

ENOCK

Genesis 5:18-24

Intro: The Bible begins by telling us about the creation of Adam and Eve. They were created without sin, but after they were placed in the Garden of Eden, they disobeyed God by eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and they became sinners. And it has been through the sin of Adam, the head of the human race, that every person born from that day to this, has been born with a sinful nature, a nature held in hopeless bondage to sin.

The next recorded sin after what Adam and Eve did, was the sin of Cain, their oldest son. He was jealous because his brother Abel's sacrifice was accepted by the Lord, but his own was rejected. As a result he killed his brother Abel. In reading the Old Testament, we ought to be constantly interested in the family line which led ultimately to the birth of the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. Cain, being the firstborn, should have been in the family line leading to Christ, but instead God gave Adam and Eve a third son, Seth, and it was he that became the one whose descendants ultimately led to Christ. The last two verses of Genesis 4 tell us that it was after the birth of Seth's son, Enos, that "then began men to call upon the name of the Lord" (Gen. 4:26). But evidently there were not many who called upon the Lord because as we are given the genealogy of Adam's family it seems that Adam's descendants were mainly interested in having children because that is all that is recorded about most of them. They lived long lives, but God is not mentioned in any of their lives until we come to a man by the name of Enoch. And what we are told about him made him stand above all that were before him, and all that followed him, until we come to Noah.

Even with Enoch, it does not seem that there was anything special about him until his son, Methusaleh was born. At that time Enoch was sixty-five years old. Then we are told that Enoch walked with God for the next three hundred years at the end of which time he did not die like all of the others before him, and after him, but "God took him," as we read in Genesis 5:24. So obviously, it was the intention of the Spirit of God in leading Moses to write this record, to cause those who would read this chapter to pay special attention to Enoch. He was different from his fathers, and he was different from his sons who came along after him. He lived just about a third of the time that the other members of his family lived, and then he did not die "for God took him." The one point that

made Enoch different from the others in his family was that he “walked with God,” a fact that is stated twice in the record of his life. (See it in verse 22, and again in verse 24.) And it is important for us to notice that this is not said about any other person in chapter 5 until we get to Noah. And in Genesis 6:9 we are told that “Noah walked with God.” It would be interesting to know if Enoch had an influence on Noah, many years after Enoch was gone, so that Noah followed in Enoch’s footsteps.

Now let us examine that verb, “walked.”

I. “ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD (Gen. 5:22, 24).

The verb *walk* means that this is the way he lived. God was the greatest influence in his life. It is important to notice that the Bible does not tell us that God walked with Enoch, but that Enoch walked with God. If it had said that God walked with Enoch, it would have meant that Enoch was leading God, that they were going where Enoch wanted to go, and doing what Enoch wanted to do, and talking about what Enoch wanted to talk about. But that is not the way it was. Instead, God was the One Who determined how they should live. Enoch was living like God wanted him to live. Enoch was in full accord with the way that God wanted him to live. And Enoch lived to please God even though his father hadn’t lived that way, nor had his grandfather; nor did his son, nor did his grandson. The others did not walk with God because they disagreed with the way God wanted them to live. They lived the way they wanted to live. We can’t do that and walk with God. We have to live God’s way, not expect God to adapt Himself to our way of life.

People lived in those days just like they do today. They don’t want God or anyone else to tell them how they ought to live. As the saying goes, they want to do “their own thing”! And this is exactly why the world is in the condition that it is today. We don’t want God telling us what to do.

But what is it that makes a sinful man want to live a life that is pleasing to God? It is only when God has changed his heart. We know from this expression, that “Enoch walked with God,” that he was a child of God. He had been reconciled to God. He was saved, saved from the penalty of his sin, and saved from the slavery of his sin. The Lord had changed Enoch heart so that his primary object in life was that he wanted to please God. The write of the book of Hebrews had this to say about Enoch, and it throws more light upon Enoch’s relationship with God. Listen to the

words found in Hebrews 11:5:

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.

As we can tell from Scripture, Enoch lived his life to please God, a total of three hundred years, when he received no encouragement from anyone else to walk with the Lord.

We who know the Lord need to notice this. We often excuse ourselves, or even do things that we know are not pleasing to the Lord, just because nobody else, or at least very few, seem to be concerned at all about living a life in which we are really walking with God! If you don't want to walk with God, if you are not primarily interested in pleasing Him, if your life is not characterized by fellowship with God, it can only mean one thing: that you need to be saved. Enoch walked with God "by faith," the book of Hebrews tells us. This means that he was trusting God for the desire and for the strength to do what was pleasing to the Lord. Enoch didn't have the Bible, like we do. But you can be sure that he understood how he had to live and what he had to do if he wanted to please God. We can't please God and live like the world lives. The person who knows God, and loves God, and is interested in pleasing God, walks with God, and will live like God wants him or her to live even though no one else is encouraging him to walk with God.

