120 YEARS – NOT THE LIFE-SPAN OF MAN

John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible
Genesis 6:3
“yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years” - meaning not the term of man's life, reduced to this from the length of time he lived before the flood; but this designs the space that God would give for repentance, before he proceeded to execute his vengeance on him; this is that "longsuffering of God" the apostle speaks of in the afore mentioned place, "that waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was preparing"; and so both the Targums of Onkelos and Jonathan interpret it of a space of an hundred and twenty years given them to repent.

Adam Clarke Commentary of the Bible
Genesis 6:3
“My spirit shall not always strive” - It is only by the influence of the Spirit of God that the carnal mind can be subdued and destroyed; but those who wilfully resist and grieve that Spirit must be ultimately left to the hardness and blindness of their own hearts, if they do not repent and turn to God. God delights in mercy, and therefore a gracious warning is given. Even at this time the earth was ripe for destruction; but God promised them one hundred and twenty years’ respite: if they repented in that interim, well; if not, they should be destroyed by a flood.

Alfred Barnes Notes on the Bible
Genesis 6:3
“His days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” - “His days” are the days of man, not the individual, but the race, with whom the Lord still strives. Hence, they refer to the duration, not of the life of an individual, but of the existence of the race.

This is according to the now well-known method of Scripture, when it has two lines of events to carry on. The former narrative refers to the godly portion of mankind; this to the ungodly remnant. Not forever will the Lord strive with man; but his longsuffering will still continue for one hundred and twenty years. Meanwhile he does not leave himself or his clemency without a witness. He sent Noah with the message of warning, who preached by his voice, by his walking with God, and also by his long labor and perseverance in the building of the ark. The doomed race, however, filled up the measure of their iniquity, and when the extent of mercy was extended, the overwhelming flood came.

Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible
Genesis 6:3
A reprieve granted, notwithstanding: *Yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years; so long I will defer the judgment they deserve, and give them space to prevent it by their repentance and reformation.* Justice said, *Cut them down;* but mercy interceded. The time of God's patience and forbearance towards provoking sinners is sometimes long, but always limited: reprieves are not pardons; though God bear a great while, he will not bear always.

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**John Wesley's Explanatory Notes**

**Genesis 6:3**

My spirit shall not always strive with man - The spirit then strove by Noah's preaching, 1Pe_3:19, and by inward checks, but 'twas in vain with the most of men; therefore saith God, he shall not always strive, for that he also is flesh - Incurably corrupt and sensual, so that 'tis labour lost to strive with him. *Yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years - So long will I defer the judgment they deserve, and give them space to prevent it by their repentance.*

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**Keil & Delitzsch Commentary of the Old Testament**

**Genesis 6:3**

*“Therefore his days shall be 120 years;”* this means, not that human life should in future never attain a greater age than 120 years, but that a respite of 120 years should still be granted to the human race before the deluge of destruction upon humanity.

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**Kenneth E. Hagin**

I have often said in teaching on this subject, from the time I began attending Kenneth E. Hagin conferences, and listening to his teachings, I heard him say, “Psalms 90:10 promises mankind 70 years as a life-span, and the possibility of 80 years if strength was maintained.” Brother Hagin lived one month past his 86th birthday.

Brother Hagin taught as he believed, however, as is pointed out in the following excerpt from a book by Gloria & Kenneth Copeland (she references the footnotes in the Amplified Bible), Brother Hagin had misunderstood the context of the Psalms 90:10 scripture.

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**GLORIA COPELAND**

**LIVE LONG!**

The Bible has a lot to say about God's will concerning our life here on the earth—how we are to live and for how long. God has a good, long life planned for us. But without that revelation,
when we reach 60 or 70, we may start winding down and getting ready to go. God never meant for us to die young. It's His will for us to live out the full number of our days. Traditionally, Psalms 90:10 has been quoted in regard to man's life expectancy. It says: "The days of our years are threescore years and ten (seventy years)—or even, if by reason of strength, fourscore years (eighty years)..." (The Amplified Bible). But what most people don't realize is that reading this verse alone is taking it out of context. A footnote to Psalms 90 in The Amplified Bible explains:

This psalm is credited to Moses, who is interceding with God to remove the curse which made it necessary for every Israelite over twenty years of age (when they rebelled against God at Kadesh-barnea) to die before reaching the promised land (Numbers 14:26-35). Moses says most of them are dying at seventy years of age. This number has often been mistaken as a set span of life for all mankind. It was not intended to refer to anyone except those Israelites under the curse during that particular forty years. Seventy years never has been the average span of life for humanity. When Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes, had reached 130 years (Genesis 47:9), he complained that he had not attained to the years of his immediate ancestors. In fact, Moses himself lived to be 120 years old, Aaron 123, Miriam several years older, and Joshua to 110 years of age. Note as well that in the Millennium a person dying at 100 will still be thought a child (Isaiah 65:20).

Here we learn that the Israelites who died at 70 were living under the curse caused by disobedience. According to Galatians 3:13, Jesus has redeemed us from the curse being made a curse for us. If we have made Jesus our Lord, freedom from all the conditions the curse causes belongs to us—that includes sickness, destruction and early death. So don't have the mindset that you should only live to be 70. What God actually said about man's lifespan is found in Genesis 6:3: "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."
Think about it. That means at 60 you are just middle-aged.

For years I heard Kenneth Hagin say you ought to live 70 or 80 years, and if you're not satisfied, live awhile longer. He proved that to be true. He passed 80 and just kept going until he finished his work.

I'm convinced it would be possible to live to be 120 years old by obeying the Word of God. If you ate the way God said to eat and abstained from what He said to abstain from, you'd be well on your way to a strong, healthy body. Add to that a steady diet of the Word of God, allowing the life force of the Word to continually quicken (make alive) your mortal flesh. Then if you were faithful to obey the Word of God in every area of life, I believe you could live an active, productive life of 120 years
As we actually see from scripture, there is no death mandate upon the believer in Christ, and with the coming the Lord in view of this generation, we may expect to be alive and remain until the coming of the Lord.

Hebrews 9:25-28 KJV “Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; (26) For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (27) And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (28) So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

1 Appointment of death (verse 27)
(Minus) 1 Appointment of death kept (Verse 28)

(Equals) 0 Appointments remaining for those who accept Christ’s death

2Timothy 1:10 KJV “But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

Psalms 102:18-20 “Let this be recorded for the generation yet unborn, that a people yet to be created shall praise the Lord. (19) For He looked down from the height of His sanctuary, from heaven did the Lord behold the earth, (20) To hear the sighing and groaning of the prisoner, to loose those who are appointed to death.”

1Thessalonians 5:23-24 AMP “And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah). (24) Faithful is He Who is calling you [to Himself] and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it [fulfill His call by hallowing and keeping you].”

John 17:15-17 LITV “I do not pray that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil. (16) They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (17) Sanctify them in Your Truth; Your Word is Truth.”

“Sanctify” as used in 1Thessalonians & John – “Set apart(kept from) from all that is evil.”

“Evil” as used in John’s Gospel – πονηρός πονέως Thayer Definition:1) full of labours, annoyances, hardships; 1a) pressed and harassed by labours; 1b) bringing toils, annoyances, perils; of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness; causing pain and trouble; 2) bad, of a bad nature or condition; 2a) in a physical sense: diseased or blind.