

Enoch, The Man Who Walked with God

Texts: Genesis 5:21-23; Hebrews 11:5, 6; Jude 14, 15

Through Scripture you will find phrases like “walk before (God); walk in statutes; walk in the law; walk in the ways (of the LORD)” but there were only two individuals of whom the Bible directly says walked with God. We learn about one in Genesis 6:9b: “...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” The other is our subject, Enoch.

Micah 6:8 makes it clear this is the desire of God for all His people: “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

We are going to pull from everything the Bible says about Enoch, seventh from Adam through Seth to examine what the man who walked with God was like. He is not to be confused with Enoch, third from Adam through Cain (two diametrically different heritages). The name “Enoch” has a most interesting etymology. It comes from the same Hebrew root found in “train,” as in Prov. 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go....” It means to initiate as in the ways a mother or midwife would take finely mashed sweet dates and touch the palate of a newborn, to encourage it to nurse. I believe we learn something about what it means to walk with God in the name “Enoch” itself. To walk with God is a practice that must be encouraged and cultivated by the sweet presence of the Lord. But we should not take it for granted, as though it will come automatically. Our spiritual palate must be inaugurated. James 4:8a: “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you....”

1. ENOCH WAS ENGAGED IN THE LONGEST PERPETUAL PRAYER MEETING.

Genesis 5:22: “And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years....”

Enoch lived 365 years. No doubt he communicated with God before Methuselah was born, but the emphasis is placed after the birth of his son. Our children do encourage our prayer life! This walk with God was at least three hundred years in duration. If your prayer life is becoming drudgery, bordering on boredom, think of this, Enoch had fellowship so sweet with God that it lasted three hundred years as he “prayed without ceasing” (I Thessalonians 5:17). Then the communion was so intense, that God took him. I like what the late Dr. B. R. Lakin said of Enoch, “One day God said to Enoch, ‘I love the way you spend your days with me on earth. Why don’t you just come to heaven and spend the day with me.’ And so he did. And the reason Enoch never came back is because there’s no night there; he’s still spending the day with God.”

2. ENOCH WAS NEVER TOO PREOCCUPIED TO PRAY.

Genesis 5:22b: “...and begat sons and daughters.”

Many excuses are given why people don’t spend time in communion with their Lord. Sadly, one reason given is because of conflicting duties with family.

Many years ago, Dr. Bob Jones Sr. said, "Duties never conflict." We find time for what we want to do.

3. ENOCH FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD.

Genesis 5:24a: "And Enoch walked with God...."

Hebrews 11:5b: "...for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God."

Rarely a day goes by without reminding myself of these words of our Savior: "...for I do always those things that please Him." Enoch had this testimony, in other words, everyone who knew him knew that he had this great fellowship with God. The Trinity is dedicated to our walk with God: I John 1:3b "...truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ." Romans 8:26b, "...the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us...."

4. ENOCH LIVED IN A FAITH POSTURE.

Hebrews 11:6: "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."

Hebrews 11:6 begins with a conjunction, which by definition is a connecting word between words. And the word "but" grammatically can be used as a linking word to give an added statement. Contextually, we see that Hebrews 11:6 is very much tied to Hebrews 11:5. It should be noted that Hebrews 11:6 is sandwiched between Hebrews 11:5 and Hebrews 11:7, which tells us of Noah, the only other man of whom the Bible says "walked with God" (Genesis 6:9b).

Sometimes when we heartlessly face challenges, we will hear said, "If you don't feel it; fake it." Here is a far better approach to the challenge of praying effectively: "If you don't feel it; faith it." II Corinthians 5:7: "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

5. ENOCH LIVED WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW.

Jude 14, 15a: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all...."

We have a tendency to see our temporary existence on earth as a permanent situation. Ecclesiastes 3:11: "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end." The word translated "world" comes to us from the Hebrew word *olam* meaning, beyond the vanishing point in past and present. It means world without end. This word is found in His very name "Everlasting God (El Olam)." God declares that He has set eternity in our hearts. The life which we live in earth is extremely brief compared to the eternity that we are all facing. James 4:14b: "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Enoch knew eternity was approaching, and with it, judgment.

6. ENOCH WAS A WITNESS TO THE LOST.

Jude, 15b: "...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."

Knowing of the coming judgment, Enoch sought to warn the lost that they are sinners in need of repentance. James 5:20: "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death." Proverbs 11:30b: "...and he that winneth souls is wise."

7. ENOCH WAS A HARBINGER OF THE RAPTURE.

Genesis 5:24b, "...and he was not; for God took him.

Hebrews 11:5a: "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him...."

A harbinger is a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of another. The term originally denoted a person who provided lodging, later one who went ahead to find lodgings for an army or for a nobleman and his retinue, hence, a herald. What a blessing that in only seven generations from Adam we are given a promise of God snatching His people away before all Hell breaks out in the earth (Revelation 3:10, 11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

8. ENOCH WAS MISSED.

Hebrews 11:5b, "...and was not found...."

We know that Enoch was searched for, because it said, "...he was not found." May the Lord help all us us to live in such a way that people with whom we have lived and interacted will miss us. Let us leave a legacy of faith and fellowship among those we love.

-Pastor Pope-