

THE GODLY MAN ENOCH DEDICATED HIS LIFE TOTALLY TO GOD GENESIS 05:21–24

Introduction

Genesis chapter 5 is the first godly genealogy listed in the Bible, the first roots of the earth's godly heritage. How do we know this? Several facts show us.

- => The first man upon earth, Adam, who was a godly man, is listed in this genealogy; but the second man, Cain, is not listed. Why? Because Cain was an ungodly man.
- => The son of Adam who is listed is Seth (v. 3), and the son of Seth who is listed is Enos (v. 6). These sons were the godly descendants of Adam, the seed that God had appointed and set in place and through whom God had promised to send the Saviour.
- => The author of Genesis is very aware of the seed promised by God. He has already mentioned the seed (Genesis 3:15), and he knows about God's promise to Abraham, that Abraham was to bear the seed through whom the Saviour would come. The writer knows that this line of godly persons will ultimately run up to Abraham, and that God will then reaffirm His promise of the godly seed and Saviour to Abraham. The author is going to be writing about God's promise to Abraham in just a few chapters.

What the author is doing in this genealogy is this: he is listing the genealogy of the godly seed or descendants. He is showing how God appointed and set in place the godly line of people through whom He could fulfil His promise, His promise...

- that the woman's seed would always have a godly line of people
- that the woman's seed — the godly line or descendants — would eventually bear one descendent who would be the Saviour of the world (See note, Gen 3:15.)

Here we study a descendent, one godly man who dedicated his life totally to God — Enoch.

Genesis 05:21–24 Enoch Dedicated His Life Totally to God

One godly man, Enoch, dedicated his life totally to God. Even the name Enoch (Chanokh) means dedicated. It could also mean initiator and teacher. Apparently, Enoch did three significant things:

- => He *totally dedicated and committed* his life to God — again, *totally*.
- => He initiated or began a *deeper kind* of walk and life with God, a *deeper kind* of communion and fellowship with God.
- => He taught men the life and walk of total commitment to God, of unbroken communion and fellowship with God.

Enoch was a most unusual person, a person who surrendered and yielded his life completely to God, who gave up all to follow God. He apparently lived a life of total *self-control* and *self-denial*. But he was not perfect, for he was but a mere man. He was as all

other men are, sinful and mortal. Nevertheless, Enoch gave his life so completely to God — so totally — that he had a very, very special relationship with God.

Interestingly, more is said about Enoch in the New Testament than in the Old Testament. There are five passages of Scripture that deal with him. Two of these are in other genealogies that just list his name with no comment (1 Chr. 1:3; Lk. 3:37). But the other three passages tell us a great deal about Enoch.

Gen 5:21-24 *When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.*

Heb 11:5-6 *By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Jude 14-15 *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “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.”*

The Genesis passage gives us the outline of Enoch’s life. Two very significant things are said about him. (The following study on Enoch’s life is given in a broader outline because of the importance Scripture places upon his life.)

I. **ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD (vv. 21-24a)**

Scripture declares twice that “Enoch walked with God” (vv. 22, 24). Walking means forward movement, steady progress. Enoch did not walk a little and then stop or turn aside, backsliding. He was not fluctuating up and down. Enoch was genuine through and through; he was steadfast and persevering. He walked with God consistently, growing and growing more and more. What does it mean “to walk with God”? The life of Enoch shows us.

- a. To *walk with God* means that Enoch had a conversion experience. Enoch was born to sinful parents in a sinful world just like all other persons. From all indications Enoch had been living a sinful, wicked life, running around with the ungodly crowd of his day. But something happened in his life that changed him, that caused him to confess and repent of his sin — something so convicting that it aroused him to turn back to God. Something happened that stirred him to begin to live a life of self-control and self-denial. What was it?

Scripture says this: “Enoch walked with God *after* he begot Methuselah” (v.22). Note the word *after*. Scripture seems to be saying that it was after his son’s birth that Enoch

began to walk with God. Apparently, the birth of his first son struck Enoch, struck him with a deep, intense sense of responsibility for the child. Enoch was convicted...

- of his sinful, ungodly life
- of his duty to provide a godly home for his son and any other children who might come
- of his duty to lead his son to trust and follow God and to believe God's Word and promise to send the Saviour into the world

What did Enoch do when God convicted him of these things? He did exactly what every sinful and ungodly father should do: he began to "walk with God" (v. 22). Enoch repented, changed his life, and turned back to God. He turned away from sin and began to live for God. He began to live a life of self-denial and self-control. The next point clearly shows this.

Mat 18:3 And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Acts 8:22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

Acts 17:30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

2 Chr 7:14 If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Ezek 18:31 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel?

