

GENERATIONS AND TRANSITIONS

GENESIS 5

THE FOCUS OF THE TRANSITION

" This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man." When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Adam lived 930 years, and then he died.

ARGUMENTS FOR LOOKING BACKWARD.

THE PREVIOUS TRANSITION SEEMS TO POINT BACKWARDS

The written account of Adam seems to all be before the transition

ARGUMENTS FOR LOOKING FORWARD

The transitional genealogy establishes a continuity between Adam and Noah.

Subsequent uses of this transition seem to point forward.

THE EPITAPH OF ADAM

- Adam is still God's image bearer.
- Though a sinner, God's focus on redemption is visible because God

“Blessed them”

Named them

Reproduced them

Replaced them (Seth means “compensated”)

Remained in them

Reminded them

"Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh. At that time men began to call on the name of the Lord." (Genesis 4:26-27, NIV)

- Enosh means “Frail” or “human”

THE LESSONS OF A GENEALOGY

When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father of Enosh. And after he became the father of Enosh, Seth lived 807 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Seth lived 912 years, and then he died. When Enosh had lived 90 years, he became the father of Kenan. And after he became the father of Kenan, Enosh lived 815 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died. When Kenan had lived 70 years, he became the father of Mahalalel. And after he became the father of Mahalalel, Kenan lived 840 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died. When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he became the father of Jared. And after he became the father of Jared, Mahalalel lived 830 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.

BY COMPARISON

WITH CAIN

- The Cain-ite genealogy has no age distinctions.
- The Cain-ite genealogy focuses on a fullness of sin and little more
 - *But the trades do not identify sinful practices*
- The Cain-ite genealogy Ends

WITH OTHER GENEALOGIES

- The focal point of this genealogy is not the names
 - *We know little or nothing of these people from other scripture*
 - ENOSH INSTITUTES SOME FORM OF PUBLIC WORSHIP
GEN 4:26
 - ENOCH WAS A GODLY MAN
 - Who showed great faith Heb 11:5
 - And may have written a book on God's judgment Jude 14
- *Little is said in the genealogy about them as far as contributions beyond their antecedents*

BY CONTENT

- The genealogy of Adam provides a continuity of life from Adam to Noah demonstrating God's faithfulness
- The genealogy of Adam presents a developing diversity of humanity
- The genealogy presents ages for childbearing and death that consistently run in the hundreds of years.
 - The youngest age at the birth of a progenitor is 65
 - The youngest death is 777 – and that might be a flood shortened age.
- When compared to the genealogy in chapter 11 there are significant age distinctions is this because...
 - *The benefits of Eden continue to bless the generations?*
 - *The genetic pool is still developing so congenital failure is rare?*

- *The environment (the protection of the firmament) preserves life?*
- The genealogy presents a common conclusion to life – death.

"Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come." (Romans 5:14, NIV)

EXCEPT

When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died. When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

- The translation of Enoch provides a precedent for the rapture of the church.

BY CAVEAT

- The progenitors are not necessarily first-born
 - We know that Seth is at least a third SON with at least one sister (the wife of Cain)
- The fathers may be grandfathers
 - Other genealogies have observable gaps
 - The genealogies of Jesus in Matthew 1/ Luke 3, seem to have some compacting and skipped kings
 - We cannot confirm or deny the existence of any gaps in this genealogy or the one in Gen 11 but, since every other list seems to have missing generations is **COULD** be assumed that there are skips.
 - On the other hand, if the purpose is to illustrate what Paul will state “as in Adam, all die” (! Corinthians 15:22) then the genealogy continuity would play strongly toward that point.
- The ages then, may not add up to create a history of the age of the earth.

- The Hebrew text adds up 1656 years from the creation using the age of Adam at the birth of Shem (130 years from creation) to the flood.
- An additional 365 years are counted from the flood to the call of Abram
- This would add up to 2021 years in the patriarchal period.
- Most date the call of Abram to 2000 bc.
- This would make the age of the earth somewhere in the range of 6000-7000 years.
- If there are gaps in the genealogy then these numbers would be meaningless for calculating the age of the earth.