

Genesis 5:25-31

Verse 25 **And Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and became the father of Lamech. 26. Then Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years after he became the father of Lamech, and he had other sons and daughters. 27. So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years, and he died.**

One of the most important things to know about Methuselah is the meaning of his name. Methuselah means, "When he is dead, it shall come." I believe that it was not mere irony that led Enoch to name his son, Methuselah; but that the Lord had shown Enoch that as long as his son was alive that the judgment would be held back. As we look back, we see that Methuselah not only died before the flood, but he died the very year of the flood. We are also told that Methuselah was the oldest man to ever live on this earth; he lived to be 969 years old. I want to draw your attention to one other aspect of Methuselah's life; not only does the math show us that Methuselah could have known Adam, but I am convinced that Adam was well aware of this particular lineage; as it was the only one that was seeking God. When you live in as wicked a day as the antediluvian (or pre-flood era), there is little doubt who is seeking God and who isn't. Today there are many people who play church; but they are as lost as anyone who had never stepped in church a day in their life. During this time people were wicked; only they didn't try and sugar-coat it with religious frosting. It is also very interesting how Methuselah knew Noah his grandson as well. Methuselah is the only Patriarch of the ten who could have known the other nine. He knew the beginning from the end in this period of time. Can you imagine what he thought as he saw his grandson grow nearer to completing this incredibly large boat or ark? Nothing like it had ever been built; and to the rest of the world at that time, Noah must have looked like a village idiot. I'll wait to explain this more when we get into chapter seven. Methuselah knew that judgment was coming, and he knew that the ark was God's way of continuing his own lineage.

Let's look again to **Genesis 5**, and now verse 28. **And Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and became the father of a son. 29. Now he called his name Noah, saying, "This one shall give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the Lord has cursed." 30. Then Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years after he became the father of Noah, and he had other sons and daughters. 31. So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years, and he died.**

Noah's name, literally means, "Rest." I find it intriguing how Noah is first mentioned in this scripture as a son, where previously the other sons were mentioned by their name first; somehow Noah's arrival brings with it also a new sense of expectancy. Remember how Methuselah's name means, "when he is dead, it shall come." Just as we Christians wait with expectation for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, not knowing the day or the hour; so these great patriarchs knew that one day something was going to happen which would end the evil and corruption that surrounded them.