

The Family Tree of Life

Genesis 5

(preached Pine Grove 10/7/18; Sunday PM)

Introduction

In 2017, the company behind the website [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) was valued at 3 billion dollars..

Personally, I have never visited a genealogy website, since I am scared of what I might find...

But that is not the case for millions of people around the world who do use [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) or other family tree websites on a regular basis to determine “what led to them.”

In fact, ancestor-hunting is the second most popular pastime in our country now right behind gardening.

And the numbers bear it out..

In 2017, 850 million dollars was spent on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) by people looking for their great great great uncles and 6th cousins..

And that is just one of many websites offering genealogical searches.

When you add in the other sites, people spent well over a billion dollars trying to find out how they came into existence.

And the pastime is no longer for the older retired person..

Younger families are now getting into the act as the whole family collects their DNA and sends it in to get processed..

But what is the fascination?

Why do people want to feel connected to their past?

Well, many reasons..

Some simply want to find they are descended from royalty..

Others do it due to health concerns..

Still others do it because they want to see how much they look like their great great great great grandmother..

Whatever the reason, the ancestor hunting industry is not going away any time soon...

Maybe the fascination with genealogy has biblical roots since family trees are in the Bible...

The NT starts with a family tree in Matthew 1..

The OT essentially starts with one as we will see in Genesis 5 tonight..

And then scattered throughout the Bible are approximately 25 other genealogical listings..

Most people come to these in their Bible reading and quickly skip over them while wondering why God included them in the Scriptures..

Well, genealogies always serve a purpose..

First of all, genealogies confirm the truthfulness of God's Word.

God said that one from the line of David would be the Jewish Messiah, and the genealogy of Jesus is proof that God keeps his word..

Next, genealogies confirm that God uses less than perfect people to accomplish his purposes...

Everyone in the line of Jesus has issues with sin..

David had multiple wives...

Rahab was a harlot..

Jacob is a thief..

And the list goes on and on..

Also, genealogies confirm that death is a reality in the world..

People are born and people die and that proves that sin kills and has killed people since Adam and Eve committed the first sin in Genesis 3..

Finally, genealogies reminds us that God shows grace to the sinner..

If God were not merciful, family trees would be very short since no sinner deserves a long life..

Yet, God shows mercy to the sinner in giving him or her time to repent and believe in Him..

Tonight, we come to the first genealogy of God's people in the world..

Two weeks ago, we saw the genealogy of Cain, who was the world's first unbeliever, and Cain's family tree through successful, was filled with folks who followed in Cain's footsteps and disobeyed the word of God..

Now, I again want to make a note her that is very important..

We can't say that every descendant of Cain was an unbeliever..

Being born into an unbelieving family is no guarantee that you will never be saved..

There have been plenty of folks with a family history of unbelief who came to Christ and served the Lord faithfully..

In fact, there are plenty of people in the world who started their own family line of faith by departing from their parent's unbelieving ways and trusting in the Lord.

Maybe that is the testimony of your life..

Maybe your branch of the tree will be a branch of belief in the gospel..

And I also want to say this before we get into the first family tree of belief..

Just because Seth's line represents those who trust in the Lord doesn't mean that all of those in Seth's line did..

In the same way that an unbelieving family is not a guarantee that the children will not believe..

The believing family is not a guarantee that the children will believe..

Someone once said that sinners always give birth to more sinners, but saints don't always give birth to more saints...

The bottom is this..

Though genealogies give us patterns in families, can man and woman is responsible to the Lord to believe and repent in order to be right with the Lord..

However, despite those exceptions, what we are going to see tonight in the line of Seth stands in stark contrast to line of Cain..

Cain and his family love the world and the things of the world..

Seth and his family love the Lord and the things of the Lord..

May God make us all families that resemble the family of Seth..

So let's begin this chapter with a little reminder of where Seth came from..

I. The Origin of Seth (1-5)

Verse 1..

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them [a]Man in the day when they were created.

