

Genesis 5:32

And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

For the first time we see not just one son mentioned here, but quite possibly the triplets born to Noah. As I have dove in to answer this question, I can neither prove nor disprove why all three sons are named when Noah is first mentioned as becoming a father. Also, take special note of Noah's age, because it is a very important piece of information that will show just how long it took for Noah to build the ark, and to get all of the animals. What I want to share with you is how these great Patriarchs could have lived so many years longer than any of us today. Many people will automatically discredit this story because of the ages of these men, but remember, that even before we had the science that we have today, to show what we now know, truth has always been truth! There is a distinct difference between fact and truth. Many an innocent man has been executed based on valid facts; but the facts weren't always the truth. Scientists today still try and disprove the credibility of God's Word with supposed facts; that somehow end up being shown later not to be true. So what is the truth? Did men and women live to be hundreds of years old? Yes they did! But, the world they lived in then is quite different from the world we know today.

What we need to do first of all, is go back to **Genesis 1:6-8, 6. Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7. And God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. 8. And God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.**

The Word of God clearly tells us that there was an expanse of water around heaven, or our atmosphere: Scientists call this, "The Canopy Theory." The world as we know it today was very different from the world that Adam and Eve knew. This canopy of water impacted life on earth on many different levels: First of all, the color of the sky was not blue; but rather magenta because of the light passing through the canopy. Secondly, the atmospheric pressure would have been around 2 ¼ times greater than what we have today. This greater pressure would have allowed 2 ¼ times greater oxygen pressure which would explain why the great dinosaurs could have lived then; because these great reptiles breathed through their skin by diffusion. Today if one of these great animals were alive; it would more than likely suffocate to death. Some of the other beneficial effects of this greater pressure of oxygen would have been a faster rate of healing as well as relief from the effects of aging. The canopy would also act as a shield from the harmful cosmic radiation. What needs to be understood here is that one of the theories which concern the aging of a living being is that radiation leads to premature aging and actually reduces the life span. For five years my family lived in Florida while I was growing up. People were very tanned as compared to up here, but over the years that tanning took an effect on their skin; it looked very beautiful when they were younger, but as they aged their skin started to look like dried out leather. It is the radiation of the sun which caused them to tan, but it also caused the premature aging as well. Another life prolonging effect of the canopy would have been a lower concentration of ozone at the earth's surface. Ozone (O₃) is a chemical which when ingested through the lungs and into the blood stream, destroys living cells much like radiation. Today's science helps us to better understand the validity of God's Word, and I want to invite you to join me next time as we take a closer look into the antediluvian world; back in **Genesis**.