

# BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

## Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

### WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM ENOCH?

Gen. 5-6, Heb. 11:5, Jude 14-15

INTRODUCTION: We have thus far looked at God's perspective on the lives of Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel, I hope gleaning the Lord's admonitions to us about the living of our own lives.

This morning we look at a fascinating figure. We do not know a whole lot about this man, but what we know of him and the times in which he lived peaks our interest.

His name is **ENOCH**. He is first mentioned in Genesis 5:18.

- Enoch was the **great, great, great, great** (4 greats) **grandson of Adam and Eve**.
  - In other words, he was the seventh generation from creation.
  - Grandpa Adam and Grandma Eve could have held baby Enoch in their arms, since they were both still alive when he was born.
  - Adam lived 930 years – solar years – longevity before the great flood of Noah's day.
- **Enoch's first son was Methuselah**, the man who lived the longest life recorded in Scripture - 969 years.
- Enoch was a prophet.
  - Being a prophet, when he named his firstborn, Enoch gave the boy a name with prophetic meaning.
  - You wouldn't give a boy that long a name just to burden your wife when she had to call him for dinner! ME-THU-SE-LAH!!!!
  - Methuselah meant "**When he dies, it shall come.**"
  - What shall come? We will see!
- **Enoch's great-grandson was Noah**.
  - It took Noah and his sons 120 years to build the ark God told Noah to build.

- After it was finished, God sent two of every kind of land animal to the place of the ark to enter it and be safe in the nests within the belly of the ark.
- **The ark finished, the animals safely inside, Noah received the word – grandfather Methuselah has died.**
- It began to rain.
- When he dies, it shall come.
- **The flooding of the entire earth began.** (Next week, we will look at the life of Noah!)

But for now, back to Enoch, because I still have not told you the most fascinating things about his life.

- **Enoch witnessed the demonic corruption of the early earth.**

Genesis 6:1–2, 4 NKJV 1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose... 4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

- The term “sons of God” is used three other times in the OT, and each time it refers to angels.
- Some of the angels who followed Satan in his rebellion against God and who were cast out of Heaven, called demons in the NT, took wives of human women.
- Their offspring were called in Hebrew “the Nephilim” which means “fallen ones or mighty ones.”
- They were giants in size and in wickedness, following the ways of their wicked, fallen fathers, the demons and the fallen angels. Some of these Nephilim may have become the historic precursors to the mythological gods worshipped centuries later.
- According to both the Apostle Peter and Jude, the half-brother of the Lord Jesus, who became a follower of Christ after His resurrection, these rebellious angels were chained in a place called the Pit or Tartarus in the depths of Hell for their despicable sin.
- But their violent, ungodly offspring continued to multiply and corrupt the earth. So much so that Gen. 6 continues to say

Genesis 6:11–12 NKJV 11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

- Enoch saw the beginnings of this utter corruption of the earth.
- The end result is best described in

Genesis 6:5 NKJV Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- In the midst of a corrupt world, where all around him was wickedness and evil, **Enoch walked in faith in spite of the evil times in which he lived.**

Hebrews 11:5–6 NKJV 5 By faith **Enoch... had this testimony, that he pleased God.** 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- Enoch kept his testimony!
- Enoch lived out his testimony!
- Enoch lived by faith, trusting God, obeying God!
- Enoch pleased God.

Now for the most fascinating thing of all about Enoch.

- **Enoch did not die. God raptured Enoch!**
  - To rapture means to snatch away suddenly.
  - In the midst of a corrupt, wicked, violent, ungodly world, God suddenly snatched Enoch off of this earth and brought Enoch alive straight into heaven.

Listen to Paul describe it when he wrote his letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:5 NKJV By faith **Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”**; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Some of you are thinking, but the Bible says “It is appointed unto man once to die...”

Indeed it does!

- There is only one other person whom God raptured and took alive into heaven.
- That is the prophet Elijah.

Did you know that in the Book of Revelation, we read a description of what will happen in the early days of the tribulation?

