

When you hear the phrase, "They are walking together," what do you think of?



Might you think of a couple walking down a beach together...hand in hand... "Walking together" makes one think about agreement...or harmony. The prophet Amos asks, "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet? The answer is NO. To walk together, you must be in agreement...harmony. I thought of our mountain climbing. The challenge of getting up and down a mountain, like Everest...in order to succeed on Everest, you have to work together with your Sherpa... You remember the Sherpas...the men who carry your stuff and help you...



Your Sherpa goes in front of you and walks the steps that you will eventually walk. Interestingly, many of you sent me this picture of the logjam on Everest from a couple of weeks ago:



That's amazing! 11 people died on Everest this past May. Tragic! All those people are lined up with their Sherpa. As a quick reminder...today, you aren't allowed to climb Everest without a Sherpa. The most famous, climber/Sherpa duo is Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.



Remember them? They were the first duo to summit Everest in 1953. Both recounted after their historic feat, how they wouldn't have never made it without the other. Hillary and Norgay didn't walk, side by side...but oh...they were most definitely in agreement in their trek up Everest. They alternated the leadership position...one taking the lead, while the other followed, back and forth, until they made it to the top.

Church family, as believers in Jesus Christ, our life with Him is often called a "walk." You've heard said and some of you have said it to me: "My walk with Christ is ____." You fill in the blank...either good...or not what it should be... Sometimes in our walk with Christ, we may be lagging behind or perhaps (as seems to so often the case for me), I am trying to get ahead of Jesus and pull Him to where I think we ought to go.

So... How is your walk with Jesus today? Is it good? Are you following His lead? Are you struggling to keep up or are you trying to pull Jesus where you want Him to go? This morning, we're going to talk about "Walking in Faith," as we look at the life of a man named Enoch. Enoch...have you heard of him? He is the man in the Bible who just walked with God right into heaven.

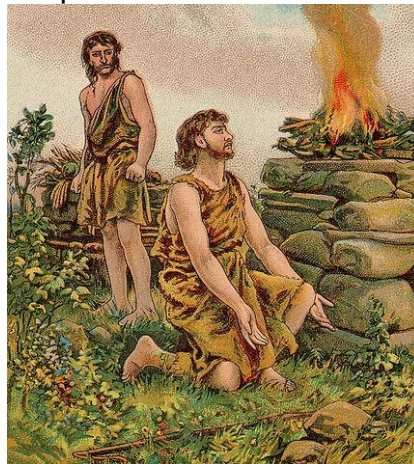
Hebrews 11:5-6

⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. ⁶And

without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Last week we began to see how the Apostle Paul pointed the Hebrews, turned Christians of the first century, back to their own heroes of the faith as examples of why FAITH is the key to following the Lord. Hebrews 11 is fantastically designed by the Holy Spirit in that we see the essential nature of faith when it comes to having a growing relationship with the Lord God. And we see this through the illustration of some of Israel's greatest heroes of the faith. We saw this last week by way of the hero of faith named: Abel. A child of the first family.

Remember how Abel brought the acceptable sacrifice to God and his brother, Cain didn't?



By faith, Abel, came to God the exact way God had commanded...by blood, because “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin.” This morning, we're going to literally go one step further and as we talk about walking with the Lord by faith.

Now, like last week, we're going to have to go back to the original account of Enoch and in order to do that we must once again **turn to the book of Genesis...chapter 5, verse 21**. As you are turning, I'll tell you that Genesis 5 is a chapter of “and he died, and he died and he died.” But, when we get to verse 21, we see that Enoch didn't die...no...again...we see that he just walked right into heaven.

Genesis 5:21-24

²¹When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. ²²Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. ²³Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

What happened to Enoch? “He was not, for God took him.” What does that mean? Well, there is one word in the Hebrew that describes the phrase “for God took him”... (La-Kakkk). It's spelled: “L-a-q-a-c-h.” And get this, it means: “to be taken by the hand and led away.” Literally God took Enoch by the hand and led him straight into heaven.

