

Seven Mountains to Aratta

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Follow-up book to *The Explorers of Ararat: And the Search for Noah's Ark* by B.J. Corbin and Rex Geissler available at www.noahsarksearch.com.



B.J. Corbin, Mt. Ararat, Turkey

Photo by Ross Mehan 1988

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Author's Preface

Having been involved in the search for the remains of Noah's Ark since 1986, and having participated in four expeditions to Mount Ararat in Turkey (1988, 1989, 1990, 1998) and thirty years of research, I have yet to see any claim of discovery proven beyond a reasonable doubt. The approach taken in this book was to discount all the sensational eye-witness claims of discovery and use only historical references like the Bible, extra-Biblical texts, ancient Sumerian literature and archaeological sites.

Seven Mountains to Aratta is the result of this process of starting over or doing a research reboot. This book will introduce, to some for the first time, ancient extra-Biblical sources like *The Book of Jubilees*, *The Book of Enoch*, *The Book of Jasher* and other materials. Though they are not Biblical canon, if used in the proper way, they can provide some useful background into pre-history.

If the reader has little or no knowledge regarding the search for Noah's Ark, it may be beneficial to spend some time on websites like www.noahsarksearch.com and /or read the book *The Explorers of Ararat*; both provide a good historical framework. There have been many, many expeditions to Mount Ararat in Turkey and many claims of the Ark's discovery. Other locations like Mount Cudi in southern Turkey and the Durupinar or Ron Wyatt site near Mount Ararat in Turkey have been the most prevalent alternative sites to Mt. Ararat. Mountain locations in Iran, proposed by Bob Cornuke, and the research in this book focusing on Alvand mountain continue to be in the minority.

I would especially like to thank M. Mahdi Ahadian in Iran for the many hours of traveling and photographing on and around Kuh-e Alvand in Iran... the mountain I think Noah's Ark landed and post-

Flood civilization began. I would also like to thank my wife Jennifer for her assistance in editing the book, along with some initial editing suggestions from Rex Geissler. Valuable feedback was provided by Norb Novocin from earlier book versions and is greatly appreciated.

The research for this new book started in 2010, and is the result of thirty years of research on the search for Noah's Ark. The hope is that the reader will come away with a new and fresh perspective regarding the search for Noah's Ark and appreciate all the efforts of past and present researchers and explorers.

Introduction



The Biblical mountains of Ararat and Sumerian Aratta are likely the same location, and where Noah's Ark landed. Alvand mountain in the Zagros mountains of Iran is the best modern candidate for these

legendary mountains, not traditional sites like Mount Ararat or Mount Cudi in Turkey.

Key points:

1. The Bible states that after the Flood men moved **from the east** into Shinar, which would be from the direction of the Zagros mountains of Iran. Traditional Mount Ararat in Turkey is over 600 miles north of Shinar (modern Iraq).
2. The *Book of Jubilees* 8:21 states that **Shem, Noah's son, was given the lands in the middle portion of the earth, which included Media and all the mountains of Ararat**. Traditional Mount Ararat

in Turkey and other lands to the north belonged to Japheth, another son of Noah.

3. One of Japheth's sons, Madai, declined his apportioned land to the north and requested to stay in the land of Shem. Madai is associated with the Medes who made ancient Ecbatana (modern Hamadan) their capital, which is located at the base of Kuh-e Alvand mountain. **Madai stayed behind near the mountain of Noah.**

4. The archaeological sites between Hamadan and Kermanshah, Iran are older than the Sumerian plain sites, suggesting a **migration pattern from the Zagros mountains**. These older mountain sites provide evidence for early goat domestication and wine.

5. Sumerian texts like *Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta* and the *Epic of Gilgamesh* share the story of a conflict between the leader of Uruk in Sumer and the old survivor of the Flood in the mountains of Aratta. Some accounts give specific details regarding the location of Aratta. One of the more important clues was that **the way to Aratta was seven mountains from Susa via a river**. This clue inspired the book title *Seven Mountains to Aratta*.

The following sections will provide more details and information that support Alvand / Ararat / Aratta mountain in Iran as the most likely location for where Noah's Ark landed after the Flood.



Credit: Google Maps for base map. Edited by B.J. Corbin 2015.

Kuh-e Alvand

Kuh-e Alvand is Persian for Mount Alvand. Located in the Zagros mountains near the city of Hamadan in northwestern Iran at map coordinates 34.664167, 48.486667. The elevation of Alvand is 3,580 meters or 11,750 feet, making it one of the tallest mountains in this ancient region.



Credit: Google Maps

The purpose of this book is to provide reasons why Alvand should be considered the modern name and location for ancient Ararat and Aratta... the probable landing site of Noah's Ark.

Early in the research process, "holy mountains" in Turkey and Iran were used to filter possible locations. The thinking here is that something as important and significant as where Noah's Ark landed and human civilization started (again) would permeate

throughout history. Almost every ancient culture maintains a flood legend. In Turkey, both Ararat and Cudi are considered holy mountains. Generally, Bible-believing Christians hold Mount Ararat in Turkey as the traditional landing site of Noah's Ark, while Muslims adhering to the Koran believe that Mount Cudi (pronounced Judi in Turkish) in southern Turkey is the location where Noah's Ark landed. In Iran, both Damavand and Alvand are considered holy mountains.



Credit: Google Maps for base map. Edited by B.J. Corbin 2015.

Comparing the geography of the 4 holy mountains, Alvand best fits the description in Genesis 11:2 of people moving *“from the east”* into Shinar and Sumerian literature describing the location of Aratta.