

The Generations of Adam

Genesis 5:1-32

- I. THE PREFACE OF THE ACCOUNT (Genesis 5:1-2)
 - A. The Chronicles of History (Genesis 5:1)
 1. This chapter gives the family line from Adam to Noah, a total of ten generations. This includes man's time before the flood and comes to a total of approx. 1600 + years.
 2. Genesis 5:1 announces, "This is the book of the generations of Adam." We find lists of "generations" given throughout Genesis and the rest of the Bible. However, there is only one other place where the word "book" is found with the word "generation." This is in Matthew 1:1 which begins, "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ."
 - a. The connection and contrast of the two passages... (1 Corinthians 15:22)
 - (1) The giving of the generation(s) of Adam and Christ
 - (2) The contrast
 - (a) In Adam all die, (Romans 6:23)
 - i. In Genesis chapter 5 the phrase "he died" appears eight times.
 - ii. In fact, the book of Genesis ends with a coffin in Egypt. (Genesis 50:26)
 - (b) In Christ shall all be made alive. (Romans 6:23)
 - i. In Matthew chapter 1 "death," "died," or anything about death is not mentioned.
 - ii. In contrast, life is mentioned. (Matthew 1:1, 18-21)
 - iii. "He shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)
 - iv. The book of Matthew ends with an empty tomb and a risen Saviour. (Matthew 28:6-7, 9-10, 16-20)
 - b. The life found in Christ (Matthew 1:21; John 3:1-17, 5:21-29; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45-49; Romans 5:12-21)
 - B. Made in the Likeness and Image of God (Genesis 5:1)
 1. Adam had been created in the likeness and image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). However, Adam's son was born in the likeness and image of Adam (Genesis 5:3).
 2. We need to regain the image of God today (Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 4:19; Colossians 3:10)
 - C. The Creation of Mankind (Genesis 5:2)
 1. The God of Creation – "*God created man*" (Genesis 5:1)
 2. The godlikeness in creation – "*In the likeness of God made he him*" (Genesis 5:1). This kills the evolutionary theory of man evolving from

monkeys or some other form of life. Man was made with a spiritual likeness to God, and can think outside himself, therefore, he is separate and superior to animals.

3. The gender in creation – *“Male and female created he them”* (Genesis 5:2). There are no transsexuals in the Bible. And homosexuals are an abomination to God (Leviticus 18:22). He did not make them that way!
4. The goodness in creation – *“Blessed them”* (Genesis 5:2). We live under great blessing from God despite our sins. Unbelief ignores the blessings and criticizes and dishonors the blesser.
5. The generic in creation – *“He... called their name Adam, in the day when they were created”* (Genesis 5:2). *“Adam”* is here a generic designation for “man.” It is also very likely that God called both Adam and Eve, “Adam” because Eve was given to Adam, and because of this she took his name for herself. She became “Mrs. Adam” (Genesis 2:23-24).

II. THE PERSONS OF THE ACCOUNT (Genesis 5:3-31)

A. The Catalog of Persons (Genesis 5:3-31)

1. The nine men listed
 - a. Adam
 - b. Seth
 - c. Enos
 - d. Cainan
 - e. Mahalaleel
 - f. Jared
 - g. Enoch
 - h. Methuselah
 - i. Lamech
2. The line of men
 - a. They are all in the line of Seth
 - b. From this line came Abraham, David, Solomon, Daniel, and our Saviour, to name just a few.
 - c. From Cain’s line came nothing, they were all killed in the flood.

B. The Chronology of Persons (Genesis 5:3-31)

1. The importance of the chronology
 - a. This chronology is specifically important in that it helps us to understand the time from creation of mankind to Noah.
 - b. The ages in the chronology
 - (1) The longevity of the ages is very apparent.
 - (2) Sin will eventually take its toll upon the longevity.
 - (3) It is quite possible that the pre-flood conditions of the earth were more conducive than that of the post-flood earth.
 - (4) The ages of these men at death: Adam – 930, Seth – 912, Enos – 905, Cainan – 910, Mahalaleel – 895 (the first in the list to die

under 900), Jared – 962, Enoch did not die but lived only 365 years before God took him supernaturally. Methuselah died at 969 years old, the longest any man has lived. Lamech lived only 777 years (the youngest in this list).

