

Sermon outline and notes prepared by:
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Genesis 5:21-24 “Enoch: A Man Who Walked with God”

Intro. The 5th chapter of Genesis is mainly a record of the godly line of Seth and his descendants. As 4:26 indicates, Seth and his descendants began to call upon the Lord and worship Him. In contrast, his brother Cain and his descendants turned from the true God. They became so evil that they were ultimately destroyed by the flood.

As you read chapter 5 there is a monotony of similar records of the descendants of Seth. So and so lived a number of years, became the father of his successor, lived several hundred more years, and then died. Very little else is written about these men. The mortality of man is very clear in this 5th chapter. Someone has called the fifth chapter of Genesis, “A desert of death.” You can almost see the families gathering at the graves, one generation after another. You can almost hear the weeping widows. Over and over we read these words, “and he died,” “and he died.” Indeed, God’s warning was fulfilled to Adam and his race, “You shall surely die.”

But right in the middle of this desert of death stands a little flower of life called Enoch. The monotony of death is broken when we read about Enoch beginning in v.21. Like the rest, he fathered children. But unlike the rest, the record specifically says two things different about Enoch. *First* of all, instead of simply saying that Enoch “lived,” the record says instead that “he walked with God.” Little else is said of his life on earth, but little else matters if a man walks with God. In fact, twice it is mentioned that he “walked with God.” But I want to tell you that simple statement explains why Enoch was such a special man. Now the *second* thing different about Enoch was that he did not die. He alone did not taste death. In his case God overruled the sentence of death and translated Enoch into His presence. Compared to others, Enoch did not live a long life, but he illustrates the fact that it is not the length of one’s life that matters most but the quality of your life, and whether your life has eternal significance.

Enoch’s example should challenge us to walk with God. I hope that today some of you will either *begin* to walk with God or *renew* a closer walk with God. Col. 2:6 says, “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.” It’s not enough to receive Jesus as your Savior. You need to walk with Him each and every day. So I will share with you this morning how to walk with God. Then, I will share with you where a walk with God will ultimately lead, which is heaven. I hope we will be uplifted by the hope we have of someday going to be with our God in heaven. So consider with me first of all:

I. WHEN ENOCH BEGAN TO WALK WITH GOD

It says in v.22, “After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God...” Notice that it was after Methuselah was born that Enoch began to walk with God. According to v.21 he was 65 years old at the time of his birth. Now that sounds quite old to become a father for the first time. But if you look at the context you see that it was quite normal to wait at least that long before fathering children in the pre-flood world. But around the time of the birth of Methuselah, Enoch’s walk and life changed. So we see from our text that he began to walk with God:

A. When He Became a Father – Notice that it was about the time that his son was born that

he began to walk with God. One of the times when our spiritual interest peaks is when we become a parent. You join with God in creating the miracle of a new life. You see your child created in your own image. So after the birth of a baby is one of the best opportunities to get young adults back into church, and back walking with God. Do you know some parents of young children that you need to invite to church?

I believe that becoming a father or mother is one of the greatest of life's experiences. It helps you to understand firsthand the Fatherhood of God. Jesus was the first to teach so much about the Fatherhood of God. He taught us to address God in prayer as "Our Father...." On one occasion Jesus said, "How many of you being fathers, when your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?" As I think of my love for my children, I can see more clearly the love and concern of my heavenly Father for me. Each day my sons, while growing up, looked up to me in loving dependence. Father, when you realize how much your children look up to you, and how their image of God is shaped by your example, it ought to make you want to walk with God, just like Enoch. Is your walk leading them *to* God, or *away* from God? I appeal to you parents of children out there, for the sake of your children, walk with God!

So we see one main reason Enoch began to walk with God. Now let's see:

B. The Evidence that He Began to Walk with God - Jude 14-15 tells us that Enoch prophesied saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds...." So Enoch was the first prophet of the Old Testament. And the Bible says in Amos 3:7 that God does nothing without first revealing it to His prophets. And so I believe that Enoch had begun to walk with God by the birth of his son, because he gave him a name that was in essence a prophecy from God. You see, in the Old Testament and New Testament names always have meaning. They are not just ways to call someone for supper! Methuselah may mean "after *this* man, it shall come or be sent."¹ What shall come? Well, look at v.25. From the time Methuselah was born until Lamech was born was 187 years. Then, in v.28, Lamech lived 182 years until Noah was born. Now look over to 7:6. Noah was 600 at the time of the flood. That's a total of 969 years. 5:27 says that Methuselah lived to be 969 years old. He died the same year the flood came! Somehow God must have revealed to Enoch that some great event would take place upon the death of his son Methuselah. Enoch believed God and named his son accordingly.

Enoch lived just one full lifetime before the Flood, and already the moral conditions on earth were going from bad to worse. The appearance of the prophet typically implies a departure on the part of the people from God. So in just seven generations most of the godly line of Seth were becoming spiritually and morally corrupt. He must have let his generation know that they were ungodly and warned them of the judgment to come. This great man called Enoch was rebuking sin, warning of judgment, and declaring that only the Lord can save us! He fearlessly stood up to tell a world sinking into a sea of sin, "Repent or perish." Of course, his generation did not believe him. By the time his great grandson was grown, Noah and his family were the only righteous ones left!

Why do you think Methuselah lived longer than any man in history? He is a great illustration of how longsuffering and patient our God is. Based on what I have shown you, God gave the world almost a thousand years to repent and to get right with Him because that's the kind of God He is! So often I know we all wonder why doesn't Jesus come back? Why doesn't He return and set this world straight? Well, I want to tell you it's not because God is asleep. It is not

¹ However, it could mean, "man of the sword or dart." His name is based on the word שלח, the letters for the verb "to send" or the noun "dart or sword."

because God is apathetic. It is not because God has forgotten His promise. It is not because God does not hate sin. It is because God is patient regarding judgment and desires that all men be saved. We are told in 2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

We are living in days similar to that of Methuselah and Noah. Jesus said in Matthew 24:37, “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Rejection of God’s Word and God’s will for man is increasingly widespread. It is getting harder to find truly godly people, even in America. Like Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah of old, I warn my generation of a worldwide judgment to come. I see it looming on the horizon. The way our government has indirectly equipped the Taliban army with all those weapons of war fits right into biblical prophecy. I want to tell you as the prophets of old that America faces either revival or ruin.

When Jesus comes to save His people and begin pouring out judgment on this world, will He find you walking with Him, or walking in sin? There are probably some in my audience who are not walking with God. When are you going to begin to walk with God? When you get older? When you have children? Why not now? We are going through rough days right now, and things will probably get worse. But if you walk with God, He will be there to strengthen you, to guide you, and to comfort you.

So how do we walk with God? Well we can discover the answer to that question as we consider:

II. HOW ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

I hope that you want to be like Enoch and walk with God. So I want us to see how we too can walk with God. That phrase, “walked with God” is metaphorical, referring to an intimate, close relationship with God. Enoch maintained a close communion with God, as a man talks with his friend. It is reminiscent of the days when God walked with Adam in sweet fellowship in the Garden of Eden (3:8).² But so many walk and live without God. They are *godless*. You can tell it by the way they talk and how they live. Yet I hope you want to be different. I hope your presence here today is an indication of your desire to walk with God. So notice what is involved in a walk with God:

A. We Must Walk by Faith in God - Hebrews 11:5 speaks of the faith of Enoch. Then in the next verse it says, “he who comes to God must believe that He is....” How can you walk with someone you can’t see, unless you have faith? That is why Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 5:7, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” Enoch never saw God. He just believed He was there. You will not walk with the unseen God apart from faith.

