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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## Genesis 5.

(2016).

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

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## Genesis 5.

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### Topics.

- God created man in the likeness of God. Male and female He created them.
- Adam fathered Seth, Seth fathered Enosh and Enosh fathered Kenan.
- Kenan fathered Mahalalel and Mahalalel fathered Jared.
- Jared fathered Enoch and Enoch fathered Methuselah and God took Enoch.
- Methuselah fathered Lamech and died at 969 years old.
- Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

**The previous chapter:** the focus of chapter four was upon Adam and Eve giving birth to Cain and Abel; Cain and Abel's offering; Cain murdering Abel; the LORD putting a mark on Cain; Cain going away from the presence of the LORD; the sons of Cain; Adam and Eve giving birth to Seth and Seth and his wife giving birth to Enosh.

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### God Created Man in the Likeness of God. Male and Female He Created Them.

Genesis 5:1-2 ----- <sup>1</sup>This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup>Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.

**Adam:** comes from the Hebrew word (*'adam*) it literally means ruddy and refers to a human being as an individual or as the entire species of mankind. When Adam was 130 years old he fathered Seth (Gen. 5:3) during the following 800 years after Seth birth he had other sons and daughters (Gen. 5:3) his total lifespan was 930 years. (Gen. 5:5).

**Man:** also comes from the Hebrew word (*'adam*) and means the same as Adam.

The following is a list of Adams descendants, but it does not include all of all his descendants, but only of his godly seed line, which preserved true faith and the worship of God from Adam to the flood, and from whose loins Christ came (Luke 3:1-38). The genealogy does not include the line of Cain or of some of the branches in the line of Seth, but only those that descended one from another in a direct line to Noah.

The genealogy is traced to the tenth in descent from Adam, and terminates with the flood. The scope of the chapter is to mark out the line of faith and hope and holiness from Adam, the first head of the human race, to Noah, who became eventually the second natural head of it. The statement, "God created man," maybe repeated to highlight the different way of the creation of Adam, and the bringing forth of his posterity; Adam was by creation from God (Gen 1:26-27) whereas those following by the generation of their parents.

**God created man in the likeness of God:** (v1) clearly the words, "created in the likeness of God" do not refer to God's immortality or wisdom, but rather to the ability to reason and think and to what is commonly called original righteousness as expressed in the following Scripture: -

- God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. (Eccles. 7:29).

The following verses show that the image of God that we are created in is knowledge concerning God and all things concerning God and righteousness and holiness.

- Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. (Col. 3:10).
- Put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephes. 4:24).

Man was created from the dust of the earth and given life by the breath of God he was made the same day that the beasts were and his body was made of the same earth as theirs which means that man in the body inhabits the same earth as the beasts of the field, but man was to be a creature different from all that had been made since in man's body of flesh dwells the Spirit of God and the dust of the earth. These words shine a brilliant spotlight on the excellence of man above all other creatures of this world, no other creature is said to be made after the image or likeness of God or said to have had the breath of God breathed into them.

Man is made in the likeness of God also means: -

- Man has authority and dominion over all things
- Man is endowed with speech, reason and will power.
- Man is created with a mind, reason, free-will and self-consciousness.
- Man has intellect, moral power and a sense of justice
- Man can feel emotion (i.e., anger, jealousy, joy, sorrow, grief etc.).
- Man's soul is a spirit, immaterial, invisible, active and intelligent.
- Man understands divine things that no other creature can.
- Man is able to discern right and wrong and is free to choose good or evil.

Our first parents Adam and Eve while innocent had entire and perfect power and dominion over the earth to cultivate and manage it, as they should see fit, for their comfort and advantage and dominion over all other creatures both wild and tame. Man is in the likeness of God in a spiritual sense since he was created to be allied to heaven and related to the eternal God as no other creature on earth is, but this image of God upon man is sadly defaced.

