**Beginnings**  July 26, 2015

The Line of Seth

Bring in my Grandma Rowan’s genealogical chart.

Question: talk with another person about an interesting person in your family line.

Or, tell another person about an historical person that you would like to have in your family line and why.

Feedback:

The genealogies in the Bible have never been people’s “go to” passages.

When you are facing challenges, whatever they may be, you typically don’t open your Bible to Genesis 5 or 1 Chronicles 1-9.

That said, 2 Timothy 3:16 presents us with an intriguing perspective of how we are to interact with those “boring” passages: *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.*

God wants us to know that the truth in Genesis 5 is breathed out by him and is useful.

What we want to find out today and next time is this: what does this chapter teach us?

**Read 5:1-2**.

Before creation the members of the Triune God knew the events of Genesis 3 and 4 would happen...yet they still went ahead and created. This leaves us with the troubling question of why they did so - knowing all the heartache and pain that would come from our race’s disastrous decision to go it alone without God in our lives. While the Bible does not answer this question, it does tell us that the Triune God’s plan to create included how he would rescue us and undo sin and death. 1 Peter 1 says: *[Jesus’ was chosen before the creation of the world [to sacrifice his life in order to rescue us from our empty way of life].*

There is a second question we must ask. And God does answer this one.

The question is: why would God choose to rescue us after we became his enemies?

The Bible’s answer reveals a surprising characteristic of God: because of his tenacious love.

God told Eve in Genesis 3 that one of her offspring would be the Rescuer.

With the death of Abel and the cursing of Cain, Adam and Eve must have wondered:

now what? Who will it be?

Genesis 5 informs that the Rescuer would come from the line of Seth, the son born to Adam and Eve after Abel’s death. What Cain did when he murdered Abel, did not derail God’s plan, nor did his heinous act persuade God that the race of humans were undeserving of his love.

This presents us with our first key point.

**#1. When we ask which is greater - our sin or God’s love, the answer is always...God’s love.**

The second key point is connected.

**#2. While we may struggle to understand how it is possible for God’s sovereignty and human freedom to co-exist, the message of the Bible is clear: they do! God will always accomplish his purposes. And humans do have the choice, whether to stand with or against God.**

The fact that **5:1-2** restates **1:27** is meant to emphasize to us that the image of God has been indelibly stamped on every human’s inner person. It is true that the events of chapter 3 fractured this image, but they did not eradicate the likeness to God that all human’s bear.

The story of the Bible is that God’s rescue of humanity was a rescue that would ultimately restore this marred likeness. That’s why when you come to the New Testament you will read creation language being used to describe what happens when a person believes in and receives Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - new creation

Ephesians 4:24 - new self, created to be like God

Colossians 3:10 - new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator

There is a particular pattern to chapter 5 that I want you to be aware of.

With each person mentioned, we are given:

(1) their age when a particular son was born;

(2) how many more years they lived after the birth of that son; and

(3) how old the person was when they died.

**Read verses 3-32**.

The genealogy covers at least 1,600 years.

Within the time-scale of the Bible, this one chapter covers the longest period in world history.

When we consider that the Bible reveals who God is and what he has done and will do, and who we are....we have to ask why did God choose to record these people’s names, the name of one of their sons and how long they lived? What did God want us to know?

Today I want to give to you six additional key points that come out of chapter five and then next time we will dig deep into the story of Enoch who was the seventh from Adam.

**#3. God works on a different time schedule than we do.**

The catastrophe of Genesis 3 took only minutes.

 The solution took centuries.

 What does that tell us about the magnitude of what we did?

Humans are prone to water-down God’s goodness and underestimate the offensiveness of sin to God

**#4. A long period of waiting was necessary for each succeeding generation of humans to learn experientially that the choice to live without God was a choice that cannot be undone by ourselves.**

 It offends our pride to be told there is nothing we can do to make things right with God

 We’re surprised that God doesn’t share our awe of ourselves

 It seems to take a long time for us to come to the end of ourselves

 God is prepared to wait for that to happen - ie. parable of the prodigal son

**#5. Humans have not lost God’s image, but we have become different than God.**

This is what is meant when the Bible uses the word ‘ungodly’ to describe humans - we have become - un god like

 There is no darkness in God; but there is in us.

 God is good. We too do good things; but there is in us not only the capacity to do what is wrong, but also the willingness.

 God hates evil. But we find within us an attraction to what is wrong.

 Sometimes we love what God loves and hate what he hates. But other times, we love what God hates and hate what God loves

**#6. God’s love and goodness is astonishing; his justice is fair and his anger is terrifying.**

 In the Bible God has revealed himself to us.

 We don’t build a god with options that we like, or are comfortable with - that’s not how it works.

 The fact that we struggle with some attributes of God is not because there is a flaw in God; but because there is corruption in us.

**#7. God does not hurry as we hurry**

1600 years are covered in this chapter and the Rescuer still hasn’t come.

 We struggle to understand why God takes his time.

 The implications of this are very great for our faith

 - the first coming of Jesus

 - his return

 The implication of this are also very great for our day to day life

 - our frustration when God delays leaves us vulnerable to Satan’s lies

**#8. God knows people individually. We are given their name and the length of their life, but God knew all the details of every person who is named in Genesis 5.**

 People matter to God

 You matter to God

 He knows the day of your birth and your death

 He knows intimate details about you - how many hairs you have

 He knows the details of your every day

# If you are a follower of Jesus take the handout home with you and reflect each day upon one or two of these key points. We are to think deeply upon who God is. This is how we fix our eyes on Jesus.

# We have been recreated in his image. Who he is impacts who we’ve become and are becoming. Forgive because we’re forgiven. Accept because we’re accepted.

# If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, I encourage you to do the same. Your Creator did everything necessary to be your Savior. He has repeatedly intervened in your life in order to get your attention. He has patiently waited for you to turn your life to him. Genesis 5 impress upon you that there is great blessing for the person who walks with God. God invites you to be his friend. It’s your move.