

By Faith -- Enoch
Sermon 33 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 11:5-6

The New Geneva Study Bible calls Chapters 4-7 of Genesis “Faith at the Dawn of History.”

I. Hebrews 11:5-6

1. *Coming to God* (v. 6) is the same thing as *believing on God*.

John 6:35 – “He that **cometh to me** shall never hunger and he **that believeth on me** shall never thirst.”

2. Enoch was “taken away” or “translated”.

3. Enoch pleased God.

II. Genesis 5:21-24

1. Enoch “walked with God”.
2. Enoch was “taken” as a relatively young man.

2 Peter 3:9-11

III. Jude 14, 15

Enoch’s prophecy contains the word “ungodly” four times.

Enoch’s prophecy is interesting on many levels.

1. Jude is an epistle condemning false teachers.
v. 4, 18

2. Jude is quoting from the non-canonical book of 1 Enoch.

Is 1 Enoch 1:9 a Midrash of Deuteronomy 33:2?

1 Enoch appears to have been written in the 3rd century BC.

3. A more imminent judgement (the flood) was coming on the world, but Enoch looked far into the future to the last judgement.

Applications: The Prophecy Itself

1. It shows us the necessity of faith in God.
2. It shows us the necessity of “walking with God”.
3. It shows us the reality of the world to come.
4. It shows us we must hold this present world with a loose hand.
5. Let me ask again – Do you have faith? Heb. 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Benediction: **11:6**

Heaven is a place.

Christ descended and ascended.

The puritan Christopher Love makes this point and sites Enoch and Elijah as examples.

Christopher Love in his work, Christ's Ascension and Second Coming from Heaven says there are now 3 bodies in heaven – Christ, Enoch and Elijah.

- 1) Enoch and Elijah went to heaven – but they did not die, rise from the dead and ascend.
- 2) Enoch and Elijah went to heaven – but they did not ascend to heaven by their own strength, but by the power of God.

3) We receive no benefit by Enoch and Elijah going to heaven, nor does any merit accrue to us by these two men being in heaven.

-- Obviously, there is GREAT benefit for us that Christ is in heaven.

4) While both Enoch and Elijah went to heaven – neither could GIVE THE SPIRIT – which Christ did – and then gifts unto men.

III. Four Applications that Flow from Christ's Ascension

1. Christ's Ascension is a great encouragement as we go through this life, and as we come to the end of our life.

To be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord.
But we will not be “absent from the body” for all eternity!

There will be a day where he returns bodily, and our bodies will be raised.
Christ's Ascension assures us He will return bodily – just as he ascended bodily.

This is the testimony of the angels themselves in **v. 11**.

It's not the time to keep on looking and staring (Greek tense).
He will return – He'll return in the same way he left.

It won't be a purely spiritual return.
It will be a bodily return.

Just as surely as you saw Him bodily ascend to the heavens –
just as assuredly he will descend bodily when He comes again.

2. Christ's Ascension assures us He is currently ruling and reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

There's a whole lot more is going on here than “beam me up Scotty”. ☺

It's wasn't just a cool and impressive way to exit the earth.

He has been exalted.

He has been glorified.

He has been enthroned.

In the ancient world – when a King wanted to honor someone – he would have them sit at his right hand.

It showed FAVOR and POWER.

There are implications we can draw from Christ's ascension and his sitting at the right hand of God.

1) He has a permanent place in heaven.

He was HUMBLed as He came to this earth.

He will NEVER BE HUMBLed again.

He is not waiting to become King – He was plainly declared to be King by His Ascension and His taking His place at God's right hand.

He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords for all eternity.

2) His work of redemption is complete.

He is RISEN.

He has ASCENDED.

There is nothing left for Christ to do in regards to our salvation.

He has completed his salvific work.

The Father has elected.

The Son has redeemed.

And – in our life time – the Holy Spirit applies the redemption that has already been purchased by Christ.

3) He is seated in the place of highest honor in the entire universe.

We won't go further, for that crosses over into tomorrow's message.

Ephesians 1:19-23

3. Christ's Ascension is a great blessing and includes a great mystery.

It is better for us that He has gone away – than when He was here.

He told that to His disciples in John 16:7.

- It is to their advantage that He go away.
- It is to OUR advantage that He went away.
- What seemed like the worst thing was the best thing.

During His earthly ministry – He was limited in where he was at any given time. He was in one place at one time – and almost always traveled by the ordinary means of his day -- walking.

Today -- He is capable of hearing all the saints – wherever they happen to be, whenever they happen to call upon Him.

He promised to be with us ALWAYS – and He is.

4. We should hold this present world with a loose hand.

I have had the privilege to be with dying saints – and see them go into the presence of God.

Some people live their whole life – just for this life.

This is the “health, wealth and prosperity gospel”.

Joel Osteen reaches thousands with his message of “Your best life NOW”.

NO!

OUR BEST LIFE is YET TO COME!

Don’t live just for this life.

You can and should plan for the future – even a day of “retirement”.

But – it is very possible -- You might never make it to that day.

God is honored by wise planning.

We have no idea what the future holds for any of us.

Christ himself was taken from this world at about age 33.

Our goal should not necessarily be a LONG life – but a fruitful one.

One lived to His glory.

Whatever time we have on earth will be short – forever – we will be with the Lord.

Our times are in His hand.

We will not live one moment longer – or die one moment sooner than
He himself has ordained.

HIS ONE SACRIFICE WAS SUFFICIENT FOR ALL TIME!

His sacrifice was of INFINITE worth and nothing can be added to it.

It can never be improved upon.

NOTHING can be added to it.

Not your works.

Not even YOUR DECISION!

It is up to God to open our hearts and to reveal Jesus Christ to us.
It wasn't our wisdom in choosing Christ – it was HIS GRACE in
choosing us.

Do you know this Savior?

Can you say with assurance...

He died for me.

He rose for me.

He ascended on High for me.

He ever lives to make intercession for me.

I am eternally secure – because HE has done EVERYTHING for me.

There is grace and eternal life in Jesus Christ the Lord.

Believe on Him.

Trust in Him.

Live for Him.

Lamech. Gen. 4:23-24

If anything this gives us a glimpse into the SPIRIT of that day.

His announcement is given in the form of prose, much like Enoch's prophecy of God's judgement.

Lamech has no remorse.
He feels fully justified for what he has done.
He calls it self-defense.

He pronounces that IF GOD WOULD PROTECT CAIN, from killing his brother than he is TEN TIMES SAFER than Cain.

The problem is, God didn't say that.
What you find is a society that cheapens life.
A society that does not mourn over bloodshed.
A society and men that are proud and obstinate.

Things only got worse, and eventually the flood came and wiped out the entire human race, except for 8 souls.

