

PLAN AND PURPOSE BIBLE LESSON #III-3—Genesis 5-11

The reason that I hear the most as to why people don't like to read the Bible is that they don't like genealogies. I have to admit that they can be boring at times, however, there is always something that can be gleaned from them that will usually come in handy later on in Scripture. With this said, let's read Genesis 5. There are a couple of things that we can learn from this genealogy. First is the length of time from the creation of Adam to the birth of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. If I have added right, this comes out to 1556 years.

In verses 21-24 we have a very short story of the man named Enoch. Whereas most of these men that we have read about lived 800 to 900 plus years, Enoch only lived 365 years. It is fairly commonly taught that because of Enoch's righteousness, God took him to heaven without him dying first. There are at least two reasons that I don't believe this to be the case. First off, he was mortal and being mortal, he was not perfect. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, was the only mortal that was perfect. If he went to heaven, not being perfect, he could not have stayed in the presence of God. Second, John 3:13 says, **"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."** I believe that Enoch simply died at what was then an early age, possibly in accordance with a statement made in Isaiah 57:1, **"The righteous persisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come."**

The apostle Peter tells us in II Peter 2:5 that Noah was the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness. If we count the men listed in this chapter, starting with Seth (in whose days men began to call upon the name of the LORD, i.e. became preachers of righteousness) we find nine men listed. The reason Peter calls Noah the eighth is that this title passed from Jared to Methuselah leaving out Enoch, because Enoch died before Jared, so when Jared died, the title was passed to his grandson, Methuselah. As we mentioned in our first lesson, this title probably had to do with the two mandates, or the birthright that God gave to Adam that then passed from father to son until the time of Shem.

(Read Gen. 6:1-4) The previous chapter brought us the genealogy up to Noah. Now, these verses take us back in history. In the Hebrew text, the word "men" in verse 1 is singular with an emphatic article, i.e. "the man." This would refer to Adam with the "them" meaning Adam and Eve. There is controversy as to what is meant by "the sons of God." Some feel this is just descendants of Adam while others believe it refers to angels. There are some other scriptures that might support the theory that it refers to angels. Let's look at this theory and then you can make your own determination. The phrase, "son or sons of God" is used elsewhere to refer to Adam (Luke 3:38 though the word "son" has been added by the translator); to one who is "in Christ" having the "new nature" (Rom. 8:14; I John 3:1); or to angels (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Ps. 89:6; Dan. 3:25). In each of these three cases, the "son of God" is

created directly by God, not born of, or created by man. Logically then, we need to assume that these “sons of God” in Gen. 6:2 are directly created beings by God, not born of man.

Again in verse three, the word “man” has the emphatic article in the Hebrew text which again would refer to Adam. This being the case, the 120 years would refer to the remaining life span that Adam had.

Verse 4 tells us that giants were the progeny of these marriages between the “sons of God” and the daughters of men. The word giant comes from the Hebrew word, *nephilim*, which means “fallen ones.” Keep in mind that Moses is writing this with the benefit of later history as well, so when he says in verse 4, **“and also after that,”** he is first talking about the days of Noah, and then he says that the same thing happened after those days. In Numbers 13 & 14, we find the story of the spies that were sent by Moses into the land of Canaan, who when they returned, told of the giants that were in the land. Numbers 13:33 says **“And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”** Again the word “giant” is from the Hebrew *nephilim*. So this “coming into the daughters of men by the sons of God” apparently happened a second time prior to the children of Israel coming into the land of Canaan, in fact it could have been before Abraham came to the land of Canaan the first time.

In the book of Jude, Jude is reminding his readers of judgments God has carried out in the past, such as Sodom and Gomorrha, and in verse 6 he includes, **“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”** “First estate” is from the Greek, *arche*, meaning beginning, principality. So this tells us there was for sure a group of angels who left their proper domain. The apostle Peter tells us in I Peter 3:19-20, speaking of the Holy Spirit, **“By which also he (Christ) went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water.”** Then in II Peter 2:4, speaking of the sureness of God’s judgment, he says, **“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”** This confirms what Jude says. It would be reasonably logical to put these verses together with the events of Genesis 6 and Numbers 13 to conclude that they are all talking about the same thing. There are many who believe that the reason for the flood was to destroy these nephilims and also the reason that God commanded the Israelites to destroy all of the Canaanites. That the Israelites did not do their job completely is evidenced by the fact that there were still giants of the descendents of Anak in David’s time.