But too many people do not walk with God. Why? It is because they only see the temporal and the visible. They would rather walk with friends that they can see, than to walk with God, whom they can’t see. And too many are distracted by the things of this life that we can see and feel. But you cannot walk with God unless you are set free from the dominion of sense and time. When you can look beyond the things of our material world and realize that the unseen world is the real one, and behind all visible objects lies the unchangeable God.

Even the material world is made up of an unseen reality. You cannot see molecules and the

² Also, God says in Lev. 26:11-12, “I will set My tabernacle among you.... I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.”

electrons, neurons, and protons of atoms, but I'm sure you believe in them. So to walk with God you need to cultivate the faculty and habit of vigorous faith.

Another way we walk with God is by:

B. Continual Thoughts of God - To walk with God is to set God always before us. It may be hard, amidst all our work and thoughts and sorrows to keep fresh our consciousness of God's presence, and to talk with Him in the midst of the rush of our daily lives. But we must if we are going to walk with God. Col. 3:1-2 says, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

What does this mean? There should be some time each day when you give some focused attention upon God and His Word. Now I want to warn you of something right now. If you are going to have a walk with God, and the kind of intimate fellowship with God that Enoch did, you are going to have to take the *time* to do it. Do you have a daily quiet time with the Lord? There should be some time set aside for God and Him alone. I'm talking about daily Bible reading and prayer. We need to give focused attention upon the Lord each day, free from distractions (Mt. 6:6). You need to spend time alone with God so that you can get to know Him. For the better you know God the more you will be like God, and the more you can walk with God. If you do not think upon the Lord, His Word, and the things of the Spirit, then there is something wrong in your spiritual life. For how can you say that you love God, if you do not desire to spend time with God each day, and walk with God each day?

Now I said earlier that it takes faith to walk with God. But it is clear that Enoch's faith was not an empty intellectual faith, but an obedient faith. Real faith works. So a third aspect of walking with God is:

C. Conformity to the Will of God - Amos said, "How can two walk together except they be agreed?" (3:3). You have to agree to walk the same pathway, in the same direction. Walking together pre-supposes harmony. God does not force His company on anyone. If you're going to walk with God, you'll have to go in *His* direction. Notice that Enoch walked *with God*. It does not say that God walked with him. Heb. 11:5 gives the divine interpretation of what it means to walk with God. It says of Enoch, "Before his translation, he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Enoch was no longer in rebellion against the will of God, but was living a life pleasing unto God. Paul wrote in Col. 1:10, "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him...." He also wrote in 1 Thess. 4:1-3, "...you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification...." Then he told them that they were to abstain from sins such as sexual immorality. Because of the holy nature of God, you must follow His will. You cannot walk in sin and walk with God at the same time.³ Paul wrote, "For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14). Only when sin has been dealt with can we move into God's presence and begin walking with Him. I John 2:6 says, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." The term "walk" is used many times in the New Testament to represent faithful living.

Walking with God means joining Him in doing what He is doing. When you worship, you are walking with God because Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I

³ Deut. 23:14 says, "For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you."

in the midst.” When you go on mission to witness and make disciples, you are walking with God. For when Jesus gave His Great Commission, he said, “Lo, I am with you always.” When you minister to the hurting or needy in the name of Jesus, you are walking with Him, for He said, “When you’ve done it to the least of these my brethren, you’ve done it unto Me.”

Finally, to walk with God you need to understand that:

D. You Cannot Walk with the World - John said that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (1 Jn. 5:19). Paul called Satan “the god of this world.” I believe the description of mankind found in 6:5 & 11 was already becoming true in the time of Enoch. Most people were not walking with God, but living in sin and rebellion. Enoch realized, no doubt, that to walk with God, you must often not walk with the world. Enoch was dead to the world. And so, sometimes you may walk alone.

But yet, you will not walk alone, for you will be walking with God! He is a better friend than 1000 sinners! God gives me love; He gives me peace; He gives me joy; He gives me a sense of purpose. Oh, how sweet it is to walk with God. I know that it is hard to walk with God in the day in which we are living, but I do not believe it was any easier for Enoch. His was an evil generation as well.

