

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

Gen 5:22 *And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:*

Gen 5:23 *And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:*

Gen 5:24 *And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.*

God will only walk with a person in whom he takes pleasure. “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3). There is no greater blessing on earth than to be called the friend of God. Friendship is mutually beneficial – both parties derive great pleasure from talking together, sharing activities and just being in each other’s company. What a privilege it would have been to observe this relationship between Enoch and God! What intimacy, what love, what respect and every good blessing flowed to Enoch through this relationship with God! We should all desire a closer walk with Jesus! “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). Enoch believed passionately in this scripture. He demonstrated this for 365 years. Imagine that! 365 years is a very, very long time. Clearly, it must have given Enoch great pleasure to walk with God or he would not have been able to walk that long with the Lord. The pleasure derived from walking with God appears to be infinite and appears to grow with time. No wonder the Psalmist declares, “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:11).

There are secrets of God that cannot be known until one walks intimately with God. “The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant” (Psalm 25:14). Spending time with a friend on a daily basis reveals much that otherwise would be concealed. It was for this reason the 12 Apostles were invited to spend three intimate years in the presence of the Lord observing and communing with him 24/7. In a court of law, the closest and most intimate are called to witness first. In the same way, walking daily with God, Enoch slowly understood the depths of God in a way few other people did. One can say that Enoch already had experienced heaven on earth when he was called up to continue his blessed walk with God in heaven. It is as if God got tired, so to speak, of coming down to earth and fellowshiping with his great friend, so he just translated him to his presence in heaven. It is for the same reason that one day the Lord, who can no longer bear to be separate from his Bride, the Church, will come down to the clouds and rapture his Bride.

1Thess 4:16 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:

Next, there is almost nothing we read about the history or biography of Enoch; all we know is that he walked with God. Sometimes we mistakenly think that it is a blessing to have a long history before we come to Jesus. Pentecostal churches are renowned for testimonies where individuals narrate touching stories of rebellion, sin and hopelessness which is transformed into miraculous joy in meeting Jesus. We all love these stories, and they bring much joy and edification to the congregation but let us not make the mistake of equating the Christian faith with this pattern of testimonies alone. Enoch appears to have had no history worthy of the Bible writer's record. No family members, places or stories are really mentioned, as is the case with many other famous Bible characters - no Ur of the Chaldees, no problems with a Laban, no Mount Carmel showdown or similar incidents worthy of our attention. It's as if he came out of the womb and just always starting walking with God everywhere. Our tombstones do not have much space for long biographies – just a few of the most important words that summarize one's life. Enoch had no tomb, but had he had one, it would aptly read, "he walked with God". Let us keep it simple – let us walk with Jesus!

Or there is another alternative interpretation: could it be that Enoch had problems, sin and the usual ups and downs common to all people, including the great men and women of faith, and God chose to blot them out because he walked with God? In the scripture below, God compares our sins to a thick cloud, but his mercy is the burning Sun that melts the thick cloud. Glory to Jesus!

Isaiah 44:22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

It may be tempting for someone to think that Enoch had a quiet life of ease so obviously it was easy for him to concentrate on God. This is not the case! Enoch was a patriarch (seventh from Adam (Jude 1:14) and he had a large family. "And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters" (gen 5:22). Try living a life of quiet and ease when you are a well-known leader and have many sons and daughters. Enoch faced the same struggles and trials as we all do, but, somehow, he dedicated himself to walk with God despite running the business of his people and managing a large house with many children. Perhaps that is why God waited for 365 years – others

could step into his shoes of leadership and the children had better be responsible adults after 365 years. In addition to the above challenges to the faith, he also lived in a day and time of rebellion against God.

Jude 1:14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Jude 1:15 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.

The above makes the character of Enoch all the more admirable: he had many responsibilities and faced a generation of ungodly people. Yet he walked with God steadfastly for 365 years when others lived for many centuries in those days in sin. Imagine living with sinners who hate God for many centuries! Enoch seems to have paid attention to the Lord's warning: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares" (Luke 21:34). Finally, one day, Enoch disappeared. Great leaders cannot be hidden for long, so people looked for him because the Bible says he was not "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Gen 5:24). Understand that in those days people died close to the age of 1000, so Enoch was quite young – perhaps 30 today. The bodies of Adam, Eve, Abel were in the, so where was Enoch's body? Slowly people began to realize with fear that there is a God, and he took Enoch away from that evil generation. This world will also soon know there is a God whose name is Jesus when the Church is taken away before the evil days of the Antichrist begin.

Luke 17:34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

Luke 17:35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Luke 17:36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

In summary, the life of Enoch has much to teach those who wish to please God. Despite his many responsibilities, burdens and ungodliness around him, he made time to walk with God. He truly loved God and God was his dear friend. Sometimes, when God loves a person intimately, he takes him or her away from the evil to come. "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come" (Isaiah 57:1). Let us live in such a way walking with Jesus that he will be pleased and take us away from the evil to come! Amen!