

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

September 15, 2021

Genesis 5: 21-32

You Can't Make This Stuff Up

The Pre-flood or 'Antediluvian' world was vastly different than what we know of today. God formed the earth as an environment sandwiched between a lower and an upper layer of water. The ocean below and an expanse of condensed water vapor above. Genesis 1: 6-10. No rain fell on the earth. It was locked up in a dense cloud layer that blocked the sun, moon and Heavens. Ultraviolet rays, x-rays and other harmful radiation could not reach the planet. There is convincing science and historical writing that our globe rotated on its axis at a 90 degree angle to the sun, not the 23.5 degrees we experience today, as well as revolving around the sun in 360 days. All this means the earth would not have had seasonal changes. There would have been a constant tropical weather system in a calm, stable climate. Much fossil and preserved fauna as well as dinosaurs have been located throughout the planet with tropical vegetation in their mouths and stomachs. Adam and Eve and their early offspring would have known a universal, planetary Garden of Eden. The schools do not teach this to your children and mock this doctrine but a wide spectrum of scientists know these things to be true. Consider the following; 2 Peter 3:3-7. There is other evidence stating that the earth was knocked off its axis which gave us our seasons along with an unsettled planet of earthquakes, floods and death. Isaiah 24 is understood by many to be both an account of the destruction resulting from Adam's sin as well as a prophetic passage of days yet to be. Watch a YouTube series called "Is Genesis History?" for some very convincing research. This, the result of the sin of our first ancestors. Explore God's Word on this. Genesis 2:17, Romans 1:18-22, 5:12, 8:19-22.

All the above brings us to today's text and some interesting facts. The Bible is all fact by the way, except of course where it claims metaphor or analogy. Many Christians do not accept the inerrant Word of Truth. Long, careful study mixed with full faith will yield hard proof of God's integrity in handing down His revealed Word. Our study today in Genesis makes some bold statements. Review the text and note the old ages that these Patriarchs lived till. The climate and weather systems were so very different before Noah's flood that our ancestors lived long without the onslaught of radiation and what can be called 'space weather'. The earth then was a gentle greenhouse. The genetics of so-called 'cave men' are fully human. Our bone structure changes greatly as we age. Compare a baby boy to his grandfather. Now add 500 birthdays to Grandpa's Calendar. He will develop the heavy brow and hunched figure of Cro-magnon and others. They are Us! Note the age drop-off after the flood. Abraham lived 175 years (Genesis 25:7) Isaac lived 180 years (Genesis 35:28), Jacob lived 147 years (Genesis 47:28), Joseph 110 years (Genesis 50:26), Moses lived 120 years (Deuteronomy 34:7). Compare this to Genesis 5:5. The altered earth, resulting from Adam's sin began to kill us off. Do you see what God intended for us? Eternal life and health! How about a bit more fun? Let's look into the meanings of the Patriarchal names. The following is excerpted from a Koinonia House article written by Chuck Missler;

We frequently use the familiar term gospel, or good news. Where is the first place it appears in the Bible? The answer may surprise you.

An Integrated Message

The great discovery is that the Bible is a message system: it's not simply 66 books penned by 40 authors over thousands of years, the Bible is an integrated whole which bears evidence of supernatural engineering in every detail. The Jewish rabbis have a quaint way of expressing this very idea: they say that they will not understand the Scriptures until the Messiah comes. But when He comes, He will not only interpret each of the passages for us, He will interpret the very words; He will even interpret the very letters themselves; in fact, He will even interpret the spaces between the letters! When I first heard this, I simply dismissed this as a colorful exaggeration. Until I reread Matthew 5:17–18:

- “Think not that I have come to destroy the Torah and the prophets; I have not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

(A jot and tittle are the Hebrew equivalent of our dotting an i and the crossing of a t.)

