



EXODUS

A STORY OF
**REDEMPTION
AND COVENANT**



God Can Use Anyone

- God can use anyone who humbly trusts in Him for His purposes
- Exodus 3:1, Acts 7:29–30
- Stephen's sermon in Acts tells us that Moses lived in Egypt for the first 40 years of his life (Acts 7:23).
- Then he lived as a shepherd in Midian for the next 40 years, until God appeared to Him at the burning bush (Acts 7:30).
- Later we will see Moses as he wanders in the wilderness with the people of God for 40 more years and then dies at the age of 120 (Deuteronomy 34:1–12).

God Can Use Anyone

- God spent 80 years preparing Moses for this moment.
- We don't know why it took 80 years for Moses to be ready for his calling, but we do know God's timing is perfect.
- When Moses was 40, he tried to save God's people in his own way, "by his (own) hand," and things didn't go as he expected (Acts 7:25).
- He wasn't ready at 40. He needed to be humbled and learn to follow God's plan, not take matters into his own hands.

God Can Use Anyone

- Having grown up in luxury, living as a shepherd for 40 years would certainly have humbled Moses, especially coming from Egyptian culture.
- As we looked at Joseph, we learned that Egyptians considered shepherds to be abominations – loathsome, detestable and unclean (Genesis 46:34).
- The shepherds in Egypt lived in an area separate from everyone else.
- Egyptians considered sheep worthless for food and sacrifice.

God Can Use Anyone

- Everywhere in the ancient world, not just in Egypt, shepherding was considered a menial vocation for the lowest classes and the unintelligent.
- In a family, it was the job of a servant or the youngest child, like King David in his family.
- Shepherds were considered second-class and thieves and liars.
- They couldn't testify in court because they were deemed unreliable.
- Religious leaders even considered them "sinners" and "incompetent."

God Can Use Anyone

- Going from the privilege and prestige of royalty in Egypt to living as a shepherd in an obscure land would have certainly humbled Moses.
- Like Moses, David spent time as a shepherd and fled from a king who wanted to kill him.
- David's time as a shepherd and in the wilderness fleeing Saul prepared him to trust God for protection and provision (1 Samuel 17:34–37).
- Moses' time as a shepherd also prepared him for the calling God had for him. We see a very different Moses at the burning bush.

God Can Use Anyone

- He no longer thought of himself as the hero who would save God's people by his hand. He actually felt ill-equipped to do what God was calling him to do. But he would learn that it was not his own power that would save God's people; it was the Lord's.
- God brought him to a place of weakness to let His power shine through Moses, so there would be no doubt who was rescuing the people.
- Throughout Scripture, God often used the weak to accomplish His will so people would know it was His power, not theirs (2 Corinthians 12:9–10).

Trust and Follow God

- We can trust and follow God
- Exodus 3:2–15, Acts 7:30–34
- One day, after Moses had been living the shepherd life for 40 years – half his lifetime – he was tending the flock on Horeb, “the mountain of God.”
- We know that Mount Horeb and Mount Sinai are two different names for the same place because God told Moses that he would bring the people back to this mountain when they came out of Egypt.

Trust and Follow God

- This passage uses “the angel of the Lord” and “God” interchangeably – the angel of the Lord appeared, God spoke, and Moses was afraid to look at God.
- In the Old Testament, “the angel of the Lord” is a term used for the preincarnate Christ, God the Son, before His incarnation as Jesus of Nazareth.
- The “angel of the Lord” makes several appearances throughout the Old Testament and is described and treated as God.
- People feared and worshipped Him as they did God. This is how we know He was not just an angel but God the Son.

Trust and Follow God

- A “theophany” is an appearance of God in a form visible to humans.
- It was important for God to reveal Himself so Moses would know just who was calling and empowering him to rescue God’s people.
- We learn several things about God from this theophany:
- From the bush, God called out to Moses by name.
- Our God is a personal, intimate God who knows us by name and wants to have a relationship with us.

Trust and Follow God

- Yet He is a holy God. Moses had to take off his shoes because the ground was made holy by God's presence. Fire is also symbolic of holiness. Moses hid his face because he was afraid of God's glory.
- From the bush, God said He had heard the cry of His people. In the Law He gave Moses, God said that one of the things that makes Him different from the "gods" of other nations is that He is not far off; He was near to them whenever they called on Him (Deuteronomy 4:7).
- Our God is a God who hears our cries, sees our pain and sufferings, and responds to us.

