

# MY SPIRIT SHALL NOT ALWAYS CONTEND

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**Phoenix Arizona**  
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Edited by Sister Nicole Wentzell

I was asked a question a couple weeks ago about the *hundred and twenty years*. [Genesis 6:3] I had mentioned it lightly when I was speaking about the Two Days. [Hosea 6:2]

First of all, I would like to say: it's very nice when I get questions. Not that I want people to have questions, of course we wish we could all see everything clearly but we know that we all have questions. And as we walk along, the Lord shines light on those things and clears up the picture.

If a question is asked, then we know that's something we need to study, and that's a very big help. This is my way of saying: if you have any questions, ask. I'm not claiming to have the answer to all the questions, the Lord has the answers, but if He has allowed me to see something and I can answer, then I believe that's a help to us all.

So let's start in the book of Genesis this morning.

It says here:

Genesis 6:1

*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,*

Genesis 6:2

*That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

Now that part right there, we don't have a place where it starts in time. We know this wasn't the case with Adam: his wife was Eve. I believe and we are quite certain this was not the case with Seth either. It may have been around the time of Enoch, maybe a generation back or forward. Again, we don't know exactly when this was but we do know it was before Noah.

Now we've spoken of this before about *the sons of God* and *the daughters of men*. This is something the religious world really has confused. A lot of the religious world views these *sons of God* [Genesis 6:2] as angels.

We know that Jesus himself said *in the resurrection we are as the angels*. [Matthew 22:30] In what sense did he mean that? He said *they don't marry, they don't have children*.

So to think these were angels that somehow pressed themselves into flesh and then had relations with the daughters of men. I have to say: that's *not* scriptural. And not only is it *not* scriptural, I think just common sense tells us that this is a completely far-fetched idea.

Of course we know there were *two blood lines*. They were separate from each other but as the populations grew, there became *a crossing* of those lines.

It's just like today, we can drive south on 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We start out in Glendale, then we cross Camelback and now we're in Phoenix. You may say: well who decided to do that? Why didn't they just make the whole thing Phoenix?

It's because *in the beginning* there was a city called *Phoenix*, and north of that there was another city called *Glendale*. But as they *grew*, they finally *met*. That's what happened here on a larger scale.

Genesis 6:3

*And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

Now this is a very misunderstood scripture. I thought for a while that this was just something that I had misunderstood when I was young, but it turns out that there are many people today who believe that this is speaking of the shortening of the lifespan of man.

Yes we know that the Lord did begin to shorten man's lifespan. We can read about Noah's sons and their sons, and we see that *after the flood* God gradually began to shorten the lifespan of man and bring it down to seventy years.

We cannot find anything biblically where it was 120 years for a certain period of time and just stayed at 120 years.

If that was the case, we would have to say: well it looks like man did something wrong again because then He dropped it more. Or God changed His mind and 120 years was still too long because we know in the Psalms, Moses wrote that we have *seventy years or eighty years if we're robust*. [Psalm 90:10]

In fact, let's go read that.

Most Bibles have a preface to each Psalm. Here in Psalm 90 it says: *A Prayer of Moses, the man of God*. So yes David did write the majority of the Psalms but he didn't write every Psalm. If we go down to verse 10 it says here:

Psalm 90:10

*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off and we fly away.*

Now that's a beautiful scripture.

You may say: well how do we know it was Moses who wrote the first five Books? We know today, the modern people want to contest everything and say: maybe it was *some other Moses*.

First of all, we don't see any other Moses, at least that I can think of in a major sense in the Bible. And what really gives me the key is if we go to verse 4.

It says here:

Psalm 90:4

*For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past,*

When we read the book of Genesis that Moses wrote, how does he write it?

*The evening and the morning were the first day.* [Genesis 1:5] *The evening and the morning were the second day* [Genesis 1:8] right?

When we just look at geology, we can know that those were not 24-hour days but there is something called the Pleistocene Epoch. If you read about that, it says there began to be a great warming of the globe that started 13 000 years ago. If we take that 7000 years forward, that would be the *seven days* of Genesis 1.

By the biblical record, we know that we are sitting right on the end of 6000 years since we can say *Adam was formed of the dust of the ground.* [Genesis 2:7] So that adds up to 13 000 years, which takes us right back to what geological history tells us.

I believe verse 4 really identifies Psalm 90 with Moses.

Now somebody might say: well *Moses lived to be a hundred and twenty years old*. Yes he did. It also says *his eye was not dim* and it says *his natural force was not abated.* [Deuteronomy 34:7]

Yes Moses lived to be 120 years old. That was the grace of God on Moses' life: he didn't even lose his strength and he could still see. He didn't need glasses or contacts, not that they had them back then, but he was strong and he could see well. We know that was not the case with everybody.

Now I will say: God also gave a certain special strength to Joshua and Caleb. In fact, I believe Caleb said *I'm eighty-five years old and I'm as strong as I was when I was forty*. [Joshua 14:10-11] Why would he even say that, if man was living to 120 years?

But we know that during Moses' time God told him: *go and tell them that everybody who left Egypt at twenty years old and upward, they're going to die out in the desert. They're not going to enter in for their unbelief*. [Numbers 14:28-29] That was two million people.

Those who died would have been *twenty years old and up* when they left Egypt. Now if we think: they were *forty years in the wilderness* [Numbers 32:13] that would have some of them dying at sixty years old, right?

Then again, remember that not all of them were twenty years old. Those who would have been thirty, if we add the *forty years in the desert*, that would give them seventy years. So everybody who was past sixty years old did not make it but I would say: *the majority* of them lived to be *seventy or eighty* years old. That was in Moses' day.

Again, you can read the account in Genesis and you can see there is no place where man's lifespan just tapers off to 120 years and then stays. Even Isaac, I think he lived to be 180 [Genesis 35:28] that's not 120.

Let's go back to the book of Genesis.

Now there's another word here that can kind of throw us off in English. It's not a problem in Spanish but it is in English. He says here:

Genesis 6:3  
*And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man,*

He says *my spirit shall not always strive*.

That word *strive* can mean two things that are really different. Have you ever heard somebody say something like: *strive* to reach your goals? Nobody is saying yes? [Laughs] Okay I see one hand. But yes: *strive for the prize* or something like that.

So *to strive* can mean *to pursue with fervour*. That's Bright's definition but I do have the Merriam-Webster here.

The first definition is:

### **STRIVE**

- 1:** to devote serious effort or energy  
**ENDEAVOUR** *strive* to finish a project

He says *my spirit shall not always strive with man*. [Genesis 6:3] We know it's not like man and the Lord were working together for something. That was not the case. There was evil in the world.

But if we look at the second definition:

- 2:** to struggle in opposition  
**CONTEND**

The word *contend* is what it has in the Spanish Bible. The Lord is saying: *I'm not always going to be struggling against man*.

Now, how was he *struggling* or *contending* with man? He was pleading with man *turn from your wicked ways*. That was His *contention*. That was His *striving* with man. He was saying *your ways are wicked, turn around and start walking right before Me*. But man would not listen or I should say: there were very few who would listen.

There were *a few* who heard the Word of the Lord. We know there was Noah and we don't know how many died before the flood who had also heard the Word of the Lord. But the great majority failed to listen to God's Word.

It says here:

Genesis 6:3  
*the LORD said,*

It doesn't say who He said this to. I don't know if Noah even heard this. Maybe he did, or maybe this was something that God just spoke to the angelic family.

We know in other places, God spoke to the angels: *and the Lord said this and this, and let's go down and fix this*. [Genesis 1:26] [Genesis 11:7] Maybe this was just spoken to the angelic family.

What we have to understand is that He started a clock: 120 years. Notice how it's written here. It doesn't just say that he'll have 120 years, it says:

Genesis 6:3  
*his days shall be an hundred and twenty years*.

When God said this, He began a clock that in 120 years *from that day* there would be no escape for man but they would be going into the judgement. That *time* would mark the beginning of the judgement. Now some people think it means something else.

Let's go back and read Genesis 5:32.

It says here:

Genesis 5:32

*And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

So Noah has three sons. At this point he was 500 years old.

Now let's read about when the flood came. Let's jump down to Genesis 7:6.

It says:

Genesis 7:6

*And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.*

There you could say: well from 500 to 600, that's 100 years, so obviously the *120 years* has to be something else.

But let's go back now to Genesis 5:32.

It says:

Genesis 5:32

*And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

Now let's read chapter 6 verse 1.

Genesis 6:1

*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them.*

Now do we think this happens in year 501 of Noah's life? We know it does not. Chapter 6 goes back *before* verse 32 of chapter 5.

Chronologically, Genesis 6:1 happens *before* Genesis 5:32. In fact, if we keep reading, it goes all the way back to when the two blood lines were multiplying.

Let's keep reading, let's go down to verse 6.

It says:

Genesis 6:6

*And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

Genesis 6:7

*And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

Genesis 6:8

*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

Genesis 6:9

*These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.*

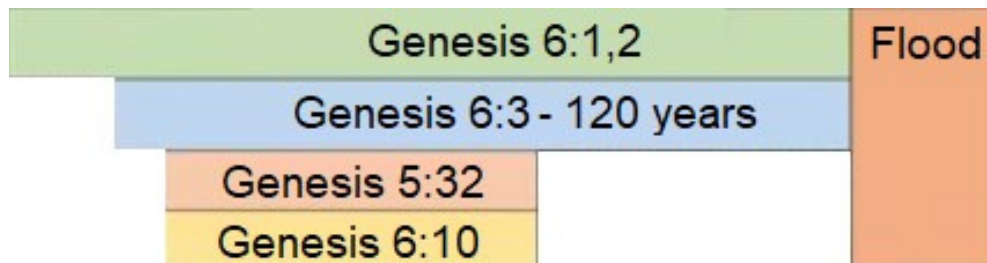
We read the same thing about Enoch, right? [Genesis 5:22] And we're going to see the same thing about the Bride of Christ, that she walked with God.

Genesis 6:10

*And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

So Genesis 6:10 is where it links back and connects with Genesis 5:32.

I have here a little chart to help us see that.



On the right side is the flood. Genesis 6:1 begins on the left. We don't know exactly when but *the sons of God began to take wives of the daughters of men.* [Genesis 6:2] And it finally got to a point that the Lord said *the days of man will be 120 years.* [Genesis 6:3] We know by other scriptures that this happened when Noah was 480 years old. [Genesis 7:6]

We read further down and we see that Noah has three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. [Genesis 6:10]

When we read about Shem, it looks like Noah probably had Japheth and then a couple years later he had Shem. [Genesis 10:21] Then we don't know, maybe a couple years more and he had Ham. It says that Ham was the youngest. [Genesis 9:22-24]

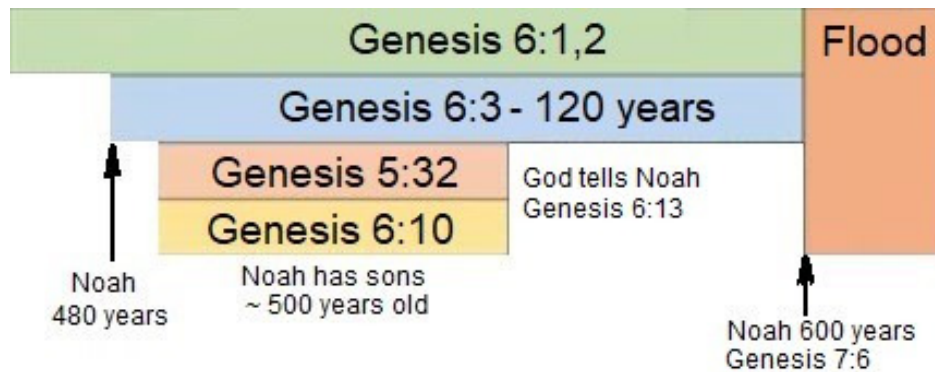
Basically at 500 years, that's when Noah began to have sons. [Genesis 5:32]

If we keep reading, it's not until verse 13 where it says:

Genesis 6:13

*And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me;*

This is when God tells this to Noah, *after* he has his three sons. We don't know exactly when but some time *after* his sons are born, God tells him: *the end of all flesh is come before Me.*



We say: Noah was a hundred years building the ark, but really it was probably less than that. He was 500 years old when his sons were born and it was sometime after that when he was actually instructed: *it's time to build the ark.* [Genesis 6:14]

I hope we can see that there is no contradiction with the 120 years because Genesis 5:32 happens *after* Genesis 6 verses 1, 2 and 3.

