

Incest In The Family Tree

If you or I go back many generations in our family tree, there appears to be a problem. The number of parents we have is two. They each have a mother and father, so the number of grandparents is four. They in turn have a mother and father, so the number of great-grandparents is eight, and the number of great-great-grandparents is sixteen.

Our ancestors are vital, without our ancestors - a long line stretching all the way back to Adam and Eve, we would not be here. For each generation we go back, the number of people required to get us here doubles. In the table below, we have *Generation*, which refers to the number of generations back in time. *Number* refers to the number of people who have a child on your behalf to get you here. The chart below refers to the the essential people, it doesn't include cousins and second cousins uncles and aunts etc. *Years* refers to the number of years back in time, based on an average period between generations of thirty years.

In the chart immediately below, we shall imagine we are born in the year 2020, thanks to Mum and Dad. Thirty years earlier, Mum and Dad were born thanks to their parents (numbering four in total), our grandparents. Our great-grandparents born another thirty years earlier number eight. As we go back in time, the number of ancestors expands.

As we go forward in time from Noah, the world-wide family tree is expanding. So with the family tree expanding in both directions, there has to be a point in time where the two expansion points meet. So what happens then? I will explain the answer to that problem later. Firstly, we shall look at the growing number of relatives as we go back in time.

Generation	Number	Years	
1	2	0	2020
2	4	30	1990
3	8	60	1960
4	16	90	1930
5	32	120	1900
10	1,024	270	1400
25	33,554,432	720	1250
30	1,073,741,824	870	1150
31	2,147,483,648	900	1120
32	4,294,967,296	930	1090
33	8,589,934,592	960	1060

The table above shows that we are running into a mathematical problem. The population of the world in the time of Christ has been estimated at around 200 million to as high as 300 million. In the year 1800 it was around one billion. In 2020 it is 7.8 billion, slowly edging toward 8 billion.

If we go back thirty generations (870 years) to the year 1150, the number of direct relatives who precede us is roughly equal to the entire population of the world in the year 1800. If we go back thirty-three generations, we have a number which exceeds the population of the world in 2020. So how do we get round this problem we have run into? The problem is solved with incest, in other words, inbreeding. Without

incest, you and I would not be here today. Dig deep into your family tree, and you will find that cousins have married each other. If incest is essential by the year 1150 (when according to our mathematical modelling, our ancestors would have numbered more than one billion) then it should not surprise us to find incest happening at the very start of human history.

Everyone upon this earth is related to Noah and his wife. Everyone is also related to Adam and Eve, however I will put that fact aside for the moment. Noah was instructed by God to build an ark in order to be rescued from the great flood which God sent upon the earth because of the gross wickedness of people at that time (Gen. 6:11-12).

In the ark were eight people, Noah and his wife, their three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives. After the floodwaters receded, the sons of Noah and their wives had children. So who did the children marry? The answer is, they married each other. So at the beginning of our family tree, we have incest (inbreeding), as we should expect given the data above. When we plot a rough outline of our family tree, we find that it is in the shape of a diamond with Noah and his wife at the top. As the generations pass, the number of people increases (all related to each other). If we plot our family tree from our personal perspective, back through time, we find that our chart again gets wider as shown on the chart on the left, under the heading, 'Number'.

If it is true that incest is required in the distant past to explain our existence today, then it follows that an ancient text dealing with people should reflect that fact. The Bible contains history that is very old, therefore, it should mention incidents of people marrying a close relative. The Bible shows itself to be true when we see that it does mention incidents of people marrying a close relative.

Biblical instances of marrying a close relative

The children of Adam and Eve married each other, i.e. brothers and sisters marry each other. In their early teenage years, they probably kept a measure of distance from the opposite sex. What is not well known is that Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters. "The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters." (Gen. 5:4).

The daughters of Lot: They have children through their father (Genesis 19:30-36).

Abraham married his half-sister, Sarah (Gen. 20:9-13).

Isaac, son of Abraham marries his cousin, Rebekah (Gen. 24:4).

The father of Moses, Amram, married his aunt; his father's sister, Jachabed (Exodus 6:20).

