

GENESIS

F O U N D A T I O N S

Chapter 5 & 6 Study Guide

March 21, 2004

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Genesis 5

I. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

Here in Genesis 5 we have the “hidden gospel”. For the casual reader or skimmer of genealogies this would be missed but for the diligent student – see Proverbs 25:2

Proverbs 25

² It is the glory of God to conceal a matter;
to search out a matter is the glory of kings. look what this text reveals.

The following is the list on names with there Hebrew root meanings

Adam = Man
Seth = Appointed
Enosh = Mortal
Cainan or Kenan = Sorrow
Mahalael = The Blessed God
Jared = Shall come down
Enoch = Teaching
Methuselah = His Death Shall Bring
Lamech = Despairing
Noah = Rest

Put this all together and we get – “Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the blessed God shall come down, teaching (that) his death shall bring the despairing comfort (or rest). WOW! And folks that comes from the book of Genesis not from the Gospels!

Small Group Questions:

- 1) **What is prophecy?**
- 2) **Is there any prophecy in this chapter?**
- 3) **What so amazing about the hidden gospel?**

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.



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Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man’s redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / **Date** - 1450 – 1410 BC

3. Theology

Chapter 5 of Genesis is primarily a genealogy of the line from Adam to Noah, but right at the beginning of the chapter, in fact only the first three verses. It says in verse 1 that, “when God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them “man”. It obviously says here very plainly that Adam and Eve were created in the likeness of God. What does this mean exactly? Well we can’t know for sure, but we can surmise that Adam and Eve had abilities and characteristics that we don’t have today, things that made them a whole lot more like God, than we are today. Also what’s interesting about this is that it says that it was the combination of both male and female, when they were created together, that made them the image-bearers of God. If you look back in chapter 1 verse 27, there is a little poem that says,

“So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.”

Looking at these two passages together we get to see a very cool marriage theology forming. Not only does God bind a man and a woman together in marriage, but also we see that it is in the binding that we most clearly resemble the image of God. This should go one step further to say that we, in the light of these passages, should not think of God as a man in the masculine sense. God is God, he is, as St. Augustine calls him, “wholly other”. He should not be shackled by the language of gender. We see in this and other passages, especially in the wisdom literature that God has very feminine qualities to him as well. This means that the closest, most complete image of God is shown in the symbol of marriage. Because both male and female together were created in the likeness of God, we should hold the marriage covenant even higher than we already do, because in that perfect covenant we see the image of God as both leader and servant, judge and nurturer, Savior and sacrifice.

Small Group Question:



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1. Why do you think people lived so much longer in the OT? What is the significance of this?

4. ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- The genealogies of **Genesis 5** tell the story of redemption. God is able to speak much deeper in His word than we see on the surface.
- God is interested in individual people. (not just races or groups) (**Genesis 5**)
- Enoch “walked with God then He was no more. (**Genesis 5:24**)
- God doesn’t handle each situation the same. (**Genesis 5:24**)
- God created Man in the likeness of God (**Genesis 5:1**)
- God took Enoch, He has the power to rapture (**Genesis 5:24**)

Small Group Question:

1. In chapter 5, Enoch “was no more”. What does this mean? (He was raptured)

5. WORD STUDIES

in the likeness דמות d@muwth {dem-ooth’}

likeness, similitude

in the likeness of, like as

in our image צלם tselem {tseh'-lem}

image, likeness (of resemblance)

Methuselah מתושלח M@thuwshelach
man of the dart

Name means “When he is dead it shall come”

That his life was so long was no accident. God’s grace kept him alive for as long as possible to give people time to repent. When Methuselah died the flood came!

Small Group Questions:

Genesis 5 “God made us in His image or likeness”

Fact: “We are not our own maker so we should not be our own master.”



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Know that God specifically and intelligently designed you. He created us in His image.

Question:

1. How do we show God's image to this world?
2. If this is true, why do we fight to be our own mater when we know that God has the best for us?

6. PROPHECIES OF CHRIST – GOSPEL COMPONENT

“Enoch walked with God; and he was not” Genesis 5:22

Genesis 5:22 records the words, “Enoch walked with God.” Most expositors interpret this verse in a figurative way, meaning something such as, “Enoch maintained continuous spiritual fellowship with God.”

