

## FROM ADAM TO NOAH

### Genesis 5

Chapter five begins a new section of Genesis and covers a period of about 1500 years. It traces for us the line of Seth. This record is a striking contrast with the one of the Cainites in the previous chapter. The Cainites were progressive, made inventions and built cities. Nothing is said in this chapter of the God-fearing generations accomplishing great earthly things. They were pilgrims and strangers, waiting for better things.

The opening words of this chapter are worthy of close attention. "This is the book of the generations of Adam." It is the record of the chief of his descendants through the line of Seth. The line of Seth extending to Noah and his sons is recorded here.

In verse three we have the beginning of the genealogical table. Its arrangement is uniform in each generation. First are given the number of years lived by the father until the birth of the son through whom the genealogy is carried on. This is followed by the number of years that make up the rest of the father's life and the statement of the birth of more sons and daughters. Then, the total age of the individual in each generation is stated.

Adam was 130 years of age when Seth was born and lived 800 more years, dying at the age of 930. Seth was 105 years of age when Enos was born and lived 807 more years, dying at the age of 912. Enos was 90 years of age when Cainan was born and lived 815 more years, dying at the age of 905. Cainan was 70 years of age when Mahalaleel was born and lived 840 more years, dying at the age of 910. Mahalaleel was 65 years of age when Jared was born and lived 830 more years, dying at the age of 895. Jared was 162 years of age when Enoch was born and lived 800 more years, dying at the age of 962. Enoch was 65 years of age when Methuselah was born and lived 300 more years and ascended without dying at the age of 365. Methuselah was 187 years of age when Lamech was born and lived 782 more years, dying at the age of 969. Lamech was 182 years of age when Noah was born and lived 595 more years, dying at the age of 777. Noah was 500 years of age when Shem was born and lived 450 more years, dying at the age of 950.

Noah was 600 years of age when the flood came. We get at the age of the human race when the flood came by adding to the age of Adam when Seth was born the age of each father named when his son was born and then adding the age of Noah when the flood came. The total period between the creation of Adam and the flood is 1,656 years or more than 16½ centuries.

Another remarkable fact is the longevity of the antediluvians. Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Jared and Methuselah all lived over 900 years each. By the overlapping we see how Methuselah was a contemporary of both Adam and Noah--243 years with Adam and 600 years with Noah. In this way all the revelations of God to man up to the flood required for transmission, by word of man's mouth, only one intermediary between Adam and Noah. Adam himself lived through more than half the period from the creation to the flood.

This chapter contains a number of names. Our interest in the men who are named here, and almost all that we know about them, lies in the names which they gave their sons. All of these men were not given to noble

deeds. The Word simply tells us that they lived and died. Eight times in this chapter we read, "and he died." We learn from this that the Lord keeps a record of the lives, the work and the years of His people. His children are in His hands.

The only wonder we have about these men is that God let some of them live so long, unless it be that we also wonder how they managed to live so long and accomplish so little. I do not know that we can explain fully the meaning of the names of all of these men, but the fact that this chapter contains the history of the line of God's testimony for more than fifteen hundred years gives it an importance which must not be overlooked.

By sin Adam lost the image of God and became corrupt in his nature, so a fallen parent could do no more than beget a fallen child. His son "Seth," whose name meant "appointed," was begotten in the likeness of his sinful father.

"Enos" means "mortal" or subject to death. "Cainan" means "possession." "Mahalaleel" means "praise of God" or "God is splendor." Think of the faith of a man that led him to give his son a name like that in the presence of Cain's world! God was more glorious in his eyes than all the attractions of that world. An awareness of the fact that "God is splendor" will produce worship. "Jared" means "descending" or "marching downward." "Enoch" means "dedicated."

In Enoch we have one who was taught under God's discipline to walk with Him and to be a partaker of His holiness. In the midst of wickedness and infidelity, Enoch led a life of faith and piety; not apart from his fellows, but as the head of a household. He comes in as the crown and culmination of the line of heavenly testimony. We see in him the life of one who was completely outside the course of this world; one who in company with God became His confidant and received wondrous communications of divine secrets. What marvelous things he learned! He saw the true character of the world as under judgment, and knew that the Lord was going to execute it.

Enoch's greatness consisted in the single fact that "he walked with God." He did not try to induce God to walk with him. He simply fell in with God's ways and work. Think of Enoch giving God his company! How much do we give God our company? He delights in us and values our company. It may have to be said of us, as it was of others in those early centuries, that we only lived and died. Enoch lived sixty-five years, and then he walked with God for three hundred years.

Enoch is a striking character. He is one of but two men of whom it is said in the Bible that he "walked with God." He is one of but two men who lived on this earth and went to heaven without passing through the portals of death. He is the only one, except our blessed Lord, of whom it is written, "He pleased God." Our Lord alone could say, "I do always those things that please Him." The days through which Enoch lived on the earth were flagrantly wicked, as the Epistle of Jude plainly shows. He seems to have stood quite alone in his fearless denunciation of the ungodly and in his faithful testimony for God. Enoch was not only a consistent believer who lived in continual communication with God, but he was also a fearless prophet, preacher and witness for God. He was exceedingly fortunate in being translated to glory without having to experience death.

"Methuselah" means "man of a dart" or "man of military arms." In Methuselah we get the thought of God's long-suffering with the world. His life was the measure of it, for he died in the year that the flood came. This gives peculiar interest to the fact that he lived longer than any other man.

"Lamech" means "the overthrower" or "the wild man." "Noah" means "rest."