- Two men filled with the Holy Spirit will stand in front of the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.
- They will preach the Word of God and declare the gospel of Jesus Christ for three and a half years.
- When their enemies come against them to kill them, God will give them power to spew fire from their mouths to destroy those who would take their lives.
- The Scripture declares, when those two witnesses finish their testimony, God will allow the Antichrist to kill them.
- They will die, and their bodies will lie in the street for three and a half days.
- The images of their bodies will be broadcast around the globe, and the followers of Antichrist will rejoice.
- But after three and a half days, God raises them up in their resurrection bodies and they ascend off the earth, just like Jesus did, in a cloud, going back to heaven!

Now listen, John in Revelation does not tell us the names of these two witnesses.

But I am telling you I believe, based solely upon the broad testimony of the Scriptures that these two witnesses will be Enoch and Elijah, God's only two prophets who God raptured off of this earth before they died. He took them to heaven.

But I believe that when the tribulation begins, and there are no Christians left upon the earth on day one of the most terrible time of trouble and death the world has ever known, God sends His two great prophets back to proclaim the glorious gospel of Christ in front of the temple saying, "OK, my faithful servants. Go finish your testimony. Be witnesses to me. You never died, but now, go, be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

But before God took Enoch off of this globe the first time, recorded back in Genesis like we read a few minutes ago,

- **God showed Enoch the glorious return of the Lord Jesus with His saints**
  - **to conquer the Antichrist and his kingdom**
  - **and to establish the Kingdom of Christ for a thousand years.**

Jude 14–15 NKJV 14 Now **Enoch**, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied** about these men also, saying, "**Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to**

**execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”**

Wow! Do you see now why I said that Enoch is such a fascinating figure!

And certainly **OUT OF ENOCH’S LIFE COME STRONG ADMONITIONS TO US FROM THE LORD.**

- God wants us, like Enoch, to **Recognize and respond to the spiritual warfare that is taking place.**

Ephesians 6:10–13 NKJV 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- Daily, wrap the truth of God’s Word around your waist like a belt.
  - Continually, put on the breastplate of righteousness that comes from Christ.
  - Every day, wear gospel sandals so you take and share the good news with everyone.
  - Carry with you the shield of faith, because trusting Jesus is our defense against the enemy.
  - Be sure to wear the helmet of salvation, being confident that you belong to Christ.
  - The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.
  - And the strategy of prayer will be your offensive weapons against Satan and his demons.
  - And like Enoch, God desires that we...
- **When living in evil times, be men and women of faith and faithfulness.** Listen to Jude who told us about Enoch, appeal to Christ followers.

Jude 3–4 NKJV 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, **ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness** and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Brothers and sisters, this admonition from the Spirit of God fits us in our day like a glove on a hand.
  - I read an article this week that talked about the rise of paganism in Europe, often blending the worship of ancient Greek, Germanic, Celtic, and Slavic gods with Wicca.
  - It noted that in 2016, Denmark dedicated its first temple to Odin in a thousand years. Right now a temple to Thor and Odin is under construction in Iceland, and Nordic paganism is Iceland's fastest growing religion.
  - Here in the United States, while still a comparatively small group of less than 1.5 million people, the number of folks who self-identify as neo-pagan is rapidly growing.
  - And while this happens around us, the Holy Spirit admonishes each of us to fight the unseen spiritual battle but also to live lives of faith and faithfulness AND as believers, to contend earnestly for the faith.
- **No matter how bad it gets, let us find our hope in Christ, who reigns supreme as the Lord of Glory and is coming again as our Conquering King!**

Actually, Enoch reminds us of the two parts to this promise.

- Like Enoch, followers of Christ will be raptured out of a world whose evil becomes like the evil that corrupted the earth between the birth of Enoch and the flood of Noah's day.
- Like the two witnesses who I believe to be Enoch and Elijah, those who die in Christ will one day be given a glorious resurrection body and will be taken to heaven.
- As Enoch foresaw, both the raptured saints and those who die in Christ before the Rapture, shall return with the King of Kings to see Antichrist overthrown and cast into the Lake of Fire and Christ set up His Millennial Kingdom with its capital in Jerusalem. GLORY HALLELUJAH!

**My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness**

**I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name**

**On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand**