

Hidden Gems in Genealogy

I love hidden treasures, wonderful little gems that you find in the most unexpected places. God must enjoy that too, for His Book is stock full of them. Years ago, I heard of this awesome prophecy hidden in, of all places, one of those notoriously unexciting genealogies! The place is Genesis 5, and the prophecy is the central theme of the entire Bible.

Gen.5:1(KJV) "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.6 And Seth lived an hundred and five years, and begat Enos:7 And Seth lived after he begat Enos eight hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters:8 And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years: and he died.9 And Enos lived ninety years, and begat Cainan:10 And Enos lived after he begat Cainan eight hundred and fifteen years, and begat sons and daughters: 11 And all the days of Enos were nine hundred and five years: and he died.12 And Cainan lived seventy years, and begat Mahalaleel:13 And Cainan lived after he begat Mahalaleel eight hundred and forty years, and begat sons and daughters:14 And all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years: and he died.15 And Mahalaleel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jared:16 And Mahalaleel lived after he begat Jared eight hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters:17 And all the days of Mahalaleel were eight hundred ninety and five years: and he died.18 And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:19 And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:20 And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died.21 And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.25 And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech: 26 And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters:27 And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed."

We are dealing with that important paternal line between Adam and Noah. It proceeds as follows: Adam-Seth-Enos-Cainan-Mahalaleel-Jared-Enoch-Methuselah-Lamech-Noah. It is also a well known fact that names in the Bible often had a special meaning, and they were often typical foreshadowing of greater truths relating to Christ. This is certainly the case here. If you string the meanings of each of these 10 patriarchs together, it makes a great prophetic sentence about the fallen condition of man and the coming Redeemer!

Now for each patriarch's name followed by the Hebrew meaning.

Adam: **man**, (also inherent in word Adam is word image or shadow, because he was the image or of the second Adam(Christ) who was to come.)

Seth: **appointed**

Enos: **a mortal**, (or it can mean frail or melancholy)

Cainan: **habitation** (or dwelling place)

Mahalaleel: **the blessed God** (or the praise of God)

Jared: **come down** (or descend)

Enoch-teaching

Methuseleh- His death shall bring (He was named such by Enoch who prophesied that at the death of Methuselah the Great Flood would begin as it did.)

Lamech- captive or slaves (belonging to)

Noah-comfort or rest

Now put it all together:

Adam- Seth- Enos- Cainan- Mahalaleel- Jared-

Man - is appointed - a mortal - habitation-(but) the Blessed God- shall come down

Enoch- Methuselah- Lamech- Noah

teaching- (that) His death shall bring- the captives- comfort.

This is the central theme of the gospel, hidden in their very names! What an awesome God we serve! Furthermore, consider that God had to impress on each of these parents what to name each son, and that the time frame with which we are dealing is about 1658 years!! Appendix 50 in the Companion Bible by E.W. Bullinger places the creation of Adam at 4004BC. and the Flood Year at 2348BC. Truly , blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus who has blessed us! May we know more of the unsearchable riches of Christ and His Book.

Side note: I think this hidden message is great for all ages. Last year, I did an AWANA Bible lesson for the 5-8 year olds about hidden treasure in God's word using this genealogy message. Each of my 10 volunteer children got a small poster with his name and its meaning underneath. I explained each patriarch's name and its meaning. After everyone was lined up in a row, then I challenged anyone who could find the hidden message they all made together. They immediately got it! That was also a great introduction to explain the great God who came down for our salvation, and to show them that this Book is anything but dull!!

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