



# God's Grand Design

Exploring Origins in Science and Scripture

Part 5

# How old is the earth?

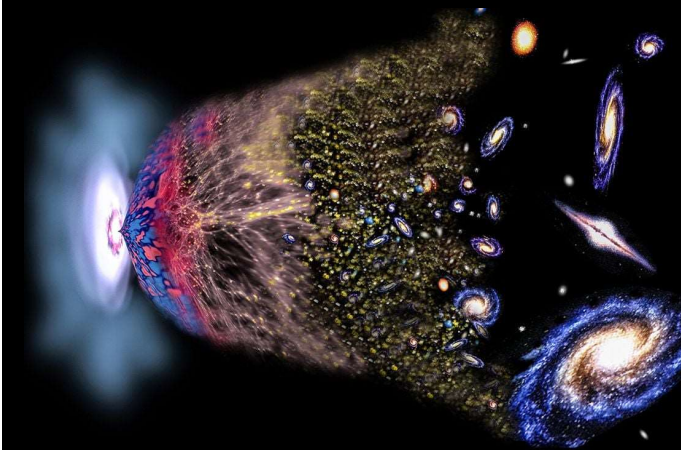
## **Two Theories of Origins**

**View #1 – God created the heavens and the earth.  
(in six days, thousands of years ago)**

**View #2 – The heavens and earth evolved without  
God. (millions and billions of years ago)**

The Big Bang Theory says the universe started with an infinitely hot and dense single point that inflated and stretched – first at unimaginable speeds, and then at a more measurable rate – over the next 13.7 billion years to the still-expanding cosmos that we know today.

**space.com**



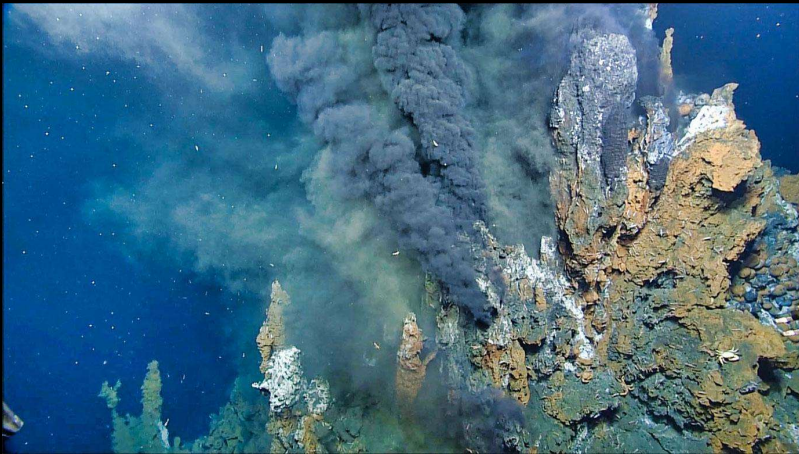
Earth formed from debris orbiting around our sun about 4.5 billion years ago.

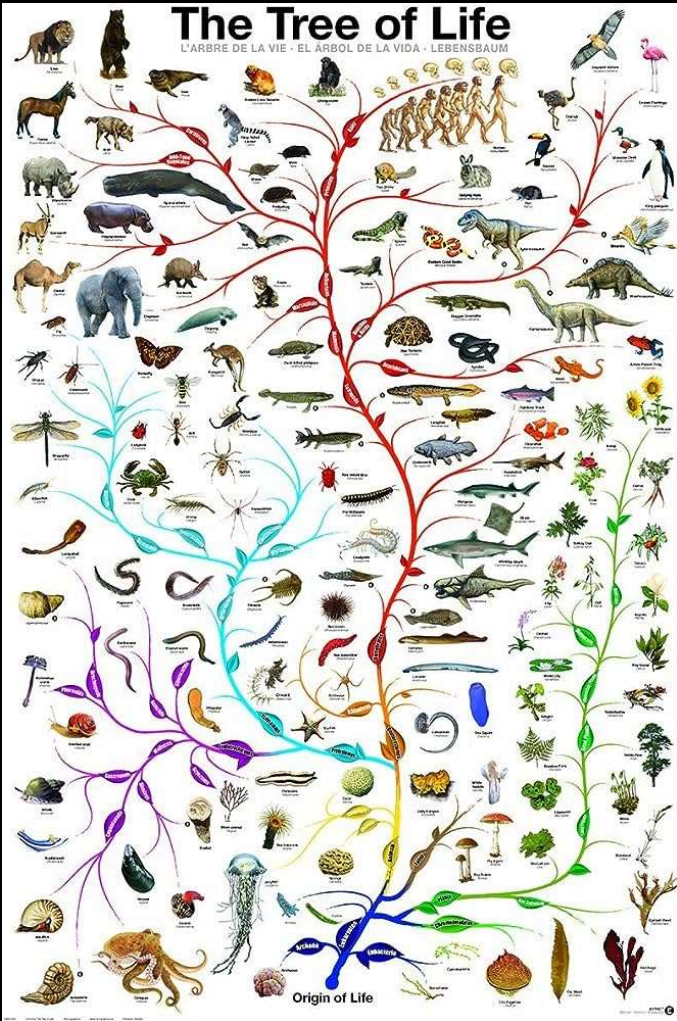
**Los Alamos National Laboratory**



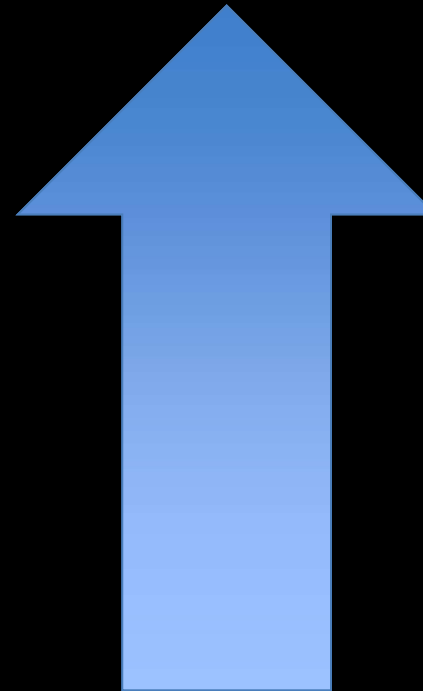
According to the conventional hypothesis, the earliest living cells emerged as a result of chemical evolution on our planet about 3.7 billion years ago in a process called abiogenesis.

