

The Godly Line

Genesis 5:1-32

Sunday May 9th 2010 Morning Service

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In Genesis 5 we have line of Adam traced through Seth.

Why should a list of names be relevant to us?

I. Our God Cares

Known by name:

Known in detail: the length of these lives, judged by our experience, is incredibly long. But the Bible is emphatic that people lived a great deal longer before the Flood.

Why are the precise years recorded? Because God knows & remembers the details about us.

II. Our God Judges

The godly line, just like the ungodly, live in a fallen world.

Here the **reality of sinful nature**: God created Adam & Eve v1 'in the likeness of God'. But when Adam & Eve sinned they came under God's sentence. So you get contrast between v1: Adam 'in likeness of God' & v3 'Adam.. had a son in his own likeness, in his own image'. Seth shares Adam's nature, that is his sinful nature.

And the proof of that is the reality of death: solemn refrain v5 'then he died', just as God said he would (2:17 & 3:19). And so we do.

III. Our God Is Full Of Grace

Has Satan managed to destroy everything? Is all lost? What has happened to the promise of 3:15 that one of the offspring of the woman will trample the serpent's head? Genesis 5 is God's answer.

Seth represents a new line of descent. It is very selective. Apart from the last two names (the 2nd&3rd sons of Noah) all the names appear in the NT: 2 of appear as heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 but all of them appear in Luke 3:36-37 in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Genesis 5 is the **line of the Messiah**. Your salvation depends on this line. The means of our salvation is not that God ceased to be the God who judges in order to become a God who saves, but that God in person so entered our world & stooped so far for us, that we can dare to say of the Son of God, that having become one of us, that 'then he died'. And then rose again.

Here also is **grace running through family**. Grace does not automatically flow in families. But it is surely not insignificant that here is a family line. May God's truth pass down our families. May God make our families also channels of grace to the next generations.

IV. Our God Comes Close

Three things Enoch's experience in v.21-24 shows about God.

1) God comes close in fellowship: lovely phrase x2 'Enoch walked with God'. God is willing to associate with those who seek him. It expresses also something intimate and on-going.

Do you walk with God or do you just come to church on Sundays?

2) **God comes close in power**: v24 'then he was no more, because God took him away'. See Heb 11:5. At the beginning of time God wanted to put down a marker that death itself is subject to God. Jesus said 'I hold the keys of death & Hades' Rev 1:18.

3) **God comes close for ever**. 'God took him away' v24. Where to? To himself. God's plan of intimacy and association with those who seek him is not just that he hears our prayers & helps us now, but that we should be with him eternally. See Psalm 49:15 'God will redeem my life from the grave, he will surely take me to himself'. Phil 1:23 says 'I desire to depart & be with Christ, which is better by far'. The consummation of everything in Rev 21 is that 'Now the dwelling of God is with men and he will live with them. They will be his people and God himself will be with them and be their God'.

V. Our God Sustains

There is something very sobering about Gen 5 when you see it in context of Genesis 6. See 6:5-6. In whole of humanity multiplying across the earth, by Genesis 6 there is only one man, Noah, & his family who in v8 'found favour in the eyes of the LORD'. The power of spreading evil and sin in society is frightening. That's why we can't play at being Christians.

6:1-2 suggests that the intermarriages of the believing line with the unbelieving line led to the collapse of righteousness. The call to marry only someone who shares your faith is not some unloving, narrow-minded legalism. It is Biblical principle (see 2 Cor 6:14-15). What was God doing

as the shadows lengthened? He sustained the godly. We need to know as the shadows lengthen in our land, that God does the same today. How?

1) Assured them of judgement to come. Evil will not have the last word. Bible sees judgement to come as part of message of hope to the world (see Ps 96:11-13). Enoch knew that.

Firstly **Jude** 14-15 'Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him." ' Universal judgement will come on all people for ungodliness. Everything that is crooked will be dealt with.

Secondly Enoch called his son **Methuselah** Could translate it 'when he dies, it will come'. When did Methuselah die? He died exactly when Noah was 600 (see 9:28-29), which was the year of the Flood that wiped out the ancient world. That was the year Methuselah died: 'when he dies it will come'. We need to know that God will hold all men to account. All evil will be dealt with.

2) **Comforted them by a godly example**: Look at what Lamech says in v29 'He named him Noah & said 'He will comfort us in the labour and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed'. Is he just saying that 'we will have a cute child who will help to cheer up us adults?' What was special about Noah? See 6:8-9 'he walked with God', 22, 7:1 'I have found you righteous in this generation', 7:5. That was the comfort. We can bless one another, by setting an example of serious godliness in a godless age. Don't we want to be like that? In the face of a godless age, we need both the assurance of what God will do, that evil will not finally prevail, and also the comfort of being among God's people to help sustain & strengthen one another.

So let us rejoice in our God. If we would be the godly today may we put all our hope in this wonderful God and Saviour.