

Because of Sin

God Has Shortened Man's Days

Adam was warned that in the day that he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil he would surely die (Genesis 2:16-17). And Adam did die in that very millennial day — for to God a thousand years is as one day (2 Peter 3:8; compare Psalm 90:4).

But (as illustrated here), the “days” of man have been systematically shortened. They were rather abruptly cut in half at both the Noachian flood and the tower of Babel. And then they were cut in half a third time in a more gradual fashion — as it is written:

“The fear of the LORD prolongs days,
But the years of the wicked will be shortened” (Proverbs 10:27).

“He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days.
I said, ‘O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days;
Your years *are* throughout all generations’” (Psalm 102:23-24).

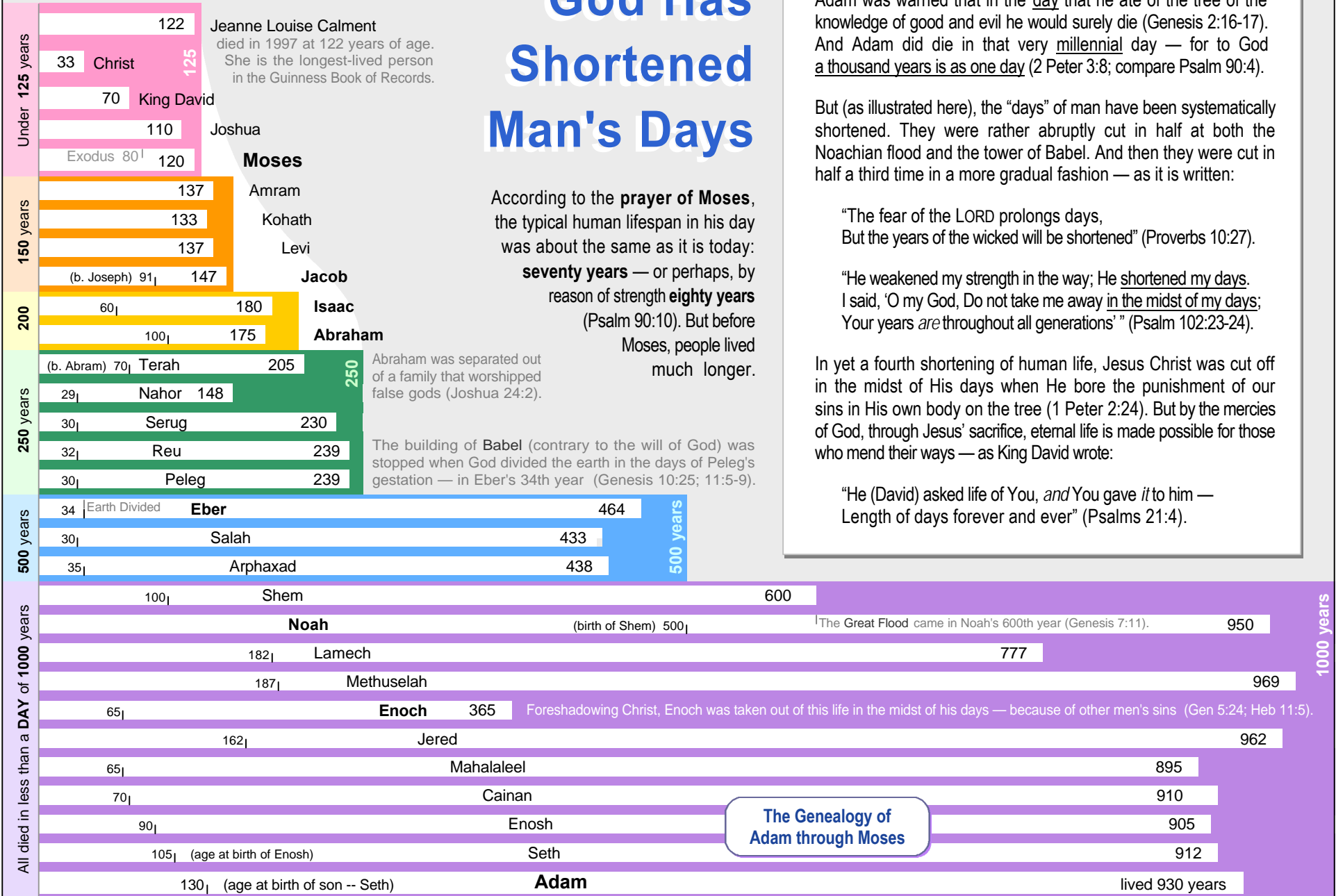
In yet a fourth shortening of human life, Jesus Christ was cut off in the midst of His days when He bore the punishment of our sins in His own body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24). But by the mercies of God, through Jesus’ sacrifice, eternal life is made possible for those who mend their ways — as King David wrote:

“He (David) asked life of You, *and* You gave *it* to him —
Length of days forever and ever” (Psalms 21:4).

According to the **prayer of Moses**, the typical human lifespan in his day was about the same as it is today: **seventy years** — or perhaps, by reason of strength **eighty years** (Psalm 90:10). But before Moses, people lived much longer.

Abraham was separated out of a family that worshipped false gods (Joshua 24:2).

The building of Babel (contrary to the will of God) was stopped when God divided the earth in the days of Peleg’s gestation — in Eber’s 34th year (Genesis 10:25; 11:5-9).



The Genealogy of Adam through Moses