

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

The text for today's message is Genesis 5:24. "And Enoch walked with God; and he was not for God took him." So when you walk with God you get taken." Wow, that is pretty heavy and there are a lot of implications in this little verse. I would like to take a closer look.

First of all, exactly who was this fellow, Enoch, about whom I am going to speak? According to my copy of the Anchor Bible Dictionary, there are three Enoch's mentioned in Scripture. The first Enoch is a son of Cain, who was the first son of Adam and Eve. The second Enoch is a city named after the man Enoch, the son of Cain. We think it was built by Cain, and apparently located in the land of Nod (Gen. 4:17). The third Enoch is a son of Jared, of the line of Seth. Seth was the third son of Adam and Eve (Gen. 5:19). According to verse 14 of the Book of Jude, this Enoch was the seventh generation. This third Enoch is the one we will be focusing on today. We have to be careful to **NOT** confuse Enoch with Enosh. Enosh was also a son of Adam's third son, Seth, and both Enosh and Enoch were in the family tree of Seth. Are you confused yet?

If you happen to read Hebrew and have a copy of the Scriptures you probably know that his name was not really Enoch. In Hebrew, his name was *Chah-nohch*, which comes from the Hebrew root chet, nun, chaf. The meaning of this Hebrew name is: dedicated, experienced, profound, and trained. Just to make it easier for everybody, I will be using the name that we all know and love - Enoch. This other guy, Enosh, whose name was really pronounced Enohsh was the 1st son of Seth, and his name means "man."

It would seem that Genesis chapter 5 is God's obituary column. Adam lived 130 years and begot sons and daughters and died when he was 930 years old. Seth lived 105 years and begot Enosh and other sons and daughters and died at 912 years of age. Enosh was an early starter. He was only 90 years old when he began having sons and daughters and he died at 905 years of age. So the order of the generations is Adam, Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, and finally Enoch. Time after time Scripture records how many years a man lived, mentions his significant offspring, and then gives their age when they expired. But when we get to verse 24, there is an exception to the rule, and the exception was Enoch the son of Jared. It says "He was not, for God took him," and this makes Enoch a very unusual man. In the Bible, there were only two human beings in all of history who are credited with walking with God. They were Abraham and Enoch. There were only two men in the Bible who are credited as being pleasing to God. They were Yeshua and Enoch. And there were only two men who did not die, but were translated. One was Elijah the Prophet, who was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind, and the other was - you guessed it - Enoch.

We read in Genesis 5:21-24, that "When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him."

When something is mentioned more than once in scripture, it is usually something that HaShem is trying to get us to notice. The fact of Enoch's walking with God being mentioned twice makes it stand out from the rest of the entries of this genealogy. Actually, the

Scriptures do not say, even once, that any of the others walked with God. Although it is not mentioned specifically, but is only implied, it would seem that for the first 65 years of his life, Enoch lived just like other men. It wasn't until after Methuselah was born that he is described as walking with God. It doesn't say exactly what changed Enoch, but something obviously did. Maybe, at the age of 65, he decided to retire from his day job and started drawing Social Security and therefore had more time to spend with God, but that is only speculation on my part. Scripture does not say what caused Enoch to walk with God.

Personally, I believe that he just changed and became a godly person so he could walk with God. In my younger days I did things that I would not even consider doing now. But after reading the Gospel of John, I was changed, and I'm still changing. I would like to think that I am changing for the better, and that have come a long way, and that I am walking with God. But whatever it was that caused Enoch to change, he walked with God. But what does it mean "to walk with God?" It means that, first of all, that Enoch was going in the same direction that God was going. When you walk with somebody, by definition, you must go in the same direction in which they are going. This must certainly have been the case with regard to Enoch. Here is something to think about: In what direction is God going? Or maybe we should ask: how is God moving in human history? We can find out by watching the news, visiting newsy sites on the internet, and just being aware of the changing scene in which we live. History is a constant state of change, transition, conflict, and upheaval. Nothing is permanent except death and taxes, and because of Elijah and Enoch, I'm not so sure about death. Even the planet is continually changing. We hear of earthquakes shaking the ground, volcanoes blowing the tops off of mountains, climate change, and floods. Even the Mississippi River has changed its course several times. There is so much going on that we can barely keep up with it. In today's fast paced world, by the time a newspaper is printed, its content is no longer news. The constant change of life has always been the rule.

