

## ENOCH – A MAN WHO WALKED WITH GOD

**Gen. 5: 21** And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22 And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

**Heb. 11: 5** By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. **Jude 14** And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

When we were studying Abel we came across an Enoch who was the son of the murderer and rebel Cain. Obviously, this son had followed in his father's wicked footsteps for Cain built a city and called it after him, - the city of Enoch ... The Enoch we are studying, however, descended from Seth who was born in the place of Abel whom Cain killed. Seth was, therefore, the righteous brother through whose lineage God would work out His purposes for good upon the earth, Gen. 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, [*said she*], hath appointed me another seed instead of [*see also Mt. 2:22 Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod*] Abel, whom Cain slew. 26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

So, from Seth Enos (or Enosh, I Chron. 1:1, 'man') was born (Gen. 5:6) ... and from Enos Cainan ('possession') was born (v.9), and from Cainan Mahalaleel ('praise of God') was born (v.12), and from Mahalaleel Jared ('he who descended') was born (v.15), and from Jared Enoch was born (v.19).

Now, genealogies are fascinating records ... but simply for the purposes of acknowledging how the world was being populated, notice how Moses, - who was the author of the Book of Genesis, under God's direction, - repeatedly registers the births of other sons and daughters (5:4,7,10,13,16,19,21,etc). The world was being populated. Civilization was being passed from generation to generation to generation ... human beings from human beings. There is not a thread's-width hint of anything remotely relating to evolutionary development. Evolutionism is contrary to creationism, and there is absolutely *no* overlap! Evolution is man's fiction, and creationism is God's fact! God's Word simply says, God created man (Gen. 1:27) ... and we have no need to go any further!

... And so, Enoch comes unto the scene. It is also important to take into account something Jude introduces concerning Enoch at the end of the Bible, (v.14) *Enoch also, the seventh from Adam.* ... Adam – Seth – Enos – Cainan – Mahalaleel – Jared – Enoch ...

So, we are reading from the same Bible as Jude, the brother of Jesus! And, also, the Gospel writer Luke maintains the same details (Lk. 3:37 ... Enoch, which was [*the son*] of Jared, which was [*the son*] of Maleleel, which was [*the son*] of Cainan, <sup>38</sup> Which was [*the son*] of Enos, which was [*the son*] of Seth, which was [*the son*] of Adam, which was [*the son*] of God) ...

And there's something else we must notice about Enoch, by way of introduction. There is a very peculiar characteristic that is noted concerning him ... Adam died (Gen. 5:5), Seth died (v.8), Enos died (v.11), Cainan died (v.14), Mahalaleel died (v.17), Jared died (v.20) ... but Enoch did not *die* because Enoch walked with God: and he [*was*] not; for God took him (v.24) ...

According to Jewish tradition, a name has deep spiritual dimensions, shaping a person's character throughout life. Enoch means 'dedicated' and his name describes a man who became *dedicated* unto God. God became his reason for living, and God rewarded this faithful servant by saving him from the greatest of all the effects of sin, which is death. Enoch did not die. God took Him unto Himself, directly into glory.

Among the sons and daughters God gave to Enoch was Methuselah. Methuselah is made from two separate Hebrew words that combined means 'man of the spear/javelin'. This was Old Testament picture language that prophesied concerning judgment. ... This judgment would come upon the world because of the sinful lifestyles its people had adopted, Gen. 6:5 GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that every* imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was only evil continually*. ... So, Methuselah lived for 969 years ... and for 969 years, - until he died, - the world was under the judgment of God that would inevitably come to pass.

Let's work out the figures. Methuselah was 187 years old when Lamech was born (v.25) ... He lived a further 782 years (v.26), - he died when he was 969 years old (v.27). ... Lamech was 182 (v.28) when Noah was born, which means Methuselah was 369 when Noah was born (i.e. 187 + 182). And after Noah was born Lamech lived another 595 years (v.30). So altogether, Lamech lived 777 years (i.e. 182 + 595) (v.31). That means Lamech the son died five years before his father Methuselah died (i.e. 777 + 187).

When Noah would have been 500 years old (v.32) Methuselah would have been 369 + 500 = 869 years old. Now turn to Gen. 7:6 to discover something very significant, And Noah [*was*] six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth ...