## **Smithsonian Natural History**

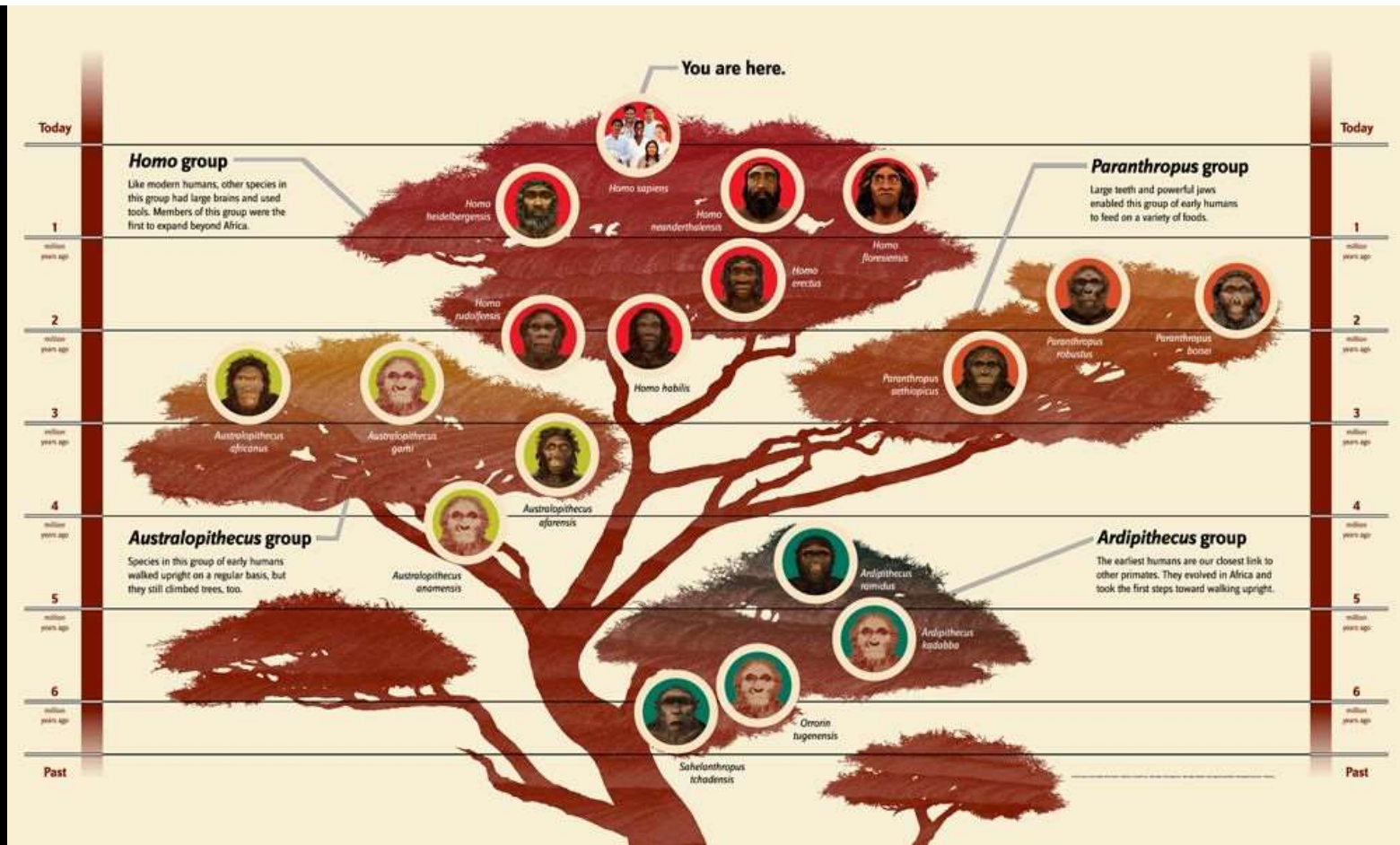




**Today**



**3.7 billion years ago**



**7,000,000 years ago**





**250,000 years ago**

The Big Bang occurred	13,700,000,000 years ago
The Earth formed	4,500,000,000 years ago
The first life arose on the earth	3,700,000,000 years ago
The first early human/hominids appeared	7,000,000 years ago
The first Homo Sapiens appeared	250,000 years ago

The Rock Church believes the Bible (the inspired Word of God) is completely true. This means we believe it's accurate as related to earthly events – both in the past and in the future. We believe events described in the Bible happened just as they were written. The miracles described in the Bible are true, historical events that took place as the Scriptures depicted them.

**[trc.life/flood](http://trc.life/flood)**

Creation: The Creation of the universe came about just as the Word of God described; it was a six-day Creation event. The true age of the earth (and all of the physical universe) is measured in thousands (not billions) of years (Genesis 1-11). Mankind began with two individuals who came into being through a special, personal, creative act of God (Genesis 2).

