

**Introduction to the Study of GENESIS Chapters 5:  
The Reign of *Death*: the Genealogy of Adam to Noah**

The 'reign of death' is unmistakably emphasized in Chapter 5. The repetition of the phrase, "*and he died*" occurs 8 times in the chapter. For the sin of Adam – just as God had said – brought death into the world and through Adam death passed to all the human race. It is this bitter truth that is arguably the major theme of the entire chapter. Indeed, the chapter is also striking testimony that longevity of life holds no escape from death's inevitable visitation, even the long life of Methuselah at 969 years came to an end (v.27).

Scripture records in this chapter that every generational head from Adam to Noah ended the same: "*and he died.*" All, that is, except for one: Enoch, whom the LORD God snatched from the teeth of death (vv.21-24). Why? With what purpose? Enoch becomes a remarkable prophetic picture of God's power, mercy and grace by which He will one day rescue other sons of Adam who delight in Him and desire to "walk" with Him (cf. Gen. 6:9 and Hebrews 11:5,6). Truly through Enoch, God provided further confirmation of His promise to one day restore fallen man to Himself.

Adams genealogy in chapter 5 concludes with an ending note of *hope*: Noah is born. His name as well as his life conveyed an optimism for "relief." Relief from lives lived at enmity with God, ones dominated by sin, self and death. But not Noah. His life will stand apart in devotion to God. In the following chapters 6 – 9 Noah becomes the central figure of the Genesis narrative. And like Enoch, he too was a man who "*walked with God*" (6:9).

## The Genealogy from Adam to Noah: the Reign of *Death* (5:1-32)

### A. Death Reigns: the Way of All of Mankind - 5:1-28

1. "**Death**": Ch. 5's Clear Emphasis. (LORD God said, "*You shall surely die*")
  - \* The reader is taken on a walk through the world's oldest cemetery.
  - \* Typical longevity exceeds 900 years; unreached is the threshold 1000.
2. Enoch: a Pattern for All of Adam's Descendants – 5:21-24
  - \* God's *Commendation*: "... he **walked with God.**" (vv.21,24)

\* God's *Unusual Action*: "... he **was not**, for God took him." (v.24)  
(For similarity compare also Elijah in 2 Kings 2:10-12)

**B. NOAH**: the birth of **Hope** - 5:29-32

- \* The introduction of Noah: the 10<sup>th</sup> generation recorded in chapter 5.
- \* Noah fathers 3 sons who will carry forward all of humanity and especially the Promised Seed.