

# The Book of Genesis

## Lesson 8

### *Chapter 4:18 – 5:32*

#### Cain's Descendants

**Genesis 4:18** Now to Enoch was born Irad; and Irad became the father of Mehujael; and Mehujael became the father of Methushael; and Methushael became the father of Lamech. **19** And Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah. **20** And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. **21** And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. **22** As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

At this point in the story, one line of the heirs of Cain who lived until the occurrence of the flood is listed. The purpose of this lineage at this place in the story is to introduce Cain's fourth generation grandson who was a murderer of a man and a boy. However, the lineage also reveals some other interesting facts. The following chart shows the lineage of Cain.

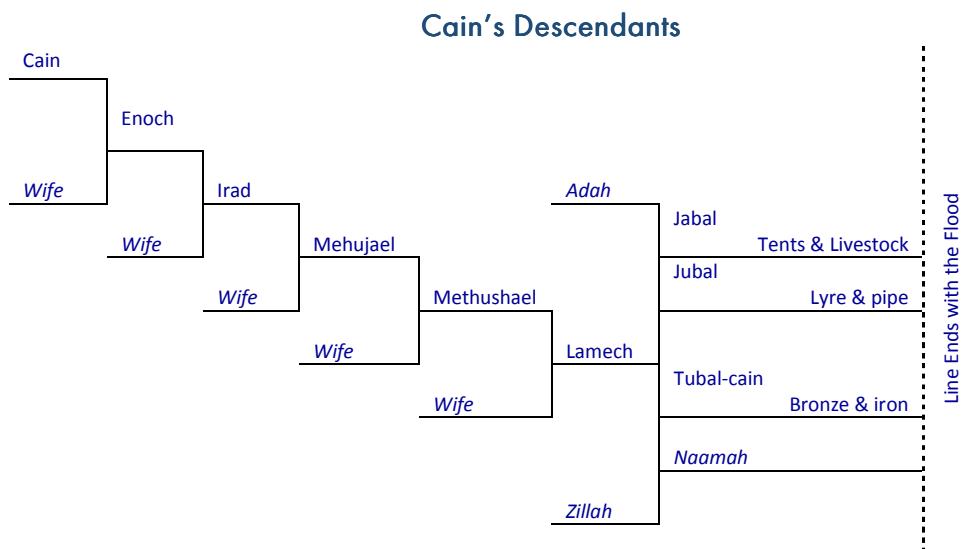


Figure 23: Cain's Descendants to the Time of the Flood

Who was Enoch's wife? The answer must be the same as with Cain; she was his sister. All of Cain's sons and daughters married each other. However, by the time Irad took a wife, she may have been a sister or a cousin and so on through to Lamech. One further development occurs toward the end of this chart; the wives of Mehujael, Methushael and Lamech might have been the descendants of Adam and Eve's other children as we will see in Genesis chapter 6.

The three sons of Lamech are recorded as the fathers of different technological trades. Tents were invented as well as the practice of herding livestock by Jabal; musical instruments were invented by Jubal; tools of bronze and iron were invented by Tubal-cain. Therefore, when archeologists find instruments and tools that predate the flood in 2476 BC, there is no reason to doubt the findings as long as they are within the scope of human existence on earth. The earth was created in 4071 BC and the flood involving Noah occurred in 2476 BC; therefore, from creation to the flood, 1595 solar years transpired; however, tools and instruments were not invented until the last century or so before the flood.

### **Lamech's Fear**

**Genesis 4:23 And Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, You wives of Lamech, Give heed to my speech, For I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me; 24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."**

The list of the descendants of Cain ends with Lamech and his children. According to Lamech's testimony, he was a murderer like Cain and he knew of the punishment put on Cain for killing Abel. Even though the LORD protected Cain from being killed, the penalty for killing Cain would have resulted in a punishment seven times harder than Cain's punishment. No one was going to kill Cain. God had pardoned his sin and given him time and space to repent. The LORD did not speak to Lamech in this passage; Lamech assumed that because the LORD protected Cain, He would protect him, his wives and children, and anyone who tried to kill them would be punished seventy-seven times as harsh as Cain's punishment. The LORD did not bless Lamech's assumption and they all died in the flood.

