

Enoch (Genesis 4:17-5:27)

Expository Lessons from the Book of Genesis

I. Lineage of Cain through Birth of Seth (Genesis 4:17-24)

- a. After the murder of his brother Abel is discovered, Cain has mark placed on him to warn others: “do not kill this guy”.
- b. He becomes a wanderer, a fugitive. His lineage is marked by problems (and later wiped out in the Flood).
 - i. Fourth generation descendant Lamech has two wives; he is the first recorded polygamist. He also kills a man for wounding him.

II. Lineage from Adam through Seth, to Noah (Genesis 4:25-5:32)

- a. Read **Genesis 4:25-5:32** (NKJV lineage years based on Masoretic Text)
- b. Patriarchs generally had very long lives before the Flood.
- c. In order (provided in reverse in **Luke 3:36-38**):
 - i. **#1 – Adam**, 930 years (years here and following in this section follow the NKJV, based on Masoretic Text, unless otherwise noted)
 - ii. **#2 – Seth**, 912 years
 - iii. **#3 – Enosh**, 905 years
 - iv. **#4 – Cainan**, 910 years
 - v. **#5 – Mehalalel**, 895 years
 - vi. **#6 – Jared**, 962 years
 - vii. **#7 – Enoch**, 365 years (and still going...?)
 - viii. **#8 – Methuselah**, 969 years (all-time record holder!)
 1. By genealogical record in the Masoretic Text (MT), Methuselah died in the year of the Flood; but according to account in the LXX he died 6 years before Flood.
 - ix. **#9 – Lamech**, either 777 (MT) or 753 (LXX) years
 - x. **#10 – Noah**, has 3 sons at age 500; Flood begins when he is age 600.

III. Two of the Greatest Men of All Time: Enoch and Noah

- a. There are few real heroes in the world today worthy of imitation. World holds up men who play games (sports). They are able to kick a ball, hit one with a stick, or throw one into a circular hoop. Perhaps they can run, swim or skate faster than other people. They may very famous (TV or movie stars, musicians, entertainers, politicians or billionaires). They often lead lives of rampant self-indulgence, materialism and other gross sins.
 - i. But Jesus reminds us in **Luke 16:15**, “What is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”
- b. What makes a *real* hero? True spiritual heroes are men and women who have sacrificed greatly to live exemplary lives for God.
 - i. They show the greatness that the human race, and each individual, is capable of. They call us higher, and shred the excuses of “I am only (a weak) human”. They show us, with their lives, what is possible.
 - ii. I am reminded of the quote from Catherine of Siena (1347-1380), “If you are what you ought to be, you will set fire to all Italy.” (Letter 368 to Stefano Marconi)
- c. I need heroes: flesh-and-blood people who set the bar high with their own lives, who call me higher in my own spiritual walk. We find a few such heroes in Scripture.
- d. Noah and Enoch both held up in **Hebrews 11** as great examples for Christians to imitate. They were men who “lived by faith and did not shrink back.”
- e. Regarding the great OT heroes of faith like Noah and Enoch, it says in **Hebrews 11:38** that, “the world was not worthy (of them)”.

IV. Enoch, the Man Taken by God (Read **Genesis 5:18-24**)

- a. “After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters....And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (NKJV, where OT is based on Masoretic Text)
- b. Mysterious character. What does it mean that he “walked with God”?
- c. Also, what does it mean, “He was not, for God took him”? Dematerialized? Taken up into heaven? Something else? Who *was* this man, what happened to him, and why?
- d. **Hebrews 11** – Often called the Hall of the Heroes of Faith
 - i. To understand the purpose of **Hebrews 11** you must read the end of Hebrews 10 – a call to Christians to persevere through challenges

ii. **Read Heb. 10:35-11:6.** What do we learn about Enoch?

