

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

“A Father’s Legacy”

Genesis 5:1-32

2002

Introduction

“It’s much easier to become a father than to be one.”

“There are little eyes upon you, and they are watching night and day;
 There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say;
 There are little hands all eager to do everything you do,
 And a little boy who’s dreaming of the day he’ll be like you.
 You’re the little fellow’s idol, you’re the wisest of the wise,
 In his little mind about you, no suspicions ever rise;
 He believes in you devoutly, holds that all you say and do,
 He will say and do in your way when he’s grown up to be like you.
 There’s a wide-eyed little fellow who believes you’re always right,
 And his ears are always open and he watches day and night;
 You are setting an example every day in all you do,
 For the little boy who’s waiting to grow up to be like you.”
 (Dhiman, Avleek. “Little Eyes”.)

Many parents like to quote Prov 22:6:

“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

But to bring up a child in the way he should go – you must travel that way yourself.

I The Legacy Of God

A. He created man in His **likeness** [Verse 1-2a]

Likeness = Demuwth (dem-ooth') = “Resemblance or image”

Gen. 1:26 “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness ...’”

Although sin has corrupted our image-bearing nature and distorted our intended reflection of God’s true character and nature, it is God’s intention for every believer to once again bear that image in its fullest expression.

Rom 8:29 “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son...”

In what sense are we made in the likeness or image of God?

1. **Physically**

1 Cor. 15:49 “And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.”

Phil 3:20-21 “Jesus Christ ... will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

1 John 3:2 “We know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”

2. Spiritually

a. In His divine nature

2 Peter 1:4 “Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.”

b. In His inheritance and glory

Rom. 8:17 “Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

c. In His character

Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Application: How do we accomplish this? Through hard work? NO!

2 Cor. 3:18 “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

B. He made them male and female - Matt 19:4-6

C. He blessed them [Verse 2b]

Blessed = Barak = “The bestowing of good and happiness”

Mark 10:16 “And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.”

Application: The importance of blessing our children

Col 3:21 “Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.”

Eph 6:4 “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

D. He called them “man”

Man = Adamah = “Dust of the ground”

Acts 17:26-28 “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they

should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”

II The Legacy Of Adam

The main contrast between the lines of Cain and Seth is their life focus.

Cain’s line is credited with worldly achievements. Cain built the first city (4:17) and from his descendants came remarkable technological and cultural contributions – his offspring were famous metal workers, ranchers, and musicians.

Interestingly, in Seth’s line there isn’t one mention of any significant worldly achievements. They are, however, noted for two important qualities:

1. They were men of faith [Enoch, 5:18, 21-24; Lamech, 5:28-31].
2. They produced godly offspring through whom God would fulfill His plan of redemption and salvation.

A. He had a son in his **likeness** [Verse 3]

Likeness = Demuwth = “Resemblance or image”

Adam was made in the image of God. But one of the consequences of his rebellion against God was that he passed on his fallen and corrupt nature to his son Seth.

Psalms 51:5 “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”

Gen 8:21 “... every inclination of [man’s] heart is evil from childhood.”

It is true: “A sinner begets a sinner, but a saint does not beget a saint.”

1. He named him Seth
Seth = “Appointed”

B. He had other sons and daughters [Verse 4]

C. He eventually **died** [Verse 5]

In Gen 5:5, we have Adam’s obituary announcement fulfilling the physical aspect of the death sentence that God pronounced on him in Genesis 3:19. This is a grim reminder that the wages of sin is death (Rom 3:23) and that God keeps His Word -- in judgment as well as in salvation.

III The Legacy Of Adam’s Offspring

A. They were in the **image** of Adam

1 Cor 15:47-49 “The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.”

B. They had sons and daughters [Verses 6-20]

1. Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared

Enosh = “Mortal”

Kenan = “Sorrow”

Mahalalel = “The Blessed God”

Jared = “Came Down”

2. Enoch [Verse 21-24]

a. He walked with God

Gen 6:9 “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.”

There is a vast difference between simply living and walking with God.

Application:

Many self-professed Christians have trained their children to succeed in the world, but have failed to train them to walk with God.

What does it mean to walk with God?

1. He went in God’s direction

Amos 3:3 “Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?”

The man who walks with God is the man who knows which way God is going and goes the same way.

Deut 5:32-33 “So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.”

2. He kept in step with God

You cannot walk with somebody if you do not keep in step with him.

Gal 5:25 “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Rom 8:5 “Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

b. He was not because God took him

The only other man who never died was the prophet Elijah (2 Kgs 2:11-12).

Why was Enoch given the privilege of bypassing death?