So, Methuselah, - whose name points to the coming judgment of God, - was 369 years old when Noah was born ... and Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. That means,  $369 + 600 = 969$  ... and that was when Methuselah died, - the very year the flood came! *That is not a coincidence!* ... Methuselah, - whose name refers to judgment, - died in the same year the flood came upon the earth!

So, this is the background ... and, therefore, as we consider Enoch, we must keep him within this framework. He belonged to the line of Seth who took Abel's place in God's plan. Seth was Godly ... and Enoch was also Godly, - he stood apart from the rest of the people, - and by the time we come to the generation in which he was living, the earth was ripe for God's judgment because of their sinfulness. That means that since Enoch was 65 years old, - when his son Methuselah was born (Gen. 5:21), - ... for 969 years the warning from God was there that judgment of terrible dimensions would come upon this world!

It also speaks of Enoch's daily walk with God ... How do you mean? Well, v.24 explains that one day during his 365<sup>th</sup> year, while walking with God on earth, the Lord lifted him from off this scene of time and they walked together into Heaven, - *no death*. ... There is only one other person in Scripture who didn't die, and that was Elijah who was taken up to Heaven in a chariot of fire (II Kings 2). ... Enoch came into the world 57 years after the death of Adam, and he left the world 69 years before the birth of Noah, - Noah is Enoch's great-grandson ... Enoch's disappearance was completely out of the normal. What impact does it have? What is it all about? ... That is why we need to refer to Hebrews eleven.

Verse six reminds us, *without faith it is impossible to please Him [i.e. God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*. That is the basis for true belief, - believing completely in God with absolutely no hindrances to our faith. Twice in Gen. 5:22,24 we are told Enoch walked with God. That means God had accepted him and God was satisfied to be in his presence. Enoch *believed* in God by faith, and God was his Companion. It is the only way you can please God ... when your faith is truly committed to Him. You can't have 'half-a-faith', - it is either all or nothing. ... That was how Enoch believed, - totally, completely, absolutely.

Adam and Eve also walked with God in the Garden of Eden (3:8). They were privileged with His presence, but when the day came that they fell from grace they lost that privilege for they were not prepared to believe *totally* all God said.

The serpent ‘spun the yarn’ that God was not telling them the whole truth, 3:5 Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Enoch, however, recovered what Adam and Eve had lost, and he became so acceptable to God that he didn’t have to die, - God led him straight into Glory!

There, also, is a picture of the saints when Jesus returns, I Thess. 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive [*and*] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. There will be no death for the believers on earth when Jesus comes again for He will call them to Himself. Death will be swallowed up in Christ’s victorious return! ... How do we believe such a thing? We believe it because God’s grace has made a change in our hearts that gives us the confidence to trust every word He has spoken in the Bible. It is all true because He is all Truth!

Something else about Enoch ... he sought after not man’s reward, but God’s reward. He believed (v.6) God rewards those who seek Him ... and so he fervently believed God would reward *him*. How do we follow after God? The writer to the Hebrews gives us the answer, 12:14 Follow peace with all [*men*], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. ... No one will see God if they are not pursuing after holiness! Now, what *is* holiness? There are many definitions, but I like Spurgeon’s, “Holiness is the visible side of salvation”. If I profess to be saved, my life should show it.

How do you pursue holiness? You pursue holiness by being set apart and, - with the help of the Holy Spirit, - following after the example of Christ! That’s how your life shows it! ... In Enoch’s Old Testament setting, the more time he spent in the presence of the Lord, the more he became like his Master. He believed in a personal God, with Whom he had fellowship, and Who would reward his pursuit after holiness.

This was the wise counsel David gave to his son Solomon, I Chron. 28:9 Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. It was the same word Jeremiah brought, 29:13 ye shall seek me, and find [*me*], when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Indeed, that is the greatest pursuit of any human being ... to seek salvation and the reward from our holy God. The psalmist wrote, 58:11 there is a reward for the righteous, and his son Solomon repeated it, Prov. 11:18 to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward. It is what the Lord was referring to in Mt. 6:33 seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ... These are such attributes as righteousness and being delivered from our sin. It is casting off anything that is contrary to God's will. ... If God doesn't like it, I shouldn't like it either. The best path for me on the highway to Heaven is the path where I walk with my Saviour.

That was how Enoch walked, - he walked with God. That is so important because the writer says it twice (Gen. 5:22,24). What does that mean? Well, let's answer the question by another question, Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Paul gives the straightforward answer, II Cor. 6:14 what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ... This gives us a very clear indication as to the spiritual walk of Enoch, - he was walking with God which means he was no longer walking with the world. He had come out from among them, he was noticeably separated from them, he renounced the unclean and would have nothing to do with it, he was not unequally yoked with unbelievers ... Instead, he walked with God.

