

## Genesis 5:1-32

### "Calling Upon, Walking With & Resting In The Lord"

As we enter into Ch 5 we find ourselves full *on* the fallout of Adam's sin. It's a section that represents over 1,500 yrs of human history, all of which are overshadowed by sin: & sorrow... God told Adam that should he eat of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil that dying he would surely die. *Now we realize that spiritually that's exactly what happened; there was death (separation from God) instantly upon Adam's partaking of that fruit. Yet up to this point there's been no death physically by what we might consider to be "natural causes". There's been at least one murder (possibly 2 depending upon how you translate Vs 23 of Ch 4) but no one has died apart from the interference of man.* However when we begin to sift *through* & peer *into* this 5<sup>th</sup> Ch of the book of Genesis all of that changes. We find the fact that death was now reigning over mankind due to Adam's sin, coming to the forefront. We'll find the phrase, "& he died", mentioned over & over & over again (8 times throughout the Ch).

We read in the book of Romans, *"through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--"*<sup>1</sup> We mentioned last week that there in Ch 4 we come to realize that Adam couldn't pass on what he didn't have. What he no longer had was a *sinless* nature. Now, he had a *sinful* nature & as such *all of his offspring* (including you & me) would inherit the same. & Being born into sin we're compelled to suffer it's consequence which is what? Death. The wages of sin; is death.

But I'm so glad that we serve a God who is merciful & full of compassion. We discovered back in Ch 3 that no sooner than man had sinned than did God provide the *promise* a Savior. & The bible says that we've *all* been confined under sin, that the *promise* by faith in J.C. might be given to *all who believe* (Gal 3:22). *The promise is there for all of mankind, for "whoever" would call upon the name of the Lord. For God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord...*

But how many of you realize that spiritual warfare is very real? That Satan seeks to frustrate the promises of God? God had promised a Savior, the "Seed of the Woman" & when Eve conceived & bore a son she believed the promise was fulfilled, "Cain" or "we've got him", yet Cain would actually be anything *but* a Messiah, he would become a murderer. Humanities 1<sup>st</sup> child was of the wicked one, a murderer & a liar.

<sup>1</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). [Ro 5:12]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). [Eph 4:14]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> child would become the victim of murder. Satan seeking to thwart the promise of God to provide a Savior. So far it seemed as though he'd done a pretty good job, mission accomplished. The 1<sup>st</sup> son went astray & the 2<sup>nd</sup> son was put away by murder. How is God going to fulfill His promise now? But how many of you realize that though the warfare can be great, that God is greater still? We serve a Sovereign God whose plans & promises can't be frustrated by the foolish & sinful ways of man or the strategies of Satan. The bible is clear that God (in His sovereignty), "...works all things according to the counsel of His will,"<sup>2</sup> & Again, "...our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases." (Ps 115:3)

So God gave to Adam & Eve another son whom she named "Seth" which means "appointed", understanding that God had appointed Seth to replace Abel. & Now that we come to Ch 5 the line of Cain is dropped & we follow the line of Seth which will lead to Noah. Remember that the bible isn't interested in following every line of humanity & showing us how the earth was populated in order to satisfy our curiosity. The bible is interested in pointing us to J.C. Therefore there are some people, (or some lines) that it will follow for a brief period of time, but then as that line fades from any relevance which leads us to Christ, that line is dropped. Cain (being the 1<sup>st</sup> born man in human history) was followed for a bit, but now that Seth is in the picture (& it's his lineage that will lead to Christ) Cain's line is dropped & Seth's line is picked up.

Here in Ch 5 there are 3 men in particular who we'll hone in on which serve to give us direction in the otherwise dying world of man. If anything this Ch bears witness to the words of Paul the apostle found in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 15:22, "...in Adam all die,"

**Vs 1-2**

When we read, "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam", what that's more than likely communicating to us is that this is the end of Adam's personal account (which would've been preserved & passed down [ultimately] to Moses who formalized the accounts of those who'd written them before him. It's probable that Adam himself was the initial individual who recorded the facts of the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Ch's of the bible (Noah would begin after him) but it would be Moses who would compile & complete (that is formalize & put together) the book of Genesis (along w/the next 4 books of the bible), under God's direction.

But notice again the emphasis upon man's *creation*, not man's *evolution*. On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of creation we discover that God created man in His own image; in the image of God He *created* him, male & female He *created* them.