A little girl described this one day to her momma. After arriving home from church, she told her mom about Enoch, of whom she'd learned about in SS. She said, “Mom, the teacher said that Enoch and God walked together every day, and one day they walked so far from Enoch's house that God said, ‘Enoch, we're closer to my house than yours, why don't you just come home with

me.” I like that. It’s a good way to describe (La-Kakkk). Enoch walked with God and God took him home.

Hebrews 11:5a

⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death...

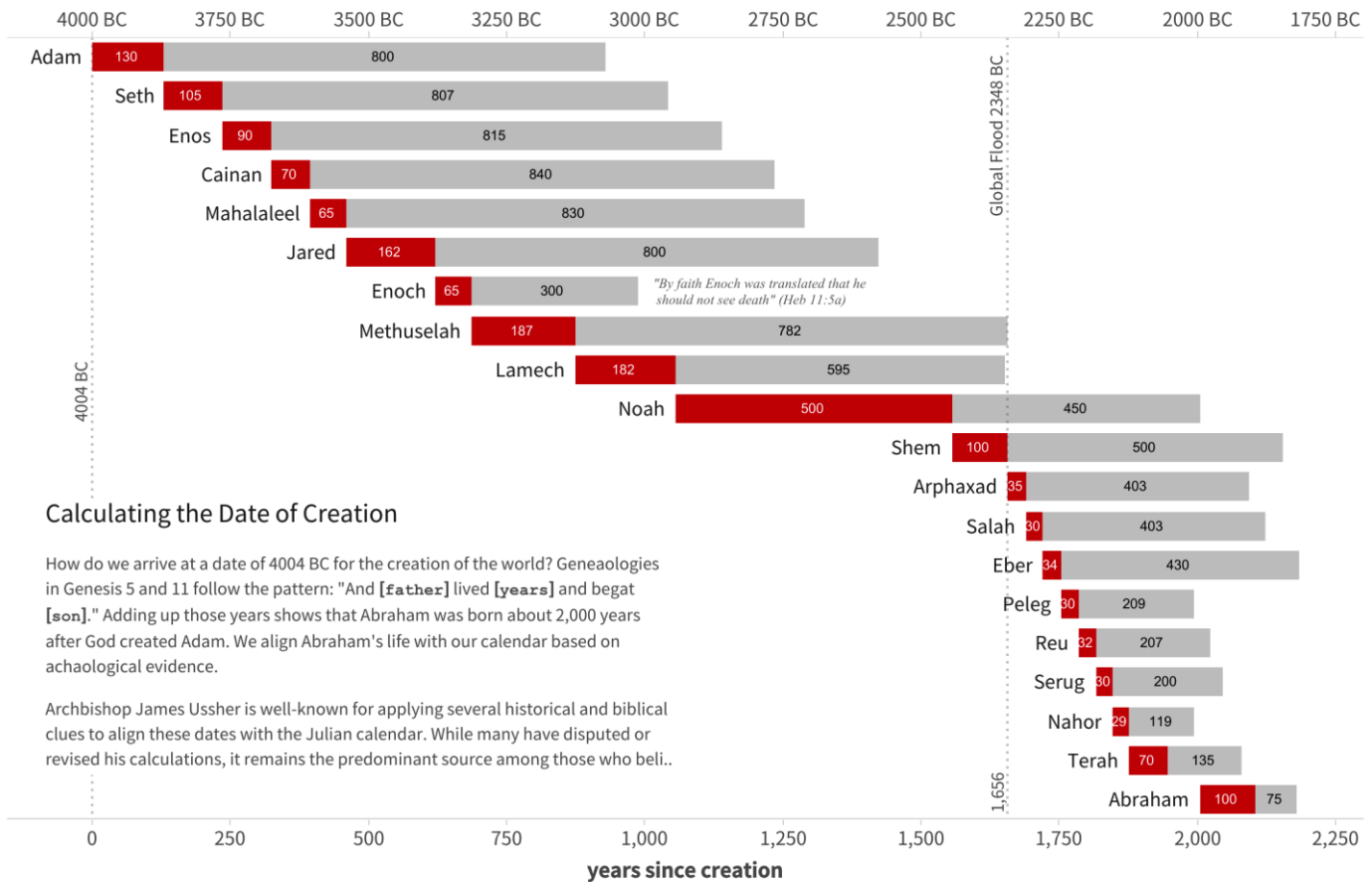
God got Enoch off this earth before He destroyed it. You see, what happened with Enoch was the first Rapture of a soul off of this earth. If you ever have wondered if the Rapture will take place...you need to look no further than Enoch...because he was raptured to heaven by the Lord. That’s what this was folks...Enoch was Raptured...AND another one is coming... One day Jesus is coming back in the air, to Rapture (harpazo-snatch or take us off this earth). The “US,” is His church...His believers. AND...that’s 1 Thessalonians 4. Hear it with me.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Now, I want you to think about this for a moment. Enoch was raptured...taken from this earth, so he would not have to see what? God’s judgment, right! What judgment was that? Noah’s flood. The flood that would come...get this, at the death of Enoch’s son, Methuselah. You know Methuselah, the man who lived to be 969 years old and at the year of his death, the flood came. Take a look at this chart... A timeline from Adam to Abraham. You see Adam...and the 7th from Adam is Enoch.