1. He walked with God - Gen 5:21

2. He pleased God

Heb 11:5 “By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him

away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.”

3. He spoke for God

Jude 1:14 “Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men:
 “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

This prophecy is often quoted in reference to the second coming of Jesus Christ, which is appropriate. But its primary reference is to the judgment of the Flood. Enoch saw the coming of the Flood and he named his son Methuselah, "When he dies, it will come." If you figure out the chronology of this from the life of Noah, who was six hundred years old when the Flood came, you will find that the very year Methuselah died, the Flood came. It happened exactly as God had predicted.

Application: The foreshadowing ministry of Enoch and Elijah

1. Their translation foreshadows the rapture of the church in 1 Thess 4:16-17.
2. It is possible that Enoch and Elijah may be the two witnesses who will come during the Tribulation period recorded for us in Zech 4:14 and in Rev 11:7-12.

3. Methuselah, Lamech, Noah [Verse 25-32]

Methuselah = “His death shall bring it”

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.

- 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

Lamech = “Despairing”

Noah = “Comfort or rest”

The flood came in 600th year of Noah's life, or 1656 years from creation, or the exact year that Methusaleh died.

Gen 9:29 “Altogether, Noah lived 950 years, and then he died.”

Gen 9:19 “These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth.”

Japheth is the oldest son of Noah (10:21), and Ham the youngest (9:24), but Shem is mentioned first because he is the one through whom the Messiah will come!

C. They all **died** [Verses 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31]

Here again we have the repeated phrase, "and he died." Every individual's mention ends with the phrase, "and he died," "and he died," "and he died." Eight times it is recorded "and he died," contradicting the lie of Satan in the garden when he said to Eve, "If you eat of this fruit you will not die," (Gen 3:4).

Ps 89:48 "What man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave?"

Heb 9:27 "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

The overwhelming emphasis of Genesis 5 is that all these men *died*. Despite their longevity, the terrible consequences of sin predicted in Gen. 3:19 still came to pass. They were all under sin and all subject to death.

How do we explain the extremely long life spans?

In this chapter, no one lives less than 365 years (and this is Enoch, who was a special case), and Methuselah lives a total of 969 years. All the patriarchs here, except Noah, were born before Adam died; so that from him they might receive a full and satisfactory account of the creation, paradise, the fall, the promise, and instruction in the proper worship of God. Assuming these genealogies are consecutive, Seth died when Noah was 14 years old. Noah could have known Adam's son!

How is this possible?

1. Environment before the flood (vapor canopy)
2. Genetic purity (genetic entropy)

Mark Eastman and Chuck Missler reveal something quite astonishing regarding the 10 names found in the genealogical line of Seth found in Genesis 5 in The Creator Beyond Time and Space. If you combine the meanings of all ten names into a single sentence, it says:

“Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing rest.”

Here's the Gospel hidden within a genealogy in Genesis! Another amazing proof of the reliability of every word in the Bible!

IV The Legacy Of Your Life

A. Your earthly **legacy**

One of the most profound and beneficial questions I think we can ask ourselves is,

“How would you like to be remembered at your funeral and what steps do you need to take for that to happen?”

What kind of memories are you leaving your wife and children, your friends and family? What kind of legacy are creating? What are you living for?

1. Temporal things

Houses, cars, promotions, the next deal, vacations, shopping sprees, adventures?

2. Eternal things

The divine purposes of God?

Matt 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

John Wesley (Great 18th century revivalist and founder of Methodism):

“I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity.”

Jim Elliot (Martyred missionary to the Auca Indians):

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

C. T. Studd (One of the “Cambridge Seven” who spawned a worldwide missionary movement in the 1900s):

“Only one life, ‘twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.”

Saul of Tarsus (An apostle of Jesus Christ and the most influential Christian of all time):

Col 3:1-4 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

B. Your eternal **destiny**

1. Are you moving in God’s direction?

1 Jn. 2:6 “Whoever claims to live in Him, must walk as Jesus did.”

2. Are you keeping in step with God?

Cain and his line were remembered for staying in step with the world.

Seth and his line were remembered for walking with God.

Cain’s eternal legacy is eternal separation from God.

Seth's is eternal blessing and pleasure in God's presence.
Which destiny are you preparing for?

Conclusion

If you have a desire to spend your eternity with God, you need to make some decisions:

1. Repent of your sin

Repent = Metanoeo = "To think differently and to change course."

Romans 3:23 "... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death ..."

Acts 3:19 "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord ..."

2. Reconcile with God

Reconcile = Apokatallasso = "To put right a broken relationship"

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

3. Realign your heart to God (your loyalties and allegiance)

2 Cor 5:15 "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

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