



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group - Creation Series

Lesson #4 (Genesis 5 – The Genealogy of Adam) | Thursday, March 2, 2017

The principal aim of this series is to explore what the Bible has to say about Creation and the early history of mankind up to the Tower of Babel. The first eleven chapters of Genesis define for us what God's Word has to say about the early days of man. For many people this portion of the Bible is nothing more than fables, while for others it is the inspired Word of God that clearly establishes the origin of man, civilization, and the universe. As Christians, it is important to know what we believe and be able to clearly communicate to others the basis of our beliefs. The world needs well-read, articulate Christians who are confident in their beliefs built on a strong, Biblical foundation.

Listed below is the basic outline for our Creation Series, along with the schedule for each lesson.

Topic	Location in Genesis	Planned Date
Introduction	N/A	February 2
Six days of Creation	Genesis 1 – 2	February 9
The Fall	Genesis 3	February 16
Cain and Abel	Genesis 4	February 23
Genealogy (Adam to Noah)	Genesis 5	March 2
Wickedness of Man	Genesis 6:1-8	March 9
Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6 – 8	March 23 (*)
God's Covenant with Noah / Sons of Noah	Genesis 9	March 30
Table of Nations	Genesis 10	April 6
Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9	April 13

* Spring Break is scheduled for March 13-17; there will not be a lesson on Thursday, March 16.

Most of us would have to admit that reading genealogies in the Bible is unlikely to be among our favorite passages. It is hard to understand why God included the names of people who “at-first-glance” have little impact on our lives and we will never know this side of Heaven. However, when we spend time looking at what God is telling us, I think we'll find genealogies of the Bible to be very significant. I would like you to consider three points.

First, remember that the Bible is *God's story of mankind*; or better stated, it is **HIS-story**. By including the names of men and women in genealogies He is communicating to us that He is in complete control of His plans for mankind, even down to the people He created and their assignment in His overall plan. Secondly, if the people listed are significant enough to be included by God, it means He wants us to know about them. While it is unlikely any of us will ever memorize a list of 42 or more names unless we are taking a theology class or our “crazy” Thursday night Bible study teacher has some idea for us to join him in his quest for memorizing “every possible list known to man” (I can't imagine who that teacher might be...), it is still good to read through genealogies from time to time. Thirdly, when you and I read the genealogies of the Bible it communicates that God has very special plans for those who have been called by Him. That includes you and me if we are Believers / followers of Jesus. Remember that even in Genesis 5 God was orchestrating His plans for the coming Messiah, who would come through Adam, Noah, Shem, Judah, and eventually King David. The genealogies in Matthew and Luke are astounding when you consider the statistical un-likelihood of one man coming through King David (and two branches from David on top of that as we'll see on Page 3 of this lesson!).

Questions & Deep Thoughts

1. For many Believers, reading Biblical chapters involving genealogies is not at the top of their desired reading lists. Our attitude often stems from not knowing who the people are, as well as the events and experiences that shaped their lives. **One genealogy in which we are all interested is *our own*.** Think in terms of how you have been impacted by the lives of others in your family, especially those members who might be (or might have been) Christians.
2. Read Genesis 5 and the years when each son was born. See also the meaning of each man's name in the table below. **How many years from Adam to the Flood?**

NAME	AGE	MEANING OF NAME
Adam	130 + 800 = 930 years	Man
Seth	105 + 807 = 912 years	Appointed
Enosh	90 + 815 = 905 years	Mortal
Kenan	70 + 840 = 910 years	Sorrow
Mahalalel	65 + 830 = 895 years	The Blessed God
Jared	162 + 800 = 962 years	Shall come down
Enoch	65 + 300 = 365 years	Teaching
Methuselah	187 + 782 = 969 years	His death shall bring
Lamech	182 + 595 = 777 years	The Despairing
Noah	500 years (before Shem's birth) + 100 years (from Shem to the Flood) = 600 years Noah died at 950 years (Genesis 9:29)	Rest, or comfort

When we combine the names above into a single phrase, what can be concluded?

"Man [is] appointed [to] mortal sorrow; [but] the Blessed God shall come down teaching; His death shall bring the despairing rest, or comfort."

3. On the back of this page see the genealogical listings for Jesus taken from Luke and Matthew.
 - a. What are the differences that exist in comparing these two genealogies?
 - b. What do these genealogies tell us about God?
4. What does having a genealogy associated with your life mean to you? Think specifically in terms of the impact you will leave on your family and mankind in the future. Consider Ephesians 5:1-2 and Colossians 1:9-14 in developing your answer.

