

The Gospel in Genesis

by Armin A. Wolff

We frequently use the familiar term, gospel, or good news. Where is the first place it appears in the Bible? Can anybody guess?

- *Hidden Messages in the Bible*

How many of you have heard of the discovery of hidden messages in the Bible discovered by means of modern computer technology? These hidden Bible codes, one type of which are also known as equal distance letter sequences in the original Hebrew text are quite controversial and a number of books have recently been written on that subject.

- *A divinely engineered book*

What I would like to share with you this morning is not about any computer related Bible discoveries. No computer is needed to discover this hidden message. All that is necessary is a Bible dictionary that lists the meaning of names. Most translations of the Bible just simply give a transliteration of names people and places. The Bible is a divinely engineered book that shows in many details that its origin is from beyond our time dimension.

- *Every detail is important*

The Jewish rabbis express this idea thus: they say that they will not understand the Scriptures until the Messiah comes. But when He comes, He will not only interpret each of the passages for us, He will interpret the very words; He will even interpret the very letters themselves; in fact, He will even interpret the spaces between the letters!

- *Crossing of t's and dotting of i's*

If a lawyer were to express this idea he might say that all the i's must be dotted and all the t's must be crossed. This may seem a bit exaggerated but Jesus supports the idea that every detail in Scripture is important and will be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Matthew 5:18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

- *A remarkable example*

This can be glimpsed in Genesis Chapter 5, where we have the genealogy of Adam through Noah. This is one of those chapters which we often tend to skim over quickly as we pass through Genesis. After all, it's simply a genealogy from Adam to Noah. To us, this genealogy in Chapter 5 of Genesis is simply a list of names that has been transliterated from the Hebrew. As we shall see, the meaning of these names gives us, as Paul Harvey used to say, the rest of the story. In some cases the meaning of the name is given, but in most we will have to do a bit of digging. This digging involves not only the names themselves but also the roots of the Hebrew language the names were derived from. In the ancient world, especially in the Hebrew culture, people were given names that were not just simply picked out of a book like is often done today, but those names all had meaning in terms of some perceived or desired characteristic of the person. In some cases the names were prophetic of the person themselves or some event surrounding their birth or otherwise connected with their lives or their family.

- *Adam*

Adam's name means man. As the first man, that seems straight forward enough.

- *Seth*

Genesis 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.

Adam's son was named Seth, which means appointed. Eve evidently remembered the conversation in the garden of Eden of the promise of One to come who would crush the head of the serpent. Abel had been murdered by his brother Cain and Eve thought that this new son would be the fulfillment of the promise, appointed by God.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

- *Enosh or Enos*

Seth's son was called Enosh, which means mortal, frail, or miserable. It is from the root anash, to be incurable, used of a wound, grief, woe, sickness, or wickedness. It was in the days of Enosh that men began to defile the name of the Living God. The word translated call carries within it the idea of crying out loudly, often in an unflattering and derogatory manner. It is the way the name of God is often used in vain by many people today.

*Genesis 4:26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to **call** upon the name of the LORD.*

- *Kenan*

Enosh's son was named Kenan, which means sorrow, dirge, or elegy. The precise meaning is somewhat elusive; some study aids unfortunately presume that Kenan is synonymous with Cainan. Balaam, looking down from the heights of Moab, uses a play upon the name of the Kenites when he prophesies their destruction. (Numbers 24:21) Moses' father in law was a Kenite. (Judges 1:16) Most of the time, we have no real idea as to why these names were chosen for their children. Often they may have referred to circumstances at birth, and so on.

- *Mahalalel*

Kenan's son was Mahalalel, from Mahalal which means blessed or praise; and El, the name for God. Thus, Mahalalel means the Blessed God. Often Hebrew names include El, the name of God, as Dan-i-el, "God is my Judge", etc.

- *Jared*

Mahalalel's son was named Jared, from the verb yaradh, meaning shall come down.

- *Enoch*

Jared's son was named Enoch, which means teaching, or commencement. He was the first of four generations of preachers. We are told in Genesis 5:24 that Enoch walked with God and God took him away from the earth so that he never died. The only other person that happened to was Elijah. (2 Kings 2:11) That is why some scholars think that these two people are the two witnesses mentioned in the book of Revelation. (Revelation 11:3-12) Since in Hebrews 9:27 we read that it is appointed unto men once to die, it is apparent that these two people never died and therefore they have to come back down to earth to testify of the truth and then be killed and resurrected.

The earliest recorded prophecy was by Enoch, which deals with the Second Coming of Christ. The apocryphal book of Enoch is quoted in the Book of Jude in the New Testament:

Jude 1:14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones

Jude 1:15 to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

• *Methuselah*

Methuselah comes from muth, a root that means "death"; and from shalach, which means to bring, or to send forth. The name Methuselah means, "his death shall bring" Methuselah's father was given a prophecy of the coming Great Flood, and was apparently told that as long as his son was alive, the judgment of the flood would be withheld; but as soon as he died, the flood would be brought or sent forth. Indeed, the year that Methuselah died, the flood came. Methuselah was 187 when he had Lamech, and lived 782 years more. Lamech had Noah when he was 182 (Genesis 5:25-28). The Flood came in Noah's 600th year (Genesis 7:6, 11). $600 + 182 = 782$ nd year of Lamech, the year Methuselah died.

Genesis 5:25 When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he became the father of Lamech.

Genesis 5:26 And after he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years and had other sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:27 Altogether, Methuselah lived 969 years, and then he died. □

Genesis 5:28 When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. □

Methuselah's life, in effect, was a symbol of God's mercy in forestalling the coming judgment of the flood. Therefore, it is fitting that his lifetime is the oldest in the Bible, speaking of the extensiveness of God's mercy.

• *Lamech*

Methuselah's son was named Lamech, a root still evident today in our own English word, lament or lamentation. Lamech suggests despairing.

• *Noah*

Lamech, of course, is the father of Noah, which is derived from nacham, to bring relief or comfort, as Lamech himself explains: in Genesis 5:29.

Genesis 5:29 He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed."

• *Putting it all together*

Now that we have established the meaning of all these names let's put them all together and see what we get.

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow;
Mahalalel	The Blessed God
Jared	Shall come down
Enoch	Teaching

Methuselah	His death shall bring
Lamech	The Despairing
Noah	Rest, or comfort.

Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing rest.

- *A Conspiracy to encode the gospel?*

Here's the Gospel hidden within a genealogy in Genesis! Does anyone here believe that a group of Jewish rabbis conspired to hide the Christian Gospel right here in a genealogy within their venerated Torah? It demonstrates that in the earliest chapters of the Book of Genesis, God had already laid out His plan of redemption for the predicament of mankind.

- *No superfluous details*

We have seen in this little study, some amazing evidence that the Bible is a superbly engineered book. There are other examples like this in scriptures, especially those parts concerning Prophecy. Just to tantalize you a little, I have given another Scripture here concerning the date that Noah left the ark.

Genesis 8:14 By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry.

Genesis 8:15 Then God said to Noah,

Genesis 8:16 "Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives.

Why did the Holy Spirit see fit to give this exact date? Where does this little, here seemingly insignificant detail tie into the rest of the Scripture? In some future studies we may look into this and other evidences of the awesome supernatural design of these 66 books written by 40 writers over a time span of about 1500 years.