

TRUSTING GOD'S PLAN, PURPOSE, AND DESIGN

"A Faithful Walk" Genesis 5:1-24

November 10, 2024

THE BACKGROUND: How many people come to a place in the Bible like Genesis 5, and they just put it on fast forward because it's just a list of a bunch of names. How important can that possibly be? When I was growing up I collected baseball, football, hockey and basketball cards. It was the day when TOPPS was the only card company (1969-1972). I would do any kind of jobs in my neighborhood to earn money to buy these cards. Some of us would get together and trade cards, depending on our favorite team. The rich kids were the ones whose parents could buy them the whole set of cards. We would hope to get a checklist in the pack of cards so we could see what players we were missing. Then, we might argue about which players were better than others. How would we determine which player was better? We'd look at the statistics on the back of the card. That would be the proof! Statistics were very important in our decisions. Maybe we thought, "Can't argue with the numbers." The numbers served a purpose for us, so:

Why the genealogies in the Bible? They don't appear to be very exciting. Somebody became the father of, and the list repeats this phrase. Genealogies are very important historical records as they can give support that what is about to follow is true.

Allen P. Ross, "A new section of the book begins here, having the dual purpose of linking the history of the early people to the story of Noah and of showing the continuing effect of sin on the race."

James Montgomery Boice highlights the following lessons of this genealogy:

1) God is a personal God: He knows our names. These are not just names on a list. You and I are persons, like the patriarchs of Genesis 5. We are equally noted and remembered in God's book. Let that be an encouragement. The world may not pay much attention to us; in fact, the more like Christ we are, the less the world will be interested. But God is interested, and that fact alone should encourage us to live for Him.

2) The second lesson of this genealogy is that it represents a remnant of godly individuals in an ungodly age and that this is often the case.

Look at how the world is described in the next chapter in Genesis:

"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5).

3) The third lesson is that the people in this chapter are related to one another, descendants of one another. They are members of one family. This suggests the value of family and the fact that God generally works in and through families to call people to Himself.

4) The final lesson is the faithfulness of God. God was preserving a remnant in the midst of an increasingly wicked society. Only God is equal to this task. That God is our God. The days may be wicked, perhaps nearly as wicked as those before the flood. But God is no less strong, no less able.

Look at how this chapter begins. Note the similarity and the contrast.

Genesis 5:1 This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. This is a repeat of Genesis 1:26: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...."

There is a departure from this description when it comes to the description of Seth.

Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

Why is Seth described as being in Adam's likeness and image and, prior to this, Adam was described as created in the likeness and image of God? What had happened since God creating Adam and Seth being born to Adam and Eve? Sin had entered the picture and the image and likeness of God in humanity was now tainted or marred. This doesn't mean life is any less valuable. It doesn't change the fact that God is the author of life and that each person is fearfully and wonderfully made by God. It doesn't change the truth that God knits us together in our mother's womb (Psalm 139).

What did Adam pass down to future generations?

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

Jesus Christ, the second Adam, brings life.

Romans 5:17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Not only does this genealogy repeat the phrase, "*became the father of,*" you then read about them having "*other sons and daughters,*" and then "*he died.*" That is until we get to a man named Enoch. His name means "dedication" or "consecration" (Arnold Fruchtenbaum). Both the line of Cain and the line of Seth have a man named Enoch but only in the line of Seth do we have this amazing description. What do we learn about Enoch from these verses and what we see in other places in the Bible? There are only five passages in the Bible that refer to Enoch: two of these are genealogies where just his name is mentioned and nothing else (1 Chronicles 1:3 and Luke 3:37). There are four verses in the Old Testament and three verses in the New Testament. There are 51 words used in the Old Testament and 94 words in the New Testament (James Montgomery Boice). We are going to read these passages together. What do they tell us about Enoch and what are the lessons/application for today?

Genesis 5:21–24 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. **22** And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. **24** Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Jude 14–15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

What About Enoch?

HE WALKED FAITHFULLY WITH GOD Genesis 5:22, 24

This is repeated twice in these verses in Genesis.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum, "The Hebrew word is the same word used of God walking around the Garden of Eden; this term emphasizes fellowship and communion, the service of a loyal servant.

