

Man's Life is But Seventy Years

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Man's Life Was to be One Hundred and Twenty Years (Gen. 6:3; Ps. 90:10).

Man's Life is But Seventy Years (Ps. 90:10).

With the creation of Adam, man had the potential to live forever. However, because Adam sinned willfully, the possibility of everlasting life was temporarily suspended until Jesus Christ came to earth as a sacrifice for the sins of everyone who has ever existed. It is only due to Christ's willingness to lay his life down for sinners, that everlasting life is available for those who repent and begin living in accordance with every word of God (cf. Mt. 4:4; Jn. 1:29; Ac. 2:38; Rom. 6:1-15; 6:23; Heb. 9:22).

And Adam was not deceived (sinned willfully), but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression (sin; cf. 1Jn.3:4) (1Tim. 2:14; Ed. notes in parentheses; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

And so it is written, 'the first man Adam became (SGD 1096 – came into existence) a living (SHD 2198 – enjoy real life; endless in the kingdom of God) being.' The last Adam (Jesus Christ) became (as a result of his sacrifice on behalf of sinners) a life-giving spirit (cf. Jn. 6:40, 44, 54) (1Cor. 15:45; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because Adam sinned, he earned everlasting death (cf. Rom. 6:23).

And **the Lord commanded the man**, saying, 'Of every tree (symbol representing a spirit-being; cf. Ezekiel 31:16-18) of the garden (symbol of the spirit realm where God exists) you may freely eat (fellowship with); ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat (have fellowship with), for **in the day that you**

eat of it (take its values in; making them part of who you are) **you shall surely die**' (Gen. 2:16-17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because many of the Jewish religious leaders had also partaken of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, its value system became an integral part of who they were. Christ compared this situation to the relationship between a father and son, who are in agreement with each other.

You (Jewish religious leaders) are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it (Jn. 8:44; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Just like Adam, some of the Jewish leaders made Satan their "de facto leader" by living contrary to God's commands. However, it is not just Adam and the Jewish religious leaders that have made Satan their leader. The following scriptures confirm that everyone has been deceived by Satan and therefore belong to him. It is only those who are called out of this deception, that can expect to inherit everlasting life.

So, the great dragon was cast out (of Almighty God's presence), that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan, who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (Rev. 12:9; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God (cannot inherit everlasting life) (Rom. 3:23; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Therefore, just as through one man (Adam) sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because **all sinned** (Rom. 5:12; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

To summarize so far, Adam was created in God's image and therefore had the potential to live forever. However, as Adam was given freedom to make choices, and with this freedom made the decision to believe and follow Satan's way of living instead of following God's commands (cf. Ga. 5:17-21), he was changed into a flesh and blood human being who would die (see study: What Change Took Place in Adam and Eve?). In a similar manner, the spirit-being who became Jesus Christ was also changed into a flesh and blood being that represented "sin," and symbolically took on himself all the sins of mankind and the fallen host, even though he did not commit any sin.



SO ALL THE DAYS OF METHUSELAH
WERE NINE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINE
YEARS; AND HE DIED.

Genesis 5:27

For what the law (of animal sacrifices) could not do (fulfill; cf. Mt. 5:17) in that it was weak through the flesh, God (Almighty) did (fulfill) by **sending His own son** (the Morning Star who became known as Jesus Christ; cf. Rev. 22:15) **in the likeness of sinful flesh**, on account (because) of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh (through Christ's sacrifice) (Rom. 8:3; cf. 6:6; Ed. notes in parentheses).

For He (Almighty God) made him (the spirit-being who became Jesus Christ) **who knew** (committed) **no sin to be sin** (symbolically by coming in a fleshly body) for us (who are sinners), that we might become (through repentance and baptism) the righteousness of God (Almighty) in (through) him (Christ's sacrifice) (2Cor. 5:21; Ed. notes in parentheses).

There are numerous scriptures confirming that flesh and blood exists as a direct result of sin being committed (cf. 1Cor. 15:50). Consequently, prior to Adam's sin, he would have been in a spirit form with the potential to

live forever. Following his sin, there was a change in his form, which is noted using symbolic language in the next scripture.

Then (following their sin) the eyes of both of them (Adam and Eve) were opened (realized the serious consequences of their sin), and they knew they were naked (SHD 5903 – had sinned; cf. Rev. 3:17-19); and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings (symbolically attempted to cover up, or justify their sinful conduct) (Gen. 3:7; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Following Adam's sin, Almighty God allowed many of his descendants to live to an advanced age, so they would have plenty of time to repent of their sins.

So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died (Gen. 5:27).

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, **but is longsuffering toward us**, not willing that any should perish (in the sense of everlasting death) but that all should come to repentance (2Pet. 3:9; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Even though God gave many individuals centuries to repent and begin following His word, they continued to reject the teachings and warnings He gave them through His servants. In many cases, God's servants were killed for proclaiming His truth.

Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, **that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel** (second human being born to Adam) **to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar** (Mt. 23:34-35; cf. Lk.

11:51; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

After approximately sixteen hundred years, from the time of Adam's transformation to the death of Methuselah, there are very few examples of individuals repenting. Therefore, providing mankind with an extended lifespan did not increase the number of repentant individuals. In fact, matters only got worse as the next scripture confirms.

And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh (i.e. he is going to die eventually anyway); yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years (Gen. 6:3; cf. Dt. 34:7; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Gen. 6:5).

Some Bible commentators claim that Genesis 6:3 is God's warning that mankind would be destroyed by a flood in 120 years. However, this cannot be true based on two facts. The first is Christ's comment that no one was remotely prepared for the Flood, proving that no specific time frame had been given.

For as in the days before the flood, **they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and did not know until the flood came and took them all away**, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be (Mt. 24:38-39; emphasis added).

The second reason that Genesis 6:3 is not a reference to 120 years before the flood is because it refers to Adam as the following quote confirms,

'The word for "men" in Genesis 6:1-2 is in the singular with the definite article, as in verse 3

"man", and means "the man Adam." The word "also" clearly refers to him. It has no meaning if "men" is read in the plural. It means that Adam "also", as well as the rest of mankind, had "corrupted his way". If men were the meaning, then who are the others indicated by the word "also"? In Genesis 2:17, God declared that Adam should die. Here in Genesis 6, it was made very clear that though he had lived 810 years, he would surely die; and that the spirit of life from God would not forever remain in him (The Companion Bible. Appendix 24, p. 27).'



THEN THE LORD SAW THAT THE
WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN
THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY INTENT
OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS
ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY.

Genesis 6:5

It is clear from scripture that Moses lived until he was 120 years old, and even though he was in good health he was not allowed to live any longer.

Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim (eyesight was not weakened) nor his natural vigor abated (reduced) (Dt. 34:7; Ed. notes in parentheses).

However, just because Moses was allowed to live for 120 years, it does not mean that every man will live to the same age. In fact, according to most reputable sources, there is no credible record of any man living past the age of 120 (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oldest_people). The average lifespan for a man living in America today is 73 years and 79 years for a woman. This figure varies from country to country which explains why God inspired the next scripture.

The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years,

yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away (Ps. 90:10; emphasis added).

So, there is no contradiction between Genesis 6:3 and Psalms 90:10. Instead, the Genesis account provides the longest period of time any man can expect to live, while Psalms 90:10 confirms the average life expectancy, which varies from country to country.

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