

Digging Deeper

God’s ‘Obits Page’: Birth, Death...and Hope
Genesis 5

God told Adam eating the forbidden fruit would lead to the curse of death. Chapter 5 is ‘Exhibit A’! This 10-step genealogy leads from Adam to Noah, but it does something more. It tells what happened to the curse, and reminds us of the hope for relief from it.

Genealogy: ‘Multiply and Die’ – Life Under the Curse

- Time marches on; new generations come and go.
- Each new generation multiplies sons and daughters.
- In spite of human achievement, the curse of death reigns.

Adam, Enoch, and Noah: Three Beacons of Hope

- Adam: Passing on the image of God

Our _____: Represent God and enjoy His blessing.

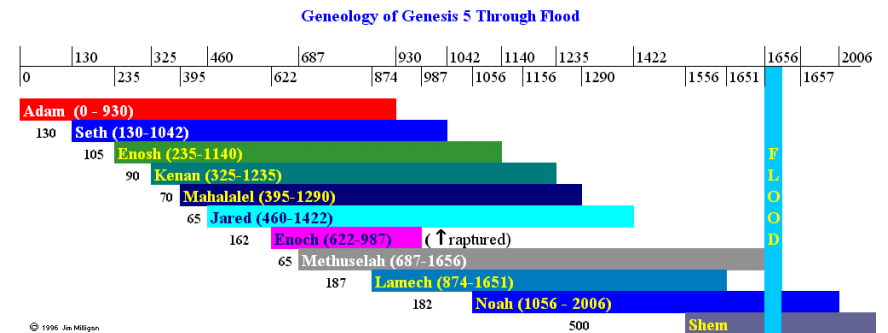
- Enoch: The example of walking with God

Our _____: Fellowship with God in this life.

- Noah: Hope for relief from the curse

Our _____: God’s comfort in a cursed world.

1. Gen. 5.1 introduces the second *tôledôt* section in Genesis – *this is the book of the generations of Adam*. We might paraphrase, ‘This is what happened in Adam’s family line.’ Of course, we know what happened to the descendants of Adam through Cain (Gen. 4), but that line is history. Gen. 5.1-2 goes back to Adam and Eve, created in the likeness of God. Why do you think God ‘started over’ here in Gen. 5? While this looks back, it does not rehearse the events of the fall; what does this chapter focus on?
2. Below is a possible genealogical timeline from Adam to Noah based on Genesis 5. Taking into account that this is the line of one of Adam’s sons, Seth, and that in addition to Cain, he and Eve had other sons and daughters (5.4), what do you think might have been the population of the world at the time of the flood?



3. Gen. 5.2-3 repeat the terms ‘likeness’ and ‘image’ from 1.26-28. What is the significance of being created in the ‘image of God,’ and what do these verses tell us about ourselves?
4. Enoch ‘walked with God’ (5.22, 24): What does this entail? Is the fact that Enoch walked with God 300 years significant? In view of the pervasive curse of death, what did God ‘rapturing’ Enoch (5.24; see Heb. 11.5) provide hope for to all mankind?
5. In Hebrew, *Noah* sounds similar to the word for *comfort/rest* (*nāḥam*). In what way did Noah bring comfort or rest from the curse to mankind that was living under it?

