

January 23rd, 2023

“Faith Leading to Eternal Life”

Hebrews 11:5-6

Read Hebrews 11:5-6... There are at least two notable men in the Bible named Enoch; one was born to Adam’s son Cain (cf. **Genesis 4:17**) the other was born five generations later through the ancestors of Adam’s son Seth (cf. **Genesis 5:6-18**); this Enoch was the great-great-great-great-grandson of Adam, and it is he whom we are studying about today.

Genesis 5:21–24 says, after Enoch was born, “[He] lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had *other* sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”

Although we don’t know a lot about Enoch, we do know that he did not see death; the reason being stated in **Hebrews 11:5**, “he was pleasing to God.”

There weren’t many men before the Flood who were considered faithful or obedient to God; in fact, most men did *not* please God, but instead they lived according to their own sinful natures, doing what they thought right in their own eyes.

Remember how Adam and Eve had actually walked and talked with God in the garden; that is, until they disobeyed God [incurring the curse of sin], at which time they were put out of the garden, no longer acceptable to walk with God.

As we studied last week, Adam and Eve’s second son Abel, was considered righteous by God, because he obeyed and did what was right in offering a blood sacrifice to God, whereas Cain offered fruit of the ground and was therefore not acceptable, for he had disobeyed God’s instruction.

By the time of Enoch’s birth the world was becoming an evil place. Enoch lived 365 years, 300 of those years he lived by faith, after becoming the father of Methuselah, who became the father of Lamech, to whom was born Noah.

During the time of Noah, about 1000 years after Enoch was born, the world had become so vile and wicked that God determined He was going to destroy all humankind except for 8 people (see **Genesis 6:5-7**).

The Bible tells us that Enoch was taken up to be with God, before he experienced death, because Enoch pleased God. Enoch went from mortality to immortality, from earth to heaven, his body transformed instantly into a heavenly body.

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We who are alive, when Christ returns in the air to gather His people, will experience this same unimaginable transformation (**1Thessalonians 4:16-17**), “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

The Bible tells us that Enoch “pleased God,” but it doesn’t tell us why God waited 300 years before bringing him up to be where God was. Enoch was faithful to God living several generations before the flood; and he did not keep silent about the wickedness around him, and God’s judgement that would come upon them.

Jude 5-13 records God’s future judgement upon disobedient angels and evil men who would come long after Enoch had gone to be with God.

Jude 14-15 says, “It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.’”

Enoch was a prophet who foretold the coming of the Lord in righteous judgement, to bring condemnation upon all those who have done evil against God. Enoch proclaimed that God’s angels will execute judgment upon all the ungodly; giving us a general description of the final judgment upon all the unbelieving (**see Matthew 13:41-43, 49-50**).

We should seek to follow the example of Enoch’s faith, concerning what God requires, as we read (**Micah 6:8**), “He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Enoch is listed in **Luke 3:37**, as being in the ancestral line of Abraham, David, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Christ Himself. No-one gets into that genealogy without pleasing God and being acceptable to Him.

As we read earlier, (**Genesis 5:24**), “Enoch walked with God; he was no more, because God took him away.” God spared Enoch from death.

Only one other person in Scripture, besides Enoch, was taken up into heaven and did not experience death. He was a prophet by the name of Elijah, and God took him up into heaven in a whirlwind, and he was no more. To get a brief overview of what happened to Elijah you need to read **2Kings 2:1-14**.

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Enoch's great-grandson was Noah, who was also a man who pleased God, and although he did, at age 950, die on the earth, God spared Noah and his family, of all those on the earth at that time, from the Great Flood that covered the earth.

God's judgement will come again upon all the wicked, all who reject Christ at His return to the earth, after the Tribulation Period, will be executed. But there is still a final judgement at the Great White Throne, when everyone who has lived and died apart from the forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ alone, will be thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity.

The greatest need of sinful men, women, and children of age is forgiveness for their sins. God has offered forgiveness to everyone who will repent and believe in Jesus Christ, by faith, for salvation.

