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Sermon Notes

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From Adam to Noah: Humanity Multiplies and Divides

Genesis 4:25-5:32

I. The Long March Back: The Beginning of the Godly Line (4:25-26)

The Seed of Woman vs. The Seed of the Serpent

A. Cain's descendents: a city built by murderers

B. Seth: The first step back

1. Abel's replacement

a. still searching for the serpent-slayer

- A long way from Christ
- YET Seth's birth a key step toward that godly line
- Seth included in Christ's genealogy, Noah's ancestor

b. Eve names him this time... Seth = "granted"

- mother's authority over son
- Seth names his son Enosh... joint parental authority

Proverbs 6:20 "My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching."

2. "Calling on the name of the Lord"

a. organized religion... crying out to God for salvation; perhaps sacrificial system

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- b. perhaps refers to deepening prayer
- c. some indication that God has stepped further away from us

Psalm 10:1 “Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?”

II. Why the Genealogies?

- A. A Historical Faith... rooted in space and time
- B. The Significance of a single life
 - 1. God remembers everything
 - 2. All lives recorded in His books
 - 3. No human life, no human decision, no human word INSIGNIFICANT
 - 4. We forget, God remembers
- C. God’s creation plan: Fill the earth, subdue it

God’s redemptive plan: The seed of the woman, the serpent-slayer... this lineage would eventually lead to Christ

III. The Pattern of the Genealogies

- A. Five common features, some significant deviations
 - 1. So and so lived so many years and became the father of such and such
 - 2. So and so lived so many years after becoming the father of such and such
 - 3. He had other sons and daughters
 - 4. All the days of so and so’s life are so many years
 - 5. “...and he died.”
- B. Expansion of population: “other sons & daughters”
 - 1. Points to possibly massive population expansion
 - a. exponential population growth

- b. if each patriarch had 5 children (“other sons & daughters”)
 - c. 1656 years from Adam to the Flood, population of well over 6 billion people
2. Also points to one godly line in the midst of ungodliness
 3. Jesus’ assessment of ratios

Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and narrow the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.”

- C. Development of human culture before flood (2 Peter 3... “the world that then was”)
 1. Absence of data suggests primitive cultures
 2. Actually, 2 Peter 3 gives us a sense of a whole cultural development
 3. Each person lived longer, efficiency in knowledge transfer

IV. Scientific Problems: The Age of the Patriarchs and the Age of the Earth

A. How Could They Live So Long??

1. Superior genetic make-up... disease had less time to permeate
2. Cosmic radiation blocked by water canopy until flood

B. The Age of the Earth: Archbishop Ussher’s chronology

1. James Ussher, Anglican Archbishop in Dublin, Ireland
2. No backwoods Bible-thumping revivalist preacher
3. Graduated from Trinity College in 1600... became a lecturer at age 19
4. Careful scholar, became full professor of theology at age 25 in 1607 (Jamestown)
5. In 1654 he published a book in which there was a table of Biblical chronology
 - a. years from Adam to Flood = 1656 years (Genesis 5)
 - b. years from Flood to Abraham = 292 years (Genesis 11)

- c. Total years from Adam to Abraham = 1948 years
- d. estimated a date of 2050 B.C. for birth of Abraham
- e. total date of creation = 4004 B.C.

Okay Biblically, but problem with Cainan in Luke 3:36... may be a gap in OT genealogies... just as there is in Matthew's genealogy of Christ in Matt. 1; also some discrepancies between various translations of OT... but at most, date of creation pushed back to 5500 B.C. ; still laughable by evolutionists

C. Modern evolutionary theories: totally dependent on an ancient earth

- 1. 1-2 million years of human history
- 2. "Time enough" for DNA complexity to get built up (????)
- 3. "Time enough" for humans to evolve from apes (????)

D. Dating techniques: a series of assumptions totally unquestioned

1. Radiometric dating

a. must know the following:

- i) how much of the stuff we have around today
- ii) average rate of change of the stuff in the recent past
- iii) how much of the stuff we had at the beginning

Obviously two big problems: 1) we don't know if the rate has always been the same; 2) we have no idea how much of the stuff we had at the beginning

b. Carbon 14 dating

- i) N14 gets changed to C14 by cosmic rays
- ii) C14 is unstable and begins to convert back to N14
- iii) scientists know how long this process takes & think they can measure age of plant or animal at death by measuring ratio of C12 to C14.