In view of what we know about the Angel of the Lord and his visible appearances to people in the Old Testament times, it is utterly possible that Enoch literally (physically) walked with God. This is reasonable especially since appearances by the Angel of the Lord were God's primary means of giving revelation in patriarchal days.

Old Testament scholars C.F. Keil and Franz Delitzsch note that the phrase **“walked with God”**

Denotes the most confidential intercourse, the closest communication with the personal God, a walking as it were by the side of God, who still continued His visible intercourse with men (3:8). It must be distinguished from “walking before God” (chapter 17; 1; 24:40, etc.), and “walking after God” (Deuteronomy 13:4), both which phrases are used to indicate a pious, moral, blameless life under the law according to the directions of the divine commandments. The only other passage in which this expression *“walk with God”* occurs is Malachi 2:6, where it denotes not the piety of the godly Israelites generally, but the conduct of the priests, who stood in a closer relation to Jehovah under the Old Testament than the rest of the faithful, being permitted to enter the Holy Place, and hold direct intercourse with Him there, which the rest of the people could not do.

If God was pleased to physically walk with Enoch, then-as a prerequisite-it would also have to be true that Enoch “walked” with God in the *spiritual* sense as well.

7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

1. What good are the genealogies? (5:3-32).



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Genealogies can demonstrate how God works his plan for history through individuals. Yet this genealogy shows even more; God intended human beings to live forever, but sin destroyed their potential. The decreasing ages at which children were being born reveal the deteriorating effect of sin.

2. What was the secret to such a long life? (5:3 – 32)

The Creator made men and women to be immortal. Nevertheless, death – the result of sin progressively decreased human longevity until 70 or 80 years became a normal life span (Genesis 6:3 says Then the Lord said, My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal, his days will be a hundred and twenty years) and in Psalm 90:10 says The length of our day is seventy years or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away). Some theorize that prior to the flood, the atmosphere was some how more favorable to prolonging life, perhaps by a cloud cover that more effectively screened radiation from the sun.

3. Did Enoch escape death? (5:24)

Yes. The Bible confirms that Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death (Heb. 11:5 says By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away .For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.). Enoch walked with God, suggesting an extremely intimate relationship with God that led to an extraordinary departure from this life.

4. Why did Lamech think Noah would comfort them? (5:29)

It's possible that God inspired Lamech to say what he did in anticipation of the comfort Noah would bring by building an ark and saving the human race. Noah also brought comfort by reinstating the sacrificial ritual after the flood, having received God's promise never to flood the earth again (Genesis 8:21 says The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.



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8. SOUL WINNERS SO WHAT

When a believer desires to be set-apart to do God's will and no longer sees himself as the center of life, Christ is enabled to do a great work in and through that individual. Remember, *"Enoch walked with God; and he was not."* When we walk closely with God and cease being the center of our universe, the *One* that is most visible is Jesus Christ in you. **To effectively preach the gospel, we must first be the gospel.**

What can I learn from a list of names?

A family's genealogy is interesting primarily to the people in that family. The genealogy in Genesis 5 may seem more significant to us when we realize that it lists part of our genealogy because all of us trace our roots back to God's creation of Adam, the first man.

At first glance it may appear as if these names and ages really have no relevance to me or my faith in Jesus Christ. Look again. They are a vital part of the foundation of our faith. When you follow the genealogy (name chain) it all leads to man's original daddy, Adam! If you were to add up all the ages of all the men listed, and track them back to day 6, when God created man, you will discover the earth is only a few thousand years old as opposed to billions of years old.

Chap. 5 is just another way of God validating where we all came from and who made us. It once again lets those who read the Word of God know, we did not evolve from rocks, fish or monkeys. We were created by Him the intelligent designer, and our lives have a purpose. This is to love and obey Him. (John 14::15)

Matthew Henry:

*"Man is not his own maker; therefore He must not be his own Master..."

*God made us in His likeness, righteous and holy, unlike any other creature of the world.

*God made male and female immediately by His own hand for their mutual comfort as well as for the preservation and increase in their kind. Between the two sexes there is not that much difference or inequality which some imagine.



