

Summary of Genesis 5-8

Genesis 3:15 Promise	
Enmity between You (the serpent)	The Women (Eve)
Your Offspring (unbelievers)	Her Offspring (believers)
You (serpent) shall bruise his (male child's) heal	He (male child) will crush your (serpent's) head

I. Genesis 5 – Genealogy of Adam to Noah

After the accounts of the sin of Adam and Eve in the garden and the sins of Cain and Lamech, Moses describes the continuance of the fulfillment of the Genesis 3:15 with a genealogy that traces the family line of Adam to Noah through Seth. Two important details that we find at the beginning of the genealogy are found in 5:1-3:

This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created. 3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

The first is that Cain is not found in this genealogy since Cain has been found to be on the wrong side of the Genesis 3:15 promise (offspring of the serpent). From this point forward in Genesis, Moses is only concerned with telling the readers about the heritage of the “godly” line (offspring of the Woman). Note also Eve’s statement in Genesis 4:25:

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”

The second is that Adam imitates God in the ultimate sense by fathering a son in his own likeness.

At the end of the chapter, we get another clue that this “godly line” is a fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 with the words of Lamech in Genesis 5:28-29:

When Lamech had lived 122 years, he fathered a son 29 and called his name Noah, saying, “Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands.”

Lamech’s words allude directly to the curse on Adam in Genesis 3:17-19 and show that he hoped Noah would give them rest or relief from this curse.

II. Genesis 6-8 – The Flood Story

The genealogy in Genesis 5 is setting the scene for the Flood story that we find in Genesis 6-8. What we find in these chapters is that the problem that began in Genesis 3 with the sin of Adam

and Eve, and continued in Genesis 4 with the murdering of Abel by Cain and in the murdering rampage of Lamech; this problem is systematic and has spiraled to massive proportions. Moses describes it this way:

Genesis 6:5-7 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

It is safe to say that the offspring of the Serpent was outnumbering the offspring of the Woman. However, God still graciously kept a remnant in Noah and his family (**Genesis 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD**). God was angry with the violence of humanity and had finally decided that judgment was necessary. Therefore, God decided to wipe out every person on the earth with a flood except for Noah and his family. God was gracious to them and gave Noah a covenant that they would be saved through the building of a large vessel or ark. So God give Noah 120 years to build this ark and to gather a pair of each kind of animal, bird, and creeping thing to join him on the ark. The rain that caused the flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights.