

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 5: October 11-18

Genesis 5

Whenever we come to a genealogy in the Bible, we are tempted to just skip it. However, in doing so, we miss the precious treasures hidden in what might appear to be just a boring list of names. The genealogies in Genesis 5 (from Adam to Shem) and Genesis 11 (from Shem to Abram) show us how God was fulfilling His promise in Genesis 3:15. God would send a Savior through the seed of the woman to crush the serpent's head and reverse the curse of sin. Luke used these genealogies to compile the genealogy of Christ all the way back to Adam (Luke 3:23-38). As we shall see, this is only one of many precious treasures hidden in the genealogy of Genesis 5.

Read Genesis 5:1-32

1. What does the Bible emphasize about the creation of man in verse 1?
2. What did God do when He created Adam and Eve? (5:2)

Those of us who are parents have a great privilege and responsibility. We are giving our children their first images of what God is like. Our God is a Father who loves His children. He wants to bless us not only with life, but with a name, and a purpose in life. Paul Kissling notes,

The author obviously repeats with slight variations the account in chapter 1 here. Notice the repetition of the words and/or phrases: "created," "likeness of God," "male and female," "blessed," and "called." Why retell the information in these verses in this way? Perhaps because, as Sailhamer suggests, God is being portrayed as being like a father. He made a son in his own likeness. He named him and blessed them, just as the patriarchs are portrayed as doing.¹

3. Compare Genesis 4:25 to 5:3. What do these verses tell us about Seth?

Apparently, both Adam and Eve were involved in the naming of Seth. The name Seth means "appointed as a substitute."

¹ Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 1* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2004), 250.

This study provides the *Strong's* number and definition for the Hebrew words most likely referred to by each name. John Walton observes,

The giving of names in the ancient world was a significant act. Often a name expressed hopes or blessings. The name was expected to play a role in the unfolding destiny of the individual and to take on additional significance and appropriateness throughout one's life, though the direction of that appropriateness was impossible to foresee.²

4. What does verse 4 tell us about Adam's children?
5. How long did Adam live on the earth? (5:5)

Before the flood and the Tower of Babel, people lived to be over 900 years old. After those events, lifespans were gradually shortened to about 80 years (Ps. 90:10). Job and his friends knew that the previous generations had much longer lifespans (Job 8:8-10). Scholars have suggested several theories to explain this. Perhaps there was a canopy of water vapor over the earth before the flood protecting humans from the aging effects of the sun's radiation. Perhaps the curse of sin caused accumulative effects on our genetics and the aging process. However, if this was God's plan, we should remember that He is the Creator of universe. As such, He is not limited by the laws of nature. He can extend life or shorten life with or without natural mechanisms.

6. What does verse 24 tell us about Enoch?

Enoch walked with God. This phrase is found only a few times in the Old Testament (Gen. 5:22, 24; 6:9; Mal. 2:6). It indicates a trusting and pleasing relationship with God. The person who walks with God is spending time with God and going in the same direction as God.

7. What does Hebrews 11:5 tell us about Enoch?
8. What does Jude 1:14-15 tell us about Enoch?
9. How old was Methuselah when he died? (5:27)

² John H. Walton, *The NIV Application Commentary Genesis* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2001), 280.

10. Why did Lamech name his son Noah? (5:29)

The name Noah sounds like the Hebrew word that means “to bring us rest” (H5117). The Bible tells us the reasons for the names of Adam, Seth, and Noah. The reasons for the rest of the names are speculative. Here are the most likely meanings for the other names:

Enosh (H582) means “mortal man.” Kenan (H7064) means “set up” or “fixed.” Mahalalel (H4110 & H410) means “the praise of God.” Jared (H3381) means “coming down.” Enoch (H2596) means “dedicated” or “disciplined.” Methuselah (H4962 & H7973) means “man and spear.” We are not sure what the name “Lamech” means. The most likely possibility is the combination of two words: *le* (H3926) and *muk* (H1159) meaning “to make low” or “to be made low.”

If we put the definitions in order, it sounds like the message of the gospel. “Man (Adam) appointed as a substitute (Seth) for mortal man (Enosh) set up (Kenan) the praise of God (Mahalalel) coming down (Jared) to be disciplined (Enoch) by man and spear (Methuselah) to be made low (Lamech) and to bring us rest (Noah).”

11. What is the common pattern of information given about each person in this genealogy? (5:3-31)

The genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 are the only ones in the Bible that give us the number of years each person lived. These are also the only genealogies that tell us when in each father’s life the next person was born. The reason for these two statistics is to let the reader know the total number of years in the genealogy.

12. How do the repeated phrases in this genealogy emphasize both the justice of God and the grace of God?

13. What thoughts and feelings do you have when you are reminded of your mortality?

14. How has God given you hope for the future?

15. How can you improve your walk with the Lord this week?

16. How can you be a source of comfort or rest to someone this week?

Sermon Notes 10/11/20

“...and then he died.”

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 5?

1. Come to Jesus for _____ life.

Genesis 5:1-5

John 10:10

2 Corinthians 5:17

2. Come to Jesus for _____ life.

Genesis 5:21-24

Hebrews 11:5-6

John 17:3

3. Come to Jesus for _____ in this life.

Genesis 5:28-29

John 16:33

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

After Eden

