

This is a test of the Emergency Sermon System. Had this been an actual emergency this message would be taped to be played back at an appropriate date. Oh yeah...if you are watching this, then today is that date 😊. We began 2022 with an unexpected cancelation for weather and it was suggested that I have a standby message ready for the next time a cold-snap, or some mishap, messes up our SONday assembly.

## Lessons in Lifespans in Genesis - Ps. 31:14-15; Eccles. 3:11

Intro - In my latest reading through Genesis I began noting the many *time stamps* in the text. We are prone to skim over the "begat" sections of scripture, but they are there for a reason & if it were for no other reason than to show...real people/real events/real faith.... that would be enough. Genesis gives the lifespans of its major characters as well as their age at major events. When you put it together and add them up you come to some interesting and surprising things. At least I find them interesting... that is why I am sharing this in this emergency sermon. If this is too much in the weeds for you then you can tune me out and I won't even know...June 😊. But I think there are some import lessons in the lifespans recorded in the book of Genesis

1. There are lifespans. This is a tragic thing in and of itself - it is tragic for life to end
  - a. Mankind was made in the I.O.G. and we were not made to die.
    - i. Death is an unnatural intruder. Death is a terrible intruder
  - b. We invited death in as our friend, and that embrace shortened our physical life
  - c. "*Obey or pay*" was the rule...and we paid with our life and our lifespans
    - i. The first death recorded was a double suicide (Adam & Eve) Gen. 2:17
    - ii. The second was a murder about 130 years after creation (Cain & Able)
      1. 130 years is a lot of time for an expanding population (1000's)
  - d. Gen. 5 gives the record of, " \_\_\_\_\_lived \_\_\_\_\_and then he died" **great tragedy**
2. There used to be a lot longer lifespans than ours today
  - a. We only live about 10% as long as humans did at the beginning of history
    - i. 10% of the *brain power* & 10% of the *staying power* as the original sinners
  - b. After the Fall and the Flood, lifespans began to be drastically reduced
    - i. Eternal > 900 > 600 > 400 > 200 > Abraham 175 > Jacob 147 > Joseph 110
    - ii. There remains about a 120-year limit for lifespans today - Gen. 6:3
3. Longer lifespans enabled connection between people over long periods
  - a. Noah's dad could have known Adam. Lamech was 56 when Adam died
  - b. Noah could have known Abraham Abram 58 when Noah died
  - c. Shem could have known Jacob (Israel) Jacob was 50 when Shem died
    - i. Damascus claims to be the hometown of Shem (oldest cont. inhab. City)
  - d. So...Noah's dad could have known Adam & his son could have known Jacob
    - i. Shem "remember grandpa telling me about creation account from Adam"
      1. "Grandpa, tell me about the good ol' days..." (Judds)
      2. "...should have seen it in color..." (Jamey Johnson)
4. Interesting dates and timeframes
  - a. Noah was born 1056 years after Creation

- b. Shem was born in year 1558 - 98 years before the Flood – Noah was 502
  - c. 1656 years after creation God destroyed the world in the Flood – Noah 600
    - i. Noah’s dad (Lamech) died 5 years before the Flood
    - ii. Noah’s granddad (Methuselah) died the year of the Flood
    - iii. Along with all his other kids born before his 500<sup>th</sup> year (100’s?)
  - d. 101 years after the flood the earth was divided into separate continents – yr. 1758
    - i. Before the Flood the water and land were in one place. (Pangea)
  - e. 292 years after the Flood Abram was born year 1949
    - i. (I may be one year off because the Flood lasted one year – count from beginning or end? I did end)
  - f. 350 years after the Flood Noah died year 2007
  - g. 367 years after the Flood God called Abram year 2024
  - h. 378 years after the Flood Ishmael was born year 2035
  - i. 391 years after the flood – covenant of circumcision year 2048
    - i. Same year that God destroyed Sodom
  - j. 1 year later (392 years after Flood) Isaac was born Year 2049
    - i. Shem was 490 years old at Isaac’s birth (neighbor?)
  - k. Isaac married Rebekah when he was 40. Year 2089
  - l. Jacob and Esau were born when he was 60. Year 2109
  - m. Abraham died when his grandsons were 15 Year 2124
  - n. Jacob was 91 years old when Joseph was born Year 2200
  - o. Joseph sold by into slavery by brothers Year 2217
  - p. Isaac dies 12 years later Year 2229
  - q. Joseph stands before Pharaoh 1 year later Year 2230
  - r. Josephs brothers bow before him Year 2237
  - s. Jacob moves to Egypt and reunites with Joseph Year 2239
    - i. Jacob is 130 years old. 582 yrs. after Flood
  - t. Jacob dies in Egypt 17 years later at age 147 Year 2256
    - i. Joseph is 56 when dad dies. 599 yrs. after Flood
  - u. Joseph dies at 110. 653 years after the Flood Year 2310
    - i. Pseudo-science greatly exaggerates the age of our earth
5. Unexpected overlaps or ages. Surprising findings
- a. Jacob and Esau and Isaac’s blessing
    - i. In my mind’s eye Jacob & Esau are young whippersnappers
      - 1. I picture teenagers or young men
    - ii. Text says that Isaac was old. Run the numbers - at least 131 (133?)
    - iii. Isaac was 60 when the boys were born
    - iv. Jacob was about 73 years old when he deceived his 133-year-old dad
      - 1. This changed my perspective of the account
  - b. Jacob being 91 years old when Joseph was born
    - i. He was 108 when Joseph was sold into slavery
    - ii. Jacob was 108 when his sons deceived him with clothes
    - iii. Isaac was 133 when Jacob deceived his dad with clothes
      - 1. What goes around comes around Gal. 6:7
6. Real people, real life, real faith in real things our times are in His hands – Ps. 31:15
- a. Biggest lesson in lifespans is that *our life spans into eternity* – Eccles. 3:11
  - b. There is a symmetry and a mystery to life. There is also eternity