

Date : 8th February 2026
Theme : God's Story of Redemption from Genesis
Topic : Verifying biblical Truth in Genesis
Passage : Genesis 5
Key Verse : ...this is the written account of Adam's line... Genesis 5:1

Introduction

All major religions have a book to transmit their beliefs across generations. How is Christianity different? While all books of other religions are written after the leader has passed on, Christianity, however, is based on writings before the leader appeared. These writings are recorded in the Old Testament which is already completed before Jesus began life on earth. The New Testament, however, is written after Jesus came and reveals the fulfilment of prophecies in the Old Testament.

Our **focus** today

Our focus is on the early accounts of *Genesis 1-11*.

How do we know that what we have is the **truth** and that these truths have not been changed in the process of transmission?

- **What is Truth?**
 - Truth is that which corresponds with reality.
 - Not just isolated facts, but that the facts are presented as a whole.
- **How do we verify the Truth? The criteria being:**
 - Truth must be written records, documented systematically.
 - Records must be eye witness accounts.
 - Transmission of such records must be in an unbroken 'chain of custody'.
 - Compliance with the Law of non-contradiction.
 - Collaboration with known information, like, contemporary records, geographical reality, archaeological findings.

1. Do the Genesis records comply with these criteria?

a) Internal clues that verify the **Authorship** of Genesis.

Key Word – *Toledot*.

i) *Toledot* (Hebrew = generations) usage means that biblical accounts correspond with reality.

...This is the account of (NIV) Genesis 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10,27

...These are the generations of (KJV, NKJV)

toledot (= family history) is concerned with ancestors rather than descendants; the *toledot* phrase looks back to the previous narrative.

ii) *Toledots* determine the **structure** of Genesis.

This is the most significant internal clue, occurring more than ten times throughout Genesis. The named individual (and/or sons) is the **author** of that segment preceding the *toledot*. This fulfils the criteria for truth to be written and documented systematically.

iii) *Toledots* confirm the **eye-witness** sources of accounts.

Each section of Genesis is a written account about God working in particular persons' lives. The Bible details lives lived, presenting firsthand accounts of experiences related by particular men who interacted with God, at a particular time in history, in particular locations (geo-politics).

P.J. Wiseman, who in 1936, unlocked the details of the authorship of Genesis.... stated that internal clues...reveal...the actual authors... Adam, Noah etc. Moses, using these records, was the editor of Genesis...
(P.J. Wiseman, *New Discoveries in Babylonia about Genesis*, 1936).

b) Clear evidence of a writing system Genesis 5:1

...This is the written account of Adam's family line... (account = *sepher* Hebrew = self-contained writing unit).

- The presence of Adam's name suggests it was **written** by Adam, not just a written account *about* Adam. *Genesis 2:4* to *Genesis 5:1* gives evidence of being a firsthand, **eye-witness** account of Adam's experiences.
- The **art of writing** was known to Adam.
As the ability to write is more complex than the ability to speak, God, who created Adam and Eve, created them with the ability to speak and write as well.

c) Written records and documentation

- After Eber's generation *Genesis 10:25* other **languages**, other than Hebrew, were used. The name Eber is often linked to Hebrew, his family retained the original language, Hebrew, while all other languages were created at the time.

Eber's son, Peleg, is used as a marker for the time when separation of people, languages and nations of occurred during his generation.

Genesis 10 is considered a table of nations while *Genesis 11:1-9* provides the detailed account of the event that brought about the diversity of languages mentioned in *Genesis 10:25*.

- **Cuneiform writing on clay tablets** became the system used by all civilised countries east of the Mediterranean — Assyria, Babylonia, Persia — & by the Hittites, mentioned 7 times in Genesis, beginning at *Genesis 15:20*.
(Ancient Sumerians, Babylonians and Assyrians seemed unwilling to transact even the smallest business, without a **written** document.)
- Those who do not consider the early chapters of Genesis to be reliable **history** use oral transmission as the explanation for these chapters. But would God entrust His eternal word to the fragile memory of humans? Moses, when given a song to teach the people *Deuteronomy 31:19 - 22*, was commanded to **write** it down. God has little faith in oral transmission. Abraham, Isaac & Jacob all **wrote** in Hebrew on cuneiform tables.

The Authors of *Toledot* in Genesis 1-11, some examples being:

Toledot in Genesis	Genesis account	Author
Genesis 2:4 <i>...there are the generations of the heavens and the earth.</i>	Genesis 1:1 - 2:4	God communicated to Adam, who wrote it.
Genesis 5:2 <i>...this is the written account of Adam's line</i>	Genesis 2:5 - 5:2	Adam

Genesis 6:9(a) <i>...this is the account of Noah</i>	Genesis 5:3 - 6:9(a)	Noah
Genesis 10:1 <i>...this is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.</i>	Genesis 6:9(b) – 10:1	Sons of Noah
Genesis 11:10(a) <i>...this is the account of Shem.</i>	Genesis 10:2 – 11:10(a)	Shem
Genesis 11:27(a) <i>...this is the account of Terah.</i>	Genesis 11:10(b) – 11:27(a)	Terah

2. Accuracy of Transmission

How is the information of God's creation transmitted in its integrity?

The genealogies in the Bible are unique. They lay out the patriarchal lineages very specifically, beginning with Adam, to serve as a chronology of actual father / son relationships.

Our consideration is Genesis 5 Chronogenealogy (chronology built into genealogy)

Patriarch	Year of Birth	Age at Birth of Next Patriarch	Year of Death
1. Adam	1	130	930
2. Seth	130	105	1042
3. Enosh	235	90	1140
4. Kenan	325	70	1235
5. Mahalalel	395	65	1290
6. Jared	460	162	1422
7. Enoch	622	65	987*
8. Methuselah	687	187	1656**
9. Lamech	874	182	1651
10. Noah	1056	500	2006

* Enoch did not die, but was translated.

** Methuselah died on the very day that the Flood came.

Source: Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Record*, 1997

Chronology of the Patriarchs (Refer to attached Appendix)

- a) Overlapping lifespan
The long ages of the pre-flood patriarchs. Examples, Methuselah (No 7, Noah's grandfather) and Lamech (No 9, Noah's father) both knew Adam long enough for the Creation story to be passed from one generation to the next, without any gaps in between.
- b) The *toledot* structure in Genesis ...*this is the written account...*
The method of transmission of the creation stories, in written tablets, are fully compiled eye-witness accounts of the individuals named, and not like a broken telephone game.
- c) The birth of Seth *Genesis 4:26*
This godly line perpetuated God's promised covenant in *Genesis 3:15*.
- d) Prophetic meanings in Hebrews names (from Adam to Noah).
They form a gospel-like phrase of creation, fall and redemption and serves as a memory aid (rhyme or acronym) to recall and to pass on to their descendants the core message of the creation narrative.

Man (Adam) is appointed (Seth) mortal (Enosh) sorrow (Kenan) (but) the Blessed God (Mahalalel) shall come down (Jared) teaching (Enoch) (that) His death shall bring (Methuselah) the despairing (Lamech) comfort / rest (Noah).

Application

- a) The biblical records reflect God's great wisdom in preserving His truth to us.
What is your response to God communicating with man through His Word?

My response: _____

- b) How would you explain the truth that Genesis 1-11 is the oldest written record in human history?

