

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 10:03 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study of Hebrews 11:5-6

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him; he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God! And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (i.e., that He exists!) and that He rewards those who seek Him!" (Hebrews 11:5-6)

The Genesis account (Gen. 5:22-24) summarizes his life this way: "Enoch lived sixty-five years and became the father of Methuselah. Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. So, all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him!"

So why is Enoch included in the "Hall of Fame of Faith" in Hebrews 11, and what was it about his life that makes him such a great example for us about how to live?

Genesis 5 provides a brief but very interesting genealogy of the descendants of Adam, beginning with Seth, considered the "godly line" (omitting Cain, the first-born of Adam and Eve for obvious reasons) and ending 10 generations later, with Noah! Genesis 4:26 notes that with the birth of Seth's son, Enosh (not Enoch!), "men began to call upon the name of the Lord."

Nothing else is recorded about the first six generations after Adam, other than the fact that they all lived for approximately 900 years each, had other sons and daughters--and died! That is until we come to Enoch and the seventh generation! That's when we learn something astounding about Enoch! How he lived for 65 years when he became the father of Methuselah--then walked with God for 300 years before he was taken up (raptured) by God! Perhaps to spare him from an increasingly evil world! Or for reasons yet to be revealed!

But there's more to his story! Interestingly, the name he gave to his son (Methuselah) means "when he dies, judgment"! Somehow Enoch must have prophetically known of a coming judgment"--a global flood that would essentially destroy the world that God had made! (Maybe through special revelation during his "walk with the Lord"!)

There was also the implication that this divine wrath would not fall until after Methuselah died!

Which may explain why God allowed him to live so long!

All this fits together when we realize the conditions of the world during those days and why God would bring about this judgment! Genesis 6:5 says: "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually! The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth!" Wow! And thus, God's plan to bring about the flood!

Interestingly, if you do the math of the genealogies in Genesis 5, you find that Methuselah died in the same year as the flood! Presumably before the onslaught of the flood! And that, at age 967, he was the oldest man who ever lived! All of which appears to demonstrate the patience and graciousness of our God! II Peter 3:9 says: "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance!"

But there's more! During this time of God's holding off the day of judgment--during those evil days--Enoch was not only "walking with God" but also a preacher of righteousness and judgment! Jude 14-15 records how Enoch "prophesied" how God would "execute judgment...for all the ungodly of all the ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him!" Lots of ungodly stuff!

Did Enoch's "walk with the Lord"--and his preaching--have any effect on his world (and on our world)? Well, apparently so! Enoch's influence must have been passed on to Methuselah and Lamech and, finally, to Noah! Genesis 6:8 says: "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord!" Wow, in the midst of an incredibly evil culture! And further, that "Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time!" And obviously so different from the world at-large! And, most importantly, that "Noah walked with God!" When it wasn't fashionable! And thus, the human race was preserved--and given another shot!

There are quite a few verses in the Bible encouraging us to walk with the Lord! I John 1:7 says that "...but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." Galatians 5:16: "But I (Peter) say: walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." And, one of my favorite verses in the Bible: "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not be weary!"

Back in the 70's and 80's I used to listen to the morning radio broadcasts of Dr. Robert Cook, President of Kings College, in Briarcliffe, New York, (as well as one of the co-founders, along with Billy Graham and others, of Youth for Christ International)! He always offered practical wisdom and inspiring words encouraging his listeners to know and follow the Lord! It greatly influenced my life! What I remember most, however, is that he always closed his broadcast with the words: "Walk with the Lord, today! And be a blessing!"

Like Enoch!

More about this next week when we consider the life of Noah, who also walked with the Lord!

And so, men, walk with the Lord this week, and be a blessing!

Lowell