**Man's dominion over all the earth:** there is not an object within the authority of man that he does not aim at making subservient to his purposes, he has made: -

- The sea his highway to the ends of the earth.
- The stars his pilots on the pathless oceans.
- The bowels of the earth the treasury from which he draws oil and precious metals.
- The fresh flowing rivers he has harnessed as dams to sustain his body.
- The great forests he cuts down and uses the timber for homes and buildings
- The fowl and birds of the air, the fish and the beast of the field he has made his prey to catch them and eat them or use them for clothing.

These are all proofs of the ever growing dominion and authority of man over all things upon the face of the earth.

**NOTICE:** all living things only ate green plants for food (Gen 1:30).

**Male and female he created them:** (v2) God created man male and female and named the female and the male man and says that this Man is made in the likeness of God. This means that within God's nature is the authority of man and the nurturing protective nature of women.

Since God is Spirit and love the closest we could get to seeing a complete and perfect image of God on earth would be a godly wife and godly man united together in love which means it is foolish to debate whether God is male or female since he is Spirit and certainly not in male or female bodily form as we think of human form.

Jesus said: -

- In the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (Matt. 22:30).
- When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. (Mark 12:25).
- Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, <sup>35</sup>but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. (Luke 20:34-35).

These verses imply that there will be neither male nor female in the resurrection, something we cannot comprehend with our mortal minds. During this age of grace God is calling out from the sea of people covering the face of the earth a bride for His Son to be a government to rule and reign as kings and priest with him during his glorious millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords on earth.

#### **Adam Fathered Seth, Seth Fathered Enosh and Enosh Fathered Kenan.**

Genesis 5:3-11 ----- <sup>3</sup>When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. <sup>4</sup>The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup>Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died. <sup>6</sup>When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh (Enos in KJV). <sup>7</sup>Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup>Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died. <sup>9</sup>When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. <sup>10</sup>Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup>Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

#### **Seth**

**Seth:** comes from the Hebrew word (*Sheth*) it literally means substitute and carries the following ideas: to place, to apply, to appoint, to bring and to consider.

Much of Judaism, Christianity and Islam generally believe Seth to be the third son of Adam and Eve which means that Adam and Eve never gave birth to any children for at least one-hundred and thirty years since Seth was not born to Adam until he was 130 years old (Gen. 5:3).

However just because Cain, Abel and Seth are the only sons mentioned does not necessarily mean Seth is the third son born to Adam and Eve nor does it necessarily mean that no daughters were born long before the birth of Seth.

Consider the Christmas story of the three wise men bringing gifts to Jesus almost all the world believe there were three wise men, but the Bible does not say how many there are, it is only supposed there were three because of the gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh (Matt. 2:7-12) so it is possible there were more than three.

Likewise the Bible does not tell us Seth is the third son of Adam and Eve scholars have simply assumed this because he is the third son mentioned. But good Bible study never establishes a doctrine upon something that is only based on a supposition and because of this it is wrong to teach as an absolute truth that Seth was the third son. It is true that Seth deserves his share of the spotlight since the Messiah came from his line, however we are told very little about him other than: -

- With one son murdered (Abel) and the other son banished (Cain) Adam and Eve gave birth to another son (Gen. 5:4) who Eve named Seth (Gen. 4:25).
- Seth is the third recorded child of Adam and Eve.
- Seth is mentioned in the genealogy of Luke (Luke 3:38) and identified as an ancestor of Jesus and as a primary forefather of the Jewish people.
- The Bible doesn't speak of great human achievements coming from Seth line as it does from Cain's line.
- At the age of 105 Seth became the father of Enosh (Enos in KJV) (Gen. 5:6) and at this time people began to call upon the name of the LORD. (Gen. 4:26).
- After Seth fathered Enosh he lived another 807 years (Gen. 5:7) and had sons and daughters his total lifespan was 912 years. (Gen. 5:8).
- Faithful Israel descended from Seth through Shem.

