

Genesis 5:1-32 6/4/23 (Noah #1) **Knowing Where We Came From**

Wasn't that an exciting reading?! It was for me anyway. Folks, as much as I wanted to dive right into the account of Noah and the world-wide flood, I simply have to set the table for that. And these "family records" of Adam are key in that process. Trust me, it is well worth the time to read through "so-in-so begat so-in-so" and so on. And I'll come back to that in a minute.

First I want to do an overall introduction to the concept of "Lessons from the Life of Noah." And I want to get started with a very BIG lesson indeed! **When** you take your trip to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, you can see the following exhibit, among many others:

Slide: Fairy tale ark exhibit pic

And I hate seeing it each time I go. In fact I usually rush right by. But the fact is that is a very important exhibit to have included.

Slide: Fairy tale ark book display pic

Inside they have multiple examples of fairy tale arks and fairy tale ark books – many of them created by well-meaning Christian companies and purchased for their children by well-meaning parents. Some of you turned some in for me to use in the sermon today. And I specifically said that anyone who offered them up were not getting them back. I said that because I believe very strongly that this is what every Christian family should do with these.

Slide: Throw them in the trash pic

Why? It's very simple. Because fairy tale type arks teach that Noah and the ark and the worldwide flood is all a big fairy tale. They disregard God's Word and they defame God's character. Trust me, I believe you meant well when you bought those things for your children, but I need to tell you straight. If Genesis 1 – 11 isn't true, then the rest of this book completely falls apart. So, if you don't want to teach your children that Noah and the worldwide flood is just a fairy tale, then – **please**, don't keep these things around!

We need to teach **truth** to our children and their children's children, because they are being exposed to lie after lie that has them questioning where they came from, why they're here and where they're going. And one of the key reasons they fall away from the faith is because they come to believe they can't trust the Bible from the very first verse. So, in that respect, this is one of the most important sermon series I can offer to you as your pastor. With three more years to go before I retire, I plan to finish strong and lean into the tape and there are some other messages that I also want to reinforce with you - precisely because they are foundational to our faith – like this one.

Now, that's not to say that everything in this account is going to be easy to understand. In fact, we've got some very tough questions that come up and that we need to deal with in this series. And I do want to thank you for jotting down some of your questions before we got this series started.

Slide: Pic of whiteboard with all the questions

I promise to get to them all. The first one, that you probably caught as I read through the text, is pretty challenging:

Slide: How did they live so many years? (*closeup pic from whiteboard*)

So for instance, as we get started with the account of Noah, the Bible says

Slide: "Noah was 500 years old, and he fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth."

(Genesis 5:32 CSB)

Folks, I don't know about you, but in my book, 500 years old is pretty old to be a father... So, what do we do with this? What do we do with the long ages of mankind *before the flood*? By the way, things before the flood are called "antediluvian". And it's a pretty cool word, so I'd like to use it in the series if you don't mind.

Slide: Antediluvian: before the flood.

So, how could antediluvian man possibly live that long? This one is going to take a while. It involves lots more than just that question, so please be patient...

Every now and then you see an article about the current oldest person in the world. They never hold that title for long, because at 114, or 115, they usually die that year and someone else takes their title. For instance, here is

Slide: Maria Branyas Morera

...currently recognized by Guinness book of world records as the oldest person in the world at 116. She says "*...lots of positivity and staying away from toxic people*" is her secret for long life. And 116 is quite a long life! But 500? 600? 900 years old? I don't think any amount of positivity is going to get **us** there. So, how do we explain it? Why did **they** live long ages and **we** don't?

Quite frankly, here's where many people start *fairytale-ing* these foundational first chapters of the Bible. Those long ages of the antediluvian people are outside of their experience, so they mentally turn them into a fairy tale. Except that it just doesn't read that way. In fact, it reads exactly like it was put together by somebody who knew all these details were tremendously important, and therefore decided to write it all down – and make sure he got it right. To that end, the very start of this reading is huge for you to grasp. Up until this point, you might have blown right by this, but I can't let you.

Slide: "This is the document containing the family records of Adam." (Genesis 5:1a CSB)

Now, we know from the Bible's own testimony that Moses assembled the first five books of the Bible. But that doesn't mean he had to start from scratch. Here we see very clearly that part of this document "contains the family records of Adam."

When you read the rest of Genesis during this series – and you should, you're going to see this as a pattern for Moses in the first five books of the Bible.

Certainly Moses was inspired by the Holy Spirit, but in those ancient times, he was still able to access the family records of

Slide: Adam: Genesis 5:1

Shem, Ham and Japheth: Genesis 10:1

Terah: Genesis 11:27

Ishmael: Genesis 25:12

Isaac: Genesis 29:19

Esau: Genesis 36:1

Jacob: Genesis 37:2

And so on:

Slide: Exodus 6:16, 19; Numbers 1:22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 40, 42; 3:1

Again, as much as I wanted to dive right into the account of Noah with this first message of the series, we just can't afford to miss this.

