

Forgotten Lives

Enoch

Genesis 5:21-24

August 30, 2026

HDBC

Some of the most powerful and effective testimonies can be shared with only a few words. That is certainly true of a man named Enoch. His whole life summed up in 7 verses. Four in Genesis, one in Hebrews, two in Jude. Son of Jared and father of Methuselah.

Enoch is one of the more mysterious figures in the Bible. Like Abel, his story is found in the early pages of the Bible. Whereas Abel demonstrated the importance of **worshipping by faith**, Enoch demonstrated the importance of **walking by faith**.

He was one of those whom we consider to be **antediluvians**. That means he lived before the deluge, before the flood. He was one in a long line of men who lived incredibly long lives. Genesis 5:21-24.

Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. 22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

He lived for over three and a half centuries. Think about that.

If his life ended in 2025. He would have been born in 1660.

Born 40 years after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock..

166 years old when the declaration of Independence was signed.

249 when Darwin published *Origin of the Species*

283 when the Wright brothers first flew.

317 when Babe Ruth hit 60 homers and Lindbergh flew over Atlantic.

331 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor

His son would not die until 2694.

The point of all this is that though Enoch's tenure was brief in comparison with that of his father and son, it is nonetheless an amazing stint of time. And remember that those 300-plus years were given to righteous living in the midst of a terribly evil world that was destroyed because of its depravity.

Also, Enoch served as a prophet for over three centuries, preaching the unwelcomed message of coming judgment. And he was faithful to the task for the entire tenure of his adult life. He was seven generations removed from Adam and only three generations before the days of Noah.

Consider four things about Enoch.

1. Enoch's Faith (Hebrews 11:5-6)

As with the other men and women listed in this chapter, Enoch was commended by God for his faith. In fact his faith was such that it pleased God. Interestingly the Old Testament does not comment on the faith of Enoch. It refers to his walk. It is in the New Testament that we see a reference to his faith. ***Enoch was able to walk with God, because He had faith in God.***

A faith in God precedes a walk with God. The faith produces the life. So, Enoch's great actions were the result of his great faith.

This leads to verse 6 which amplifies the necessity of faith in pleasing God. Without faith, one cannot please God. It does not say *without faith it is difficult to please God*. It says ***impossible***.

Absolutely nothing in people can please God apart from faith. Religion does not please God. Religion is man-made and counterfeits the truth. Nationality does not please God. The Jews thought they were pleasing God because of their nationality. Ritual ceremonies do not please God. Some churches focus heavily on ritual acts, assuming they make us right with God. A good life will not make you right with God. None of those things will do so.

If I am going to be pleasing to God as I live my life, I must live it by faith. You cannot experience God's favor without faith. So, the question that we would want to ask is, *what is the kind of faith that pleases God?* The text gives us a two-fold answer. **Belief in two things:**

A. Existence of God

The first thing to believe in is the existence of God. This is certainly not a given in the world today and not even in America. In this modern, post-Christian era, *we do not even do as much as the demons*. They believe in the existence of God. They just don't yield to Him. **This is not *saving* faith**. But it is the first step. And it pleases God. If a person has a sincere faith in the existence of God it can lead to saving faith.

This is not the same as simply believing that there is some kind of force out in the universe that is bigger and smarter than us. This text *refers to an accurate understanding of who the true God really is*.

B. Faithfulness of God

The second level of faith is believing in the faithfulness of God. This was a key to Enoch's faith. He truly believed that God was one who rewarded those who diligently seek him.

This is a faith in the moral goodness and justice of God. He is a personal, moral God who is loving and gracious toward His creation. Remember, Enoch walked with this God for 300 years. He came to know Him well. The kind of faith that pleases God is a faith in the personal God.

And it is not enough to believe in the right God. Jews certainly believed in the right God. But they did not have faith in Him. They did not trust him in a personal way, like Enoch did. They did not yield to Him. Enoch trusted God and was rewarded for it. What is the reward that we receive through faith? Primarily it is our salvation.

2. Enoch's Walk

Believing in the existence of God and trusting Him for your salvation is not the final step in a process, but a beginning step. God then calls us to have a consistent walk of fellowship with Him. Enoch did this.

In Genesis we read that Enoch *walked with God*. (5:24) There are a number of things that are true when two people walk together.

A. There is a relationship

Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so? Amos 3:3

The point is obvious. Two people cannot really walk together in intimate fellowship unless they are in agreement. Walking together implies harmony. If Enoch walked with God, it means he was in harmony with God.

Remember that when Adam and Eve sinned, the entire human race was corrupted with sin. Enoch was born with a sin nature. He was born with a spirit that was dead. Something had to happen to change that.

Enoch was a saved man. Salvation is the only thing that can alter a person's relationship with God bring life to their spirit.

B. There is a surrendered will

If two are walking together they must be heading in the same direction. Enoch was yielded to God. He had yielded himself to the will, mind and heart of God. God did not yield to Enoch. It was the other way around.

Not only must two who walk together be going in the same direction, but they must be going at the same pace. Enoch was in step with God. We must do the same. We must be in step with His spirit. Not lagging behind, nor getting ahead.

C. There is a growing faith

A person comes to know God through faith. In the same way, we are to walk with Him in faith.

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith. Col. 2:6-7

Enoch continued to believe God each day. For 300 years he held fast to his faith in the living God.

3. Enoch's Preaching (Jude 14-15)

See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

Enoch lived in a dark and hostile time. He lived among people who were not sympathetic to his faith. Life was hard. And the thing that kept him going was *the knowledge that God would make it all right in His time.*

Enoch resisted the sinful corruption of his culture and walked with God, knowing that it would make a difference for all eternity.

That message was vital for the church during the day in which this letter was written. They too were living in hostile days. Days when the culture around them rejected their message and their lifestyle. They, too, needed to be reminded of the faithfulness of God.

Same is true today. We need a faith not only in the existence of God, but in the faithfulness of God. This will motivate us to live godly lives in an ungodly culture.

4. Enoch's Exit

Enoch was a man of immense age and character, but he was most famous for what happened to him at the very end of his life on earth. In the Genesis account it simply says ***God took him.***

In star trek language we would say God *beamed him up*. In other words, Enoch went straight to Heaven without passing through death. Throughout all the lists of men who lived before and after Enoch, with the exception of Elijah, their stories all ended with the phrase ***and then he died***. Not so with Enoch. It just says about Enoch, ***he was not, because God took him***.

This understanding is confirmed in Hebrews 11. Here, the writer makes it clear that this means that Enoch did not have to face death.

The Bible does not give details on exactly how this happened. Was it a whirlwind, like Elijah? Maybe he was just walking along one day talking with God and suddenly he found himself in Heaven. We just don't know. We know that it was a life well-lived, with an ending unlike any other.

Takeaways:

1. Walking with God is a choice.

It will require a deliberate decision that involves consistency.

2. Walking with God means choosing intimacy over convenience.

It will involve making decisions that enhance your relationship with God. You may have to say ***no*** to other things in order to be close to Him.

3. Walking with God means choosing surrender over preference.

To walk with God, you must yield to His direction, His path, His will.

4. Walking with God means choosing separation over conformity.

You can't walk with God while also indulging in the sinful pleasures of the evil culture you are immersed in. It will require separation from sin.