

Enoch Was Not, For God Took Him

By Paul R. Blake

Introduction;

- A. Second only to Melchizedek in mystery is the enigmatic person called Enoch.
 - 1. He was the 7th generation from Adam and great Grandfather to Noah; and father to the man who had the longest lifespan, Methuselah
 - 2. Chanowk - to instruct, initiate, dedicate
 - 3. From his conduct, it is evident that he was instructed in the things of God, initiated into worship of his Maker, and dedicated to His service.

I. **Genesis 5:21-24** (Read genealogies; you never know when you will find a jewel)

- A. His religious conduct: He walked with God; Klhty yithhallech, he set himself to walk, he was fixedly purposed and determined to live to God.
 - 1. A verb in the conjugation called hithpael signifies a reciprocal or responsive act.
- B. The circumstances in which he was placed: He was a patriarch; the ruler, the priest, and the prophet of a large family.
 - 1. He was a married man with a large family with all the responsibility
 - 2. Therefore marriage and a family are no hindrance to growing in faith and obedience; much less inconsistent with it as some have taught.
- C. The astonishing level of relationship he developed with God, without dying, he was translated to the presence of God.
 - 1. There are two cases of this kind on record, but there might have been more, if the followers of God more faithful.
 - 2. Elijah was the only other. Two suggests that while perfection cannot be achieved in this world, it is possible for a man to closely approach it
- D. Enoch attained this state of religious and spiritual excellence in a time when, comparatively speaking, there were few helps and no written revelation, and an increasingly wicked environment.
 - 1. It is not the lack of revelation or miracles that is the cause of loss of faith or effectiveness of truth, but the lack of faithfulness in those who have the light, and yet will not walk as children of the light.
 - 2. He lived under a dispensation much less perfect than that of the Law of Moses, and yet the Law itself was only the shadow of the Gospel blessings and privileges. And he excelled in his relationship with God more than anyone else in the Christian dispensation
 - 3. Heb. 2:1-4
- E. He had the testimony that he pleased God, Heb 11:5. It was possible then to live so as not to offend God.
 - 1. Rom. 3:23 does not teach that it is inevitable and inescapable that all men will sin, but rather that at some point everyone will choose to commit sin.

II. **Hebrews 11:5-6**

- A. Genesis does not speak of Enoch's faith; it speaks of his walk. However, the walk of a true follower of God is driven by faith - 2Cor. 5:7

- B. The expression "he was not," means he was no more among men; he was removed from the earth.
1. It is the uniform pattern of Moses to mention the age and the death of the individuals whose biography he records, and in many cases this is about all that is said of them.
 2. But with Enoch, there is this remarkable exception, that no record is made of his death, showing that there was something unusual in the way he left this world
 3. The Hebrew word used by Moses is one that suggests the idea that he had been taken in some extraordinary manner from the world. That word--HEBREW--means, to take--with the idea of taking to one's self.
 - a. Gen. 8:20, "Noah took of all beasts, and offered a burnt-offering." Often used in the sense of taking a wife
 4. According to Jewish scholars: In the Targum of Onkelos it is rendered, "And Enoch walked in the fear of the Lord, and was not, for the Lord did not put him to death"
 5. In Ecclesiasticus or the Son of Sirach, v: (xlix. 14,) "But upon the earth was no man created like Enoch; for he was taken from the earth." These opinions of the Jews and of the early translators, are of value only as showing that the interpretation which Paul has put upon Ge 5:24 is the natural interpretation. It is such as occurs to separate writers, without collusion, and this shows that this is the meaning most naturally suggested by the passage.
- C. His removal:
1. It shows that there is a future state, another world.
 2. It shows that the body will exist in that future state, though changed to adapt it to the condition of things there.
 3. It is an encouragement to walk with God. It shows that God regards his friends; that their fidelity and holy living please him; and that in the midst of eminent wickedness and a scoffing world, it is possible so to live as to please God.

III. Jude 14-15

- A. There is no mention made in the writings of Moses of the fact that Enoch was a prophet; but it makes great sense.
1. It is in keeping with the nature of Patriarchal Age prophecy that a true prophecy, though unrecorded, would be handed down by teaching and tradition
 2. This prophecy was little more than an expansion of Gen. 3:15
 3. The prophecy of Abraham's blessings was handed down until Moses recorded it for all of time
- B. There is an apocryphal book written long after the book of Jude was written that speaks of this prophecy, but it could not have been written at the time Enoch made it, nor at the time Jude referred to it. It is a fraud
1. Enoch prophesied this long before Jesus ministry
 2. Matt. 13:41, 16:27; Mark 8:38

- C. What did Enoch prophecy in his day?
1. That there would be a judgment
 2. That there would be a conviction/condemnation and punishment
 3. That even in Enoch's day, the world knew God and rejected Him
- D. What does this tell us about universally known truths revealed by God? That from the beginning man knew:
1. That God is and that God has spoken His will for man
 2. The difference between sin and righteousness
 3. The difference between deliberate sin and sin in ignorance
 4. That man is accountable for his sins
 5. That there will be a judgment for all and a punishment for sinners

Conclusion:

- A. It was spoken by a prophet of the 7th generation from the creation of this world. It was spoken by a prophet who lived in the wicked world that was destroyed in the day of his great grandson. His message is just as relevant today, many thousands of years later. Jesus is coming to judge and punish sinners who reject God