Trust and Follow God

- God told Moses that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is the same God who made the covenant promises to Abraham, which He would now fulfill to His descendants.
- Our God is a promise keeper and a God of covenant relationship.
- God also said He had seen the oppression of His people at the hand of Pharaoh.
- Our God is a God of justice. He sees when people are abused, mistreated, and oppressed, and He executes justice on the oppressors.

Trust and Follow God

- Moses said, “Who am I” to rescue God’s people?
- God didn’t answer, “You’re the great Moses. You have all of the following qualifications ...”
- He said, “I will be with you.” It is God who works in us and through us. It was God’s strength, power, wisdom, and words that would rescue His people.
- The same is true for the body of Christ. It is God’s Holy Spirit who empowers and equips us and works through us (1 Corinthians 12).

Trust and Follow God

- God told Moses, “I Am Who I Am.”
- This is His personal name, “Yahweh,” “I Am” or “I Will Be.”
- This means that God is the only Being who has always existed, from before there was time.
- It also means He is the source of all existence; everything that “is” was made by Him and through Him.
- It means God is who He is, not who we want Him to be.

Lord is Our Warrior

- The Lord is our warrior; He fights for us
- Exodus 3:16–22, Acts 7:35–38
- God told Moses what would happen when he went back to Egypt:
- The elders of the people would listen to him because of the word of the Lord.
- Pharaoh would not let them go without God's mighty hand against the Egyptians in the plagues.
- They would “plunder” the Egyptians.

Lord is Our Warrior

- After God described who He was and why Moses could trust Him, He told Moses what He would do for His people.
- He would bring them out of slavery to a land “flowing with milk and honey,” send great plagues against Egypt so Pharaoh would be forced to let them go, and miraculously provide for His people financially.
- All of this pointed to God as their warrior, their strength, their conqueror, and their provider.
- Pharaoh would only respond to God’s “mighty hand.”