**[trc.life/flood](http://trc.life/flood)**

## **GENESIS 5:1-5**

This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

**130**

## **GENESIS 5:6-8**

When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. 7 Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

$$130 + 105 = 235$$

## **GENESIS 5:9-11**

When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. 10 Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters.  
11 Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

$$235 + 90 = 325$$

## **GENESIS 5:12-14**

When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

$$325 + 70 = 395$$



## **GENESIS 5:15-17**

When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. 16 Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

$$395 + 65 = 460$$

## **GENESIS 5:18-20**

When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. 19 Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

$$460 + 162 = 622$$

## **GENESIS 5:21-24**

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

$$622 + 65 = 687$$

## **GENESIS 5:25-27**

When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. 26 Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

$$687 + 187 = 874$$

## **GENESIS 5:28-31**

When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son 29 and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." 30 Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

$$874 + 182 = 1056$$

## **GENESIS 5:32**

After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

$$**1056 + 502 = 1558**$$

## **GENESIS 11:10-11**

These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. 11 And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$**1558 + 100 = 1658**$$

## **GENESIS 11:12-13**

When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah. 13 And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1663 + 35 = 1693$$



## **GENESIS 11:14-15**

When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber. 15 And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$**1693 + 30 = 1723**$$

## **GENESIS 11:16-17**

When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg. 17 And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1723 + 34 = 1757$$

## **GENESIS 11:18-19**

When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu. 19 And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$**1757 + 30 = 1787**$$

## **GENESIS 11:20-21**

When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug. 21 And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$**1787 + 32 = 1819**$$

## **GENESIS 11:22-23**

When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor. 23 And Serug lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$**1819 + 30 = 1849**$$

## **GENESIS 11:24-25**

When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah. 25 And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

$$1849 + 29 = 1878$$

## **GENESIS 11:26**

When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

$$**1878 + 70 = 1948**$$

**When did Abraham live?**

**Around 2,000 B.C.**



Creation/Adam to Abraham	~ 2,000 years
Abraham to Jesus	~ 2,000 years
Jesus to You	~ 2,000 years
Total	~ 6,000 years

The earliest known writing was invented around 3400 B.C. in an area called Sumer near the Persian Gulf.

**getty.edu**



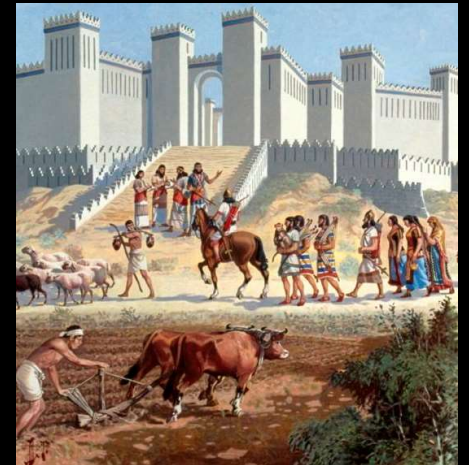
The so-called Fertile Crescent east of the Mediterranean Sea has often been called “the cradle of civilization” thanks to the emergence of city-states such as Uruk in ancient Mesopotamia, which became increasingly urbanized from around 6,000 years ago.

**[newscientist.com](http://newscientist.com)**



The earliest civilizations developed between 4000 and 3000 B.C.  
...Civilizations first appeared in Mesopotamia and later in Egypt.  
Civilizations thrived in the Indus Valley by about 2500 B.C.E., in China  
by about 1500 B.C.E. and in Central America by about 1200 B.C.E.

**[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)**



💧 **Question:** What is the oldest writing we can date without having to use Carbon 14 dating?

💧 **Answer:** For cuneiform, we can securely date using a solar eclipse observed in 763 BC. Before that, we rely on less secure methods such as historical records of various sorts. That gets us back to about 1400 BC. Before that, we are less sure still. There are periods of time of known length that float in uncertain relationship to each other.

Creation/Adam to Abraham	~ 2,000 years
Abraham to Jesus	~ 2,000 years
Jesus to You	~ 2,000 years
Total	~ 6,000 years

CHRONOLOGIST	BC YEAR
1. J. Africanus	5501
2. G. Syncellus	5492
3. J. Jackson	5426
4. W. Hales	5411
5. Eusebius	5199
6. M. Scotus	4192
7. L. Condomanus	4141
8. T. Lydiat	4103
9. M. Maestlinus	4079
10. J. Ricciolus	4062
11. J. Salianus	4053
12. H. Spondanus	4051
13. M. Anstey	4042
14. W. Lange	4041
15. E. Reinholt	4021
16. J. Cappellus	4005
17. J. Ussher	4004
18. E. Greswell	4004
19. F. Jones	4004
20. E. Faulstich	4001
21. D. Petavius	3983
22. F. Klassen	3975
23. Becke	3974
24. Krentzeim	3971
25. W. Dolen	3971
26. E. Reusnerus	3970
27. J. Claverius	3968
28. C. Longomontanus	3966
29. P. Melanchthon	3964
30. J. Haynlinus	3963
31. A. Salmeron	3958
32. J. Scaliger	3949
33. M. Beroaldus	3927
34. A. Helwigius	3836

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The CHRONOLOGY of the  
OLD TESTAMENT

DR. FLOYD  
NOLEN JONES

The Big Bang occurred	13,700,000,000 years ago
The Earth formed	4,500,000,000 years ago
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Creation/Adam to Abraham	~ 2,000 years
Abraham to Jesus	~ 2,000 years
Jesus to You	~ 2,000 years
Total	~ 6,000 years

**2.3 million times less time!**



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The CHRONOLOGY of the  
OLD TESTAMENT

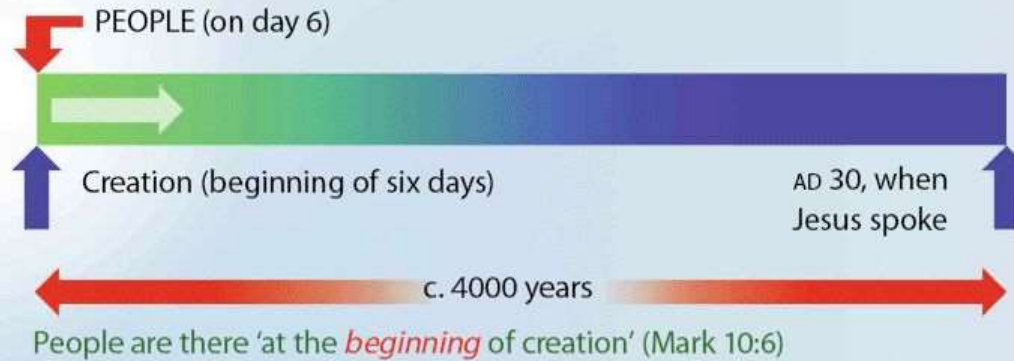
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## **MATTHEW 19:4**

