

LESSON 3 - THE FIRST PILOT

Genesis 5: 1-32

THEME: *To warn the unsaved.*

To prepare the believers for their catching up to Heaven.

What is your favorite way of travel? Many people use airplanes, but how would you like to travel in the air without getting into an airplane? Just go up? There was an Old Testament man who was traveling on *THE HIGHWAY OF LIFE* who traveled up in the air without using an airplane.

After Cain killed Abel, God gave another son to Eve and she called his name Seth. God promised a Redeemer and wanted a godly line of men through which He would be born. But as the years went by, the people multiplied on the earth and wickedness increased continually. Each person had to make a choice of the way he would go. Most chose the way that *seemed right*, but a few chose the way of faith.

The people lived many years. We read some of the ages of those in the generations of Seth. Genesis 5:6-32. The oldest was Methuselah who lived to be 969 years old. Genesis 5:27. Methuselah was the son of Enoch whom we call "the first pilot."

Did you notice as you read the Bible portion that the history of each man except one ended with three words: "and he died"? Why? Because the wages of sin is death. Does it make us happy to see funerals pass by? In this lesson we will learn there is a way of overcoming the fear of death, and it is possible that some of us may *never* die physically!

Enoch walked with God. Genesis 5:24. Enoch had fellowship with God which means he walked by faith. It also means that Enoch must have brought the right sacrifice. Two people cannot walk together unless they agree. Amos 3:3. Thus the faith of Enoch must have been well-pleasing to God.

Enoch was always preaching or witnessing. Jude 14-15. The people had become very ungodly. They were walking in their own ways, speaking great words of admiration of men and complaining about God. Enoch warned them that the LORD was coming one day, but they only mocked.

One day as Enoch was walking along at the age of 365 years, he disappeared! By faith he was *translated /caught up* to Heaven. Hebrews 11:5,6.

We do not understand how Enoch could be changed and *caught up* by God into Heaven. The wonderful thing about this event is that it makes us very sure of what is going to happen to the believers over in GRACE AIRPORT one day. God revealed a secret to the apostle Paul when He told him that one day the Lord Jesus Christ is coming out of Heaven with the sound of a trumpet. The graves will be opened and the believers will come out.

Those who are alive at that exact time will be *caught up* with them to meet the Lord in the air. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17. This is often called The Rapture, which means *the catching up to Heaven* by God of the believers in God's Church, the Body of Christ. The believers in this Church are pictured on the chart by SALVATION LINER.

Paul calls this great event: our blessed hope. Titus 2:13. There is no need to fear death when we have this hope. Some say, "I am waiting for the Lord to come," and how true this is. There is no need to mourn for one who dies (if he was truly saved) because we know that we will be caught up together with all those who died in Jesus. It is such a comfort to know this. God wants us to be witnessing as we wait for *The Rapture /catching away*. He wants us to warn everyone of the wages of sin and to tell them of eternal life in Christ.

After the believers are caught up out of this world, then a terrible time of judgment will come. How sad it will be if you are taken up but your mother or father is left behind. Have you faithfully told them about Jesus Christ dying for their sins? How ashamed you will be if you are doing something displeasing to God when Christ comes to call you to Himself. The best way is to live a clean, pure life at all times.

In Lesson 4 we will learn about the great judgment which came upon the world after Enoch was caught up. Are you sure you are safely aboard SALVATION LINER waiting for Jesus to return and catch us up to be with Him?

MEMORY VERSE: "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so we will be with the Lord forever." 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

LESSON 3 - WORK SHEET

Draw a line under the correct word or phrase to complete the statements:

1. Adam lived (100 years 530 years 930 years). Genesis 5:5.
2. Methuselah lived (559 years 969 years 150 years). Genesis 5:27.
3. The father of Methuselah was (Noah Enoch Moses). Genesis 5:21.
4. Enoch walked with God and one day (he died and went to Heaven
he went to Heaven without dying). Hebrews 11:5.
5. Paul told the Thessalonian believers (everybody will die some will
not die). 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.
6. Paul called this event (a fearful thing a blessed hope). Titus 2:13.
7. We can be sure we will be called to be with the Lord when He comes
(if we pray everyday if we are very good if we believe that Jesus
died and rose again). 1 Thessalonians 4:14.
8. We will meet the Lord (on the earth on a mountain in the air).
1 Thessalonians 4:17.
9. Make two lists below: one list of the things you want to be doing when
Jesus comes, and the other list of some things you do not want to be
doing when Jesus comes.

I want to be doing:

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)

I do not want to be doing:

10. Write 1 Thessalonians 4:17 *by memory* below.
