

# Genesis chapter 5

This chapter is in effect a genealogy taking us from Adam to Noah and his sons. There are a number of names that are relatively unknown. We notice that these people lived very long lives and they had children. There were no childless marriages in these early days of mankind on earth.

## Male and female

God created man and woman and He blessed them. Mankind is man and woman. We believe men and women are equally loved and valued but different.

God's purpose was that man should not live alone but together with his wife God is served and children can be born.

## In his ( MAN`S) own likeness

Children have the same gifts of spirit and life as their parents. God made man to have fellowship with Him but that was spoiled by man's sin, so man physically dies and spiritually is dead to God until he is born again. Our children however can potentially enjoy all the physical attributes we enjoy. We all have a spiritual nature which can be redeemed when we put our faith in Jesus.

## Long life

Spiritual death was immediate for man but physical death would happen over a process of time.

Here are some possible reasons why early man had long lives:

Adam and Eve were created to live eternally. The introduction of sin brought on death ([Romans 5:12](#)). However, the degenerating processes had only begun to take place with them and their immediate descendants. This could also account for their longer life spans.

There would have been no disease. Since Adam and Eve fell from a perfect state, it would have taken some time for disease to increase.

If the earth were to be populated by humankind, ([Genesis 1:26](#)) then long life-spans at the beginning were somewhat of a necessity. Otherwise it would have taken an enormous amount of time to fulfil the commandment to fill the earth with people.

Climatic conditions could have been a factor in the longevity of the ancients.

There was a possible water vapour canopy that surrounded the earth before the Flood of Noah. At the great Flood this canopy collapsed and no longer protected man and the animals. Though this is possible, there is no clear biblical evidence that such a canopy existed. After the Flood the ages in which

people lived fell off dramatically. The Bible says Noah lived 930 years and his son Shem 600 years. However, Terah the father of Abraham, lived for only 205 years and mankind began to live shorter life-spans.

Diet: There are those who argue that diet had a large part to do with the longevity of the people but it is not conclusive.

Several parts of the Bible talk about long life and things settle down to 70 years or some have strength for 80 years. There appears to be a link with righteous behaviour and for example honouring one's parents but God in His sovereignty still takes people home at early ages. A.V. **Psalm 90, Verse 10**, says: "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength, labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

### **Enoch**

The Genesis account states twice that Enoch walked faithfully with God. We have no further detail but we can assume that this meant Enoch had a very close relationship with God. It probably is also pointing out that others were not so faithful in their walk and so Enoch is seen as a good example of commitment, trust, obedience and integrity before God. God so enjoyed fellowship with Enoch that God decided to take him home to heaven and therefore as such Enoch did not die. Jude tells us a little more. He says that the Lord will return one day with thousands of others and He will bring righteous judgement upon all who have rebelled against the Lord. These words about Enoch remind us that when Jesus comes again, He will rapture His church and that those alive on earth at the time will suddenly be taken. What a challenge to our walk with God as Enoch did! Another man suddenly taken is Elijah. God is sovereign and He chooses to do as He wills and our times are in His hands.

### **Methuselah**

We see in the record that Methuselah is credited with the blessing that he is the oldest man in the Bible, living 969 years. We have no other information about him.

### **Lamech's son Noah**

Lamech believed that his son Noah would be a comfort to mankind, suffering under the curse God pronounced. Work on earth was not easy after the fall of man. The soil was incredibly hard to work with and a constant reminder of

what happens when we break God's laws. Despite so much wickedness around, Noah would seek to live a righteous life before God and man.

**Points to Consider :**

How do we regard being made in God's image before and after the fall of man?.

What was the purpose of men longer lives in the early generations on earth?

What was unique about Enoch?

How does the birth of a new child bring hope? What was Lamech's hope with Noah?