

## Methuselah Lived a Long Time (Genesis 5:1-32)

### I. Introduction

#### A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. The godly line of Adam and Eve (Genesis 5:1-32)
2. Saints that have not tasted physical death (Genesis 5:22, II Kings 2:1-11, and I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
3. Contending for the Faith (Jude 1:1-25)

**Question:** Who were Seth, Enoch, and Methuselah? What did Methuselah's name mean? What does Genesis 5:24 mean? Does that mean that Enoch could be one of the two witnesses in Revelation?

#### B. Seth was the third son of Adam and Eve

1. In Genesis 4:1-12, Adam and Eve had Cain and Abel.
2. The sacrifices of Cain and Abel suggest that God's salvation plan was known to Adam and Eve.
  - a. Abel knew that God required a blood sacrifice.
  - b. Cain rebelled against his instruction and brought a sacrifice of the land.
3. Blood sacrifices are significant because they show the high cost of sin.
4. Cain was upset because his sacrifice was rejected, so he killed his brother.
5. Cain represented the "ungodly" line of Adam.

#### C. Seth was born after Abel was killed.

1. He represents the godly line of Adam.
2. Enoch was in the godly line.
  - a. Adam was 622 years old when Enoch was born.
  - b. Enoch was father to Methuselah and great-grandfather to Noah.
  - c. Genesis 5:24 says, "And Enoch walked with God: and **he was not; for God took him.**"
  - d. Enoch could be one of the two witnesses in the Book of Revelation.
    - 1) Revelation 11:3 says, "And **I will give power unto my two witnesses**, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."
    - 2) Revelation 11:6 says, "These have power to shut heaven, **that it rain not** in the days of their prophecy: and have power over **waters to turn them to blood**, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."
    - 3) Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is **appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment:"
    - 4) Revelation 11:6 supports Elijah and Moses.
    - 5) Hebrews 9:27 supports Elijah and Enoch.
    - 6) It may not be any of them.
3. Some interesting genealogy information about Adam.
  - a. Adam lived 930 years.

### **Methuselah Lived a Long Time (Genesis 5:1-32)**

- b. Adam was 622 years old when Enoch was born.
- c. Adam was 687 years old when Methuselah was born. Methuselah would have known Adam for 243 years before Adam died.
- d. Adam lived 930 years, and humans have only existed for around 6,000 years.
- 4. Some interesting genealogy information about Methuselah.
  - a. Methuselah was 369 years old when Noah was born.
  - b. Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, making him the longest living person of all time.
  - c. Methuselah's name in Hebrew has a couple of meanings.
    - 1) It can mean "man of the dart or javelin" and would suggest some kind of physical judgment.
    - 2) It can mean "when he is dead, it shall be sent."
  - d. Methuselah died in the year that Noah was 600 years old.
  - e. He died in the year of the Flood but not necessarily in the Flood.
  - f. His name would have been a warning of coming judgment.
- D. **Notice what is missing.**
  - 1. Very little is given about the genealogy of Cain. Some in Genesis 4:17-24.
  - 2. Cain represented the ungodly line from Adam.
  - 3. Seth represented the godly line from Adam, but the Bible only makes a short mention of Cain's ancestry.

**Question:** How did the writers of Hebrews and Jude describe Enoch? Why did Jude write his book? What did he mean when he wrote about contending for the Faith?

#### II. The character of Enoch

- A. Not much is usually said about Enoch in most churches, but the writers of Scriptures had things to say.
  - 1. Hebrews 11:5 says, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that *he pleased God.*"
    - a) Please (*euaresteo*) - to be well pleasing.
    - b) Hebrews 11:6 says, "But *without faith it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
  - 2. In Matthew 3:17, pleased (*eudokeo*) meant to take pleasure in or be favorably inclined towards one.
- B. Jude also wrote about contending for the Faith.
  - 1. Jude 1:3 says, "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you

