



Genesis Chapter 5:1 – 6:8 Men Began to Multiple on the Face of the Land (Lesson #11)

Vs 5:1-2 *This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.*

Vs 1 - Here the writer is telling us that this is the book of the **תולדה** (towl'dah), (the history, the genealogies) of Adam. This covered to the birth of Enos, which clearly Adam was alive for and could have written about.

The first **תולדה** (towl'dah) covered only the **creation week**:

“These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.” (Ge 2:4 ESV)

This **תולדה** (towl'dah) covers from Adam to Enos and marks the break of a new section, **when a new Patriarch will pick up the torch** to record history that Moses will use to compile Genesis.

If a subscript, **this was the history as recorded and passed down by Adam** (thus likely written by Adam) when **God created man**, in the **likeness of God**.

We know this, but just **tuck it away** for it comes back around, in a different way!

Vs 2 - God made them male and female and God blessed them.

He named them: “man.” Here we see the generic use of **אדם** ('adam). As I told you this word can be used for the **individual Adam**, it can be used for **human males**, it can be used for **mankind**.

Here it is being used for mankind and Moses is about to provide us a running record from Adam to Moses.

Vs 3-5 - *When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.*

We see this again, God created Adam, in his own image. Adam lived 130 years and fathered Seth.

Adam had at least two children before the recording of the Patriarch of the generation, so for sure Cain and Able were born before Seth, and it is possible that girls were born too.

Notice Seth was a son, in his own likeness, after his image. Named **Seth** = “**compensation**”

The days after the fathering of the patriarch Seth were 800 years, during which time **other sons and daughters** were born.

Vs 5 – Thus in total **Adam lived 930 years**.

Vs 6-8 - *When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh. 7 Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.*

The **second Patriarch**, Seth lives 105 years and he fathers Enosh.

Enosh = “**frail**” or “**mortal**”

Seth lived beyond when he fathered Enosh 807 years, during this time he fathered other **sons and daughters**.

In total Seth lived a total of **912 years**.

Vs 9-11 - When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan. 10 Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters. 11 Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

The **third patriarch** Enosh lived 90 years and he fathered the next patriarch Kenan.

Kenan = “possession”

Enosh lived another 815 years after fathering Kenan and had other sons and daughters. All the days of Enosh were 905 years and he died.

Vs 12-14 - When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel. 13 Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

Kenan, the **fourth patriarch** lived for seventy years where he fathered the **fifth** patriarch Mahalalel.

Mahalalel = “praise of God”

Kenan lived an additional 840 years and had other sons and daughters. In total Kenan lived **910 years**.

Vs 15-17 - When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared. 16 Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

Mahalalel, the **fifth patriarch** lived for 65 years when he fathered the **sixth** patriarch Jared.

Jared = “descent”

Mahalalel lived an additional 830 years and had other sons and daughters. In total Mahalalel lived **895 years** and he died.

Vs 18-20 - When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered Enoch. 19 Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

Jared, the **sixth patriarch** lived for 162 years where he fathered the **seventh** patriarch Enoch.

Enoch = “dedicated”

Jared lived an additional **800 years** and had other sons and daughters. In total Jared lived **962 years**.

THOUGHT: Now apart from the **very long lives**, something else should be **growing apparent**. What is becoming obvious is the curse, **death**.

“16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."” (Ge 2:16-17 ESV)

“17 ¶ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."” (Ge 3:17-19 ESV)

Each Patriarch, returns to the dust from which they were taken!

REMINDER!

*"3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and **death shall be no more**, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." (Re 21:3-4 ESV)*

Vs 21-24 - When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. 22 Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. 24 Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

In Genesis 4, we learned about the seventh from Adam on Cain's side, a very wicked guy named Lamech (same name that will be given to the man who ends up being Noah's father).

Here in Genesis 5, we learn about the seventh from Adam on Seth's side, a man who was righteous, a man named Enoch (same name as a guy on Cains side).

Enoch (the **seventh** patriarch) lived for 65 years where he fathered the **eight** patriarch Methuselah.

Methuselah (JFB) = He dies and it is sent." Henry Morris says that it means **"when he dies, judgment."**

Enoch lived an additional 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

But we are given a really interesting piece of information about Enoch. We are told that he walked with God and God took him! Specifically, that he walked with **Elohim** after he fathered Methuselah for the additional 300 years. This too **captures out attention** for it is so much shorter than the other patriarchs.