- iv) PROBLEM: they have no idea how much C14 was in the animal when it died... they just make an assumption

Actually: C14 dating is a huge problem for evolutionists, since present readings show that much more C14 is produced every year than is destroyed... we're actually building the stuff up gradually... this points to a YOUNG earth not an old one

- c. Other radiometric dating techniques:
 - i) Uranium 238 decays to Lead 206 and Helium 4 (half-life 4.5 billion years)
 - ii) Potassium 40 decays to Argon 40 and calcium 40 (half-life 1.3 billion years)

***If they find any of the secondary element at all, it points to a very old age!
That's why evolutionists LOVE radiometric dating techniques***

- 2. Other dating techniques
 - a. Decaying magnetic field of the earth
 - b. Accumulation of minerals in the ocean
 - c. Build-up of geological layers of silt
 - d. Study of ice cores in glaciers

None of these disproves Biblical chronology, especially since they all make assumptions about original state and rate over time that simply cannot be proven

My conclusion: why choose the unprovable assumptions of science over the proven perfection of the word of God? While the Bible cares more HOW these ancient people lived than HOW LONG they lived, yet the data IS given... we do well to accept it, especially since none of us was there

V. Spiritual Lessons from the Genealogy

A. Adam: Death Finally Comes

- 1. God's faithfulness to His word

Genesis 2:17 *“You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

Genesis 3:19 *“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the earth since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

2. Death entered the race through one man

a. Adam head of all human race

vs. 1-2 *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.’”*

b. both male and female equally in God’s image

c. BUT both called by Adam’s name... Adam the head of the human race

d. Therefore when Adam sinned, we all sinned

Romans 5:12-13 *“Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men because all sinned...”*

3. Adam passed on his sin nature to his descendants

vs. 3 *“When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image, and he named him Seth.”*

a. doctrine of original sin

b. how can it be that every single person born sins?

Illus. The bad penny that keeps showing up

c. David’s testimony

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

d. original sin exhibits itself as soon as the child knows right & wrong

Illus.: I know a child who looked around before doing something wrong!

4. The wages of sin is death
 - a. sin and death connected forever... not just in command to Adam
 - b. animal sacrifice connected sin & death as well
 - c. ultimately Paul wrote of this as well

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

5. Satan held the power of death until Christ crushed him

Hebrews 2:14ff “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

1 John 3:8 “the reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

6. Consequences of sin... even for those forgiven
 - a. Adam carried on for 900 years after his death sentence
 - b. he instructed all his children, grand children, great grandchildren in what he’d done through sin
 - c. genealogy shows he was alive when Noah’s father Lamech was born
 - d. Yet he passed on a legacy of a sin nature, even to his godliest child... Seth
 - e. death cannot be avoided

Hebrews 9:27 “It is appointed to men to die once, and then face judgment.”

- f. steady drone of Adam’s children, one after the other

vs. 8 “Altogether Seth lived 912 years, and then he died.”

vs. 11 “Altogether Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.”

vs. 14 “Altogether Kenan lived 910 years, and then he died.”

vs. 17 “Altogether Mahalalel lived 895 years, and then he died.”

vs. 20 *“Altogether Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.”*

vs. 27 *“Altogether Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.”*

vs. 31 *“Altogether Lamech lived 777 years, and then he died.”*

In the middle of this depressing drone of death comes a shining star...
Enoch

B. Enoch: He Walked with God and Disappeared

vs. 21-24 *“When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 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.”*

1. Evidence of God’s grace: death conquered through walking with God
2. Daily communion... fellowship in prayer; an obedient ear; a servant’s heart
3. Day to day faithfulness: walking with God

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

[Abraham] *Genesis 17:1* **“God appeared to Abram and said ‘I am God Almighty: Walk before me and be blameless.’”**

[Israel] *Deuteronomy 30:15-16* **“See I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep his commands...”**

- a. walking with God = walking in His ways
- b. imitation of God... restored into His image
- c. precisely what Christ does in us

Colossians 1:10 *:And we pray this in order that you may walk worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way...”*

Colossians 2:6 “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him...”

1 John 1:7 “If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.”

4. Enoch’s reward: triumph over death

vs. 24 “Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”

Hebrews 11:5 “By faith Enoch was taken from this life so that he did not experience death. He could not be found for God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as someone who pleased God.”

- a. God spared Enoch from death
- b. he suddenly disappeared... his friends and family look for him but couldn’t find him

Illus.: Tim LaHaye, Left Behind... writes of the sudden mysterious disappearance of true believers at the end of the world... Enoch was the first suddenly to disappear... Elijah the second

- c. Enoch & Elijah the only two to escape death

Elijah ascended to heaven in a chariot of fire and in a whirlwind

Why?? God’s testimony of faithfulness to two extraordinary men who obeyed Him day after day

Sometimes God takes holy people out of this earth to spare them from evil

Isaiah 57:1-2 “Devout men are taken away and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.”

C. Noah: Comfort from the Curse

- 1. Lamech: named Noah “comfort”

2. Lamech was 56 years old when Adam died... he almost certainly knew Adam and talked with him about the curse on the ground

vs. 29 “He named him Noah and said, ‘He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the Lord has cursed.’”

3. Lamech died 5 years before the flood... by then the ark was well along in construction
4. Noah’s true comfort... the salvation of the human race from the wrath of God

VI. Application

- 1) Purpose of history, purpose in life... YOUR LIFE MEANS SOMETHING
- 2) Are you walking with God? Day by day fellowship, obedience, communication
 - a) walking in holiness
 - b) walking in fellowship... prayer of consecration... moment-by-moment dependence
 - c) walking with a purpose

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance that we should walk in them.”

- 3) Are you prepared for death?... Only through Jesus Christ alone can we face death fully prepared; Adam’s sin and yours bring the death

Salvation available through Noah’s Ark... now available through entering Christ