

Genesis 5:21-24

Walking With God

Have you ever tried to read through the Bible, and everything was going fine until you got to those long lists of unpronounceable names and you gave up?

To many people the genealogies are an enigma. Why would God spend valuable time in his Word telling us about so many people? Why even name these individuals that we know so little about?

Well first of all we need to remember that *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* II Timothy 3:16

The genealogies are just as inspired as the 23rd Psalm or John chapter 3.

We're in a study of the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis. The fifth chapter of Genesis is a genealogy. It's a list of the descendants of Adam down to the time of Noah and the flood.

Last week we saw that chapter 4 tells about the ungodly descendants of Adam. Well chapter 5 gives us the other side. It tells us that there were godly ones too.

God inspired Moses to organize Genesis around 10 major sections all introduced by the word "genealogy."

Open you Bible to Genesis 5 and notice verse 1

That word translated "genealogy" *toledoth*, comes from a root meaning "to bear" or "to beget." And so what we have in each of these 10 major sections is a history. And here the history of Adam's family from Adam to Noah is given.

Something unique about verse one and this historical record of Adam's descendents is the use of the word "book." *Sepher* in Hebrew means "a written document." In Deuteronomy 24 it's used for a "bill of divorce." As long as a document is complete in itself the word *sepher* applies.

This implies that Moses had a written record of Adam's descendents in hand when he

wrote Genesis. So, he wasn't just relying on word of mouth information. If that's accurate then this would be the oldest written document in all of human history. And what is it about? It is a record of the godly descendants of Adam.

This is the real study of Adam that God deems important. The other ungodly descendents of Adam in chapter 4 aren't described as the *toledoth* of Adam because they represent the seed of the serpent, not the seed of the woman

Chapter 5 gives us those though whom God would work to bring us the last Adam, Jesus Christ.

If we were writing we probably would have left all those names out. But the Holy Spirit through Moses wanted to teach us some things about God through them.

And here's some things we can learn.

#1 God's more interested in people than anything else in creation. He'll take a couple of verses to tell us how the world came into being, but pages and pages to describe his people by name.

Think about this, God knows those that are his personally. If you have come to Him by faith God knows you and your name's in His book. You're name may not make CNN or Fox news but God's personally interested in you.

#2. God always has a people. Sometimes at work, or in the neighborhood, or at school we might begin to feel like we are the only believer around. But God has His people and God is faithful to each one of them.

When some cult group members show up on your doorstep and tell you that God's truth was lost for centuries and they've rediscovered it, don't believe it. God has always had His people.

#3. These genealogies point to the fact that God is interested in families. It shows how much influence parents have spiritually on their children. Righteousness is something that is to be passed on from one generation to another. No wonder the Satan is obsessed with splitting up families.

#4. Probably the most important lesson of all is that a genealogy like Genesis 5 teaches the faithfulness of God to his promises.

God promised a deliverer to Adam and Eve to crush the serpent's head and God would provide one.

Isn't it exciting to know that, that the God of the universe is our God. That He is able to work no matter how evil and confusing the days become.

Most of this genealogy in Genesis 5 deals with people we know little about. You know what I'm looking forward to? The day when we get to heaven and meet these people and find out all about their lives.

But there is one man, mentioned right in the middle of this genealogy that we read about both in the old and the New Testaments.

His name was Enoch. Enoch was a man who was known to walk with God.

Most of the others in this genealogy are only mentioned once in the Bible. Enoch is mentioned in 5 different references.

Two do nothing but mention his name, so we won't look at those this morning, but the other three tell us a lot about the character of this man.

The first thing I want us to see about Enoch is that he lived, just like you and I do, in evil days.

I. Enoch Lived In Evil Days

Hold your place in Genesis 5 and turn with me to **New Testament book of Jude page 1087 Read verses 14-15**

Enoch was the first recorded prophet and he spoke out clearly against ungodliness. Enoch lived just about 700 years before the flood. The Bible says at this time *The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* Genesis 6:5

It's significant that Jude identifies Enoch as being the seventh from Adam. And I think he does that for two reasons.

First, there is another Enoch spoken of about this time and that is the son of Cain.

The Enoch who descended from Adam through the line of Seth was a godly man. He's the Enoch we are studying. The Enoch who descended from Adam through the line of Cain was a godless guy.

So Jude's identification of Enoch as the seventh from Adam is a way of distinguishing between the two.

