

CONTAINERS

There are containers and what those containers hold, but where one thing start and the other thing end? It may seem trivial when talking about baskets and food—or arks and animals—but not when talking about human beings nor when talking about cells. Each of us is a container (brought about by heredity); and it's what's inside that counts.

Once the relationship of heredity and physical characteristics were understood, it became obvious that our features were based on our inherited DNA. But isn't it interesting that who we are is also influenced by where we are? If we live in a particular part of the world, we pick up the local culture, language, mores, and ways of thinking.

For example, in western culture, we tend to think of the “future” as somewhere “in front of us” and the “past” as somewhere “behind us”; whereas in some mid-eastern cultures, they tend to think of the “future” as somewhere “behind” them and the “past” as somewhere “in front”.

As I understand it, the reasoning for the mid-eastern viewpoint goes like this: It is thought that you can see the past (therefore, it is associated with something in front of you), but you can't see the future (therefore, it is associated with something behind you). Extremely reasonable when looking at time in relationship to an individual.

The western culture, however, looks at time as being disconnected from an individual and is thought to be linear. Time is a social construct and has a

great deal to do with how we act within a particular society; and “how we act” is a part of who we are.

If we think of a body as a container, having an outer skin that holds various organs, bones, blood vessel, a brain, etc. we begin to realize that containers and what they hold are often connected and treated as a single entity. How we think is a part of who we are. How we behave is a part of who we are. In other words, what we hold “inside of us” is a part of who we are. And so it is with Noah’s ark. It is a container; and what it holds inside of it is a part of what it is.