He was seventh from Adam so he would have lived about the same time as Lamech from the line of Cain. When we looked at Lamech last week we saw that he had come up with a poem or song to brag about how he had killed a man who had injured him. He had learned nothing from God's judgment on Cain for Cain killing his brother, Abel

Enoch was walking with God in an age when most people did not. By the time you get to Noah there were only Noah and his wife, and his 3 sons and their wives were the only ones who heeded God's warning and entered the ark. I am reminded of the similarity between Enoch and Noah in how they are described.

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

During Enoch's time there was a big contrast between the godly and the ungodly. That is the way it is supposed to be. It isn't that believers are better than other people. What is our goal? It should be to be more like Jesus because that's what God wants to do in our lives. I'm reminded of what was said about Peter and John after they had preached to the Sanhedrin.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Can people tell that we have been with Jesus? What does walking with God involve?

*There is an ongoing and growing relationship with God. Do we have a desire to pray, read the Bible, and be under Biblical teaching?

*There is a willingness to obey what God's Word says, even if it is difficult and unpopular.

*There is a growing understanding of the holiness of God and my natural bend towards sin. Look at what the Apostle Paul had to say about himself late in his life.

1 Timothy 1:15–17 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. **16** But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. **17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

This is more than just checking the boxes. It is having a heart after God. You and I cannot do this on our power. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to provide the power and strength to walk with God. Enoch didn't just walk with God for a few months or a few years. He walked with God for 300 years! What a godly legacy!! Look at what Genesis 5:24 says:

Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. .

“he was no more:” only one word in Hebrew and the meaning is that he “disappeared.” It means he was “raptured” or “translated” alive. Elijah is the only other person who didn't die.

2 Kings 2:11 As they (Elijah and Elisha) were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

Can you imagine what it was like to have Enoch just disappear? Do you ever wonder what the reaction of the people would have been? Enoch did not have to experience death.

HE PROCLAIMED GOD'S WORD

Jude 14-15

Jude 14–15 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones **15** to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Like Noah, Enoch warned people of God's coming judgment. I'm sure this was not a popular message. This past week I have been reading through the book of Jeremiah in the Old Testament. God not only commissioned Jeremiah to preach to his fellow Israelites that God was going to destroy Jerusalem if they didn't repent of their evil ways, but God also told him the people weren't going to listen. How would you like to have been given that mission? Jeremiah suffered for obeying the Lord and preaching God's coming judgment. At one point he was thrown into a muddy cistern and he faced the threat of death.

This morning, we saw a video reminding us of the great persecution people are facing in the world today for their faith. More people are dying for their faith than ever before in the history of the world. The message of the gospel is a message of warning and promise. Not everyone is going to be happy to be told the message.

Matthew 7:13–14 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14** But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Don't be shocked if people don't like the message. This is not an endorsement of being obnoxious as believers. Jesus is not just one of a number of ways to have our sins forgiven. He is the only way!

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 3:16–18 (NKJV) — **16** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. **18** “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

He walked faithfully with God, He proclaimed God's Word, and:

HE PLEASED GOD

Hebrews 11:5

Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

When we walk with God and proclaim His Word, He is pleased. What better thing could be said about anyone than they pleased God? One of my prayers for people, as they serve God, in various capacities, whether in the spotlight or behind the scenes, is that they would sense the smile of God.

Again, I draw to your attention the comparison of Noah with Enoch.

Genesis 6:6–8 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. **7** So the LORD said, “I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.” **8** But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

We serve an audience of One. It is good for me to remember this. Both Noah and Enoch are mentioned in Hebrews 11, the chapter of faith. When you and I live to please God, it changes everything. Others can respond in a variety of ways, and we can still have joy. I am very thankful for the many ways people serve in this fellowship, many behind the scenes. Several serve in leadership positions and that can be challenging. Remember who you serve, first and foremost!

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Colossians 3:23–24 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, **24** since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

What pleases God?

Psalms 104:33–34 I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. **34** May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the LORD.

1 Timothy 2:1–4 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—**2** for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Romans 12:1–2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. **2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

SO WHAT???

*How is my walk with God going? Maybe you haven’t begun and you first need to come to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

*What Scripture do I need to memorize so I can readily share it?

*Study what pleases God and seek God for the strength and power to do it
How did you do with last week’s challenge and the rooster? Thanking God for His mercy every time you hear a rooster crow.

Hebrews 13:20–21 May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, **21** equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.