



FEBRUARY 2ND, 2020

GENESIS: CONTEXT

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¹This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. ²Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.

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

⁶When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. ⁷Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁸Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

⁹When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. ¹⁰Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹¹Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

¹²When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. ¹³Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁴Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

¹⁵When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. ¹⁶Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. ¹⁷Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

¹⁸When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch. ¹⁹Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁰Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

²¹When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. ²²Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. ²⁶Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. ²⁷Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

²⁸When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹and 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.” ³⁰Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. ³¹Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

³²After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 5:1–32 (ESV)

Americans have developed a reputation travelling overseas. It's not a good one. It's ethnocentric. We assume and impose our worldview on others.

Example in India with Hopegivers.

Evangelicals often read the Bible the same way. We're reading an ancient text written to a radically different culture and worldview and assume and impose our worldview onto it. We should stop.

Literal. Does not mean ignoring figures of speech and cultural convention.

We tend to read Genesis, through our lens, as giving us a chronological history of the beginnings. It's not. It's giving us a theological interpretation of the beginning in order to tie it into (then) current Israel.

Our false literalism leads us into some fights that we just don't need to fight. Is the earth 6000 years old because we can count back to the first seven days? Do all people biologically trace back to 2 individuals? Where did Cain get his wife and who was he afraid was going to kill him? And as we'll see this morning are we supposed to believe that the ancients lived hundreds of years?

A true literalism will take into account the realities of ANE culture and seek to understand what the author was trying to communicate and what the audience would have heard. Remember the Bible is written for us but NOT to us!

BIBLICAL AUTHORS USED NUMBERS SYMBOLICALLY.

Genesis

(use of number 7)

- 7 for Cain (4:15), 77 for Lamech (4:24).
- Within the story of Cain and Abel, the word "brother" shows up 7 times.
- Within the story of Cain and Abel, the word "Cain" shows up 14 times.
- Between Genesis 4 and 5, the name Seth shows up 7 times.
- In Genesis 1, verse 1 contains 7 Hebrew words and verse 2 has 14 words.
- The close of Genesis 1 (Gen 2:1-3) has 35 words (7x5).
- The word for earth (ארץ) shows up 21 times (7x3).
- Significant clauses (it was good - טוב) show up 7 times.
- Between Genesis 2 & 4 the name of God (YHWH) shows up 35 times (5x7).
- Between Genesis 1 & 2:4 the word for God (Elohim) shows up 35 times (5x7).