An Example

A remarkable example of this can be glimpsed in Genesis Chapter 5, where we have the genealogy of Adam through Noah. This is one of those chapters which we often tend to skim over quickly as we pass through Genesis; it's simply a genealogy from Adam to Noah. But God always rewards the diligent student. Let's examine this chapter more closely. In our Bible, we read the Hebrew names. What do these names mean in English?

A Study of Original Roots Before the Flood Judgement

Methuselah comes from muth, a root that means “death”; and from shalach, which means “to bring”, or “to send forth”. The name Methuselah means, “his death shall bring”. Methuselah's father was given a prophecy of the coming Great Flood, and was apparently told that as long as his son was alive, the judgment of the flood would be withheld; but as soon as he died, the flood would be brought or sent forth. (Can you imagine raising a kid like that? Every time the boy caught a cold, the entire neighborhood must have panicked!) And, indeed, the year that Methuselah died, the flood came. It is interesting that Methuselah's life, in effect, was a symbol of God's mercy in forestalling the coming judgment of the flood. Therefore, it is fitting that his lifetime is the oldest in the Bible, speaking of the extensiveness of God's mercy.

The Other Names

If there is such significance in Methuselah's name, let's examine the other names to see what may lie behind them. Beginning in Genesis 5:3, Adam's name means “man”. As the first man, that seems straight forward enough. Adam's son was named Seth, which means “appointed”. Eve said, “For God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.” Seth's son was called Enosh, which means “mortal, frail, or miserable”. It is from the root anash, “to be incurable”, used of a wound, grief, woe, sickness, or wickedness. It was in the days of Enosh that men began to defile the name of the Living God. Enosh's son was named Kenan, which can mean “sorrow, dirge, or elegy”. (The precise denotation is somewhat elusive; some study aids unfortunately presume that Kenan is synonymous with Cainan.) Balaam, looking down from the heights of Moab, uses a pun upon the name of the Kenites when he prophesies their destruction. We have no real idea as to why these names were chosen for their children. Often they may have referred to circumstances at birth, and so on. Kenan's son was Mahalalel, from mahalal which means blessed or praise; and El, the name for God. Thus, Mahalalel means the “Blessed God”. Often Hebrew names include El, the name of God, as Dan-i-el, “God is my

Judge", etc. Mahalalel's son was named Jared, from the verb yaradh, meaning "shall come down". Jared's son was named Enoch, which means "teaching, or commencement". He was the first of four generations of preachers. In fact, the earliest recorded prophecy was by Enoch, which amazingly enough deals with the Second Coming of Christ (although it is quoted in the Book of Jude in the New Testament): Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, "Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against." — Jude 14–15. Enoch was the father of Methuselah, who we have already mentioned. Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah. Apparently, Enoch received the prophecy of the Great Flood, and was told that as long as his son was alive, the judgment of the flood would be withheld. The year that Methuselah died, the flood came. Enoch, of course, never died: he was translated (or, if you'll excuse the expression, raptured). That's how Methuselah can be the oldest man in the Bible, yet he died before his father! Methuselah's son was named Lamech, a root still evident today in our own English word, "lament or lamentation". Lamech suggests despairing. (This name is also linked to the Lamech in Cain's line who inadvertently killed his son Tubal-Cain in a hunting incident. Lamech, of course, is the father of Noah, which is derived from nacham, "to bring relief or comfort", as Lamech himself explains in Genesis 5:29.

The Composite List

Now let's put it all together:

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow;
Mahalalel	The Blessed God
Jared	Shall come down
Enoch	Teaching
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	The Despairing
Noah	Rest, or comfort.

That's rather remarkable:

Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing rest.

Here's the Gospel hidden within a genealogy in Genesis! (You will never convince me that a group of Jewish rabbis conspired to hide the Christian Gospel right here in a genealogy within their venerated Torah!)

Evidence of Design

The implications of this discovery are more widespread than is evident at first glance. It demonstrates that in the earliest chapters of the Book of Genesis, God had already laid out His plan of redemption for the predicament of mankind. It is a love story, written in blood on a wooden cross which was erected in Judea almost 2,000 years ago.