The declining quality of the code

Today, people should not marry a close relative because the genetic code in humans (and in animals also) has degraded over many generations since Adam and Eve. It has been conservatively estimated that with each succeeding generation, around 100 mistakes are added to the code. ¹ That's not a huge problem, because the human code (represented by the letters, A, T, C and G) is very large, numbering around three billion base pairs (letters). However, the problem cannot be ignored. Errors in the code can lead to

cancer and other medical problems. There is an excellent book which covers the subject of the degrading of the code titled, "Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome" by Dr. J.C. Sanford. Over many centuries, mistakes in the code have added up to a point where it is not completely safe to marry a first cousin if the intention is to have children.

God, in the time of Moses, protected his people by giving them laws which forbid marriage to a close relative. "No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the LORD." (Leviticus 18:6, (NIV2011).

Cleopatra (69-30 BC)

Cleopatra was a direct descendant of Ptolemy I (303-285) who, after the death of Alexander the Great in 325 BC, appointed himself Pharaoh of Egypt in 305 BC, and like the Pharaohs before him, he cultivated the idea that he was a god. Partly due this idea, his dynasty lasted 275 years. To keep power and wealth in the family, brothers and sisters often married each other, for instance, the father of Cleopatra, (the Cleopatra of "Anthony and Cleopatra" fame) Ptolemy XII married his sister, and Cleopatra herself married her brother, Ptolemy XIII. Because of the inbreeding, Cleopatra had only four great-grandparents and six (out of a possible sixteen) great-great-grandparents."²

There are more instances of cousins marrying each other in Australia's early history (white settlement of the country began in 1788) than what is seen today, not out of desperation to keep power in the family, but rather, out of necessity to find a compatible mate. In the early days of white settlement, there were not many suitable candidates available for marriage. That is also true for many other countries.

Theory of evolution

According to the atheistic theory of evolution story, mankind came out of Africa 200,000 years ago. Another version of the story which is gaining popularity has mankind coming out of Europe 200,000 years ago. A major problem with placing the first humans a long way back in time is that a long period of time would severely diminish, if not eliminate the diversity in people groups which we see today. For instance, the Chinese, Indian, African and European. Even in my lifetime, there is a noticeable change in some areas of Australia regarding what an Australian looks like - because of immigration from a wide range of countries.

Using the Chinese by way of example, if we go back in time to when the first family group moved into the area of China, and compared them with the Chinese we see today, we would find that they look very similar. That is because human history is less than ten thousand years as the Bible indicates. Furthermore, the family groups grew into nations as we still see today (Genesis chapter 11).

"From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth, and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live" (Acts 17:26).

Diagram

The diagram I have attached is for illustrative purposes only. It is not meant to give support to a particular time for

the flood. However, most biblical scholars state that Abraham moved from Ur in Mesopotamia at around 1900 BC, and the flood was around 400 years prior, which would put the Great Flood at about 2,300 BC. That is roughly 4,300 years ago. The main point is to show that our expanding number of ancestors can only continue back in time to around the twelfth century, before the number starts to diminish on the way back to Noah (as proven by the mathematical modelling).

From the diagram on the next page, it can be seen that for at least 75% of our history, marriage to a close relative has occasionally been necessary - for example, to a cousin or second cousin.

The Three Sons of Noah

A question for some is; out of the three sons of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth and their wives, which one am I related to? My ancestors came out of Europe (English and Danish) so I am related to Japheth. The descendants of Ham moved down into Africa. Shem is the forefather of Abraham and many others (Gen. 10:21-32, 11:10-26).

Recommended Reading

If this article has wet your appetite for more problem solving through maths, you might like to read my short paper titled, "The Mathematical Impossibility Of The Theory Of Evolution" found at defenceofthefait.org

End Notes

1. Dr. J.C. Sanford, "Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome", FMS Publications, 2014, p. 38-39.
2. Lloyd and Mitchinson, "*The Second QI Book of General Ignorance*", Faber and Faber, 2015, p. 120.

