

Enoch

Introduction:

One can only wonder how Adam and Eve grieved over the loss of Abel and the terrible burden of anguish that Cain had become a murderer, been cursed by God, and had left the presence of Jehovah. Yet when all seemed so bleak, the chapter ends with the birth of another son. Eve's own words revealed her understanding that Seth would be another seed instead of Abel.

And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." 26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD. Gen. 4:25-26

Eve knew God would not bring the promised seed (Gen. 3:15) to bruise the head of the serpent through Cain. She rightfully saw in Seth "another seed instead of Abel." Seth did not disappoint them. As he grew to manhood, married and had his own son, Enosh, "men began to call on the name of the LORD." If we use Abram as our example, then to "call on the name of the LORD" is only done after an altar is built. At that time, no one could "call on the name of the LORD" without an altar. The altar was their means of both worship and sacrifice for sin (Job 1:5).

*And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there **he built an altar** to the LORD and **called on the name of the LORD**. Gen. 12:8-9*

*And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to **the place of the altar** which he had made there at first. And there **Abram called on the name of the LORD**. Gen. 13:3-4*

*So he **built an altar** there and **called on the name of the LORD**, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well. Gen. 26:25*

So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly. Job 1:5

The genealogies of Adam's sons through Seth are recorded in Genesis 5. They flow from one to another with only two details. God first revealed how old each man was when he began to have children. After this God recorded the age of each one when he died as shown in the chart below.

1	Adam	lived	930 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:3-5</u>
2	Seth	lived	912 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:6-8</u>
3	Enosh	lived	905 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:9-11</u>
4	Kenan	lived	910 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:12-14</u>
5	Mahalel	lived	895 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:15-17</u>
6	Jared	lived	962 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:18-20</u>
7	Enoch	Walked with God	365 years ... he was not; God took him.	<u>Gen 5:21-24</u>
8	Methuselah	lived	969 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:25-27</u>
9	Lamech	lived	777 years ... and he died	<u>Gen 5:28-31</u>

A few trends emerge as we examine these ages. First, all but three lived to be more than 900 years old and all but one lived and then died. Enoch did not die! Every other man lived and then died. Thus God wanted it understood that Enoch stood out! Enoch was different. Unlike the others who merely lived, Enoch walked with God for three hundred years. Second, at the age of 365 years, long before the death of all but Adam, God took Enoch.

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

Enoch Walked with God

While the other patriarchs lived full lives and then died, Enoch lived only a short time, but the short life ended in reward, not punishment. His life was different from the others, and that difference is summed up with "Enoch walked with God." Since this is the only thing separating them, it is important to define and understand how God defines it. God said it best in the book of Amos.

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? Amos 3:3

Think about this important truth. The obvious answer is no! Two people cannot possibly walk together unless they both have the same destination in mind. Unless two people have agreed to travel to the same destination they cannot walk together. When one person is heading South and another North,

they cannot walk together because one of them must travel further and further away from where they want to be. God has a destination in His heart and He will walk with every man and woman who is also seeking to end their life at that specific place.

That is exactly what Enoch did. Because he wanted to walk with God, he made it his aim to find out exactly where God was on every topic, doctrine, moral activity, etc. After he found out exactly where God was on all these things, Enoch walked there with Him. God has created this path for all men. Jesus described it as the way which leads to life. It is not an easy path. It is a difficult way, but it is the path Enoch chose.

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Mt. 7:13-14

Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ Jer. 6:15

The difference between living and walking with God centers on the destination and the path. Enoch was not the only one to make this choice. Scripture reveals that both Noah and Abram also walked with God. God also encouraged Israel to walk with him by keeping His commands and ordinances.

*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. **Noah walked with God.** Gen. 6:9*

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; **walk before Me and be blameless.** 2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” Gen. 17:1-3*

*3 If you **walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,** ...11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you 12 **I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people**... 14 ‘But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, 15 and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, ... 21 ‘Then, **if you walk contrary to Me,** and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. ... 23 ‘And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, **but walk contrary to Me,** ... 27 ‘And after all this, **if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, 28 then I also will walk contrary to you in fury;** and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. Lev. 26:3; 11-12; 14; 21;23; 27-28*

*“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, **to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord** and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Deut. 10:12-14*

*“Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; **you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you,** that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess. Deut 5:32-33*

*“For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do — to love the LORD your God, **to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him** — Deut 11:22-23*

*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and **to walk humbly with your God?** Micah 6:8*

Enoch was the first one God described in this manner and the first one openly rewarded for it. Since this is the only thing God revealed about Enoch, It is very important we see it so we can follow too.

By Faith Enoch was Taken Away

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. Heb 11:5-6

God gave these additional details to the account for those who are Christians. First, like Abel in the previous verse, his walk was described as “by faith” and since “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17), it is again emphasized that Enoch’s walk with God was an obedient walk of faith in all God’s commands and ways. Thus his attitude is mirrored in Proverbs:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-8

What else can anyone do once they understand how different God is from us? We need His guidance.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isa. 55:8-9

As Abel before him, Enoch also trusted in the LORD with all his heart. Enoch did not lean on his own understanding, but allowed God to direct his paths. He was not wise in his own eyes. Instead he

feared and respected the LORD and departed from evil through continual repentance. It was in this way that Enoch walked with God, and it is in this way that God testified Enoch was pleasing to Him.

One of the key points in the 11th chapter of Hebrews is the variety of ways God has allowed man to “measure out his faith” (Rom. 12:3-8). All those listed had exactly the same saving faith by which each of them was “reckoned righteous” (Rom 4:3-9; 21-25); But as God’s needs changed, their faith was focused in different ways. Abel offered, Enoch was taken, Noah built an ark, Abraham left his country, and etc. God’s need at the time of Enoch was that Enoch should be “taken away,” and “was not found.” What purpose did this serve? So everyone could see that “before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God!” Who are the people who would hear this testimony? From the passage in Hebrews it is evident that all Christians are among these people. God wanted us to know that man could so conduct himself in his walk with God that God still wants him to be with Him.