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Eph 1:11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& Again we note that God blessed the union of one woman for one man.

That's God's intent for the marriage relationship; one man, for one woman, for life.

Certainly sin can disrupt that, & God is gracious w/out doubt, but this is His heart, this is His desire. 1 Man, 1 woman, for life; that's the order of creation. Men; do everything you

can to safeguard the sanctity of your marriage. Satan wants to destroy your marriage; because marriage is to be a picture of the love of Jesus for *His bride* (the church). People should look at our marriages & see (based upon how we love our wives) how it is that Jesus loves the church... How convicting is that? **But that's why Satan wants to tear your marriage, your family apart... it disrupts the message God is seeking to send the world about Christ's love for the church. God's design, God's desire is that you would fight for your marriage, safeguard your family, love your wife as Christ loved the church & gave Himself for her.**

In the book of Eph we read, **"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."**<sup>3</sup> You see church, the Lord *loves you* & God has given it to us (husbands) to demonstrate that love to the world through the way we love, tend *to* & take care *of* our wives...

**Vs 3-5**

So even after Seth, for the next several hundred yrs Adam was having sons & daughters. Even in the short years we live today it's possible to have significantly large families. Add on to your 30 yrs or so of childbearing capacity another 700(ish) & you can see that these would be days of an unparalleled population explosion!

One writer estimated that if Adam, during his lifetime, saw only half the children he could have fathered grow up, and if only half of those got married, and if only half of those who got married had children, then even at such conservative rates, Adam would have seen more than *a million* of his own descendants. Now you keep those figures going & you discover that by the time of the flood there could've been up to *7 billion* people upon the earth (we'll talk more about that when we get to that section of scripture, Ch's 6-7).

But notice we don't see in Ch 5 the mention of Cain or Abel; the 1<sup>st</sup> child our attention is drawn to is Seth. Why? Because it's *his* line that will lead us to Christ, Cain's line become insignificant in regard to that end so it's dropped. But even beyond that we're seeing here (again) *a new beginning*.

<sup>3</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Eph 5:28-29). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

We mentioned last week that the cycle in genesis is that of generation, degeneration, regeneration; man going low & God giving to man a new beginning. In reality that cycle isn't limited to Genesis, it applies to all of mankind throughout all of human history. We serve a God who gives to us a new beginning; praise God? We serve the God of the "beautiful exchange". Who gives us, "...beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;(why) That (you) they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."<sup>4</sup> God wants to be glorified in your life. So He comes to you, seeks to reason w/you in the Person of J.C. He says, "'Come now, and let us reason together,' Says the Lord, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.'"<sup>5</sup> He says (in essence), "Let's make a deal, you give Me your sin, your brokenness, your depression, your despondency & I'll give to you My righteousness, My joy, My peace, forgiveness & new life; how does that sound?"

Jesus would come along; take a blind man & give him sight (a new beginning). He would take a deaf man & open his ears to hear the voice of God, the lame would leap, the leper would be cleansed & the dead would be given life in His presence. All of these things point to new life, new beginnings, & that's always the way it is when Christ is in the equation.

Listen, I don't know what's going on in your life today. I don't know if you're blinded by sin, or perhaps even blind to sin in your life... Maybe you feel like you've been hobbled by sin, you're no longer really walking w/God, maybe you're not hearing from God, or you're not sure if God is hearing from you... Is there sin in your life? What does the bible say? "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."<sup>6</sup> Maybe you've never been cleansed in the 1<sup>st</sup> place, you're leprous w/sin, you feel unclean, unworthy to be in the presence of God. How could Jesus ever touch you, how could He ever forgive you or make you whole?

Hey; that's everyone us prior to Jesus coming along, calling out to us & saying, "You... follow Me." It's not the well who need a physician, but the sick. Jesus didn't come to call the righteous, but the sinner to repentance. We serve a God of new beginnings. In Christ we're a new creation, old things pass away, all things are made new...

<sup>4</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 61:3). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>5</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 1:18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>6</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Is 59:1-2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Those of us who maybe have a few more miles on us in the Lord; let me ask you this: how many of us still fail, still falter, still stumble & still sin? That's why Jesus said that he who's bathed (or cleansed) needs only to wash his feet to be completely clean (Jn 13:10). He wasn't naïve to the fact that even though we've been given righteousness positionally that as long as we wrestle w/this sin nature we will fail practically. He wants to wash our feet, make us completely clean. So we come to Him, confess *before* Him our sin...

