

15. The everlasting friendship with God

6/16/2019

Sin had entered the human race, and it didn't take long for the corruption it spawned to spread and defile God's creation. Like a cancerous tumor, evil infected civilization and brought death wherever it went. Created in God's image couldn't manage their own lives let alone God's creation, and things began to fall apart.

This section of Genesis covers over 1,500 years of human history, years that are overshadowed by sin and sorrow. But when the night is the darkest, the stars shine the brightest, and when the outlook is grim, the uplook is encouraging.

Some might think that this chapter 5 in the Book of Genesis is flat out boring because of the genealogy of Adam with many of the names that we cannot quite pronounce well. But we can find a very important point – the everlasting friendship with God by Enoch. If you don't have that kind of friendship with our Lord, I pray that the Lord will teach you how to have it like Enoch.

A. THE GENEALOGY FROM ADAM TO NOAH

Genesis 5:1-6 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. 3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters. 5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. 6 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. 7 After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had 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 begot Cainan. 10 After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters. 11 So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. 12 Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel. 13 After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters. 14 So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died. 15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared. 16 After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had 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 begot Enoch. 19 After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 20 So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died. 21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

930 years! Can you imagine his birthday cake with all those 930 candles? To blow out those candles, Adam would need some help from a gigantic fan, don't you think?

The Bible critics surely have a major problem of the extremely long life spans here. In this chapter, no one lived less than 365 years – and this is Enoch, who was a special case, and Methuselah lived 969 years. How is this possible?

Some have thought this is speaking figuratively or counting months as years. But if that is the case, Enoch fathered Methuselah when he was five and a half years old.

It is more likely that people did live much, much longer before the flood. This is because the environment in the pre-flood world was so different, with the UV protective blanket of water vapors surrounding the earth. In the post-flood world, lifespans quickly came down to the life-spans we are familiar with today.

When Eve gave birth, it was in Adam's likeness, not God's. Why? Because depravity had flooded humanity and polluted their innocence. Sin entered into human lives.

Don't you feel like we are walking through a graveyard and reading a bunch of names of tombstones while we were reading the Scripture here? In the midst of many deaths, we find a bright spot of Enoch. This is one of the most remarkable things, that in the midst of death one man was removed from this earth without his death. It is said of Enoch that he "walked with God."

We are told that he did not die but that God just took him. It means that he was translated. What do we mean by translation? The translation is the taking of a word from one language and putting it into another language without changing its meaning. Enoch was translated from this earth to heaven, like the rapture we will have in case it happens now.

Enoch had a very close relationship with God. It is like this: God enjoyed time with Enoch so much and they walked around all over. As they walked toward heaven, God said to Enoch, "Enoch, we're closer to My house than yours. Why don't you come on home with Me?"

Walking with God means walking by faith according to 2 Corinthians 5:7, walking in the light according to 1 John 1:5-7, and walking in agreement with God according to Amos 3:3.

God always keeps His appointments, by the way. He is never late. He always shows up on time, and He has an appointed time that He will return to this earth. He is waiting for more people to come to know His Son Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Enoch walked with God during one of the darkest times in human history. And if Enoch was able to live a godly life at a time like that, then we can live godly lives as well.

B. FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

I believe the different stages of friendship can be symbolized by where a person stands with you when he or she visits your home.

For example, someone who wants to sell me something usually won't get past the front door. The furthest in our home a basic stranger will get is our living room. But if a friend comes to our home, we will probably make our way to the kitchen, where we will stand around. We have chairs in our home, but we don't use the chairs. We just stand in the kitchen.

If you were standing in the kitchen of someone whom you were getting to know, you probably wouldn't pick up a piece of nearby fruit and begin to eat it. You might ask your friend for permission, but most likely, you wouldn't ask at all. If you have known your friend for a while, you might say, "I am a little hungry. Could I eat this fruit?"

But if you were really close friends, you probably would just pick up the fruit and eat it or start to go through our refrigerator and make your own sandwich.

