

Intro. Over this weekend, one of the greatest boxers of all-time passed away and entered into eternity apart from God. Having lived in Louisville for 5 years, the hometown of Cassius Clay, aka Muhammad Ali, you grow to appreciate him a bit more & his humble beginnings. His greatest fight was his decades-long battle with Parkinson’s disease, a disease which is a result of a fallen world where sin grows ever-uglier. Today we are in Genesis 5 in “Building the Foundation of Your Faith.” We look at the subject of being created in “God’s Image Broken, Yet Remade.”

Theme: Sin & hope

Background: The opening chapters of Genesis recount creation, first in general terms with a panoramic view of creation & then in specific terms with a microscopic view of creation on part of day 6. Then, sin quickly gets introduced into the storyline in chapter 3 with Satan’s deception of Eve and Adam’s transgression of God’s command. Chapter 4 shows us how sin rapidly multiplies exponentially, especially through Cain & his family.

- Chapter 5 largely gives us the genealogy of Adam through Noah, but it also serves as a bridge between the opening chapters & the growth of sin & its effects to the next few chapters on the judgment of God via the Flood.

➤ As we read a few verses out of chapter 5, I want to share with you 4 truths about being created in “God’s Image—Broken, Yet Remade.”

1. God has created us in His image/likeness & has blessed us (5:1-2; cf. 1:26-27; 9:6)

- You don’t have to read very far in the Bible to discover God created both male & female in His image (1:26-27)
- The words “image” & “likeness” are similar & probably refer either to mankind’s intellectual capacity (separating man from the rest of the animal kingdom) or to man’s moral or even his spiritual dimension—“God is Spirit” (John 4:24) & has created mankind as spiritual beings

Illus: The Septuagint (Greek) translation of “image” is the word for “icon”—we think of icons on a computer screen or tablet where we can touch or click to open up a program for our use, like Internet Explorer or text messaging. The “icon” is just a picture representing something far more complex & being created in God’s image means we are spiritually a picture of a complex Being who created us & we were intended to reflect God’s glory through His image, but mankind failed because of sin, of which I will say something more in a few moments

- After creating us, God “blessed” us, which means to “bestow a gift and a function” (see 1:22, 28; 2:3) & to do so with “warm concern” (Kidner, 52)
- Simply put, God’s creation & blessing of you means He loves you & cares deeply about you—it wasn’t just before the Fall in Genesis 3, because after the Flood, God still creates man in His image & likeness (9:6; cf. James 3:9)

2. Because of the Fall, we are also made in the image/likeness of Adam, resulting in sin & death (5:3-5)

- The Bible is very clear we are not only created in God’s image, but we are also made in the image & likeness of Adam (5:3)
- Whereas the image of God is good & pure & holy, Adam’s image & likeness is affected by sin through the Fall in Genesis 3
- This Fall into sin resulted in death, for God Himself said “of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (2:17)—Adam died

spiritually the day he sinned, for God kicked him out of the Garden of Eden & being removed from God, the Source of life, means death

- Not only did Adam die spiritually when he sinned, but he began to die physically that day as his life's clock began ticking down—one of the stark truths in Genesis 5 is how people are born only to die (except for Enoch whom God took)—sin has had a tremendously devastating effect on the human race

Illus: I can look at any of my kids & it should never surprise me when they sin... because they were made in the image of their father & mother! Now if they ever do anything really embarrassing in public, we just tell people we've adopted! Because they are made in our image, they are sinners & the result of sin is death

3. Long lives reflect God's grace, patience & protection (5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 27, 31-32)

- One of the things which jumps out at the reader of Genesis 5 is their long lives—typically around 800-1,000 years old—they were probably protected from the sun's harmful rays by a thick shield of vapor (I'll say more about the decrease in lifespan & the Canopy Theory when I cover the Flood in a few weeks)
- Because they sinned, God could have judged them immediately, but He allowed them to live long lives, because He is gracious & patient, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance (cf. 2 Peter 3:9)

Illus: If parents can demonstrate grace to their children by giving them things they don't deserve & show them patience as you stand in line at Disney to meet a character & protection from people who could cause them harm, how much more is our Lord gracious & patient & protective of His own?

4. In the midst of society's depravity, God offers hope (5:22-24, 29; cf. 4:26; 6:8)

- We see this in some of the meanings of the names—Mahalalel means "praise of God," Jared means "humble one," Enoch means "dedicated one," & Noah means "rest" or "comfort"

Illus: Names can offer hope—Joshua means "deliverer" & the Lord used him to deliver the Promised Land to Israel; Jesus means "deliver" or "Yahweh saves" & people who come to Jesus find Him to be trustworthy in that the Lord saves them

- Enoch, himself, walked with God by faith (cf. Hebrews 11:5)—as sin grew all around, a few served the Lord
- God's taking of Enoch is a picture of the rapture, much like Elijah—some will not have to experience physical death & will be raptured when the Lord returns
- Finally, the Lord showed favor toward Noah, when the world was utterly in ruins due to sin (cf. 6:5)

Conc. I don't know if any of you ever watch the movies "The Lord of the Rings," but there was a sword that was broken in the first movie when one man fought Sauron & had his sword broken in several pieces, only to be picked up by another to cut off Sauron's ring finger. The scenes you will see looks at that sword many years later & then a scene from the final movie, "The Return of the King," when Aragon needs a greater army to win the great battle (show both clips). By the third & final movie, the sword was remade & used to lead mankind in victory over the forces of evil. Just as the sword was broken & remade, so our sin has caused the image of God to be broken, but by His grace, He remakes us into the image of Christ. This work only occurs when we repent of our sins and trust in Jesus Christ & His work on the cross on our behalf.