To understand where Seth came from, we must understand where Seth's father Adam came from..

And we all know the origin of Adam...

Adam was made on the 6th day of creation..

Adam was made from the dust of the earth and Eve was made from Adam's side..

And these two first humans were the height of God's creation..

God saved the best for last in creating the things of the universe..

And the reason we know that man and woman were the height of God's creation is that both were made in his image...

Now the primary meaning of the image of God is not appearance..

WE know that God is spirit and we are flesh and bones, but man resembles the image of God in the fact that man could think, he could reason, he could love and experience emotion..

Man was also made a relational creature..

Man also had the capacity for morality..

But one of the greatest aspects of man being made in the image of God is the fact that he was eternal..

No, man didn't exist in the past with God but he would live forever after he was created..

He would either live forever in the presence of God or he would live forever outside of the presence of God...

And so Adam was created in God's image..

Eve was created in God's image but that image was really affected by their sins against God in the garden..

WE have talked about the consequences of sin seen in the curses that came down on Adam and Eve, but we haven't mentioned how sin affected the image of God seen in man..

Certainly, Adam and Eve no longer reflected a perfect image of God in the world after their sin...

They were no longer great examples of godly love and obedience..

Instead, the image of God seen in Adam and Eve was disfigured by their fall into sin..

Think of a cell phone that is dropped..

You may still be able to use the cracked screen and you may still be able to see the screen, but it is clearly damaged..

That is a great picture of the image of God that is now seen in fallen man..

Think of your own life before salvation..

Did you perfectly reflect God's goodness to the world before you were saved?

And the answer is absolutely not....

But get this..

At salvation, that image was repaired some, and throughout your Christian life you fight to reflect God's image more and more as you grow in your faith..

This is the work of sanctification...

You are trying to repair the broken glass on your phone piece by piece as the Lord helps you do it..

Well, that was the struggle for Adam and Eve after they fell..

But look that is not all the bad news...

Let's read verse 3..

3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he [b]became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

Now we know that Seth was not the firstborn of Adam..

Adam and Eve had Cain first followed by Abel..

But Cain killed Abel, so Adam and Eve had another son when they were both 130 to replace Abel...

And this son they named Seth..

But note that Seth was born in the likeness of likeness of Adam..

This is key to understanding our nature as people...

We are born in the image of a sinner...

Seth was born in the image of his father..

In other words, he was born with a sin nature.

Seth, along with Cain and Abel, were born to parents that had sinned and passed that sin trait on to their offspring..

This is why kids aren't innocent.

Children may not be aware of the law of God, but they are wired for disobedience..

People are not born innocent and corrupted by the world..

They come corrupted from the womb..

Now, I don't walk into the rooms of newborns and talk about how sinful that baby is to the parents, but they will soon find out..

This is why the Bible is clear..

We are born sinners and we are blinded and dead in those sins until God intervenes and opens our eyes to it..

Seth was a sinner because Seth was an offspring of two sinners..

And every child born since Adam and Eve with the exception of Christ has the same sinful nature...

Now, this doesn't mean that Seth is without the image of God stamped on him..

Quite the contrary, Seth has an eternal soul..

Seth has the ability to relate to others..

Seth has a morality..

Seth has a God-given conscience...

Seth can love, Seth can reason, Seth can think...

But the overwhelming issue in his life is that Seth is a sinner from the start..

And that is the image that Adam has given to his son..

Now, let's finish up the origin of Seth in verses 4-5..

4 Then the days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years, and he had other sons and daughters. 5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

Couple important notes to make here..

#1 - Adam and Eve had more children than Cain, Abel, and Seth..

The end of verse 4 says that they had other sons and daughters..

And as we have said before, this first generation of children had to intermarry in order to reproduce...

Therefore, these daughters became the mothers of generation 3...

A second note to make here is this..

#2 - Long life was the norm for a while..

People always ask why were these people allowed to live a long time..

First, it is possible that the environment was much different before the flood...