But it wasn’t just for the Christians who read Hebrews. Since Enoch “was not found” it is inferred that they looked for him. The fact that in taking him, God testified that “before he was taken” “He pleased God,” also infers they heard this testimony. As Abel and Abraham, Enoch filled an important purpose in God’s plan. The power behind the testimony: Enoch did not “see death.” God did something special. He was “taken away,” which literally means “to transfer” or “transpose” from one place to another.

metatithemi... to transpose(two things, one of which is put in place of the other...1. to transfer... without mention of the place, it being well known to the readers... 2. to change...) (Thayer, p. 406; 3346)

metathesis ... 1. a transfer: from one place to another ... the translation of a person to heaven, Heb. 11:5....” (Thayer, p. 406; 3331)

The only template we have of how this might have occurred is when God took Elijah.

Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 2Kings 2:11

Again, as Enoch, after he was taken, they looked for Elijah but could not find him either.

Then they said to him, “Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the Lord has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley.” And he said, “You shall not send anyone.” 17 But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, “Send them!” Therefore they sent fifty men, and they searched for three days but did not find him. 18 And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, “Did I not say to you, ‘Do not go?’” 2 Kings 2:16-18

It may have been in this manner, or in a totally different way, God does not tell us. One moment Enoch was walking with God on earth and the next he was transferred, transposed, and taken up to heaven. Did he go to paradise with Abel? Did he go right into the presence of God as the angels. Arguments can be made pro and con. Since Jesus had not yet died, sins were not yet forgiven(Rom. 4:24-26) so it is doubtful that Enoch would have gone directly into God’s presence. But no one can really know.

He was Not Found

Adam	Seth	Enosh	Cainan	Mahalel	Jared	Enoch	Methusaleh	Lamech	Noah
130									
235	105	born							
325	195	90	born						
395	265	160	70	born					
460	330	225	135	65	born				
622	492	387	297	227	162	born			
687	557	452	362	292	227	65	born		
874	744	639	549	479	414	252	187	born	
-57	857	752	662	592	527	365	300	113	-69
930	912	905	910	895	962	365	969	777	
5:1-5	5:6-7	5:9-11	5:12-14	5:15-17	5:18-20	5:21-23	5:25-27	5:28-31	

They looked for him and they could not find him. He was missed and they knew something had happened. Look at the chart below and think about the implications.

The chart lists the patriarchs mentioned in the fifth chapter of Genesis. Each column lists their age at the birth of each descendant. The bottom of each column lists the age of each patriarch at his death and the passage where it is recorded in Genesis.

At the bottom of the first column we see that Adam lived to be 930. He lived long enough to know all his descendants except Noah. Adam did not die until Enoch was 308 years old. What impact did Adam's death have on them? It was a grim reminder of sin's curse and the loss of the tree of life. Yet 57 years after Adam's death, when Enoch was only 365 years old, God took him. Everyone but Adam and Noah (who would not be born for another 69 years), were still alive when Enoch was taken!

What a powerful message! It was just the thing to give great emphasis to the close walk Enoch had with God! God did this translation in such a way that "he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God." (NASB)

Hence just fifty-seven years after Adam's death God revealed His grace and mercy. He circumvented the penalty for sin, revealing more about the promise He had given to Adam and Eve than He would fix what they had done (Gen. 3:15). Through this translation, God proved beyond doubt it was still His intention to allow those who loved Him to be with Him in heaven. Enoch became proof that God would keep His promises to those who walk with Him.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. Heb. 11:13-16

Enoch's translation, along with whatever other promises God gave at that time led these early saints to stop just living in this world and instead walk with God as strangers and pilgrims. They were seeking the homeland Enoch had been taken to wait for. At least as early as Abram, Isaac and Jacob, they knew of "the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heb. 11:8-10

God is not ashamed to be called their God when they are like Enoch and are walking with Him in humble and submissive faith. Enoch was the first of many. God sees the death of each saint in exactly the same way.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints. Ps. 116:15

Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. 17 "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." Mál. 3:16-17

Enoch the Prophet

Along with their faith (Heb 11:4-5), another similarity between Enoch and Abel was their role as God's prophets. Abel was a prophet when he spoke to Cain (Lk. 11:49-51), and Jude revealed a prophecy Enoch made before he was taken.

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." Jude 14-15

Who are "these men" that Enoch's prophecy now revealed and warned against? Jude began this letter warning against men who had secretly crept into the midst of those who were "walking with God." and sought to use their influence for evil. It was because of these men that Enoch prophesied against that made it necessary for each of us to always contend earnestly for the faith.

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. Jude 3-4

Enoch's prophesy was against all who "creep in unnoticed," "who long ago were marked out," "ungodly men" "who turn the grace of our God into lewdness," "deny the only Lord God," and deny "our Lord Jesus Christ." These are also the men "who have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah" (Jude 11).

Although Enoch was taken 669 years before the flood (Noah was born 69 years after Enoch was translated and was 600 years old when the flood began (Gen. 7:11)), there were already such men among the godly. The intermarriage would not be the first step. First they would secretly come into their midst seeking to influence them to evil. Enoch prophesied against these and all such men.

God has been planning to execute judgement on men such as this all the way back in the times of Enoch. They have been marked out all the way back to Cain. Balaam and Korah were such men. Enoch warns that none of them will escape judgment and condemnation. God will convict, then punish

all the ungodly both for their ungodly deeds and the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken.