think of this old man (600 years old, you remember) out there in the desert building this enormous ship. You would assume deniers. You get it, deniers of global warming, melting ice caps, rising sea levels. Noah, moved by an inner science few trusted built anyway.

The story gets complicated because it tells us Noah is getting instructions from God. The Hebrew story teller tells of coming punishment by God. Not just high tides and rain. God's sorry for creating life and all humans. He's going to wipe the planet clean. A great flood. Not just climate change but climactic change.

God's name, according to Moses, is Yahweh. One meaning of that name is "*I who cause what happens to happen.*" No time to go there. That is faith, not provable fact. However, maybe old Noah was on to something. You know the story. Noah is right. The deniers are wrong.

I walked with science people the other day. 4,000 of us were marching, they reported. I think voting trumps marching. Not much use marching if you don't vote. I think we outnumber the deniers

I wanted to call your attention to this ancient Hebrew story. Of course climate changes over the ages. The only new thing in our age is the likely probability that humans now must share some of the blame with God, or nature. Again it's the Noah people opposed by deniers.

You probably already know that the first thing Noah did when he got off the ark was plant a vineyard. He became the first wine-maker. Then he got drunk and behaved shamefully. Genesis goes on and on to tell how much happened because of Noah. The story reports that "*from these the whole earth was populated.*" I mean, if you live 950 years you should be able to do something!

In conclusion, we're celebrating the 66th anniversary of our engagement. I count our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Fourteen special humans exist because of our decision that day.

We didn't let deniers stop us.

Art Morgan, May 5, 2017

*The Flood story appears in Genesis 6:15 – 9:17