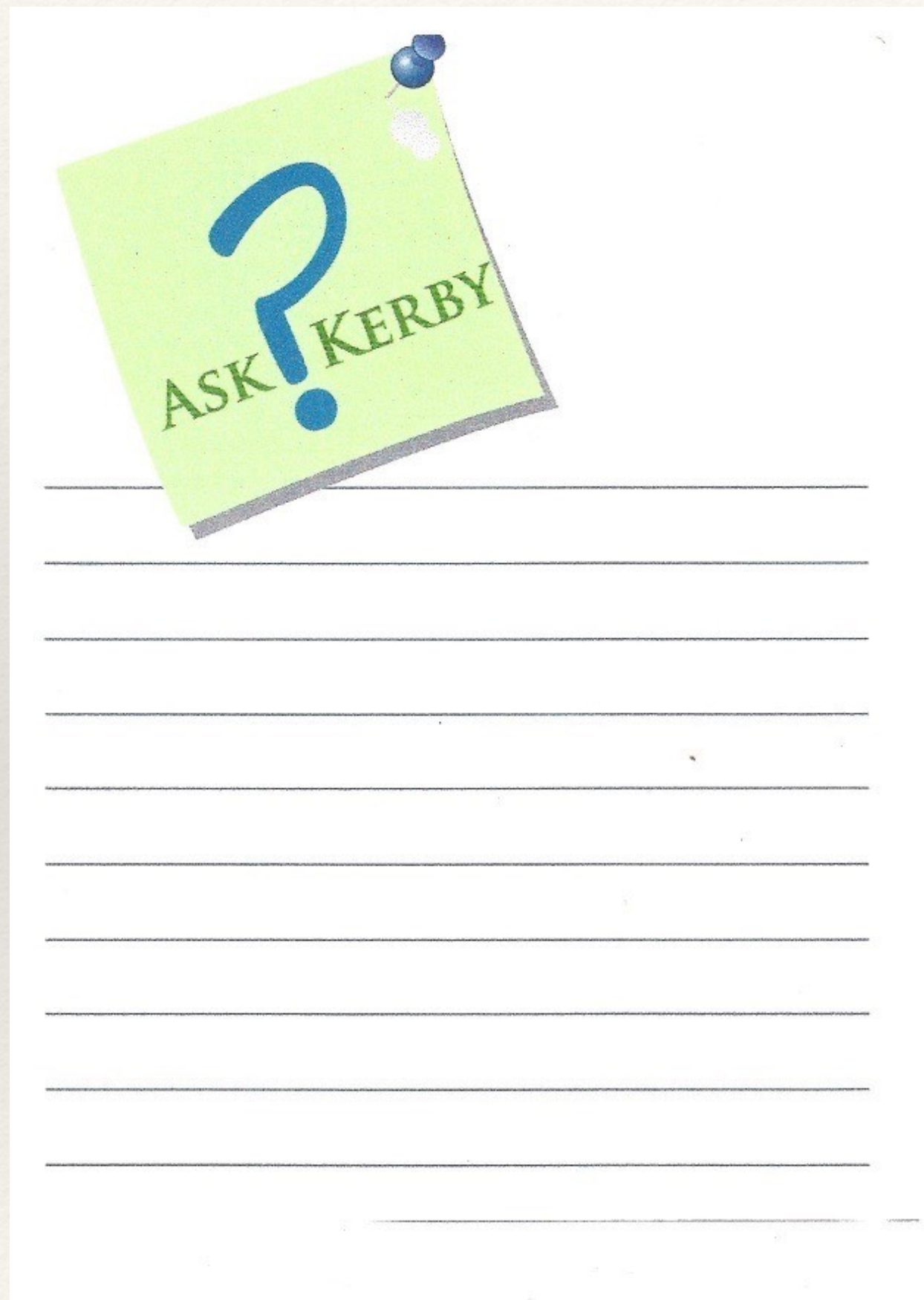
Lord is Our Warrior

- Later, when the people had fled Egypt and Pharaoh's army was close at hand, God told them, "YHWH will fight for you, you have only to be silent" (Exodus 14:14).
- The whole story of the exodus is one of God as the mighty warrior who fights for His people. The people didn't do anything to rescue themselves; it was all the supernatural work of God.
- Here God promised to be their rescuer, their redeemer, their warrior, and their provider. And the rest of the book of Exodus proves He is all those things.

Lord is Our Warrior

- Our warfare is spiritual, against the powers and principalities of this present darkness, against the forces of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:10–12).
- Yet God is still our warrior. In this battle, our protection and our weapons are “the armor of God”—truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God.
- We need to trust Him and watch Him work. We cannot do anything in our own strength. Apart from the Vine, Jesus, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Ask Kerby



Since Pharaoh's daughter
named Moses, is it an
Egyptian name?

And what does it mean?

The Name “Moses”

- The name “Moses, according to the Torah, comes from the Hebrew verb, meaning “to pull out/ draw out” [of water].
- Moses was given this name by Pharaoh's daughter after she rescued him from the Nile (Exodus 2:10).
- With the decipherment of hieroglyphs, we have found a similar Egyptian pronunciation as the Hebrew. It is the Egyptian word for son, with Pharaoh names such as Thutmose and Ramesses.
- It would therefore translate to “son of Thoth” and “son of Ra.”

Did Moses Live 120 Years?

- Stephen's sermon in Acts tells us that Moses lived in Egypt for the first 40 years of his life (Acts 7:23).
- Then he lived as a shepherd in Midian for the next 40 years, until God appeared to Him at the burning bush (Acts 7:30).
- Later we will see Moses as he wanders in the wilderness with the people of God for 40 more years and then dies at the age of 120 (Deuteronomy 34:1–12).
- So Moses' life is easily divided into three 40-year periods.

Did Moses Live 120 Years?

- Moses isn't the only person to live longer than we do today. The genealogy in Genesis 5 records the line of the godly descendants of Seth.
- This is the line that would eventually produce the Messiah. It appears is that everyone during that time lived several hundred years.
- Something happened at the global flood to shorten men's lifespans.
- Compare the lifespans before the flood (Genesis 5:1–32) with those after the flood (Genesis 11:10–32).

