

BEGIN WITH GOD

Week 6

A study of Genesis 1-12

282 MILES

When my wife and I would travel home from Dallas, Texas, the GPS would navigate the way. We'd go a few miles here and there and then we'd hit I-30E toward Little Rock and the GPS would say "282 miles." No longer are we looking for signs and on-ramps. We settle in and cruise across flat and repetitive landscape.

The story of Adam and Eve is like the first few turns in a journey, there's a lot going on, but in a relatively short time-frame. As we turn the corner to chapter 5, the journey skips from a focused look at one couple, to generations passing in the blink of an eye.

Today, we're looking at selected verses from Genesis 5. This passage moves into a new genre that we're seeing for the first time—genealogy. The repetition of the genealogy portions of Scripture have killed many Bible reading plans. They're typically described as boring, and in truth, the fruit of these passages requires a lot of work.

As we said in Zero Week, *Genesis* was written to the Israelites of the Exodus to help them understand how they got where they are. They now understand they are subjects of a Creator, that the God who saved them from slavery is leading them in the wilderness. However, they also understand that the evils of slavery are a symptom of a larger issue called sin. Although our journey in chapter 5 has some highlights, it's leading us to next Week when sin will face that which it deserves—judgment.

GENESIS 5 (SELECTED)

¹ This is the record of the family line of Adam. When God created humankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female; when they were created, he blessed them and named them "humankind."

³ When Adam had lived 130 years he fathered a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and he named him Seth. ⁴ The length of time Adam lived after he became the father of Seth was 800 years; during this time he had other sons and daughters. ⁵ The entire lifetime of Adam was 930 years, and then he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God for 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²³ The entire lifetime of Enoch was 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and then he disappeared because God took him away.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

One of the many stumbling blocks for "scientifically minded" people appears here in chapter 5. It is common knowledge that people cannot live as long as the Bible said Adam and his immediate descendants did. Right?

A huge flaw in this kind of thinking is the assumption that things have always been as they are now. For more on the question of why people lived so long in Genesis, check out the QR code.



DISCUSSION

We're at the half-way point. What is one thing that God has been teaching you through this study?

1. How is this chapter described in the first sentence? (1a)

2. Which patriarch deviates from the repeated pattern in Genesis 5? (21-24)

3. What specifically was different? (21-24)

4. Why do you think "Enoch walked with God" was repeated within just 3 verses? (22-24)

5. What can be learned about God from Enoch's walk?

6. On a scale of 1-10: 1 being Cain & 10 being Enoch...
A. How would you describe your walk with God in the last few days?

B. What would it take to see that number come up?

Through Christ, your life can impact, not only the next generation, but the landscape of eternity. How can you be used by God? If you have questions, talk to your coach today.

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

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STUDY NOTES

QUALITY V. QUANTITY

Many people are familiar with the story of Rudy Reuttiger because of the 1993 film depicting his life and Notre Dame football career. Although it is a movie with some creative licenses taken, Rudy is an inspiration to many of us because of his hard work and determination. The craziest thing is that the real-life story culminated in 27 seconds of play-time for a kickoff, an incomplete pass, and the final play of the game in which Rudy delivered a sack against Georgia Tech's quarterback. That 27 seconds inspired a Hollywood blockbuster that many consider their favorite film of all time.

Rudy's underdog story proves the old adage, quality over quantity. Sure, he only played 27 seconds, but those few moments were the pinnacle of a goal thought impossible.

Today, we're in a section of genealogy that **is the record of the family line of Adam** ending with Noah. Studying genealogies can feel monotonous because there is so much repetition. However, that repetition has value, and it also heightens those moments that break the repetition to show uniqueness, as we will see.

GOD IS LIFE

In Genesis 1:28, after **God created humankind**, he told Adam and Eve to "**Be fruitful and multiply.**" We are again reminded that **he made them in the likeness of God. He blessed them and named them "humankind."**

We read of Cain and Able last Week, and have explored the destruction and devastation of sin that was introduced in Genesis 3. Yet, here we see that sin has not erased our humanity. Nor has sin erased the fact that all people are image bearers of God with the rights and dignity therein. Sin has defaced that image, but cannot erase it.

Toward the end of chapter 4 we are introduced to Adam and Eve's third son named Seth. Adam's spiritual lineage was carried through Seth, **a son in his own likeness, according to his image.** It is through Seth that came Noah, eventually Abraham, King David, and finally Jesus. The destruction and devastation of sin cannot overpower an Almighty God from accomplishing his redemptive work.

With Adam we see a pattern in Genesis 5, **Adam had lived 130 years he fathered Seth. The length of time Adam lived after he became the father of Seth was 800 years; during this time he had other sons and daughters. The**

entire lifetime of Adam was 930 years, and then he died. Here's the pattern: father's name, age at son's birth, other children, amount of time lived after birth of named son, and total life span. This kind of repetition very quickly turns into white noise, however there are some things worth noting, especially when this pattern gets broken.

The average age of the men named in Genesis 5 is around 900 years. However, there is one notable exception. In verse 21, we start reading of **Enoch**. Just like the others, he lived for a while, had a son named **Methuselah**, but then the script gets broken. The Bible records that **Enoch walked with God for 300 years.** First, **the entire lifetime of Enoch was 365 years**, which is hundreds of years shorter than the others. However, it's not the *quantity* of years, but the *quality* of years that most describes Enoch.

Enoch was said to have **walked with God**. There was something special and unique about him. Nobody else from Adam to Noah is credited with that notation. Not only that, but Enoch so closely walked with God that he never had to taste death **because God took him away** (See also Hebrews 11:5).

GOD'S LIFE BRINGS REST

Death is proof that sin still (temporarily) reigns in the world. Repeatedly in Genesis 5 we read "**and then he died.**" The only person who skipped that dreaded consequence is the same one who walked with God. Obviously, that doesn't mean if we walk with God we won't die—the stats on death are pretty overwhelming. However, it is an example that death is not outside God's control and that a connection exists between a relationship with God and life. Enoch's story is unique and raises many more questions than answers. However, one thing that's true of Enoch can be true of us—we can walk with God in a personal way and receive God's gift of eternal life.

The Israelites reading the story of Enoch's walk with God were literally walking in the wilderness following God around. The goal of their wandering was in the hope of a Promised Land and the rest they would find there, which was never fulfilled because of sin. However, through the descendants of Adam, Seth, Enoch, etc. One would come to make that rest a reality.

It is through Christ that we question, "**Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?**" (1 Corinthians 15:55). Although the quantity of our life seems comparably small to the men of which we've read, the quality can rise to that of Enoch. In Christ, we can walk with the Lord such that even if we die, we may live in the eternal rest that began at the Cross.