

GENESIS

Lesson 5

The Lord was sorry he had made man ...

FROM ADAM TO NOAH

Genesis 5:1-32

Genesis 5:1-2 reiterates the great value of man. 1) Man was created by God; 2) Man was created in the likeness or image of God; 3) Man was created both male and female (and both in the likeness of God); 4) God blessed man; 5) God gave man his name.

The giving of the name “man” by God is a truth that had not been recorded during the creation itself. This indicates God’s sovereignty over man and show man to be subordinate to God.

God created Adam and Eve in his image. Now in Genesis 5:3 they reproduce and Adam’s son is said to be “in his own likeness, after his image.” This shows that every man and every woman is born in the image of God, just as Adam and Eve were first created in the image of God. This indicates the great value of every human life.



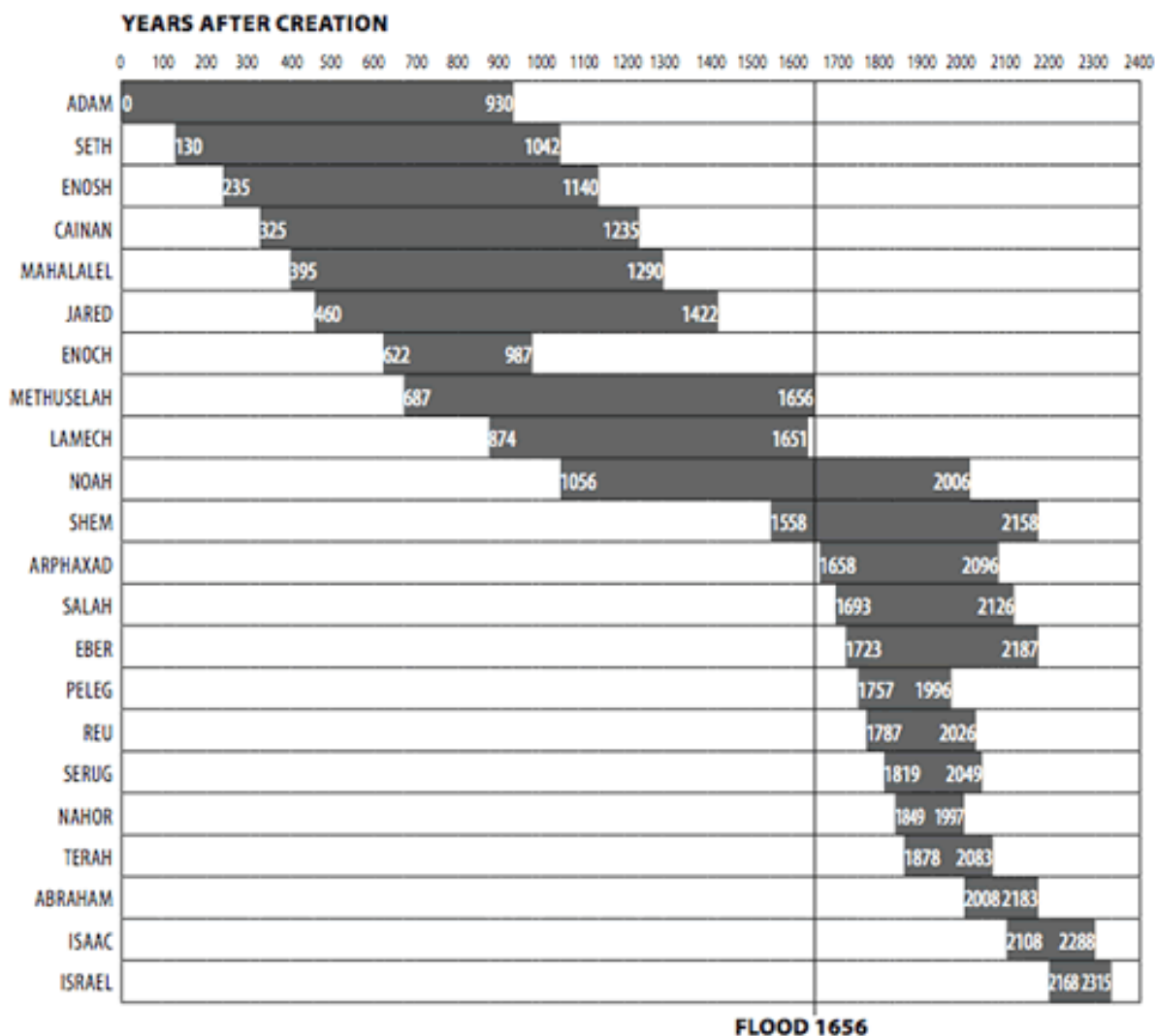
At the end of Genesis 4 we have the genealogy of Cain listed and now in chapter 5 we find the genealogy of Seth. Cain’s genealogy was one of a downward spiral toward greater and greater sin. Seth however produced a godly line; in fact in Genesis 5:21 we read that “Enoch walked with God.” Noah is the only other person in the Bible described in this way.