Genesis Timeline from Adam to Abraham



Calculating the Date of Creation

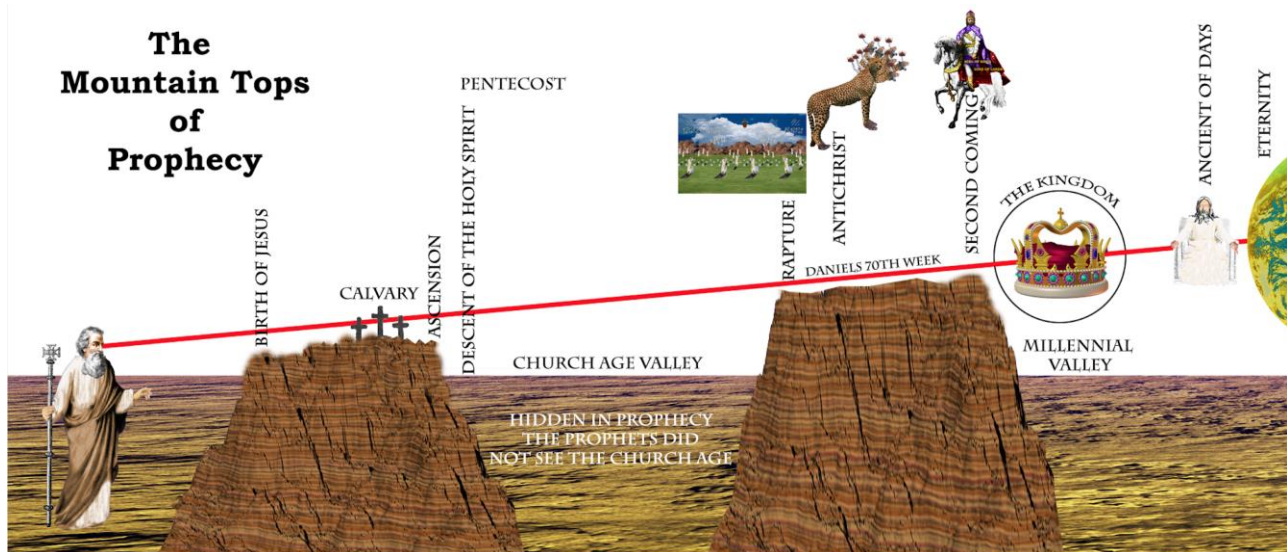
How do we arrive at a date of 4004 BC for the creation of the world? Genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 follow the pattern: "And [father] lived [years] and begat [son]." Adding up those years shows that Abraham was born about 2,000 years after God created Adam. We align Abraham's life with our calendar based on archaeological evidence.

Archbishop James Ussher is well-known for applying several historical and biblical clues to align these dates with the Julian calendar. While many have disputed or revised his calculations, it remains the predominant source among those who believe.

And then you see Methuselah and at his death, that dotted line for the flood. 1,656 years into human existence and then it was all over. Judgment came upon the earth, upon the unbelievers.

Church family, do you understand that judgment is coming again. At any moment, Jesus could return and then judgment will come to this earth on those who have refused to believe and receive Jesus. But, for those who believe, at His coming...they will be saved...snatched off the earth, just like Enoch...and taken to heaven.

