

The Line of Seth and the Seed of Promise

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Text: Genesis 5-6¹

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Series: Genesis (The Book of Beginnings)

Introduction: Open your Bible to **Genesis 5-6**. This evening we are talking about “The Line of Seth and the Seed of Promise”.

We are returning to a similar theme from this morning. The goodness and longsuffering of God. God is good. In fact there is no one so good as God. There is no more benevolent, kind being in all the universe. God is a great God. But if God is great and God is good, why is there so much evil in the world? If God is good why is there suffering and corruption? Why doesn't God do something? Many people ask these questions. Well God does do something. He has done something. God could have let the human race go extinct, but we see from the end of Genesis 4 through chapter 6, that God is merciful in the midst of deep, deep darkness. He is merciful in a very specific way. He preserves the line of the Messiah, the Promised Seed, through godly Seth.

What these chapters do is they help us to see the world as God sees it, and then see the need for God's grace. The book of Genesis is truly a book about Jesus Christ who welcomes us at His throne of grace. At the end of Genesis 4 and throughout Genesis 5 is the record of the preservation of the line of Christ, the Promised Seed, through Seth. Seth is the line of Christ.

Let's begin in **Genesis 4:25-26**, “And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.” 26 To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.”

- I. With God there is **hope** in deep darkness (Gen. 4:25-ch. 5). The hope is not in man. This is the error of humanism.

What we see now is the godly line of Seth. He taught his children to call on Yahweh, Adonai, the LORD. This is the first time in the Bible we see people actually addressing God by His covenant Name. The King James translates it Jehovah, looking at it from the Latin. This is the holy name of God that was never spoken by the Jews. It came to be called the Tetragrammaton. When they came to this name, in order not to blaspheme, they would use *Adonai*, Hebrew for "Lord" (Hebrew: אֲדֹנָי) or A-D-N. In English it would be literally “LORD”. So there is good reason to translate the covenant Name of God as “LORD” as a substitute for YHWH.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the *English Standard Version* of the Bible.

What's most important is the godly heart of Seth. God was gracious to Seth and his seed. And what we are going to see in Genesis 5-6 concerning the grace of God in preserving the promised seed for the Messiah.

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

We see that all that God made was good. Adam and Eve were made holy and innocent in the likeness of God. But what we see is that life after the Fall is brutal. Wickedness immediately begins to reign. Cain kills his brother Abel. What shall we do? Where's the promised seed? This is the driving question when we come to Genesis chapter 5. It is here we are introduced to the line of Seth who is the seed of promise—the line that will eventually beget Jesus Christ.

Even though the line of Adam was immediately corrupted—righteous Abel was taken by ungodly Cain, God does not leave the human race there. By His mercy and grace, God gives His promised seed in Seth, by which will come Jesus Christ. We are going to see that even in the deep darkness, God has mercy!

Verse 3, “When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and **named him Seth**. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

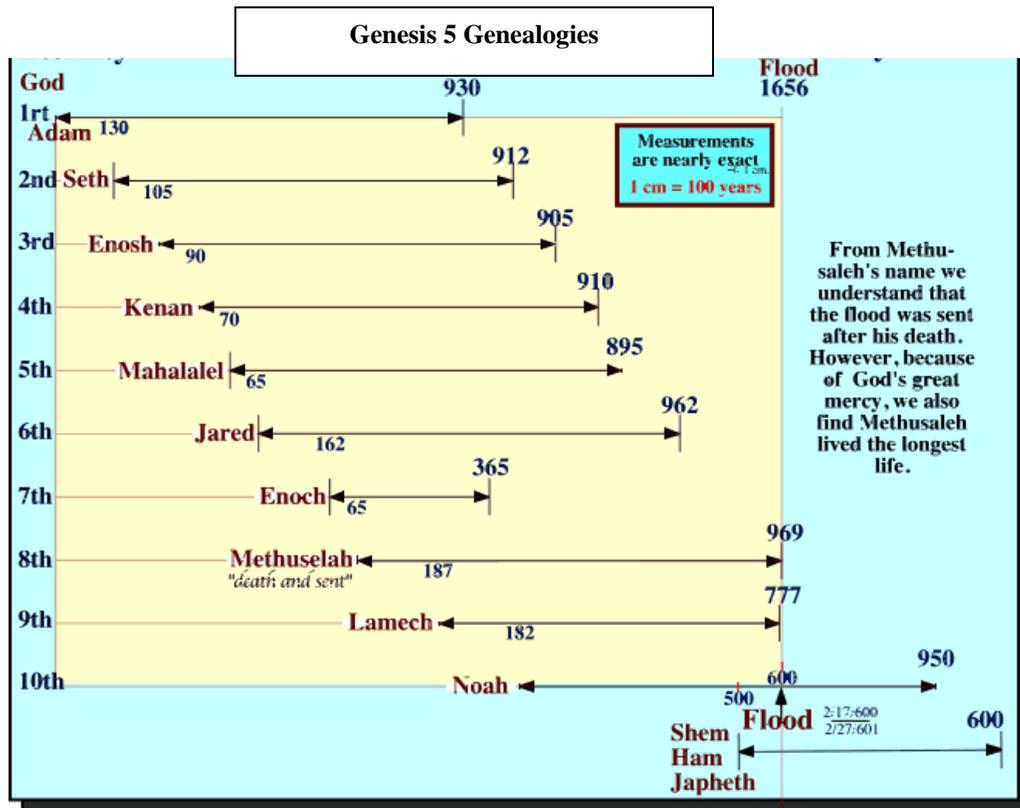
6 ¶ When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. 7 **Seth** lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Thus **all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died**. 9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. 10 Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. 11 Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died. 12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died. 15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. 16 Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died. 18 When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered Enoch. 19 Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

