

THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS 5

By Abri Brancken, 25 Feb 2018

Biblical salvation is God's way of providing his people deliverance from sin and spiritual death through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. This message of deliverance is found on almost every page of the Bible. We see it revealed and communicated through:

- The messages spoken the prophets
- The Biblical Feasts
 - The Feast of Passover focuses on the death of Christ, being the Lamb that was slain for our sins.
 - The Feast of First-fruits is a picture of His resurrection from the dead
 - Pentecost is a picture of the Holy Spirit's outpouring & Him transforming our lives
 - The Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot in Hebrew) is His coming and the final harvest.
- The Ceremonial Sacrifices and offerings in the Torah is a picture and message about the work of Jesus Christ.
- The Tabernacle in desert is a picture of Christs work of salvation, etc.

Often, God's message of salvation is easily visible, but sometimes it is hidden and we need to search for it.

GENESIS 5

Genesis 5 (NIV)

(From Adam to Noah)

This is the written account of Adam's family line.

When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created.

3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. 4 After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 5 Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

6 When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. 7 After he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. 8 Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

9 When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. 10 After he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. 11 Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

12 When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. 13 After he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. 14 Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

15 When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. 16 After he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. 17 Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

18 When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. 19 After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. 20 Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. 22 After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. 23 Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech. 26 After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters. 27 Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. 29 He named him Noah[c] and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed." 30 After Noah was born, Lamech lived 595 years and had other sons and daughters. 31 Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

32 After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth.

THE NAMES FROM ADAM THROUGH TO NOAH

In Genesis 5 we have the genealogy of Adam through Noah. Most people read this and fail to see the beautiful message of the Gospel in this chapter. Here the Gospel message is hidden. Let's see if we can discover it. In our Bible, we read the Hebrew names in English, but what do these names mean in English?

We have no real idea as to why these names were chosen, but in Biblical times (and even to this day in some cultures) names are given to children that reflect their purpose, future purpose or message or circumstances during which they were born.

THE GENEALOGY IN GENESIS 5

Let's examine the meaning of the names of the people mentioned in the Genesis 5. Some of the meanings can be illusive at times, but when we compare multiple sources, we can get to the basic meaning of these ancient names. There are 10 generations listed from Adam to Noah in Gen 5.

אָדָם ADAM

Adam means "MAN" (mortal).

שֵׁת SETH

Seth means "TO PLACE" or "APPOINT". Eve said, "For God hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew." (Genesis 4:25)

אֵנוֹשׁ ENOSH

Enosh means "MORTAL", "FRAIL".

קֵינָן KENAN

Enosh's son was named Kenan, which can mean "NEST", "DWELLING", also sorrow.

מַהֲלָאֵל MAHALALEL

Kenan's son was Mahalalel, from Mahalal which means "PRAISE" God, "STRENGTH". El (Elohim), the name for God is in Mahalalel's name. Often Hebrew names include El, the name of God, as Dan-i-el, "God is my Judge", etc.

יָרֵד JARED

Mahalalel's son was named Jared, from the verb yaradh, meaning "DESCENT" "DOWNWARDS OR A LOWER REGION".

חֵנוֹךְ ENOCH

Jared's son was named Enoch, which means "INITIATED" "DISCIPLINE" "TRAIN UP". In fact, the earliest recorded prophecy was by Enoch and it is about the Second Coming of Christ. "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 did not die, he was taken up alive. He walked with God 365 years.

מֶתוּשֶׁלַח METHUSELAH

Enoch was the father of Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah. The year that Methuselah died, the flood came. He became the oldest man in the Bible, 969 years old.

לָמֶךְ LAMECH

Methuselah's son was named Lamech.

(Please note: The name Lamech is from an unused root of uncertain meaning as advised by Brown-Driver-Biggs Hebrew Definitions & Strongs Hebrew & Greek Dictionaries)

Lamech suggests despairing. He lived during a very difficult time on the earth. It was so bad that God would destroy all life by means of a flood. The root Lamech is still evident today in our own English word, lament or lamentation.

נֹחַ NOAH

Noah means "REST" or "COMFORT"

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.

Gen 5:29

And he gave him the name of Noah, saying, Truly, he will give us rest from our trouble and the hard work of our hands, because of the earth which was cursed by God.

THE LIST – LETS COMPARE

Now let's put it all together:

HEBREW	ENGLISH
Adam	Man
Seth	To place or to appoint
Enosh	Mortal, frail, Desperate
Kenan	Dwelling or nest (like a home);
Mahalalel	Praise to God, Strength (powerful)
Jared	Descent, come down, down to a lower region
Enoch	Initiate, discipline, teaching
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	Despairing
Noah	Rest or/and comfort.

Let us try to read the genealogy in Genesis 5 as a sentence

Man (Adam) is appointed and placed (Seth) in mortal sorrow and desperation (Enosh) in his dwelling place (Kenan); but praise to God, Strength (Mahalalel) shall descent, come down (Jared) to a lower region, and will initiate and teach (Enoch) that His death shall bring (Methuselah) the despairing (Lamech) rest (Noah).

Here's the Gospel hidden within a genealogy in Genesis! How amazing is that!

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Here are Scripture verses testifying about what Jesus came to do and they also resonate with Genesis 5's hidden message.

Romans 5:12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

Isaiah 11:2

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

John 3:13

"No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

John 6:38

"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Mark 8:31-38

He (Jesus) then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer... and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

2 Timothy 1:10

...but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Ephesians 2:1,5

1 In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God.... 5 but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ, and God's wonderful kindness is what saves you.

Matthew 11:28

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

CONCLUSION

God is serious about His plan of salvation for humanity. He communicates His wonderful plan for salvation right throughout the Bible. Are you taking it seriously? Are you serious about taking the Gospel message to others? If it was not important to God, He would not have spoken so much about it in the Bible. Sometimes He speaks about it clearly, other times it is hidden, and we need to search it out.

LIFE GROUP GATHERINGS QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What can we practically do this week to take the Gospel Message to those around us?
2. Why do we often forget about the importance of sharing Christ with other, especially since it is so important to God?
3. What did you learn about the fact that the Gospel message is hidden in Genesis 5? What did you realise? Does it mean anything special to you?