

## *Genesis Five*

### *The Tol'dot of Adam*

1 This is the book of Adam's generations.<sup>1</sup> In the day that Elohim created man, he made him in the likeness of Elohim.<sup>2</sup> He created them male and female; and blessed them, and he called their name adam,<sup>2</sup> in the day when they were created.<sup>3</sup> And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begot a child in his likeness, after his image,<sup>3</sup> and called his name Seth.

4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years; and he begot sons and daughters.<sup>4</sup><sup>5</sup> And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years,<sup>5</sup> and he died.<sup>6</sup>

### *The Descendants of Adam – Seth to Lamech*

6 And Seth lived a hundred and five years, and begot Enosh.<sup>7</sup> And Seth lived after he had begotten Enosh eight hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>8</sup> And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years, and he died.

9 And Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan.<sup>8</sup><sup>10</sup> And Enosh lived after he had begotten Cainan eight hundred and fifteen years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>11</sup> And all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.<sup>12</sup> And Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalaleel<sup>9</sup>.<sup>13</sup> And Cainan lived after he had begotten Mahalaleel eight hundred and forty years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>14</sup> And all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

15 And Mahalaleel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared<sup>10</sup>.<sup>16</sup> And Mahalaleel lived after he had begotten Jared eight hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>17</sup> And all the days of Mahalaleel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

18 And Jared lived a hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch.<sup>19</sup> And Jared lived after he had begotten Enoch eight hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>20</sup> And all the days of Jared

were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

### *The Uniqueness of Enoch*

21 And Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methushelah.<sup>22</sup> And Enoch walked with Elohim<sup>11</sup> after he had begotten Methushelah three hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>23</sup> And all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.<sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with Elohim; and he was not, for Elohim took him.<sup>12</sup>

25 And Methushelah lived a hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech.<sup>26</sup> And Methushelah lived after he had begotten Lamech seven hundred and eighty-two years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>27</sup> And all the days of Methushelah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

### *The Introduction of Noah*

28 And Lamech lived a hundred and eighty-two years, and begot a son.<sup>29</sup> And he called his name Noah, saying, This *one* shall comfort us concerning our work and concerning the toil of our hands, because of the ground which Yahweh has cursed.<sup>13</sup><sup>30</sup> And Lamech lived after he had begotten Noah five hundred and ninety-five years, and begot sons and daughters.<sup>31</sup> And 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<sup>14</sup>, Ham<sup>15</sup>, and Japheth.<sup>16</sup>

## *End Note*

- 1 This *tol<sup>e</sup>dot* links Adam and Noah, and produces a link to the events after the deluge. It is from this line that the Messiah comes, as attested strongly by Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:23-38, especially vs. 36 where the antediluvian and post-diluvian patriarchs come together).
- 2 *Adam* here is not the name of the first man, but refers to the classification of the first couple (*them*) as members of mankind. Therefore, this *adam* should not be capitalized.
- 3 The contrast is strong. God created man in His likeness and image, while Adam begot a child in his likeness and image. It's clear that the likeness and image of God, if not eliminated, was not completely passed on to the offspring of Adam.
- 4 In the over 900 years Adam lived, he must have produced many offspring. God had commanded the first couple to populate the earth, and they evidently took that command seriously.  
Indeed, throughout this *tol<sup>e</sup>dot*, the phrase *begot sons and daughters* occurs regularly and is associated with the long lifespans of the male descendants of Adam. The phrase indicates a rapid increase of humanity in the fertile crescent area.
- 5 The extended lifespan of antediluvian man has puzzled students of Scripture for hundreds of years. Some delight in pointing out that the numbers in the Greek Old Testament (the Septuagint) differ from the Hebrew text, as does the Syrian Pentateuch. The only inspired text is the original Hebrew, and one must accept its authority unless there is clear evidence scribal error. There is none here.  
The fact of long lives is to be attributed to the nearness of the antediluvians to the creation, as after the flood, lifespans began to shorten drastically. One can understand God's plan here; the long lives allowed for a rapid populating of the earth as Yahweh Elohim had commanded.  
Unlike the Sumerian King List, which also attributes long lives, but only to kings (clearly exaggerated, attributing reigns of thousands of years) this list gives the godly line of Seth, which ultimately saved the earth, in Noah's day, from depopulation.
- 6 This genealogy is referred to in Luke 3:36-39.
- 7 From root meaning *social, friendly*, and by extension as a proper name meaning *man* or *mankind*.
- 8 Two men by this name occur in Scripture: 1) the son of Enosh, and 2) the son of Arphaxad (Luke 3:36).
- 9 An interesting name, Mahalaleel, meaning *praising God*.
- 10 Jered (יֶרֶד), from the root יָרַד (*to come or go down*), means *descendant*.
- 11 To "walk with Elohim (*God*)," stated twice in this passage, is an indication of Enoch's strong relationship to God in faith and obedience.
- 12 Enoch did not die, but was transferred from the earth because he pleased God. See Hebrews 11:5.
- 13 This Lemech, unlike the Lemech of Cain's line, was a man of faith. His son's name, Noah (נֹחַ), is from a Hebrew root meaning *rest*, which associates Noah with comfort because of the curse on the ground. Some have suggested that Lemech understood that the flood was coming, but such speculation goes beyond the statements in the text.
- 14 Shem means *renown*.
- 15 Ham means *hot*, or *sunburnt*.
- 16 Japheth means *let him enlarge*. This descent list ends significantly with the three sons of Noah, which indicates the genealogy to be a break in the narrative. Starting with chapter 6, Moses identifies the conditions leading up to the flood, one of the great historical events in Scripture.