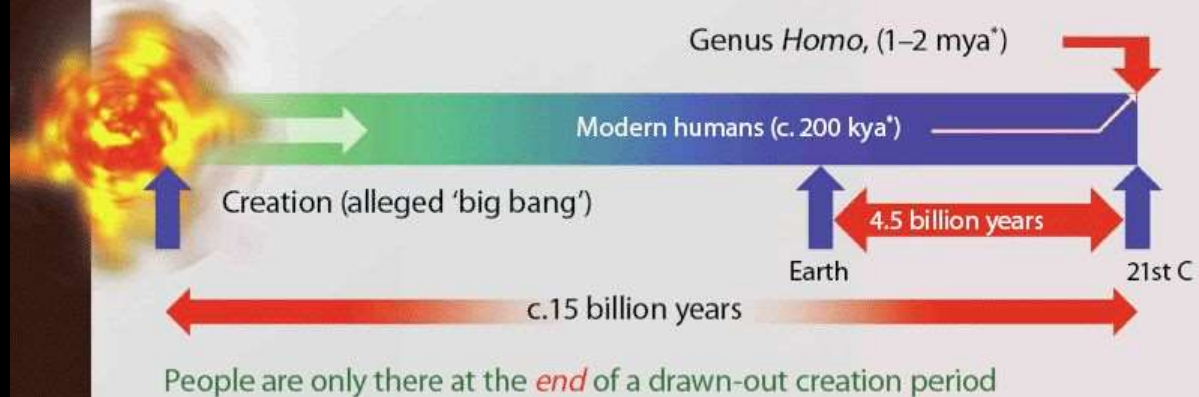
He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female.

## CREATION & PEOPLE—Comparing two timelines (each to scale)

### 1. Biblical timeline (according to Jesus and the NT writers)



### 2. Secular timeline (adopted by 'long-age' evangelicals)



## **LUKE 3:23-38**

Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, 25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, 27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,

## **LUKE 3:23-38**

28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, 29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, 31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,

## **LUKE 3:23-38**

34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, 35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, 36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, 38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

## **JUDE 1:14**

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, ...



So far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world class university who does not believe that the writers of Genesis 1–11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that: the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to later stages in the biblical story.

**James Barr**



## **Biblical Lifespans before the Flood**

**Adam - 930**

**Seth - 912**

**Enos - 905**

**Cainan - 910**

**Mahalaleel - 895**

**Jared - 962**

**Enoch - 365\***

**Methuselah - 969**

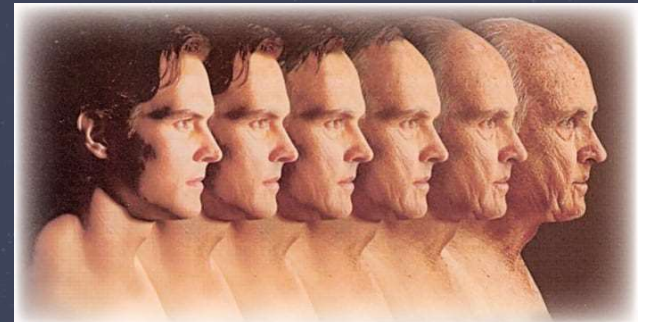
**Lamech - 777**

**Noah - 950**

**Average lifespan: 912 years!**

## What causes aging and death?

- Your cells regenerate every 7-10 years on average.
- Possible causes of aging and death: disease, diet, wear and tear, and other environmental factors.
- But it appears there is an upper limit written into our genetic code.
- It is known that ordinary human cells divided about 80-90 times. (This is thought to be related to the telomere on the end of our chromosomes.)



## **Biblical Lifespans after the Flood**

**Noah 950**

**Shem 600**

**Arphaxad 438**

**Salah 433**

**Eber 464**

**Peleg 239**

**Reu 239**

**Serug 230**

**Nahor 148**

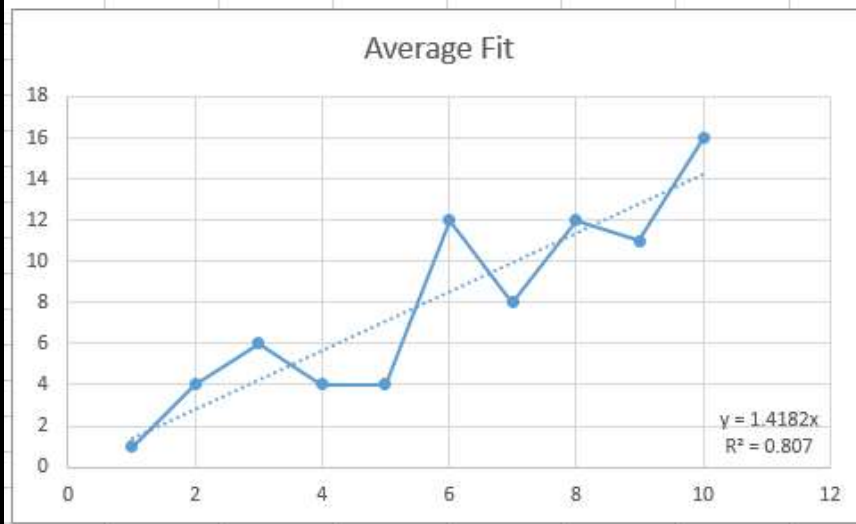
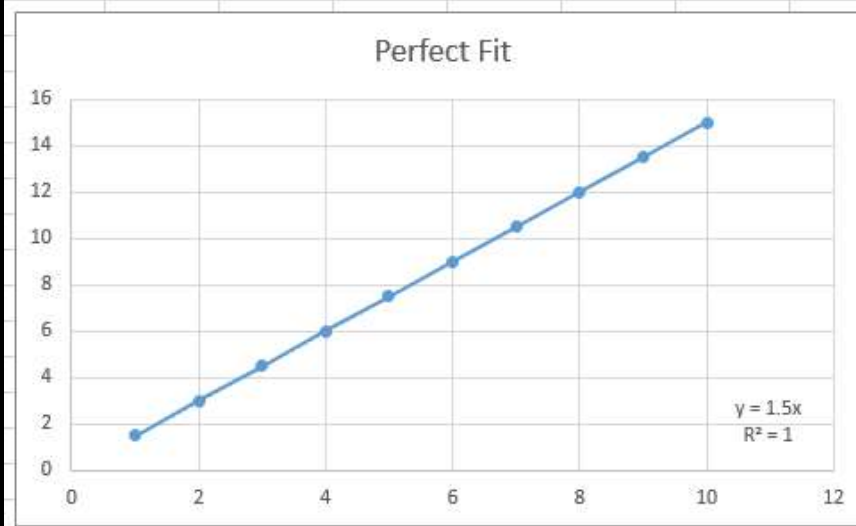
**Terah 205**