1. Enoch is held as a great example of someone who lives by faith
2. Enoch is taken away, he never dies! (vs. 5) What is this about?

e. **Questions:**

- i. **Q:** In **Hebrews 9:27** it says, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." So how could Enoch *not die*? How could he have been taken up by God, without ever dying? And why?
- ii. **Q:** In **Hebrews 11:5** it says that Enoch "had this testimony, that he pleased God". Where in the OT does it say this?
 1. Passage we read in Masoretic text says Enoch "walked with God." But let's read same passage (Gen. 5:22-24 in the Septuagint (referred to as the LXX)).
 2. **Answer 1:** In the LXX version, **Genesis 5:22** reads, "After he begot Methuselah, Enoch was well-pleasing to God..." Similarly, **Genesis 5:24** (LXX) reads, "Thus Enoch was well-pleasing to God, and was not found, for God translated him."
 - a. Writer of Hebrews was referencing the LXX in **Hebrews 11:5**. Hebrews writer does the same in **Hebrews 10:37-38** references the LXX (**Habakkuk 2:3,4**)
 3. **Possible Answer 2:** In **Wisdom of Sirach 44:16**, "Enoch pleased the Lord and was translated as an example of repentance for all generations". Also, in **Wisdom of Solomon 4:10-15** which begins, "there once was a man pleasing to God and loved by Him, and while living among sinners he was taken up". Although Enoch's name not mentioned in this second example, seems clear that he is the one in view. (Both quotations here are from the Orthodox Study Bible, where Old Testament is based on the LXX.)
 - a. Some may be wondering, 'What are **Wisdom of Solomon** and **Sirach**? Not in your bible? (Note that **Sirach** is also called **Ecclesiasticus**; not to be confused with **Ecclesiastes**.)
 - b. While Christians today agree on which books should be in the New Testament, this is not the case with the Old Testament. The disputed OT books are commonly referred to as 'apocryphal' (meaning '*hidden*') or deuterocanonical (meaning '*of a second canon*' or '*of a second collection of sacred books*').

- c. The books in question, which include **Wisdom of Solomon** and **Sirach**, are found in the LXX. They were very highly regarded by early church; today they can be found in Roman Catholic and Orthodox bibles. However, these books have been rejected by most modern Protestant groups. You might be surprised to hear that these deuterocanonical books *were included* in the original editions of the King James Version of the bible (1611). Only later on were they removed.
 - d. Some in our house church have bibles with the OT based on the LXX, which include the **Wisdom of Solomon** and **Sirach**. Others in our group (for example, if using the NKJV) do not have those books in their bibles. So borrow from a friend if you need to check this one out!
 - e. Clearly the writer of **Hebrews** was reading (and quoting) from the LXX, and assumed his readers were doing the same! Examples: **Hebrews 10:5-7** and **10:37-38**. If you do a NT/OT comparison, you will see that the OT quotations follow the LXX (Greek OT) and not the MT (the Masoretic text, a Hebrew manuscript).
 - f. For those who desire to learn more about this (consideration of the LXX and Deuterocanonical books), I recommend two audio messages by David Bercot. They are: *Why Don't We Use the Same Bibles as the Apostles*, and *Discovering the Septuagint*; both available through Scroll Publishing.
- iii. Early Christians took this literally. Enoch didn't die (he was "translated" or "taken up" prior to death).
1. Clement of Rome, overseer of church in Rome in 1st century, may have known Peter and Paul personally. Many believe he may have been the one Paul was referring to in **Philippians 4:3**, "with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers..."
 2. Clement wrote (c. 96 AD), "Let us take (for instance) Enoch. He, being found righteous in obedience, was taken up and he was never known to have experienced death." (*First Letter of Clement*, ANF v.1, p.7.)
 3. Irenaeus (overseer of the church in Lyon) wrote (c. 180 AD), "When he had pleased God, Enoch was taken up in the same body in which he had pleased Him, thus pointing out by anticipation the translation of the just (he then mentions that

similar thing happened to Elijah).” (*Against Heresies*, ANV v. 1, p.530)

- a. Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind of fire.
 - b. Irenaeus saw in Enoch’s translation a foreshadowing of what will happen at Christ’s return, ‘the translation of the just’. Consider **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, “For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”
- f. Lesson for us from life of Enoch: Seek God!
- i. In **Hebrews 11:6** it says, “...He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - ii. Many churches today use this passage primarily for evangelism: explaining to unbelievers that they need to seek God and become like us who have found God. (Then they can go out and tell other people that they need to seek God.)
 - iii. However, **Hebrews 10:32-11:40** clearly was written to believers, to Jewish Christians who knew the OT stories well.
 - iv. To seek God, following in the footsteps of Enoch, is the quest of a lifetime for those of us who believe. We must not draw back, but must continually strive: to know God better, to love him more deeply and to obey Him faithfully through the trials of this life. If we dismiss the admonition to ‘seek God’ as applying only to unbelievers, we miss the promise of the great reward, and one of the most important points of **Hebrews chapter 11!**
 1. Similarly, Paul in **1 Corinthians 9:24-26** speaks of running the race to win the prize, and fighting like a boxer to win the fight.
 2. Read **Philippians 3:7-14**
 - a. Paul’s attitude: *I want to know Christ*; even if it requires suffering
 - b. Paul was still striving, pressing on toward the goal that *he had not yet attained*.
- g. One other mention of Enoch in the New Testament