Maybe life spans were possible in this early days..

Also, long life allowed people to communicate beyond a few generations..

Look Adam lived so long that he knew Noah's father even though Noah would have been Adam's great great great great great great grandson..

To make it sound more astonishing, Adam could have taken a picture with eight generations of his children...

Today, taking a picture with 5 generations is amazing, but Adam definitely surpassed that..

Now why is that important?

Imagine Adam telling all those generations what it was like to walk with God in the cool of the evening in the garden of Eden..

If you have ever played a game called rumor or telephone, you sit people in a circle and they pass information around it one person at a time..

And the object is for the last person to say the exact sentence of the first person, but it rarely happens..

Well, the same is true in the world..

Information changes as it goes through many ears..

Well, God allowed long lifespans to make sure that the information didn't have to go through as many ears..

Remember that there is no Bible at this point, so information about God had to be passed from person to person...

Imagine if Adam had lived 70 years and passed on what he knew about God to his son who lived 70 years to his son..

By the time it got to Noah was was 10th in line, it would have been corrupted..

But if Adam lived long enough to tell Lamech, who is Noah's father, then Noah almost exactly what God was like from someone who walked with God..

So long life in the early history of the world ensured an accurate picture of God to the first 9 generations of people on earth...

A third and final note to make about verses 4 and 5 is this..

Adam did eventually..

Remember God told Adam and Eve that eating from the tree in the middle of the garden would lead to their death..

And though that day came 930 years later, it did come...

Sin always kills, and that was true in the life of the first sinner as well..

That is the origin of Seth..

Now let's move to the line of Seth in verses 6-27..

II. The Line of Seth (6-20)

Now that we have seen the beginning of Seth's family tree, let's see it grow...

Verse 6..

6 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and became the father of Enosh. 7 Then Seth lived eight hundred and seven years after he became the father of Enosh, and he had other sons and daughters. 8 So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died.

9 Enosh lived ninety years, and became the father of Kenan. 10 Then Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years after he became the father of Kenan, and he had other sons and daughters. 11 So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years, and he died.

12 Kenan lived seventy years, and became the father of Mahalalel. 13 Then Kenan lived eight hundred and forty years after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he had other sons and daughters. 14 So all the days of Kenan were nine hundred and ten years, and he died.

15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Jared. 16 Then Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years after he became the father of Jared, and he had other sons and daughters. 17 So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years, and he died.

18 Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and became the father of Enoch. 19 Then Jared lived eight hundred years after he became the father of Enoch, and he had other sons and daughters. 20 So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years, and he died.

If you are keeping track, Seth's line is filled with a couple things..

First, it is filled with long life..

912 years for Seth.

905 years for his son Enosh

910 years for his grandson Kenan.

895 for his great grandson Mahalalel.

962 years for his great great grandson Jared..

Second, it is filled with children.

It is said of every one of these soon that they also had other sons and daughters..

Now I dont want to make too much of this, but that phrase is missing from a description of Cain's family tree..

If you look back to chapter 4, you will simply read that Cain had a son who had a son who had a son.

It was not until the Lamech of Cain's line took two wives that we read of multiple children in each of those generations..

Now that is not to say that Cain's line wasn't filled with children, but that simply wasn't noted in chapter 4 like we see in chapter 5...

A final note to make here is this..

Death is still reigning even in the family tree that loves the Lord..

All these men died..

“And he died” is really a chorus of every genealogy..

Birth comes, life happens, and death arrives..

And look that is good reminder to us when we read these family trees in the Bible..

Death comes to every man, even to men who love the Lord..

And that is simply a reminder of the power of sin..

Death came to Seth's family tree as well.

However there is an exception to that, so let's quickly move to what I call Seth's legacy in verses 21-32..

III. The Legacy of Seth (21-32)

As we prepare to wrap up the genealogy of Adam and Seth, we meet 3 interesting people at the end...

The first one is named Enoch in verses 21-23..

Let's read about him..