Slide: Biblical glasses pic

We have to put on our Biblical glasses and stop being evolutionized by the world if we are going to understand the account of Noah and the world-wide flood, all the rest of the Bible, and the history of the world itself.

People who are wearing evolutionary glasses...

Slide: Evolutionary glasses pic

...see ancient man rising up from the apes, communicating with grunts and signs and finally somehow creating speech, but not discovering how to read or write until thousands of years later. But what does the Bible say? As it gets into the specifics of creation in Genesis chapter 2, you can see that on day six, on the very day that God made Adam from the dust of the ground, even before He made Eve, the Bible says:

Slide: "The LORD God formed out of the ground every wild animal and every bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what **he** would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name." (Genesis 2:19 CSB)

Well folks, if Adam was going to give names to all the birds and animals, what did he have to have? A **spoken** language. If he was going to leave "*family records,*" what did he have to have? A **written** language. And why should you have trouble believing that the same God who formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, could also have bestowed on him the

knowledge of a spoken and written language? In fact, if you study ancient languages like Hebrew and Greek, the languages of the Bible, what you actually see is that human language has **devolved**. It's not getting better and more precise. It's going the other way.

Slide: emoticon keyboard pic

The only reason some of you might have trouble seeing the first man Adam as an intelligent, well-spoken man of letters, is because you've been evolutionized without even knowing it. You've been taught to look at these things through evolutionary glasses. So for instance, we have books and movies like this:

Slide: Prehistoric man pic

Showing us "Pre-historic man" and "stone-age man" as some kind of a troglodyte, sub-human climbing up the evolutionary ladder. But the fact is there is no such thing as "pre-historic" man.

Slide: Cancel "prehistoric man"

From the very first man and woman, we have their written history right here in Genesis. There also wasn't some kind of long progression from the stone age to the bronze age to the iron age and so on.

Slide: Stone to bronze to iron pic

When you read Genesis 4, you'll see that in only the 7th generation of mankind...

Slide: "Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools."

(Genesis 4:22 CSB)

Folks, ancient man had incredible intelligence right from the start. And that intelligence, combined with long years of experience, was able to develop the kind of technology that could build a giant ship that survived the greatest cataclysm the world has ever known! That should serve to answer another question on the board:

Slide: How did he cut the wood, nail it, and seal it without today's tools!?

It's true: they might not have had **today's** tools, but they might have had **better ones**. So for instance, only about a hundred years after they got off the ark, ancient man started to build a pyramid – called the "Tower of Babel." And after that Tower of Babel separation of mankind, we find other amazing ancient structures all over the world. We'll talk more about that later in the series. But again, if you take off your evolutionized glasses, you can see that mankind was incredibly intelligent and capable right from the start.

So, with that foundation, I'll ask again:

Slide: **Whiteboard: "How could the antediluvian people live so long?"**

And I'll answer first by saying, that's actually the wrong question. Instead we should be asking, "*Why don't we?*" God did not originally make us to die. Death only came to the world because of sin. And what is sin? Where did it come from?

How do you come to know that you are a sinner in need of a Savior? From Genesis 1 and Genesis 3, where we learn that in the beginning God made the heavens and the earth, all the flora and the fauna, and as the pinnacle of His creation he made a man and a woman to love each other and to love Him freely. That means He had to build in the choice for them to love Him and obey Him as their Creator or to rebel against Him and decide they knew better how to run their lives. We know from Genesis 3 that they chose poorly. They ate from the tree they were commanded not to eat from and they brought sin, suffering and death into God's perfect world as a result. That's why God had to send a Savior in the first place – someone to bear the responsibility and punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven from them. Jesus Christ suffered, died and rose again for you. That's the Jesus who confirms this entire account of Creation, Corruption and the Catastrophe of the world-wide flood. If He says this account is real history then it's real history. You can trust Him and you can trust this account.

But again, in terms of their long ages, after Adam and Eve brought sin and corruption into the world, the Bible indicates that their DNA itself, and that of all creation, became corrupted and defects began to infect our gene pool. In fact, those genetic defects continue to pile up. Mankind's DNA is not getting better, it's getting worse. So, if you work backward, it's easy to see that better genetics alone might have been a reason for the long ages of mankind recorded in the Bible.

And then, to make matters worse, there was obviously a genetic bottleneck at the flood, with the human gene pool down to only three couples, decreasing some of the vast variety of the DNA originally given to Adam and Eve.

Then, something else to think about regarding long ages of man, the Bible says that when Jesus comes again, he will totally destroy everything with fire. Our bodies will be remade and reunited with our souls and we will have bodies that will live forever as God originally intended in the new heaven and the new earth that He will recreate. Then we're talking **eternal** long age with our bodies...

Slide: “For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, and this mortal body must be clothed with immortality.” (1 Corinthians 15:53 CSB)

By the way, today is Trinity Sunday. When you are thinking all of this through with Biblical glasses, it just about blows your mind. God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit from eternity planning to begin time and space and create someone with whom He could reason and love and who could love Him, knowing all along what it would cost, and God the Son from eternity saying – I'll pay the price for their rebellion. It's not something to be understood as much as to stand in awe of the amazing grace of God that would choose people like us to be here today, loving Him and loving others to Him.

And of course, regarding the languages of antediluvian man, God might simply have taken a hand in reducing the long ages of man after the flood. We don't really know. What we do know is that the same hand who assembled the family records of Adam and Noah and Shem and so on, and recorded the long ages of the antediluvian man also assembled the family records of those who lived after the flood and showed us that their ages started to rapidly decrease.

Slide: Adam to Joseph chart

But folks, think about it: for 1,500 years after creation, men lived such long lives that most were alive when Adam was alive, or knew someone who was!

So for instance, Adam would still have been alive when Noah's grandfather Methuselah was alive. It's reasonable to think that they knew each other, and perhaps Methuselah was entrusted with Adam's family records that he then passed on to Noah. In fact, it's also very reasonable to assume that Noah assembled lots of other written information and technology and took it along with him on the ark, as the display on the Ark Encounter shows:

Slide: Ark Encounter library pic

Again, for many years after the flood ancient man was building incredible structures like the pyramids, underground cities, complicated aqueducts and so on all over the world.

Now, let's look at some other fascinating facts in this family tree.

Slide: Adam to Joseph chart with Methuselah Circled

The Bible says that Methuselah's father Enoch "walked with God" just like Noah did, and he preached against the growing ungodliness of his age. The Bible says that Enoch did not die, but was "taken away," for "...he was approved as one who pleased God." (Heb. 11:5) In other words, God took him straight to heaven, just like Elijah. You see that his age line is much shorter than the rest. And what a great gift! He didn't have to live long enough to see mankind getting worse and worse. But it seems that somehow he knew it was coming. In Enoch's preaching and walking with God, he gave his son Methuselah an interesting name. It means

Slide: Methuselah: "When he dies, it shall be sent."

And it was! That's the flood line right there.

Slide: circle flood line

It seems that somehow Enoch got a special message from God as to when the judgment on the world was coming. If you want to take that a step further, it's also kind of cool that as far as we know, Methuselah lived longer than any other man in history. The Bible says that God is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9) In fact Peter describes God just that way and says that God "waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was

being built.” (1 Peter 3:20). I guess so! He gave them 969 years of patience after the naming of Methuselah. But as God waited patiently, things only got worse.

By the way folks, some people want to create gaps in this genealogy so that they can somehow make room for the long ages that the evolutionists give to the earth, but if you read through the genealogies in Genesis chapter 5 and 11, and if you trust Jesus, Who trusted this account, there simply are no gaps! It is very precisely recorded in such a way that we have a very clear record of how old those guys got and how old they were when they fathered the next patriarch. That means we have a pretty clear date on the age of the earth according to the Bible – somewhere around 6,000 years.

Annnnd.....SLAM!

Slide: Door slam sound effect

That’s the sound of many, many evolutionized minds closing to the possibility of a young earth vs. a very **old** earth that evolutionists **must have** to have life evolve through time and chance. Sadly, if you have the courage to say 6,000 years, you’re immediately labeled a *flat-earther*, or a *denier* or something like that. People think you’re a nut! But as we’re going to see in this series, the sedimentary layers and the fossils within them, and the other geologic evidence of a cataclysmic event, perfectly match a world-wide flood and a **young** earth, not an **old** earth. The world-wide flood literally washes away millions of years – if you have the objectivity to see it. And we’ll come back to that later in the series, but I just want to warn you, any Christian or Christian pastor you run into who opens the door to millions and billions of years for the age of the earth – is not taking that **out of** the Bible, he’s reading it **into** the Bible, exactly what God warns us not to do in the very last message we receive from Him.

Slide: “I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.” (Revelation 22:18–19 CSB)

This is serious business folks. That’s why we’re going to take another 9 weeks for this series. In it, I’m going to answer all the other questions you put on the board. And we’re going to have a video record of all these messages on our YouTube channel. I encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to worship with us during this series, or at least to check us out on YouTube. Also please use the library resources we’ll have on the table in the narthex.

Slide: Resources pic

You might also want to pick up a set of the Remnant Trilogy, an excellent fictional account of the life of Noah. And of course, please read the book of Genesis during

this series. And feel free to continue to come to me with your questions. Let's pray:

Lord, I thank you for the Bible, and for the book of Genesis, the foundation on which the rest of Your Word stands. We thank You that we know where we came from, why we're here, where we're going, and how to get there. Be with us and with all who will watch this series. Help us to open our ears and our hearts to the Lessons You will teach us through the life of Noah. For Jesus' sake. Amen.