

The Decay of Sin (Part 1)

Genesis 5-6

A. Part 1. Through Death Genesis 5

1. Genesis 4:16-24 records the descendants of Adam's ungodly son, named _____.
2. Genesis 4:25-26 records the birth of the son named _____, who, according to Adam's wife, was God's gift to replace the first couple's murdered son, _____.
3. Genesis 5 records the descendants of Adam and Eve through this replacement son, Seth. There is a pattern recorded in this genealogy:
 - a. The age of the man when he became the father of a son;
 - b. The length of time he lived after his son was born;
 - c. A reference to other sons and daughters (obviously, the genealogy recorded in Genesis 5 is very selective);
 - d. The total length of his life;
 - e. His death.
4. What stands out to you about the life-spans of the people recorded in Genesis 5? ¹
5. Genesis 5:1 begins, "This is the book of the generations of Adam." The word "generations" is the Hebrew noun *toledot* ([8435](#)). Genesis 5:1 begins the record of "what became of Adam." Gen. 5:1-2 reviews God's creation of man.
 - a. In whose likeness did God create man?
 - b. In regard to gender, how did God create man?
 - c. What positive stance did God take toward man?
 - d. What generic name did God assign to the crown of His creation?

¹ Question 4. Genesis 5. What stands out about the life-spans? These people lived an incredibly long time. For a graphic depiction, refer to "[The Declining Life of the Patriarchs Before and After the Great Flood.](#)"

6. Adam. Genesis 5:3-5
 - a. How long did Adam live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Adam is identified?
 - c. What was Adam's total life-span?
 - d. What happened at the end?

7. Seth. Genesis 5:6-8
 - a. How long did Seth live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Seth is identified?
 - c. What was Seth's total life-span?
 - d. What happened at the end?

8. Enosh. Genesis 5:9-11
 - a. How long did Enosh live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Enosh is identified?
 - c. What was the total life-span of Enosh?
 - d. What happened at the end?

9. Kenan. Genesis 5:12-14
 - a. How long did Kenan live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Kenan is identified?
 - c. What was the total life-span of Kenan?
 - d. What happened at the end?

10. Mahalalel. Genesis 5:15-17
 - a. How long did Mahalalel live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Mahalalel is identified?

- c. What was the total life-span of Mahalalel?
 - d. What happened at the end?
11. Jared. Genesis 5:18-20
- a. How long did Jared live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Jared is identified?
 - c. What was the total life-span of Jared?
 - d. What happened at the end?
12. Enoch. Genesis 5:21-24
- a. How long did Enoch live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Enoch is identified?
 - c. What was characteristic of Enoch's life after the birth of his son?
 - d. What was the total life-span of Enoch?
 - e. What happened at the end?
13. Methuselah. Genesis 5:25-27
- a. How long did Methuselah live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Methuselah is identified?
 - c. What was the total life-span of Methuselah?
 - d. What happened at the end?
14. Lamech. Genesis 5:28-31
- a. How long did Lamech live before he fathered the son in this paragraph?
 - b. What descendant of Lamech is identified?
 - c. Why did Lamech call his son "Noah"?
 - d. What was the total life-span of Lamech?

- e. What happened at the end?
15. Noah. Genesis 5:32
- a. How long did Noah live before he became the father of three sons?
 - b. What are the names of his three sons?
 - c. Obviously, Noah is an exceedingly important person in the ancient historical narrative of Genesis. So the formula regarding Noah is dramatically altered in comparison to that of the preceding men. Moses will have a great deal more to say about Noah in the next few chapters.
16. Some over-all questions:
- a. Who had the shortest life span in this chapter?
 - 1) And why?
 - 2) What does this man's life say about the importance of walking with God?
 - b. Who had the longest life span in this chapter?
 - c. How do you account for the long life of the earliest humans? ²

² Question 16c: How do you account for the long life of the earliest humans? Bible scholars who do not trust the veracity of the Scriptures try to explain these ages away by calling this chapter “myth”; or “poetry”; or stating that the figures are deliberately inflated; or stating that there are huge gaps in the genealogy. Almost universally, the real reason they come up with these explanations, is that they are convinced by secular scientists who are biased by the theory of evolution that the age of the earth is [4.54 billions of years](#), and that the first humans diverged from chimpanzees about [4.1 million years ago](#). The creation account in Genesis 1:1-2:4; the genealogy given in Genesis 5:1-32, along with the genealogy given in Genesis 11:10-32, together make those figures impossible. This is so because the genealogy of Adam, whom God created in His own likeness (Gen. 5:1-2; cf. Gen. 1:26-28), is explicitly and precisely dated in connection with God's creation of the Earth (Gen. 1:1-2:25). So none of the explanations of Bible scholars who do not trust the veracity of Scripture can be defended Biblically.

[WordExplain](#) takes the position that it is impossible to have creation without created objects appearing to be older than they actually are. For example, when God created Adam and Eve, they appeared to be about 25 years of age, in the prime of life, without any signs of aging. Yet on the 7th day of creation, they were actually only 1 day old. Their apparent age and their real age differed. Likewise, when God created the sun, moon and stars on the 5th day, their light rays would already have been reaching the earth. They would appear to look older than they really were. See “[The Case for a Young Earth](#).”

[WordExplain](#) also takes the position that radiometric dating is unreliable, and presupposes facts that cannot be proven. It is an undeniable fact that rocks found in datable lava flows register ages far older than their real age. See the off-site article, “[Radioisotope Dating of Rocks in the Grand Canyon](#).”

[WordExplain](#) takes the position the long lives of these early men are accurate, and that there is a logical, Biblically-based explanation for why their lives were so long. Evidently conditions on Pre-Flood Earth contributed favorably to exceedingly lengthy lives. More about that subject in our study of Genesis 7 and a [comparison with the Post-Flood ages](#) given in Genesis 11:10-32.

- d. A theme of this chapter is the inevitability of death, unless God steps in and alters the matter.
- 1) What did God tell Adam would happen if he were to disobey and eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? (Gen. 2:15-17)
 - 2) What does the New Testament (NT) say about the universality of sin? (Rom. 3:23)
 - 3) How does the NT link Adam's sin in Genesis 3:1-24 with universal death? (Rom. 5:12-14)
 - 4) What does the New Testament say about what we humans earn by sinning? (Rom. 6:23a)
 - 5) Who and what is the only antidote for sin and death? (Rom. 6:23b)

The Decay of Sin, Part 1 – Genesis 5 (Study 7A)

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