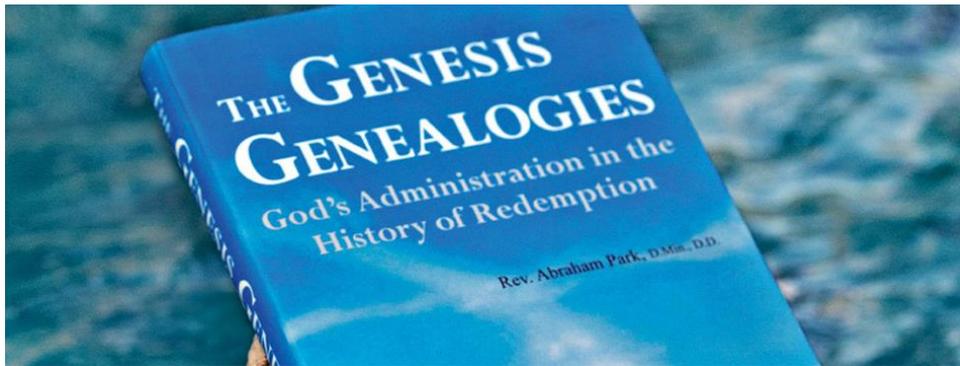


Book One: Genesis Genealogies



Why remember the "days of old"?

Immediately before the Israelites entered into Canaan, Moses reminded them in his farewell sermon, "Remember the days of old, consider the years of all generations!" The "days of old" and "years of all generations" are not merely old fairy tales or legends. They are a recording of the providence of God, who poured out His fervent love by intervening into the history of mankind since the fall of Adam. It is a story of the fathers of faith who unwaveringly preserved the path of godliness according to God's providence. As the Israelites had to remember the days of old in the wilderness when they were preparing to enter into Canaan, we Christians must also remember the days of old as we prepare to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Rediscovery of the genealogies

The genealogies in the book of Genesis that seemed so tedious with repetitions of names and births were actually the treasury of what we need to remember about the "days of old" and the "years of all generations." They clearly portray God's administration for the redemption of mankind and the entire universe. The genealogies in Genesis are only a few verses. Yet, they contain the redemptive providence over a long period of about 2,300 years. Thus, each verse and name in these genealogies is saturated with historical and redemptive significances. This book helps the readers rediscover the spiritual meaning contained within each of the 20 generations from Adam to Abraham.

The history of redemption is the history of separation

The book of Genesis records the genealogies of all generations, including those who have strayed away from the godly lineage, such as Cain, Ham, Ishmael, and Esau. They are examples that reflect our own sinfulness and unfaithfulness. This division between the godly lineage and the ungodly lineage continues to run together with the history of redemption. The people of God had to learn to separate themselves from the path of sin and live a consecrated life. One great example of such a life is the life of Abraham, who is probably the most prominent character in this book.

Featured Points

- Adam lived 56 years contemporaneously with his ninth generation descendant Lamech.
- Noah lived 58 years contemporaneously with his tenth generation descendant Abraham.
- The duration of constructing Noah's ark was not 120 years. Many theologians and ministers have taught that Noah built the ark for 120 years. Nevertheless, the Bible testifies that the duration of the construction was less than 100 years.
- The year when Methuselah died was the year when the flood began.
- According to Genesis 12:4, Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran, and Terah would have been 145 years old when Abraham left (Gen 11:26). In Acts 7:4, however, the Scripture states that Abraham left Haran "after his father died." Terah, however, died at age 205 (Gen 11:32). How can we account for this discrepancy between these scriptural passages? The answer to this lies wrapped up within a story of unwavering determination to obey God's command.

Key Message

The genealogy of the godly seed continues on in the book of Genesis through the fathers of faith who were able to overcome and set themselves apart from the sins and desires of this world. This genealogy in Genesis leads up to introduce Abraham, an essential figure in God's administration to bring salvation for the entire world. The work of redemption takes on a new phase through God's calling of Abraham and is fulfilled through the Messiah who comes as the son of Abraham. This magnificent story of godly lineage is what Moses refers to as the "days of old." They may be called "days of old," but they are actually a reflection of my story today.