

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #20

Genesis 4:25-5:17

Adam and Eve, as parents, must have been totally distraught. Their most godly son, Abel, had been murdered by Cain, and their eldest son, Cain, had turned his back completely on God. They had not only lost a son physically, but also lost a son spiritually.

**NO MATTER HOW CORRUPT THIS WORLD MAY BE, GOD WILL STILL PRODUCE, PRESERVE AND BLESS HIS RIGHTEOUS LINEAGE.**

In this narrative account, God gave life to a baby, through whom Noah and eventually Abram would come, and his name was Seth.

**NARRATIVE FACT #1** - God's righteous lineage is established by God. **4:25**

The name "Seth" means to put, or place or set (Gesenius, p. 853). The name is fitting because it is Seth who takes the place of or becomes a substitute for Abel. It will be through Seth that the Messiah, the promised seed, would come. Notice the response to Seth's birth, it was not one of glorifying self as Cain did in the construction of the city in his son's honor (Genesis 4:17), but rather they glorified God.

The Hebrew Word "appointed" does inform us that Adam and Eve had some handle on theology, for this word comes from the same root word as Seth that means to set, put or place something in a position of royalty. Adam and Eve longed for the seed to come who would crush Satan's head and apparently the righteous seed would come through the line of Seth.

Applications:

1. Parents may be godly and produce children who are godless.
2. Parents who are godly will eventually see God's blessings in their family.
3. Those who want to exalt themselves for what they accomplish are like Cain.
4. Those who want to exalt God for what He accomplished are like Adam and Eve.
5. God will raise up godliness in the midst of godlessness.

**NARRATIVE FACT #2** - God's righteous lineage begins to focus on God. **4:26**

Seth produced a son, whose name was Enosh, whose name means common man. There are no spectacular inventions or successes credited to any in his lineage. He may have been a common man by the world's standards, but he was a righteous man by God's standards.

The idea of calling "upon the name of the LORD" means three different things:

- 1) It means they prayed to Him;
- 2) It means they worshipped Him (Genesis 12:18; 13:4; 21:33);
- 3) It means they testified for Him.

Cain's firstborn produced city and arts; Seth's firstborn produced worship.

It was the godly lineage of Seth that took the focus off the world's success and put it back to God.

**NARRATIVE FACT #3** - God's righteous lineage is developed by God. **5:1-32**

There are at least three reasons for this lineage in chapter 5:

- 1) To show the lineage of human history that God considered significant;
- 2) To establish the lineage through which the righteous seed would come;
- 3) To show that death reigned even over the righteous line.

**(Fact #1)** - Adam was created by God in God's image . **5:1-2**

Two reasons why this point is stressed:

- 1) The world did not look like God's image;
- 2) Death has taken over the world.

**(Fact #2)** - Adam's lineage is calculated by God through the line of Seth. **5:6-32**

Since Abel is dead the living lineage is that of Cain, but God considers the living lineage to be that of Seth. The only line significant in God's estimation were the common people from the line of Seth .

**(Fact #3)** – Adam's lineage is reproduced in the image of Adam. **5:3**

Adam was created in the image of God, but Adam's lineage was created in the image of Adam which explains why all, with the exception of Enoch, die . They were born with Adam's sin nature, they had his image and that image is greatly marred from the image of God.

**(Fact #4)** – Adam's lineage is granted long life by God. **5:3-32**

Notice the length of life God grants - 1) God blessed people with long lives; 2) They still died after a long life.

**(Fact #5)** - Adam's lineage eventually died . **5:3-32**

The key theme of this chapter is death - 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31. Dr. S. Lewis Johnson described this chapter as the "Biblical Boot Hill." Dr. John Davis said a walk through Genesis 5 is a walk through a cemetery. The death sentence in Eden caught up with everyone in Adam's line with the exception of Enoch. The curse of death tracked them all down - Adam died at age 930 (5:5); Seth at 912 (5:6-8); Enosh at age 905 (5:9-11); Kenan at age 910 (5:12-14); Mahalalel at age 895 (5:15-17); Jared at age 962 (5:18-20); Methuselah at age 969 (5:25-27); Lamech at age 777 (5:28-31). One by one, they all died.

No matter how long we live or what shape we are in, sooner or later the curse of death will catch us all and our life's work and faith will follow us to our grave. The reason God developed this godly line of Seth was so that He could eventually bring His Son, the second Adam, into this world (Romans 5:14) so that through Him we might have life.