In the midst of all this daily change, we know that God is always moving mankind toward His final destination. We can walk our own way, or we can walk with God. In the world to come, there will be no sin because our God is a holy God. In the twinkling of an eye, we will all be changed. Although God finds sin detestable and cannot be in the presence of sin, He is also a patient God who is our Father and who loves us. There are many things that destroy, brutalize, harm and blast the humanity that He loves. Because God loves us He is forever and unhesitatingly against everything that destroys. Although He may permit these things, that does not mean that He is not aware or that He is lacking in His authority. In the Book of Revelation, the saints ask, "How long O Lord until you judge and avenge our blood upon those who dwell on the earth?" We might ask today, "How long will You allow this senseless hatred, and torture, and killing?" When the Israelites were in bondage to the Egyptian Pharaoh, deliverance was not immediate. When the Jews were taken to Babylon as captives, redemption was not immediate. Even though God allows sin in the world for now, there is a time coming when there will be a world without sin.

If we walk with God as Enoch did, we will also be against the things which God is against. We will be against rebelliousness and sin, and we will walk in the same direction as God. We will also keep in step with God. And what is a walk but a series of steps? We don't walk by taking one step today and waiting for six months to take the next step. That is not taking a walk nor

is it how we are to walk with God. We don't want to be paralyzed. We want to keep walking in step with Him. Walking in step with Him is a series of steps taken; one succeeding another. That's all. I would hope that every one of us in this congregation knows what it means to take at least one step toward God. We may have taken that first step, and maybe even a few more, but that is still not a walk. Our walk should be a series of steps taken day after day with God. The activity that God wants from us is progress toward Him. God is at work, God is active, He's affecting events, and He's moving. He is not stagnant, nor is He simply sitting still. Neither should we.

Once we see the light and take that first step, we must move beyond the initial stage of understanding. It is great to know what it means to have our sins forgiven and to have peace with God. It is great to know what it means to have the hope of a future in heaven and access to Him by grace, and so on. After we have learned the basics, we can then move into the areas of truth which gather around the indwelling life of Yeshua and the Ruach HaKodesh.

One of the most distressing things that can happen to us in our walk with God is to stop short of the realization that God is going to be at work in us. We must not take the attitude that there is nothing left for us to do or that all we need to do is sit and wait for Him to act. I imagine that we all know someone who is, unfortunately, waiting for God to move them in some way. Months pass, maybe even years, of just waiting for God to move some way in their life. However, we must take steps and watch for God's activity. We must try to realize the full orbit of that truth that God is working in us both to will and to do His good pleasure, and that our hearts are in sync with His will and His Ruach.

But let us not wait around doing nothing. We can start doing something by meeting some of the needs of those around us, and we all know that there is a mountain of needs. Move out of your comfort zone. God is at work in you to do His will and to do His good pleasure. Any moving with God is a continual life of activity for God. It's taking on responsibility that seems to show up before us out of nowhere. It's moving out to meet needs that are immediately before us. Walking with God means to move in a positive way, to get involved even if it is in a small way, to step up to the plate and take a swing at assuming responsibility. This brings to mind the old adage, "No one can do everything, buy everyone can do something."

Yeshua told us that He is the light of the world. Rav Sha'ul said that we should "walk as children of light." As children of light, we should walk worthy of God and walk in the Spirit. If we do this we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh but rather, fulfill the *mitzvot* found throughout the Bible. Many people have trouble with some of Sha'ul's teaching, but walking as children of light sounds like pretty good advice and is something we are called to do. With the help of the *Ruach*, we can.

For 300 years Enoch walked with God, and in the end "he was not, for God took him." What does that mean? Some scholars and theologians have said perhaps he simply disappeared and God put him in some other place as in "Beam me up, Scotty." However, it is worth reading about the heroes of faith in the Book of Hebrews. The reference to Enoch is found in chapter 11, verse 5 and 6. In the Revised Standard Version we read:

“By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had taken him. For it was attested, before he was taken away that he had pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God.”