- (5) The years of their death indicate that Noah was born 126 years after Adam’s death. Lamech died five years before his father Methuselah, and Methuselah was 243 years old when Adam died.
- (6) Enoch was translated just 57 years after Adam died and before any of the rest of the men on the list died. All the nine men listed were born before Adam died.

2. The arguments about the chronology

C. The Comments About the Persons (Genesis 5:3-31)

1. Four noteworthy names

- a. Adam
- b. Enoch
- c. Methuselah
- d. Lamech

2. The additional comments

- a. Adam – *“Begot a son in his own likeness, after his image.”* (Genesis 5:3)
 - (1) Adam was made in the likeness of God, yet, when man fell in the garden, he now will have a son in his own likeness. As we’ve already established in previous studies, man lost many things when he chose to sin in the garden. One of these was passing down his own likeness (a fallen likeness of God) to his children.
 - (2) Genesis 5:3 shows the effect of sin upon all mankind. We are all born in the likeness of Adam—that is why we are sinners.
- b. Enoch – *“Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”* (Genesis 5:24)
 - (1) This text speaks of two things about Enoch that are very noteworthy.
 - (a) One; His path. Enoch walked with God (Genesis 5:22, 24; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Amos 3:3).
 - (b) Two; His parting. Enoch *“was not; for God took him”* (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5-6).
 - (2) Enoch pleased God (Genesis 5:24; Proverbs 16:7; Hebrews 13:21; 1 John 3:22)
 - (a) The path of Enoch had a lot to do with the nature of his parting.
 - (b) Good partings require good paths.
- c. Methuselah – *“All the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years.”* (Genesis 5:27)
 - (1) Methuselah’s name *“when he is dead it will be sent.”* (The flood)
 - (2) Enoch must have known something about the future (Jude 1:14-15)
 - (3) Comparing dates in scripture one sees that Methuselah died the same year the flood came.

- d. Lamech – *“He called his name Noah saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because the ground which the LORD hath cursed.”* (Genesis 5:29)
- (1) The meaning of his name... “strong or low”
 - (a) When comparing the births and deaths in scripture one sees that Lamech lived to shortly before or approx. around the time God makes the decision to destroy mankind.
 - (b) This being the case, is it any wonder that Lamech name means “the strong brought low.” Mankind being strong will be brought low before God.
 - (2) The birth of Noah
 - (a) Lamech will name his son Noah. This name means “*comfort*” (Genesis 5:28-29)
 - (b) Noah lived for the purpose to bring comfort to mankind, but also that God brought comfort that He would bring judgment upon the unrighteous. Noah would carry on the line of mankind; without him all mankind would perish.
 - i. Noah was special, for he built the ark that saved mankind.
 - ii. The “*comfort*” resulted from judgment (the flood) upon sin which mitigated the suffering of God’s people.
 - iii. Punishing evil always benefits the righteous.

III. THE POSTSCRIPT OF THE ACCOUNT (Genesis 5:32)

- A. The Significance of Verse Thirty-two
 1. The last verse of chapter five is an introduction to chapter six. Yet this verse is related to chapter five as well. Just before this verse about Noah and his sons is the account of Lamech and what he said about his son, Noah.
 2. The account ends with an introduction to chapter six. This chapter will deal with the flood and the reason for it.
 3. The account of chapter five shows us that logic would prove to us that Noah spoke to his father Lamech, who could have spoken to Adam (for Lamech was 56 when Adam died). Furthermore, Noah could have spoken to Abraham (for Abraham was approx. 58 when Noah died). Tradition, God’s call to holiness, animal sacrifices and more, could have been handed down verbally or in some other form to the next generation.
- B. The Period of Noah (Genesis 5:32)
 1. The wickedness of the period (Genesis 6:5-8)
 2. The burden of the period (Genesis 5:29)
 - a. Lamech’s expression of the burden
 - b. The relief of the burden found in Noah
- C. The Progeny of Noah (Genesis 5:32)
 1. The sons of Noah – *“Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”*
 2. These boys are significant in that they will carry on the race of mankind.