**Abraham 175**

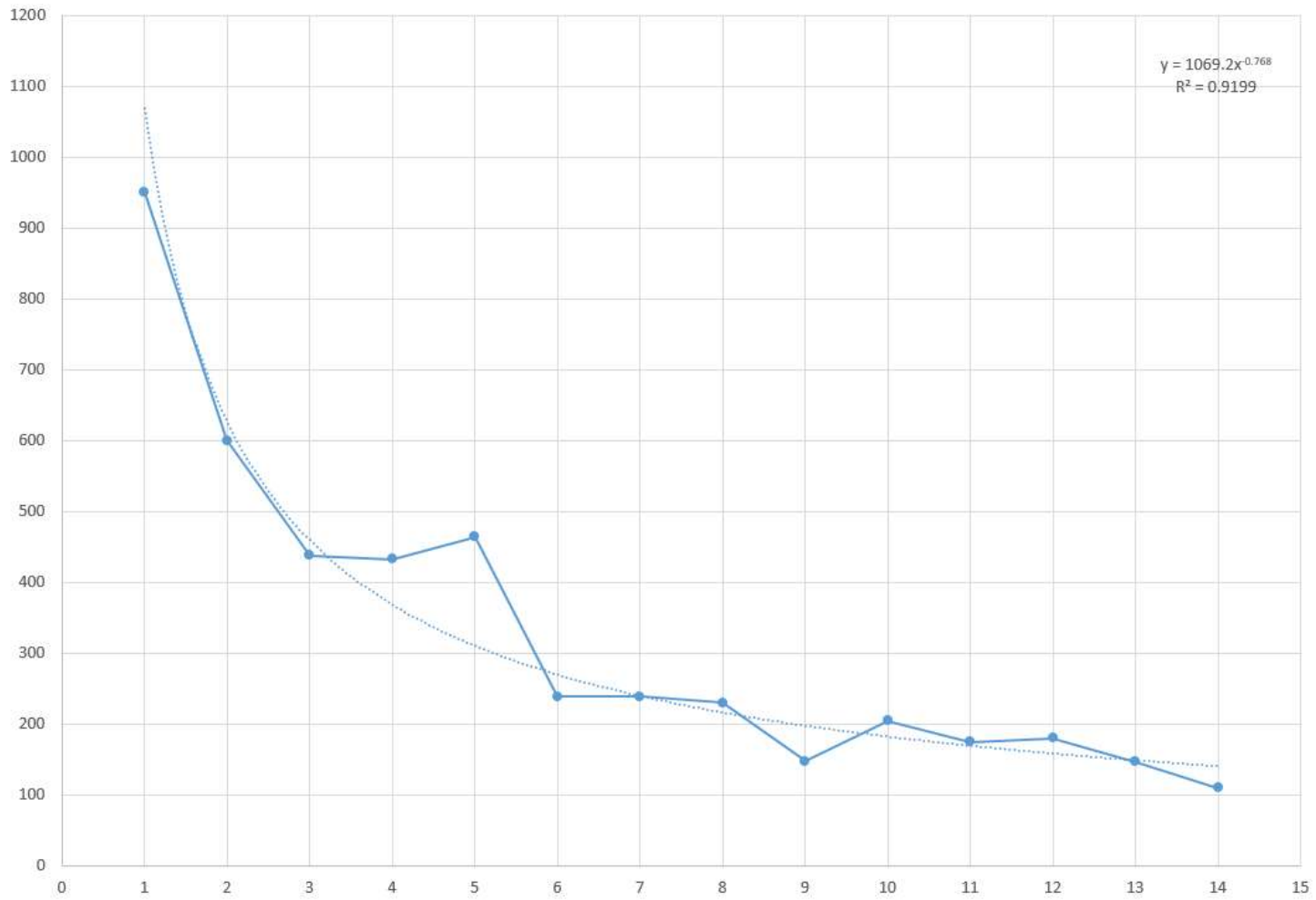
**Isaac 180**

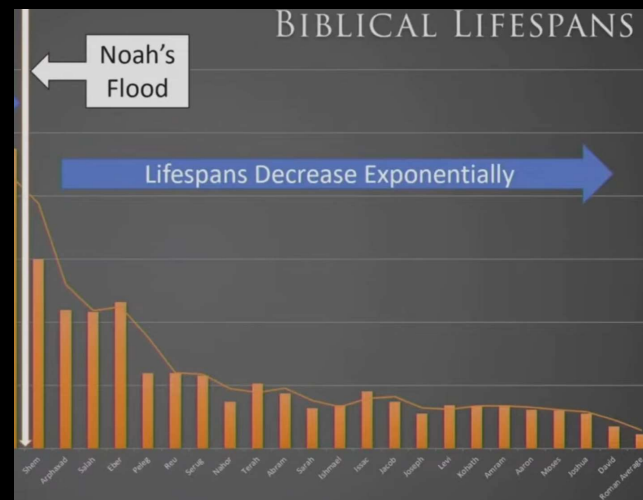
