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## Methuselah?

by Garf Collins

*Extract from SCIENCE DIGEST;*

### **'Methuselah found alive and well?**

A very old man appears to have woken in a cave in the Turkish mountains after a long hibernation. He is claiming that he is the Methuselah of biblical renown. A multidisciplinary group have been studying him for the past year. The known world in biblical times consisted approximately of what we call the Middle East with no more than a few million people. He is amazed by the teaming global world.

All tests so far and the details he is able to recount make his claim plausible but the biologists can find no explanation for his longevity (by his account 1,000 years alive and a suspended state for about 4,000 years.)

Your correspondent had an exclusive interview with Methuselah which is reported below. Fortunately, he has picked up very good English from the study group.

Me "Thank you for the privilege of talking to you. What are your first impressions of modern life?"

Mth "It is bewildering in its size and complexity but human nature doesn't seem to have changed much."

Me "You lived for 969 years. Adam died at age 980 and Noah lived for 950 years. Have you any idea how that was possible?"

Mth "Well Adam had a mixture of herbs which the elite took. They may have been responsible. The scientists have told me that my telomeres which delay ageing

are abundant. I've no idea how I stayed dormant for such a long time, though, and no more do they."

Me "You and Adam overlapped by 293 years. I would be fascinated to hear what he said about creation."

Mth "He was very bitter about it. He said that it was totally unjustified to put the blame for all sin on him just because he did what seemed natural with Eve. But for that, God would have had no population to bother and when he died there would have been nothing but animals."

Me "I would like to come back to that, but Noah was alive for a long time before the ark was launched. Could you tell me about the events which led up to that?"

Mth "Noah thought he had a special relationship with God. People thought he was mad when he started building the ark on the fertile banks of what you call the Black Sea - which in those days was a lot smaller. He was very persuasive about the flood idea and he offered a number of very rich men guaranteed places in the ark if they financed it. Daft old Noah filled it up with animals, his family and patrons. No llamas or kangaroos though!

Anyway, I withdrew to the mountains in Turkey and watched what happened. It wasn't rain that did it. The Mediterranean burst through into the Black Sea and off went the ark. My disappearance led to the myth that I had died at age 969."

Me "So what do you make of modern ideas about creation?"

Mth "That's all fake news. I often talked with Adam so I know what happened."

Me "OK. So let me ask you this. Adam was supposed to have three sons each of whom had major families. But there was just one woman. Could you comment on that?"

Mth "Well there is a lot more to that according to what Adam told me but we are bound by the secrets we share."

Well, there you have it. Are these the ramblings of a plausible fraudster or, however difficult to reconcile with modern knowledge, could this man be who he says he is? There is much more investigation by the team to go. I will report further when they publish their findings.'