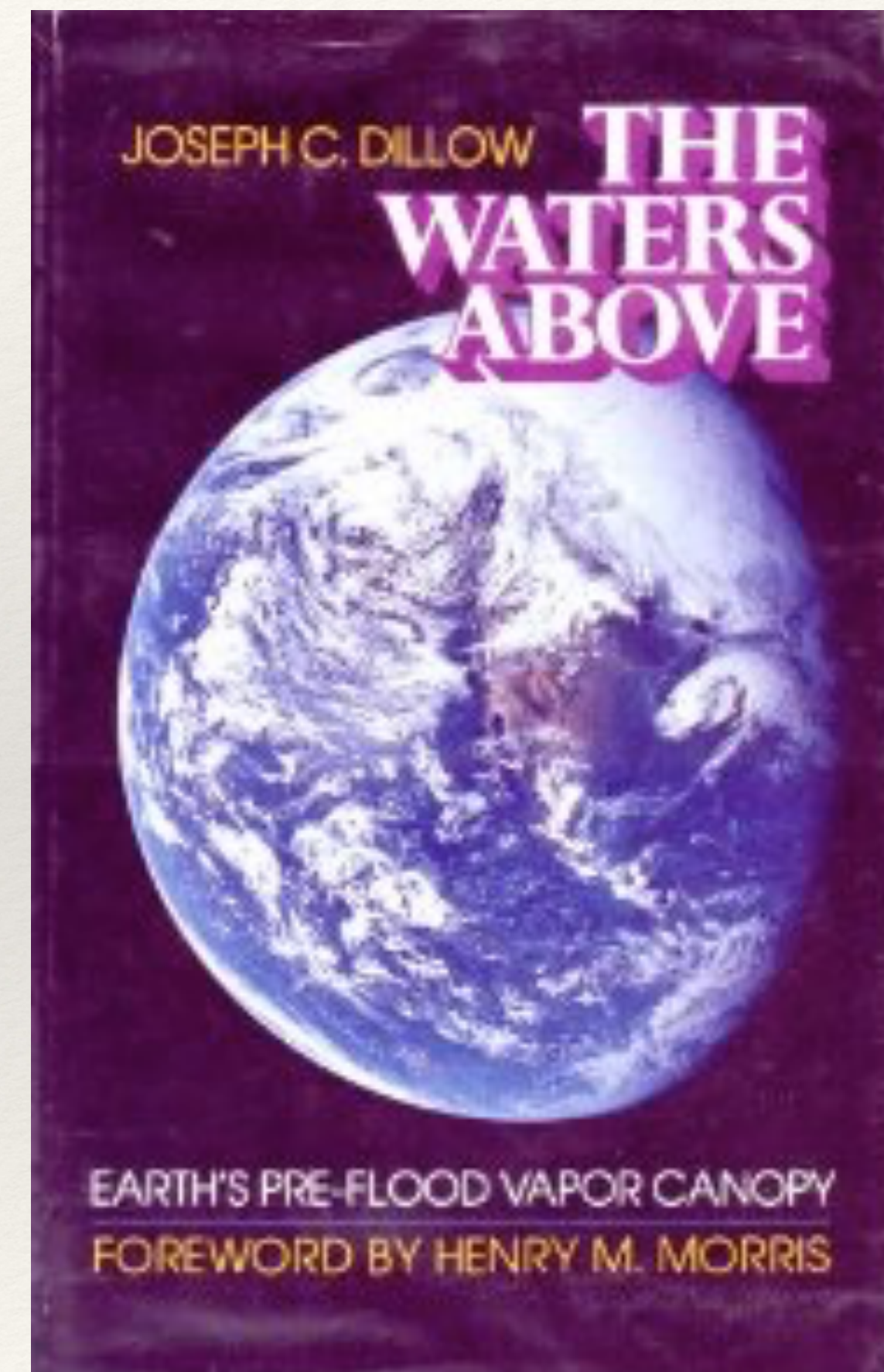
