

## **The Epistle to the Hebrews**

November 14, 2021

Hebrews 11:5-6

**Reading:** Genesis 5:18-24

### **Studies in Faith: Enoch**

#### **Enoch and The Patriarchs**

This morning we begin with background of Enoch and the patriarchs of the Old Testament. By studying the genealogy of the Bible and working backwards from the birth of Christ one can determine Adam was created approximately in the year 3586 B.C. Of course, this stands on its head the theory that the earth is billions of years old. One recent proof of the earth being a young planet came with the eruption of Mount Saint Helens in 1980. The events that happened in hours, days, months, the first few years and all the way through the 41 years after the eruption, these geological events have disproved the long-standing geological timelines accepted up to the point of eruption, but that is a different study.

Historically, looking at the biblical time table of the patriarchs and we discover from the flood of Noah until Abraham's departing from Ur there were 422 years and ten days. From Abraham's departing from Ur in Chaldea to the Exodus there are 430 years. From the Israelites exodus from Egypt to the building of the first temple there are 480 years. From the start of the first temple to the captivity of Babylon there are 419 years and  $\frac{1}{2}$  years. The Israelites returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the city after captivity in Babylon for 70 years. From the return to Jerusalem to the coming of Christ there are 483 years. From the birth of Christ until our present year is 2,127 or 5871 years since the creation of Adam. Our calendar uses the Roman system, is 6 years off, in biblical terms this present year is 2127.

I would like you to understand when Enoch was alive – so too was **Adam** whose name means “red” for the earth he was created from and **Seth** whose name means “compensation” because he was born after the murder of Abel and then **Enosh** followed by **Kenan** and then **Mahalalel** (mah·hal·al·ale) who fathered **Jared** whose name mean “descent” and he was the father of **Enoch** whose name means “dedicated”. Then Enoch fathered **Methuselah**, who fathered **Lamech** who fathered **Noah** the patriarch of the 10<sup>th</sup> generation from the creation of Adam. During the time of Noah, the last patriarch, came the flood 1656 years after Adam or 1175 B.C. All the patriarchs had died when the flood came except Methuselah and Noah. Enoch was the 7<sup>th</sup> generation from Adam, he was born 622 years after Adam and all the patriarchs of the 1<sup>st</sup> 6 generations were still alive. Jared was 162 years old when he fathered Enoch, and I have to say, just the thought of being a father of a young boy at 162 years old makes me tired. I believe it is important for us to understand Enoch had the collective history, wisdom and knowledge of the failures of the prior 6 generations as they lived before a Holy God. Enoch knew the good, bad and the ugly of the over 600 years of human existence. By faith Enoch chose to hear God and walk with God.

Saving faith is the faith that justifies the ungodly; it is given by God’s grace and not only saves the sinner but it pleases God. Last week we learned about the faith of Abel. We learned that it was Abel’s faith in God and what God had revealed to Abel, which he embraced by faith, that was the reason he was counted among the righteous. Abel believed God and by faith acted on that belief. That type of faith pleases God because it trusts Him for the day of His plan for redemption through His Son, Jesus. Saving faith always glorifies Jesus Christ and this pleases God the Father.

**“Enoch Walked With God”** (Genesis 5:24)

We do not know much about Enoch. Mostly when he is mentioned, it is in the context of genealogy lists. These lists account for about half of the times he is found in scripture. For example, Enoch is listed in the genealogy of Jesus in Luke chapter 3. Two other places that really tell us about Enoch are here before us today.

Reading from Genesis chapter 5, beginning at verse 18, “**When Jared had lived 162 years, he fathered Enoch.** <sup>19</sup> Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>20</sup> Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died. <sup>21</sup> When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. *That would mean at the age I am now Joyce and I would have a baby, I think we will pass.* <sup>22</sup> Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. <sup>24</sup> **Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.**” (Genesis 5:18-24) The first use of “**Enoch walked with God**” in verse 22 refers to the span of years Enoch lived. The second time we read “**Enoch walked with God**” in verse 24 it is referring to his life lived by faith and obedience to God. Let’s take the time to unpack the meaning of these verses and the life of Enoch. I believe even though there is not a great depth of writing about Enoch, what Moses and the writer of Hebrews have written teaches us things that are important.

In the simplest terms these verses tell us that Enoch walked with God by faith and this greatly pleased God. What Scripture means in verse 24 of Genesis 5, “**Enoch walked with God**” is that Enoch lived a consistent life of obedience. He lived in consistent fellowship with God in a way that the prior 6 patriarchs appear not to have lived. The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of these verses because we have a need to walk with God as Enoch did; by faith and in obedience. Our sinful

human tendency is that our faith, at times, is hot, then lukewarm and then cold. We will go forward for a while and then fall back. From this text in Genesis, we are told that for at least 300 years, Enoch walked with God. For 300 years God was pleased with Enoch's faith. Now that is consistency.