21 ¶ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 **Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him**.

25 ¶ When **Methuselah** had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. 26 Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Thus all the days of **Methuselah were 969 years, and he died**.”

What does God look at when He sees the world? How does the world look in His sight? The passage opens with a genealogy. This passage is kind of like fast forwarding

through a DVD. There are 10 generations from Adam to Noah. By the time of the flood, Adam and Seth have died and Enoch has been taken.



A. We see the **creation** account (vs. 1-2).

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

Notice the Creation account is summarized in **Genesis 5:1-2**. We are reminded that Adam and Eve were made in God’s likeness and image. They were perfect. Look at the rapid descent we all have in Adam!

B. We see the **characters**. Striking in this genealogy is the absence of Cain and Abel. All we see is the line of Seth that leads to the Seed of promise, our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. **Abel**. But Abel’s life was fleeting. Abel’s very name means “mist” or “vapor”. We see the fleeting spirit of man in Abel. We are reminded of the words of **James 4:14**, “What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.” We all like Abel appear for a little while and vanish away! His life like ours seem so short!

2. **Cain.** Cain is in the dustbin of history. He is never mentioned again in Genesis after chapter 4.
3. **Seth.** In Genesis chapter 5, we are brought front and center with Seth, who is the seed of the Messiah. We see the Seed of Promise. After Seth, we kind of fast forward. Not much good is happening. The earth is becoming evil. Perhaps we would have lost hope had we lived then. But God always has mercy in darkness. Never forget that. We come all the way down to **verse 22**.
4. **Enoch.** Enoch walked with God! **Verse 22**, “Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”

We have only two commentaries on this verse, and both are in the New Testament.

- **Hebrews 11:5**, “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.”
- **Jude 1:14-15**, “It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of his holy ones 15 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.”
- Enoch walked with God. He pleased God by taking a stand for God. He stood out from his generation. He spoke up for the Lord. All God’s people have this sense of conviction that Enoch had. He couldn’t take the ungodliness around him. He didn’t conform to it, but instead exposed it and said—“There’s coming a day when King Jesus will judge the ungodly”. And Enoch wanted no part of the ungodly. He just kept preaching Jesus. And through this He walked with God and pleased God.
- Enoch was translated straight to heaven. He did not die! He preached the coming of Jesus when that generation will all be like Enoch. We will not die! We “who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Now did you notice in verse 22, Enoch had a son. Enoch was such a prophet—he was the John the Baptist of his day. He preached repentance and faith in Christ in the shadows of the Old Testament. But look at Enoch. He prophesied even in naming his son. He told about the flood by naming his son “**Methuselah**”.

5. **Methuselah** is born and is truly a walking prophecy of God's judgment to come. In fact, Methuselah's very name was a prophesy in itself of judgment! Methuselah's name means "*he shall die and it will be sent*". If you do the math from the genealogies, Methuselah indeed died in the very year the flood came, in the year 1656 from the creation of the world.

When Methuselah dies, the flood comes! Methuselah was the oldest man ever to live. That shows God's patience.

So we see even in the darkness, God has mercy!

But we see judgment coming, brooding on the horizon!

