

Remnant Life Church

November 19, 2017

Genesis

The “Boring” Begats

Genesis 5:1-32

- When asked why they don't read the Bible people give many different answers
 - I don't have time
 - I don't understand it
 - It is a very old book that does not have meaning for the world today
 - People may think I'm a religious fanatic
 - It's too boring
- But if you are willing to dig just a little bit you will discover that every part of God's Word has purpose and meaning – even the “boring” parts
- The Bible is filled with wonderful stories and people are more naturally drawn to these
 - More easily relatable
 - More like TV
 - Consider that the average newspaper is written at an 8th grade reading level – people don't want to think too hard
 - Television programs cut to a new camera shot about every 5 to 7 seconds through the course of a scene you begin to realize how short our attention spans are
- I have asked you this morning to turn to one of the “boring” passages of the Bible – some refer to them as the Begats
 - Begat means to father
 - In the NIV it reads, “...became the father of...”

The story is told of an old Scottish minister who was reading from the opening chapter of Matthew which is the genealogy of Jesus. He started reading, "Abraham begat Isaac, and Isaac begat Jacob, and Jacob begat Judah..." Then it suddenly occurred to him how long the list was and, not certain he wanted to read all of that, he looked up from his text and said “and they kept on begetting one another all the way down this page and halfway into the next.”
- But a closer examination of **Genesis 5** shows that it is more than a list of births
 - It is also a list of deaths
 - Punctuated by the words, “And then he died”
- **READ** – **Genesis 5** (portion)
- The list of these 10 names represent the time from Adam to Noah
 - 10 generations
 - A span of approximately 2600 years
 - Ave lifespan of the 10 – 857
 - Without Enoch who was taken by God at the tender age of 365 – 912

- Why so long?
 - The perfection of God was still present
 - The eco-system of the world drastically changed after the flood
 - Lifespans began to immediately and drastically reduce
 - By the time of Abraham men were living “only” 175 to 200 years
 - All due to the corruption of sin
 - It is foolishness to think that you can allow sin into your life and not suffer the consequences
 - No one, no matter how careful or clever you think you are being, can escape that

- From the very beginning the effects of sin are seen immediately
 - First – Adam and Eve lose their personal relationship with God
 - Second – actions are then perverted as their son commits fratricide when Cain murders his brother Abel

- But God gave Adam and Eve a son to replace Abel - his name was Seth
 - It is from his line that the Messiah would come
 - The Son of God, sent in mercy and love, would be the human descendent of the first child given “in place of” by God’s love and mercy
 - Instead – (Hebrew: Tah-hackt) – in exchange for
 - Cain not only committed the first murder but, prior to that action, his heart was not right with God
 - This is the reason his offering was rejected by God – the condition of his heart
 - The condition of a right heart is also why Enoch was spared death and taken by God (as was Elijah)

- Things didn’t get any better as time progressed.
- Sin compounds on itself
- By the time of Noah, the Bible tells us that:
 - *“The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.” Gen. 6:5*
 - And things have continued to regress
 - **Rom 3:23** - *“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”*
 - And he then he goes on to tell us that this sin has a price
 - *“The wages of sin is death...” Rom 6:23*

- That is exactly the lesson **Genesis 5** drives home to us.
 - Again and again we read of a man fathering a son... and then he dies!
 - Ill. - The difference in death 100 years ago and death today

- And so with all this death and the sin of man escalating it comes to the point that God sends the great flood to hit the reset button
 - Did God have a plan for the salvation and redemption of man?
 - Of course He did, and it is revealed even in the names of these first 10 patriarchs

- Ray Stedman – mid 20th century author, pastor, and teacher discovered something amazing about the names of these first 10 patriarchs

- SCREEN 1

Adam – man	Jared – shall come down
Seth – appointed	Enoch - teaching
Enosh – mortal	Methuselah – his death shall bring
Kenan – sorrow	Lamech – the despairing
Mahalalel – the blessed God	Noah – rest or comfort

- SCREEN 2

Man appointed mortal sorrow (man is destined to die);
The blessed God shall come down teaching (Jesus' ministry);
His death shall bring the despairing rest or comfort.

- God had a plan of redemption in place
 - In the midst of continued sin
 - In the midst of death
- God's love would come in form of a perfect man, His Son, to sacrifice Himself for you and for me
- Never question whether God loves you
 - The instance of lethal drug use and suicide is rising in our young people today at an alarming rate
 - It is born out of hopelessness
- But church, hear me, we are not hopeless!
 - *1 Peter 1:3-5 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- That living hope is given to us His children
- With it an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade
- Where is that kept?
 - In heaven waiting for us
- Physical death was and is inevitable
 - Even among the very first patriarchs
- But we have been given the promise of eternal life