Ah, but friend, it is worth it all when you consider:

III. WHERE ENOCH’S WALK WITH GOD LED HIM

Now consider this: Before you follow someone and walk with someone, it would be a good idea to find out where they are going! Jesus spoke of the blind leading the blind, and they both fall into the ditch! (Matt. 15:14). Do you have unsaved friends? You need to be careful about walking with them, for where are they going? Most are walking in the pathways of sin where they will reap some terrible consequences. And where are the majority of people going? Jesus taught that they are on the broad road that leads to destruction! (Mt. 7:13). I think the choice is very clear. I would rather walk with God, because as we shall see here, God’s way leads to eternal life with Him in heaven rather than eternal death in hell.

A. Enoch Disappeared from Earth and Went to Heaven - As he did not live like the rest, so he did not die like the rest. It says in the last of v.24, “he was not, for God took him.” While the verb “took” (*laqach*) can refer to being taken in death (1 Kings 19:10, 14), in this case it means that God took him unto Himself. The same verb was used of the taking of Elijah in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2:3, 10-11).⁴ The author of Hebrews explicitly states the Enoch did not experience death (11:5). He just suddenly disappeared from this earth. No one could find him.

I do not know if I can tell the story much better than the way a little girl told her mother after S.S. one day. She said that the teacher told them about Enoch and how he walked with God. It seems that every day God would come by and say to Enoch, “Enoch, would you like to walk with Me?” And Enoch would come out of his house and he’d go walking with God. He got to the place that he enjoyed it so much that he’d be waiting at the gate of his house every day. Then one day God came by and said, “Enoch, let’s take a *long* walk. I have so much to tell you.” So they were walking and talking, and finally Enoch said, “My, it’s getting late in the afternoon. I’d better get back home!” And God said to him, “Enoch, you’re closer to My home than you are to your home; so you should come on home with Me.” And so Enoch went home with God. This is just a

⁴ Also, the psalmist expected to be “taken” after life “to glory” (73:24).

children's story, but the heart of the story is true.

Have you ever wondered why God took him? Since Jude tells us that Enoch preached to his wicked generation, perhaps God took him after they continually rejected his message and to spare him further ridicule. Nearly twenty-five centuries later, another prophet, Elijah, was similarly taken into heaven without dying (II Kings 2:11). It is significant that both ministered in times of deep apostasy.

Or God may have spared him death as a reward for his faithfulness. Or perhaps God wanted to be even closer to the one who pleased Him so much. The Psalmist wrote, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (116:15). When a godly saint dies an untimely death, we can find few good reasons. But here is one. They are so special that God just wants them in heaven with Him, and He has the sovereign right to make that decision!

Over the years I have preached the funeral of some godly saints, who died well before their time. Well as we see in our text, they walked with God, and God took them to heaven to be with Him.

Well, I conclude my message with some good news. This story of Enoch also tells us about:

B. Our Destiny – If you, like Enoch, walk with God, you will have the same destiny even if we have to pass through the door of death. I believe this is the first clear teaching of the Old Testament that there is awaiting us a future life in heaven. God took Enoch body and spirit, but He will take us to heaven in spirit, if not in body. Psalm 73:24 says, "You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory."⁵ When you walk with God, that is your destiny. Those of us who know the Lord as our Savior will be taken in spirit to heaven upon our death. The Lord Jesus told us that He is preparing a place in heaven for us (John 14:3). We senior saints will likely see the glories of heaven sooner than the rest. That one good thing about getting older!

However, it's possible that every believer here today could see heaven at the same time. You see, the translation of Enoch and Elijah is a type of the promised translation of those who are alive and trusting in Christ when He returns. We read about that in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. Some believers will have the privilege of never tasting death, and like Enoch, be translated body and soul to the presence of God! Likewise, 1 Cor. 15:51-52 says, "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." At least some of us could be like Enoch, and never taste death. Wouldn't that be great. As I read biblical prophecy and look upon current events, I believe that such a glorious day may be near!

