GENESIS 5

A LINEAGE OF LIFE

INTRODUCTION

Have any of you ever uttered the following phrase. “I love studying the genealogies in the Bible!” Most people don’t read the genealogies, much less study them. You just skip over this section because you struggle pronouncing the names and can’t see how these records apply to your lives today. If I am honest, I am including in this criticism. I struggle with preaching on genealogies. Why should we read and study passages like Genesis 5? Because sometimes the Gospel is richly displayed in places we don’t expect to find it. Genesis 5 is such a passage. In fact, if we pay attention to this chapter we don’t just see a genealogy. We are reading a “Lineage of Life.” Turn in your Bibles to Genesis 5. Please stand in reverence of reading God’s Word.

“1This is the written account of Adam’s family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind” when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. 6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. 7 After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.”

Let us pray. May God add the blessings of understanding, conviction, and application to the reading of His Word. In Jesus’s Name I pray, Amen. You may be seated.

IN GENESIS 5, THE LINEAGE OF LIFE IS RESET

Remember the beginning of the story in Genesis 1? God created everything, and it was good. In Genesis 2 God created people, gave them a job and a place to live. Everything was great! But then we hit Genesis 3 and 4. Adam and Eve sin and get kicked out of the garden. Their son Cain kills his brother Abel. Cain was forced by God to leave the family and wander in the land of Nod. And Cain’s story ends with his great-great grandson acting like the old man by committing murder. The entire lineage of Cain eventually dies out. But God’s plan doesn’t die with Cain.

For in chapter five, the story seems to start over. We are back to God’s name as Elohim, the name used in creation. We are back to Adam, with his lineage reset with Seth, whose name not only means the appointed one; it also means substitute. The scripture seems to emphasize this point when it says that Seth was made in the image of Adam. Adam and Eve were God’s image bearers, His representatives in this world. When Seth was made in Adam’s image, he was now the one to carry on the lineage of life, unlike Cain. Seth’s son was Enosh, which means man, again emphasizing that now this is the line that would continue, not Cain’s ancestors. You see, Cain’s rebellion might have ended Cain’s lineage, but it didn’t end God’s plan. The ancient serpent, Satan, would be crushed now by Seth’s descendants. And this lineage of life would continue.

APPLICATION

Isaiah 55:11 tells us,

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose."

God goes to great lengths to accomplish His plan, regardless of what is going on in the world. He hit a reset with Cain, he hit a reset with the flood in chapter 6, and ultimately, He will hit the reset button when Christ comes again and establishes a new heaven and a new earth. Don’t lose hope when all is falling apart around you. Know that God will return and make all things new! Let’s continue reading.

9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. 10 After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. 11 Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died. 12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. 13 After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died. 15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. 16 After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

IN GENESIS 5, THE LINEAGE OF LIFE IS LONG

Kenan, Mehalalel, and Jared. We can look up the meaning of these names, but nowhere do we find the story of their lives. Don’t get me wrong, I tried. But other than being a part of this lineage of life, we don’t know much about them. But what we do know is these dudes lived a long time! We look at some of our older members like Dave Bobbey, Beverly Festa, Violet Carter, Marco Festa, and even Frank Young, and we think, wow they have been around a long time. But their age is nothing compared to these guys! What was their secret? Well, we know that humanity’s sin brings about death. And the increase of sin eventually sped up this process of death in humans. The pains of life in bodies and minds continued to increase as lifespans significantly decreased.

APPLICATION

Folks, every time we feel an ache or a pain, every time we are no longer able to do what we once could do as young men and women, every time we read about someone with a terminal illness, remember how life used to be. This should make us mourn the result of our sins. It should also make us long for a place where there will be no more crying, no more pain, and no more death. This old earth will pass away and be replaced by a new heaven and earth where we will live forever! Revelation 21 says

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Take heart ladies and gentlemen. Believers in Christ will experience a long life once again.

Yes, this lineage in Genesis 5 started out living a long time. In fact, one of them didn’t die. Let’s keep reading.

18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. 19 After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 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 faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

IN GENESIS 5 THE LINEAGE OF LIFE GIVES HOPE

Again, not much we can say about Jared. But we can say a lot about Enoch. What do we know? We know that he walked faithfully with God. What does that mean? I think Deuteronomy 13:4 really explains what it means to walk faithfully with God.

“You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.”

Have a reverential fear of God. Keep His commandments. Listen to His voice. Serve Him. Cling to Him. What a great description of what it means to walk with God!

Not only did Enoch walk faithfully with God, but these verses also tell us he lived 365 years. Isn't his age interesting? He lived 365 years, and we have 365 days in a year. Some believe this further emphasizes that Enoch lived a complete life. So much so that God took him instead of letting him die.

APPLICATION

In a chapter that seems to highlight so many deaths, an exception to the rule was made. It’s as if God not only rewarded Enoch for a life well lived, but at the same time He gave people hope that death does not always have to be the end of our story. You see, there will be those that go up in the way of Enoch. Those of us that are still alive at the coming of Christ will also be taken up in the air. 1Thessalonians 4:13-18 says

*“13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.”*

Immanuel, we’re not all going to die. Some of us are going to be taken up. But even the believers who die will also conquer death. Let’s keep reading in verse 25.

25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. 26 After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died. 28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. 29 He named him Noah and said, “He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed.” 30 After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died. 32 After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.”

IN GENESIS 5, THE LINEAGE OF LIFE PROPHECIES JUDGEMENT

Methuselah means, “man of the shoot” or “man of the shot out” or “man of the sending forth.” He was identified with something that was sent out, like the message from an emissary. What makes this even more interesting is that if the you do the math, Methuselah died in the year of the flood. It was as if his name was a prophecy of what was to come. And what about the name of Lamech’s son and the prophecy connected to him? Lamech named his son Noah, which means to breathe again or to catch your breath. It’s like after you run, you have to stop in order to catch your breath. That’s Noah. Lamech said Noah would let the world catch its breath after working so hard. Which seems a little ironic when you think about the upcoming flood. And yet, it’s not ironic at all. By the time Noah was born, the world had been ravaged by sin for more than 1600 years. Even though God had reset life, allowed people to live long lives, and gave them hope of eternity, the people refused to rest in the LORD. And something had to be done about it. The world was required to stop. Such is the bad news of judgement we will read about next week in chapter six.

APPLICATION

At the end of this encouraging chapter on life, eternity, and hope, it almost seems out of place to talk about judgement. Why do we have to bring up judgement? Because any time we share the good news of scripture, judgment is also be discussed. The Gospel is good news to those who will stop and receive it, but it is hideous and unfair to those who continue in their sin and reject it. 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 says it this way

“For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. 16 To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?”

CONCLUSION

Immanuel, sometimes the Gospel is richly displayed in places we don’t expect to find it. Places like Genesis 5. We see the God who wants to reset all our lives. We see the God who wants to give hope there will be a time with no more pain and suffering. He even wants to give us a death will be ultimately defeated or avoided altogether. But what’s so frustrating is that even though it’s been 2000 years since God fulfilled His plan of salvation in Christ, people continue to reject this plan for life. Therefore, we need to know. The world needs to know, that if we reject this lineage of life, judgement is coming. Don’t wait until it’s too late.