In total Enoch lived **365** years.

The idea of **"walking with God"** is used in other places to convey **intimacy**, or a **closeness with God** (Gen 6:9, 17:1, etc.).

APPLICATION: You and I should be focused on a life that can be summarized under the heading: **"He or she walked with God!"** We could describe this as a life of close fellowship and communion with God.

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." (Ga 5:25 ESV)

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (Ga 5:16 ESV)

So, it seems on the face. That God simply **raptured Enoch away**, because he was walking so closely with God. This **reminds us of Elijah**, another man who was supernaturally carried away and did not see death (II Ki 2:11).

This is distinctive for unlike every other genealogy that we have read, it does not mention death! It of course reminds us that death has no power over us and that if we are alive we Jesus returns we will not taste physical death.

Vs 25-27 - When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. 26 Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

Methuselah (the **eighth** patriarch) lived for **187 years** when he fathered the **ninth** patriarch Lamech.

Lamech = "Conqueror"

Methuselah lived an additional **782** years and had other sons and daughters. In total Methuselah lived **969** years.

Think: This guy given the name “**when he dies it comes**” and he lives longer than any other person recorded in the Bible. What does this tell you about our God? What does that tell you about the times and God’s patience?

Now this captures our attention for it is the longest of all the patriarchs. But he too, died. **He died in 1656 years after the creation.**

Vs 28-31 - When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son 29 and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." 30 Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

Lamech (the **ninth** patriarch) lived for 182 years when he fathered a son, and called his name Noah.

Noah = “rest”

Here we have been given additional commentary: *"Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands."*

How did Lamech know? Was Lamech also a prophet was he one of the few righteous on the planet. We cannot be sure.

Lamech lived 595 years after fathering Noah and he too had other sons and daughters. In total Lamech lived **777 years.**

Two things should capture our attention. Not counting Enoch (for God took him), **Lamech lived a much shorter life** than all the other patriarchs.

If we look at our timeline, we will find that Lamech died around **1,651 years** after creation and thus **5 years before the flood.**

Look at what God has done. He has **wrapped up** all the **Sethite patriarchs** and their lives with the **exception of Noah**. He is the patriarch (along with his sons) who will go through the flood.

Vs 32 - After Noah was 500 years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Chapter 5 ends here with Noah being 500 years old when he fathers Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Shem = “name” Just in passing, it is the line of Shem that will trace to the promised Messiah!

Ham = “hot”

Japheth= “opened” or “enlarge”

Man is **multiplying on the face of the Earth**. Two lines are forming. **What will happen next?**

6:1-8 - When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. 5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved

him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Interpretation #1 – As these two distinct people groups (line of Seth and the line of Cain) expand on the Earth, the one thing they had in common, much like Israel and Judah of the Old Testament was rebellion against God. But there were two lines, the line of Cain (totally disconnected from God) and the line of Seth (at least some following God) (Enoch and Noah) are two clear examples.

But then, the sons of God (line of Seth) many of them took a liking to the women who were from the (line of Cain) and thus married all whom they chose who were following other gods. Like Israel, when she did this with surrounding people groups, the ungodly are never influenced for good, but instead the godly, are influenced for evil. Even if you land on this view, you must recognize that demonic activity would be part of the equation.

Interpretation #2 - As these two distinct people groups (line of Seth and the line of Cain) expand on the Earth, the one thing they had in common, much like Israel and Judah of the Old Testament was rebellion against God.

But then, the sons of God (fallen angels) took a liking to human women and thus through some form of demon possession of the males, they married all whom they chose. Henry Morris: “The children were of truly human fathers and mothers, but all were possessed and controlled by evil spirits. That is, these fallen angelic ‘sons of God’ accomplished their purposes by something equivalent to demon possession, indwelling the bodies of human men, and then also taking (or possessing) the bodies of the women as well. The men whose bodies they possessed were evidently thereby made so attractive to the careless and rebellious women they chose.”

Interpretation #3 - Lastly, the “sons of God” are fallen angels or demons who take on a male form and actually have sex with daughters of Adam. In this view these fallen angels aggressively snatch and grab any human women they desire. The children born to this union are “Nephilim” they are giants. But more than giants, they are hybrids, half men and half angel. They are eternally damned half-sons of Adam.