There is therefore now *no* condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. Jesus paid the price for all our sin, now it's ours to turn from our sin, to serve Him & give to Him the whole of our lives, the whole of our heart. We're to love the Lord our God w/all our heart, all of our mind, all our strength & all our soul; He has made you new... All that to say this; Here in Ch 5 we have a recap of the very beginning, no mention of Cain, no mention of Abel, we're brought immediately to Seth; it's a new beginning, a *fresh* slate, old things have passed away.

I don't know what's been going on in your life as of late, but if you're anything like me you could use a fresh outpouring of God's grace, a renewing, a refocusing by His Spirit. How many of you realize that the grace that God gave you yesterday is not what He wants you to rest in today? He has a fresh supply of grace for you that just for today. Remember these words? **"And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace."**<sup>7</sup> It's the beauty for ashes kind of picture here. God says, "Give me that grace from yesterday & I'll give you fresh grace for today." Grace for grace; give us this *day* our *daily* bread. God doesn't want us wallowing in the past nor worried about the future, but seeking Him in the present; right here, right now. God desires that we check in w/Him, walk w/Him everyday; He doesn't want us to put Him on the "don't call me, I'll call You" plan. He's the friend that sticks closer than a brother.

Generation, degeneration, regeneration; a renewal. God gave Adam Seth. & We read in Vs 6 that to Seth He gave Enosh. Check it out.

### Vs 6-8

Btw I would point this out. Adam was made in the likeness of God; but w/Seth we note (back in Vs 3) that *he* was a son in the likeness & in the image of *Adam*. Now that's not to say that we're not made in God's likeness (1 Cor 11:7), but it is to say that Adam passed on his sin nature. Not *sinless* (like God), but *sinful* (like Adam).

<sup>7</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Jn 1:16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& We see that come to fruition in Vs 8 in that Seth (being a sinner) died as well. In Adam all die, that's why when Christ was born, Adam wasn't his father. God was His Father; He didn't have the sin nature of Adam, He had the sinless nature of God (being God in the flesh).

& This is where the good news comes in right? If by one man's sin (namely Adam) all can be condemned, than by 1 Man's obedience (namely Christ) all can be saved (enter Roman's 5, write it down, look it up later). Aren't you glad that salvation isn't dependent upon individual ability to fulfill the law of God? If your salvation depended upon your ability to obey God's word, how many of you would never have made it? (None of us would've, because none are righteous, no not one). But if all of humanity can be saved if only 1 will live perfectly & die vicariously the death (the penalty) that's due us all... I'm all in for that. Because Jesus was in all ways tempted as we are tempted yet w/out sin & as such He would die as the spotless Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world & now through faith in Him, God will give to me His righteousness, His right standing in His sight... *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."*<sup>8</sup> Praise God?

Seth had Enosh & we learned last week that it was during *his* day that men began to call upon the name of the Lord. That is, there was a revival of public worship; people began to gather together to worship God, to pray & seek the Lord (proclaim His name). Cain's line was drifting *from* God, Seth's line was calling *upon* God.

Listen to me, in a dark & dying world, now more than ever we need to be a people who are calling upon the name of the Lord. Who are gathering together collectively, worshipping God in unity, praying & seeking His face, His heart, His correction & direction for our lives. *God is always seeking to move through His remnant, those who will remain true to Him against the tide, against the current of contemporary times. Now's not the time for us to be out there doing our own thing, but to be coming together publicly, seeking God corporately.* The bible says, *"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."*<sup>9</sup>

God's not looking for tons of people (though the more the merrier ☺). He's looking for faithful people, people who will love Him, give their lives *to* Him & He will move through them.

<sup>8</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [1 Co 15:22]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>9</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Heb 10:24-25]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

*"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."*<sup>10</sup> It begins by calling upon Him, praying to Him, trusting in Him... & God will do the work. *"For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few."*<sup>11</sup> The question is, are you willing (am I willing) to be apart of the remnant; when everything & everyone else seems to be failing, will you remain faithful? It was during the dark days of Enosh that men began to call upon the Lord, God brought revival through the remnant.

