

Read Thoughtfully

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Genesis 5:21-31; 7:11

“This step of observation requires you to assume the role of biblical detective, searching for clues as to the meaning of the text”

Today’s reading is from one of the “begats” sections of scripture—the portions we tend to skip over. However, there are some noteworthy people mentioned in this passage. Noah is the most familiar. But in his family tree a couple of other names you should know.

Methuselah would have been in the *Guinness Book of World Records* if it had existed at that time. Figure out your birth year if you were 969 years old today. Based on the changes that have taken place since that year, can you gain insight into the kind of person Methuselah might have been?

Enoch is another name you need to know. What is significant about his life (5:21-24)?

But you don’t have to read very thoughtfully to make these simple observations. If you read closely, like a detective, you might by now be asking yourself, Did Methuselah die in the flood? Let’s figure it out:

How old was Methuselah when Lamech was born? (5:25)_____

How old was Lamech when Noah was born? (5:28)_____

How old was Noah when the flood came? (7:11)_____

If you add the numbers, you should get Methuselah’s age at time of flood. _____

By reading we discover that Methuselah died in the year of the flood. We can’t say whether or not he died as a result of the flood, but it raises questions. His father Enoch, walked with God to the point that he didn’t die like everyone else. Had Methuselah’ life also been a good one—long and full and ending just prior to the flood? Or had he turned away from God and his father’s faith, drowning with the rest of the wicked people who caused God’s heart to be filled with pain (Genesis 6:6 NIV)

We don’t always discover the answers to all our questions, but by reading thoughtfully we at least begin to ask better questions about the depth and mysteries of Scripture.