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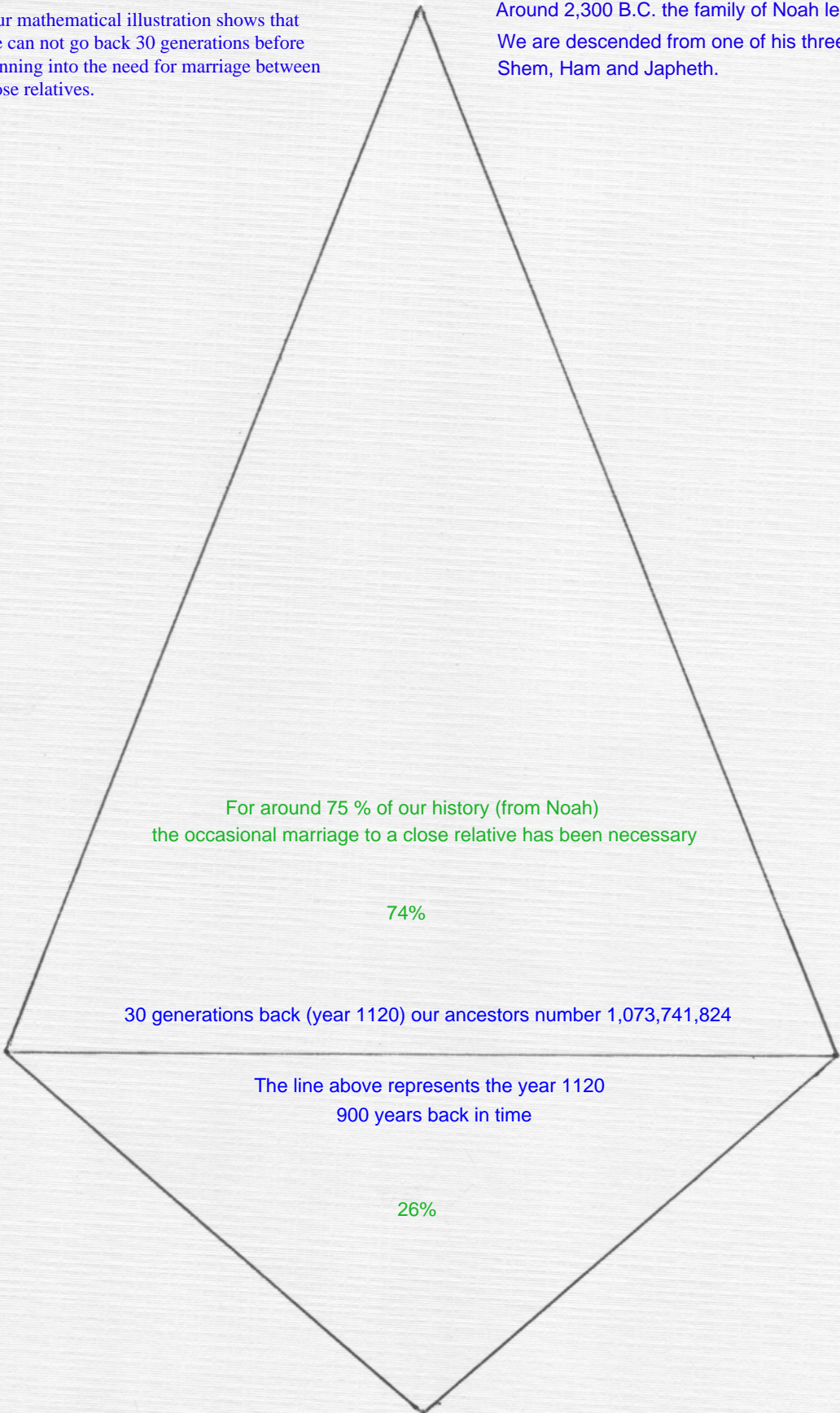
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A MATHEMATICAL ILLUSTRATION

Our mathematical illustration shows that we can not go back 30 generations before running into the need for marriage between close relatives.

Around 2,300 B.C. the family of Noah leave the ark. We are descended from one of his three sons. Shem, Ham and Japheth.



Starting point with one person in the year 2020