### **Birth of Seth**

**Genesis 4:25 And Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, *she said*, "God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel; for Cain killed him."**

At this place in the Scripture, the story steps back in time to the birth of a son to Adam and Eve after the death of Abel. His name was Seth and Eve believed that he was a replacement of Abel. The line of descendants from Seth ultimately led to the birth of the Messiah. His heirs would transcend the flood through Noah while all the rest of humanity is destroyed. Noah was the 10<sup>th</sup> descendant of Adam through Seth. Seth means "pay" and Eve surely thought that his birth was the repayment for the life of Abel.

## **Birth of Enosh**

**Genesis 4:26a And to Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh.**

Seth took a wife who no doubt was his sister. Their first son was Enosh. Enosh means “mortal.” According to the Jewish scholars of the ancient Hebrew text and times, Enosh’s name represented the sickness and despair of humanity at the time of his birth. By that time, humans had forgotten the LORD and officially embraced all that was evil. Only one line remained faithful to the LORD and that was through the descendants of Enosh. Even the aunts, uncles and cousins of Enosh were practicing evil and they were all the children and grandchildren of Adam and Eve. Only Adam, Eve, Seth, and his wife, as well as Enosh and his wife, were faithful to the LORD. Even the brothers and sisters of Enosh were evil. By the third generation from Adam, humanity was depraved.

## **Call Upon the Name of the LORD**

**Genesis 4:26b Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD.**

In the midst of the depravity of the people, Adam, Seth and Enosh began to “**call upon the name of the LORD.**” The word call actually means to “proclaim.” Therefore, the godly line began to proclaim the name of the LORD as witness to those who were committing evil. In faith, these men worshiped the LORD and proclaimed His name as the Creator to their relatives in the hope that they would put away their evildoings and live under the Divine direction and guidance of the LORD.

## **Book of the Generations of Adam**

**Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.**

Genesis chapters 1 – 4 trace the important events of the creation, the fall, the death of Abel, the generations of Cain to the flood, the birth of Seth with his son Enosh and the depraved nature of most of the people on earth. Chapter 5 gives an account of all the generations of Adam through Noah and his sons to the flood; this account traces the lineage of the godly line that will ultimately lead to the birth of the Messiah.

In the Genesis 2, Adam was tasked with naming all the animals; he even named Eve; however, in this passage we see that God gave the general name to Adam and Eve, the male and female humans on the earth; He called them “Man” or mankind.

For the first time Bible reader, Genesis chapter 5 seems to be a sudden jolt in the flowing story in the book; its list of names accompanied by years of life can be quite confusing and, at times,

extremely boring. Yet, for the student who takes the time to discover all the fascinating facts in this chapter, it gives great insight into questions such as the following. How long were humans on earth before the flood? How long did each godly man live before the flood? What were the names of the godly line of men from Adam to Noah and his sons? Who knew whom before the flood? When we gather the information from this chapter and continue with the information given in Genesis chapters 10 – 11, we can trace the godly lineage from Adam to Abraham. The exciting result is a detailed calendar that reveals when the earth was created, when the flood occurred, and when each man lived. Adding the details found in the rest of the book of Genesis, we can continue that lineage to Joseph and the bondage in Egypt. The book of Exodus tells of the lineage in and out of Egypt and then Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Matthew and Luke complete the details all the way to Jesus's birth in 4 BC around the time of the death of Herod the Great.

As we study this chapter, notice that the same formula is used for the information; first is the age of the father when the son is born; second is the length of the father's life after the son is born; third is a statement about other sons and daughters; fourth is the total years of the father's life. However, along the way, the LORD inserts a few special notes about certain people who were especially important at the time.

## **The Purpose of the Genealogy in Genesis 5**

What is the purpose of the genealogy in Genesis 5? First, it is the LORD's detailed record of the generations that lived from creation to the flood. Second, it is the LORD's record of the number of years that transpired between the creation and the flood in order for all generations to know the age of the earth and the timing of major events. Before the end of the book of Genesis, the LORD will detail the lives and years of every major character in the Messianic line of Jesus from Adam to Judah and his brother Joseph.

### **Adam/Seth**

**Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> Then the days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.**

Seth was born when Adam was 130 years old. Adam was 930 years old at the time of his death. Also notice that Adam had other sons and daughters besides Cain, Abel and Seth. Now we will read the rest of the chapter and consolidate the information into a chart that shows how the lives overlapped from creation to the flood.

### **Seth/Enosh**

**Genesis 5:6 And Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the father of Enosh.**

**<sup>7</sup> Then Seth lived eight hundred and seven years after he became the father of**

**Enosh, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>8</sup> So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died.**

Seth's name means "fixed." When he was born after the death of Abel, Eve thought that the LORD had fixed the family by replacing the life of Abel at the birth of Seth.

