

A godly Remnant

Genesis 4:17-5:32

“The fifth chapter of Genesis is a genealogy—a list of the descendants of Adam down to the time of Noah and the great flood. There are not many patriarchs, though there were probably more than are actually listed here. But they were pillars of faith in an increasingly godless age. They stood for God with such tenacity and in such a way that their names have been preserved for future generations.

Martin Luther, who identified with the antediluvian period because of the troubles of his own age, was particularly impressed with these outstanding individuals. He wrote that most were living at the same time and then noted: ‘This is the greatest glory of the primitive world, that it had so many good, wise, and holy men at the same time. We must not think that these are ordinary names of plain people; but, next to Christ and John the Baptist, they were the most outstanding heroes this world has ever produced. And on the Last day we shall behold and admire their grandeur. Likewise, we shall also see their deeds. For then it will be made manifest what Adam, Seth, Methuselah, and the others did; what they endured from the old serpent; how they comforted and maintained themselves by means of the hope of the Seed against the outrages of the world or of the Cainites; how they experienced various kinds of treachery; how much envy, hatred, and contempt they endured on account of the glory of blessed Seed who would be born from their descendants.’” Boice

- I. Cain’s genealogy represents the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eyes and the boasting of what he has and does, which does not come from the Father but from the world. Those who stubbornly and willfully participate, embrace, desire, and love it will, like the world, pass away. It’s an irrefutable fact that they, like Cain’s line, will stand before the great white throne judgment at the end of ages to find their names missing from the book of life. All that they lived for good or bad, will amount to nothing as they face an eternity in hell for their unwillingness to put their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gen. 4:17-24

1 Jn. 2:15-17

Rev. 20:11-15

At least one of Adam’s sons had to marry one of Adam’s daughters. Probably, in the first generation all marriages were brother-sister marriages. In that early time, there were no mutant genes in the genetic systems of any of these children, so that no genetic harm could have resulted from close marriages.” Morris

- II. The genealogies listed in Genesis four and five tell us that God is very aware of those who are his and those who are not. Each person is important to God, what they do, how they live, whether they embrace him through faith or ignore him. He is particularly concerned to record the names of those who love and serve him as a testimony to those who choose to follow Him from generation to generation. It's an honor to think that our names are recorded along with all the great saints throughout salvation history, an honor which should not be taken lightly.

Gen. 4:25-5:2
Malachi 3:16-17
Heb. 10:24-25
Gen. 6:5
1 Kings 19:14-18 (cf. Rom. 11:2-4)
Rev. 21:27

tôldôṭ to-led-aw', genealogies, account of men and their descendants

"You and I are persons, like the Patriarchs of Genesis 5. We are equally noted and remembered in God's book. Let that be an encouragement. The world may not pay much attention to us; in fact, the more like Christ we are, the less the world will be interested. But God is interested, and that fact alone should encourage us to live for him." Boice

- III. The genealogy of Genesis five shows us that God has always preserved a remnant of faithful believers to be strong witnesses of uncompromising godliness in a godless world. The man who stands out among them is Enoch. He is a testimony to us of what it means to walk with God. To walk with God means to walk by faith. He pleased God by how he lived and by how he revered Him. In turn, he was given the wisdom and discernment necessary to see evil and speak out against it. God uses the remnant of faithful followers of Christ in the same way today. Yes, love, grace, and mercy, but always with an uncompromising stand on the truth of His Word.

Genesis 5:3-32
Heb. 11:5
Jude 14-15
1 Thess. 5:1-5
Matt. 24:37-39
2 Cor. 5:7-8b
Heb. 11:5-6