

Methuselah

Text: Genesis 5:21-27

Introduction:

*The number "5" in the Bible is the number for death and in keeping with that.

*This fifth chapter of Genesis is the obituary column of the Old Testament.

*We read the "...and he died..." throughout the chapter.

-vs. 5 - read.

-vs. 8 - read.

-vs. 11 - read.

-vs. 14 - read.

-vs. 17 - read.

-vs. 20 - read.

-vs. 27 - read.

-vs. 31 - red.

*"...and he died..."applies with one exception.

-Enoch, See Genesis 5:24, & Hebrews 11:5-6.

-The average span of life was longer in those days than now.

-Remember when Adam was created was supposed to live forever before the fall.

-So, 900 years or 1,000 years is nothing in the sight of eternity.

-Methuselah was the oldest of old.

-He lived to be the oldest man in the Bible - 969 years.

-Methuselah was of the line of faith, the son Enoch, grandfather of Noah.

-Only a few short verses speak of his birth, life, and death; but they speak volumes.

-Every detail of this man's life is a revelation from God, and has in them spiritual lessons for us.

-May we prayerfully consider them.

I. THE MEANING OF HIS NAME: METHUSELAH

A. "When he is dead, it shall be sent..." meaning the flood;

-the naming of babies in the Bible times always had a special reason; a happening or revelation connected with their life.

-i.e., Genesis 10:25 - "Peleg; for in his days was

the earth divided"

- B. Hence, the span of Methuselah's life was God's revelation of the coming judgment upon the world.
- C. The Bible is God's revelation of another judgment of God. - Jude 14, 15; Rev. 19:11-16.

II. THE MORAL CONDITIONS OF THE TIME METHUSELAH LIVED IS VERY SIGNIFICANT WITH THE TIMES WE LIVE IN TODAY

- A. He lived in the time of apostasy, sin, great wickedness, before the flood - Genesis 6:1-5.
-Talk about fallen angels with human women.
- B. So shall it be in our time, just preceding the next great judgement. - Mt. 24:37-39/II Thess. 2:3/II Tim. 3:1-5.

III. METHUSELAH WAS A SIGN FROM GOD TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COMING JUDGMENT.

- A. "...watch this man, for when he is dead is shall be sent..."
-How they watched his every action, sickness, and wondered if this would be the time of his death.
- B. He was God's sign for the people to watch.

-Just as God has given us signs to watch that we might know the time of his soon coming judgment upon the world.
-Matthew 24:3-33 - gives us these signs
-Mt. 24:3, 33
*Signs
-1)Wickedness.
-2)Departure from the faith
-3)Coldness in the churches
-4)Antichrist, the man of sin
-5)Return of Jews to their homeland - started already, in 1948, State of Israel created.

IV. THE EFFECT METHUSELAH HAD ON THOSE THAT BELIEVED IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE EFFECT GOD'S REVELATION HAS UPON BELIEVERS TODAY.

- A. "And Enoch walked with God..." - Gen. 5:22,24;

-"Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."
(Gen. 6:8) & "...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." (Gen. 6:9)
- B. The effect will be the same today upon those who believe God's revelation - (Hebrews 11:7)

- C. Consider how true believers live and serve God... a warning. We should live as if Jesus is coming back today.
- V. THE TIME OF METHUSELAH'S DEATH WAS UNKNOWN: HENCE THE JUDGMENT WAS NOT KNOWN (THE FLOOD)
- A. So it is with the coming of Christ and the day of judgment. - Matthew 24:37,39./I Thess. 5:2
 - B. It may be at anytime "...near..."
- VI. THE LENGTH OF METHUSELAH'S LIFE REVEALS THE LONGSUFFERING AND LOVE OF GOD, GIVING EXTRA TIME TO REPENT - (I Peter 3:20).
- A. The longer he lived the more time to repent before the judgment; even so, the longsuffering of God is revealed in God's coming judgment being delayed, giving sinners more time to repent (II Peter 3:9,15).
 - B. Why does Christ delay His coming?
 - Why does He withhold His judgment?
 - Why does God allow the lost to go so long in their sin and not cut them off in death?
 - Because of the grace, love, goodness, and longsuffering of God.
- VII. THE DEATH OF METHUSELAH SHOWS GOD'S LONGSUFFERING AND GRACE ENDING.
- *In Gen. 5:27 - read, "...he died..."
 *Then soon after the flood came.
- A. When he died the day of grace was over for the people to prepare - Gen. 6:3 & Prov. 1:24-31.
 - B. When he died the flood came, and the day of grace was over for those who failed to go into the ark.
 - "...God shut the door" - (Luke 13:25).
 - C. When death comes the day of grace is over and there is no remedy. (Proverb 29:1)
 - There is no second chance - (Prov. 11:7)
- VIII. THE DEATH OF METHUSELAH SHOWS GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES BOTH TO THE LOST WORLD AND TO HIS OWN.
- A. He finally died and the judgment came as he revealed;
 - So, the judgment of God and the coming of Christ will finally come as He promised though the scoffers mock.
 - II Pe. 3:3-4/Mt. 24:29-30/Rev. 6:17

B. Christ will also come for His own, though His longsuffering toward the lost makes it seem very long.
-It will not be long in God's way of counting time.
(II Peter 3:8)
-I Thess. 4:13-18/
-Heb 10:37 - tells us, just be patient "For yet a little while, and He that shall come, will come, and will not tarry."

Conclusion:

-Just be sure you are ready against the day of His coming, the day of His judgment, and the day of your death.

-Matthew 24:44 - "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"

-If your are not saved don't put off being saved.

-The Bible says, II Cor 6:2, "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."