21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. 22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Let's take note of a couple things here..

First, Enoch is the set apart in the list by Moses writing that Enoch "walked with God 300 years after he became the father of Methuselah.."

Now this is not to say that the other men before him didn't walk with God, but it seems that Enoch had a special relationship with the Lord..

And we know also by what we read in the book of Jude..

If you remember, Jude is a book that warns the church of false prophets that are in the world...

Well, guess what?

There were false prophets in the days of Enoch as well..

Remember that these descendants of Seth are living in a world where Cain's descendants also live..

So Enoch is a part of a family line that loves the Lord but he is living in a world that hates God as well..

Therefore, Enoch become one of the earliest evangelists..

Listen to Jude 14-15...

14 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with [p]many thousands of His holy ones, 15 to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

So what you see in this grandson of Seth is a preacher of coming judgment..

Enoch is not content to let the world of unbelievers go unwarned.

So he tells them that judgment is coming...

Now, what was Enoch referring to?

In his day, this was a warning of the coming flood, but his warning also extends to the 2nd coming of Christ..

Enoch is the first of a long line of men who will call people to repentance in preparation of a coming judgment..

This is the legacy of Seth..

Godly families have hearts for the lost..

And though Enoch was strong preacher, he warned the world out of love for them..

And look at the reward that Enoch got..

Verse 24 says that Enoch was taken straight to heaven at at the young age of 365...

In verse 25, we meet a second interesting character named Methusaleh...

Let me read those verses to us..

25 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and became the father of Lamech. 26 Then Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years after he became the father of Lamech, and he had other sons and daughters. 27 So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died.

What sets Methuselah apart is his 969 years of life, which is the longest in the Bible..

But what also sets Methuselah apart is that he died in the flood hit the earth...

WE will see that in more detail over the next few weeks, but Methuselah serves as an example of God's grace to the sinner..

Methuselah lived a long life but God rescued him right before God's wrath was unleashed on the world in the global flood.

Some see Methuselah as a picture of the rapture of the church..

I think that may go too far, but I would say this..

The legacy of Seth is a people who are protected by the Lord..

A final person to take note in the line of Seth is Noah...

Let's read verses 28-31..

28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son. 29 Now he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will [c]give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the Lord has cursed." 30 Then Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years after he became the father of Noah, and he had other sons and daughters. 31 So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years, and he died. 32 Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

At the end of this line of people who loved the Lord more than the world we find Noah..

We will examine his life more in the weeks ahead in Genesis 6-10, but let me give you a little summary of his life in Hebrews 11..

7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, [h]in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

The legacy of Seth is a people who will believe in things that they can't fully see...

Noah was warned to prepare for a worldwide disaster though he had never seen such an outpouring of wrath..

Yet Noah didn't ignore the warning.

Instead he built a boat and prepared for trouble..

This is the legacy of the people of God.

They believe the word of God and are protected from judgment..

The people of Cain ignored the word of God and experienced judgment..

The legacy of Seth is the legacy of preacher who warns others, of a believer who is rescued from trouble, and of a person who believes the word of God and obeys..

Conclusion

This is the line of Adam through Seth, and the great reality is that Noah's son, Shem, would lead to Abraham..

And Abraham's line would be the line of Christ..

Look, let me say this to end the night..

Family trees are important in the Scripture, and they teach valuable lessons to us..

But family trees are no guarantee of heaven..

You may not be descended from the right family, but you can be a part of the family of God through faith in Christ...

Let us end tonight by taking our Bibles and turning to one of the most glorious passages in the NT...

Turn with me to Ephesians 2:11-22...

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, [i]excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the

covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off [j]have been brought near [k]by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the [l]barrier of the dividing wall, 15 [m]by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might [n]make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, [o]by it having put to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the [p]saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy [q]temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

In a very real sense you have no control over who you descended from, but in the gospel, you have options on who you can ascend to..

I am thankful for my earthly family line, but I am much more grateful for the family I have in Christ..