

Genesis 5 - Genealogies

Why genealogies? Our heritage and culture are meaningful.

Sin caused a strain, but not a severing of our interaction with God.

Adam	0	-----	930
Seth	130	-----	1042
Enosh	435	-----	1340
Kenan	525	-----	1435
Mahalalel	595	-----	1490
Jared	660	-----	1622
Enoch	822	--	1187
Methuselah	887	-----	1856
Lamech	1074	-----	1851
Noah	1256	----	1856 (FLOOD)

Average age: 907.5 years (except Enoch). God made an executive decision to limit our life to 120 years (Gen. 6:3).

-God knows the span of our life and it matters to Him.

-(Ps. 139:16; Ps. 116:15)

-God has the ability and authority to set the length of our lives.

-(Acts 17:26)

SCIENCE NOTE:

Since we started keeping track (around 1880), the oldest people in the world have lived just short of 120 years. Of the top 100 oldest verified people, 99 lived from 114-119 years. The one exception is Jeanne Calment, who lived 122 years (1875-1997). Evidence certainly verifies God's limit of our lifespan to 120 years.

The one exception doesn't change that for me. God can and does work outside of the boundaries that He sets for us. For example, the Bible tells us that we will all die (1 Cor. 15:22; Hebrews 9:27). Yet Enoch didn't die; God chose to take him in a different way. Unless God does something out of the ordinary, we will all die within 120 years.

INTERPRETATION NOTE:

Sometimes God makes a pronouncement, then executes it over time. For example, in Genesis 2:17 God says that 'in the day you eat of (the tree) you shall die.' Adam and Eve ate of the tree, but didn't die for many years. We can understand that the day they ate the tree, death entered their reality. I think the lifespan is the same. God says he will limit our lives to 120 years, but it took several generations for that to take effect.

Enoch walked with God:

-Didn't die like most of us (similar to Elijah in 2 Kings 2:11)

-Life here is less important than our relationship with God
-(Philippians 1:21)

-I can walk with God in the world I live in, just like Enoch.
-(Ps. 27:4,13; Ps. 73:23-28)