

Longevity of the people from Adam to the Flood - Tony Pearce (page 1 of 2)

8 Great ages of patriarchs create a problem. Could not be months as some have suggested because if so, Enoch would have fathered a child aged 5. Literal interpretation – Difference in conditions on earth before the flood. Lifespan shows a steady decline after the Flood. 4 reasons.

9 -10 Explain pre flood atmosphere. There is evidence that the atmosphere enveloping the early earth was very different than it is today. It seems that at one time the entire earth enjoyed a warm tropical environment and there was enhanced oxygen in the atmosphere. Organisms would have grown larger than their modern counterparts and could also have lived longer. For example, massive fossilized trees in the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument of Colorado appear to be much older than their tree rings would indicate they actually were (Oard, Michael, "The Florissant Redwood Trees Deposited from a Flood Log Mat," Journal of Creation, 2019, p. 91.)

Many creationists have attributed this special primeval atmosphere to a water vapor canopy that was created by God on the second day, the "waters above the firmament" (Genesis 1:7).

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So, let's go on. One of the problems of course which people have with this passage is the ages. And the sceptical look at this and say: "This is ridiculous, people don't live for 900 years! How can that possibly be true?" Some are trying to interpret it and say it could be months instead of years. If it is months instead of years, then you do have a problem because it means that Enoch fathered a child at the age of five.

If you take a literal interpretation, there is a way to explain it, and I believe that this is true. The literal interpretation, which is from a creationist point of view – and I have to say that I am a creationist, I believe that the Genesis is about the creation and that it really happened. If you take a creationist point of view, then there was a change in not just the fact that there was a worldwide Flood but there was a change, actually, in the whole kind of makeup of the earth following the Flood. Something happened which changed the way life was on earth and which changed the conditions on the earth after the Flood. And there's evidence in the scriptures that this is the case.

And we see that, after the flood, the lifespan of people goes down until it reaches the "three score years and ten", that is, 70, which is the average which we have today. Now there are four reasons why the lifespan before the flood could have been longer. First of all, that surrounding the earth, according to that which appears to be in the Bible, there was a much greater water canopy than you have today. And the water canopy, when it fell on the earth, deluged the earth and was one of the contributing factors to the worldwide Flood.

This water canopy would have screened out the harmful rays of the sun and thus held back the aging process.

Age of Patriarchs.

Lifespan declines after flood.

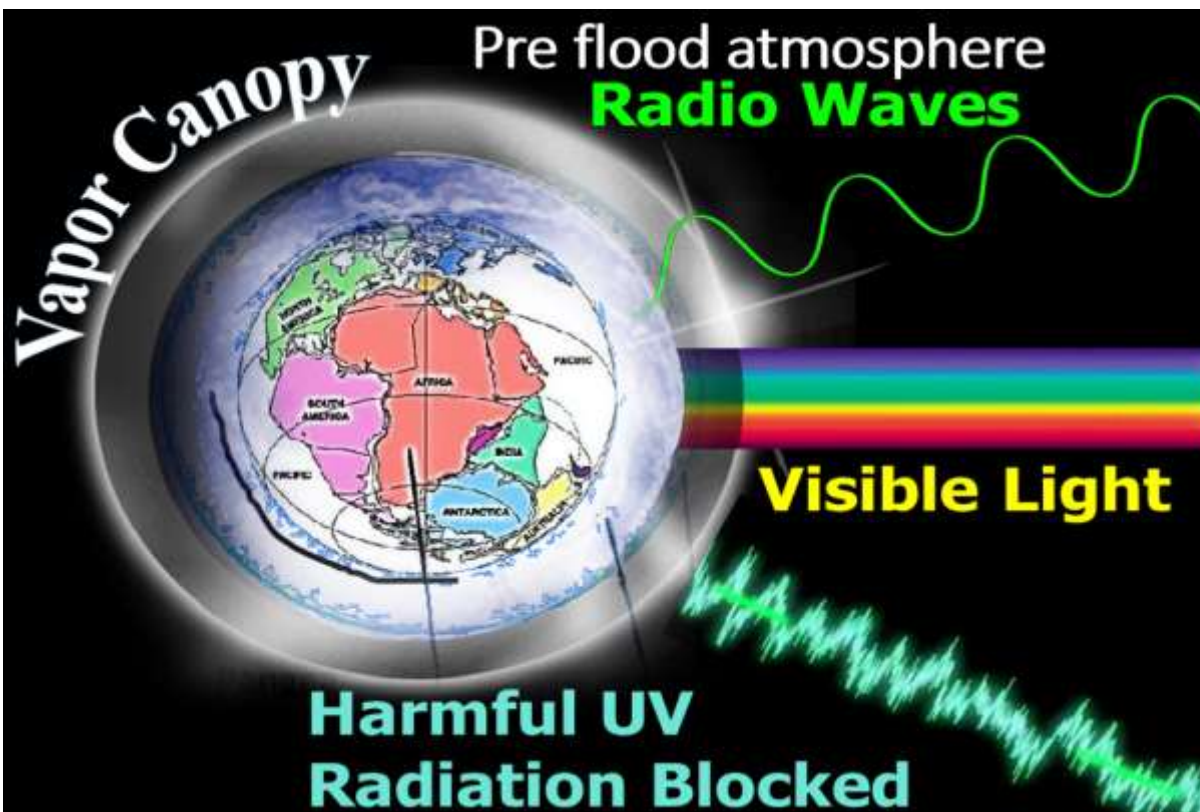
- Water canopy (Genesis 1.7) which caused deluge screened out harmful rays of sun and thus held back aging process. Created global greenhouse effect which made the earth so fertile.
- Before flood earth much more luxuriant with healthy foods, corn, fruit and vegetables in abundant supply. No harmful foods. Creatures / humans vegetarian. ? Permission to eat meat after flood (Genesis 9.1-4)
- Genetic defects accumulated in modern people were much less known so disease was much less prevalent (why Cain could marry sister).
- Gradual reduction in lifespan after flood until Moses 120, Joshua 110. No one longer than this thereafter. Psalm 90.10 70-80 years average lifespan.