## **Methuselah Lived a Long Time (Genesis 5:1-32)**

that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

- a) Jude wrote to Christians about contending for their Faith.
  - b) He wanted to encourage them.
  - c) Like a good athlete, Christians should be spiritually fit.
  - d) Jude wrote about problems in the church.
    - 1) Verse 4 – godless men had infiltrated the church.
    - 2) Verse 8 – they were polluting their own bodies, rejecting authority, and slandering celestial beings.
    - 3) Verse 9 – the godless men were taking liberties that even Michael did not take.
    - 4) Jude 1:9 says, "Yet Michael the archangel, *when contending with the devil* he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."
    - 5) Verse 11 – they have taken the way of Cain, the “ungodly” side from Adam.
    - 6) Jude 1:11 says, "Woe unto them! for *they have gone in the way of Cain*, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."
    - 7) Unlike Cain, Enoch had impeccable character
    - 8) Jude 1:14-15 says, "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, *To execute judgment upon all*, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."
      - a)) God gave Enoch a glimpse of the end times.
      - b)) Enoch was rewarded for his faithfulness.
      - c)) This prophecy will be fulfilled in Revelation 19:11.
      - d)) Revelation 19:11 says, "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."
3. Contending (diakrino) - to separate, make a distinction, to discriminate, or to prefer.
    - a) Jude wrote that Michael, the archangel, disputed with the devil over Moses, but Michael did not try to handle the devil on his own.
    - b) Acts 17:2 says "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days *reasoned* with them out of the scriptures,"
  4. *The message today is that we also must contend for the Faith.*
  5. A sneak preview for next week: One theory about Genesis 6:2-4 is that the sons of God (Seth's line of descent) were marrying the daughters of men (Cain's line of descent).

## **Methuselah Lived a Long Time (Genesis 5:1-32)**

6. Mixing the two lines of descent would have been an abomination to God.

**Question:** How old was Noah when he started building the ark? Do you believe that a year in those days corresponded to a year today?

### III. Some information about Noah

- A. At the time of Genesis 5:32, Noah was 500 years old
1. He had three sons: Japheth, Ham, and Shem.
  2. In Genesis 6:1-7, the Lord was angry with mankind.
  3. The sons of God (the godly line of Seth) were marrying the daughters of men (the ungodly line of Cain).
  4. Genesis 6:3 gives the timeframe of God's warning (*the reprieve view*), or it could simply be the lifespan of man without godly influence. Theologians are divided on the actual meaning.
  5. **Genesis 6:4 is not mystical, but more on that next week.**
- B. In Genesis 6:8, Noah found grace in God's eyes.
1. Being from the godly line of Seth, he had not married a daughter of men (the ungodly line of Seth).
  2. In Genesis 6:14, the Lord told Noah to build the ark that would save his family and him during the Great Flood.
- C. In Genesis 7:6, Noah was 600 years old when the flood began.
- D. If the reprieve view is correct, then God was calling mankind to repentance for twenty years before he instructed Noah to build the ark.

**Question:** What will happen to the saints when the Rapture occurs?

### IV. Christians will be protected from the next pouring out of God's wrath (*orge*).

- A. I Thessalonians 1:10 says, "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which *delivered us from the wrath to come.*"
1. Christians are a godly line in much the same way as the descendants of Seth.
  2. I Corinthians 12:13: We have been baptized into one body by the Holy Spirit.
- B. I Thessalonians 4:17 says, "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."
1. Noah's family survived the flood in an ark. They were *delivered from the wrath to come* without enduring any part of the flood.
  - 2) Christians will be *delivered from the wrath to come* (the Great Tribulation) by being carried into the clouds.
- C. I Corinthians 15:52 says, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and *we shall be changed.*"

## **Methuselah Lived a Long Time (Genesis 5:1-32)**

**Question:** Does the trumpet mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 correspond to the trumpet judgments in the Book of Revelation? If so, does that mean that the church will be on earth for the first part of the Great Tribulation?

- V. In the pre-Tribulation view, the trumpets mentioned in the two passages are not reviewing to the same events.
- A. The trumpet in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 is a symbol from the Old Testament when the Jews were brought together by the blowing of the trumpet.
  - B. The trumpet judgments might be a kind of gathering of the wicked on earth for more judgment, but those judgments do not seem to have any connection to the church.

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Next week's lesson: "God's Attribute of Constancy"

### Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 6:1-22
Tuesday:	Psalm 33:1-11
Wednesday:	Psalm 102:1-27
Thursday:	Hebrews 13:1-8
Friday:	II Peter 2:1-5

### Study questions:

1. In Genesis 6:6, why was God sorry that He had created humanity?
2. Who were the sons of God and the daughters of men in Genesis 6:2 and Genesis 6:4? Who were the giants in Genesis 6:4?
3. Who were the Nephilim? If they were destroyed by the Great Flood, then why do they show up again in Numbers 13:33 and Deuteronomy 2:11?
4. How long did God give the people on earth to repent? How do you know that?
5. What covenant did God make with Noah after the flood? How does that covenant relate to God's next time of wrath?
6. How can you reconcile Hebrews 13:8 with Genesis 6:6 and Jonah 3:10?