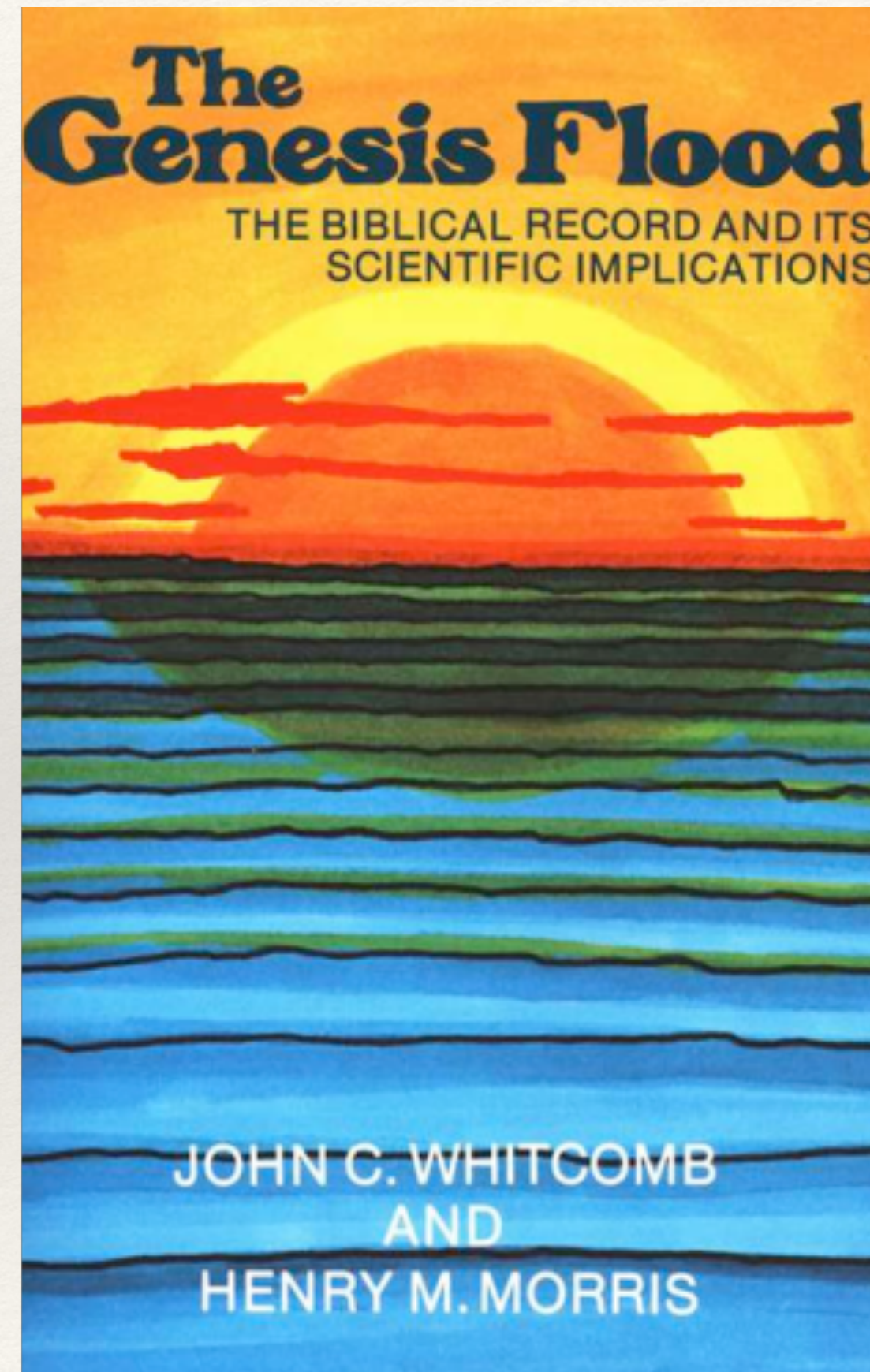
Did Moses Live 120 Years?