In the story of Seth and Cain can be seen as a model of the entire age of mankind. At the end of our age God will judge humankind according to two spiritual lines. Those who have rejected God's ways in favour of an earth-centred life will perish while those who have chosen to follow God and His ways will be preserved.

### Enosh

**Enosh:** comes from the Hebrew word (*'Enowsh*) it literally means a mortal man, person or people (singly or collectively). The name Enosh is applied only once in the Bible, he was the son of Seth and an ancestor of Christ. He appears in Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:38 spelled Enos). Two men named Cainan are mentioned in this genealogy of Jesus, one of these is the son of Enosh the second is the son of Arpachshad and father of Saleh, who lived in the time between Noah and Abraham.

### Kenan

**Kenan:** (also spelled Qenan, Kainan or Cainan as spelt in (Luke 3:36-37) comes from the Hebrew word (*Qeynan*) it literally means fixed as a nest, figuratively it carries the idea of a chamber or dwelling room. Kenan was a son of Enosh and an unmarried woman and a grandson of Seth. He was born when Enosh was ninety years old (Gen. 5:9). Though he had many sons and daughter his only named son is Mahalalel who he gave birth to when he was seventy (Gen. 5:12). We don't know what became of him, except that he died at 910 years of age (Gen. 5:14) before the flood of Noah.

**Kenan fathered Mahalalel and Mahalalel fathered Jared.**

Genesis 5:12-17 -----<sup>12</sup>When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup>Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup>Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died. <sup>15</sup>When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. <sup>16</sup>Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup>Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

### Mahalalel

**Mahalalel:** comes from the Hebrew word (*Mahalal'el*) it literally means praise of God and carries the idea of fame and strength. There are two people called Mahalalel in the Bible: Mahalalel the son of Kenan the son of Enosh the son of Seth. Since this Mahalalel is an ancestor of Christ he is also mentioned in Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:37). The lesser known Mahalalel is mentioned among the descendants of Perez, the son of Judah (or so it seems) (Neh. 11:4).

### Jared

**Jared:** comes from the Hebrew word (*Yered*) it literally means to descend and carries the idea of going downwards to a lower region, as the shore, a boundary or an enemy, etc. Figuratively it means to fall; to bring down; to carry or cast down; go down; subdue or take down. The name Jared occurs twice in the Bible: -

1. The better known Jared of the sixth generation in the line from Seth. He is the son of Mahalalel and father of Enoch, who walked with God (Gen. 5:22). This Jared is the great-great-grandfather of Noah, and therefore an ancestor of Christ and mentioned in Luke's genealogy of Jesus (Luke 3:37). Jared was 162 years old when he fathered Enoch (Gen. 5:18) and lived 962 years (Gen. 5:20). He was also Methuselah's grandfather (the oldest man to live in the Bible) Methuselah lived to be 969 years old (Gen. 5: 18-27).
2. The lesser known Jared (in some translations known as Jered) is a son of Jehudjah (1 Chron. 4:18) (the existence of this name is disputed).

### **Jared Fathered Enoch and Enoch Fathered Methuselah and God Took Enoch.**

Genesis 5:18-24 ----- <sup>18</sup>When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered Enoch. <sup>19</sup>Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup>Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died. <sup>21</sup>When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. <sup>22</sup>Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup>Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. <sup>24</sup>Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

### **Enoch**

**Enoch:** comes from the Hebrew word (*Chanowk*) it literally means initiated and figuratively means to initiate or discipline and to dedicate or train up. This Enoch is not to be confused with Cain's son Enoch (Gen. 4:17) whose lineage also contains the name Lamech the same name of Noah's father but not referring to the same man. Enoch was the son of Jared (Gen. 5:19-21), the father of Methuselah, and the great-grandfather of Noah he lived 365 years (Gen. 5:23) before he was taken by God, which is small amount of time compared to his offspring Methuselah who lived to 969 years. (Gen. 5:27).

