



The Gospel in Genesis 5?! by Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Two weeks ago a Christian came up to me following one of my lessons and asked me if I had ever researched the names in **Genesis 5**. I spent some time looking into the original Hebrew definitions, however names are sometimes difficult to translate properly. After spending some time looking at each name I noticed a pattern that others have previously recorded—it appears that the Gospel message was given in the genealogy from Adam to Noah.

(Please understand that many of these names can have multiple meanings and/or multiple spellings which makes things more difficult to translate.)

- ☉ **Adam** — means “man”. Ish is translated man. Ishshah means woman—for she was taken out of man.
- ☉ **Seth** — After Cain killed Abel another son was born. Adam and Eve named him Seth which means “appointed.” And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, ‘For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed’” (**Genesis 4:25**).
- ☉ **Enosh** — Seth called his son Enosh, which means “mortal, frail, or miserable”. It is from the root anash, “to be incurable”, used of a wound, grief, woe, sickness, or wickedness.
- ☉ **Kenan** — Enosh’s son was named Kenan (Hebrew Qenan), which can mean “sorrow, dirge, or elegy”.
- ☉ **Mahalalel** — Kenan’s son was named Mahalalel, from mahalal which is translated “blessed” or praise; and El, indicating God. Thus, Mahalalel means the “Blessed God”.
- ☉ **Jared** — Mahalalel’s son was named Jared, from the verb yaradh, which is translated “shall come down.”
- ☉ **Enoch** — Jared had a son named Enoch which is translated “teaching, or commencement.”
- ☉ **Methuselah** — Enoch’s son was Methuselah, the old person who ever lived. His name means his death shall bring—an indication of the coming Flood. Methuselah died the year of the flood.
- ☉ **Lamech** — Methuselah had a son named Lamech, which comes from the root that we get “lament or lamentation.” Thus the name Lamech suggests despairing.
- ☉ **Noah** — Lamech gave rise to Noah which is derived from nacham, “to bring relief or comfort.” **Genesis 5:29** says, “And he called his name Noah, saying, ‘This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed.’”

If you string these names together into a single sentence here is what you get:

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man (is)
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow; (but)
Mahalalel	The Blessed God
Jared	Shall come down
Enoch	Teaching (that)
Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	The Despairing
Noah	Rest, or comfort.

Hopefully next time you read **Genesis 5** you will not look at it as simply a bunch of odd names. Instead, consider that these names point toward the Gospel that gives each one of us hope today!

— Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

*Brad may be onto something in **Genesis 5**. [**Luke 3:36-38**] - JtpII*