

## Series: Beginnings, Betrayal, Blessings

### Title: Life Is Short, and Then We Die

Text: Genesis 5

#### My lineage – 14 generations 1552-1961

David Foster - 08/25/1961

Alice Crowder (Foster / Trumblee) 06/16/1925

Charles David Crowder 10/14/1888 –05/17/1968

William Taylor Crowder 1855

William Calvin Crowder 1830

Overstreet Crowder 1786

Absalom Crowder 1765

Bartholomew C Crowder, III – 06/03/1721

Bartholomew C. Crowder, Jr. - 1695

Bartholomew Crowder, Sr. – 11/1672

Henry Crowder – 1619

Hugh Crowder, Jr –1600

Sir Hugh Crowder, Sr –10/03/1579

Clement Crowder – 1552

- 400 years of ancestors
- Note that I did not mention that I am the youngest of six, or that my mother was the oldest of 6.
- I did not tell you the lines of my brothers or my sisters or their children, or their children's children.
- I did not even mention my two children or my grandchild.
- I am telling you the story of Me, of David.

There are about 25 genealogical lists in the Bible.

#### Descendants of Cain

##### Descendants of Seth: God's kept Promise

**Genesis 3:15** - *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

- There was a promise of a descendant who would crush the head of evil.
- One son was dead, the other was sent away.

- How would the promise be kept.?

**Genesis 4:25** - *And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."*

## **Insights from the Text**

### **10 Generations**

- Genesis 5 – Adam to Noah – 10 generations
- Luke 3:23-38 – Genealogy of Jesus: Adam to Noah – 10 generations
- The line goes from Adam to Noah and his sons.

### **Years listed**

- Gives the years before they had their son and then the total years they lived.
- The years from Adam to Noah were 1056.
- The years from Adam to the flood were 1656.

### **Enoch walks with God**

- 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

### **Longest living Human**

- This is followed by the story of destruction with the flood.
- The godly are gone.

## **Questions from the text**

### **Q: Who did Cain and Seth marry to have these children?**

- The historic Scopes Trial in Tennessee in 1925, William Jennings Bryan, the prosecutor who stood for the Christian faith, failed to answer the question about Cain's wife posed by the ACLU lawyer Clarence Darrow.
- The world's press was focused on this trial, and what they heard has affected Christianity to this day—Christians can't defend the biblical record!
- Most believers in the church are not able to defend their biblical stance.

**1 Peter 3:15** *“always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”*

Where did Cain’s wife come from?

### **Wrong answers**

### **Other species of creation**

**The text does not support it.**

**Genesis 2:18, 20** - <sup>18</sup> *Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”* <sup>20</sup> *But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.*

- In all of the creations – there was not a creature that was suited for him.
- **From a mutual ancestor monkey**
  - They should have honored ancestors as solemnly created human beings rather than monkeys, which were separately created by GOD from a similar genetic template—the exact reason why species demonstrate identity and diversity, divergence and convergence.
  - Even yeast shares about one third of homologous genes with human.

### **Neanderthals and Denisovans**

- The nuclear genomes of multiple archaic Neanderthals and Denisovans have been sequenced at various levels of completeness. In addition, an even larger number of mitochondrial DNA sequences have been obtained.
  - Not surprisingly, archaic human DNA is nearly identical to that of modern humans. According to the consensus creationist model, Neanderthals are nothing more than people groups of post-Flood humans. However, evolutionists are in a constant quandary over their interbreeding (admixture) with anatomically modern humans, despite the fact that so-called archaic traits like sloping foreheads and pronounced brow ridges can still be found among modern humans today.
  - Denisovans - All were basically human and their fragmentary skeletal remains are well within the range of variation found in modern humans
    - According to the data, all humans belong to the same genetic group.

## Demonic beings

- Lilith – a first wife of Adam occultist myth, made from the dirt
- The serpent – conjoined with Eve – the serpent beguiled Eve – and now a wedge is between their offspring
- Sons of God and daughters of Eve – Nephilim – offspring from another created race or demonic

## Other clans of people

- The idea that other humans had developed over the ages and the family of Adam was only one of them.