666

Mark of the Beast – Revelation 13:18

144,000

Saints of Israel – Revelation 7:4, 14:1-3, 21:17

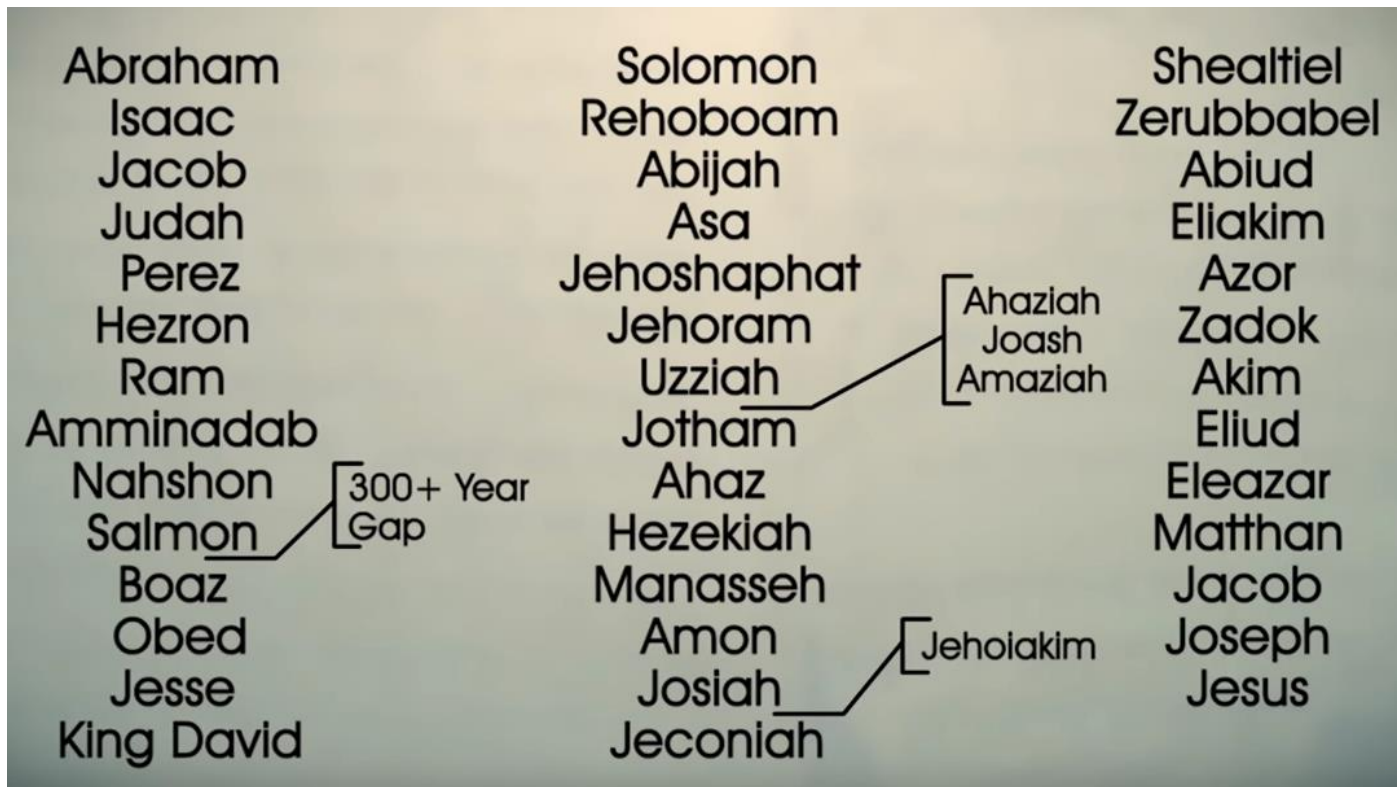
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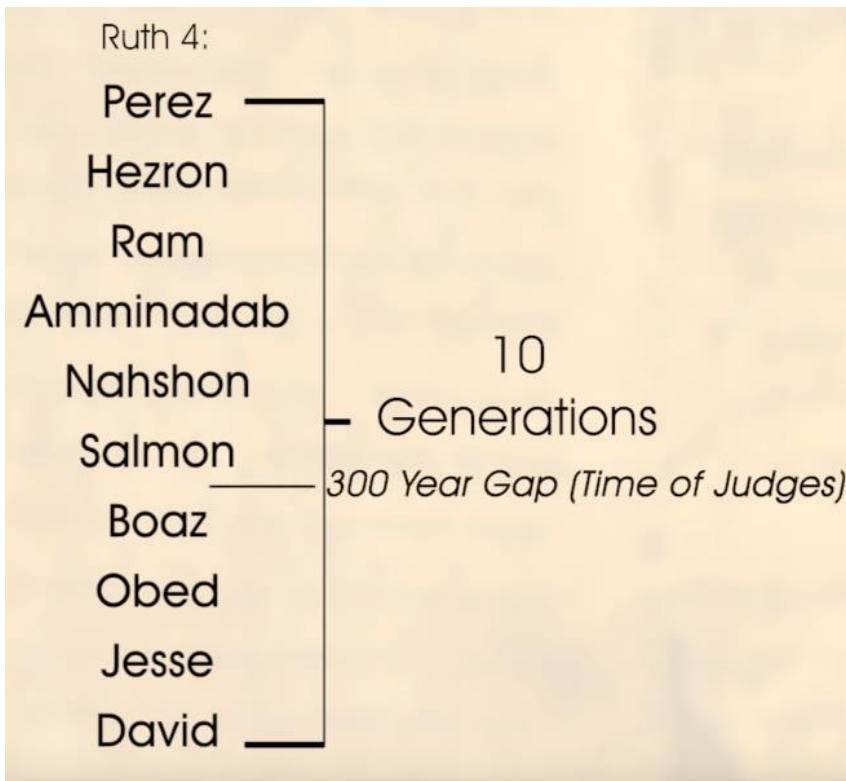
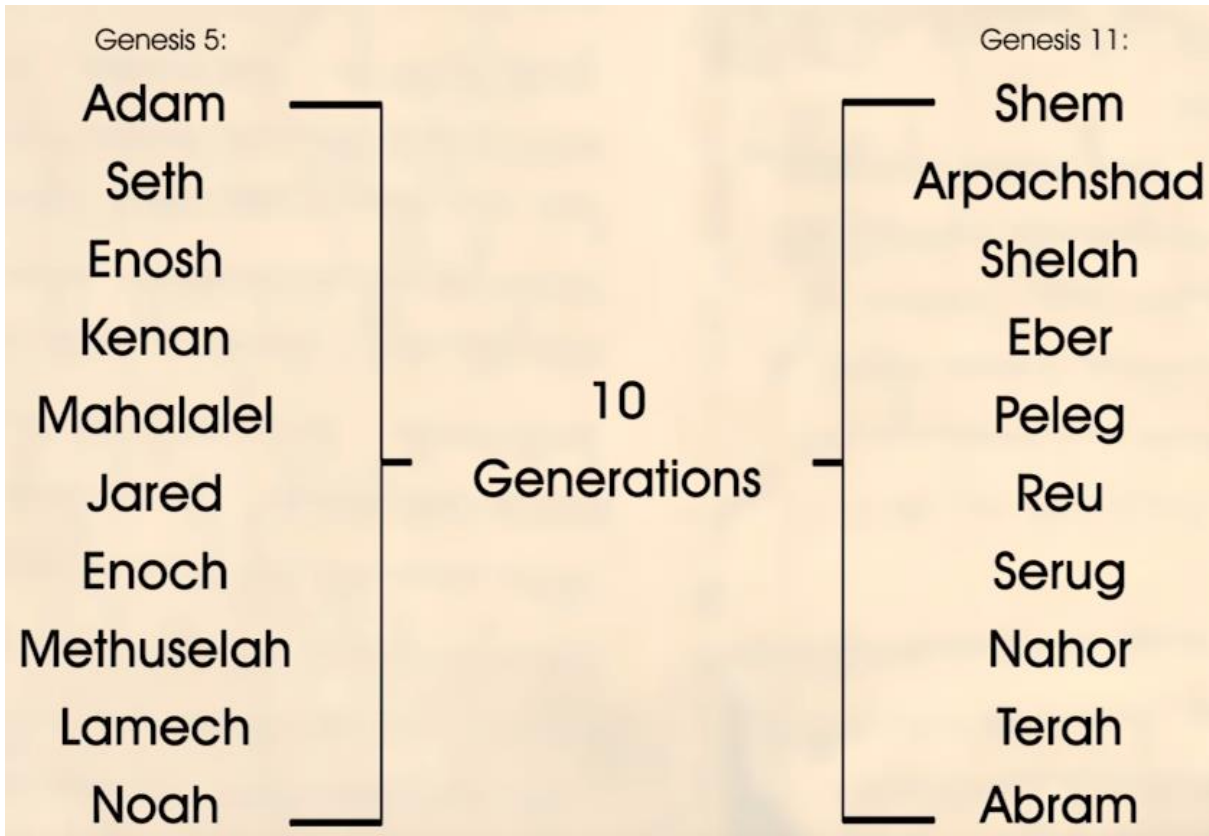
Perfection – Revelation 1:4,11,12,16,20; 4:5; 5:5-6; 6:1, etc

