



A BETTER WORD

BEYOND REPAIR

A Study Through Genesis 1–11 | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

Certain Death

Genesis 5:1–32

THE BIG IDEA

Death reigns over every name in this long genealogy — but Enoch’s life shows that walking with God, not merely living, is what death cannot touch.

SERMON SUMMARY

Genesis 5 reads like a simple genealogy, but its repeated refrain — “and he died” — makes one truth unmistakable: death interrupts the purpose God gave humanity at creation. Every name on this list, despite the achievements recorded in chapter 4, ends the same way. As Paul writes in Romans 5:12, sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all people because all sinned.

But two glimmers of hope break through the list. Lamech names his son Noah, which means “relief”, prophesying that he would bring relief from the curse. And then there is Enoch, the one person in the chapter who doesn’t simply “live” but “walks with God” for three hundred years before God takes him without death ever touching him. Hebrews 11 tells us this walk was marked by faith. Enoch’s life points forward to the one thing that can interrupt the certainty of death: walking with God himself.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 5 repeats the phrase “and he died” after nearly every name. Why do you think the chapter is structured this way, and what does Romans 5:12 add to your understanding of why death spread to every person on this list?
2. Verse 29 records Lamech naming his son Noah, hoping he would bring “relief” from the curse — a wordplay in the Hebrew. What does this small detail tell you about how hope was already present even in the middle of the curse, long before Christ?
3. Enoch is described differently than everyone else in the chapter: he “walked with God” rather than simply “lived.” According to Hebrews 11:5–6, what is the connecting thread between Enoch’s walk and the faith that pleased God?
4. Walking with God, as described in this message, includes faith, obedience, standing for God even when unpopular, sincerity, and lifelong commitment. Which of these is hardest for you to sustain right now, and why?
5. Of everyone listed in Genesis 5, Enoch is the one person death did not claim in the ordinary way. What does it mean for your own life that death’s grip, while certain for everyone else in this chapter, was broken for the one who walked closely with God?

LIVING IT OUT

It can be easy to spend your days thinking about death only as something that happens to other people. Genesis 5 won't let you get away with that — but it also points to something death cannot touch: a life that walks, step by step, with God.

Heart Check: If your life were summarized in one sentence the way Enoch's was, would it simply say you lived, or would it say you walked with God? What would need to change for that to be true?

This Week: Choose one specific, ordinary moment each day this week — a commute, a meal, a walk — to intentionally bring God into it through prayer, turning a routine moment into part of an ongoing walk with him.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”

— **Genesis 5:24**

Ask God to help you walk with him through whatever season you're in right now — the busy, the dull, and the difficult — trusting that he alone breaks the cycle of certain death.

Your Prayer:

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