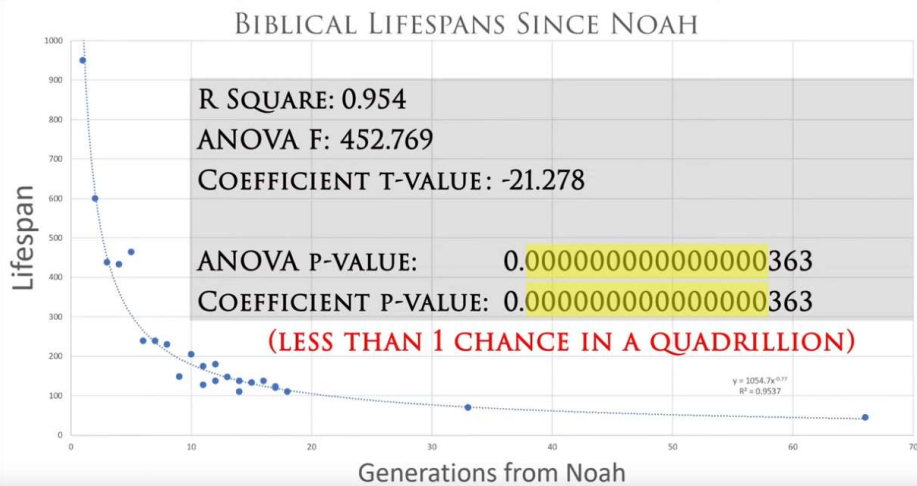
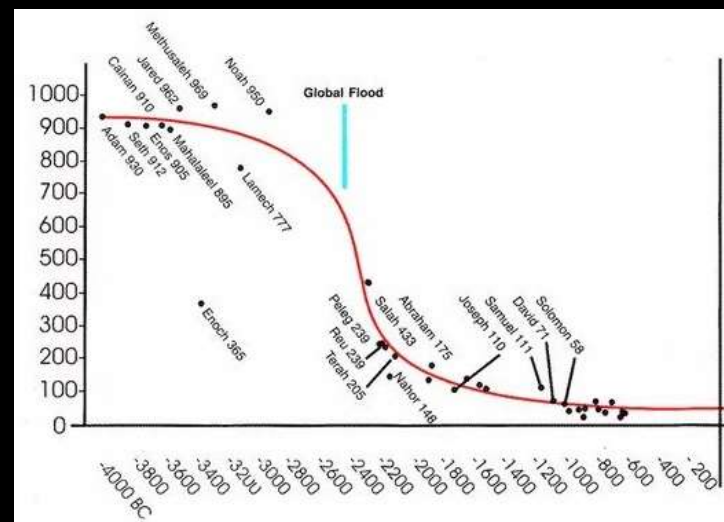
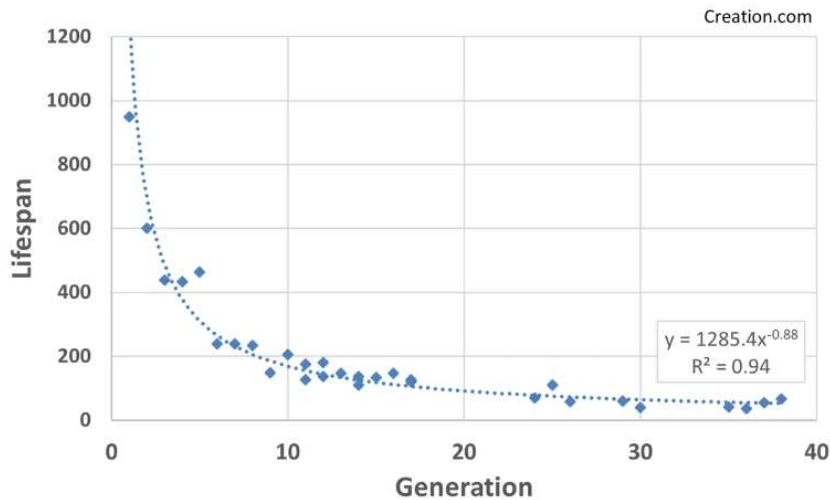
**Jacob 147**