And did you know Jude, just like we saw last week, Jude the half-brother of Jesus, recorded "the way of Cain," Jude also recorded the fact that Enoch prophesied about the Second Coming of Jesus. Let me try to explain something about Old Testament prophecies. As the Holy Spirit inspired the OT prophets, they saw into the future THINGS THEY COULDN'T fathom or understand. Enoch saw all the way to the Second coming of Jesus. **See the chart which will help to explain this...**



Jude 1:14

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Did you see how many times Enoch said, “ungodly?” I’ll tell you something folks...Enoch was not a popular man in his day...nor would he be today... Because anyone who preaches a God of holiness and righteousness...a God who will one day judge ungodliness and sin...no way would they be or will they ever be popular! Enoch would most certainly irritate a lot of people if he were here today, preaching that kind of message... Judgment is never popular. People would say, “No Enoch...don’t preach judgment...preach forgiveness and love and mercy and grace.”

Hey church...I will say this till I’m dead, yes we’re to preach: love, mercy, forgiveness and grace. WHY? Because judgment is coming. Listen, I’m not up here begging people to add Jesus to their already full lives...I’m up here telling people what Jesus said about Himself: “Jesus is the life,” and if you refuse Him, you will die and face eternal judgment. Oh listen...I’m here today to tell you just like Enoch told his generation...repent before God’s judgment comes upon those who reject His truth. Enoch preached judgment and we’ll see it next week with the life of Noah...he did it because this was coming...



the earth would be destroyed by the FLOOD. God’s judgment on unbelievers. Listen, Jesus is not a topping at the Topping Bar at Sweet Frog.



Jesus is not a topping that you skip over. No...Jesus is the bowl...



because without the bowl at Sweet Frog...you get nothing... No! We shouldn't try to win people to Jesus by saying, "Oh, if you'll just add Jesus to your life everything will be perfect..." because in this life...sometimes all we have is the bowl. Listen...our bowl isn't going to be totally filled to the top until we get to heaven. But, we'll have what we need. **Living for Jesus isn't easy in a pagan world**...and everything won't always go our way...but, we **will be saved from eternal judgment**...and spend eternity with Jesus...walking streets of gold **and that's worth it all folks!** WE will escape judgment and what is more, we will experience the ultimate and final reward that verse 6 speaks of...

Hebrews 11:6

⁶And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Jesus will reward you for your faithfulness! Keep Him serving Him...for there is great reward!

Okay...now look back with me to verse 5...this idea of "walking with God."

Hebrews 11:5

⁵By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God.

Enoch pleased God. Do you know that means? It means: "He walked with God." WHAT? Listen, Genesis 5 said: "Enoch walked with God." In the Hebrew guess what...that means, "He pleased God." Those two phrases: "walked with God" and "pleased God" mean the exact same thing. If you are pleasing God, you are walking with Him. If you walking with God, you are pleasing God.

Okay, so HOW do we walk with God? Well, first and foremost, as we've just seen, we must believe in Him...we must trust in Him...we must take Him at His word... That's what the Apostle Paul has been describing to this first century audience of Jews, turned Christians... Keep believing... Keep having faith in God. And he uses Enoch as an example of that...just like he used Abel...and we'll see next week...just like he'll use Noah. Here's the key: **We please God when we take Him at His Word and have faith in Him.** This brings us into personal communion with God. That's what Enoch had. He had personal communion with God.

And listen church, the Scripture is clear about this walk with God... Listen carefully... 3 John 4 says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are WHAT? Walking in the truth.

Romans 13:13

¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy.

Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Listen...this walk with God is the LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN...and here's the thing...if we say we are walking with God...we can NOT be walking in sin. LIVING A LIFESTYLE OF SIN. Because to say that we are walking with God and at the same time to be living in known sin is to be a liar, says the Apostle John in:

1 John 1:6

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

In chapter 2, the Apostle John said this:

1 John 2:4-6

⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Do you want to walk with God...you've got to go after Him with all your heart...like mountain climber going after Everest...you go for it!

Let me ask you something...do know Jeremiah 29:11?

Jeremiah 29:11-13

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

If you want to walk with God...you've got to seek Him with all of your heart. So, let me ask you... Are you doing that? Are you seeking God? Are you experiencing His presence through your normal day-to-day activities... **Are you walking with God?** Might I ask it this way...when was the last time you had a conscious awareness that you were in the presence of God outside of this building?

Can I tell you what I've come to believe, church family? Many Christians today have no idea what it's like to be in the presence of God, because they are too busy and too preoccupied with life and their pursuit of happiness to get still long enough to be in the presence of God. Oh, it's true, if you ask the average Christian, "Do you love Jesus?" They quickly respond, "Yes, of course." But, if you probe and go deeper and ask, "Are you seeking Him with all your heart?" If they're honest, they'll answer: No. And because that's the case...those Christians know nothing about truly experiencing Jesus.

It's sad...so many Christians are eating crumbs off the floor, when there's a feast set on a table right above their heads. Listen, we've got to stop settling for being spiritual dogs with our heads down licking crumbs, when Jesus is seated three feet away ready to serve a banquet...a banquet for those who seek after Him with all their hearts...for those who want His presence...

Oh church, the veil was torn so that we would have access to God...and you're never going to experience God and walk with Him by watching how I walk with God...and living vicariously off of me or anyone else. You need to be in the presence of God yourself... **You need to experience the presence of Jesus in your life, because when He does...there's nothing sweeter in this life than being in His presence.**

But I'll warn you! It's going to cost you... Just like those who climb mountains... There's a price to be paid. Do you want to be in the presence of God, like Enoch experienced? Then you have to want Him with your whole heart. You must be willing to be, as Jesus said, "poor in spirit"...that means you are thirsty for Him. Like a man crawling in the desert looking for water...You want Jesus more than anything! Do you?

I want to read to you a quote from A.W. Tozer's book, "The Pursuit of Man." It is the sequel to "The Pursuit of God." It's a lengthy quote, but it sums up this idea of "walking with God," perfectly. Tozer is speaking of the "Spirit-filled life," which is another way of saying, "walking with God." Would you listen intently for the next 3 1/2 minutes and we'll be done.

Before a man can be filled with the Spirit of God, he must be sure he wants to be. And let this be taken seriously. Many Christians want to be filled, but their desire is a vague, romantic kind of thing, hardly worthy to be called desire. They have almost no knowledge of what it will cost them to realize it.

Let us imagine that we are talking to an inquirer, some eager young Christian, let's say, who has sought us out to learn about the Spirit-filled life. As gently as possible, considering the pointed nature of the questions, we would probe his soul somewhat as follows:

"Are you sure you want to be filled with a Spirit who, though He is like Jesus in His gentleness and love, will nevertheless demand to be Lord of your life? Are you willing to let your personality be taken over by another, even if that other be the Spirit of God Himself? Do you really want to walk with God? If the Spirit takes charge of your life He will expect unquestioning obedience in everything. He will not tolerate in you the self-sins even though they are permitted and excused by most Christians. By the self-sins I mean self-love, self-pity, self-seeking, self-confidence, self-righteousness, self-aggrandizement, self-defense. You will find the Spirit to be in sharp opposition to the easy ways of the world and of the mixed multitude within the precincts of religion. He will be jealous over you for good. He will take direction of your life away from you. He will reserve the right to test you, discipline you,

to chasten you for your soul's sake. He may strip you of those borderline pleasures which other Christians enjoy, but which are to you a source of refined evil.

Through it all He will enfold you in a love so vast, so mighty, so all-embracing, so wondrous that your very losses will seem like gains and your small pains like pleasures. Yet the flesh will whimper under His yoke and cry out against it as a burden too great to bear. And you will then be permitted to enjoy the solemn privilege of suffering to 'fill up that which is part of the afflictions of Christ' for His sake. Now with the conditions set before you, Christian, do you still want to be led by the Holy Spirit and walk with Jesus?"

If this appears too severe, let us remember that the way of the cross is never easy. It wasn't for our Savior, either. This is a stripping away of ourselves and the value of the stripping experience lies in its power to detach us from life's passing interests and to throw us upon the weighty matters of eternity.

Church, do you want to walk with God? I pray you do! Please bow with me in prayer...