

Extra Credit: Genealogies in Genesis
(5 points possible)

Religion, Kilbridge

*Genealogies contain significant information about successive generations of a family (including names, birth, marriage, offspring and age at death). The genealogies of the book of Genesis serve **organizational** and **thematic** purposes.*

Organizational Purpose:

They divide the story of the first people (Adam and Eve and their immediate children) from the story of Noah and his descendents. They also divide “primeval history” (everything in Genesis from the beginning up through the Tower of Babel; Gen 1-11) from “ancestral history” (the story of Abraham and his descendents; Gen 12-50).

Thematic Purpose:

You will have to determine the thematic purpose, but the following task will help you.

1. graph/chart the age at death of all the people included in the following verses:
Gen 5; 9:29; 11:10-32
You may use any graph that can chart the x and y axis (names horizontally)
2. Examine the chart. Are there any trends that you recognize? On an attached sheet of paper, write down your observations and speculate about what purpose the trend might indicate about the thematic purpose of the genealogy. You might consider the interpretations of the scripture you have been given in *Path Through Scripture*.

You will be graded on the accuracy and clarity of your chart and on your *attempt* to arrive at a thematic explanation.