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Discoveries: Rare Noah's Ark Mosaic Uncovered in Ancient Israeli Synagogue

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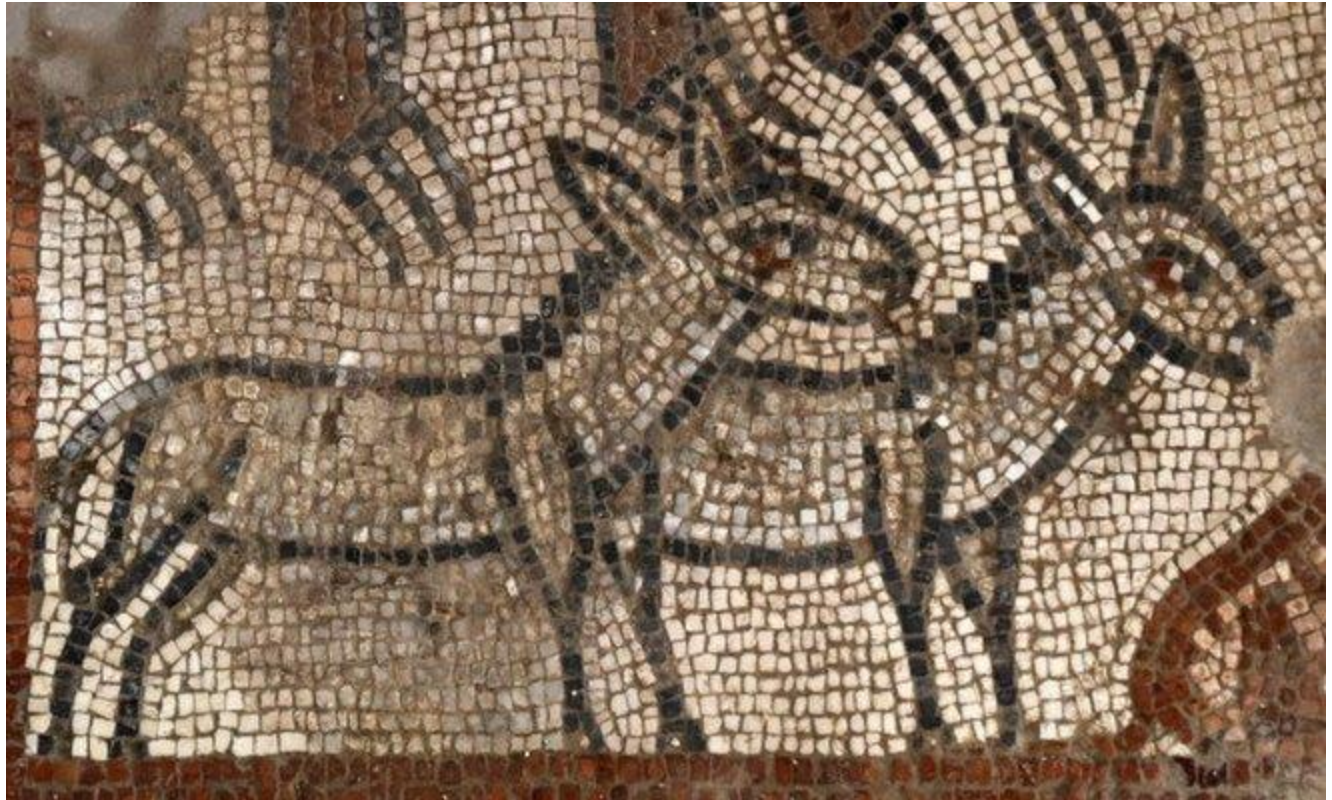
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Rare Noah's Ark Mosaic Uncovered in Ancient Synagogue in Israel



During recent excavations, archaeologists found two new panels of a mosaic floor in a late-Roman, 5th-century synagogue at Huqoq, an ancient Jewish village. One panel showed Noah's Ark with pairs of animals, such as lions, leopards and bears and the other depicted soldiers being swallowed by large fish, surrounded by overturned chariots in the parting of the Red Sea. Such images are rare for the time period, according to excavation director Jodi Magness, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, "I know of only two other scenes of the parting of the Red Sea in ancient synagogues. One is in the wall paintings at Dura Europos [in Syria], which is a complete scene but different from ours — no fish devouring the Egyptian soldiers. The other is at Wadi Hamam [in Israel], but that's very fragmentary and poorly preserved. This panel is exactly as it should be. It's facing north, so people could see it as they entered from the south," where the main door would have been located.

Re-written from [Live Science](#).