

**Aim:** To see how sin, and later the flood affected lifespans

When God first created humans, how long did He intend for them to live? (Forever)

In Genesis 2:16, God warned Adam and Eve, that if they ate from the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, they would die instead of living forever. Did they die immediately?

Adam and Eve had no idea what death was, until they saw an animal die so that they could have clothes, and the first human death they ever witnessed was our story this morning when Cain killed Abel. That is also one of the reasons why God created the sacrificial system, because seeing an animal die as a sacrifice, reminded them what death was, as well as pointing to the time that Jesus would die for their sins.

We don't know much about the sacrifices before Moses' time, for example, how often they did them. However there are records of Abraham, Noah, and in our story this morning, of Cain and Abel offering Sacrifices.

The first 5 books of the Bible are called the books of Moses, although Moses wasn't born until Exodus 2. So we don't know how much of the stories in Genesis were told to Moses by God, or how much Moses learned from written or verbal records, passed down through Noah, Shem, Abraham etc. They might have had books or letters, which have since been destroyed, or they might have passed their history down through storytelling, or both. We only have 6 chapters and a few other verses here and there to tell us the history of the world before the flood.

### **Read Genesis 4:3-5**

Why was Cain's sacrifice rejected?

**Read Exodus 23:19a** – The Israelites were commanded to bring some of their harvest as a thank offering to God for His blessings. But this was in addition to the sacrifices that the Israelites performed which pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus.

### **Read Genesis 4:7**

This tells us that this was meant to be the sacrifice that reminded them what death was, and that pointed to the death of Jesus as payment for our sins.

### **Go back and read Genesis 4:6**

Discuss: What reasons did Cain have to be angry?

His anger tells us that his pride was involved. He was proud of the beautiful fruit that he had grown and wanted to show it off; it wasn't even about him being thankful for what God had given him. Cain was following the way of Lucifer, rather than the way of God.

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Originally God intended that humans would live forever, but this changed because of sin.

*Show a chart of the ages of people before and after the flood. (There is one in the Orange week 11 booklet if needed)*

Note how long the people before the flood lived.

Note the change in lifespans around and after the flood.

Note the change in lifespans from Peleg – likely around the time that the split from Babel occurred.

There are a number of reasons that these drops in lifespans may have occurred and we will look at them in , including, changes in the environment after the flood – the plants and air would not have been as good as before. And when a smaller group of people intermarry, defects are more likely to occur in the DNA of their children – this can cause more health problems and shorter life spans. There were only 8 people on the ark, and you will notice another drop after Babel which was probably caused by similar things: smaller groups of people, moving to new locations and having to find new sources of food etc.

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In the workbook, fill out the chart The Descendants of Adam

Put an item on the first page about the changes in lifespan before and after sin, and after the flood.