

"The Importance of Genesis 5"

Part 2

Genesis 5:1-32

Introduction: Over the past several weeks I have told you about the increasing darkness which is in our world. This is a result of our nation turning away from God and because of that God has been lifting the moral restraints. So what we see in our world is an increase of spiritual darkness which is manifest in the way which people live today. Many years ago I heard a Pastor speak about a trip overseas that he had taken and he said when he stepped off the plane you could feel the spiritual darkness in that 3rd world country. We as a nation are moving away from God and we are sinking deeper and deeper into the darkness. There are times here in this nation we can feel the spiritual darkness.

The entire thought about sinking deeper and deeper can be very troubling but there is a light in the darkness which we will look at today.

We are in Genesis 5 and as we started into this chapter last week I told you this is a very important chapter. When we first look at it seems to be just a bunch of names and numbers which takes us from Adam to Noah. But there is so much more to be found in this chapter. One of the reasons it is so important is because combined with chapters 3 and 4 we find out what life was like before the flood. These chapters are the only record which we have about society before the flood. Now last week I told you we would be in this chapter for several weeks because we are going to take our time and look at what is recorded here.

Last week we used this chapter as well as other verses in the Bible to date the age of the earth. Last week we went through the genealogy found here in Genesis 5 and we learned that from Creation to the flood there was 1656 years. Then we worked our way backward from the birth of Christ and we learned the flood occurred 2458 BC and we know the flood was 1656 years after creation so if we add the two together we see from Creation to the birth of Jesus Christ was 4114 years.

We live in the year 2013 so if we add these together we find the earth is somewhere around 6127 years old.

The science world tells us the earth is 4.5 billion years old and the Bible tells us the earth is a little over 6 thousand years old.

One really good lesson from all of what we looked at last week was that we cannot interpret the Bible with science but we can check science with the Bible.

Today as we come back to Genesis 5 we shall see something else very interesting which is tucked within the verses here.

"A Light in the Darkness"

As we read through Genesis 5 we see there is a pattern.

Notice Genesis 5:3-11

These are enough to help you to see the pattern. So and so lived had children and then lived several more years and then they died. That is the pattern. But 2 times in this chapter the pattern is broken.

I. The Man Enoch

Notice Genesis 5:19-24

Here is where the pattern is broken. We are not told that Enoch died because he did not die but instead he walked with God and one day he walked right into heaven.

But there is far more to the account than what we see on the surface.

A. Enoch's son

Notice Genesis 5:21

When we first look at Enoch's son Methuselah we see nothing unique about him but a little closer look will give to us some insight into God's Word.

Methuselah's name had a very interesting meaning.

The first part of his name means "man".

The second part of his name means "to shoot forth" or "missile".

I read recently where one Bible teacher referred to Methuselah as "missile man". But we need to understand what that meant. A meaning that we would better understand would be something like this, "when he dies it will shoot forth" or "when he dies it will come".

Just by the name which Enoch gave to his son and considering the meaning we know that when Methuselah was born God gave to Enoch a message. You say, "What was the message and how did it connect with Methuselah?"

The message from God which is seen in Methuselah's name was that when he died God's judgment would shoot forth.

Did you know that Methuselah died the very year the flood came upon the earth?

If we were to go through this genealogy again and add up some numbers we would see that Methuselah was born 687 years after Creation.

From creation to Seth's birth was 130 years (Genesis 5:3).	130
From Seth to Enos was 105 years (Genesis 5:6).	+ 105
From Enos to Cainan was 90 years (Genesis 5:9).	+ 90
From Cainan to Mahalaleel was 70 years (Genesis 5:12)	+70
From Mahalaleel to Jared was 65 years (Genesis 5:15)	+65
From Jared to Enoch was 162 years (Genesis 5:18)	+162
From Enoch to Methuselah was 65 years (Genesis 5:21)	+ <u>65</u>
	<hr/> 987

The total to Methuselah was 687 years after Creation.

Now notice Genesis 5:27

Here we see that Methuselah lived 969 years. If we add that to 987 we find that he died 1656 years after Creation which was the very year of the flood.

That is interesting but there is something else and that is that Methuselah lived longer than anyone else ever lived when he lived 969 years.

That is God's grace!

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

B. The Dedication of Enoch

Notice Genesis 5:22-24

I want you to notice here the steadfastness of Enoch. We are told that he walked with God 300 after Enoch was born. Most likely he walked with God before he was born also but the point is 300 years is a long time.

What does it mean to walk with God?

It means that Enoch would have nothing to do with the world. I am sure there were temptations which he faced every day but he was steadfast and he remained true to God. He would not give in to the desires of the flesh but he died to his sinful desires and he walked in fellowship with God for at least 300 years. This is amazing when we consider how corrupt the society was in Enoch's day.

Matthew 24:38

³⁸ *For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

They were living for the appetites of the flesh is exactly what is meant with this verse. But Enoch would not go with the flow of society.

Let me give to you another thought. Enoch had no Bible to guide him as we do today. He walked so close with God that the Holy Spirit taught and guided him every step along the way.

Application:

I see within Enoch a very important lesson for our lives;

"It is possible to live for God no matter how dark the society becomes around us."

Our surroundings are not the cause of sin in our lives but the cause is our personal choices. When we are tempted we have a choice and God always makes a way of escape for us.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

I can take that thought even deeper.

2 Peter 1:3

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

We have all we need to live a life just as Enoch did. There is absolutely no excuse for sin.

C. The Boldness of Enoch

Now Enoch did not just stay away from the sinful people of his society. He had contact with them and he even preached to them.

Jude :14-15

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

This was spoken by Enoch right into the lives of those who surrounded him in his day. Enoch was the first man to take a stand against the corruption which was in the world. When Enoch spoke these words he stood alone but even though he was the only one standing he did not fear. He knew the people needed to be warned and he knew it was his responsibility to speak of the revelation given to him when his son Methuselah was born. He warned them of the coming judgment upon the world.

Application:

We have the very same responsibility today. We have the revelation from God's Word that there is coming a judgment upon this world and it will be very severe. It is known as the Great Tribulation and it will be far worse than anything which this world has seen.

Matthew 24:21

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

We have the responsibility to warn people and tell them of the way of escape.

Ezekiel 3:17-19

¹⁷ Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

¹⁸ When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

¹⁹ Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Our commission is worded different but the same thought is there.

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way of escape for those who are headed to hell.

D. The Picture in Enoch

There is one more thought from Enoch that we must not miss and that is that he is a picture of the church and the next event on God's calendar which is the rapture.

Enoch never died and he was taken out of the world before the judgment of God fell upon the pre-flood society. He was taken by God right from earth and into paradise.

Application:

There is an event which could happen at any time and it is the rapture of the church. When it takes place we who are saved will be snatched from the face of this earth and we will be caught up to heaven with our Lord. It will happen before the Great Tribulation because God will not allow His children to experience His wrath.

Enoch's departure is a picture of the blessed event which could happen at any time. Let me show you some verses about the Tribulation.

Revelation 6:15-17

¹⁵ *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*

¹⁶ *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*

¹⁷ *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

We cannot possibly be go through the Tribulation because the wrath of God fell on Christ 2000 years ago and we are in Him so we will never see the wrath of God.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

Conclusion:

This is our hope in the darkness.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

¹⁵ *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

¹⁶ *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

¹⁷ *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

¹⁸ *Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*