Ok, over the next several Vs you'll discover the names of men who are hard to pronounce & that they to go the way of all the earth. Whether they're the 1<sup>st</sup> born to these listed or (like Seth) the one whom God chose to utilize as the lineage that leads to Christ is up for debate. Either way their common bond is the phrase that follows, "& he died." Look at Vs 18.

### Vs 18-27

Interesting that the man w/the fewest yrs in this list had a son w/the longest yrs in the record of human history (969 yrs). Now we don't know what kind of life that Enoch lived prior to having his son Methuselah, but what we do know is that after his son was born he began to walk w/the Lord. Now the name "Methuselah" points to coming judgment; it basically means, "his death shall bring". We don't know if perhaps God gave Enoch the insight that as long as his son was alive that He would w/hold judgment but that in the year that he died judgment would come, but something happened in Enoch's life at this point & he notably began to walk w/God. Consistently, persistently for 300 yrs he didn't waiver in his faithfulness to God.

Now what does it mean to "walk w/God." Well, if you're walking w/God it speaks of nearness to God, that you lead a life in agreement w/God, His word, His ways; that your life is subservient to God, pleasing to God & active for God. The book of Hebrews tells us, *"By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, 'and was not found, because God had taken him'; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God."*<sup>12</sup>

Then it goes on to tell us that w/out faith it's impossible to please God...

So in otherwise dark days we see Enosh calling upon the Lord, Enoch walking w/the Lord. There's an intimacy about this. Not only did he walk with God, he witnessed for God.

We read in the book of Jude...

<sup>10</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (2 Ch 16:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>11</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (1 Sa 14:6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>12</sup> The New King James Version. (1982). (Heb 11:5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

*“Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”<sup>13</sup>*

So this awareness of coming judgment caused him to draw near to God & walk closely w/God (may God give us ears to hear). His lifestyle was characterized by devotion to God. Then 300 yrs later something miraculous happened. God simply took him. He was here 1 minute & gone the next. In other words, he was “raptured”. Just like Elijah being taken up alive into the presence of God that’s what we see happening here w/Enoch. Enoch actually escapes death & he becomes a picture of the church living in the last days prior to judgment walking closely w/God being taken up alive to be w/God... **Write it down & look it up later 1 Thess 4:15-18. There is a generation of believers who will not see death, but will be caught up in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye & this corruptible will put on incorruption & this mortal will put on immortality, death will be swallowed up in victory & thus we shall always be w/the Lord...**

Perhaps we’ll develop this a little further when we study the judgment of the flood. But for now receive the exhortation to walk w/God in the midst of an otherwise crooked & perverse generation. Walk w/Him, witness *for* Him & the day will come that God will take you out of this world to *be* w/Him.

**Now think about this: Methuselah lived longer than any other man & judgment would come when he died. What does that point to? The patience & longsuffering of God w/man. God gave Methuselah the longest life span in human history demonstrating His mercy, waiting, wanting people to repent.**

**Vs 28-32**

Btw according to this it’s plausible that Noah was 14 yrs old when Seth died. He could’ve known Adam’s son, & Lamech (Noah’s dad) could’ve known Adam personally. So the creation account isn’t too far removed even by Noah’s day. You’re still receiving 1<sup>st</sup> hand information from Adam even to Noah’s dad...

But Lamech’s prayer was that his son (Noah) would somehow bring rest/comfort to those under the curse that we so desperately need. Flash forward centuries later to the One who would come through Noah’s lineage...what did Jesus say?

<sup>13</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Jud 14–15). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*<sup>14</sup>

Our hope, his prayer, fulfilled in Christ. Amen? Amen.

### Prayer Points:

God we give You praise. We want to be a people who call *upon* You, who walk *with* You, who find our rest *in* You. But not only do we want to walk with You, we want to witness *for* You. May our light so shine that people see what we do & bring glory to You. Use us we pray in these last days...

We're studying about a time that preceded judgment. We're also living in a time that precedes judgment. God does & God will deal w/sin. *But it's His heart that we repent, that He might show mercy & grace, you can find forgiveness & wholeness of heart through turning from your sin & trusting in J.C. who has loved you & given Himself for you.* Why not call upon Him today, for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord...shall be saved.

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<sup>14</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Mt **11:28-29**). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.