- b. To walk with God means to believe God and to be diligent in seeking after God's promises. The passage in the book of Hebrews shows this:

Heb 11:5-6 By faith Enoch ... pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Note what Enoch believed and what we must believe:

- => Enoch believed that God is, that He truly exists, that He is the only living and true God, the true Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the Lord and Master of life. Enoch knew what we must know: if God is, if God truly exists, then we owe our lives to Him. We must walk with God — follow, worship, fellowship and serve Him — with all our hearts.
- => Enoch believed that God rewards those who diligently seek after Him. This refers to the great rewards or promises of the Saviour. Enoch believed the promises of God, that God would give a godly line of people to the world and through that godly line, He would send the Saviour to the world. Enoch believed in the promise of the Saviour, the Saviour who would deliver the godly from all the corruption of sin, death and judgment to come. How do we know that Enoch believed all this about the Saviour? Because of the reference in Jude 14-15 which will be discussed in point five below.
- c. To *walk with God* means to develop an unbroken communion and fellowship with God. The phrase means to *walk about* with God, *to live* with God, to have the most intimate fellowship and communion with God. Enoch did what we should do: he sought after an unbroken fellowship and communion with God.
- => Enoch sought to keep his mind and thoughts upon God and upon the things that are true and profitable.
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.*
- => Enoch sought to cast down every imagination and to captivate every thought for God.
- 2 Cor 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*
- => Enoch sought to keep his mind upon God.
- Isa 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.*
- Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*
- Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*
- Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*
- 1 Th 5:17 Pray continually;*
- d. To “walk with God” means to live a holy and godly life, a life of separation, a life that is completely different from the sinful lives of others. This does not mean a monastic life, a life that withdraws from the world. It means that Enoch began to live a life of self-control...

- that Enoch quit doing things that were sinful, wicked, evil, and ungodly
- that Enoch started doing things that were pure, righteous, good, and godly

We know this from the fact that Enoch “walked with God” (vv. 22, 24). He walked just like God and lived just like God. He lived a holy and godly life. But we also know that Enoch lived a holy and godly life from Jude.

Jude tells us that Enoch stood against and preached against the ungodliness of his day (Jude 14-15). This is seen in the next point.

- e. To “walk with God” means to bear a strong witness and testimony for God. Again, the Jude passage shows us this fact about Enoch:

***Jude 14-15** Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “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 was a preacher, a preacher of righteousness. Note what his message was.

- 1) First, the Lord is coming with ten thousands of His saints — with all the believers who have died up to that time in history. The Lord is coming to judge the world, to execute judgment upon “all,” upon everyone who has ever lived in the world.

This is a clear reference to the coming again of Jesus Christ in judgment and this is the first reference to His coming again in Scripture. How did Enoch know about the coming of God in judgment? Did God reveal the fact in a special revelation as He was to do to future prophets? Or did God reveal the truth to Adam earlier, and then Adam taught the truth to his children and grandchildren? We do not know. But we must remember that Enoch knew and believed the promise of God concerning the coming Saviour. He knew that God was going to send the Saviour to deliver the godly from the corruption of sin, death and judgment to come. And here in Jude, he somehow knew that the Saviour was also coming in judgment.

- 2) Second, Enoch preached against the ungodly lives people were living. He was a strong and forceful witness. Note how often he uses the word ungodly: four times. He declares that the Lord is coming to convict...

- *all* the ungodly
- of *all* their ungodly deeds
- that they did in an *ungodly way*
- because they were *ungodly sinners*

Remember: most of Enoch’s audience were cousins of his, not too many generations removed from him. This shows just how strong and forceful a preacher Enoch was. It makes us wonder how many people tried to get him to tone down his message, the truth of judgment, and to concentrate on the love and care of God?

Note one other fact in the Jude reference. This was an ungodly age, an age when few people were following God and living righteous lives. This will be clearly seen in the next outline and passage of Scripture (Gen 6:1-8).

Thought 1. Was Enoch's day more ungodly than our day? The thinking and honest person has to confess that it was not much more, if any more, ungodly. Just think how wild ungodliness is running today, the awful rampage of evil in the world...

- lying
- alcohol
- hatred
- stealing
- immorality
- demonism
- killing
- greed
- witchcraft
- murder
- assaults
- materialism
- lawlessness
- injury
- secularism
- drugs
- anger
- denial or questioning of God

Thought 2. How many of us preach as strongly and forcefully as Enoch did? The love and mercy of God must, of course, always be preached and taught. But so must the coming again and judgment of God. How many people are lost because we have not warned them of coming judgment?

Mat 24:30 *“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”*

Col 1:28 *We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*

1 Th 5:14 *And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

2 Th 1:7-9 *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.*

2 Tim 4:2 *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.*

Titus 2:15 *These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.*

Heb 9:27 *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

2 Pet 2:9 *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

Rev 1:7 *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.*

Isa 58:1 “Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.”