Enoch was the seventh man down Seth's line from Adam (Gen. 5:18). There seems to be no importance in the fact that Enoch is called the seventh from Adam except perhaps to distinguish him from the other Enoch who was a descendant of Cain though it was very unlikely he would be confused with the Enoch who walked with God. However when it is considered that there is no mention of the whole of Cain's offspring and there is utter silence concerning kings and empires of the old world that were consigned to eternal oblivion, the mention of Enoch being seventh from Adam is perhaps to show the honour God put upon him.

We know little more of Enoch other than he was an outstanding example of earnest and consistent godliness in an age of abounding depravity. He lived amongst a corrupt atheistic society, yet in contrast to the unfaithfulness that surrounded him the author of the book of Hebrews tells us that: -

- Enoch was taken up by faith so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Heb. 11:1-40).

Nothing can be more beautiful or expressive than the following few words: -

- Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him. (Gen. 5:24).

The picture is of two friends who agree with each other and are voluntarily and pleasantly walking together conscious of each other's presence and going the same way while chatting with each other in warm fellowship. Enoch was reconciled to God by repentance and faith in the promised seed of the woman of (Gen. 3:14-15). He loved God in response to God's love to him, he knew they were friends, and he rejoiced in it and lived as always being in the presence of God.

Enoch by faith not only saw Him that is invisible and always acted as though the eye of the Great Immortal Invisible Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life was upon Him, but also talked with him as a man talks with his friend.

Enoch lived as a faithful and devoted believer in God and a preacher of His righteous law to his generation. He warned of God's judgment falling upon all who transgress God's law, but the hearers turned a deaf ear to his warnings and therefore God removed the blessing which they had so little valued. The New Testament has the following three references to Enoch from the lineage of Seth

- The son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, (Luke 3:37).
- By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. (Heb. 11:5).
- Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones, <sup>15</sup>to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." (Jude 1:14-15).

The author of Hebrews and Jude informs us that Enoch was a devoted man of faith who pleased God and an inspired prophet.

**Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him:** (v24) God took Enoch away because he was a man of faith and pleased God. Faith was the motivating power behind all he did, and it was the reason God crowned him with such an amazing miracle and deliverance from a faithless and corrupt generation. When Enoch was taken away we are told: -

- The earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. (Gen. 6:11).

Out-of-control human violence was the reason that God later brought the flood upon humanity. God said to Noah: -

- I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. (Gen. 6:13).

Enoch was a very good and righteous man who was living in a very dangerous and extremely violent world. God took righteous Enoch away, not so that he wouldn't ever see death, but so that, according to the Scriptures, "he was not found" by the evil, extremely violent people who would have murdered such a faithful man (much like they did murdered Jesus).

He was taken to a place of safety on this earth where he would have lived out the remainder of his life in peace before dying a natural death just like every other human. We know this to be so, because many centuries later, Jesus Christ authoritatively stated: -

- No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. (John 3:13).

Had Enoch ascended to heaven (as many believe) these words of Jesus would be deceptive and untrue. It is true that the following statement in the book of Hebrews: -

- Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death (Heb. 11:5).

Appears to contradict this statement of Jesus, however it does not say where Enoch was taken up to (most only assume it was heaven) and the death he was delivered from can be applied to death at the hands of the violent wicked and corrupt generation he lived amongst. It is certain such a righteous man would be a target for mockery, scorn and murder amongst those who want nothing to do with a preacher of righteousness and his holy God.

**NOTE:** the Bible also speaks of Elijah being taken up to heaven by a whirlwind, which also seems to contradict Jesus words, "No one has ascended into heaven except the Son of Man," for information concerning this event, see the title: -

- Elijah taken into Heaven in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Noah and the great flood came ten generations from Adam and three generations after God had taken Enoch. The whole history of the ancient world covers a period of nearly two thousand years and is shut up within the first five chapters of Genesis. We know very little of the inhabitants of the ancient world, but the fact of their abominable wickedness, which consisted of idolatry, atheism and unbridled violence towards each other. Though Adam was dead and Noah was not yet born most of the others mentioned in this chapter may have been living during Enoch's lifetime.

