

**Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**  
**Bible Study Notes**  
**6-26-19**

**Genesis 5**

**From Adam to Noah - Verses 1-7**

<sup>1</sup> This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created. <sup>3</sup> When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. <sup>4</sup> After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died. <sup>6</sup> When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. <sup>7</sup> After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters.

**5:1-32** The Bible contains several lists of ancestors, called genealogies. There are two views concerning these lists: (1) They are complete, recording the entire history of a family, tribe, or nation; or (2) they are not intended to be exhaustive and may include only famous people or the heads of families. "Became the father of" could refer not just to a son, but also to a more distant descendant.

Why are genealogies included in the Bible? The Hebrew people passed on their beliefs through oral tradition. For many years in many places, writing was primitive or nonexistent. Stories were told to children who passed them on to their children. Genealogies gave a skeletal outline that helped people remember the stories. For centuries these genealogies were added to and passed down from family to family. Even more important than preserving family tradition, genealogies were included to confirm the Bible's promise that the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, would be born into the line of Abraham.

Genealogies point out that people are important to God as individuals. Therefore, God refers to people by name, mentioning their life span and descendants. The next time you feel overwhelmed in a vast crowd, remember that the focus of God's attention and love is on the individual—and on you!

**5:3-5** All human beings are related, going back to Adam and Eve. All people form a family that shares one flesh and blood. Remember this when prejudice enters your mind or hatred invades your feelings. Each person is a valuable and unique creation of God.

## From Adam to Noah - Verses 8-32

<sup>8</sup> Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died. <sup>9</sup> When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. <sup>10</sup> After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>11</sup> Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died. <sup>12</sup> When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. <sup>13</sup> After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>14</sup> Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died. <sup>15</sup> When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. <sup>16</sup> After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>17</sup> Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died. <sup>18</sup> When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. <sup>19</sup> After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

<sup>21</sup> When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. <sup>22</sup> After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. <sup>24</sup> Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

<sup>25</sup> When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. <sup>26</sup> After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>27</sup> Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

<sup>28</sup> When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. <sup>29</sup> He named him Noah<sup>[c]</sup> and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." <sup>30</sup> After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>31</sup> Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

<sup>32</sup> After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

**5:21-24** At first glance it looks as if Enoch fared worse than the other patriarchs: He lived on earth only 365 years! Hebrews 11:5 explains what verse 24 means: Enoch was taken directly to heaven without seeing death. Enoch, then, lived longer than any of the other patriarchs, for he never died at all.

**5:25-27** How did these people live so long? Some believe that the ages listed here were lengths of family dynasties rather than ages of individual men. Those who think these were actual ages offer three explanations: (1) The human race was genetically purer in this early time period with less disease to shorten life spans; (2) no rain had yet fallen on the earth, and the vault of water "above" (1:7) kept out harmful cosmic rays and shielded people from environmental factors that hasten aging; (3) God gave people longer lives so they would have time to "fill the earth" (1:28).