	Age at Fatherhood		Remaining Years		Total Lifespan		
Adam	130	/5	800	/5	930	/5	<i>All the ages coincidentally ending in either a 0,2,5,7, or 9:</i>
Seth	105	/5	807 - 7 = 800/5		912 - 7 = 905/5		
Enosh	90	/5	815	/5	905	/5	
Kenan	70	/5	840	/5	910	/5	
Mahalalel	65	/5	830	/5	895	/5	
Jared	162 - 7 = 165/5		800	/5	962 - 7 = 955/5		
Enoch	65	/5	300	/5	365	/5	
Methuselah	187 - 7 = 180/5		782 - 7 = 775/5		969 - 7 - 7 = 955/5		
Lamech	182 - 7 = 175/5		595	/5	777 - 7 = 770/5		
Noah	500	/5	450	/5	950	/5	

*.00000006%
Possible*

Kenton Sparks, "Genesis: History, Fiction, Or Neither?" Page 120





Adam – 930	Noah – 950	Terah – 205
Seth – 912	Shem – 600	Abraham – 175
Enosh – 905	Arphaxad – 438	Isaac – 180
Kenan – 910	Shelah – 433	Jacob – 147
Mahalalel – 895	Eber – 464	Levi – 137
Jared – 962	Peleg – 239	Kohath – 133
Enoch – 365	Reu – 239	Amran – 137
Methuselah – 969	Serug – 230	Moses – 120
Lamech – 777	Nahor – 148	<u>12,600</u>



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7th

“It is clear that the biblical chronologies of the patriarchal age are not intended to be accurate historical records in our sense of the term...The numbers used are an expression of the biblical interpretation of history as the unfolding of the divine plan on the human scene.”¹

“It is inaccurate to say that these genealogies do not represent reliable facts. It is more accurate to say that the conception of history for and by which they were maintained caused them to develop in certain ways.”²

“Such analysis and comparison does not suggest that the biblical figures are not ‘true’. Rather, it raises the possibility that they depict a mode of ‘truth’ that differs from modern concern with chronological accuracy.”³ Think hubble and starry night.



The past is to be learned from; not idealized. There is a downward progression of evil away from God and the garden. A seed is needed.

The aim was never to pass on exact chronology. The aim was to connect Israel back to Adam for theological and covenantal reasons.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:4–7 (ESV)

ABRAHAM

⁷These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years.

⁸Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 25:7–8 (ESV)

¹⁷Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

Genesis 17:17 (ESV)

– WHY DID ABRAHAM LAUGH AT FATHERING A CHILD AT 100?

¹ Sarna, Nahum M. Understanding Genesis: The World of the Bible in the Light of History. P. 84.

² Aufrecht, W.E. Ascribe To The Lord. P. 218.

³ Bailey, Lloyd R. Biblical Math as Heilsgeschichte?. P. 11.