He 'swam against the tide' ... He was going in a different direction to the sinful order around him! How was that? It was because of such faith that God had imputed righteousness to him, and it was that *righteousness* that made him acceptable to God. God is righteous, and for a man or a woman to be walking with Him, their walk must be determined by His righteousness. That righteousness is not of ourselves but, - through grace, - it is credited to us ... applied and imputed to us that makes walking with God possible. ... And it sets us apart, and when the time comes for the Judge of all the earth to enter this world again, He will receive us unto Himself, while those who will not walk with Him He will reject.

It is something every truly born-again believer wants to do ... more than anything else, Lk.13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. It is the reason *we are saved!* ...

That is what Enoch is teaching us! And this went on for three hundred years! What a great witness this man had to his Lord! Some of us have known great servants of God who have witnessed faithfully to Him for forty-fifty-sixty-seventy years ... but Enoch walked with the Lord for three hundred years! What an impact he would have had upon those around him!

I wonder what precipitated, - began, - this walk that Enoch enjoyed with the Lord. If we read Gen. 5:22 very carefully we see a seemingly insignificant word that could be so easily overlooked, *Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years*. Bearing in mind all Scripture is given by inspiration of God (II Tim. 3:16), this word ‘after’ could indicate that something happened when Methuselah was born, and that was why the young baby was given his very special name, concerning God’s judgment (Methuselah, ‘man of the spear/javelin’).

It seems when Methuselah was born, this was when his father Enoch became aware God was going to judge the earth. Consequently, Enoch gave his son a God-revealed name ... in the same way the name ‘Jesus’ was revealed to Joseph (Mt. 1:21 thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins), and the name ‘John’ was revealed to Zacharias (Lk. 1:13 thou shalt call his name John. <sup>14</sup> And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. <sup>15</sup> For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb. <sup>16</sup> And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord).

Indeed, you can read the verse that it was after he begat Methuselah Enoch walked with God for three hundred years. And it was during this time he was seeking the reward of salvation and all the blessings that accompany it.

And he found it! How do we know? Look at the description of the introduction to Enoch’s great-grandson, Noah, Gen. 6:8 Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>9</sup> These [*are*] the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man [*and*] perfect in his generations, [*and*] Noah walked with God. Noah was very different from the rest of the people because ... he walked with God! But that was how he would have seen his Godly great-grandfather walking also! *Enoch walked with God (Gen. 5:22,24) ... Noah walked with God (Gen. 6:8)*.

Jude describes how Enoch and his great-grandson would have stood out from the kind of people that were around in those days ... v.14 Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints ... Who were the ‘these’? They were these [*filthy*] dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities (v.8) ... v.10 these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. <sup>11</sup> Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the

gainsaying of Core. <sup>12</sup> These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds [*they are*] without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; <sup>13</sup> Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever ... and it was to these ungodly people Enoch preached. They had rejected the true and living God, v.14 Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, <sup>15</sup> To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard [*speeches*] which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. This was the kind of *ungodly and godless* world in which Enoch walked with God, and in which Noah also walked with God. They were walking in completely the different direction to everyone else!

Yes, Enoch was a faithful preacher, - he wouldn't have been popular, but he nevertheless said what the Lord had for him to say! He lived against his culture, but the Lord maintained him and kept him going. He was faithful, and the Lord honoured his faithfulness, - *that* is a lesson for God's people today!

Yes, Enoch was an amazing man whose pattern we ought to follow to receive the reward that comes to those who are faithful unto the Lord. He shows us how to live in the midst of the great wave of rebelliousness against God. And indeed his labours *were* rewarded for the writer to the Hebrews made it so abundantly clear, 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ... And this is also pointing ahead to when our Saviour and Lord will return ... We shall not all sleep (I Cor. 15:51), - there will be a great multitude on earth who like Enoch and Elijah will *not* die, for, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, (v.52) ... I Thess. 4:16 the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup> Then we which are alive [*and*] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. ... That's the day when we are told to Behold, for the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.

That day is fast approaching when we shall follow in the footsteps of Enoch, the man who walked with God. ... And, therefore, we say with all the Redeemed, Even so, come, Lord Jesus (Rev. 22:20). Amen.