

## **GENERATIONS COME AND GENERATIONS GO!** **GENESIS CH5:1-32**

### **RE-CAP!**

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament ascribes Moses as the writer of the first five Books of the Bible (the Pentateuch – Exodus Ch17:14; Deuteronomy Ch31:24; Joshua Ch8:31; 2 Kings Ch14:6; John Ch1:17, Ch5:46, Ch7:19, 23; Romans Ch10:5; 2 Corinthians Ch3:15). The account opens with a clear statement about the Creator and Creation. The opening ten words in Genesis Ch1:1 are the **foundation** of all that is to follow in the Bible. The purpose of the statement is threefold:

1. to identify the creator
2. to explain the origin of the world
3. to tie the work of God in the past (creation) to the work of God in the future (salvation)

### **ILLUSTRATION**

“In the Middle Ages (450 A.D. - 1450 A.D.) it was not unusual for scholars and other men of prominence to keep a skull on their desk to remind them that they, like the unfortunate victim, must die. The Latin name for such a skull was **“memento mori”** that is, **“a reminder of death”** a reminder of the shortness of life and the certainty that, however long or short it might be, everyone must eventually succumb to death to face God” (Cited in James Montgomery Boice, Genesis Volume 1 pg298)!



### **IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD CONTINUE! V1-2**

The phrase **“These are the generations”** is used **11 times in Genesis to mark 11 major divisions**, which enable us to break down the 50 chapters into manageable sections – namely, Ch2:4, Ch5:1, Ch6:9, Ch10:1, Ch11:10, Ch11:27, Ch25:17, Ch25:19, Ch36:1, Ch36:9 and Ch37:2!

The “Fall” had not obliterated the image of God in the line of Adam and Seth, God instructs Moses, to write, providing hope, that despite sin, despite the Fall, despite banishment from the Lord's Garden and presence, despite the first murder, despite the awful lineage of Cain, to the 7<sup>th</sup> generation of wicked Lamech, **the image of God in humans remained!**

How? **Firstly**, as image bearers of God, the Semite line were able to hear the Word of God as they called on the name of the Lord Ch4:26 and gathered together to worship Yahweh, the personal relational God! **Secondly**, as image bearers of God they were to rule and have dominion over all that God had created (Gen Ch1:28). **Thirdly**, they were to

go forth and multiply, which they did to extraordinary degrees (Gen Ch1:28)!

### **IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD DIE! V3-20 + V25-32**

Moses writes here in a particular way, drawing his hearers and readers of God's Word to "patterns". Here are some of the "**PATTERNS**" in Ch5:

1. ***When so and so had lived - v3, v6, v9, v12, v15, v18, v21, v25, v28***
2. ***He fathered so and so - v6, v9, v12, v15, v18, v21, v25, v28***
3. ***So and so lived after he fathered ..... - v7, v10, v13, v16, v19, v26, v28***
4. ***So and so died - v5, v8, v11, v14, v17, v20, v27, v31***

Warnings of death come closer and closer to us, as our teeth decay, hair changes colour, or recedes, eyes struggle to see, aches and pains start to become more noticeable. Then there are the more serious signs, sickness, debilitating illness and fatal diseases! And yet we remain uncomfortable at even seeing and being reminded of death. In the normal course of our lives, we hardly give death a thought, we may glance at an obituary, we hear about someone we know dying, a celebrity's life comes to an end perhaps abruptly, we pass a funeral home or a hearse passes us by. At best these instances cause a momentary thought or two, as we may pause for a while, but we often rush to "something" far more pressing. Hebrews Ch9:27 is not lying when it says "Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgement."

As Moses is recording this passage from God, one point is to be made - "**ALL MUST DIE**". This point must not, should not, and can not, be passed over, for it is precisely here that we must see and therefore feel the right degree of force of God's judgement! **Death is God's judgement because of human sin! 8 of the 10 generations mentioned, die! Adam v5, Seth v8, Enosh v11, Kenan v14, Mahalalel v17, Jared v20, Methuselah v27, and Lamech v31!**

### **IMAGE BEARERS OF GOD WHO AVOID DEATH! V21-24**

Enoch walked with God, what does that mean? Hebrews Ch11:5, says, "**By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.**" Enoch pleased God! How? Jude 14-15 says "It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgement on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.'"

***Enoch was a preacher, and he preached 2 things:***

1. The Lord's coming and His impending judgement!
2. The public condemnation of the ungodly (denunciation)!

But this preaching took place in the context of God's promise from Genesis Ch3:15 "..... he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his feet." Enoch lived out this Word from the Lord and preached this Word to his generation, in faith!

### **APPLICATION**

According to Richard and Tricia Johnson "The passing of generations enables God's purposes in history to unfold, but it also allows wickedness to spread further on the earth. In our generation are we helping to establish God's Kingdom – or destroy it (Cited in Richard and Tricia Johnson, Genesis pg44)?"