(Read Gen. 6:5-7) If the assumption of many that the wickedness of these *nephilims* is the reason for the flood, this would explain these verses.

(Read Gen. 6:8-13) The word “perfect” is from the Hebrew *tamim* meaning “plain, whole, complete.” So, **“perfect in his generations,”** means without blemish as to breed or

pedigree. This would mean that probably Noah and his family were the only ones whose pedigree had not been contaminated by these *nephilims* because Noah had walked with God.

We're again told that Noah and his wife had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. They are listed in the reverse order of their birth as Japheth was the oldest and Shem the youngest. All of the non-Negroid and non-Mongoloid races of the world claim to be descendants from one of these three sons.

God tells Noah that He is going to destroy all flesh from the earth, with the exception of Noah and his family and gives him instruction on building an ark. (Read Gen. 6:14-22) "**Pitch it within and without with pitch**" means to cover it with asphalt. This was a pretty accessible product that could be found in surface pools at that time. There are different measurements for a cubit, but the smallest that I know of is 18 inches per cubit. Based on this, the ark would have been 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. To put this in perspective, today's Nimitz class aircraft carriers are about 1100 feet long and 250 feet wide.

Noah is instructed to take the animals on board in pairs, but in the next chapter, we're told that the clean animals were to be taken on board by sevens. We're told that Noah did as God instructed.

(Read Genesis chapters 7 & 8) The text of these chapters is pretty self explanatory. There is controversy over whether the flood was universal, or whether it was primarily limited to the Mesopotamian basin. Strong arguments can be made on both sides of the controversy, but since neither side can really prove their arguments, I feel we have to make our own decision and continue studying. I don't believe it is a point that changes the intent of the overall Bible story.

Noah was 600 years old when he entered the ark so this would have been 1656 years after the creation of Adam. We're told Noah and family were in the ark a year and 10 days. When they left the ark, Noah built an altar and offered a burnt offering of every clean animal and fowl. When God smelled the sweet savour, He said in His heart that He would never again curse the ground any more for man's sake, nor would He smite anymore every living thing as He had just done by the flood.

(Read Gen. 9:1-7) God gives Noah the same dominion mandate that He gave to Adam and the same charge to multiply and fill the earth. One major difference appears in that God adds the animals to be food, whereas only vegetation was given to Adam for food. Eating blood, however, was forbidden as the life is in the blood. Verse 4 is the foundation of the doctrine of "substitution" and "atonement,"—"life for a life." We're told in Romans 6:23, "**For the wages of sin is death.**" In Hebrews 9:22 we find, "**without the shedding of blood is no remission,**" i.e. without the giving up of life, there is no remission, or sending away of sin. We will discuss this more when we discuss the law, but this is a very important doctrine that we need to learn.

As we have said before, we don't know for sure where the Garden of Eden was nor

where Noah lived prior to the flood but it is assumed by most that it was in the Mesopotamian area, i.e. the area where Iraq, Turkey, and Iran are today. Following the flood this is where they came to when they left the ark. We often hear this area referred to as the “cradle of civilization.” All of the races, or nationalities of the Caucasoid race came from this area. Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. All of the Caucasoid race claim lineage from one of these three sons. For example, the Mongolian (not Mongoloid) race that makes up the majority of the Russian population claim to be descendants of Japheth, the Egyptian from Ham; the Arab and the Anglo from Shem, just to name a few.

(Read Gen. 9:8-17) This covenant, that God would never again cut off all flesh by the waters of a flood, is an unconditional covenant in that only God is responsible to it. The rainbow is a token, or a sign that God has made this covenant.

(Read Gen. 9:18-29) I believe that the removal of the water that was above the earth, by way of **“the windows of heaven were opened,”** (Gen. 7:11) to help bring about the flood, made an atmospheric change that made fermentation possible. If this is right, it would explain why Noah became drunk after drinking the wine he made from the grapes he had grown. At least it would appear that Noah had not expected this to happen.

To understand verse 22, we need to look at Leviticus 20:11 which says, **“And the man that lieth with his father’s wife hath uncovered his father’s nakedness.”** Based on this, we’re told in verse 18 that Ham was the father of Canaan, thus it would appear that Ham’s mother was the mother of Canaan. For this reason, Noah cursed Canaan to be a servant of both Shem and Japheth. Keep in mind that a curse such as this did not just apply to the individual, but to his descendants as well.

Noah lived to be 950 years old before he died. From this point on, we see a considerable reduction in the lifespan of man begin to take place. I would speculate that the atmospheric change that obviously took place following the flood could have at least been a contributing factor.