**Genesis 3:20** --<sup>20</sup> *The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.*

**Genesis 5:1-2** - *This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.*

I do not want to have another science lesson but many would not accept these answers from the Text itself.

They do not believe in the text.

Clearly the text itself does not allow for any other option but one race of man from Adam and Eve.

But we can see the same from science:

### Mitochondrial and Y chromosome research

- Woman –
  - “Using our empirical rate to calibrate the mtDNA molecular clock would result in an age of the mtDNA MRCA [most recent common ancestor or the first human woman] of only ~6,500 years.”
  - Haplops
    - Based on an empirical estimate of human mitochondrial DNA mutation of about 0.5 per generation, as reported in the literature, they estimated that 200 generations would be needed to accumulate 100 mutations—a time of less than 6,000 years.

- New, more comprehensive data confirmed the material ancestry of three main lineages connected to the three wives of Noah's sons.
  - From that line there remain 20 more mutations before it is singular.... This accounts for ten generations
    - Exactly the amount we have in this list.
- Men – 300 generations of mutations
  - All of the data combined showed that, with a high degree of confidence, the actual sequences of historical individuals that gave rise to each branch in both family trees could be determined, including the ancestral Eve and Adam mitochondrial and Y chromosomes, respectively (within a reasonable level of confidence).

So who did Cain marry?

**A: Cain married a sister or niece or grand-niece – but Cain or Able must have married their sisters.**

- They don't mention other children born.
- As in my illustration of my heritage –
  - They don't tell when they were born.
  - The number of years between the birth of one and the other or any that may have been born between.
  - Ample time and procreation for him to marry and ancestral lines form.
- Just as I didn't list that I am last of 6 children, nor did I mention the siblings of any of my ancestors in the line...
- It is because I am telling the Story of me.
- The Scripture is telling the story of Christ and his bride

**Genesis 5:4** - *The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters.*

- So he had Seth at 130 years old and then had 800 years before his death.
- Cain lived long enough to see Noah's father born
- Many more children were born
- Throughout the genealogies we see that they had many more sons and daughters.

**Q: how is it that mankind lived so long?**

- Having children between the ages of 65 and 187

- Living between and 777 and 969 years
- The only exception being Enoch
  - walked with God, and was “taken” at 365

Why are our life spans so short today?

- Our average life span of eighty years is woefully short compared to when folks lived to be three hundred, four hundred, even nine hundred years old.
- Why the difference?
  - The question of why people lived so long in the early history of mankind as described in Genesis 1–10 is the flip side of why people for thousands of years have lived only 70 or 80 years, compared to hundreds of years.
  - Of course, it’s also the flip side of why people by the millions have died at 5 years old or 45 years old.
- The issue of mortality in this world is a massive contrast not only to eternal life but also to living 900 years.
- So, what’s up?

## Ages

- In Genesis 5, Adam lives to be 930 years old; his son Seth, 912 years; Seth’s son, 910 years; Methuselah, the oldest, 969 years; and Noah, 950 years.
- Then after the flood, Noah’s son Shem lives 600 years; his son, 438 years; then Shelah, 433 years; then Peleg, 239; and then Terah, the father of Abraham, 148 years.
- And then the age of the patriarchs: Abraham, 175 years; Isaac, 180 years; Jacob, 147 years.
- And then after the four-hundred-year bondage in Egypt: Moses, 120 years; Joshua, 110 years.
- And when we get to the period of the kings, David died at 70, Solomon at 80, which is where things have stood, I suppose you could say, for three thousand years — 70 or 80 years at best.

Before the flood - Seth was still alive at the birth of Noah

After the flood – Shem was still alive at the birth of Abraham

- History calls him the man of sorrows
  - Lived longer than 7 generations born after him.

Clearly the ages shortened.

Josephus – Josephus asserted that God “afforded [the ancients] a longer time of life on account of their virtue, and the good use they made of it in astronomical and geometrical discoveries.” [Antiq. III, 9]

**Maybe a better question is:**

**Why are our lives are so short?**

When we see this, we may have an idea as to why they lived long lives

We know from the story of creation in Genesis 1–3 and in Romans 5:12–14 that death was not intended to be a part of the perfect world before sin.