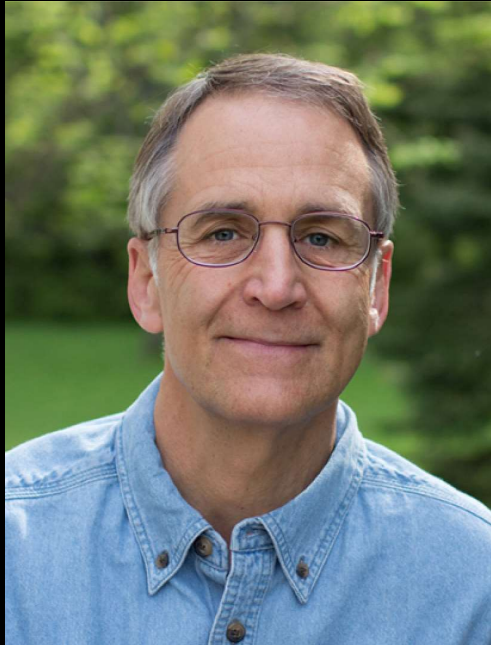
**Joseph 110**



Lifespans after the Flood



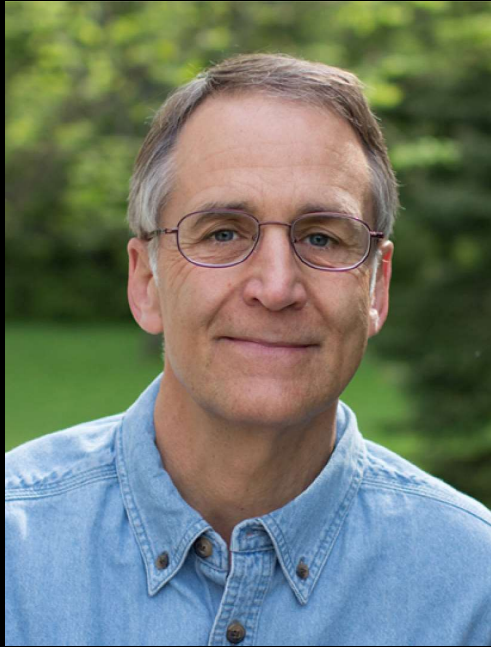




**John Sanford**

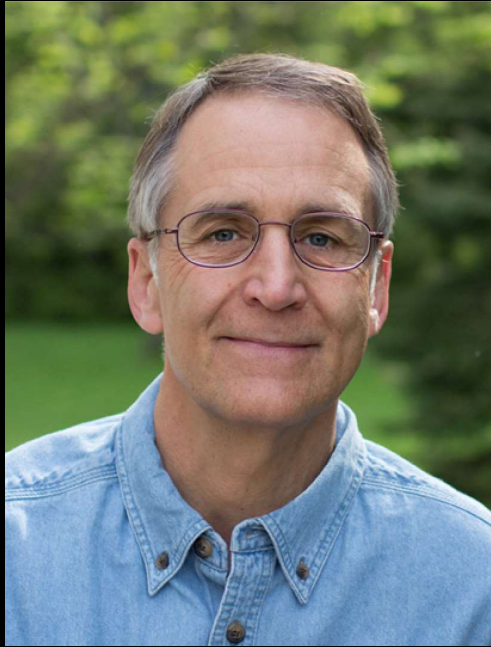
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8KbM-xkfVk&ab\\_channel=100huntley](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8KbM-xkfVk&ab_channel=100huntley)





The mathematical nature of the declining lifespans arose because the biblical accounts are true, and are actually faithfully recording the historical unfolding of some fundamental natural degenerative process. The shape of the downward slope should be immediately recognized by any biologist. It is a biological decay curve. ...

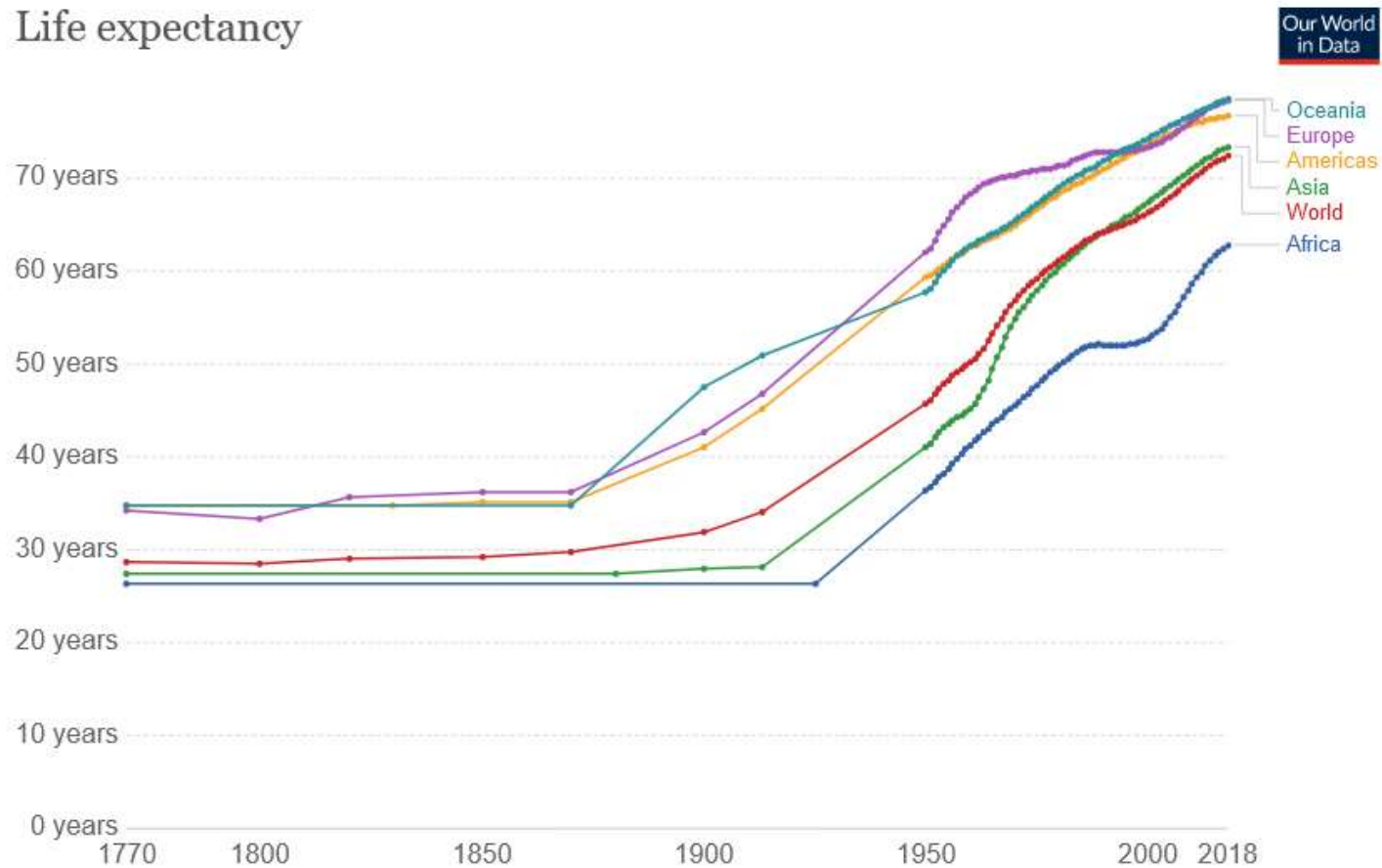
**John Sanford**



Noah's descendants were undergoing some type of rapid degenerative process. There is now very strong evidence that humans are degenerating genetically, and have been for thousands of years, due to continuously accumulating mutations. This makes it very reasonable to conclude that the systematic degeneration of man that is documented in the Bible was due to mutation accumulation and resultant genetic entropy.

