

On the Beginning

10. Adam to Noah NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 5

Here is the second “genealogy” in the Bible, a list of names tracing a family line through many generations. Of course the first one was in Chapter 4 and traced the line from Cain to Lamech, an ungodly family. The list in Chapter 5 traces the line from Adam to Noah. It represents a godly family line, actually the earliest section of the line of Christ! It differs from the Cainite list in that it gives numerical information, the ages of men when the sons in the line were born and when the men died. Clearly, there is a reason for this information to be given. Although mankind was (as is) a fallen race, and had a sinful human nature, not all men were involved in the general moral decline (corruption—See Genesis 6:5-12) which engulfed humanity before the Flood. When Chapter 6 says, “*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD*” (verse 8), it points to an exception to the general rule. Some people before the Flood found justification in the grace of God, and learned how to walk with God (See again Genesis 6:9).

1. Enoch Walked With God.

The Bible presents Enoch, the seventh from Adam (counting Adam), as a very godly man (vs. 22-24—See also Hebrews 11:5 and Jude 14). If you do the figuring, you will find that when he was translated to Heaven, every man in the line from Adam to Noah *was alive* except Adam and Noah! Adam died fifty-seven years before Enoch went to Heaven, and Noah was born sixty-nine years after it happened! Seth, the son of Adam, was 857 years old when Enoch went up (He lived to be 912). Generation after generation overlapped because of the enormous ages to which men lived before the Flood. These were real years because the heavenly bodies enabled men to calculate seasons and years (Genesis 1:14). Some scientists think that the “*waters which were above the firmament*” (Genesis 1:7) were a canopy of water-vapor like the one that now enshrouds the planet Venus. Perhaps they protected life on earth from the kinds of rays from the sun that accelerate aging. When the Flood came, “*the windows of heaven were opened*” (Genesis 7:11), meaning possibly that the water above the atmosphere came down. Life-expectancy for man dropped dramatically after the Flood (See Genesis 9:28-29 and 11:10-26), perhaps because the waters above the firmament of Heaven were gone! So Enoch’s life and translation are the central subject of Genesis 5. He “*walked with God*” in the same generation that Lamech, Cain’s defiant descendent, composed his wicked song (Genesis 4:23-24). Men *can* walk with God, even where the world is rebelling against Him!

2. God Took Him.

Hebrews 11 says that Enoch was “*translated*.” He never died. He went directly to Heaven without dying just as Elijah did many centuries later (II Kings 2). It is also what will happen to Christians when Jesus comes back for them.

“... the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (1Thessalonians 4:16-17)

“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” (1Corinthians 15:51-52)

People who know the Lord will go up, while those who don't are left behind.

3. The Coming **Judgment**.

As men got worse, some walked with God, but judgment drew near. That judgment was the great Flood described in Genesis 6, 7, and 8. Through a man in the godly line, Noah who found grace in God's eyes, the human race was rescued from extinction. A few things in Genesis 5 indicate the Lord preparing the godly for the judgment of the earth (Read, if you can, II Peter 2:4-10 and 3:1-7).

- a. Everybody's sinful nature provokes God's wrath and calls for judgment. Adam was made *“in the likeness of God”* (v. 1), but Adam's son was begotten *“in his own likeness”* (v. 3). The effects of the Fall were passed down to the next generation. Even the godly have and pass on a sinful nature inherited from Adam. All the descendants of Adam die (See also I Corinthians 15:22). All inherit and pass on the sinful nature. If uncontrolled or not overcome by the grace of God, the sin in us will lead to corruption. This is true even of godly people and godly families.
- b. Everybody's life is planned to fit into God's plan. Methuselah's long life (vs. 21-27) ended the same year the Flood came! Enoch was born 622 years after creation, and he was translated 987 years after creation. Methuselah, his son, was born in the year 687, lived 969 years, and died in the year 1656 (after creation). Noah was born in 1056, and the Flood came when he was 600 years old (Genesis 7:11), which would be the year 1656, the year Methuselah died. For some reason, Lamech, the son of Methuselah and the father of Noah, lived only 777 years (Genesis 5:31). Compare his age with that of his father (v. 27) and his son (Genesis 9:28-29). His death came five years before the Flood. So when judgment came, Noah and his family were the only godly people still alive. Everybody's life and death were planned to fit in with God's timetable. This is true of our life and death, too!
- c. Everybody's trouble has a solution provided by God. The *“comfort”* for man's *“toil”* was Noah (v. 29). God's answer for us is Jesus.