Conclusion: Where are you going in life? Are you going to walk *with* God? Or are you going to walk and live your own life, *separate* from God? That will determine where you will go in death. Are you going to heaven or hell? I want each of you to be able to know for sure that you are going to heaven when you die, or when Jesus comes again.

There was a little boy named John Todd born in 1800 in Rutland, Vermont. Shortly after his birth his family moved to a little village called Killingsworth. When John was six both of his parents died. The children in the home had to be parceled out among the relatives, and a kindhearted aunt who lived in North Killingsworth agreed to take John and give him a home. He lived with her for fifteen years and then went away to study for the gospel ministry.

When he was in middle life his aunt became desperately ill and realized that death would not be far off. In great distress she wrote this nephew of hers a pitiful letter asking questions like,

⁵ The Psalm 49:15 says, "But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me."

“What will death be like? Will it mean the end of everything? Or, will there be beyond death a chance to continue living, continue growing, continue loving?” Here is the letter her minister nephew, John Todd, wrote:

“It is now thirty-five years since I, a little boy of six, was left quite alone in the world. You sent me word you would give me a home and be a kind mother to me. I have never forgotten the day when I made the long journey of ten miles to your house in North Killingsworth. I can still recall my disappointment when instead of coming for me yourself you sent a man named Caesar to fetch me. I well remember my tears and my anxiety, as perched high on your horse and clinging tight to Caesar, I rode off to my new home. Night fell before we finished the journey, and as it grew dark I became lonely and afraid. ‘Do you think she will go to bed before I get there?’ I asked Caesar anxiously. ‘Oh no,’ he said reassuringly, ‘she’ll surely stay up for you. When we get out of these here woods you’ll see her candle shining in the window.’ Presently, we did ride out in the clearing, and there, sure enough, was your candle. I remember you were waiting at the door; that you lifted me — a tired and bewildered little boy — down from the horse. You put your arms close about me. You had a big fire burning on the hearth, a hot supper waiting for me on the stove. After supper you took me to my new room. You heard me say my prayers and then you sat beside me until I fell asleep.

You probably realize why I am recalling all of this to your memory. Someday soon, sweet aunt, God will send for you to take you to a new home (Luke 16:22). Don’t fear the summons — the strange journey — or the messenger of death. God can be trusted to do as much for you as you were kind enough to do for me so many years ago. At the end of the journey, you will find a welcome waiting for you, and you will be safe in God’s love and care.” That is the destiny of every believer in Jesus Christ. Is that your destiny?

Appeal: When does a person begin to walk with God? It starts when you repent and turn from sin, and trust in Christ as your Savior. Will you do it today, and begin your walk with God? Most of you have made that initial commitment. But do you need to renew your daily walk with God? If so, resolve to renew that walk beginning today. Walk by faith. Walk in obedience. Let God be your Guide.

Sources: C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament in Ten Volumes*, Vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1978 reprint); George Henderson, *Studies in the Book of Genesis* (Edinburgh, Scotland: B. McCall Barbour, 1971); Matthew Henry, *Commentary on the Whole Bible* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1961), originally published by 1721; John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews* (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1983), Hebrews 11:5-6; Alexander Maclaren, *Expositions of Holy Scripture*, Vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977 reprint); Kenneth A. Mathews, *The New American Commentary*, Vol. 1A (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996); J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, Vol. 1 (Pasadena, CA: Thru The Bible Radio, 1981); Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Record* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976); Warren Wiersbe, *Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (1968); John Phillips, *Exploring Genesis* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2001); Larry Pierce, *Online Bible* [Ver. 5:30] (Ontario: onlinebible.net, 2017); Dr. James Merritt (notes from his sermon on this text entitled, “*Here Today, Gone Tomorrow*”).

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