

March 08, 2020      Second Sunday of Lent

Listen carefully to the word of the Lord!

Genesis 12-1-4a

Psalms 33:4-5, 18-20, 22

2Timothy 1:8b-10

Matthew 17:1-9.

In the first reading Abram, seventy-five years of age, is given instructions by the Lord to leave his homeland and travel to a new place. Abram's name will be great, his blessings many, and this will be recognized by all. The Lord will bless those who bless Abram and even curse those who curse Abram and for his part Abram obeyed and went on as directed.

The Psalmist writes in the context of covenant love. God is praised for being trustworthy and for loving justice and right. God's promises will be kept and the people can depend upon being delivered from famine and death. The Lord God's protection is as constant as a shield for those who fear him and hope for his kindness.

The second reading explains that commitment to the Gospel entails hardships but God gives the strength to overcome them. God saves and calls us to a holy life not because we merit such but according to his own design. Jesus is the savior who robbed death of its power and brought life and immortality into clarity through the Gospel.

In the Gospel Jesus takes Peter, James, John to a mountain and is transfigured so that his face becomes dazzling and his clothes radiant. Moses and Elijah who represent the Law and the Prophets appear beside him and a voice from an overshadowing cloud is heard, "This is my beloved Son. My favor is with him. Listen to him." The disciples fall with fear and are later told by Jesus not to tell anyone of the vision until after he is resurrected.

There are many voices in this world that call to us from varied perspectives: voices from financial, social, and ambitious circles and yet none of these can bring us true freedom and salvation. It is the voice coming from the Gospel, Jesus' voice, that brings proper direction and light to show us the way. Abraham obeyed the words he heard from the Lord, and he would become a family and then a nation. Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus at the Transfiguration indicating our Lord is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets

**Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

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**Feeling old?**

The Genesis passage tells us that Abram (Abraham) was **75** when set out with Sarah and Lot for the land of Canaan. Abraham was **100** when Isaac was born.

Deuteronomy indicates Moses was **120** at this death.

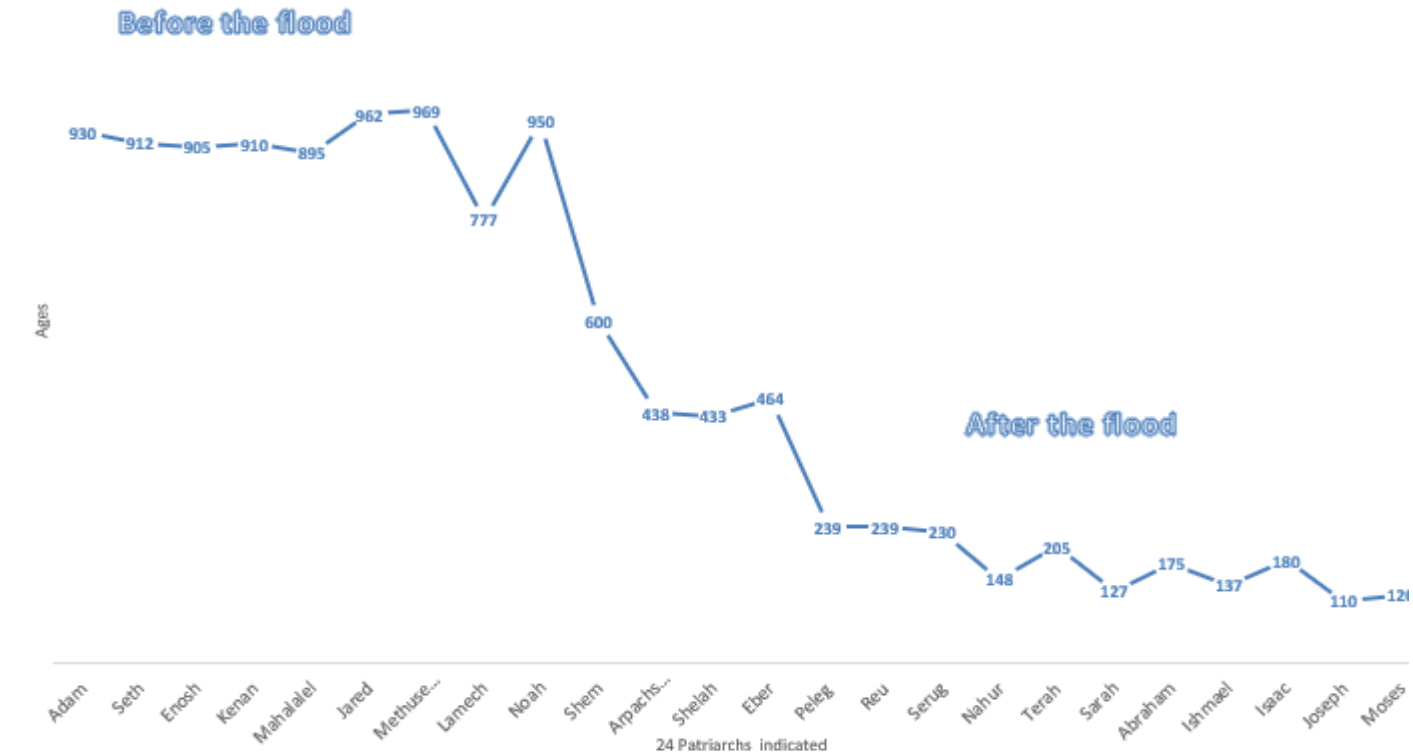
Verdi was **85** when he wrote "Ave Maria." Goethe was **80** when he finished *Faust*.

Humanity's vitality is something for our culture to rediscover and we have a personal responsibility to take care of ourselves physically and spiritually. **We should never think of ourselves as too old to serve God.** Are we adequately serving God, church, and community? The names mentioned above were most likely written off as insignificant and useless by many but God has his own plans that cannot be thwarted.

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# Old Testament Life Spans

Biblical scholars consider that scriptural patriarchal longevity is more symbolic than chronologically factual but it is still interesting to note that the Hebrew people viewed long life as a blessing. The ages plotted in the graph on the following page indicate that there is a distinct difference in longevity before the flood and after the flood.



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Name	Age	Scripture
Adam	930	Gen 5:5
Seth	912	Gen 5:5
Enosh	105	Gen 5:11
Kenan	910	Gen 5:14
Mahalalel	895	Gen 5:17
Jared	962	Gen 5:20
Methusalah	969	Gen 5:27
Lamech	777	Gen 5:31
Noah	950	Gen 9:28
Shem	600	Gen 11:10-11
Arpachshad	438	Gen 11:112-13
Shelah	433	Gen 11:14-15
Ebeer	464	Gen 11: 16-17
Peleg	239	Gen 11:18-19
Reu	239	Gen 11:20-21
Serug	230	Gen 11:22-23
Nahor	148	Gen 11:24-25
Terah	205	Gen 11:32
Sarah	127	Gen 23:1
Abraham	175	Gen 25:7
Ishmael	137	Gen 25:17
Isaac	180	Gen 25:28
Joseph	110	Gen 50:26
Moses	120	Dt 34:7

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