Reasons for longevity of people before the Flood - Tony Pearce

Now, there are four reasons why the lifespan before the flood could have been longer. First of all, that surrounding the earth, according to that which appears to be in the Bible, there was a much greater water canopy than you have today. And the water canopy, when it fell on the earth, deluged the earth and was one of the contributing factors to the worldwide Flood. This water canopy would have screened out the harmful rays of the sun and thus held back the aging process.

It also created a kind of global greenhouse effect. And one of the interesting things they've discovered actually, is that there are evidences of warm climate things being discovered near the North Pole, including coral and other things which only exist in warm areas. So, the possibility is then that, before the Flood, there was a uniform, warm, temperature on the earth. Before the Flood then, also, the earth would have been much more luxuriant, with healthy foods, corn, fruit, and vegetables in abundant supply. And probably, creatures were vegetarian. We don't read that, but it's an implication of the Bible, because it's only after the Flood in **Genesis** chapter 9, you read that God gives the permission to eat meat. And also, interestingly, in the prophetic scriptures, in the description of the millennium, it appears that creatures will go back to being vegetarian.

The third reason is that the genetic defects which are accumulated in modern people like ourselves, were much less known so disease would have been much less prevalent. That's one reason why **Cain** could marry his sister. By the way, now you can't marry your sister or your near relative because you will have the same genetic defects that they have, which means it's much more likely that you'll have a child with something seriously wrong with them.



Reference: *Scientific Creationism: Study Real Evidence of Origins, Discover Scientific Flaws in Evolution* Henry M. Morris

"Many creationists have attributed this special primeval atmosphere to a water canopy that was created by God on the second day, the waters above the firmament. This theory holds that there was a vast blanket of invisible water vapor, translucent to the light of the stars but productive of a marvellous greenhouse effect which maintained mild temperatures from pole to pole, thus preventing air mass circulation and the resultant rainfall. We certainly have had the effect of efficiently filtering harmful radiation from space, markedly reducing the state of somatic mutations in living cells and, as a consequence, drastically decreasing the rate of aging and death."

Genesis 5 – Cainan to Jared

¹² Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. ¹³ After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

¹⁵ Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. ¹⁶ After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

¹⁸ Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. ¹⁹ After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁰ So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

Genesis 5 – Enoch to Noah

²¹ Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. ²² After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵ Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. ²⁶ After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁷ So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

²⁸ Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. ²⁹ And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed." ³⁰ After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. ³¹ So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

³² And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.