

From Adam to Noah | Genesis 5

from the series, Worldview Matters: Studies in Genesis 1-11

Genesis 5 contains one of the many genealogies of the Bible. Here, it functions to connect chapter 4, with its evidence of broken man in a broken world, with chapter 6, the flood. We need to understand the significance of the event and also the man of the event, Noah. This is his family lineage, but it doesn't end with him. This line will be traced from Adam to Abraham and, eventually, finally, to Jesus. That is the genealogy that matters—the scarlet thread through history that will connect the first Adam with the second. We can live in this genealogy because God has called a people to himself, given them a promise of redemption and a plan for achieving it through the Prince of Peace.

MAIN IDEA: Right now counts forever.

1. Adam: Man is a mortal being

Everyone who is born must also die (Hebrews 9:27). Adam died, and so will we. But, in the face of death, the family continues to grow. Despite death, the difficulty of life in a fallen world, and the proliferation of the line and spirit of Cain, Adam continues to have children and his children do as well—there are likely millions of people on earth by the days of Noah. They have children in faith and move the family forward.

2. Enoch: God has not left us to ourselves.

Enoch breaks the cycle—he walked with God and God took him. The text indicates that he walked with God after he became a father, implying that God gave him a son that would turn him spiritually. Your descendants will remember most that you walked with God. That son, Methuselah, is noted as the longest-lived person on record. Each of these generations is long-lived, and Adam himself does not die until the time of Methuselah and Lamech. In effect, the garden of Eden is not the distant past. By the time of Noah, they are only two generations removed from the first man to die.

3. Noah: There is a bigger picture to behold.

Noah's name means "comfort" or "rest"—his parents must have had Genesis 3:15 in mind, the promise of an offspring that would give them relief from the burden of the curse. Noah fathered children at a much later point in his life than the other men in the genealogy—500 years old before his first son is born. This creates a break in the genealogy. God may have been gracious in allowing Noah's forebears to pass away before the time of the flood.

The phrase “and he died...and he died” is repeated throughout the genealogy. Each generation must have been looking for the promised offspring, but each generation passed away like the one before it. Until Jesus. The genealogy ends there. He died, and came back to life. His family grows through all those who come to him. Do you want to be in the line of Jesus?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. We may recognize that we are mortal, but does it shape how we live?**

- 2. What does it mean to “walk with God”? How can life circumstances, like becoming a parent, play a role in our walk with God?**

- 3. Why is it important to connect the genealogies of the Bible with Jesus? What does it mean to become part of Jesus’ genealogy?**



COATS BAPTIST
C H U R C H