

Series: Unlikely Heroes

# ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

## GENESIS 5

Text: Genesis 5:24

### **Genesis 5:24**

<sup>24</sup> *And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*

Introduction:

Enoch was the seventh from Adam through Adam's son Seth.

### **Jude 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,*

He is quite a contrast to Lamech the seventh the seventh from Adam through Cain.

It interesting to note that Lamech's history is recorded in Genesis 4:18-24 while Enoch's history is recorded in Genesis 5:18-24.

They both have references (18-24) for their history, but they have a different chapter reference for the two men.

And what a different chapter these two men wrote in history.

Enoch's history ends with his conveyance to glory while Lamech's history ends with his confession of guilt to his two wives of a murder he had committed.

The difference in the two is that one walked by faith while the other walked by flesh.

Enoch walked with God until one day God just took him on into heaven. You could say that Enoch just walked on home.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have the privilege of walking with our Lord every day.

Though Enoch lived in an ancient world, and we a modern one, our worlds are actually not that far apart, and our Lord is exactly the same.

There is much we can learn from this man Enoch, both here in Genesis chapter five and in other passages where his name is mentioned as we consider these "Unlikely Heroes."

Notice:

# 1. ENOCH STOOD OUT IN HIS WORLD

Someone once said of our text, “This astonishing paragraph shines like a single brilliant star above the earthly record of this chapter.”

Not only is that true of Enoch and his mention in this text, but it is also true of Enoch as a man in his time. He stood out among the men of his day.

Like Enoch, we as the people of God should seek to stand out among the people of this world, not so that people will compliment us but rather so that the world might contemplate our wonderful Saviour.

Note:

## A. The Distinction of His Life

To really see how Enoch stood out in his day we need to understand the conditions of his day.

Remember:

Enoch was the great-grandfather of Noah, and we know something of the days of Noah from Genesis 6:

## **Genesis 6:5**

*<sup>5</sup> And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Even if Enoch's days were somewhat better than that of his great-grandson, we know that they were not particularly righteous and moral days.

As we considered a moment ago – Lamach in chapter 4 singing to his wives about a murder he had committed.

Lamech was violent and arrogant, and showed no fear of God whatsoever. He was Enoch's cousin and contemporary, but Enoch was a drastically different kind of man.

While men were waxing worse and worse, heading toward the judgment of God, Enoch was walking closer and closer, heading toward the city of God.

Enoch's distinction from the men around him speaks to us as followers of Christ in this wicked day, and reminds us that we are to be lights in the midst a dark world.

We are in this world, but we are not of this world. Even while we share these days with modern Cain's and Lamech's, we are to be separate and distinct in how we live our lives.

Too many professed Christians in our day are wearing the camouflage of this sinful culture, and therefore, they are virtually indistinguishable from the lost people around them.

Consider not only the distinction of his life, but notice also that he stood out in his world because of:

## B. The Direction of His Life

While most in the world during the days of Enoch were going the way of Cain, and doing their own thing, we are told that Enoch stood out, because rather than going in the same direction as those around him, Enoch walked with God.

Note this idea of walking with God.

- The Motivation For This Walk (vs. 22)

Look carefully at verse 22:

### **Genesis 5:22**

<sup>22</sup> *And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:*

It says, “And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah...”

Verse 21 says that Enoch lived 65 years before Methuselah was born, and then after the birth of that son, Enoch began to walk with God. Why do you suppose that is?

It may be because of a revelation from God. You see; Methuselah's name means "when he is dead, it shall come".

If you work out the years, it turns out that the year Methuselah died, the great flood came.

In other words, God warned Enoch of the judgment that was to come, and it motivated him to walk with God.

As we think about the idea of walking with God, think also about the:

- The Meaning of This Walk

Enoch is one of only two men that the Bible says walked with God.

What does it mean to "walk with God"? At the least, it means that Enoch and God were going in the same direction. They shared a common will and therefore they walked in the same way.

The questions we should consider:

“Are we going the same direction as the Lord?”

“Have we submitted our will to His so that we are headed the same way He is going, pursuing the things He pursues, taking the steps He takes?”

So often we want God to join us in our endeavors, and to walk with us in the way that *we* want to go.

However, we do not read that God walked with Enoch.

Enoch walked with God! He went God’s way! That was the direction of his life.

Consider a second truth we learn about Enoch. We see not only that Enoch stood out in his world, but we see also that:

## **2. ENOCH SPOKE OUT TO HIS WORLD**

We are not told in Genesis chapter five of anything that Enoch said during his life.

However, we know for a fact that he did have something to say to the world in which he lived.

Note:

## A. What His Lips Proclaimed

Moving from the first book of the Bible to the next to last book we find again Enoch mentioned.

