

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

traditional land of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatami and Ojibwe.

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Worship This Week June 18, 2023

Piano – Dorothy O’Neill

Sound/powerpoint/livestream –

WELCOME & Prayer –

SONGS – You are my all in all, God will make a way (x2)

YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART –

PRAYER –

SONG –

RECEIVE OFFERING –

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

GOOD NEWS MOMENTS –

PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAYER – Ron Mason

SCRIPTURE – embedded into the message

MESSAGE – Walk this way

We learned about the nature of God through the Creation stories in Genesis 1-2. We learned about the origin of sin Genesis 3. We learned how sin invaded the human condition in Genesis 4. And now Genesis 5. Here we see something different. Instead of poetic stories, there’s simply a genealogy.

Let’s read a bit of it.

“When Adam was 130 years old, he became the father of a son who was just like him—in his very image. He named his son Seth. ⁴After the birth of Seth, Adam lived another 800 years, and he had other sons and daughters. (Gen 5:3-4)

Stop there for a second. Eight hundred years is not a typo. You may be wondering if the author was actually referring to months. That doesn’t hold up because it would have meant Enoch fathered a son at the age of six. If we adhere to the principle that nothing is impossible for God, then there’s nothing impossible about these ages. If you pay close attention, there is a downward trend. For the 10 generations from Adam to Noah the average ages were several hundred years.

But after the flood, the numbers began steadily decreasing to something we're used to today. Noah may have lived 950 years but his son Shem lived to be 600. The generation what followed Shem was down to about 400. Three generations later, it was reduced to the 200s. By the time we get to Abraham, we're into the 100s. We don't need to dwell too long on that – if we did, we'd be missing the point, which is that our minds are not meant to completely understand God's ways.

Let's read on. As I do, I invite you to pay close attention to what happens to each of the names mentioned. I'm talking about the end of their lives.

Adam lived 930 years, and then he died. ⁶ When Seth was 105 years old, he became the father of Enosh. ⁷ After the birth of Enosh, Seth lived another 807 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ⁸ Seth lived 912 years, **and then he** died. ⁹ When Enosh was 90 years old, he became the father of Kenan. ¹⁰ After the birth of Kenan, Enosh lived another 815 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ¹¹ Enosh lived 905 years, and then he died.

We'll skip a few generations, otherwise we'd be here all day.

²⁰ **Jared lived** 962 years, and then he died. ²¹ When Enoch was 65 years old, he became the father of Methuselah. ²² After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close fellowship with God for another 300 years, **and he had** other sons and daughters. ²³ Enoch lived 365 years, ²⁴ walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him. ²⁵ When Methuselah was 187 years old, he became the father of Lamech. ²⁶ **After the** birth of Lamech, Methuselah lived another 782 years, and he had other sons and daughters. ²⁷ Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died.

Stop. Anyone catch it? In the family tree, six generations "died." And then comes Enoch who lives only 365 years but rather than dying, it says "he disappeared, because God took him."

Enoch, along with Elijah, are the only people whom the Bible says never died. Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire and Enoch was taken away by the Lord. Another Bible translation says, "God took him." Who is this guy Enoch? We don't know a lot about what he did. But we know who he was. The author of Genesis tells us he "walked in close fellowship with God." Walking with God means walking by faith, walking in the light and walking in agreement with God.

“God took him” is in obvious contrast to “and then he died.” Was it something visible, to be seen by others as a witness to God’s power? Perhaps. Or was it something less visible. Did “taking him” imply that Enoch didn’t really die but actually went home to be with God? After walking with God, it was as if one day God told Enoch, you don’t need to live 900 years like everyone else, “Why don’t you just come home with Me?”

Enoch was mentioned in two other places in the Bible, which provide some clues. First is the Faith Statement in Hebrews.

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. ² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. ³ **By faith we** understand that the entire universe was formed at God’s command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen. ⁴ **It was by** faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel’s offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. **Although** Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith. ⁵ It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” **For before** he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. (Hebrews 11:1-6)

That tells us a lot.

Then there is Jude 1:14-16. “Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, “Listen! The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones to execute judgment on the people of the world. **He will convict** every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” These people are grumblers and complainers, living only to satisfy their desires. **They brag** loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.”