1. What does it mean to say that “Enoch walked with God?”
2. Read Genesis 5:24 and Hebrews 11:5 and describe that happened to Enoch.
3. What does Jude 14-15 teach us about the preaching of Enoch?

Methuselah was the son of Enoch and he lived more years on this earth than any other man mentioned in the Bible at 969 years. Methuselah died in the same year the flood arrived, but it does not seem likely that he died in the flood. If there are no gaps in the genealogies the flood would have arrived 1,656 years after the creation.

It is remarkable to see how long these first generations of men lived on the earth. In fact, from Adam to Noah (not counting Enoch) the average age was over 900 years at death. While there are attempts to discount these long ages, we have no reason to doubt the Bible as being factual and literal.

The question then obviously arises: “Why did these early people live so long?” It seems that our longevity is predetermined by our genetic makeup. Dr. Bert Thompson writes, “Aging is a metabolic process. Various species appear to be “programmed” for death within a given age range. Fleas, for example, live for about five years. Dogs live for an average of around fifteen years. Humans, on the other hand, can live upwards of seventy, eighty, ninety, or even a hundred years. Fleas never reach such an age; their genetic package will not allow it.¹ The chart below comes from Answers in Genesis.²



¹ <http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/1978>

² <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2009/01/20/ancient-patriarchs-in-genesis>

“After the flood the earth was completely different than the earth before. There were widespread global differences. These would include changes in the climate, composition of the atmosphere, hydrologic cycle, geologic features, cosmic radiation reaching the earth, ozone concentration, ultra violet light, background radiation, genetics, diet, and a host of other subtle and/or profound chemical and physiological changes. These changes caused a rapid decline of the longevity of post flood humanity.”³

It is possible that God altered the genetic code of man following Noah because ages rapidly decreased after the flood. Noah lived 950 years, Shem 600 years, Shelah 433 years, and Abraham 175 years. There are other explanations as to why life-spans decreased. Adam and Eve were created without any genetic defects, but when sin entered the world genetic defects entered and multiplied. The world prior to the flood was likely a very different world to what came after. Perhaps the world after the flood was not as suited to longevity.

INCREASING WICKEDNESS

Genesis 6:1-8

In Genesis 6 the number of people multiplies. Certainly by this time of the flood the earth could have had millions of people. By some estimates the population of the earth at the time of the flood is greater than today's population. It is possible the earth's population numbered in the billions. Consider that if the average person lived to be 900 years old, and bore children over several hundred years, it is easy to arrive at a population estimate after 1,656 years in the many millions if not billions. Lambert Dolphin has written an excellent essay on the earth's population at the time of the flood and has estimated the population to be in the billions.⁴

Imagine then what a world would have been like that was full of a people who were wicked over a period of hundreds of years. Their ability to do wrong and to rebel against God would have been staggering.

Genesis 6:2-4 contains some of the most debated verses in Scripture. The terms “daughters of men” and “sons of God” have been interpreted in many ways.

1. Some view the sons of God to be angels. This seems like a very improbable interpretation. Under this view angels came to the earth and engaged in a sexual relationship with human women. This seems faulty because angels are spiritual beings (Heb. 1:14) and there is no reason to believe they desire this type of relationship. There is further no reason to believe that God would allow angels to put

³ <http://www.biblestudy.org/basicart/why-did-man-live-longer-before-flood-of-noah-than-after-it.html>

⁴ <http://ldolphin.org/popul.html>

on flesh and engage in a physical relationship with women. Jesus also taught that angels do not marry (Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:34).

2. Some view the sons of God to be ancient rulers. In this view ancient kings (perhaps descendants of Cain) married whatever women they wanted and even had multiple wives. This also seems to be a very improbable interpretation.
3. Some view the sons of God to be the godly descendants of Seth. In this view Seth's godly descendants were marrying the women of men (descendants of Cain.) This seems to be a very reasonable view and the one most likely to be correct. God always discourages marrying unbelievers.

4. How and why do the sons of God take the daughters of men as wives?

The 120 years of Genesis 6:3 has also perplexed Bible students. However "most scholars, liberal and conservative alike, support the idea that 120 years refers to a period of grace or probation in between God giving Noah his instructions, and the Flood finally coming upon the Earth.⁵ See also 1 Peter 3:18-20.

The next difficult question is: "Who are the Nephilim in Genesis 6:4?" There are many proposed answers to this question as well. These men are called giants in some translations, but the idea is not so much a physical giant as it is that these men were tyrants. Constable says these men were powerful men who were probably military leaders.⁶

5. How did men think and live just before the flood? (Genesis 6:5)

6. What is meant by the word "intent" or "intention" in Genesis 6:5?

7. Why was God grieved in Genesis 6:6?

8. Describe the focus and extent of God's anger? (Genesis 6:7)

9. Why did Noah find favour in the eyes of the Lord?

⁵ Major, Trevor J. The Meaning of "Sons of God" in Genesis 6:1-4. Montgomery, Alabama: Apologetics Press, nd.

⁶ Constable, Thomas. *Notes on Genesis: 2009 edition*. Sonic Light: <http://www.soniclight.com>.