

The Time of Your Life

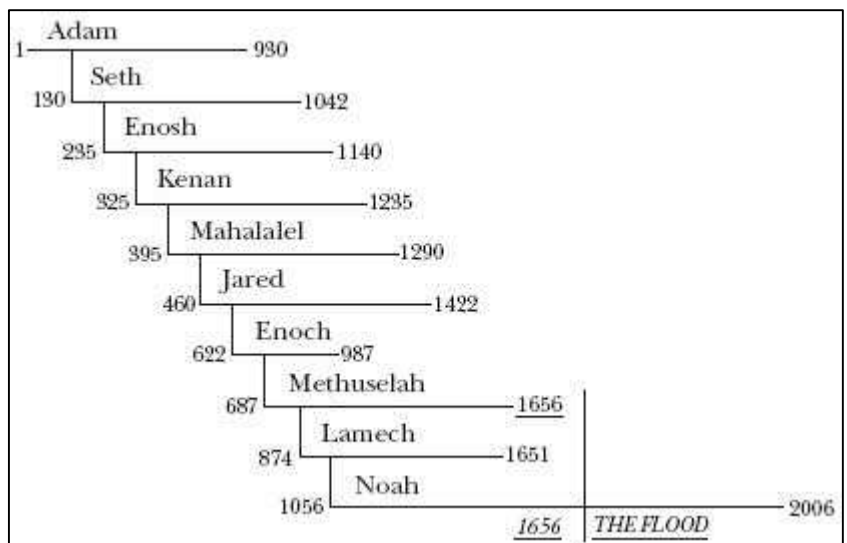
(Genesis 5:1-32)

I. The Lives of the Righteous

This chapter is about the line of Seth (ch. 4 was about line of Cain) and spans over 1500 years.

“One notable feature of these patriarchs is their extreme longevity – almost a thousand years. The reasons for this are best sought not in a different pre-Flood environment, but in their genetics.”¹

- **Adam (5:3-5)** “mankind” (lived 930 years)
- **Seth (5:6-8)** “appointed” (lived 912 years)
- **Enosh (5:9-11)** “frail man” (lived 905 years)
- **Kenan (5:12-14)** “smith” (lived 910 years)
- **Mahalalel (5:15-17)** “praise of Elohim” (lived 895 years)
- **Jared (5:18-20)** “descent” (lived 962 years)
- **Enoch (5:21-24)** “dedication” (lived 365 years)
 - See also **Heb. 11:5** and **Jude 14-15**
- **Methuselah (5:25-27)** “when he dies, it shall be sent” (lived 969 years)
 - “His record lifespan of 969 demonstrates God’s long-suffering patience with wicked mankind – as long as he lived, mankind had a chance to repent (**2 Peter 3:8-9**).”²
- **Lamech (5:28-31)** “warrior” or “conqueror” (lived 777 years)
- **Noah (5:32)** “comfort” or “rest” (lived 950 years³ - 500 when Japheth was born).



[Picture taken from James Montgomery Boice commentary on Genesis 5.]

¹ Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account: A Theological, Historical, and Scientific Commentary on Genesis 1-11* (Powder Springs, GA: Creation Book Publishers, 2015), 445.

² Sarfati, 455.

³ According to LXX, Masoretic Text and the Samaritan Pentateuch. See Sarfati, 460.

II. The Legacy of Righteous

During this time **“men began to call on the name of the LORD” (Gen. 4:26)**

“In contrast to the surrounding members of this society, the ten men listed in Genesis 5 stood out like giants in the midst of spiritual dwarfs:

In the midst of ungodliness, they were godly.

In the midst of wickedness, they were good.

In the midst of rebellion, they were righteous.

In the midst of bitterness, they were blessed.

In the midst of those running from God, they walked with God.

In the midst of a wasted world, they lived lives that were worthy of eternal honor.”⁴

III. The Lessons of the Righteous

1) God fulfills His promises

“And they died” is repeated over and over, as if God is saying, “The serpent said you wouldn’t die, but I said you will surely die.”

God’s word tells us that **death** is certain (Romans 6:23; Eccl. 12:5-7; Heb. 9:27)

God’s word tells us that **life after death** is certain (Gen. 5:24; John 14:1-3; Phil. 1:21)

2) Children can deepen your spiritual life

“After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God” (Gen. 5:22).

Enoch began walking with God when he had Methuselah. Could it be the introduction of a child caused him to reevaluate his priorities and depend upon God in a deeper way?

Have children caused you to “walk with God”?

3) God’s judgment on sinful society was delayed

Methuselah is known as the oldest man who ever lived. His name prophetically states once he would die, “it” would come. Many scholars look at this as prophesying the Flood. The year he died, the Flood came.

Could it be that God delayed His judgment to give people time to repent? (2 Peter 3:9)

4) Children need our prayers

When Noah was born, **Lamech prayed** that his son would **“comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed” (Gen. 5:29).**

We rejoice at the godliness of Noah, but don’t miss the prayers of Lamech. How will your prayers impact your children?

⁴ Anne Graham Lotz, *God’s Story* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009), 124.