James Boice writes, "It's as if God is saying, I want you to follow Enoch but I don't want you to get confused. I don't mean the Enoch who is in the 4th chapter of Genesis, the 3rd from Adam. That is the ungodly Enoch. I mean the Enoch who was the 7th from Adam."

There is also a second reason for Jude identifying Enoch as being the 7th from Adam and that is the contrast between him and Lamech.

The main character in the genealogy of the ungodly seed of Cain in chapter 4 is Lamech. He is the one that apparently typifies those who didn't walk with God. Lamech was also the seventh from Adam, so Lamech and Enoch are contemporaries, but what a difference. Lamech was a polygamist, a braggart and a murderer. He even wrote a song about one of his murders, that he sang to his wives.

Enoch, really lived during evil days. And God, in the Bible, wanted us to be constantly reminded of the contrast.

It's God's Enoch that we're supposed to pattern ourselves after. Satan will always have his people, his examples, his servants.

But God has His and He shows us the testimony of his servants who lived in evil days so we might see the difference and the ultimate end of those who reject God and follow evil.

I. Enoch Lived In Evil Days

II. Enoch Was A Preacher Of Righteousness

Enoch lived in evil days. But Enoch wasn't an evil man. He was a man with a message. That message had two parts; the Lord is coming, and evil will be judged.

Isn't it interesting that the first prophecy given through a human being concerned the second coming of Jesus Christ. His first coming was a long way off in the future but

Enoch was already predicting His second coming.

But then, not only is the first human prophecy about Jesus' second coming so is the last prophecy in the Bible. Revelation 22:20 *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

From beginning to end God has given predictions about the return of Jesus Christ in judgment. The world around us may scoff at the concept, but God wants his people to know that His judgment is sure.

We are never told how effective Enoch's preaching was but we do know he had an influence on his own family.

One thing is certain, he didn't mince words in his messages. He called things as he saw them. In two verses he uses the word "ungodly" 4 times. His was an ungodly age just like ours is today.

His day was evil, but basically no different from the world in 2008.

When I think of that description in chapter 6 where God says, *Every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continuously*, I can't help but apply that to our age in which we live.

Every news report is filled with stories of all kinds of evil. It's as if we're so immersed in evil that it's almost impossible for some people to think and act with any sense of morality.

What would Enoch say if he were here today? I think his message would be the same as it was back then. "God will judge the ungodly."

In Enoch's day God did return in judgment with a flood that destroyed the world. In our day the stage is set for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Jesus came the first time in meekness and humility to bring salvation. The Bible says He's going to come again in wrath to bring judgment to convict the ungodly of their ungodliness.

We don't know if Enoch had much interaction with other believers but we do know he lived in the midst of all kinds of people who were definately anti-God.

How did he do it? How come he didn't give up? He battled against his own generation in the same way that Noah battled against his. He let them know that they were ungodly, and he let them know God was going to judge them. But he didn't preach because he enjoyed the concept of judgment. He told people of his generation the truth because he loved God and he wanted to warn people so they could avoid judgment.

God was pleased with Enoch. He stood out because his faith wasn't something he just felt in his heart. It was heard on his lips and seen in his life. His faith was active and vocal.

Let's go back to Genesis 5

I. Enoch Lived In Evil Days

II. Enoch Was A Preacher Of Righteousness

III. Enoch Walked With God

Read verses 21-24

Moses gives us kind of a "bare bones" description of Enoch's life. He doesn't tell us he was a preacher, or any thing about his confrontations with the ungodly. But he does tell us something very important. Twice we are told "Enoch walked with God."

Now Adam and Eve walked with God in the Garden of Eden. They saw God face to face. They talked with God.

Enoch walked with God in a different way. When Adam and Even sinned and were banished from the Garden they still had a relationship with God but it was radically different than before.

Enoch was a sinful human being like all of us so that he couldn't look upon God and live. The only way we can see God in this life is in a veiled form where God kind of hides his glory from us.

When Genesis says that Enoch walked with God it is using the term "walk" in the same way the New Testament does. It has to do with living life.

Enoch lived a godly life. He walked with God. That implies several things.

The first thing is reconciliation. Adam and Eve accepted the provision that God made for their sin. While things weren't totally the same, they did have a restored relationship with God.

If Enoch walked with God he was a believing man. He wasn't trusting in himself and rebelling against God.

As Adam's descendents we're born at enmity with God. God doesn't need to be reconciled to us we need to be reconciled to Him. God has never moved away from us. He has always been there ready to forgive if we will only trust Him.

