

A Thousand Generations

He remembers His covenant forever, the word He commanded for a thousand generations.

Psalm 105:8

What did God intend?

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Considerations:

Ages recorded before the flood – Genesis 5-9

Seth 912

Jared 962

Enosh 905

Enoch 365*

Kenan 910

Lemech 777

Noah 950

Mahalalel 895

Methuselah 969

Average age 849

***He walked with God and God took him.**

Genesis 5:24

Then God said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal, and his days will be a hundred and twenty years.

Genesis 6:3

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The covenant with Noah, Genesis 9:1-17

Genesis 9:8-17 (Selected)

"See I establish My covenant with you and your descendants after you, also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you, everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish My covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again. (Verse 12-16, the rainbow)

God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between Myself and every living thing that is found on the earth."

Ages of Noah's male descendants, 403, 430, 209, 207, 205, 200, 119.

Genesis 11:10-32. Average age 253

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SELECTED OTHER COVENANT STATEMENTS

“—but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation of the children of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Exodus 20:6, (NIV does not have children)

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (For the blessings of the covenant, see

Deuteronomy 30:11-20)

--He remembers His covenant forever the word He commanded for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham. The oath He swore to Isaac.

1 Chronicles 16:15-16. (David's song)

Give ear to Me; hear Me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. My faithful love promised to David.

Isaiah 55:3

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See the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks, when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke the covenant of Mine so I had to show them who was master. It is Yahweh who speaks. Deep within them I will plant My law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they will be My people. There will be no further need for neighbor to try to teach neighbor, or brother to say to brother, “Learn to know Yahweh!”

No, they will know Me, the least no less than the greatest, it is Yahweh who speaks –since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sins to mind.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will give them singleness of heart and actions, so that they will always fear Me for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with them. I will

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never stop doing good to them and I will inspire them to fear Me so they will never turn away from Me.

Jeremiah 32:39-41

Yet I will remember the covenant in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you.

Ezekiel 16:60

I will make a covenant of peace with them. It will be an everlasting covenant.

Ezekiel 37:26

Are the Gentiles Included in the Covenant?

No doubt some of the branches have been cut off, and like shoots of wild olive, you have been grafted among the rest to share with them the rich sap; provided by the olive tree itself, but still if you think yourself superior to the other branches, remember that you do not support the root, it is the root that supports you. You will say, "Those branches were cut off on purpose to let me be grafted in!"

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True, they were cut off, but through their unbelief; if you still hold firm, it is only thanks to your faith.

Romans 11:17-20

Some Final Reflections from the author, Jim Murphy

1. God looks at time much differently than we do.

Psalm 95 for example: "for forty years I was angry with that generation."

God seems to define a generation at forty years, however I reviewed two dictionaries published fifty years apart, and both defined a generation at thirty years.

A thousand generations then could be, 30,000 years or 40,000 years!

Time periods beyond my comprehension.

2. The Old Testament covenant seems to emphasize the "abundant" life; children, livestock, and farm produce.

3. The New Testament "covenant" (John 3:16-18) emphasizes "everlasting life".