The main of point we learn is as redeemed sinners we are called to live life, like Enoch, consistently by faith. This consistent faith will bring us into a deep relationship or friendship with God and this pleases Him. God is pleased when we talk and share our lives with Him consistently, just like we would with our best friend.

### **Enoch Walked With God By Faith** (Hebrews 11:5)

Genesis shows us that Enoch lived for over 300 years by faith. Now in Hebrews we learn in verses 5 and 6, **“By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”** In verse 5 three times we read the idea that Enoch was taken or taken up. This word “taken” in the Greek literally means to be taken from one domain to another. It is the emphasis of the verse. When I read this verse, I think of Star Trek and how they would beam someone down to a planet or beam them up to the Enterprise. God, in a sense, beamed Enoch up. He did not die but was transported from one domain to another.

The way in which Enoch pleased God was, in that while he was on earth, he lived as if he was in heaven. He was consistently walking by faith and not by sight. In many ways, Enoch is not much different than other Believers. Because of the work of Jesus Christ, the Christian has been transported from one domain to

another, a lot like Enoch. We live here on earth as sojourners or aliens and are called to live as if we were already in heaven. This is why Paul was inspired to write, <sup>13</sup>“*God the Father has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,* <sup>14</sup>*in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*” (Colossians 1:13-14) We have a new standing before God. No longer are we considered enemies but beloved children of God the Father. Our present standing before God is one of acceptance. Even though we still live on earth, we should strive to live as if we are in heaven. Our bodies are stranded on earth but our position, our soul is in heaven. Because of Christ our real home is not of this earth – it is eternally living with God. Just as the Apostle John made clear when he recorded the very words of our Lord Jesus, “*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*” (John 5:24) This is a believer’s present status or way to live.

It is important for us to realize the condition of society during Enoch’s time. The next section in Genesis tells us that man’s thoughts were evil almost all the time. When people lived to be very old, 600 to 900 years, they had many years to invent evil. The civilization of mankind had grown extremely wicked and depraved in the 1500 years since the creation of Adam. It was in the midst of this climate of mankind growing ever more evil that Enoch walked with God for 300 years. The only reason it was 300 and not more years like the other patriarchs is because God took him home.

I thought about this and it seems to me, if Enoch did this in his day - should we not be walking with God today as we live in the midst of a world ever growing more and more evil? We really have no excuse **not** to be walking with God. We cannot blame it on our environment or our parents; we cannot say I am not walking

with God because of my home-life or because of my mean boss or teacher. If Enoch, who was a man just like us, could do it in his day should we not be walking with God today? So, the question this poses for each one of us is, “Are you walking with God?”

Let me be frank, in my own power I cannot walk with God. In my own power I cannot save myself. In my own power I cannot create within my being saving faith. I cannot do these things any more than Enoch could transport himself to heaven. Yet, these very things are required by God. So, the eternal truth is God alone gives His people the power they need to be pleasing to Him. I hope you understand I am not alone – You cannot save yourself; you must seek and believe in Jesus by God’s grace and then live daily by faith.

In verse 5 are these important words, “[God had taken him](#)” it is the truth by which we also can walk with God. “[By faith](#)” we understand that we have the ability to walk with God. “[By faith](#)” we rely on God to give us the desire and the ability to walk with Him. “[By faith](#)” we sincerely seek to live a life of fellowship and obedience to God and pray He will grant to us the power to do so. “[By faith](#)” our lives will begin to change and we will live to honor Him and this will please Him. We know the only sinless man to ever live was Jesus. So, Enoch was not sinless but he lived a life of faith and had a deep friendship with God, his Creator. The deeper the relationship one has with God the stronger their faith becomes.

### **Enoch Pleased God** (Hebrews 11:6)

The way in which Enoch pleased God was through the functioning or the living out of his faith. He never once pleased God by his works. We cannot please God by our works either. I want to show you a contrast between us and God. God’s works are glorious. God’s works show His holiness and His divine power. Like the

Book of Hebrews, we do not know the writer of 1 Chronicles, but his inspired words tell us, <sup>23</sup> “Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. <sup>24</sup> Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! <sup>25</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be feared above all gods.” (16:23-25) All works are meant to praise God and show His glory. Our problem is that, because of sin and our fallen nature, we think our works do the same thing for us. We think that when we work, God tells of our marvelous works among the hosts of heaven. The fact is, when we are at our best, we still fall infinitely short of God’s glory. Think of the best day you ever had as a Christian and understand your sin on that day far outweighed your goodness. Just like us, Enoch’s sin on his best day far outweighed his righteousness. He was a man just like us. He was conceived in iniquity just like us. He was dead in trespasses and sins just like us. And just like us, God had given Enoch what He required; Enoch was given faith and when that faith was exercised God was greatly pleased. It was not Enoch’s works that pleased God, it was his faith. Through the power of God, the Holy Spirit that lives within each believer, we too are capable to live by a deep faith, just like Enoch.

