WP-12 SCRIPTURE & SCIENCE

Human Origins: Genetics and Population

STATEMENT

Genetic data show that all living people trace their maternal line to one woman and their paternal line to one man, and simple population math fits a human family that started small and recently. Both are consistent with the Genesis account; how to interpret the dates is actively debated.

Read time **3 min** | Sources & resources **7** | Series **Scripture & Science**

01 ABSTRACT

Genesis teaches that all humans descend from one original couple, and later from the eight people who survived the Flood. Modern genetics and demographics offer two ways to test that picture. This paper presents the data both sides agree on, the competing interpretations, and the math, so readers can see exactly where the disagreement lies.

02 THE POPULATION MATH

Start	8 people (Genesis 7:13)
Today	~8.2 billion people
Required	About 30 doublings ($2^{30} \times 8 \approx 8.6$ billion)
Over 4,500 yrs	One doubling every ~150 years, or average growth of ~0.46% per year. Recorded growth has reached 2% per year.

An average of only half a percent per year over 4,500 years would overshoot today's population. To fit a human population hundreds of thousands of years old, average growth must have stayed very close to zero for almost all of that time.

03 EVIDENCE

OBSERVATION	DATA & SOURCE	CONFIDENCE
"Mitochondrial Eve"	Mitochondrial DNA passes from mother to child nearly unchanged. Every living person's mtDNA traces back to a single woman. ICR: Mitochondrial Eve ↗	HIGH
"Y-chromosome Adam"	The Y chromosome passes from father to son. Every living man's Y chromosome traces back to a single man. CMI: Y-Chromosome Adam ↗	HIGH
Dating depends on mutation rate	Mainstream estimates (~100,000–200,000 years) use mutation rates calibrated from assumed human–chimp divergence. Rates measured directly in family pedigrees are substantially faster and yield much younger dates. Geneticist Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson argues the measured rates fit a timeline of thousands of years.	MODERATE

OBSERVATION	DATA & SOURCE	CONFIDENCE
Human genetic diversity is low	Humans are genetically less diverse than many other species, including chimpanzees, which points to a small founding population.	HIGH
Population growth	Simple growth math from 8 people reaches today's population in about 4,500 years at rates well below those recorded in history (see above).	MODERATE

High = directly measured or widely accepted across worldviews. **Moderate** = well-supported, with recognized scholarly debate. **Interpretive** = consistent with the text, but depends on how the passage is read.

04 OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

OBJECTION

Mainstream genetics says "Eve" and "Adam" were not the only humans alive and lived at different times.

RESPONSE

That is the standard interpretation, and it relies on the slower, calibrated mutation rates and on population models. The underlying observation, one maternal and one paternal line for all living people, is not disputed. The disagreement is about dating assumptions.

OBJECTION

Population growth was near zero for most of history because of famine, disease and war.

RESPONSE

Growth has varied, but population collapses are followed by fast recovery. The long-age model requires average growth to stay near zero for over 100,000 years, which is itself an assumption.

OBJECTION

This is creation-science advocacy, not consensus science.

RESPONSE

Correct that it is a minority position, and it is rated Moderate here for that reason. The data are public, and the paper shows exactly which assumptions drive each conclusion.

05 CONCLUSION

The genetic and demographic data are consistent with a human family descended from one man and one woman, and with a population that grew from a small group in the relatively recent past. The dates are where the debate lies, and they turn on assumptions, not on the data alone.

> *"From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth." Acts 17:26*

06 FURTHER RESOURCES

VIDEO **How Genetic Science Confirms the Bible** Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfuCdS5DqGs

VIDEO **How to Find Noah in Our Genes** Dr. Nathaniel Jeanson
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTenmwfzW7k

VIDEO **Population Growth Supports Biblical Account of Flood** CMI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUg8tcCaqWs

VIDEO **Population Statistics Confirm the Bible** Arlo Moehlenpah
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWFsZwQyPBI

VIDEO **Atheists Will HATE This Video** Ken Ham
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFYswvGoaPU

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