As we have mentioned, most people hate to read genealogies, so they pass over them in Scripture. However, I want us to read Genesis 10, even though it is genealogies. There are some important names and points in these genealogies, that we will need, to later understand other scriptures. For example, we’re told in verses 2-3 that the sons of Japheth are Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. The sons of Gomer are Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah. In the book of Ezekiel, there is a prophecy concerning the enemies of Israel that will come against her in the last days. See how many of these same names you see. It is important that we understand these aren’t just names, but names of men who are the foundation of various nations of the world today.

Note that Ashkenaz is a son of Gomer. Today, over 85% of the people who call themselves Jews consider themselves to be Ashkenazim Jews, i.e. they claim to be descendants of Ashkenaz, or from Japheth, not Shem from whom Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, thus Judah

descended. Understanding some of these genealogies, and who they apply to, will help us understand our world situation today much better.

Nimrod, son of Cush, son of Ham, was basically the founder of Babylon as well as a number of the beliefs associated with the Babylonian system that we have with us today. We will study more about him in our next chapter.

God has a plan for the whole world, but we will see His intent is to implement that plan primarily through one family. So as we continue in our study, we will see Him begin to narrow the focus of the Scripture toward this one family. The first narrowing of that focus will be to the family of Shem, the youngest son of Noah. It further narrows to the family of a grandson of Shem, Eber, from whom the name "Hebrew" probably comes from, then to the family of one of his sons, Peleg. We're told in verse 25 that in the days of Peleg the earth was divided. If you recall, we discussed earlier that it could have been in the beginning that all of the dry land of the earth was one land mass. It is the thought by some that the dividing of the earth mentioned in verse 25 could refer to the dividing and separating of the continents as we know them today.

I should mention that some think that Jobab, one of the sons of Joktan mentioned in verse 29 could be the man Job of the book of Job. The book of Job is considered to be the oldest book of the Bible.

(Read Gen. 11:1-9) As we mentioned above, the city and tower of Babel was the beginning of the city of Babylon and of the Babylonian system. Nimrod was a rebel from God. He was the leader of those who began to build the city of Babylon. It appears that his object was to prove himself greater than God.

Dr. Bullinger, in his Companion Bible suggests that the words "may reach" that have been added by a translator in verse 4 should not have been added, but rather should read, "and its top with the heavens," i.e. with the Zodiac depicted on it, as in ancient temples of Denderah and Esneh in Egypt."

The object, we're told, was to establish for themselves a name. It is kind of like we see today in big business where we have companies that are "too big to fail." If they could make for themselves a name prominent enough, they would be too big to fail, in their minds. To do this, they felt they would have to make themselves a name that showed their independence from God, i.e. they would have to be greater than God. If you read about Nimrod, this was his attitude. It has been the attitude of the Babylonian system from its very beginning here until today. I believe that they had advanced scientifically enough that what God said in verse 6, **"now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do"** I would not be surprised that they were as far advanced scientifically as we are today. However, God stopped their progress then by confounding their language so that they had to separate from each other due to the language barrier, thus their efforts were greatly weakened.

(Read Gen. 11:10-32) Again this is mostly genealogy, but is important in at least a

couple of ways. First, it helps us determine timing and dating. Second, we see again the narrowing of God's focus as He proceeds to focus on the one man and his family that He will use to implement His plan for all mankind. We meet this one man in verse 27, Abram.

As we begin Genesis, chapter 12, God has narrowed His focus to just one man and his family. The rest of the Bible is to, for, and about this man, Abram, and his family. However, we need to understand that this is not because of anything special about this man, or anything special that he did, though he was a very righteous man, nor is it because he or any of his descendents are superior to others, but because it is God's plan to use this man and his family through the ages to accomplish His purpose for mankind on the earth. His plan is to return man to the status of Adam before Adam sinned, but in the process God is including all the millions of people who have been and will be born before the Great White Throne of Judgment we find in Rev. 20. God is choosing Abram and his family for His use in implementing this plan. As we continue our study, we need to always keep this purpose in mind as we learn how God works His plan. We will see several instances where we will think that God's whole plan has been a complete failure. But, keep in mind that we are seeing the mind of God at work, and that it differs from the mind of man. It is difficult for man to grasp the whole picture with our finite minds, but if we can do so, the wonders of how God brings His whole plan to fruition is truly something awesome to behold. We will see the sovereignty of God on full display as we study, if we try to keep the big picture in our minds always.

I suggest that you study the next few chapters in preparation for our next lesson. JRL