



## “Walking With God” (Hebrews 11:5)

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- Intro: Read Hebrews 11:5-6; A little girl was asked by her mother what she learned in Sunday school that day, and her daughter said the teacher talked about this man named Enoch. “Oh, tell me about Enoch,” said the mother. So the girl told her mother this story: “Enoch lived a long time ago, and God would come by every day and say to him, “Enoch, would you like to take a walk with me?” Enoch would say, “Yes, I’d like to take a walk with you God.” And so every day God would come by Enoch’s house, and Enoch would go walking with God. One day God came by and said, “Enoch, let’s take a long walk today.” So they started out. Enoch got his coat, and even took along a lunch, and they started walking. They walked and they walked and they walked, and finally it got late. Enoch said, “God, it’s really getting late, and I’m a long way from home. Maybe we’d better start back.” But God said, “Enoch, you are closer to my home than you are to your home, so you come on and go home with me.” And so Enoch went home with God.
- Note that we are going to be camped out in Hebrews 11 for a while. If Abel speaks of witness for God, Enoch speaks of walking with God. But before we talk about that key aspect of Enoch’s life, I believe Enoch speaks to us in other ways as well.
- Jude 14-15 refers to Enoch (read). How did Jude know this about Enoch? He took it from what is called the “Pseudepigrapha.” The word is a combination of words that mean “with false title” & “inscribed.” It refers to a collection of writings by pious Jews living in Palestine or Egypt who were concerned that their people had strayed from God. Enoch was of course one of those pious Jews. Other writings include “The Book of Eden,” “The Book of Jubilees,” “IV Ezra,” “Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs,” etc. The name “Pseudepigrapha” is derived from the fact that these writings are not included in the canon of Scripture. They contain accurate history, but some may contain fictional accounts of history as well. Jude 14-15, taken from these writings, tells us that Enoch warned his world of coming judgment upon those who chose not to repent. And when we read the account of Enoch in the book of Genesis, we come to appreciate his “preaching” even more (read Gen.5:18-24). Enoch preached of coming judgment for 300 years! Can you imagine? And if you read on in the Genesis story, you learn just what got of world he was preaching to (read Gen.5:25-29, noting the painful toil as result of the curse, then 6:3, where God finally sets a time for judgment (for hundreds of years he has been calling for the world to repent through men like Enoch, and finally Noah). Read Gen.6:4, noting that these were godless giants (like Goliath the Philistine). This was a tough time for godly men like Enoch and Noah.

Read Genesis 6:5-8. Enoch, like Noah, was a “preacher of righteousness” (II Peter 2:5) in a very unrighteous world.

- Enoch’s name means “dedicated” or “initiated.” Because he was dedicated, he also initiated (to begin, to set going, to originate). And of course Enoch originated the Scriptural truth of life beyond this present world. With that, I believe his translation speaks of the coming rapture of the church. Jude 14 reminds us that Enoch was “the seventh from Adam.” That is significant. The number seven is all over the book of Revelation. Seven speaks of completion, fulfillment. Scripture is very clear that prior to the fulfillment of God’s wrath being poured out upon the world, believers will be spared (I Thess.4:9). Prior to the unleashing of God’s wrath, recorded beginning in Revelation chapter five, in chapter four John sees a door standing open in heaven, and a voice like a trumpet says to him “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” After this refers to the letters to the seven churches (Rev.2&3). The outline of the book of Revelation is given to John in Revelation 1:19 (read). What you have seen, what is now (church age), and what will take place after the church age (God’s wrath during The Great Tribulation).
- Many scholars believe Enoch is one of the two witnesses of Rev.11:3, the second being Elijah.
- Enoch began to walk with God after he had his first child. I believe Enoch has a message for us here as well, especially for dads. There should be something about having your first child that encourages a person to get serious about life. It is a tremendous responsibility being a parent, and one that we better not take lightly. I believe God is speaking to a parent right now, and he is saying it’s time to stop your youthful ways, it’s time to grow up and be responsible. You will one day give an account of what kind of parent you have been. Enoch began walking with God after he had his first child. Dad, mom, it’s time you should do the same. Have prayer for parents, especially new parents (but also include grandparents).
- Enoch was “translated,” by faith, from earth to heaven. But even before he was literally translated, he was spiritually translated. How? By walking with God. What does it mean to “walk with God?” The Hebrew word conveys the idea of an ongoing intimacy with God (Gen.6:9), and it involves seeking to walk in ways that are pleasing to God.
- What is required to be able to walk with God?
  1. A realization that God is watching every step I make (Gen.17:1; 24:40; 48:15; Eph.5:15).
  2. A desire to please God in my “walk” (Amos 3:3).
  3. Discovering what pleases God (Eph.5:10).
  - God does not walk in “darkness” (Isa. 2:5; Psalm 89:15; I John 1:7; John 8:12; Eph.5:3-20).

- God provides direction through His Word (Psalm 1:1-2; 26:3; 119:105; II John 4). Set aside time to get alone with God (Rom.8:5-8). If I am going to walk with God through the day, I need fresh direction from God for the journey.
  - God is not pleased with doubt regarding His clear communication/revelation (Luke 1:8-20; Matthew 14:28-31; Heb.11:6a).
  - God wants me to focus on what is unseen rather than what is seen (II Cor.4:16-18; Heb.2:8-9; I Peter 1:8-9).
  - God leads, He never follows (II John 1:9; Gal.5:25; Num.14:36-45; Exodus 40:36-37; Num.9:15-23); If my wife is going to walk with me, she usually has to walk a little faster than normal. She also is accustomed to following me; Enoch walked with God, not "God walked with Enoch." It was God who was deciding the direction, the pace, when to stop and when to go, etc.; Jesus never said "Let me follow you..." Note: lots of decisions in life that you will not find a specific Scripture that has the answer. Examples: Where to live, what job to take, who to marry, etc. Did you know that you can head in a direction God ultimately wants you to go, yet take premature steps in getting there? (Num.14:36-45). Presumption: arrogant; overbearingly confident.
- What are the benefits of walking with God?
    1. By walking with God, one is lifted above the earthly (things seen), and is occupied with things that are unseen (II Cor.4:16-18).
    2. One's affections are no longer set on the things of the earth, but rather are fixed on the things of eternity...Eph.2:6; Colossians 3:1-4; II Kings 6: 17 And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
    3. You realize you are never really alone (Psalm 23; II Tim.4:16-18).
    4. You learn to trust the Lord (Matthew 6:25-32; 14:28-31).
    5. Victory over this present world.
      - Note: The time Enoch walked with God was during the days of Noah...wickedness abounded (Gen.6:1-7)...there were giants to contend with ("The Nephilim")...
      - Enoch walked with God for 300 years! If Enoch had been translated today, he would have been born in the year 1647! He would have lived through The Reformation, The Civil War, World Wars I, II, & III, The Great Depression, the

2012 Presidential election, All the major world catastrophes of the last 300 years).

- What do I need to do to begin walking with God?
  1. Stop walking in darkness
  2. Get direction from God's Word, and the Holy Spirit
  3. Begin to walk by faith

## CONCLUSION

Jeremiah 6:16