**An overview of faith:** faith sees nothing, but believes everything that the Scriptures proclaim. Neither the God who we worship, the Saviour in who we trust and the heaven to which we are awaiting are seen by our natural eyes, we believe in all these based upon the word and promise of God.

It is extremely important and necessary to use our senses and reason to function and live a balanced and safe life in this mortal world, but when it comes to salvation and eternal life our senses and reason must submit to the dominion of faith since faith is the foundation of God's Kingdom and the very nature of true godliness.

The Bible was not written as a history book or to gratify our curiosity—but for the salvation of our mortal life to eternal life and though there maybe much detail of history lacking and little to satisfy the curiosity of some there is abundantly more than enough to accomplish the salvation of all.

### **Methuselah**

**Methuselah:** (also spelled Methushael) comes from the Hebrew word (*M<sup>ə</sup>thuwshelach*) it literally means an adult man of a dart (i.e., as a javelin or spear, sword or weapon of attack) or man of the sending forth. By implication it carries the idea of friends, men and persons and figuratively a shoot of growth (i.e. branch or plant).

Genesis tells us very little about Methuselah beyond these sparse genealogical details: he was a descendant of Seth (the child of Adam and Eve) begotten more than a century after Cain; he was the son of Enoch and father of Lamech; the grandfather of Noah; he fathered Lamech (Gen. 5:25) and lived 969 years (Gen. 5:27). He is also mention in the genealogy in Chronicles beginning at Adam and continuing through to the chiefs of Edom: -

- Adam, Seth, Enosh; <sup>2</sup>Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared; <sup>3</sup>Enoch, Methuse-lah, Lamech; <sup>4</sup>Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth (1 Chron. 1:1-3) continuing through Terah, Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Esau and Israel down to the chiefs of Edom.

And mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus the son (as was supposed) of Joseph continuing through to the son of Adam, the son of God.

- The son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, (Luke 3:37) continuing on to the son of Adam, the son of God.

Methuselah lived to 969 (Gen. 5:27) while all his forebears lived for between 895 and 962 years except for his father, Enoch who lived to be 365, because God took him. The age old expression, "old as Methuselah", is commonly used to refer to any living thing reaching great age.

### **Methuselah fathered Lamech and died at 969 years Old.**

Genesis 5:25-31 ---- <sup>25</sup>When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. <sup>26</sup>Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup>Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died. <sup>28</sup>When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son <sup>29</sup>and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." <sup>30</sup>Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup>Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

### **Lamech**

Methuselah was 187 years old when Lamech was born he was the father of three sons, Jabal, Jubal, and Tubal-Cain, and a daughter, Naamah (Gen. 4:20–22).



His two wives were Adah and Zillah (Gen. 4:19). He was thus the first polygynist and the father of the founders of nomadism, the musical arts, and metalworking. He is also the author of a song (Gen. 4:23–24), which is structurally and linguistically an example of early Hebrew poetry. At 182 years old he fathered Noah saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." (Gen 5:28-29). After Noah he gave birth to other sons and daughters (Gen. 5:30). He is the seventh generation from Enosh and lived 777 years (Gen. 5:31).

### **Noah Fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.**

Genesis 5:32 ----- <sup>32</sup>After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

#### **Noah**

Noah was a righteous man in a world taken over by evil, violence and corruption and the only man left on the earth that the Bible states walked with God and was blameless even though he lived in a society saturated with sin and rebellion against God.

It's hard to imagine such unwavering faithfulness in the midst of such godlessness, over and over again, in the account of Noah's life we read, "Noah did everything just as God commanded" he was the only man am alive that pleased God. His long and godly life of 950 years (Gen. 9:29) exemplifies his obedience and his faith.

Since the wickedness of man had covered the earth like a flood, God decided to start over again with Noah and his family. The LORD gave Noah very specific instructions and told him to build an ark in preparation for a catastrophic flood that would destroy every living thing on earth. The following verse shows that Noah had a family of eight: -

- In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark. (Gen. 7:13).

The wives of Shem, and Ham, and Japheth are not named in the Bible, all eight entered the Ark.

**Noah's accomplishments:** the ark-building project took longer than the average lifespan today, yet Noah diligently accepted his calling and never wavered from it he was truly a hero of the Christian faith and is appropriately mentioned in Hebrews chapter eleven commonly given the title: "The Hall of Faith." He was the only man remaining in his generation that pleased God and goes on to become the second father of the human race.

As an architectural engineer and shipbuilder, he put together an amazing structure, the likes of which had never before been built. With the project length spanning one hundred and twenty years, it was clearly a notable achievement. Noah's greatest accomplishment, however, was his faithful commitment to obey and walk with God all the days of his life.

**Noah's strengths:** Noah was a righteous man and blameless among the people of his time. This does not mean Noah was perfect or sinless, but that he loved God with his whole heart and was fully committed to obedience. Noah's life revealed qualities of patience and persistence, and his faithfulness to God did not depend on anyone else. His faith was singular and unshakable in a completely faithless society.

**The resting place of the Ark:** after the flood, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat, located in present-day Turkey.

**The rainbow:** is set in the rainy sky to remind us of God's covenant with Noah? Noah was a man who stood alone in a godless culture, a man whom God chose to be the father of the new world, a man who found favour in God's sight and who walked with God. It is certain the godless wicked and corrupt society he lived amongst ridiculed him for building the ark, especially since it had not rained before. Despite this scorn he stood alone in faith and obedience to God and refused to listen to the world.

The Bible calls Noah a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). He tried to warn others about God's coming judgment for sin, but no one listened. The door of the Ark was open to anyone who wanted to be saved, until the day the rain came and God shut the door. Everyone on the Ark was saved. Everyone outside the Ark died. Only Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were safe on the Ark. Except these eight people (1 Peter 3:20) every other person died. Just like then, preachers today are warning people of God's judgment for sin, the bad things we do when we know not to and the good things we fail to do when we know we should.

In the same way that there was a door on the Ark people could enter and be saved, there is a door of salvation today. That door is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only name under heaven and earth by which all those descended from our earthly father Adam must be saved. There was only one door to the Ark and there is only one way to be saved from the judgment of our sin and those seeking eternal life should ask Jesus to save them from their sins while the door is still open.

Noah's wife and family stood by him even though everyone else scorned him and because of their obedience together they began a new world. Much like all those in Christ will do when Jesus returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth.

**Noah and the flood:** Noah was to put seven pairs of all clean animals and one pair of all unclean animals plus seven pairs of all birds, into the ark, during this time it is certain Noah's neighbours would have mocked and scorned what he was doing, but despite these Noah by faith continued to build the ark, collect the animals and birds, and preparing for the looming judgment of God and the flood.

After one hundred and twenty years Noah and his family entered the Ark, God opened the heavens it rained for forty days and forty nights and at the end of that time the then known earth was flooded only Noah and his family remained alive. After one hundred and fifty days God sent a wind (the breath of God), which blew over the waters and made them recede and the ark rested on the top of the mountains of Ararat.

Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven, then a dove to see what they would do they returned because they were unable to find anywhere dry to perch. Later Noah sent out a second dove it came back with an olive twig between its beak, and Noah knew it had found a branch on which to perch. He waited another seven days, to be confident that the earth was finally dry. Then God told him to leave the ark and free all the animals and birds.

The first thing Noah did was to build an altar and make a burnt offering of thanksgiving to the LORD and the smell of it wafted up to the throne room of God. God promised Noah that He would never again destroy all living creatures, as He had done. God made a rainbow across the sky to be a sign of this covenant between God and Noah and all his descendants that the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

**Noah's weakness:** Noah, now in the new world and working as farmer who tills the earth and sows crops also planted a vineyard. When the grapes ripened he made wine, but on a certain occasion he drank too much and became drunk and for whatever reason ended up lying naked on the floor of his tent (perhaps he was getting ready for bed and simply passed out). This is the only recorded sin of Noah it reminds us that even the most-godly of people have weaknesses and can fall prey to temptation of this world.

- Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. <sup>21</sup>He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. <sup>22</sup>And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. <sup>23</sup>Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. <sup>24</sup>When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, <sup>25</sup>he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers." (Gen. 9:20-24).

Noah's son Ham came in and because he was amused by the sight of his father's nakedness instead of covering him he went and got his brothers so that they could see too. But they were respectful towards their father, and shielded their eyes and approached their father backwards while they covered him. When Noah woke up and heard what had happened, he cursed Ham and all his descendants for the son's lack of respect.

Ham's offspring would be servants while Noah's other sons would prosper as would their descendants. Ham was the father of Canaan, who was the forefather of the Canaanites who were traditional enemies of the Hebrew people, this story of course offers and explanation for that enmity.

#### **NOTE.**

Ham's sin was not that he saw his father naked, but that he fetched others to mock him.

**Sons of God and sons of men:** Cain and his entire line are excluded from this genealogy it completely skips Cain and moves straight onto Seth (the third recorded son of Adam and Eve). Yet this chapter is called, "The book of the generations of Adam" (v1). Since Able was murdered it is understandable that he is excluded since there would be no line to trace, but this is not so with Cain who settled in the land of Nod and built a city.

Since Cain is not included in this genealogy the sons and daughters of God refer to those in the line of Seth while the sons and daughters of men refer to those in the line of Cain. However this does not mean that Seth's line was filled with godly men and women, but that the Redeemer; the Son of God, born of Mary came from his line. By the time of the flood the only people found faithful to enter the ark from the line of Seth were Noah and his three sons Shem and Ham and Japheth (Gen. 7:13) which means that all of Cain's line and almost all of Seth's line were not counted worthy.

**Life lessons from the story of Noah:** we learn from Noah that it is possible to live in the midst of a corrupt and sinful generation and remain faithful and pleasing to God. Surely it wasn't easy for Noah, but he found favour in God's eyes because of his remarkable obedience. God blessed and saved Noah, just as he will faithfully bless and protect those of us who follow and obey him today. Our call to obedience is not a short-term, one-time call.

Like Noah, our obedience must be lived out over a lifetime of faithful commitment. Those who persevere will finish the race.

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#### **Some interesting facts: -**

- The seventh man from Adam in Cain's line was Lamech, whose name comes from a root meaning "despairing." He had three sons; Jabal a livestock breeder, Jubal a musician, Tubal-cain a toolmaker, and a daughter Naamah. We're not given Naamah's vocation, but her name comes from a root meaning pleasure." From these children came animal farming and agriculture, manufacturing and the arts and music and entertainment. In just seven generations a recognizable civilization of cities, leisure, entertainment and industry was established.
- Families in these early generations were quite different to what they are today with a mom and dad and two kids. These people had an average of 800 year life spans. If they only bore children during 200 of these years and only had one child every 5 years they would have died with over 2 million descendants each. Multiply that by just the number of people the Bible names and it gives a very huge population, even back as early as this the people were being fruitful and filling the earth (Gen. 1:28).
- Noah was a preacher of righteousness calling all to enter the Ark and be saved from God's judgment. Noah's preaching and the Ark evidences God's willingness to save all who would repent, believe and turn from their wicked ways.

Sadly all Noah's good effort was in vain eventually the measure of iniquities of the population become ripe for destruction and as a consequence they were swept away by the waters of the flood, however the surviving line of Seth ultimately fulfilled God's promise and brought forth the Redeemer; the Son of God, born of Mary through the descendants of Noah's son Shem.

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End