- i. Jude. What is the purpose? False teachers are going to come into the Church. Watch out! (v. 5-11 several examples of evil, corrupt people)
- ii. Read **Jude v.14-16**. It says, "Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgement on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.'"
- iii. Who is Jude? Bond servant of Jesus and brother of James (Jude 1), who is the leader of the church in Jerusalem and brother of Jesus! Jude is related to Jesus and writing under inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- iv. The person Jude is referring to, "Enoch the seventh from Adam" is clearly the same Enoch we just read about in **Genesis 5**. Where is Jude quoting from in the OT?
- v. This quote is from an ancient work called *The Book of Enoch*. It was highly respected in the early Church; some considered it inspired, many refer to it, but it was not included in the Bible of either the Jews or Christians (Orthodox, Catholic nor Protestant). This book talks about things that were going on prior to the Flood of Noah.
 1. Regarding the *Book of Enoch*, Tertullian (c. 198) wrote: "I am aware the scripture of Enoch...is not received by some. For it is not admitted to the Jewish canon, either."
 2. Then Tertullian gives some reasons why he personally thinks it should be considered inspired, and concludes, "To these considerations is added the fact that Enoch possesses a *testimony (corroboration) in the apostle Jude.*" (ANF v.4, pp.15-16)
 3. Jude does say, "Enoch...prophesied...saying", and then clearly quotes from the *Book of Enoch*. If Jude is correct (which we must assume) it seems reasonable to conclude that Enoch was a prophet, and that at least some of the things contained in the *Book of Enoch* are from him.
- vi. The *Book of Enoch* contains some things in it that struck me as strange when I first read it. However, it does provide a perspective on some of the things that were going on prior to the Flood. That testimony was highly regarded in the early church. More on that when we study events surrounding the Flood, in **Genesis 6-7**.
- h. Any other mentions of Enoch in the Bible? Maybe one more.

- i. Read **Zechariah 4:1-5**, written around 500 BC. (Quotations that follow are from the LXX.) “And the angel who spoke to me came again and awakened me as when a man is awakened out of sleep. And he said to me, ‘What did you see?’ And I said, ‘Behold, I have seen a lampstand made of gold, and a bowl at its top, and seven lamps upon it, and the seven tubes to its lamps; and over it two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and one on the left.’ And I asked the angel who was speaking to me, ‘What are these, my lord?’ And the angel speaking to me answered, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’”
- ii. Continuing in **Zechariah 4:10-14**, “...these seven (7 lamps, each with a tube of olive oil going to it) are the eyes of the Lord, which look upon all the earth. And I answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive trees at the right of the lampstand and at its left?’ And I inquired a second time and said to him, ‘What are the two branches of the olive trees in the handles of the two golden tubes that pour forth and bring oil to the golden channels?’ And he said to me, ‘Do you not know what these things are?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ And he said, ‘These are the two sons of richness who stand beside the Lord of all the earth’.”
- iii. No further explanation given regarding these two mysterious olive trees. At least, not until 500+ years later, in the last book of the Bible!
- iv. Read **Revelation 11:1-14**
 1. The angel explains to John that the two olive trees who stand before the God of the earth are two prophets who will be witnesses at the end. With their prophesying they will “torment those who dwell on the earth.”
 2. They will be killed in Jerusalem, but not be buried.
 3. The world will celebrate their demise.
 4. After 3-1/2 days they will be raised up and will ascend to heaven in a cloud.
 5. This will be a sign that the end is approaching.
- v. **Question:** *Who are these two prophets* who will come at the end, who will torment the whole world?
 1. Clues in the miracles described in **Revelation 11:6**?
 - a. “Have the power to shut heaven so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy” – I think of Elijah (**1 Kings 17:1, James 5:17**)

3. If you see two rather intense characters preaching in Jerusalem in sackcloth, one of whom looks to be about 365 years old, take heed and be prepared for the end!