Ezek 3:18 When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood.

Ezek 33:9 But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.

Thought 3. Note what Scripture has to say about the believer’s walk.

1) Noah walked with God.

Gen 6:9 Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

2) Abraham was required to walk before God.

Gen 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.”

3) We are all required to walk with God.

Micah 6:8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

4) We are to walk before God.

Psa 116:9 That I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

5) We are to walk after God.

Deu 13:4 It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

6) We are to follow God and walk in love.

Eph 5:1-2 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children. And live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

7) We are to walk in Christ.

Col 2:6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him.

8) We are to walk by faith, not by sight.

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

9) We are to walk in light.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

10) We are to walk in truth.

Psa 26:3 *For your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.*

Psa 27:11 *Teach me your way, LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. (See 2 Jn. 4; 3 Jn. 3).*

11) We are to walk in newness of life.

Rom 6:4 *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

12) We are to walk in the Spirit.

Gal 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

13) We are to walk worthy of our calling and vocation.

Eph 4:1 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

14) We are to walk carefully.

Eph 5:15-16 *Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise.*

15) We are to pray for God to keep us from stumbling and falling that we may walk before Him.

Psa 56:13 *For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.*

16) We are to walk as Christ walked.

1 John 2:6 *Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

17) We shall walk with Christ in heaven and be clothed in white (purity, perfection).

Rev 3:4 *Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.*

Thought 4. Note that Enoch had a large family of both sons and daughters (v. 22). A person can “walk with God” — have a close fellowship and communion with God — and be a strong minister and still be married.

II. Enoch was Translated — Taken — Into God’s Presence without Dying (v. 24)

Note what Scripture says: “He was not” (enenu) or “He was no more” (NIV) or “He was seen no more” (NEB). Scripture simply means that Enoch was translated — transferred from earth to heaven, to be with God. Enoch was transferred right into the presence of God without ever dying. The New Testament clearly tells us this:

Heb 11:5 *By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.*

B.H. Carroll has an excellent description of Enoch's experience, of what the word "translated" means:

*God translated him. This is an old Latin word, an irregular verb, and it simply means carried over or carried across. God carried him across. Across what? Across death. Death is the river that divides this world from the world to come, and here was a man that never did go through that river at all. When he got there God carried him across. God transferred him; translated him; God picked him up and carried him over and put him on the other shore. (Quoted by Arthur W. Pink. *Gleanings in Genesis*, p. 79).*

Now, why did God translate Enoch so that he would not experience death? Why did God not let him die like other men? There are at least four reasons.

- a. God translated Enoch because Enoch walked so closely with God, because Enoch lived a life of complete surrender, of complete control and self-denial. Note what Scripture says:

Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. (v. 24)

Enoch's "walking with God" is closely tied to God taking him on home to heaven. That is, the very reason for God taking Enoch on home to heaven was because Enoch walked so closely with God. Enoch had apparently gained an unbroken consciousness of God's presence, an unbroken fellowship and communion with God.

=> Enoch's "walk with God" had become so intimate and intense,

=> and Enoch longed so much for face to face fellowship with God...

.. .that God just could not leave him upon earth any longer.

Thought 1. "He did not live like the rest, so he did not die like the rest" (*Mathew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 49).

- b. God translated Enoch to demonstrate and symbolize His power to execute judgment. Enoch's generation was ungodly, and he preached a strong, aggressive message to his ungodly generation (Jude 14-15). But despite their ungodliness, God loved the people. He wanted them saved. By giving them a living demonstration of His power...

- He proved that He really exists
- He proved His power to judge the ungodly. If He could translate a person, He had the power to condemn and judge a person
- He stirred some to repent and follow God

The ungodly could hardly miss the warning.

- c. God translated Enoch to demonstrate and symbolize the promise of eternal life. Enoch believed God's promise of the godly seed, that God was going to send the

Saviour into the world. He believed that the Saviour was going to save man from sin, death and judgment, and that He was going to restore man to the perfection and eternal life Adam had known. Enoch's translation demonstrated that eternal life is a reality. Man can live forever with God.

Note this: Enoch's translation also symbolizes the resurrection of believers at the return of Christ. Enoch's translation is a picture of what God is going to do for the believer: raise him up and take him to heaven.

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

John 4:36 *“Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.”*

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 20:31 *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Gal 6:8 *The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

1 John 5:13 *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

- d. God translated Enoch to be an encouragement to other believers, both in his ungodly day and ours. God proved His promise and power to give eternal life. Enoch should stir us to press on, to believe God more strongly than ever before and to stand fast.

1 Cor 15:58 *Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

Gal 6:9 *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time He will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Phil 1:27 *Stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.*

Heb 12:1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

Acts 20:24 *However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. ■*