

Genesis 5: From Adam to Noah

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Genesis 5 takes us all the way back to creation in order to provide a bridge from Adam to Noah through the promised line of Seth (a bit more than 1556 years).

The Hebrew word for “man” is adam.

Besides providing an historical bridge, what are some additional reasons that the Holy Spirit recorded genealogies in the Scripture?

- God may show special favor to a *group*, but He deals with everyone *individually*
- shows family connections and how the promise passes unbroken from generation to generation
- distinguishes between the godly and ungodly lines (e.g., Jacob (Gen 46) and Esau (Gen 36))
- God is a meticulous “bookkeeper” (Ex 32:32-33; Ps 51:19, 56:8, 69:28, 139:16; Is 44:22; Dan 12:1; Php 4:3; Rev 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 20:15, 21:27)

In Hebrew there is no distinction between father, grandfather, etc. “Father” can simply mean ancestor and “son” can simply mean descendant, e.g., *Son of David*, *God of our fathers*, etc.

Not every generation need be named in order to firmly establish family ancestry, but the genealogy of Genesis 5 appears to be complete.

Seth = compensation
Enosh = man
Kenan = possession
Mahalalel = praise of God
Jared = descent
Enoch = dedicated
Methuselah = man of the dart
Lamech = powerful
Noah = rest

Nearly every generation from Adam to Noah lived 900 years.

Scripture uniformly records that Enoch did not die but was taken up. (Gen 5:24; Heb 11:5)

Enoch was specially anointed as an apocalyptic prophet. Enoch’s message pointed to the fulfillment of the promise for the Seed of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. (Jude vv. 14-15)

What does it mean to “walk with God”? Both Enoch and Noah are described this way.

- submission to His Law/Word (Deut 10:12-13)
- humble obedience and dependence (Micah 6:8)

Methuselah was 300 years old when Enoch was taken; he lived another 669 years. If he followed in his father’s footsteps, he would have preached nearly 1000 years before the Flood came.

According to J.M. Boice, Methuselah’s name has a much deeper meaning than “man of the dart.” Methuselah was more than a prophet—he was a divinely appointed hourglass.

Noah was *not* the first preacher to warn of God’s impending judgment against sin.

None of the patriarchs died in the Flood—Noah was the only one alive when the Flood came.