- When sin entered the world — it came with death.
- Death was threatened by God as a penalty for disobedience (Genesis 2:17).
  - Therefore, the presence of death in the world is not a natural part of the original, perfect creation but a judicial part of the fallen creation.
  - It’s a punishment.

The apostle Paul puts it like this in Romans 8:20–21

**Romans 8:20–21**

*The creation was subjected [that’s the fall under God’s judgment] to futility [by God], not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

- Paul describes the present situation of the created world as subjected to futility and in bondage to corruption.
- That word “corruption” regularly refers to mortality and how things move from a state of vitality to dissolution and death.
- God subjected the world to corruption, futility, death.
- Death is a divine, judicial sentence upon humanity because of sin.

The psalmist put it like this:

**Psalms 90:4–5, 9–10**

*A thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning. . . . For all our days pass away under your wrath [that’s the judicial part of death]; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.*

- Now, if we ask what is the aim of this divine judgment?

- The answer is at least partly to make us aware that sin is horrible.
- Sin is a great outrage against God. Life is short and eternity is long.
- We need wisdom to know how to think and live with so little time on earth compared to eternity.
- Life is SHORT!

So, the psalmist prays,

**Psalm 39:4–6**

*O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Surely a man goes about as a shadow!*

James in the New Testament makes the same point when he says,

**James 1:10**

*“Let the rich boast in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away”*

**1 Peter 1:24–25**

*“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”*

- In other words, human mortality and the shortness of life cries out to the world, “Your life is a vapor. Your life is a vapor.
- Take hold of what lasts.
- Take hold of God.
- Take hold of Christ.
- Take hold of the gospel.”

The brevity is to call us to look away from this mortal life and look toward an eternity and the powerful longevity that lays ahead.

- Look for your portion and your hope and your treasure outside this world.
- It is only found in God.
- That’s the purpose of our mortality.

What can we say about the extraordinarily long lives, then, of those first humans in Genesis 1–10?

Why did they live 900 years?

Perhaps there's a clue in listening to the patriarch Jacob before he died. He said in Genesis 47:9

### **Genesis 47:9**

*The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning.*

- Jacob feels the contrast between his length of life, which we would consider long, and the length of those who have gone before.
- And surely we feel it — we should feel it — when we look at our
- “threescore years and ten,” or “by reason of strength . . . fourscore years” — (Psalm 90:10 KJV).
- Surely we are to feel that some of our ancestors lived ten times that long, and we are to wonder at it.

**A: the answer to why is life so short?**

### **So we can see how far we have fallen**

- God granted those long lives so that we, looking back, could see from which we have fallen.

### **Death was not part of creation**

- perfect cells degenerated from that tie
- In other words, those long lives testify that death was not part of the perfect creation.
  - God ordains as a lesson to us that the force of life be preserved for hundreds of years in very long lives in those early centuries to show that life, not death, was his design and our portion in creation at the beginning.
  - So, the long lives of those first humans stand as a testimony of how utterly short our lives are and how God's design at the beginning and his design in the future is life — indeed, eternal life.

### **2 Timothy 1:10**

*“[Grace] has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

Point to the ONE who would reverse the curse

- The descendant that would come would
- The gospel of Christ reverses the curse of mortality.
- The gospel opens the door of eternal life for all who believe.
- Those long lives were just pointers: it's about life; it's about life.
- And then it's taken from us in its fullness and restored in the gospel through Jesus.

Those who place their trust in Christ will be restored to a future free from the curse.

- **One family tree**

- a. We do all come from one family line a first man and a first woman
- b. This is connected to each one of us having a sin nature by the actions of those two.

- **The righteous will be spared from God's judgement.**

- c. Enoch
- d. Lamech
- e. Methusaleh

- **Death truly was the consequence**

- consequence of the failing of those two did indeed bring about death physically...  
But also spiritually
- Decline in the perfect bodies that were created not to die but fade as a result of the punishment.

### **Our need for Christ**

- God kept His promise about the descendant that would conquer. - Jesus
- The line The first Adam the last Adam –
- Death is conquered and has no sting

Prayer