But let me tell you another thing about what it means to walk with God. I learned this from a man who has written a commentary on Genesis, who probably was not a thorough-going evangelical, but one who was a student of the Hebrew language. This is how he expressed what was involved, or included, when a man "walked with God":

In the OT such an expression signifies intimate companionship . . . and here denotes a fellowship with God morally and religiously perfect . . . that originally it included the idea of initiation into divine mysteries (Skinner, John, *Genesis, The International Critical Commentary*, p. 131).

What did he mean by this statement? He meant that for the Bible to say that "Enoch walked with God" means three things:

- 1) He was a man who in his daily life was experiencing personal, intimate fellowship with the Lord.
- 2) He was a man who was in pursuit of holiness – holiness of character, and holy living.
- 3) He was a man to whom the Lord was opening his heart to understand

the truth of God.

And those three things come in exactly that order. We walk with the Lord in precious and personal fellowship. We get to know Him, and all that we know about Him makes us love Him more and more. Our fellowship with the Lord results in a gradual but certain transformation of our lives. We become holy as He is holy, not perfectly holy, but increasing in holiness day by day as we continue to walk with Him. And then as we walk with Him, we find that the Lord does with us what He did with His two disciples who walked with Him on the road to Emmaus, “He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). And after the Lord “vanished out of their sight” (Luke 24:31), those two disciples said to each other, “Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?” (Luke 24:32).

Let me point out to you what happened to Enoch and his knowledge of the Scriptures as a result of his walking with the Lord. What I am referring to is found in the short, one-chapter epistle of Jude. He warned us about three other OT characters before he told us something about Enoch which is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible. Listen as I read Jude 11-15 where he was warning the people of God in his day about false teachers, and then went on to speak of Enoch:

10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

11 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.

12 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;

13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

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

sinner have spoken against him (Jude 10-15).

The Bible tells us the same thing about Noah that it tells us about Enoch, facts that are not mentioned in the OT record of their lives. The OT does tell us that both of them walked with God, but it doesn't tell us that they both were preachers! They didn't go to Bible school or seminary because there were no such schools in those days. They lived when conditions in the world were bad like they are today. You understand that when you read the life of Noah. How did they know the truth so they could preach. They learned to walk with God, and He taught them. Enoch knew that the Lord was coming to earth to judge the world for one thing: un-Godliness!

There is no record that Enoch even turned one person to God, and the same is true of Noah. But that generation will be without excuse because there were two men in their days who walked with God, and who living godly lives warned others that their ungodly ways would bring them eventually under the awful judgment of God. They preached against sin by their lives and by their preaching, and we need to do the same.

Do you want to understand your Bible more than you do now? Do you want to be growing in personal holiness? *It all begins and continues with ever-increasing blessing as we learn to walk with the Lord. We become like the people we walk with.* Solomon wrote in the book of Proverbs,

24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

25 Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul (Prov. 22:24-25).

One reason more of us are not like the Lord Jesus is because we spend too much time walking with the wrong kind of people, instead of walking day by day with the Lord.

Now let me spend a few moment in closing about:

II. ENOCH'S UNUSUAL DEPARTURE (Gen. 5:24).

Look at Genesis 5:24 with me.

We read a little while ago from Hebrews 11:5 that "before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." What does it mean that "he was translated that he should not see death"? It means that a great change was made in his life. We could even call it *an exchange*. The Lord took

him directly to heaven so “that he should not see death.” This was a rapture, being transported from earth to heaven. God was giving Enoch a testimony for all readers of the Bible to understand, how very, very much Enoch had lived his life to please God, and so earth was not worthy of him.

I think it was Andrew Bonar that Scotch preacher who had such a remarkable ministry, who made this quaint comment about Enoch and God. He visualized the Lord speaking to Enoch after they had walked together for three hundred years, and that he said, “Enoch, we have walked together for these many years, and we have gotten so far away from your home, and so close to my home, why don’t you come home with Me?”

Herbert Lockyer said in one of his books that the words, “and he was not,” meant that people looked for him, but could not find him. This man was the first man to go to heaven without dying. And there have only been two. The other was Elijah. Peter, James, and John got a foretaste of it on the mount where the Lord was transfigured before them, and Peter expressed what heaven must be like when he said, “It is good for us to be here.” One of the Psalmists wrote in Psalm 116:15, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” And our Lord Jesus prayed in that great prayer found in John 17,

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world (John 17:24).

Concl: We are looking for the Lord’s return when He will come to take us home. “Oh, joy, oh, delight, should we go without dying . . .” What is the most important thing we have to do while we are waiting? It is just to walk with Him every day that we have. That is what pleases Him, and that is the place of constant blessing for us.

If you don’t know the Lord, I hope that get the message of Enoch’s life, and realize that just as Enoch was a child of God’s grace, you, too, can know Him and walk with Him by coming to Him through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. He alone can save, and He alone will work in us to trust the Father and to enable us to walk in fellowship with Him.