

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Gracious Throughout
the Age

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 5:1-32

Theme: Rest in the Lord for he is actively gracious in every moment of the age.

Introduction: When we think of the middle of something, we tend to have a negative picture in mind. The middle is boring, unremarkable, and average; and Genesis 5 is the middle of the first age of the earth, between creation and the flood. But in the Lord's economy, the middle matters, because he is always at work to accomplish all of his gracious purposes for his people.

We can see the Lord's grace in 3 ways:

1. The Father's offspring are fruitful and they multiply

Genesis 4 showed the serpent's offspring through the line of Cain. They appeared to be flourishing and thriving.

One important truth of Genesis is that there is only one human race. All of mankind is descended from Adam and Eve, and the Bible sees ethnic—not racial—distinctions. Genesis 5 shows the Lord's offspring through the line of Adam to Seth. They also appear to be flourishing.

The seed of the serpent focused more on achievement. The seed of the woman show an emphasis on life and simple obedience.

2. The Lord loves to walk with his children

Before the flood, men lived upwards of 1,000 years, giving us a foretaste of what eternal life will be like. Even more to the point, these men walked with the Lord and experienced the blessings of close fellowship with him.

Enoch especially demonstrates this, living only 365 years before the Lord took him up, because he delighted in him (cf. Heb 11:5).

Enoch and Elijah were pointers to Jesus, who was also taken up directly into the Father's presence. That is because he is the most delightful Son of the Father. As we have trusted in Jesus, we too will be brought into God's very presence.

3. God will sovereignly bring every age to perfection

When we are in the middle of a great task, we often worry about if it will be achieved.

The excitement of the beginning wears off, and we can be anxious.

But the Lord is always at work in the lives of his people. He is always faithful and we can, and should, always trust him to accomplish his gracious purposes for us.

Genesis 5 might seem lost in the middle, but it is filled with reminders of God's gracious and good purposes unfolding according to his wise design.

Questions:

1. How is God at work in your life?
2. Are you simply obeying the Lord?
3. Do you find rest in him, or are you anxious?