6. **Lamech**. Look at Genesis **5:28**, "When **Lamech** had lived 182 years, he fathered a son 29 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." 30 Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died. 32 After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth." Nothing but what is written here is known about Lamech. He has a very famous son. It seems he died the year of the flood.

Now we come to Genesis 6, and we see that whatever is happening in verses 1-4, we must remember the commentary in verse 5. An important rule of Bible interpretation is always interpret the unclear with the clear. So this is clear. Whatever is going on in verses 1-4, it's evil. Verse 5 says it, "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

II. God sends **help** in the midst of depravity (Gen. 6).

- A. God at times must **regulate** depravity. He allows man now to live only 120 years at most. Let's read verses 1-5 of Genesis 6, "When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God **saw** that the daughters of man were attractive. And they **took** as their wives any they chose. 3 ¶ Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh [mortal]: his days shall be 120 years." 4 ¶ The **Nephilim** [*defined within the text as "mighty men", "men of renown"*] were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the **mighty men who were of old, the men of renown**. 5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

There are many strange interpretations on these verses. But we are going to do another exercise in interpretation, or *hermeneutics*. Always let the Bible interpret itself. We have

terms like “sons of God”, “**Nephilim**” that are synonymous. So verse 2 and verse 4 are describing the same people. Who were they?

- (1) Some say they were fallen angels having babies with humans. That’s a ridiculous interpretation, but I remember someone teaching that to me. I do not believe you can get that from the text.
- (2) Others say that “sons of God” are referring to a godly line intermarrying with the godless “daughters of men”. This cannot be, because God says in verse 5, that what they were doing was “evil continually”.
- (3) The safest and easiest and best way to understand this is to let the Bible tell us who these people are. Are they giants? Are they angels? Not hardly. Look at **verse 4**, “These were the **mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.**” Simply put, these were very powerful people, probably tyrannical kings with the attitude of Lamech. These were wicked rulers of the earth. Some say they might have even been demon possessed.

I think the text itself has all the answers. It says what these mighty, powerful men did was provoke God in their wickedness. “the sons of God **saw** that the daughters of man were attractive. And they **took** as their wives any they chose.”

These men of renown were like our first parents. They saw, and they took, and they chose. They chose what was good, but they used God’s good gifts and abused them.

So verse 5 is the key verse here, “The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”. Look how dark it was. It was so desperate that even the Almighty was greatly provoked.

- B. God’s sorrow is **representative** of his hatred toward sin. These verses are expressed in a way that we can understand. We call it an anthropopathism. That just means even though God doesn’t change, He does sense sorrow. It is divine sorrow, not in the way that man has sorrow that affects us. This sorrow is reflective of God’s character.

Verse 6, “And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.””

God is taking note of man’s anarchy.

- C. We see God’s **response** to this growth of sin.
1. A **man**. **Verse 8**, “But Noah found **favor** in the eyes of the LORD. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem,

Ham, and Japheth. 11 ¶ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh [human beings] had corrupted their way on the earth."

2. A **plan**. Verse 13, "And 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. 14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. 15 This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 [450 ft] cubits, its breadth 50 [75 ft] cubits, and its height 30 [45 ft] cubits. 16 Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit [18 inches] above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. 17 For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the ark to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive. 21 Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them." 22 ¶ Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him."

We learn from the new testament that there were scoffers at that time. It had never rained on the earth. Why should they believe. There was only God's canopy over the earth. And so the only condensation from heaven these people knew was the morning dew. They mocked.

- We read in **1 Peter 3:20**, "they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water."
- **2 Peter 3:3-7**, "knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, 6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."

Look at **verses 9-10** as well, "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

As I said, it had never rained water from heaven when Noah began to build and they must have laughed and mocked.

And so today people have not seen it rain fire from heaven, but it will. We have the same word of judgment that Noah and Enoch had. We preach the truth in love.

Conclusion: Two things to remember as we close.

1. First, let's support each other as men and women of God. Let's pray for one another. These are difficult sinful days. Let's walk with God. Let's stay close to Him. Let's be like Noah and Enoch and walk with God. Let's support each other as men and women who love God like Noah and Enoch loved God.
2. Second, let's remember God's **plan** cannot be thwarted. Christ said, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (**Matthew 16:18**). Let's be faithful in the Word, faithful to His Bride that He died for, faithful in living for Christ and in our service for Him. Let's give of ourselves. The ark is built. Jesus Christ has come. He calls all men every where to repent. Let's be faithful pointing people to the ark.

The ark is a picture, an illustration of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we all find refuge in Him!