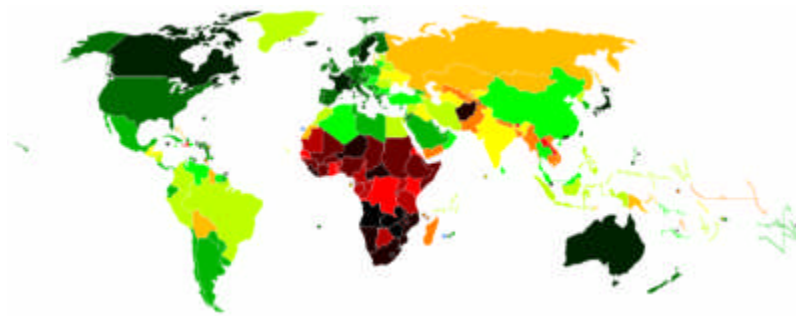


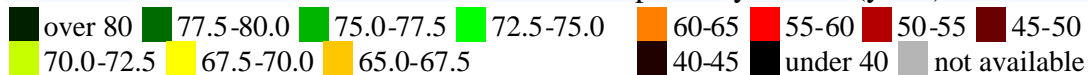
## The Genealogies in Genesis 6: “Could People Really Live that Long?”

As we read the Book of Genesis we see in some of the early chapters people living for a long time. We see people living to be 900, 600, 300. The Bible doesn't explain it, try to convince us or deal with them as though this were somehow unusual.

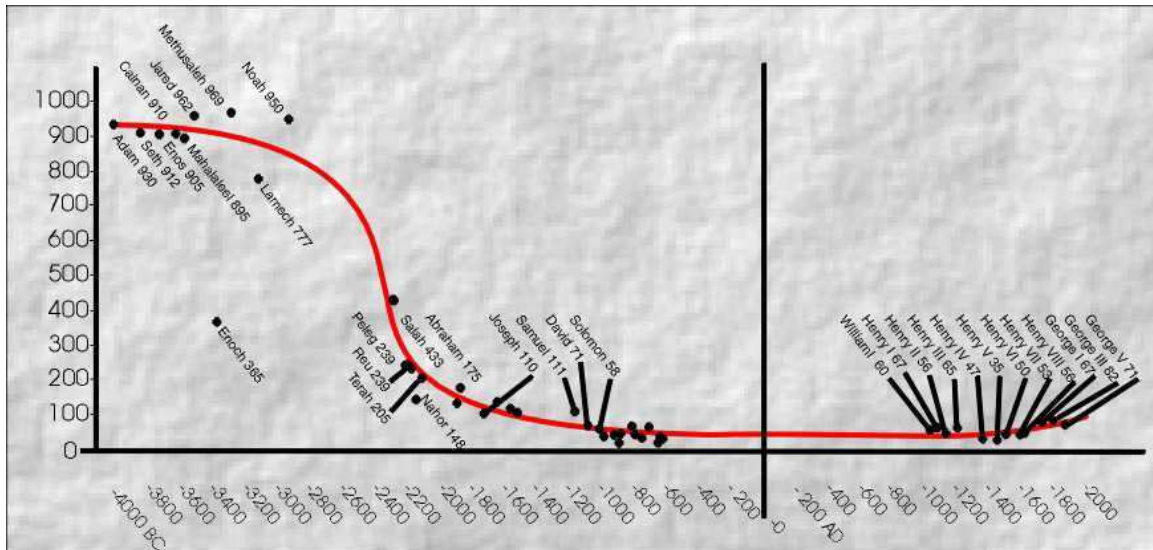
Below is a chart from The CIA Handbook that shows life expectancy worldwide. The people that are living the longest on earth today are living to be an average of 70 -80. A far cry from several hundred years. Personally I like the several hundred years idea. It would be great if we didn't have to become parents until we were 150 years old. That would solve a lot of problems for sure!



CIA World Factbook 2007 Estimates for Life Expectancy at birth (years).



Contrast today's life expectancy with the chart below that follows longevity in the Bible. One thing that you notice is that longevity in the Bible is only reported in the early stages of the book and then it begins to decline rapidly, ultimately leveling off to what we might expect today. The Book of Psalms also indicates that 70 -80 years is all anyone can expect. Psalm 90:10 “*The length of our days is seventy years-- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.*” Living much older than that is unusual and living over a hundred years is highly unusual.



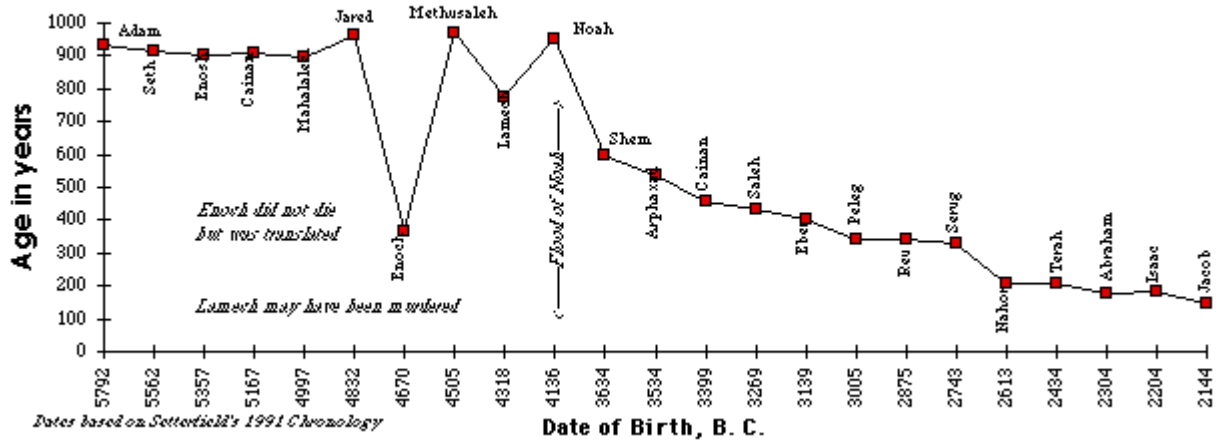
Today (January 2008) the oldest known are 120 years old Edna Parker from the United States and Maris de Jesus of Portugal, were both born in 1893. Since modern records have been kept, Jeanne Calment from France is said to be the longest living human being, She is said to have been 122 years old when she died in 1997. The Guinness Book of World records has been tracking longevity since 1995 and lists Sarah Knauss from Pennsylvania as the longest living human in their records.

So why the sudden drop of longevity in the Bible. What we notice using the chart at end of the article is that it is directly after the flood that we notice the change in longevity. The Bible indicates that there was a drastic change in the earth's atmosphere with the introduction of seasons and the breaking down of a water vapor canopy that surrounded the earth prior to the flood.

Yet, Noah lived for many more years after the flood, so it probably was not strictly environmental. As the human race began to repopulate they were most likely repopulating within a vastly degraded gene pool. Which indicate that age limitations are presently resident in our genes.

What we do know is that the Bible offers reasonable explanations and possibilities for all of the things that people often stumble upon or argue over. The Bible is a sure guide to human history and reliable as the way to find eternal life through Jesus Christ. What we do know is that eternal life (everlasting life – never to die again life) is available free to all who trust Jesus. 900 years is a drop in the bucket compared to eternal life. What a gift! There is no reason to doubt that everything the Bible says is true.

## *Longevity of the Patriarchs*



The charts are taken from:

- 1) The C.I.A W2007 World Book
- 2) Answers in Genesis [www.answersingenesis.com](http://www.answersingenesis.com)
- 3) Lambert Dolphin <http://www.ldolphin.org/>