

## **CHAOS TO ORDER**

### **The Descendants of Adam Genesis 5**

#### **Introduction**

The genealogy in Genesis Chapter 5 traces the lineage of Adam through Seth, listing a total of ten generations (5:3-32). The genealogy includes the names of the patriarchs, the ages at which they fathered their sons and their total lifespans. A striking feature of this genealogy is the extraordinary lifespans of the patriarchs, many of whom lived for centuries. Methuselah, the oldest recorded individual, lived for 969 years. However, despite the extended lifespans of the patriarchs, death remains a constant presence in the genealogy. Each patriarch's entry ends with the phrase, "and he died," a stark reminder of the consequences of sin introduced in Genesis 3.

The genealogy concludes with the introduction of Noah, born to Lamech. Lamech prophesies that Noah will bring relief from the toil and hardship of the curse placed on the ground in Genesis 3. This prophecy reveals Noah's pivotal role in the upcoming flood narrative and the forward progress of God's redemptive plan.

Let's look, first of all, at Genesis 5:1-2, "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created." ([Genesis 5:1-2 NKJV](#))

Scholars say there is good reason to believe this is Adam's direct account, preserved and passed down to Moses. Obviously, no one witnessed the history of the heavens and earth. God gave the knowledge by revelation to either Adam or Moses. The history of the Creation ends in Genesis 2:4, and from there to Chapter 5 is the story of Adam.

In verse 2, God makes a very significant statement. God calls the human race: mankind! Mankind was given the name "man" by God from the beginning. It is not sexist, gender-biased, or demeaning to call the human race Mankind because this is what God our Creator calls us.

In the next few verses, we learn about the descendants of Adam. You can try to arrange these genealogies sequentially and chart out a timeline. But, you can't establish an absolutely reliable timeline with this method because Biblical genealogies are not always complete. Sometimes, biblical genealogies skip over generations.

The genealogies, without omission, from the time of Adam to Christ would be 4,000 to 5,000 years. Even with omissions, it is hard to imagine that the time of Adam to Christ could possibly be more than 10,000 years. This puts the Biblical record at incredible variance with the assertions of modern science. There are good reasons

to believe God created the earth with apparent age built into it, just as Adam and the trees of Eden had apparent age built into them.

Before the Flood, people lived extremely long lifespans. Methuselah lived a total of 969 years. Many have offered other explanations for these long lifespans. Some say the ages are figurative, or they count months as years. But that would mean Enoch fathered Methuselah when he was 5 1/2 years old.

People lived much longer before the flood because the adverse effects of the fall on the human gene pool had not yet significantly impacted mankind. The pre-flood world was so different, with the blanket of water vapors surrounding the earth (Genesis 1:6-8). In the post-flood world, lifespans quickly came down to the lifespans we are familiar with today. During this time, the world would be rapidly populated.

One writer estimated that if Adam saw only half the children he fathered grow to adulthood, and if only half of those got married, and if only half of those had children, then even at these conservative rates, Adam would have seen more than a million of his own descendants. By the time of the flood, there could easily have been seven billion people on the earth.

Genealogies can be very instructive. They tell us the historical character of the Scriptures and give us a powerful testimony of the end of every person's life on the earth.

Spurgeon wrote, "Have you never read that long chapter of names, wherein it is written that each patriarch lived so many hundred years, 'and he died'? Thus, it ends the notice of the long life of Methuselah with, 'and he died,' The repetition of the words, 'and he died,' wakes the thoughtless hearer to a sense of his mortality and leads him to the Savior."

## **I. Seth – The First Godly Line Following the Fall**

In verses 3-5, let's take a look at the descendants of Adam after the Fall.

"And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot *a son* in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died." (Genesis 5:3-5 NKJV)

Adam and Eve were created in God's image and likeness, according to Genesis 1:27. But Seth was born in Adam's fallen image and likeness. And since we are all sons and daughters of Adam, we, too, are born with that same fallen nature. It's probably redundant to say it, but every person since the Fall of Mankind in the Garden has been born in Adam's image and likeness except for one person - Jesus.

Adam had many sons and daughters who are not specifically named in the Biblical record. These daughters became the wives of the sons of Adam. Verses 6-17 give us Adam's descendants from Seth to Mahalalel.

"Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died." (Genesis 5:6-17 NKJV)

Verses 18-27 give us the generations of Seth from Jared to Methuselah.

"Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. "After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him. Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died." (Genesis 5:18-27 NKJV)

## **II. Enoch – Walked with God**

Verse 18 says that Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. Enoch was the son of Jared. Enoch walked with God in an authentic, deep, spiritual relationship. You cannot consciously walk and commune with someone you do not know.

Spurgeon said, "If I wished to find a person's most familiar friend, it would surely be one with whom they daily walked... In walking, friends become communicative — one tells his trouble, and the other strives to console."

Walking with God means walking by faith. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV)

Walking with God means walking in the light. 1 John 1:5 says, "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in

darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:5-7 NKJV)

Walking with God means walking in agreement with God. Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?"

(Amos 3:3 NKJV)

Enoch walked like this with God. Then, one day, God said to Enoch, "Enoch, you don't need to walk home. Why don't you just come home with Me?"

So, God took him! That's a very remarkable expression. It almost sounds like God took him in some visible or dramatic fashion! Maybe there were some who saw Enoch raptured, just like the apostles were present when Jesus was taken up.

Hebrews 11:5 gives us the foundation of Enoch's walk with God. "By faith, Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "AND WAS NOT FOUND, BECAUSE GOD HAD TAKEN HIM"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:5-6 NKJV)

You cannot walk with God or please God apart from faith. If we walk in disobedience to God, he will not walk with us. Walking together with God implies peace, friendship, intimacy, and love, and these cannot exist between God and our soul unless we are acceptable to the Lord.

It seems Enoch began to walk with God in a special way after the birth of Methuselah. The name Methuselah means "*when he is dead, it shall come.*" Enoch had a special awareness from God that judgment was coming, and this was one of the things that caused him to draw closer to God in his walk.

Jude 14 also tells us Enoch was a prophet. Even from his vantage point so long ago, he could see the second coming of Jesus. "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." (Jude 1:14-15 NKJV)

### **III. Methuselah – God's Grace Extended**

Verse 27 says, "So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died."

Methuselah's long life was no accident. It was because of the grace of God. God kept Methuselah alive longer than anyone else to give people as long as possible to repent. But when Methuselah died, the flood came.

The birth of Methuselah seems to have had a profound influence on his father, Enoch. Somehow, Enoch recognized the end was near, and after the birth of Methuselah, Enoch began to walk with God. Faith enables us to do the same because it makes the unseen visible and God real.

When you realize God's judgment is coming, how many of you know it's time to start doing things God's way? It's time to keep pace with God and talk to Him constantly and out loud. Begin to see God as your greatest Companion.

And finally, in verse 28, Chapter 5 takes us from Lamech to Noah. "Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. And he called his name Noah, saying, "This *one* will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed." After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died. And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth."

(Genesis 5:28-32 NKJV)

Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years and had a son. And he called his son Noah. If these genealogies are consecutive, Noah was born only 14 years after the death of Adam's son Seth. If the genealogies are consecutive and without gaps, Seth died in 1042 from creation, and Noah was born in 1056 from creation. Since Adam and Eve had sons and daughters after Cain, Abel, and Seth, Noah likely knew some of the sons or daughters of Adam and Eve.

## **Conclusion**

The overwhelming theme of Chapter Five is, "And he died." Every person suffered the effects of sin and death and would return to the earth. Some of them – many of them – were great men, but not one of them was the deliverer God had promised.

Martin Luther said, "This is the greatest glory of the primitive world, that it had so many good, wise, and holy men at the same time. We must not think that these are ordinary names of plain people; but next to Christ and John the Baptist, they were the most outstanding heroes this world has ever produced. And on the Last Day we shall behold and admire their grandeur."

Genesis 5 bridges the early events of creation and the impending judgment of the Great Flood. It also highlights the consequences of sin and the hope of redemption. The exceptional life of Enoch gives us a glimpse of the rewards for faithfulness and the hope of everlasting life through rapture. And with the introduction of Noah, Chapter 5 sets the stage for the next phase of God's redemptive plan.

God is definitely interested in redemption. It's true; you can effectively block out God's love and pursuit of your life. But the final word on your life will be; "and he died" or "and she died." But the hope of every believer is that even though we face physical death, through faith in Jesus, we will live again.

In John Chapter 11, Jesus has this conversation with Martha, "Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:23-26 NKJV)

That's the real question, isn't it: "Do you believe this?"

What you believe about these first 11 chapters of Genesis will determine how you will spend eternity when your days are ended in this life!