**John Sanford**

# Life expectancy



Our World  
in Data

- Oceania
- Europe
- Americas
- Asia
- World
- Africa

Source: Riley (2005), Clio Infra (2015), and UN Population Division (2019)

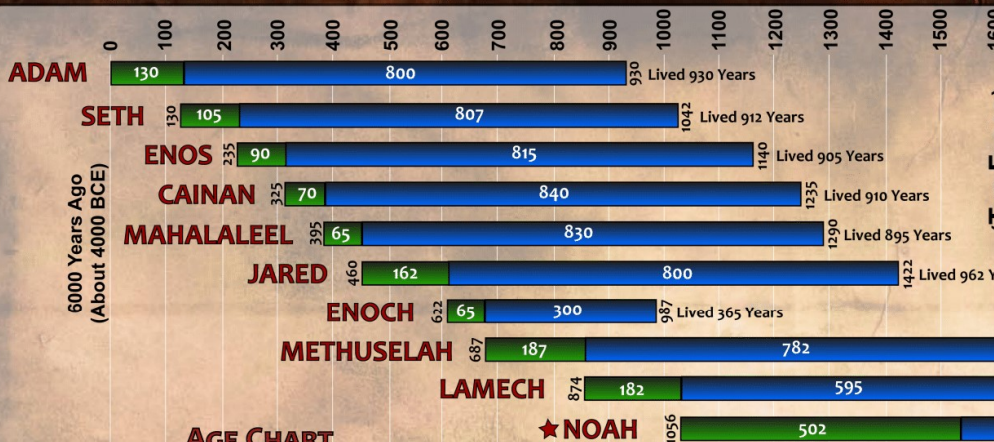
OurWorldInData.org/life-expectancy • CC BY

Shown is period life expectancy at birth, the average number of years a newborn would live if the pattern of mortality in the given year were to stay the same throughout its life.

## **PSALM 90:10, 12**

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away... 12 So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

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## AGE CHART ADAM TO JOSEPH

This chart can be used to help in daily/weekly Torah study efforts when you see the years and dates scriptures give when laid out side by side. It is interesting to note that the first 2158 years of human history are overlapped by the lives of three men (Adam, Lamech and Shem). It is also interesting to note that Abraham could have personally known Noah and that Jacob was a contemporary with Shem.

### WHAT IS THE TORAH?

The Torah is the first five books of what most Christians call the Bible. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. The Torah, commonly mistranslated in the Bible as "Law" is simply the "Instructions" that the Father has given for his people to be kept "forever for all generations". Other common misconceptions are that Jesus (Yeshua) came to do away with the Torah (law) and free us from the bondage contained within.

Actually, all throughout the Old Testament we see the authors refer to the Torah as "the way", "the truth", "the life" and freedom. Jesus (Yeshua) in fact was the Messiah who came to do away with our transgressions against God's Torah while also being the perfect example showing us how to follow and keep God's Torah (Matthew 5:17-19). When we fall short, his grace catches us. Yes, a new covenant is in place but for a true believer, the Torah (law) is to be written on our hearts. (Jeremiah 31:33 - Hebrews 8:10).

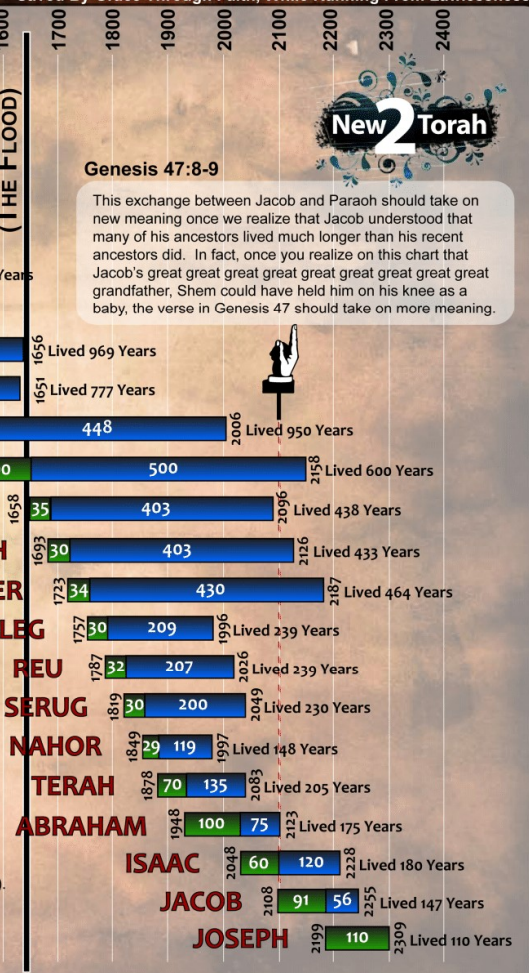
For a FREE printable digital download of this chart and other amazing Torah teachings, visit us online at [New2Torah.com](http://New2Torah.com). Search for "Age Chart" on the main page search bar on our website.

Saved By Grace Through Faith, While Running From Lawlessness

THE FLOOD

### Genesis 47:8-9

This exchange between Jacob and Paroh should take on new meaning once we realize that Jacob understood that many of his ancestors lived much longer than his recent ancestors did. In fact, once you realize on this chart that Jacob's great great great great great great great grandfather, Shem could have held him on his knee as a baby, the verse in Genesis 47 should take on more meaning.



## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What did you learn tonight? Any observations on the ideas and thoughts presented?
2. When did you first learn about the age of the earth (young earth or old earth)? What did you think?
3. What parts of the Bible have been hard for you to believe?
4. Why does the age of the earth matter to us as Christians?
5. When have you personally experienced the authority of Scripture being challenged?
6. Have a few people pray.



# God's Grand Design

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