Matthew's Genealogy of Christ

The genealogy of Christ descends from Abraham through three series of fourteen members each; the first fourteen belong to the patriarchal order, the second to the royal and the third to that of private citizens. Matthew 1:17, shows that this arrangement was intended; for the writer expressly states: "So all the generations, from Abraham to David, are fourteen generations. And from David to the transmigration of Babylon, are fourteen generations: and from the transmigration of Babylon to Christ are fourteen generations."

First Series	Second Series	Third Series
1. Abraham	1. Solomon	1. Jechonias
2. Isaac	2. Roboam	2. Salathiel
3. Jacob	3. Abia	3. Zorobabel
4. Judas	4. Asa	4. Abiud
5. Phares	5. Josaphat	5. Eliacim
6. Esron	6. Joram	6. Azor
7. Aram	7. Ozias	7. Sadoe
8. Aminadab	8. Joatham	8. Achim
9. Naasson	9. Achaz	9. Eliud
10. Salmon	10. Ezechias	10. Eleazar
11. Boaz	11. Manasses	11. Mathan
12. Obed	12. Amon	12. Jacob
13. Jesse	13. Josias	13. Joseph
14. David	14. Jechonias	14. Jesus

Luke's Genealogy of Christ

The genealogy in Luke 3:23-28 ascends from Joseph to Adam or rather to God; this is the first striking difference between the genealogies as presented in the First and Third Gospels. Another difference is found in their collocation: Matthew places his list at the beginning of his Gospel; Luke, at the beginning of the public life of Christ. Luke's genealogy may be seen in the following table:

First Series	Second Series	Third Series	Fourth Series
1. Jesus	22. Salathiel	43. David	57. Thare
2. Joseph	23. Neri	44. Jesse	58. Nachor
3. Heli	24. Melchi	45. Obed	59. Sarug
4. Mathat	25. Addi	46. Boaz	60. Ragau
5. Levi	26. Cosan	47. Salmon	61. Phaleg
6. Melchi	27. Elmadan	48. Naasson	62. Heber
7. Janne	28. Er	49. Aminadab	63. Sale
8. Joseph	29. Joshua	50. Aram	64. Cainan
9. Mathathias	30. Eliezer	51. Esron	65. Arphaxad
10. Amos	31. Jorim	52. Phares	66. Sem
11. Nahum	32. Mathat	53. Judas	67. Noah
12. Hesli	33. Levi	54. Jacob	68. Lamech
13. Nagge	34. Simeon	55. Isaac	69. Mathusale
14. Mahath	35. Judas	56. Abraham	70. Henoch
15. Mathathias	36. Joseph		71. Jared
16. Semei	37. Jona		72. Malaleel
17. Joseph	38. Eliakim		73. Cainan
18. Juda	39. Melea		74. Henos
19. Joanna	40. Menna		75. Seth
20. Reza	41. Mathatha		76. Adam
21. Zorobabel	42. Nathan		77. God

Note that variations in spelling of names may vary depending upon the translation source.

Matthew and Luke present different genealogies of Jesus--one through David's son **Solomon** (the royal line) and the other through David's son **Nathan** (the non-royal line). The royal line is traced in Matthew; the "natural" line in Luke. Matthew's genealogy goes only back to Abraham (to show the Jewish character of the King); Luke's goes back to Adam (to show the universal aspect of the Savior). Matthew's emphasizes Jesus' royalty; Luke, his humanity.

It is debated whether the genealogy in Matthew belongs to Joseph's family, and the one in Luke applies to Mary's line, or vice versa. One is a 'physical line' and the other a 'royal line'. (The historical evidence is fairly strong that both Mary and Joseph were of the house of David.) Strictly speaking, however, ANY DESCENDENT of David would be considered of the 'royal' family, because it was defined by the ancestor--NOT the current holder (or non-holder) of the throne. So, for example, in the case in 2 Samuel, the children of Saul and his concubine Rizpah were of 'Saul and his bloody house', but--as children of a concubine--they would NEVER be in the line of succession.

Both genealogies are 'aware' of the virgin birth: Luke adds the phrase "He was the son, SO IT WAS THOUGHT, of Joseph" (3:23) and Matthew switches verbs from "X begat Y" to "Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom (feminine pronoun) was born Jesus". (Above text from <http://www.christian-thinktank.com/>).