



Study #5 (Revised)

Genesis Chapter 5

Summary of the passage:

This genealogy, which covers 1556 years after creation, links Adam to Noah through the line of Seth. It gives the names of the patriarchs with the dates of their births and their deaths. It provides means to calculate the year of the flood, which works out to the year 1656 after creation. It is proof of the use of real years and destroys the possibility of dating the age of the world by evolutionary methods.

Enoch, the seventh from Adam (Jude 14), stands tall as the man who walked with God and his testimony shows that it was possible in those times to keep up communion with God through faith and obedience to His revealed will. The grave tone of the record shows a world groaning under the curse due to sin. This is highlighted by the repeated comment, *“and he died,”* after the history of each patriarch. Adam must have felt the bitter pain of a fallen world as he compared it to his prior perfect life in Eden.

Key verse: *“And Enoch walked with God and he was not; for God took him” (v24).*

Enoch’s walking with God is interpreted in Hebrews 11:5, as obedience and faithful witnessing, “...for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

Enoch was a faithful messenger for the Lord, warning of God’s judgment upon the wicked, even while he felt the power of sin and apostasy around him (Jude 1:14).

Observations – Lessons from this chapter.

1. **The reference to “the book” in ch. 5:1 reveals that the Genesis record was committed to writing.** It was not an oral tradition handed down by word of mouth. This is an important fact to remember as many oppose the validity of this record in Genesis.
2. **Confirmation is given to God’s work of creation on day six making man in His own image and making them male and female.** The word “create” (Ch. 5:1), is the same term used in Genesis 1:1 for the creation of the earth. God took dust from the ground and made the physical body of Adam. God blessed them. They were the apple of His eye and the focus of His love. He breathed His life into their bodies and gave them a soul. The name Adam means red; the term is also used for the red earth. The first man would have had a ruddy, or reddish complexion.
3. **The genealogy of Cain ends in chapter 4.** The line of Cain which ends in chapter 4, had an ungodly Enoch, a builder of a city after his own name (ch. 4:17) and a very ungodly Lamech, the polygamist and anarchist (ch. 4:18-24). That line has no part in the promised Saviour.
4. **The record of the antediluvian patriarchs leading to the time of Noah is taken from the line of Seth.** Seth’s name means substitute. So, Seth was God’s replacement given to Adam and Eve in the stead of Able.
Enoch, the Sethite (Ch. 5:21-24), who walked with God is to be contrasted with Enoch the Cainite and city builder. Enoch the Sethite has his walk with God recorded twice. It is first stated in ch. 5:22 when Enoch began to walk with God at 65 years old, at the time of Methusaleh’s birth. It is repeated again (v24) as an obituary after his translation from earth. This was Enoch’s clear testimony for God. The N.T. references to Enoch make him a true witness and a herald to warn the ungodly (Jude 14 – 15). It should be noted that while Enoch is the seventh from Adam in the line of Seth, Lamech, the wicked one, was also the seventh from Adam, but in the line of Cain.

- **The line of Cain in ch. 4 goes:** Adam, Cain, Enoch, Irad, Mehujael, Methusael, Lamech (Ch. 4:16 – 18)
- **The line of Seth in ch. 5 goes:** Adam, Seth v4, Enos v6, Cainan v9, Ma-hal-a-leel v12, Jared v15, Enoch v 19.

5. **Noah is number ten after Adam, in the line of Seth. His name means “comfort” (v29).** The reason for the name given to him at birth by his father Lamech speaks to the burden of life due to the fall and to the spread of wickedness in the world prior to the great flood. See the disquieting words in v29, *“concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed.”* Life was hard due to the curse that was upon the ground. It was so different and deficient from life in Eden.
6. **Mortality was universally stamped upon all men due to the curse for sin.** There is a repeated emphasis after each patriarch’s name upon the certainty of death, with none escaping the final caveat, *“and he died.”* All the sons of Adam were subject to death. Enoch was the exception. His walk with God was rewarded by a deathless translation. Elijah is the other exception. Otherwise, death is universal. It is the last enemy. It is the final lot of each and every son or daughter of Adam. This highlights the great need for a Saviour who will conquer death and deliver His people from the curse of sin and from death’s horrors.

Application: – How does this apply to me?

- The written record (Probably by Moses) of the ante-diluvian world (Ch. 5:1) makes it part of divine inspiration. We are to accept these first chapters of the Bible as we do any other inspired Scripture. These are not legends of oral tradition. They are the written word of God and form part of the canon of Scripture for our learning.
- The definite distinction of the sexes sets God’s standard for all people for all time. God’s creative work, making man male and female, is part of our DNA. A person’s sex is determined by biology, not emotions. Due to man’s fall, resulting in human depravity, we cannot allow emotions to control us. There are deviant thoughts, temptations and practices to be labelled as sin for they are contrary to the will of God, the Creator of man as male and female. Christ confirmed the divine order of man and woman in creation when He stated: *“...Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.”* (Matt. 19:4).

Patriarch	Year of Birth	Age at Birth of Next Patriarch	Years after son’s birth	Year of Death
Adam	0	130	800	930
Seth	130	105	807	1042
Enos	235	90	815	1140
Cainan	325	70	840	1235
Ma-ha-la-leel	395	65	830	1290
Zared	460	162	800	1422
Enoch	622	65	300	1187
Methusaleh	687	187	782	1656 (Year of flood)
Lamech	874	182	595	1651
Noah	1056	500	350 after flood (Ch. 9:28)	2006

Things to do in light of this study:

- Memorize ch. 5:24. Pray earnestly for a testimony that you please the Lord in your walk with Him.
- List ways in which you can walk with God – For example: Putting God’s word into practice in your life.
- Research why people lived such long lives before the flood.
- Research where Cain found his wife?