Enoch was a prophet who told of the coming of Christ. Stop and take this in. Here was a man who was alive shortly after creation, before The Flood, who was preparing the way for the Lord long before Elijah, Jeremiah, Isaiah and John the Baptist.

Enoch brought a harsh warning. All those people who have done ungodly things and spoken insulting words against God will be held accountable for their words and deeds. What are their sins? Enoch refers to the grumbling and complaining and “living only to satisfy their desires.” He sounds a lot like the Apostle Paul, who said:

- When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, (Galatians 5:19)
- That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires.(Romans 1:26)
- Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. (Romans 6:12)
- Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. (Galatians 5:24)

They will be judged. And when the sentence is declared, they will die.

All of this is prophecy for Christ and His promise of eternal life, as recorded in John 11:25-26. “Jesus told her [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶ Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.”

It could be that Enoch was the first person to taste eternal life. Everyone else up to Noah and his family died.

The lesson for us today is the same as it ever was. We are invited to walk in close fellowship with the Lord, just as Enoch did. It means we die to ourselves, we refuse to submit to temptation and take the wide avenue which leads to destruction. Instead, we enter through the narrow gate, which brings life. We refuse to be “controlled by our old nature [in which], sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.” (Romans 7:5) “Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.” Romans 13:14

All of this sounds negative – but it’s what we need to hear. I am the first to admit that I give in to desires that are not rooted in Christ. I am a sinner. But when I fall down, I quickly get up and dust myself off and seek the narrow gate once again.

Fall down, get back up, keep going. And in all things, keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus, the light, the one who will not allow us to sink into the churning waters.

HYMN – 703 Happy the Home where God is there

BENEDICTION –

PRAYER -- requests may be sent to the pastor, either for sharing or in confidence. If a need is not listed here it's because the family has opted for privacy.

NEW PRAYER

1. Thanks for the rain
2. Children and grandchildren – anyone starting out in life (or restarting) – Lord, help them overcome the challenges older generations didn't face. It's a different world and tougher in many ways.

CONTINUE TO PRAY

Health and healing –

1. Cindy Brewer, Becky Desjardine, Bill Eves, Margaret Follows, Ron Mason, Bette Northcott, Tom O'Neill, Cherie Pegg, Sandra Pegg, Mary Whitson, Sandra Whitson
2. Anyone seeking or undergoing treatment for addictions
3. Anyone wrestling with anxiety and depression
4. Karen Northcott – continue to pray.

There are many whose names are not listed here – God know who they are and what they need.

Seniors and shut ins – Dianne Richards at Park Street Place, Jim Lusk, Ross Fuchs at Oaks Wallaceburg, Lane Douglas at Fairfield Park in Wallaceburg, Joyce MacTavish at The Waterford Home in Barrie, Bill Lozon at Copper Terrace, Aubrey Butler at home.

Session – Mark Labadie (clerk and representative elder), Cindy Brewer, Sheila Eves, Andrew Neely, Mark Richards and Julie Shaw.

Board of managers – Wendy Weston (chair), Paul Vandenberg (treasurer), Will Brewer, Ross Fuchs, Linda Malott, Jenn Mason, Von Parking, Mark Richards, Jodie Rich, Dan Shaw, Bob Vriesema and Mike Wicks.

WHAT'S UP:

The New Testament Challenge continues every Wednesday at 7 p.m. until June 28. It's a unique way of looking at the New Testament. Everyone gets a Bible and

study guide. It's at Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle and is co-led by Pastor Andy and Pastor Rob Elka from Evangel.

Pop can fundraiser – Bring your pop cans to church! Leave them in the bin behind Rutherford Hall.

DATES

June 25 – Dresden Christian Concerts summer season begins, 6:30 p.m. at Total Grain Systems property

GIVING:

E-transfer to pcvan1313@gmail.com. Bring envelope on Sunday or if you have a key, leave it in the treasurer's mailbox. Mail it to the church, PO Box 93 Dresden. NOP 1M0. Put it in the mailbox at the home of treasurer Paul Vandenbogaerde. 1313 North Street, Dresden. Telephone number 519-683-6194

GIFT CARDS – You pay face value for the gift cards and the church buys them at a discount through Chatham Christian Schools. **Next deadline June 25.**