



## Genesis 5:1-26 – Genealogy Part 1

### Observe:

#### General Comments on Biblical Genealogies

- 1) Two types:
  - a. **Chronological** – are complete in their generations and can be used to calculate time.
  - b. **Non-Chronological** – have missing generations or different spellings for names (fluidity) and cannot be used to calculate time (telescoping); these are not “less accurate” but were simply used for other purposes such as establishing a lineage to an important ancestor or to prove position or inheritance (Ezra 7, Matthew 1)
- 2) Items to consider in understanding genealogies:
  - a. Their **context** and their **purpose**
  - b. The Hebrew word for “begat” or “fathered” does not always refer to an immediate father/son relationship. (I.E. It was not wrong for a Hebrew writer to say “Person A begat Person C” when in reality, Person A begat Person B who begat Person C.)

#### The Genealogies of Genesis 5 & 11 – Are they chronological?

- 3) Their purpose:
  - a. To root our faith in history – redemptive history.
  - b. To show God’s faithfulness down through the ages.
  - c. To show that God never removed His witness from the earth.
  - d. To tie known history to unknown history – scholars and historians don’t argue much after the time of Abraham, but there is little information regarding the history of mankind before Abraham.
- 4) Arguments FOR the Chronological View:
  - a. Context & Purpose – the simple & plain meaning of the text - they are written and read naturally as historical and chronological – an important point in Biblical interpretation
  - b. They give detailed numbers of years for the births of children and deaths to give us an accurate numbering system.
  - c. No details are missing between Adam & Abraham that would leave doubt about the numbers themselves. (Gen. 5:32, 11:10)
  - d. Until the 1800’s, this was the accepted view of both the Jew and the Christian church.

**Exposition of Genesis**  
**Hilltown Baptist Church**  
**Early Church Sunday School Class**  
**Teacher: Gene I. Greiner, II** (2T42)

e. The text itself states many times that there are no gaps (i.e. between Adam & Seth (5:3), Seth & Enosh (4:26), Lamech & Noah (5:28), Noah & Shem (6:10), Eber and Peleg (10:25), Terah & Abraham (11:27-32))

5) Arguments AGAINST the Chronological View:

a. Many scholars compare the Biblical accounts with other ancient documents and put them on the same level of importance

Answer: These do not believe in the inerrancy of Scripture and so I discard their arguments.

b. It conflicts with archeology and science.

Answer: Science and archeology may catch up to Holy Writ in time.

c. Some argue that so many patriarchs living at the same time doesn't seem plausible because we don't read of their interaction or influence on each other.

Answer: There is evidence of God being known and worshipped by those outside of these strict genealogical lines. (Job, Melchizedek, Balaam). Mythology and legend has also been passed down through the ages that may allude to the lives of these other patriarchs – Epic of Gilgamesh.

6) Other important observations regarding the genealogies of Gen. 5 & 11:

a. The main purpose of these is to record REDEMPTIVE history – the record of the lineage that God preserved to bring about the Messiah and His promise in Genesis 3:15. (i.e. God tells us what we need not what we want.)

b. The men of these lines were not all necessarily the first born. (Seth, Ham, and Jacob were not)

c. These men were not all necessarily believers. It certainly appears or is certain that Adam, Seth, Enoch, Lamech, Noah, and Shem were, but we know that the lineage had degenerated morally till the flood since only 8 were saved and even Ham does not appear to have been a believer. The line eroded till the time of Abram. Abram may have known who God was but his father Terah and probably he himself worshipped idols and false gods. (Joshua 24:2-3, 14)

40 Q What did God reveal to man for the rule of his obedience?

A The rule which God first revealed to man for his obedience is the moral law (De 10:4 Mt 19:17) which is summarised in the ten commandments.