

**K**ane Tanaka was the oldest man in the world. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, he lived 119 years and 97 days [Jan 1903 to Apr 2022].

### Adam's Ladder to Heaven

Methuselah was the oldest man in the Bible; he lived 969 years. Seven generations of men lived before Methuselah; the ages at their deaths were 912, 905, 910, 895, 962, and 365 years. Two generations of men lived after Methuselah; the ages at their deaths were 777 and 950 years.

Now, Paul warned Timothy about things of this world that appear to contradict the scriptures: "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called. Which some professing have erred concerning the faith," [1Ti 6:20-21].

It is easy to believe that Tanaka lived for 119 years. But we must "stretch our imaginations" to believe the ages of the 10 men in Adam's generations. Enoch, the youngest of the 10, lived 3 times as long as Tanaka. Question: Are the ages of the 10 men of Adam's generations literal or figurative? We can learn the answer from another ladder.

### Shem's Ladder from Heaven

The 10 generations from Adam to Noah form a figurative ladder from earth to heaven. Adam is the lower rung and Noah is the top rung. [Read "Introduction of Bible Numerology," FL204].

One of Noah's sons generated another 10 rung ladder [Ge 11:10-26]. This one is from heaven to earth. Shem is the top 1st rung; Abram, Nahor, and Haran form the lower 10th rung.

[Read that text and notice the similarity between Shem and Adam's lineage. In both ladders, each son is born during a certain year of his father's life. Then the father lives several years and dies. Other than the different names and ages, both sets of 10 follow the same pattern.]

Now, the story of the lower rung on Shem's ladder is in Ge 11:27-32, where Terah takes Abram, Abram's wife and nephew Lot, and departs Ur of the Chaldees for the land of Canaan. You should read this text now.

In Ge 11:31, Terah takes a "delay in route" at a place called Haran, named after his son Haran, who had died before him before his departure from Ur.

Now go back and read Ge 11:26; this time pay close attention to Terah's ages: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran when he was 70 years old. And in Ge 11:32, Terah dies at 205 years.

Now read Ge 12:1-3 in your Bible. The LORD had told Abram to leave his father's house. But Terah had two houses, one in Ur of the Chaldees and a second, temporary house in

the city of Haran. There is a good reason to believe the reference is to both houses, but houses are not important for this study. But Terah and Abram's ages are important.

- [1] Terah was 70 years old when Abram was born.
- [2] Abram was 75 years old when he departed Haran.
- [3] When Abram departed, Terah was 145 years.
- [4] Terah died at 205, so he lived 60 years after Abram left.
- [5] But Stephen said that Abram left when Terah died.
- [6] This is only possible if these ages are figurative.

Now, Adam and Shem's ladders are similar. And Terah's figurative age sets a pattern for the men in Adam's ladder. Thus, ages of those 10 men are figurative.

### Figurative Ages in Adam's Ladder

Look back at the ages of death in Adam's ladder. Five of the men died in their 900th year, one died in his 800th year; one died in his 700th year and the LORD took Enoch in his 365th year.

Please read "Introduction to Bible Numerology," FL204 on this website before continuing. Numbers 9, 8, and 7 are roots. Single digits [1-9] are roots; roots in the 10s positions depict measures, and roots in the 100's positions depict fullness.

So then, the five 900th numbers relate to fullness of harvest; the 800th number relates to fullness of putting off [the flesh], the 700th number relates to fullness of perfection, and the 300th number relates to fullness of conformity.

The scriptures from Ge 2:8 through Ge 11:32 divide into 18 bible stories. These show a prophetic view of history from the start of humanity to the Rapture, possibly including the Millennial Kingdom.

Thus, the ages of the men on Adam's ladder are huge to show the fullness of the times and events when God will have finished His works, whether this be the time of the Rapture or the White Throne Judgement.

Concerning the title of this lesson, the answer is false. Methuselah did not live 969 years. His age represents the fullness of harvest [900], a measure of an image [60], and the work of a harvest [9]. The number of his age does not oppose science or the scripture [Ge 6:3]. Which is also figurative!

### Number Symbols

We learned to count when we were kids. We applied the numbers to objects, abstract entities, and to the order of things and events. Although unaware, we used those numbers as symbols.

This mental blindness is with us when studying scripture. We don't see numbers as symbols. This presents a problem, for numbers in scripture are figurative more often than literal.