The more you get to know a person, the more honest your relationship becomes. The formalities are dropped. You begin to bare your heart. You let your guard down.

In the OT Book of Exodus, we find the story of another man who had a relationship with God that was intimate and close. This man's name was Moses, and his friendship with his Creator was such that he could freely speak his mind.

Exodus 33:11a So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

The truth is, God revealed things to Moses that had never been revealed to any person before.

One day, as Moses was deep in prayer, he asked for the unthinkable. Up to this point in human history, this request was non-existent. Moses asked to actually see God in v18. However, the Lord was not offended by his request, and in fact, He had been drawing Moses to this very moment.

Moses was discovering what prayer was all about: it is not just getting things from God. It is getting God. Moses was essentially saying to the Lord, "I don't want to just have things from You. I want You. I want more of You in my life."

Of course, there is a place for petition and supplication in prayer. There is a place for asking God to provide for your needs. But it is also a wonderful thing when we just come to the Lord and say, "Lord, I don't need anything from You today. What I would like is just being with You."

This is the place to which Moses had come. Although God did not grant this prayer exactly as Moses had prayed it, He worked out a special arrangement to let Moses come as close as any man ever had come before.

Exodus 33:20-23 But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." 21 And the Lord said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. 22 So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. 23 Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

This is what we call "afterglow".

We read something like this and say, "Moses had such a great relationship with God. What a friendship they must have had that the Lord would do this for him. If only I had been Moses or Abraham."

Wait a second, guys. As great as Moses and Abraham were, don't you know that your relationship with God is, in many ways, closer than theirs was because of Jesus?

Under the Old Covenant, when you wanted to approach God, you were required to bring an animal sacrifice that would be offered on behalf of you. God was distant, and you did not have the assurance that you would go to heaven. You just died in faith, believing that the Messiah would come.

But when Jesus went to the cross, He became that final sacrifice to God. He was the One who died in our place. He now is our High Priest who represents us before the Lord, and we can go into His presence at any time we want through your prayers.

Hebrews 10:19-21 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God

Even more than that, God Himself comes and lives inside us. This is the relationship that God has opened up to us through Jesus Christ.

Have you come to a point in your life where you could say to Jesus, "Lord, I just want You. I want Your will. That is all that matters to me"? I hope so.

C. POINTING TO JESUS

Genesis 5:25-32 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. 26 After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. 27 So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. 28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed." 30 After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters. 31 So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died. 32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

At the birth of Methuselah, Enoch had a special awareness from God that judgment was coming, and this was one of the things that got him closer in his walk with God.

Methuselah's long life was no accident. It was because of the grace of God. When Methuselah died, the flood came. God kept him alive longer than anybody to give people as long as possible to repent. God is doing the same thing right now.

If God sent back His Son Jesus to take all the believers home in rapture 50 years ago, how many of us would make it to heaven? Not many. I wouldn't be able to, either.

In His grace and mercy, God is extending the time of the rapture, so that the last one who should get saved can come to know Him. Then, it would be the time. No one knows that time. It can be today or tomorrow. It is better to be ready than being too late.

Before we close, we find a very interesting thing about these 10 people's name:

Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Subjected to death
Cainan	Sorrowful
Mahalalel	From the presence of God
Jared	One comes down
Enoch	Dedicated
Methuselah	When he is dead, it shall come
Lamech	To the poor and needy
Noah	Bringing the rest

If we link all the definitions of the names: "Man, appointed, subjected to death, from the presence of God, one comes down, dedicated. When he is dead, it shall come, to the poor and needy, bringing the rest." Who would that be? Jesus who is in the line of Adam.

D. APPLICATIONS

- 1) We can choose to live this life without any purpose that would please the Lord. But that would be a total waste from the eternal perspective.
- 2) Walking with God means walking by faith, walking in the light, and walking in agreement with God.
- 3) The Lord has provided everything we need to have the best relationship with Him. All we have to do is following Him with all of our heart, mind, and body.