

A Genealogy from Adam to Noah

Genesis 5

Genesis 5 – *“This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. ³ And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. ⁴ After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. ⁵ So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. ⁶ Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. ⁷ After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters. ⁸ So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died. ⁹ Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan. ¹⁰ After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. ¹¹ So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. ¹² Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. ¹³ After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁴ So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. ¹⁵ Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. ¹⁶ After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters. ¹⁷ So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died. ¹⁸ Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch. ¹⁹ After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁰ So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. ²¹ Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. ²² After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ And Enoch walked with God; and then he was no more, for God took him. ²⁵ Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. ²⁶ After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. ²⁷ So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. ²⁸ Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. ²⁹ 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.” ³⁰ After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. ³¹ So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died. ³² And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”*

Background Notes

When we read the genealogy of Genesis 5, two logical questions come to mind. First question: How do we explain the long ages that are given here? Adam lived 930 years. Methuselah, the oldest person in the Bible, lived 969 years (v25). Well, there may be a couple of good answers for these long ages before the Flood.

- a. After the Fall of man, some time may have gone by before the full effects of sin began to take their toll on the human genetic system, to shorten man's life span.
- b. There may have been a water vapor canopy surrounding the earth before the great Flood. This "canopy" would have helped to screen out the dangerous radiation that contributes to aging. A water vapor canopy may have been "the waters above the firmament" that in Genesis 1:7, and would have precipitated in the forty days and forty nights of rain at the time of the Flood.

The second question: Is Genesis 5 is a **genealogy** - with gaps between some of the generations, or is it a tight **chronology** - with no gaps. It sounds like it is a chronology without gaps, because for each link the number of years is given both before and after the firstborn, and the total number of years is given, so it looks like there's no room for gaps. Furthermore, Jude 1:14 says that Enoch was the seventh from Adam. If you count from Adam to Enoch in Genesis 5 you get seven, so there are no gaps between Adam and Enoch. If there are any gaps at all in this Genesis 5 genealogy, they are very few - and certainly not enough to push the origin of man back thousands and thousands of years! **No way!**

Notice that throughout this genealogy the phrase "and he died" is repeated for each link. It emphasizes the truth of Genesis 2:17, where God said that if man disobeyed he would surely die. Verse 3 says that Adam begot a son *in his own likeness*, after his image, and named him Seth. We believe that the phrase "in Adam's likeness and image" refers to the sinful nature that Adam passed onto Seth - and thus everyone since Adam has inherited that sinful nature. We humans are **all** born with a sinful nature.

Genesis 5:1 says that this is the book of the genealogy of Adam. This phrase "this is the book of," or "this is the record of," or "this is the account of," is used a number of times throughout the book of Genesis. The use of this phrase may indicate that Moses, the inspired writer of Genesis, had some earlier written sources to work with.

Doctrinal Points

1. Enoch is a model of the faithful Christian.

Verses 22-23: "*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.*" The first thing we notice about Enoch is that he was faithful over the long haul. Enoch walked with God for three hundred years. Enoch was no "flash in a pan" believer! Enoch didn't run hot and cold. Enoch was a model believer. Enoch had a steady and consistent faith. Enoch walked with God without wavering. He believed God, he obeyed God, and he worshipped God. He fellowshiped with God, he witnessed for God, and he passed the tests of faith that God gave him. **For three hundred years he walked with God!** What a model for us. We need more "Enochs" today!

Are you an Enoch? Do you walk with God? Do you have a consistent faith - or are you a Christian who runs hot and cold or up and down? Maybe you look pretty good on Sunday and at Christian retreats, but what about the rest of the time? Let's walk with God day in and day out, week in and week out, and year in and year out. Let's be more like Enoch! We know that Enoch was also a model family man. How do we know that? Hebrews 11:5 says, *"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."* Question: Where did Enoch obtain this testimony that he "pleased God"? Answer: Most likely it was his **family** who testified that he pleased God!

Do you remember we said that Moses may have had earlier written family sources to work with when he wrote the book of Genesis? Well, in the case of Enoch, the testimony that he "pleased God" may have come directly from his family. If Enoch was not a model family man, could he have obtained this testimony - that he walked with God and pleased God? Your family knows you best! Would they give you that testimony - after 300 hundred years? This testimony to Enoch's faithful life is recorded in Scripture as a lesson for us. Enoch is a model of the faithful Christian.

2. Enoch is a picture of the faithful Church.

Verse 24 says, *"And Enoch walked with God; and when he was no more, for God took him."* Faithful Enoch was raptured ("snatched up") out of this world scene before the great Flood of God's judgment that came in Noah's day. We believe this is a picture of the Rapture of the Church, and that it will occur before the great flood of God's judgment during the Tribulation period that will come upon the earth in the future.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 says, *"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words."* We believe that this passage is not referring to the Lord's Return to earth to set up His kingdom *after* the Tribulation – it's speaking of the Rapture of the Church *before* the future Tribulation. So Enoch is a "type," or a spiritual picture, of the faithful Church. As Enoch was caught up to Heaven before the worldwide Flood of Noah's day, so the Church will be caught up before the worldwide judgment and tribulation of the last days. Enoch is a picture of the faithful church.

Practical Application

Let's have "guts" like Enoch!

Of course I'm using the word "guts" here as slang, meaning courage – being courageous in witnessing. Enoch was a model believer in his faith and with his family, and he was also courageous in his witness. Jude 1:14 & 15 says, *"Enoch,*

the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵to 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."

From this passage of Scripture we learn that Enoch preached and prophesied, and spoke out against all ungodliness. That takes *guts*! Enoch was a courageous witness to the unbelievers of his day.

Who were the unbelievers around Enoch in his day? A lot of them were relatives and extended family members. Remember, Genesis 5 is a record of the early days of the human race, so everyone was related to Enoch by (at most) only a few links. Sister-in-laws. Brothers-in-laws. Cousins. Second cousins. Third cousins. Etc. So, Enoch was a courageous witness to his family and his extended family.

Having the courage to be a bold witness to your unbelieving relatives is one of the hardest things a Christian can do. It's a lot easier to share your faith with unbelieving strangers than with unbelieving relatives! And try speaking out against evolution or abortion, for example, to an unbelieving relative who is on the other side of these issues. You will soon see what I mean when I say, "Let's have guts to witness like Enoch." My brother-in-law is not a Christian. He is a very sharp and intelligent attorney. I can assure you it is not easy to witness to him. It takes guts!

We see from Jude 1:14-15 that Enoch did not hesitate to speak out against the ungodly deeds and ungodly talk of unbelievers. Enoch was a bold and courageous witness - even with his extended family and relatives. That takes guts! Let's have "guts" like Enoch!