The King James Version varies in that it uses the word “translated”, “by faith he was translated that he should not see death.” Is this telling us that if we walk with God we shall never die? You remember the words of Yeshua to Martha? He said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”

We know that there is a physical death because the Book of Hebrews (9:27) has told us that that “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” We are also told that Enoch was lifted up, translated, taken in order that he would not see death, but in Scripture there is more than one kind of death. Most often, when someone is talking about death, he means the cessation of the body’s existence. But there is a more serious death which is the death of the spirit. So the mind of the flesh is death, drabness, barrenness, emptiness. That sounds a little confusing, so let me put it another way. If you live a life without the Holy Spirit, that is, if you live according to the flesh, it will be a life of emptiness – a life of searching for that certain something that is missing. People think that money, or sex, or fame will fulfill their needs, and these things may satisfy the body for a while, but not the spirit. Then there is the question; “Are we living in death, even as a believer, because we are not walking with God?”

Enoch’s life could be a testimony to us that, if we walk with God, we shall not see death. Instead of drabness and dullness, we could step out daily by faith on the promises of God. As Enoch and Abraham walked by faith, so can we.

Every morning, we stand right where Abraham and Enoch stood; we can walk by faith with God. . . or not. God gives us a day, but we don’t know how long it’s going to last. We don’t even know if we will get to live another day. Every day the local news on TV usually begins with a shooting or murder, or a horrific traffic accident, or some other sudden, unexpected terrorist attack that ends a life too soon. How far is it to the end of the line for you or for me? We don’t know. But when that day comes, only what God has done will survive and only what we have done for God will count.

When we walk by faith with God, we can develop three things. 1) A continuing fellowship with the people of God. 2) Complete trust in God. 3) An appreciation for righteousness. First let us look at a continuing fellowship with the people of God. I believe this is one of the biggest blessings that we receive as we walk with God. Humans are social animals, so coming together each *Shabbat* with fellow believers is a great way to end our week, and it gives us a chance to praise the Almighty together. In addition to praising together, we can share our times of joy with powerful testimonies, and hear messages of encouragement. We can also join in with prayers when we are in need of being healed, or receive prayers of comfort when we have suffered loss. Even if we just need a pat on the back or a helping hand in any way, we know that because of our continual fellowship and love with God’s people, we will receive what we need at that exact moment. Being part of a *Chavurah* (small group), if we so

choose, is also a comforting part of our walk of faith with God. Fellow believers can meet together weekly to encourage each other in our walk of faith, and share our needs and prayers with each other. It is such an encouragement when you know that you can count on your *Chavurah* to be there with you as you continue to grow and work out your walk with God. For those who do not attend a *Chavurah*, I urge you to find one and attend if possible.

Secondly, when we walk by faith with God we can develop our complete trust in God's word. We read and study the scriptures, and then right before our eyes we see the truth of what we are reading. We can study the record of the past by what has been unearthed by archeology. I have observed that when a significant discovery is made, those who do not believe the Bible try to explain it away. But God said it, I believe it, and that settles it, and archeology confirms it. We glean great wisdom from studying Scripture because we know His word is truth and His prophets speak the truth. We can walk in faith because we know that our God is the God of truth. God told us that He is not far off, that we can know Him, and we can trust Him. If we know and trust Him, we would also love Him. There is great comfort in knowing that God is always with us and that he will never leave us nor forsake us. We can always go on because He is by our side. Life is worth the living, just because He lives.

Thirdly, when we walk by faith with God we cannot help but have a great appreciation for righteousness. Everything about faith is walking in right living, living a holy life, and living with integrity because, as we read in the Kedushah, our God is a holy God. He alone is worthy and righteous, so wouldn't we want to be just like Him? We should not be comfortable when we are in a situation where unrighteous or evil is occurring. We do not belong in that type of environment. We should always be dwelling in the heavenly atmosphere even when we are surrounded by evil. We can do this by talking with God, or focusing our minds on Him. Regardless of what we are doing, it should be about pleasing Him in our actions, conversations, and thought patterns.

In summary, this message today defined a person named Enoch, and what it means to walk with our Elohim. That means being against sin, increasing our understanding, and helping those in need. To help us do those three things, we should develop fellowship with God and with fellow believers. This will help us to develop complete trust in God, and strive toward righteousness. Enoch walked with God, was taken up, and did not see death. We may not be taken up to be with the Lord today or tomorrow, and we may taste physical death, but when that time does come, by whatever means, we want to be known as someone who walked with God. Beam me up Yeshua!!