To understand this position, male angels “shed” the body they were living in to execute this sin with daughters of Adam. This resulted in the creation of a hybrid race (part man and part fallen angles). This polluted the human gene pool and God had to step in and wipe out Noah’s world to prevent the gene pool from being so contaminated that the Messiah could not enter the world.

These are the three big views. In my opinion view one or two make biblical sense although each has its own challenges. Interpretation #3 creates far too many Biblical conundrums (how was Satan able to do this again when Israel came into the land, if it worked so effectively the first time why did he not do it again, what about each kind reproducing “after their own kind”, children being born to women who are damned, etc.) Also, it seems unlikely that Jesus would not have mentioned this when he spoke about the days of Noah, if this were the actual events.

37 For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, 39 and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man (Mat 24:37-39, ESV).

We must admit there appears to be at least the involvement of demonic activity.
I Pet 3:19, Jude 6, and II Pet 2:4-6

Let’s walk through the verses:

Vs 1 - This is straight forward enough, if you use the population calculator you will recognize how human population began to rapidly explode on the planet.

The word translated “man” is the word אָדָם (**‘adam**) and it appears that it is being used here to refer to mankind (one of the three ways this Hebrew word can be used).

The word translated daughters is **בת (bath)**, it means daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, or female. Why does it say females were born to them? I believe we are correct to assume that males and females were being born, but it says females. **Why?**

One thing this does for sure, is pulls our attention to females (daughters) that are being born.

Vs 2 - The “sons of God” looked upon the daughters of man and saw that they are attractive. The Hebrew word translated man is once again **אדם ('adam)** and it would seem to be saying that a group, here called the “sons of God” saw that the daughters of **אדם ('adam)**, the daughters of mankind were attractive. Thus, they took as their wives any they chose.

At first blush this language seems a little sinister, a little aggressive, for these “sons of God” took as wives “any they chose.”

The word took is the Hebrew word **לקח (laqach)** and it means to take, to fetch, to lay hold of, to receive to take as a wife, to marry.

Here are some places where this word is used that might be helpful to our discussion (Gen 2:5, Gen 3:6, Gen 4:19, Gen 11:29, Gen 12:5, Gen 12:19, Gen 19:14, Gen 21:20-21):

*“And Lamech **took** two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.” (Ge 4:19 ESV)*

*“And Abram and Nahor **took** wives. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah.” (Ge 11:29 ESV)*

The Hebrew word translated chose is **בחר (bachar)** and it means to chose to decide, or to select. It really seems to mean to choose one thing over another or one or more people over others. There is nothing sinister in the use of this word either, examples of the use of this word include Gen 13:11, Ex 17:9, Nu 17:5, I Sam 24:2, 2 Sam 6:1:

*“So Lot **chose** for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.” (Ge 13:11 ESV)*

*“So Moses said to Joshua, “**Choose** for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.”” (Ex 17:9 ESV)*

*““Go and say to David, ‘Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you. **Choose** one of them, that I may do it to you.’”” (2Sa 24:12 ESV)*

The word can be used to take something, but when used of a woman it is **generally referring** to taking her as a wife.

Vs 3 – Scholars disagree over what this means, in context it seems that God is setting a limit on man of 120 years. In the midst of whatever is going on, we see that it is grieving God’s soul and God sets a limit.

The word translated “**abide**” is the Hebrew word: **דין (diyn)** and it means to **judge, contend, plead with, or strive**. It seems to be conveying the idea that God says: “**my spirit shall not always strive**” with man.

In context and based on other information we will run into in a moment, the best way to interpret this is that God is going to end these very long lives that he is allowing men to live by bringing about circumstances that will cause them to live no more than 120 years. If this is the correct understanding it will take time.

Vs 4 - Here we are introduced to someone or something called the “**Nephilim.**” This is simply a transliteration of the Hebrew word נִפְלִים (**niphil**). The word itself means **giants**. The word is used in one other verse in the Hebrew Bible. Let’s take a look at that verse and see if it provides any additional clarity.

In context, Moses had sent the 12 spies to spy out the Promised Land. In summation we are told that 10 of the 12 brought a bad report back to the people of Israel, it is in the context that we read:

*“32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. 33 And there we saw the **Nephilim** (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”” (Nu 13:32-33 ESV)*

So, the Nephilim were ancestors of the “**sons of Anak.**” That is helpful, Anak is used a total of nine times in the Hebrew bible. Some verses for consideration include: Jos 15:13, Jos 15:14, Jud 1:20 Deut 9:2.

