

Genesis 5:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:

Analysis

And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughter... This passage belongs to the primeval history section (Genesis 1-11) which establishes universal truths about God, humanity, sin, and divine purposes before focusing on Abraham and Israel. These chapters answer fundamental questions about human origins, the spread of wickedness, God's judgment, and the preservation of a righteous remnant.

Recurring patterns emerge: human sin escalating from individual disobedience to societal corruption, divine patience followed by judgment, gracious preservation of a remnant, and covenant promises ensuring redemptive purposes continue. The genealogies connect historical persons, demonstrate the fulfillment of divine promises (blessing and multiplication), and trace the line leading to Abraham and ultimately Christ.

Key theological themes in this section include:

1. sin's destructive progression affecting all humanity
2. God's righteous judgment while preserving mercy
3. human pride and autonomy opposing divine sovereignty
4. cultural development as both blessing and potential idolatry
5. God's sovereign plan advancing despite human rebellion.

These narratives provide the necessary context for understanding God's calling of Abraham and the covenant promises through which all nations will be blessed.

Historical Context

The primeval history (Genesis 1-11) parallels ancient Near Eastern traditions including Sumerian King Lists (pre-flood longevity), Akkadian flood traditions (Atrahasis, Gilgamesh), and Mesopotamian city foundation myths. However, Genesis demythologizes these traditions, presenting monotheistic history rather than polytheistic mythology. The genealogies connecting Adam to Noah to Abraham provide historical framework absent in pagan myths.

Archaeological evidence confirms ancient urbanization (chapter 4's cities), agricultural development, metallurgy, and musical instruments emerging in Mesopotamia's early history. The Babel account reflects Mesopotamian ziggurat construction (stepped pyramid temples), particularly in Babylon. Linguistic diversity requiring explanation was obvious to ancient peoples, making the Babel narrative culturally relevant.

For Israel in covenant with Yahweh, these chapters explained their relationship to surrounding nations. All peoples descended from Noah, but Israel descended from Shem through Abraham—chosen for blessing all nations. The flood demonstrated God's justice and mercy: judging wickedness while preserving the righteous. This pattern would recur throughout Israel's history, assuring them that God's covenant faithfulness endures despite judgment on the wicked.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. How should this truth about Methuselah shape our daily decisions and priorities?

3. How does this verse fit into the broader biblical story culminating in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּחַי לְמִנְחָה אֶתְרִי נָשָׁה אֶת וְיַלְדָה יְהוָה וְיַלְדָה
l'mincha eterri nashah et yaldah yehova v'yaldah
lived And Lamech after and begat H853 Noah and five ninety
H2421 H3929 H310 H3205 H5146 H2568 H8673

וְבָנֹות בְּנֵי יְמִינָה שְׁנַת הַמֵּאָה וְיַלְדָה שְׁנַת הַמִּצְמָה שְׁנַת הַמִּצְמָה
v'bnot benni yaminah shnatah hamaah v'yaldah shnatah hatzmama shnatah hatzmama
years and five hundred years and begat sons and daughters
H8141 H2568 H3967 H8141 H3205 H1121 H1323

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