The story of Enoch is indeed a marvelous one, and although there is not much in the Bible about him, what we have been given is awesome. Enoch was a man of faith, he had faith that pleased God; faith leading to eternal life with God in heaven.

Hebrews 11:6 says, “without faith it is impossible to please God.” There is nothing a man can do to please God apart from faith, and that faith “must believe that [God] exists, and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

The very first step of faith is to believe that God exists; however, this belief alone cannot bring salvation. Even the demons believe God exists (cf. **James 2:19**), but that doesn't save them. People of the world today believe in a variety of false “Gods,” all of them are just different aberrations of the devil himself, for there is only one true God who saves, and you must believe that He rewards those who seek Him.

The evidence for God is displayed throughout creation, and much of what is learned through scientific discovery provides evidence of a supreme creator.

Psalms 19:1-4a, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. Their message has gone out to all the earth, ...to the ends of the world.”

It takes faith to believe that God exists, although God has made it very clear to all people and He holds them accountable to acknowledge Him (**Romans 1:18-20**), “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

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Hebrews 3:4 says, “every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.”

Anthropology is the study of man, and the more you study humanity the clearer it becomes that universally man is conscious of God’s existence; it has only been in the last two hundred years that the existence of God has been openly questioned, and the Bible, as His revealed Word, aggressively challenged.

Einstein once said, “Certainly there is a God.... but we could never know Him.” Both Old and New Testaments are full of passages declaring how God wants to be found - He wants us to know Him personally, eternally: (cf. **1Chronicles 28:9; Proverbs 8:17-18; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Luke 11:9-10; 19:10; 1Timothy 2:3-4; 2Peter 3:9**).

Again, **Hebrews 11:6**, “he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” The reward that God gives to those who express faith in Him is salvation (cf. **Matthew 6:33; John 3:16; Acts 2:21; Revelation 3:20**).

In **Genesis 5:21-24** that we looked at earlier, two times it says that Enoch “walked” with God. In the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament) the phrase “*walked with God*” is translated “*pleased God*,” and it uses the very same Greek word used in **Hebrews 11:5-6**, i.e., to *walk with God* is the same as to *please God*.

When we trust Christ as our Lord and Savior, we begin to walk with Him, to follow Him, trusting God and seeking to obey what He commands us.

One of the most revealing uses of the phrase “walk with” is used by Christ in **Revelations 3:4**, “They will walk with Me in white; for they are worthy.” In heaven we will live with, we will walk with, and we will always please, God.

From the moment of our birth we are at odds with God and unable to *walk* with Him, in fact, in **Ephesians 2:3** we are said to be “by nature children of wrath.”

Salvation is the cure for our broken relationship with God, through faith we are reconciled to God, like Enoch, and therefore we are able to walk with God and please Him as we serve Him (cf. **2Corinthians 5:17-21**).

Walking with God begins with faith that He exists, leading to belief that He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Judge of all, and that He loves us and has a marvelous plan for our lives now and forever, for He has (**2Peter 1:3-4**), “granted to us everything we need pertaining to life [mortal, biological life] and godliness [spiritual, eternal life], through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature [the Holy Spirit lives in every true believer], **Ephesians 1:13-14**], having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust [there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ, **Romans 8:1**].”

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Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Read **Hebrews 11:5-6** again. Enoch never saw God, but he had faith, believing in God, and he did what was pleasing to God; therefore, he was brought into the presence of God in heaven, where as, we walk with God spiritually, while we are on this earth.

God’s greatest reward for those who believe in Him is salvation, but that won’t be fully realized until heaven, where we will live and walk with God forever!

Enoch’s story is a picture of how all those who believe in God by faith, and are alive at the time of the Christ’s return in the air [the rapture] will not see death (**1Thessalonians 4:16-17**), “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.”

Let us seek to be people of faith, believing and obeying all that God has instructed us in His Word, and trusting Him for all that we need, now and forever.

Philippians 4:13, “ I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” **19-20**, “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pastor Mike

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