“And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, the descendants of Anak.” (Jos 15:14 ESV)

“a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the sons of Anak?’” (De 9:2 ESV)

A straightforward rendering would be to say **giants who were the relatives of Anak.**

So back to verse 4: *The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also afterward... I need you to read this very carefully, for this is where some people are making a leap the text is not making.*

At this point, the writer of Genesis tells the readers that while this was going on, the Nephilim (giants who were relatives to Anak) were on the earth in those days. At this point we are not told anything more than the fact that while the world was seemingly getting worse and worse, the giants were in the land in those same days, and also after that, this appears to be editorial by a later author (likely Moses).

Many have connected the Nephilim as the children of the union between the “sons of God” and the “daughters of man.” The text does not say that, in fact it does not even imply that.

Notice the Nephilim were on the earth in those days and also afterward. We know this to be true. We are told the Nephilim were on the earth in the days we are reading about here in Genesis 6, and we know they will be on the earth when Joshua leads the nation of Israel to the Promised Land. But let’s advance the storyline.

Vs 4b - So there were even giants in the land and when the sons of God came into (sexual relationship) the daughters of men and that union bore children. We are now going to be told about the children.

Vs 4c - The children grew up to become “**mighty men**”, the Hebrew word is גִּבּוֹר (**gibbowr**). The word means **mighty, strong, valiant, chief, or champions.**

This is a very common Hebrew word used almost 160 times in the Hebrew Bible. Let’s look at a few:

“Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man.” (Ge 10:8 ESV)

“And the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.” (Jos 6:2 ESV)

It means someone who is strong, someone who is valiant, someone who is powerful, a person or a man of war. So, the children of the union between the “sons of God” and the “daughters of man” were mighty **men.**

There were not only mighty men, they were also: **Vs 4c** - These were also men known as “men of renown”, the Hebrew word translated renown is **שֵׁם (shem)**. But in all cases, they were **men!**

It means men of reputation, men of fame, men of glory, or men who were infamous! This word is extremely common and its primary use is “name” and it is used over 860 times in the Hebrew Bible, let’s look at a few uses.
“Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”” (Ge 11:4 ESV)

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” (Ge 12:2 ESV)

Vs 5 - So verse 5 is continuing to advance the picture of widespread wickedness in both the line of Cain and the line of Seth. Although we have found a couple of bright lights in the line of Seth (in particular Enoch and Moses), overall, it appears that both side (like Israel and Judah to come) are sliding away from God.

In fact, that is the very point of verse 5, again we see anthropomorphic language, Yahweh saw. Although he did not need to look, Yahweh knows what will happen long before it happens. But we are told that Yahweh as he looked from His abode in Heaven saw that the “**wickedness of man**” was “**great**” in the Earth.

Yahweh saw that the evil of **אָדָם ('adam)** (mankind) was great, it was large, it was abounding, it was overflowing. Yahweh saw the evil of mankind was abounding and that *every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

This is a **horrible indictment**; it is an indictment against mankind and mankind alone.

Vs 6 – This is tragic! Again, we see anthropomorphic language, God always knew what was going to happen, but our Father wants us to understand man’s wickedness had spread so far and become so extensive that God regretted he had made **man** and placed him on the earth.

Vs 7 - Again, anthropomorphic language, God is telling us what is in His heart, even though He always knew what man was going to do! God says I will wipe out, I will destroy MANKIND from the face of the land, this will also result in the destruction of animals, creeping things, and birds.

I will do this because I regret (anthropomorphic language) that I made them (male and female, mankind)!

Here we see God’s anger and frustration are both focused on man. God is angry with man, God regrets that He made man, **God purposes in His heart to destroy, MANKIND!**

Vs 8 - The word is **unmerited favor** or **grace!** If anyone will be saved it will be by grace through faith, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord because he responded to God, by faith.

Mankind is spinning in a downward spiral, but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord!

7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith (Heb 11:7, ESV).

Noah responded to God by faith, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (2Pe 2:5 AV)

This is the place to start for the moment. If we will ever **know God**, if we will ever **be cleansed from our sins** it will be **because of grace**. We are **saved by grace**, through **faith!**