- Genetics - Adam and Eve were created perfect. They were surely highly resistant to disease and illness.
- Over time, as a result of sin, the human genetic code became increasingly corrupted.
- Therefore, human beings became more and more susceptible to death and disease.
- This would also have resulted in drastically reduced lifespans.

Did Moses Live 120 Years?

- Flood - Some believe that a water vapor canopy used to surround the earth.
- These waters were also “above the firmament” (Genesis 1:7).
- It would have created a greenhouse effect and that also blocked much of the radiation that now hits the earth.
- At the time of the flood, the water canopy was poured out on the earth (Genesis 7:11), ending the ideal environment.

Water Vapor Canopy



Decreasing Lifespans

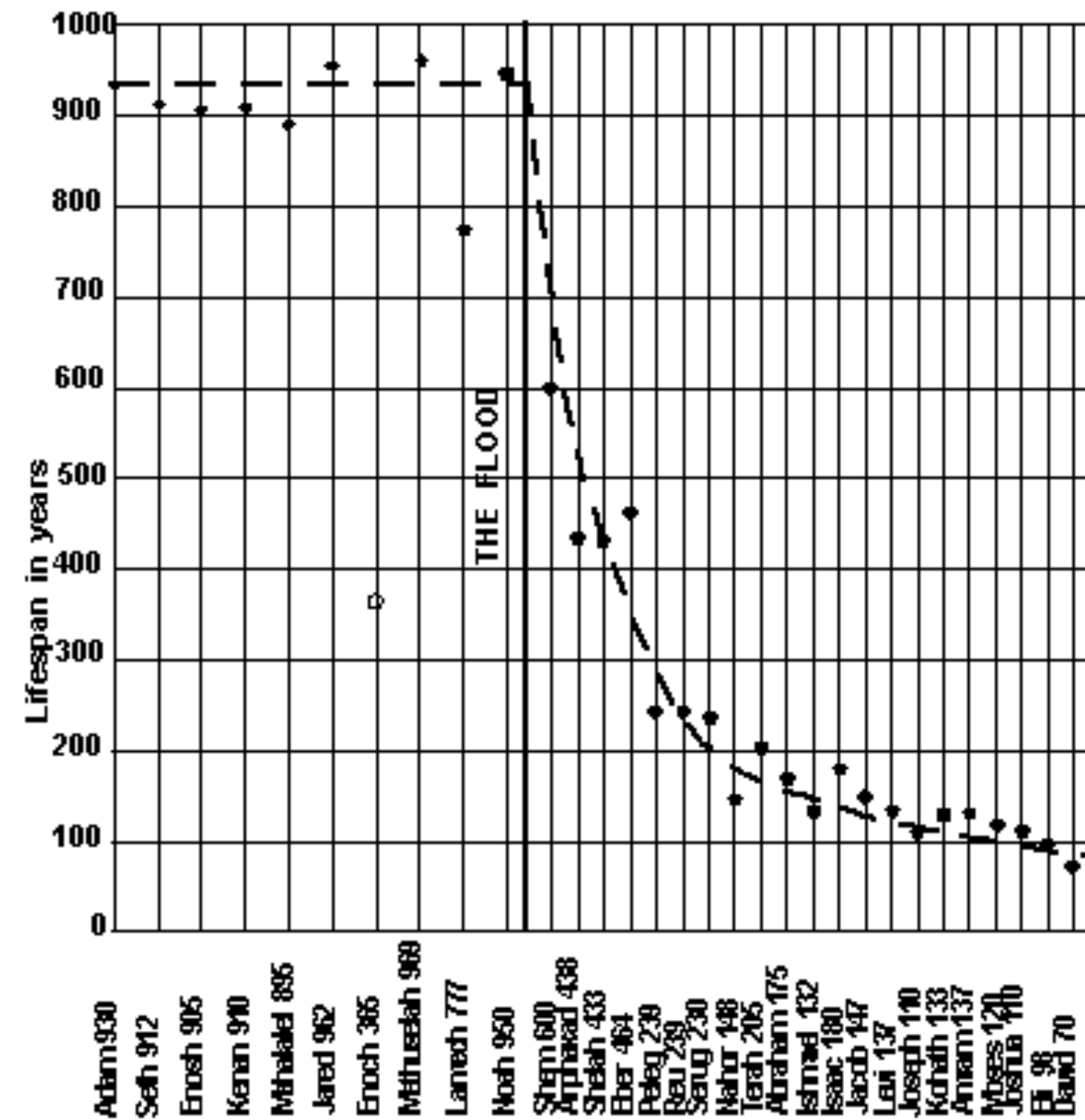
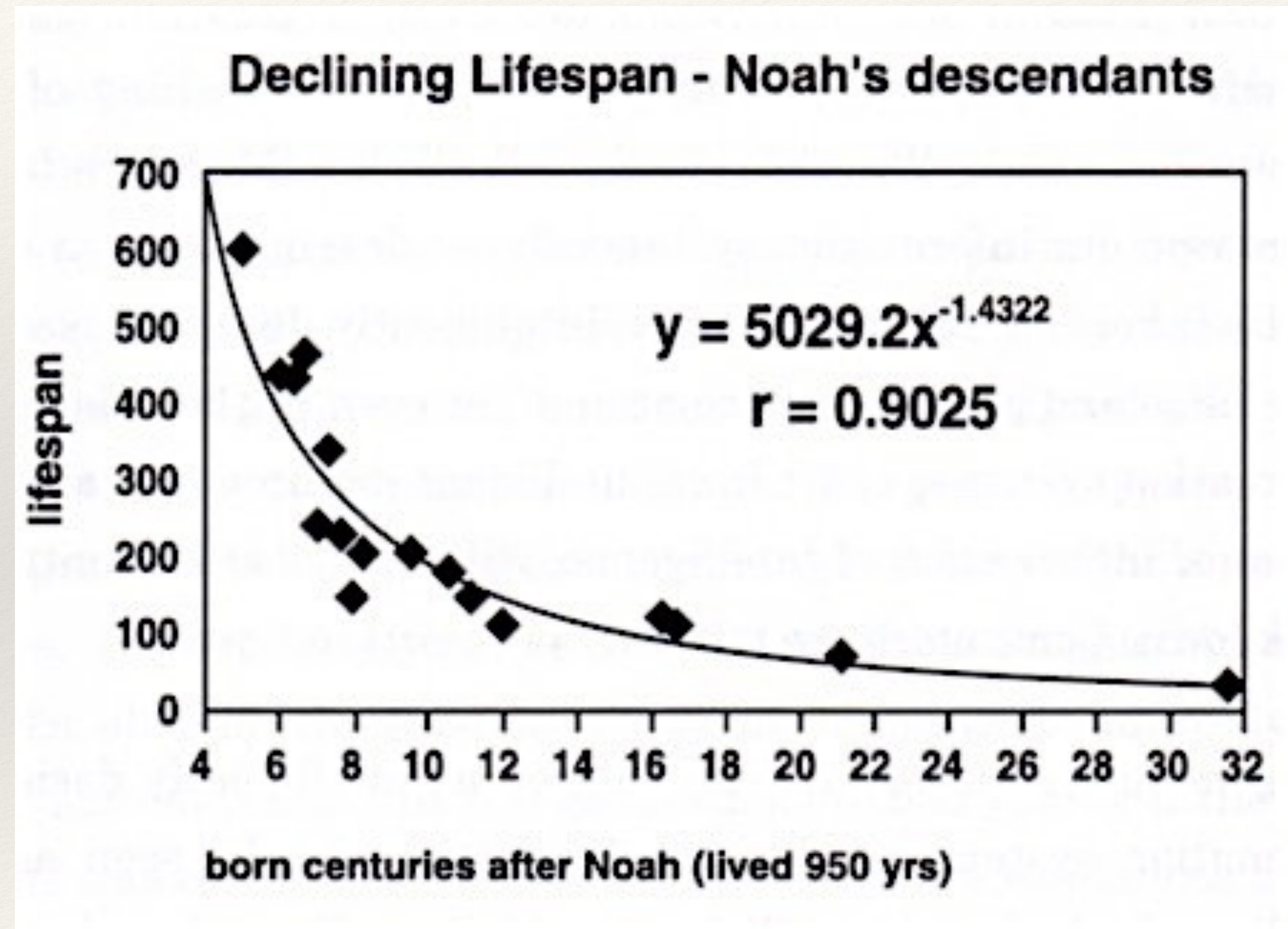


Fig. 1. The life spans of the patriarchs



Lifespans After Moses

- Moses may have indeed lived 120 years, but he also wrote that most of us will not live as long.
- Moses wrote the 90th Psalm and quite likely the 91st Psalm. He wrote that we would live 70 years, or with strength 80 years.
- Psalm 90:9-10 - “For all our days pass away under your wrath; 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.”

Resources