### **Jude 1:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, **saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,** <sup>15</sup> **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 sinners have spoken against him.***

Jude tells us that old Enoch was a preacher. He preached to the men of his day about the coming day when the Lord Jesus would return and render judgment upon all those who rebelled against him.

Today the secular world wants us as Christians to quiet down, and to keep all our preaching and praying to ourselves inside the walls of our church buildings.

However, we must remember that God's people have always spoken out to their world, and we must not be silent today. We saw with Peter and John in Acts 4:20:

### **Acts 4:20**

<sup>20</sup> *For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*



Enoch spoke out to his world, and proclaimed the truth of the Lord's coming and judgment. That is what his lips proclaimed, but consider also:

## B. What His Life Proclaimed

When we look again in the New Testament, in the book of Hebrews, we find that Enoch joined his martyred uncle, Abel, in Faith's Hall of Fame in Hebrews chapter 11.

### **Hebrews 11:5**

<sup>5</sup> *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.***

Note the last part of that verse. It says before Enoch left this world, he had a testimony among men that he pleased God.

The world in which Enoch lived not only heard the sermon he preached, but they also saw the kind of life he lived.

His walked reflected his talk!

He pointed them to the Lord, not only in his fiery prophecy, but also through his faithful practice. They knew that Enoch pleased God.

What is our testimony?

If you were to leave this world today, what will they say about you tomorrow?

Looking at the life of this man Enoch, we see not only that Enoch stood out in his world, and Enoch spoke out to his world, but notice also:

### **3. ENOCH STEPPED OUT OF HIS WORLD**

Looking back at Genesis 5, there is another important detail given to us about Enoch's life.

#### ***Genesis 5:23***

<sup>23</sup> *And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:*

Though that sounds like a lot to us, in reality it was less than half of the typical life-span of his day.

Someone said, "As he did not live like the rest, so he did not die like the rest."

In fact, he did not die at all.

Note:

## A. The Explanation Given About Enoch's Exit

### **Genesis 5:24**

<sup>24</sup> *And Enoch walked with God: **and he was not**; for God took him.*

Literally, one moment Enoch was in this world, and the next he was not, for God took him. The writer of Hebrews says that Enoch was “translated”, which simply means to be carried to another place.

Putting Genesis and Hebrews together, we can deduce that one day Enoch and God were walking together, and God just picked Enoch up and moved him from this world into the next one.

Illustration:

G. Campbell Morgan told about a little girl who came home from Sunday school and tried to explain the translation of Enoch to her mother.

She said, “One day Enoch and God took an extra-long walk, and they walked on and on, until God said to Enoch, ‘You are closer to my house than you are yours.

Why don't you just come stay at my house?’ And he went.”

That is the explanation we are given for Enoch's exit, but in considering how he stepped out of his world, I want you to think with me also about:

## B. The Example We Are Given About Enoch's Exit

The Bible tells us that Enoch did not see death. He was translated out of this world before he passed through the chilly waters of death.

In the Old Testament, the only thing we find even close to this kind of thing is the story in II Kings 2, where we are told that Elijah went up to heaven riding a fiery chariot on a whirlwind.

Enoch and Elijah, as far as we can tell, are the only men who ever stepped out of this world without first going through the grave.

However, when we turn over to the New Testament, we realize that Enoch is a foreshadow of how some of us will leave this world one day.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

*<sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: <sup>17</sup>*

*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Close:

The late Dr. Adrian Rogers, in a message on this text, points out the fact that for most of Enoch's life on this earth, Adam, the first man, was still alive. In fact, Adam died only 57 years before Enoch was translated.

Dr. Rogers said imagine Enoch having a conversation with Adam one day. Enoch says, "Adam, there's something I've wanted to ask you.

Adam, what was it like in the Garden of Eden?"

Adam replied, "Oh, my boy, it was glorious. There was the fruit, the river crystal clear, the flowers, the balmy breezes, the animals...But wait a minute; I don't want to mislead you. That wasn't the most wonderful thing about Paradise."

Adam goes on and says, "The most wonderful thing was this: that God would come down every day to the Garden of Eden and I'd walk with God. My God and I, we walked the fields together...He'd take me by the hand to a sun lit mountain and we'd see His grandeur. We'd watch together the glorious glowing sun go down. I would love him and he would love me."

Adam's eyes got a little teary, and he said to young Enoch, "Enoch, to walk with God, that was Paradise."

I believe Enoch realized after talking with Adam that he didn't need the Garden to enjoy God. He began that day to walk with the Lord every day, until the day he just walked on home.

Are you walking with God?

In Enoch we find a man walking with God. In Jesus, we find God walking with man. Jesus died on the cross for the very sins that separated us from God.

Jesus rose from the dead, ascended back to heaven, and sent His own Spirit to live in those who believe upon Him.

Those who have His Spirit living in them can walk with God even closer than Enoch did until the day when like Enoch they walk into the home Jesus has prepared for them.