

LXX vs. MT

The earliest LXX has Methuselah dying 14 years after the flood, which is an impossibility. The earliest correction of this mistake is in Josephus who while using the LXX for most of the chronology uses the MT for Methuselah's fathering age (187 vs. LXX 167) and Lamech's fathering age (182 vs. LXX 188). However, outside of Josephus, the later LXX, represented by the APB (Apostolic Polyglot Bible) changed only the 167 back to 187, and left the LXX Lamech fathering age unchanged at 188. Josephus changes the LXX total age of Lamech (753) back to the MT total 777, while the APB has this number unchanged at 753.

The conclusion of this is that Josephus reverted more than he had to back to the MT to correct the obvious error, while the later versions of the LXX only revert the minimum necessary numbers to remove the 14 year contradiction. By correcting several numbers more than he had to (188 to 182) and (753 to 777) Josephus reveals that the source of his corrections is the MT and not some better variant of the LXX (Greek or Hebrew), since the 188 and the 753 numbers for Lamech persist in the LXX to this day.

The SP corrects the Hebrew proto-LXX source in the pre-flood chronology by reducing most of the excess 100 year figures by 100 years. For the age of Methuselah's fathering a son, 167 becomes 67. This reveals that the common Hebrew vorlag of the LXX and SP already contained the 167. Because of this, one cannot reasonably claim the original LXX read 187. Thus the glaring 14 year contradiction must have been in the originally produced LXX.

Prophecy of Genesis 6:3,
120 years until the deluge.

Then all the days of Methuselah be nine hundred sixty and nine years: then he died. Gen. 5:27.

May 31/II.17

Then the rain be upon the earth forty days and forty nights. Gen. 7:12.

40 days for the Deluge

And the waters had been mighty upon the earth one hundred and fifty days. Gen. 7:4.

Then the waters return from upon the earth going and returning. And the waters had been slackening at the bound of one hundred and fifty days. Gen. 8:3

Oct 27/VII.17, waters recede.

In the tenth renewing, on the first day after the new moon, had been seen the heads of the mountains. Gen. 8:5.

Jan 7/X.1, abatement

Then it be in the six hundredth and first year, on the first renewing, on the first day after the new moon, had wasted away the waters from upon the earth. Gen 8:13.

April 5/I.1, dry ground

Begin 2nd year, from when 40 days and nights ended

And in the second renewing, on the twenty-seventh day after the new moon, the earth had dried up. Gen. 8:14.

A population starts with 17 persons: 4 married couples (8 adults) and 9 children under age 1. One couple has only daughters (8 total) over 10 years, with pregnancies every 15 months (9 months gestation + 6 months gap). The other three couples have sons and daughters (96 total, 48 sons, 48 daughters) over 40 years, with the same birth spacing. No deaths occur. Assuming new couples form at age 15 and follow the 40-year fertility pattern, the population after 99 years is approximately 31,129. Note, this represents a maximum population. 12,500 is the minimum.

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