### **Enosh/Kenan**

**Genesis 5:9 And Enosh lived ninety years, and became the father of Kenan. <sup>10</sup> Then Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years after he became the father of Kenan, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup> So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years, and he died.**

Enosh's name means "mortal despair." By the time of Enosh's birth, the population had forgotten the LORD and sin was rampant in the communities formed by both Adam and Cain. It was during the life of Enosh that, as witnesses to all the sinful relatives, the godly line of Adam began to proclaim the name of the LORD.

### **Kenan/Mahalalel**

**Genesis 5:12 And Kenan lived seventy years, and became the father of Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup> Then Kenan lived eight hundred and forty years after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup> So all the days of Kenan were nine hundred and ten years, and he died.**

Kenan's name means "buyer/owner." Nothing else is known about Kenan.

### **Mahalalel/Jared**

**Genesis 5:15 And Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Jared. <sup>16</sup> Then Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Jared, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup> So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died.**

Mahalalel's name means "praise of God." Nothing else is known about Kenan.

### **Jared/Enoch**

**Genesis 5:18 And Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and became the father of Enoch. <sup>19</sup> Then Jared lived eight hundred years after he became the father of Enoch, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died.**

Jared's name means "a ruling coming down." We might conclude from this child's name that the LORD had communicated that He was going to bring an end to the sinfulness at that time.

### **Enoch/Methuselah**

**Genesis 5:21** **And Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.**

Enoch's name means "dedicated." Notice that when Enoch was 360 years old God took him. Enoch did not die; he walked into God's presence without experiencing death. The author of the book of Hebrews mentions this Enoch in the list of the faithful.

**Hebrews 11:5-6** By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Enoch's father was named Jared as a warning to the people of the LORD's impending action upon them. However, the LORD does not ever bring judgment without giving the sinner a word and a sign to direct him toward Him. Jared was the warning; Enoch was the sign. Jared had dedicated his son to the LORD, named him Enoch (dedicated) and Enoch lived up to that name. Enoch was so special to the LORD that He did not want him to see death and He took him from this earth after just 360 years of life. Enoch's life pleased God; Enoch believed in God; Enoch was rewarded by God.

### **Methuselah/Lamech**

**Genesis 5:25** **And Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and became the father of Lamech. <sup>26</sup> Then Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years after he became the father of Lamech, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup> So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died.**

Methuselah's name means "He has sent his death." Jared was the warning; Enoch was the sign; Methuselah's life determined the day of judgment. Methuselah's life would terminate in the year when the LORD decided to bring death by means of the flood. Methuselah will live the longest of any human who ever lived on earth, but his death was the sign of the imminent end of human life as the world knew it at the time.

## Lamech/Noah

**Genesis 5:28** **And Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son.** <sup>29</sup> Now he called his name Noah, saying, "This one shall give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands *arising* from the ground which the LORD has cursed." <sup>30</sup> Then Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years after he became the father of Noah, and he had *other* sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup> So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years, and he died.

Lamech's name means "laid low." The Hebrew means to cast or hurl in defeat. His name is a proclamation of the coming judgment from the LORD. At the age of 82 he had a son and named him Noah. His name means "rest." The author of the book of Hebrews also includes Noah in his list of the faithful.

**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

Through the righteous man called Noah, rest would come to the world after the deaths of humanity - a new beginning, not sinless as it was with Adam, but sinful, yet warned by a worldwide judgment that could not be denied.

Lamech would not live to see the flood; he died about six years before it occurred. Methuselah might have died in the flood, but that is not known. Even though he died in the year of the flood, it is more likely that his death occurred from natural causes before the rain began.

## Noah/Shem, Ham and Japheth

**Genesis 5:32** **And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.**

As Noah reached his 500<sup>th</sup> year of life, one hundred years before the flood and before the death of Methuselah, he became the father of three sons. Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Several passages give further information about these three sons. Genesis 9:22; 10:21 and 1 Chronicles 1:5, tells us that Japheth was the oldest son, Shem was the middle and Ham was the youngest. Shem is always mentioned first because it is through his line that the blessing of blessings, the LORD Jesus, will be born. The same holds true throughout the Scripture, Jacob is mentioned before Esau even though Esau is the oldest and likewise, Ephraim is mentioned before Manasseh. More will be revealed in the Bible about the three sons of Noah after the flood.

## Overlapping Lives of the Godly Line from Adam to Shem

Years Counted from Year 1 to Year 1998 after the Creation of Adam

Years Not Rendered in BC/AD Calendar Form

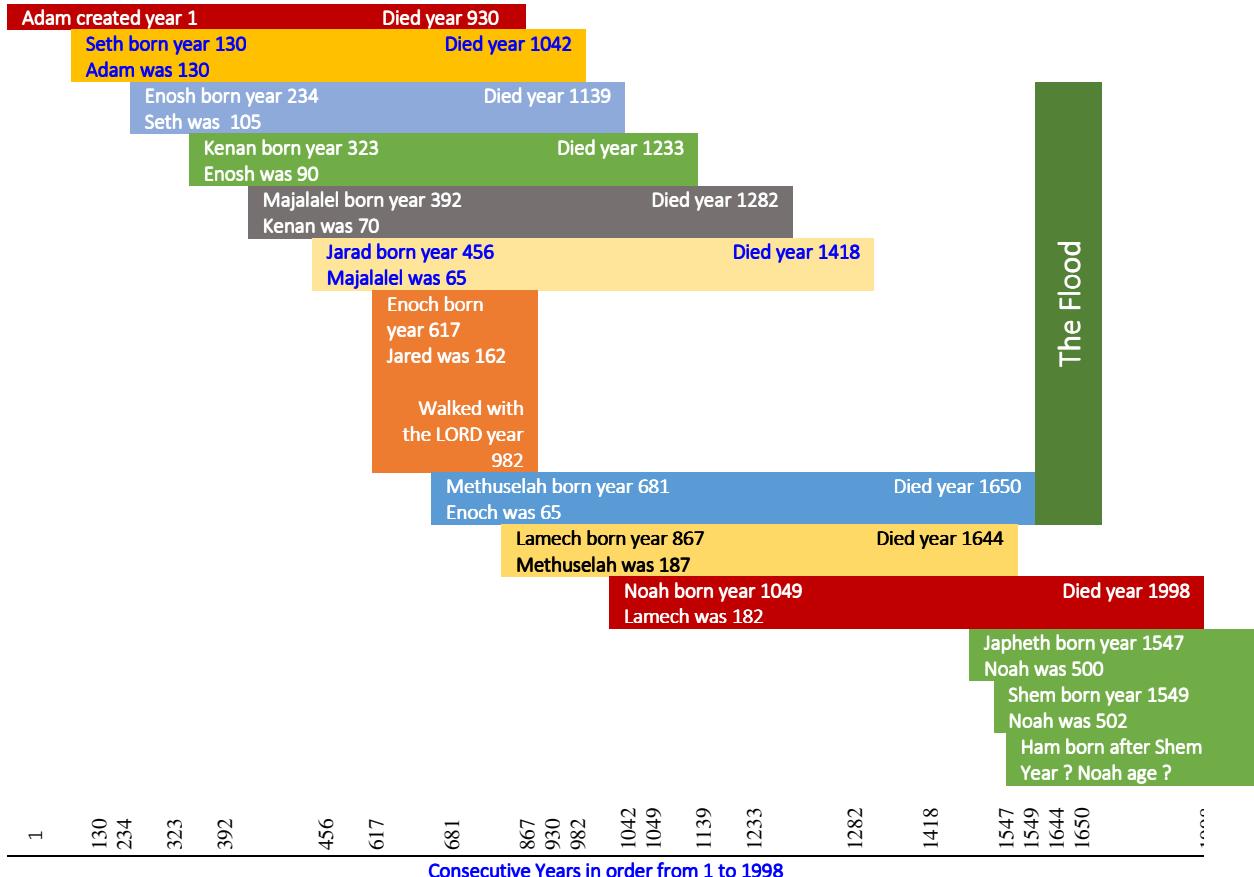


Table 2: Genesis 5 Information in Chart Form (not to scale)

Upon viewing the information found in Genesis 5 in the chart form above, we find some interesting facts.

1. The entire time from creation to the flood transpired during the lives of two men, Adam and Methuselah. Methuselah was 242 years old when Adam died and Methuselah died the year of the flood.
2. Methuselah and Lamech knew every man in the list from Adam to Shem, Ham and Japheth.
3. The sons of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth were about 100 years old when the flood occurred. They knew Methuselah, Lamech and Noah.
4. Noah knew every man in the list from Enosh to Shem, Ham and Japheth.
5. Enoch, who lived only 360 years, knew every man from Adam to Lamech, Noah's father.
6. This chapter proves that every man in the list from Seth to Lamech, the father of Noah, knew Adam personally.