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We must realize that we have been specially created or formed in God's image for a higher purpose that's beyond ourselves. As we let go of our own agendas and submit our entire selves to our true Master, its then we begin to live out God's true design and understand what His likeness is and become God's representatives to the world. Amen.

I think it is interesting after each descendant of Adam it says, "and he had sons and daughters" "and he died" Echo two contrasting realities: God has said "you shall surely die" 2:17 and he has also commanded them to "be fruitful and multiply" 1:28 If this homosexual agenda keeps moving forward it will surely be interesting disruption on procreation. I don't think we really understand what it could do to our future.

Adam was created for fellowship with God, and placed into a perfectly beautiful place, the Garden of Eden. In Chapter 5 we read about the genealogy of Adam, and his eventual death. In Gods original design, Adam was to live forever in paradise and in fellowship with God. It was his sin that separated him from God, and got him kicked out of the Garden of Eden. What is your sin excluding you from? What paradise are you precluding yourself from because of sin?

All humans are related to Adam and Eve. The Holy Spirit works to bring together, Satan works to tear apart. Any time prejudice enters your mind or heart, we need to hold those thoughts to the light of scripture & realize that kind of thinking is from the enemy.

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Genesis 6

II. BACKGROUND, CULTURE & EXEGESIS

Commentary

This chapter is one of the strangest in the entire Bible. We begin with the corruption of all of mankind except for Noah and his family. We read early on about the “sons of god” (who are they?) coming down and commingling with the daughters of Eve with the outcome producing the Nephalim (the fallen ones). There are different camps of interpretation about this; one camp simply sees the Sethites as the ones that are referred to as the “sons of god” while others see a more demonic plot. The other camp sees fallen angels as the “sons of god” and they messed around with humans and the result was an unnatural offspring ... Nephalim. Whatever the case, the earth was horrid and God was sorry that he had created man in the first place! Thank God for Noah or else we’d never been born.

With this as a backdrop let’s look at an overview of the rest of the chapter.

V3 – Here we read that God cuts the average lifespan of man from 912 years to a 120.

V4 – Here we are introduced to the giants (or the Nephalim)

Naphal literally means “to fall”, which is why these are referred to as the fallen ones. In the Greek translation that is called the Septuagint (LXX) this word is translated gigantes – meaning earth born. In Greek mythology we read about the Titans, who were partly terrestrial and partly celestial, some see the Nephalim in the same light. We do read about giants in the Bible, who hasn’t heard of Goliath? The Bible refers to these as Anakim - you can look up the following references and undoubtedly see that there at one time were giants in the land.

Numbers 13:33

Deuteronomy 3:11

Amos 2:9

2 Samuel 21:15-22

2 Peter 2:4

Before we leave this weird stuff we need to be forewarned for whatever was going on, Jesus said would happen again –maybe evening our day!
(see Luke 17:26)

V7 – Some see this as the saddest verse in the entire Bible



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V8 – Again without Noah we would cease to exist. Notice - we have here the first mention of grace in the Bible.
(see Hebrews 11:7)

The rest of this chapter tells us about Noah, his family and of course that gopher-wood boat of his that we call an ark!

Now some brief thoughts on the ark. Check out the photo of Building 94 (our new Church home) because it is roughly the same size as Noah's ark (and get this it even has three stories ...just like the ark!)

Just in case you are wondering what the actual size of the ark was and would it really be big enough to have all those animals in it. In the latest Personal update Chuck Missler addresses this question and here is his response - *"The ark was 300 cubits long, 50 cubits abeam, and 30 cubits high. The cubit was a measure intended to represent the distance between the elbow and the tip of the fingers, which is about 18 inches. Assuming an 18 inch cubit, the ark would contain 1.5 million cubic feet, and would displace 24,000 tons. This space approximates over 500 railroad cars and could contain 125,000 sheep or their equivalent. Since it has been estimated that there were about 18,000 species, and most would be smaller than a sheep, the space doesn't seem to be a real problem."* (Chuck Missler – Personal Update – Feb 04)

Small Group Question:

1. Why did God decide to "start over"? What does this tell us about sin? What were "the days of Noah" and how do we relate that to Matthew 24:37?