Now we have to remember: this is according to God's time, right? This is *not* what we call a year. We say a year 365 ¼ days. That's the way we measure time but that's not the way God measures time.



When we get to the flood, destruction comes to the earth. The antediluvian world is done away with and there is a new civilization afterward. In that sense, if we think about *the ark*, the world perished but then there was *new life* after the ark set.

God did not just destroy the world and say: well I'm done with it, I'll let it be a frozen planet hanging out in space. But He made a way of redemption for mankind. Praise the Lord. In that sense, that ark *typed* Christ, praise the Lord, because it was their salvation.

If they did not get in the ark, they were destroyed but if they entered, then praise the Lord, they escaped the destruction and they had a new life. Believe me, when that ark settled and they finally came out, that was *a new life*.

Sometimes you may think: I wish we could have fellowship with more brothers and sisters. And I'll say: that makes two of us. That's natural. We could say: there should be hundreds or thousands but remember: when we read the Bible, it wasn't always that way.

If we think the COVID quarantine was hard, just imagine getting off that ark. There were eight people, that was it: *eight people*, no more. [1Peter 3:20] Yes they did repopulate, but that took some time.

I also think of John. There wasn't anybody quite like John. I'm not saying that to put him up too high but I'm just saying: John was absolutely a very spiritual man. Without any doubt he pleased the Lord. But what did they do?

First they tried to kill him. They couldn't kill him so they sent him to the *Isle of Patmos*. [Revelation 1:9] It was basically more or less solitary confinement. I'm sure a boat came by every now and then, there had to be to get the seven letters back to Asia, but basically he was there alone *for years*. So I thank God for the fellowship that we do have. Praise the Lord.

Now let's go to Genesis 7.

I think I'm just going to read a couple verses.

Genesis 7:7

*And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.*

It says *he went in because of the waters of the flood*. That does not mean that he saw the water coming up and he thought: well I better get in now because the water is getting pretty high.

The Lord told him to get in and he obeyed. Yes *because of the water*, he knew the water was coming. Amen.

Let's jump down and I'll go ahead and read verse 10.

Genesis 7:10

*And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.*

You're going to have to forgive me, I'm sure we all know this but it also tells us how when they went in, *the Lord shut them in*. [Genesis 7:16] So they were in there for *seven days*.

Once the Lord shut the door, that was it: there was no entering into the ark. Can we see that?

We know that from the beginning the Lord said: it's going to be Noah and his family. But if we read in Peter, it says that Noah preached for a long time *when God was patient*. [1Peter 3:20] God gave people an opportunity but He knew what they would do.

It's the same today: the opportunity is open. The gospel is still being preached today. Grace is still available to the soul that will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. It's still there, but the Lord *knows* who's going to enter and who won't.

We talk about when Grace will end, that it will be a very terrible time because there will be no more Grace, yes that's true. But for the unbelieving heart, it has already ended because they're not going to accept it anyway. Can we see the point?

So while that door was open and until it was shut, people could have come and said: Noah, please let us in. And I have no doubt that he would have said: come on in. He wasn't out with a stick keeping people away, saying: there's only so much space in the ark. But once *God shut the door*, that was it.

We don't see anything written about people coming and banging on the ark saying: please Noah, open it back up! No, they really had no fear *until* the rain actually began to fall. Then it was too late, but really it was already too late *once God shut the door*.

Why are we looking into all of that?

First of all, there was the question about the 120 years.

Let's go back to Second Peter.

We've read this before.

2 Peter 3:3

*Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,*

2 Peter 3:4

*And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.*

2 Peter 3:5

*For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:*

2 Peter 3:6

*Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

So we see where the Lord says *there's 120 years*. [Genesis 6:3] Yes He put it all in place by His Word but also by His Word He said *now there's a countdown*: in 120 years I'm going to cut this off. Peter mentions that here.

Is Peter's mind just going over here and over there? No, let's keep reading.