Last week we learned that Abel was commended because by saving faith he brought to God an offering that pleased God. Abel trusted in God and His Word. He believed God so strongly that it affected how he lived. Now in Genesis and Hebrews the writers intentionally move forward with another example. It is as if we have moved from Abel’s experience of justification or the beginning of faith - to Enoch’s life lived in consistent faith. Where Abel was commended for a one-time act of bringing to God an acceptable offering, Enoch is commended for his life-long commitment to God. Saving faith did not originate within Enoch, it was God’s, miraculous work. Before God worked in Enoch, he was like all fallen

sinners, just as Paul says, “you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.” (Ephesians 2:1-2)

The Prophet Isaiah knew this truth and of the coming of the Messiah, he writes, before God gives faith, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

(53:6) Just as this is true before God saves, after God saves believers and the passage that spoke to my heart when God saved me, we read <sup>17</sup> “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God

making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) God accomplished a

divine work in Enoch. God had given him saving faith and Enoch lived his life accordingly. Enoch’s life showed the other patriarchs the “fruit of the Spirit”

(Galatians 5:22-24) by faith in God he lived.

## **Faithfulness Glorifies God**

As Enoch walked with God by faith and was taken home by God; this truth points to the fact that all of God’s people will someday be taken home as well. As our Lord Jesus declared, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26) As Enoch was transported to glory, so we too, will someday be transported from this world to eternity in heaven.



Like Enoch, our faith must be a working and persevering faith. We too must strive to consistently live a life that pleases the Lord. As Paul instructed, “If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.** <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4) When we are saved, we are to “**seek the things that are above, where Christ is**” Our motivation for living in faith is to bring Jesus glory and it is not to gain something from God by our efforts. If your motive is comfort you may discover that living a godly life brings everything but comfort, just look at Abel. He lived a life of faith that pleased God and God called him to martyrdom. God’s plan for Abel was a death that would bring glory to Christ as it pointed to Jesus and spoke into the future as a type of Christ. Enoch’s faith led him to live faithfully and God chose to take him home without dying. It is important to understand if one accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior, their life no longer belongs to them and that they live for God’s glory and not their comfort. Our motive for living and good works must point to Jesus and not something we are trying to get from God.

The health/wealth false prophets of today should see that the godly do not necessarily outlive the ungodly. Abel died before Cain and Enoch was taken at a relatively young age compared to the other patriarchs in his day. Walking with God consistently requires a God oriented motivation. We are created to bring Him glory in whatever situation He places us in. As God said to Isaiah, “**everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.**” (Isaiah 43:7) must know I AM sovereign. We are created to bring glory to Him and Him alone. So, it stands to reason that our specific circumstances, which God

brings about, should lead to the specific way we can glorify Him. In other words, no one can glorify God like you can or in the specific way you can.

God calls His children to live by His power and not their own. This is why God gives every believer the supernatural power of Himself through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is what enables a believer to live in a broken world and witness for Christ. Jesus said when a person comes to believe they “**will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

(Acts 1:8) The power to do what God commands is given to us by the Holy Spirit. Growing close to God in fellowship enables one to listen to and obey the Spirit’s promptings and listening to the Holy Spirit grows one closer to God. As believers, we are given the Holy Spirit to guide us in what is right and to convict us of sin. As we die to self, we will follow His leading more and more. He will always lead us closer to Jesus. The power to live by faith is given by God through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

By the power of the Holy Spirit when we approach sin and we have this voice in our soul screaming, “*no don’t do it!*” We need to train ourselves to stop and listen. When we are going about our daily routines and we sense that we should do this or that, do not talk yourself out of it, be obedient and do it. As Samuel responded “**Speak, LORD, for your servant hears**” (1 Samuel 3:9) we also need to hear and obey for these are the promptings of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We know they are from God because they will bring glory to Christ and if so, we are to obey.

If our desire is to walk with God in fellowship, like Enoch, we must also spend time with God in prayer; sharing, listening, repenting and meditating on

scripture. Prayer is trust or faith in God. When we pray in humble dependence God is glorified. Spending time in prayer with God is like spending time with our best friend and by this our fellowship grows. God wants His children to be involved in His kingdom work for His glory. When we pray, we open our hearts, minds and souls to eternal consequences. It is a strong weapon against the world and our broken sin nature, through prayer and meditating on His Word, God rebuilds our minds.

As we think about this text and how Enoch walked with God, we should be motivated to imitate his faith. We should understand the account of Enoch points to the work of Christ. Like Enoch who was transported from earth to God's domain, so we too, as believers have been transported from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. Finally, we must seek to exercise our faith. In order to walk with God by faith we must have the motivation of glorifying God no matter our circumstances, utilize the power given to us by the Holy Spirit and in humble submission pray to God. Amen!

Next week, we will explore together the amazing account of Noah and his faith that built an ark in a place that had no water.