2. THEME & AUTHORSHIP

Themes

A couple predominate themes are found in Genesis. First is fact that this is a Book of Beginnings, the great introduction to the drama of redemption.

Second, we see God preparing a people – here we have God choosing and then testing. Whether it is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Noah for that matter God chooses and then begins to winnow and purge. Remember the goal is to create a people who would fulfill Genesis 3:15. It will be here that the initial step will be taken for man's redemption by a divine covenant made with a chosen race whose early history is here portrayed.

Author – Moses / Date - 1450 – 1410 BC

3. Theology



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This chapter tells us about a time in history that God got fed up with people. I think this begs the question, what did the people do that finally exasperated God to the point that he would choose to wipe them out completely, or at least very nearly so? It would be hard for us to believe that there could exist in history a culture more vile and God-forsaken than the one in which we live today. Even in light of the atrocities of Nazi Germany in the 1940's, God endured. What about Noah's time could have been so bad that, "the Lord God was sorry that He made man and He was grieved in his heart (v.6)." Verse 5 says, "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." We can't really say what this means on a practical level. The Bible teaches that man is by nature wicked and it is by the Grace of God alone that we are able to be obedient. So we know that even we today have the capability to be as wicked as what is described in Noah's day. So what separates us? Has God decided to give us more grace than what he gave them? Is it possible that after the flood God realized that His presence was needed in a more active way than before? Could this be why he developed the sacrificial system outlined in Leviticus? As we see the relative failure of that system, can we then fast-forward to the redemptive act of Christ; was this the last plan of God to redeem the sins of the world? Much of this we cannot know, but it should cause us to pause and give thanks to God, first for his Grace poured out in Christ and second for His merciful patience with his sinful people.

Small Group Question:

1. Verse 5 says that every inclination of a man was evil all the time, and that was the reason that God wiped them all out. Are we the same way today? If not, why not? If so, what will God do about it?

4. ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- God will punish sin (v.7)
- God Has Emotions
- God is a god of details (v.15)
- God will show grace to those who are "just" (v.8)
- God will give us a specific escape if we listen to Him (v.14-20)
- God will provide for our needs (v.21)

5. WORD STUDIES



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In chapter six of Genesis it says that the Lord saw the wickedness of man and was grieved. The author also tells us that every inclination of the heart was only for evil, all of the time. Hence, the word "heart" becomes central to the passage and central to understanding ourselves and all of humanity. The word "heart" obviously has many meanings throughout the Bible: the organ itself, the soul, personality, etc. Thus, the goal of scholars is to find the exact meaning attached to that word in that passage when it was written. The technical term for this is Synchronic Word Study. In our passage most OT scholars believe that it refers to the "Center of Vital Action" within humans. The root or "heart" of our moral, spiritual, and intellectual life. In even more familiar and simple terms: the place in which the self-consciousness is carried out.

Verse 9

Word "Perfect" Hebrew: tamiyn Strong's # 8549

Definition: Without defect, blameless, without spot, sincerity, sound, righteous

Meaning: "Noah was perfect in his generation" this term is unique to Noah. Some have seen it mean that he was undefiled at Satan's attempt to corrupt the human race (Gen 6:1,2). More commonly, we can observe Noah's character. He was just man, justified before God by faith (Heb 11:7). He was sanctified and lived by right principles and conviction. He was perfect, not a sinless perfection, but a perfection of sincerity, because of God's grace; sincerity is accepted as our perfection by God. He acted upon his grace, convictions and disposition which found him great favor with God. Noah pleased God.

Small Group Question:

Genesis 6 "Noah was perfect in his generation"

Fact: It's not that Noah was without sin, He was seen as perfect because he had obeyed the God.

1. How does knowing that God sees you through His Son Jesus as perfect when you repent of your sins change your own self image and identity in Christ?
2. Do you think there is a struggle for most to see themselves as God does? Why is this so?
3. How can you encourage a Christian who has drifted from God, has fallen away or who may not see himself as perfect in Christ?

6. PROPHECIES OF CHRIST – GOSPEL COMPONENT

In Genesis 6:13: We read God warning Noah, telling him "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I



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will destroy them with the earth.” The New Testament, of course, teaches that the flood and the Noah account are historic. Hebrews 11:7 reads: “By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.” Noah was asked to build a boat somewhere with no water in sight: this was an act of great faith.

We see later in the NT a parallel that Jesus drew between His own future coming and the flood of the past. Jesus emphasizes that His future second coming is a historic event. *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. 37But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Just as life was going along normally prior to the flood, so will it before the return of Jesus. Many passages of scripture speak clearly of the history of the flood, such as Isaiah 54:9 *“For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you.”* God is saying that his promise is as sure as the events of the flood. Again, we see in 1 Peter 3:20 as it says, *“...when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.”*

Lastly we can see the parallel of the flood to the second coming of Jesus in 2 Peter 3:3-7

“...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” Prior to the time that Jesus is to come, there will be scoffers who will say, “Where is the promise of his coming?” Most people seem to be expectant of a natural ongoing form of life in which man is ascending to greatness by bettering himself, without the fear of a cataclysmic outpouring of God’s wrath, yet, Peter goes on to say, *“For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”*

Soul Winner So What?

Are you expectant of the imminent return of Jesus Christ? Are you living your life as though He were going to return today? Do you live as the light and share the light when opportunity arises? Do you have the faith that Noah had in God’s word? If not, why not?



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7. BIBLE DIFFICULTIES / PROBLEM PASSAGES

1. What is a cubit?

A cubit is a unit of measurement about 18 inches long. The ark was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.

2. Who were the Nephalim....the heroes of old?

Nephalim may refer to persons of great physical stature – giants (Num. 13: 32-33 says And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, the land through which we have gone as spies is a land devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw giants (descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight). But here it probably means princes or aristocrats- men of political stature. Nephalim is linked to another term that indicates a heroic person with both power and influence.

3. What does it mean to walk with God?

Means that just like Noah and Enoch those that walk with God will also experience everlasting life with the Savior

4. What does it mean when it says Noah was perfect?

That he spent a life of fellowship and obedience to God. And he stayed righteous before God through out all the wickedness of their day. Noah found grace in the Eyes of the Lord. He had not been ruined or corrupted by the sinful people around him.

9. SOUL WINNERS SO WHAT

Why did God create human beings, knowing that they would sin?

This question assumes that people are victims caught in the vise of fate. But the Bible teaches that God in his goodness created a world of mortal order in which Adam and Eve were free agents. By creating them in his image and likeness, God gave them a unique quality of relationship with each other and him. God entrusted them with freedom. This freedom included turning away from him, and unfortunately that is what they did.



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Noah went down in history as a man who was perfect and just in his generation. He pleased God because he walked with God in both his ways and in his convictions.

Noah was a man of faith.

We can learn that God looks down on those with favor to those who look up to him with Faith. The only way to please God is through faith, being understood that it has been given to us by grace. Finally, our walk and belief should go beyond and penetrate our soul with a conviction that may be seen by our separation from a corrupt culture. May God's eye guide you and find you looking up with faith. Amen, Hallelujah, Hakkunah-ma-tata.

Because we can see the depravity of man so clearly in chapter six, we can naturally see the need to be saved and to play our role in the salvation of others.

Are you expectant of the imminent return of Jesus Christ? Are you living your life as though He were going to return today? Do you live as the light and share the light when opportunity arises? Do you have the faith that Noah had in God's word? If not, why not?

Verse 5 is very clear statement about man's sinful nature. Sin begins in the thought life the heart. (James 1:13-15) **INSIDE**. Not the action it produces. We have to capture every thought unto God. It starts in the mind and heart then gives birth to sin. People do not just fall into sin it is planted and then we allow it to grow. It starts inside so don't get comfortable with private secret sins God knows your heart and he detest sin in the heart. Dig deep and allow God to show you the inside. Psalm 51:6

God is not mocked. If you live your life as if there is no God, there will be consequences (i.e. total destruction). Noah found God's grace because he was just. God blesses obedience. We will all stumble. God will not allow His grace to be taken for granted.