He says:

2 Peter 3:7

*But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

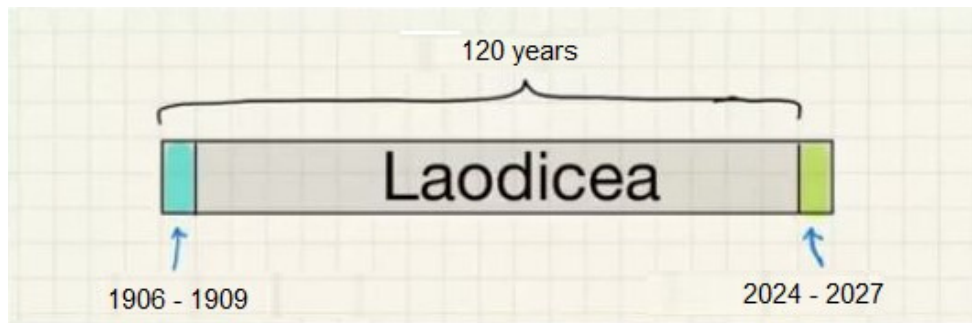
So he says that *the same Word is holding things right now*, but at the end there is *fire and judgment*, right?

Now, first of all we know that there is a Word about the Two Days. [Hosea 6:2]

Also if we read what Brother Branham preached, in one place he said: Ephesus was 120 years. He said: history keeps repeating itself. In another place he said: the age of Laodicea will be about 120 years. It's interesting he said that because it doesn't line up with 1977. But he did say that Laodicea will also be about 120 years.

We have to ask: where did Brother Branham get that from? He could see Jesus himself said *it's going to be as it was in the days of Noah*. [Matthew 24:37] He could see that *the 120 years that counted down to the flood* would also be a *time factor* that would count down until sinful man would be cut off.

Now with that said, I'd like us to look at this right here:



If we look at the age of Laodicea, Brother Branham said: I think it starts at 1906 or I believe it starts at 1906. I'm not going to nail that year down, he himself didn't nail it down.

In fact if we look at this excerpt, I think he was saying this as he was going into the Laodicean church age. He said:

- Now, there's one of the striking things though, keep bearing on your mind that these church ages start, and whatever is in that one church age it goes all the way down through every church age, and each one of the church ages lap over one another. If you study the history close with the book, you'll find out.

In other words: he was not emphatic that it started on this date but he had to give the best that he could see as a reference.

Now we've already seen that there was a revival in the Ephesian Church Age which was the first church age. Do we say that the Gentiles were brought in on the first day of the revival? I don't believe we do. Brother Jackson mentioned that somewhere *during* that revival time, the Lord knows when He started the clock for the Gentiles.

We also know that there were people from the other churches who went to Ephesus or we could say: there were people in Ephesus who went to these other places. That was what lit the fire in the churches in the other cities.

When we look at the seven churches that typed the Gentile Church Ages, they all got their start there, at that *Ephesian revival*.

When we come to our age, there was *also* a revival.

# LAODICEA

AZUSA STREET REVIVAL BEGINS APRIL 09, 1906

BRO BRANHAM BORN APRIL 06, 1909

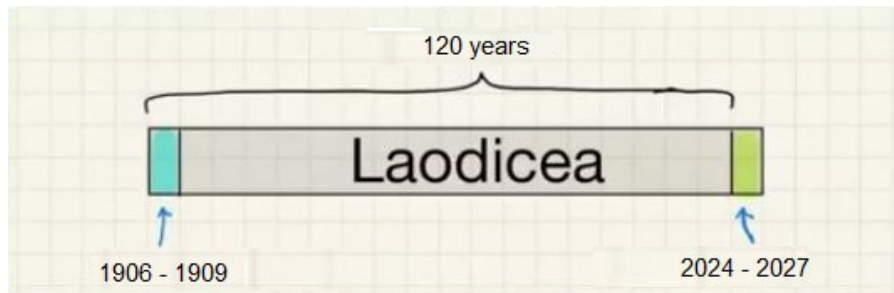
AZUSA STREET REVIVAL 1906 – 1909

The Azusa Street Revival started April 9<sup>th</sup> 1906. Not even a week after that, there was the Great Earthquake of San Francisco. It caused horrible fires and between the earthquake and the fires, there were 3000 people killed. Remember: the population was a lot smaller back then so that was just devastating to San Francisco. Eighty percent of San Francisco was destroyed.

In fact, Los Angeles is today what San Francisco used to be. After the fire there was an immediate need for a port for commerce and goods began to be routed to Los Angeles instead. Yes, San Francisco was rebuilt but it never came back to be the major West Coast port as it was moved to Los Angeles.

Now the majority of the historians who look at the Azusa Street Revival say that it lasted from 1906 to 1909. It was that *Pentecostal blessing*. We can say: that was really what gave birth to what we know in our day as the Pentecostal Church. Brother Branham was born April 6<sup>th</sup> 1909, so kind of on the end of that.

Let's go back to this slide:



Now, like I said: I'm not going to nail it down that it's 1906. But if we go ahead and start at 1906 and we go 120 years ahead, that brings us to 2024.

You may say: no Brother, sorry but that's only 118 years. Again, we have to remember: that's 120 years *in God's time*. If we translate that to *our time* it's roughly 118 years.

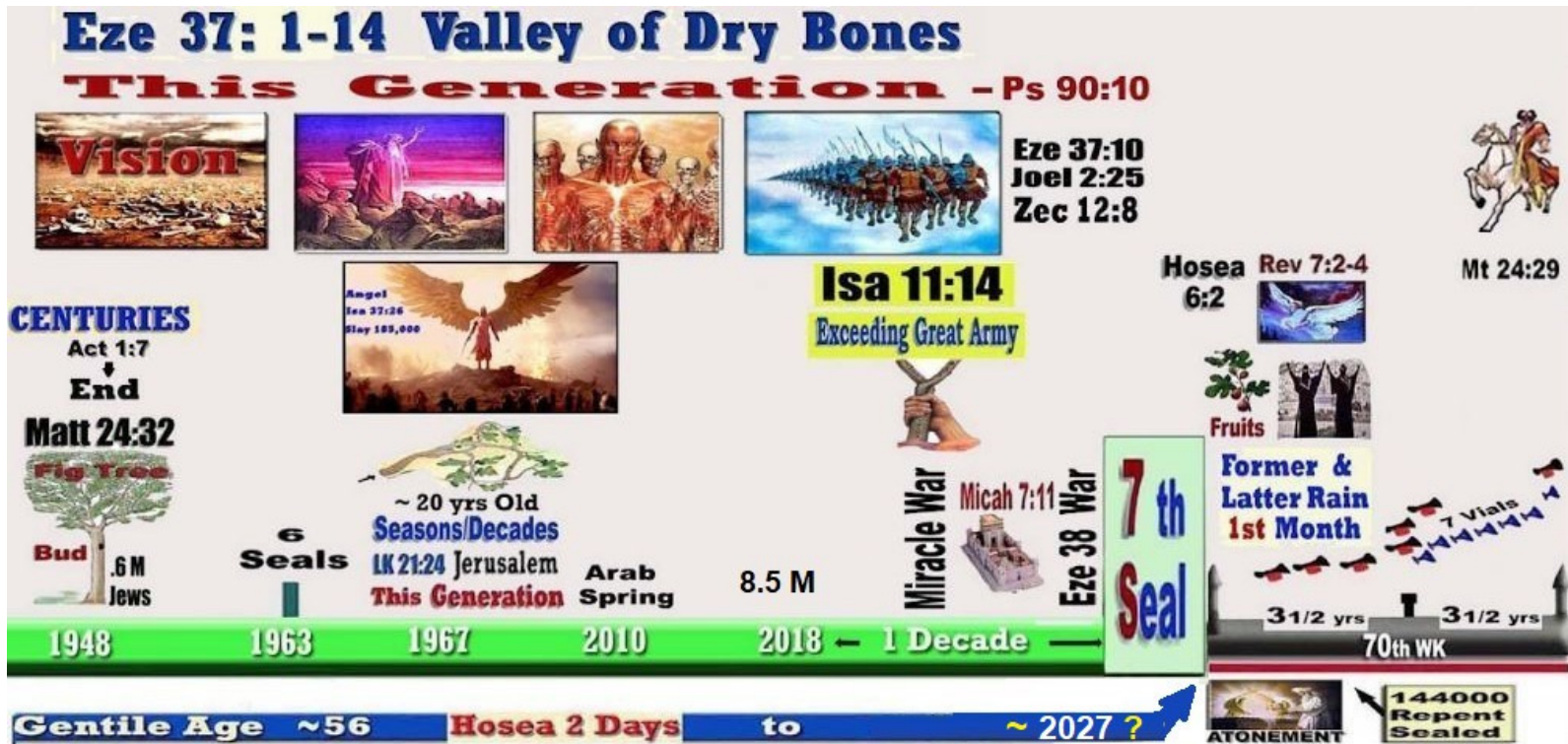
$$120 \text{ years} \times 360 \text{ days} = 43\,200$$

$$43\,200 / 365.25 \text{ days} = \sim 118 \text{ years}$$

I'm not showing this for us to nail something down exactly: oh this month, this day, we know we can't do that, right? But that brings us to 2024.

As I was thinking about this, we know that the Lord is not coming to take his bride home in 2024 because there's still that Seventh Seal Time Factor, right? [Revelation 8:1] That has to come into effect and that's about *three and a half years*, right?

In fact, let me show a different picture.



The green rectangle is the Seventh Seal Time Factor. That begins roughly three and a half years before the rapture.

Now let's remember: when they entered into the ark and God shut the door [Genesis 7:16] the rain had still not started falling, right? [Genesis 7:10] Amen. But at that point the world was shut off, right?

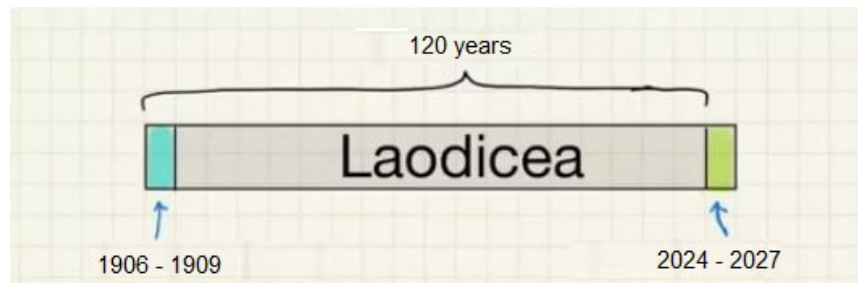
In our day, when is mankind going to be cut off? It's when that Seventh Seal is opened, right? That's when time will be cut off for salvation: when that Seventh Seal is opened and that Seventh Seal Time Factor begins.

So when the Seventh Seal is opened, Gentile mankind is cut off.

Yes, there will be the *Everlasting Gospel*. [Revelation 14:6-7] I will say: that's more for the younger ones who would not have reached an age of accountability.

We know the Everlasting Gospel is an opportunity that the Lord has for Grace. It won't be: repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ but it will be a way that they can escape the judgement and enter into the Millennium as mortals. God is going to give them or extend to them His Grace.

That's not our subject this morning but I hope we can see if we go back to this chart now:



The section from 2024 to 2027, this would be more or less that Seventh Seal Time Factor.

Now, am I saying that the Seventh Seal is going to be broken in 2024? I am *not*. It could be 2023, it could be 2025. But this is another thing where we can see that everything is pointing to the *same place in time*. It gives us a range of time to look at. We're not looking at 2100 or 2050 or something like that.

When we look at these *120 years* [Genesis 6:3] it lines right up with the Two Days [Hosea 6:2] and it lines right up with *this generation shall not pass until all these things be fulfilled*. [Matthew 24:34]

My point here is that the scriptures are *agreeing*.

As the Bride, what we are looking for within the church, it's not yet the rapture even though that's what we are preparing for, but it's that Seventh Seal Time Factor [Revelation 8:1] *the voice of the archangel*. [1Thessalonians 4:16]

We know Paul said *there's the shout* and then *the voice of the archangel*, that's Revelation 10. This is just in front of us, so we need to be getting ready and make sure that our spiritual walk is what it should be.

I thank the Lord that this also fits in beautifully with everything else that we are looking at in the scriptures.

I'm going to go ahead and close this morning.