Because of his faith Enoch was reconciled to God and because he was reconciled to God he also walked with God.

A second truth implied in Enoch's walk with God is holiness. God's very nature is holiness. He is of purer eyes than to look upon sin.

God doesn't walk outside the path of holiness. The Bible says, *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.* I John 1:6

So Enoch was a believer, reconciled to God, and a holy man who could communicate openly with a holy God.

A 3rd thing of walking with God implies is faith. **Look with me at the 3rd biblical passage that mentions Enoch, Hebrews 11, page 1069**

Read verses 5, 6.

The only people who walk with God are people who walk by faith.

In the book of Proverbs we're commanded *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.* Proverbs 3:5,6

To walk by faith means that we believe God when he tells us what we should do and how to do it, even if His way doesn't completely mesh with our understanding.

Enoch's testimony was that he pleased God. He was a man of faith.

It gets tough when the culture is going one way and your trying to go the other. It's like swimming against the current, or swimming upstream.

Some of the people around Enoch must have though he was a fool. Sometimes the same thing will happen to us when we believe God and live in obedience to him regardless of how it looks.

I was doing premarital counseling with a couple who had been living together for a couple of years. We went over God's plan for sexual purity and I said this, "You can't undo the past but with God there's always the opportunity for a fresh start."

"If you want the best for your marriage relationship then he should move to another bedroom and you should refrain from sexual contact until your wedding night."

The couple willingly agreed.

The woman was a new believer and she got so excited about what they were doing she went into work and tried to explain it to the other women she worked with.

Of course they were all supportive right? They told her, "Your crazy. What's the matter with you? You've gone off the deep end."

Living God's way doesn't always fit with our cultures way, but let me tell you, no one ever got to the end of their life and said, "Oh, I wish I would have done life my way instead of God's way."

II Corinthians 5:7 says *we walk by faith and not by sight* and that's what Enoch did.

And then there's a 4th implication of the phrase "Enoch walked with God" and its' a surrendered will.

Walking with God implies a surrendered will because God doesn't force himself on anyone. He only offers himself. In and of ourselves, of course, we wouldn't be willing to do anything God's way, but God draws us and opens us to His wisdom to bring our will into conformity with his will.

But there comes a point in which we either say "yes" or "no" to God.

Enoch said "yes" to God. And to really be classified as walking with God our will has to be surrendered in love.

It wasn't a matter of Enoch saying, "Ok Lord, I'll submit my plans and desires and will to you in obedience, but I'll hate every minute of it. I'm just doing this because I have to."

Walking with God implies willingness. It implies a glad obedience out of a heart of love for God. II John 6 says *This is love, that we walk according to His commandments.*

If Enoch walked with God, it was clearly because he wasn't fighting God. His joy in life was to walk as God directed him.

If you'll turn back to Genesis 5 again, you will see something very significant about Enoch's walk with God.

This walk wasn't some temporary, casual stroll. **Read verse 22**

We've already seen how the climatic conditions before the flood, and the lack of genetic impurities at the early part of human existence allowed people to live much longer than they do today.

Enoch lived 365 years all total and for at least 300 of those years he walked with God. That means Enoch's walk wasn't a sprint or a quick run. It was a steady, deliberate, life-long walk.

Almost anyone can run for a short time, or a short distance, but no one can do it continually. For the long haul you need to walk.

God's not looking for shooting stars. God's not looking for people who make a big splash and then disappear or fizzle out.

William Carey, who's know as "The Father of Modern Missions," spent 40 years in India in the end of the 1700's. By the time he died, his mission printed and distributed the Bible in whole or part in 44 languages and dialects.

William Carey said this about himself. "I'm a plodder."

Walking with God takes steady faithful people who know God and are coming to know Him better and better each day.

What made Enoch so conscious of the ungodliness of his generation? What prompted him to preach so strongly against it?

It was because he walked with God. And what's always the result of walking with God? A growth in holiness which allows us to understand the true nature of ungodliness.

The two always go together. If you walk with God you will be opposed to sin. But if you don't walk with God sin won't seem so bad to you and you'll inevitably accommodate yourself to it.

If you're not walking with God then you'll call sin "failure" or a "mistake". You'll call pride "self esteem" selfishness "fulfillment" and lust "instinct."

People cheat in business and call it "part of the game, protecting interests." They cheat in marriage and call it an "affair" nothing serious.

God isn't fooled by our hypocrisy. He still calls sin "sin."

You and I will never grow in holiness until we see sin for what it is and call it by its proper name. And we'll never learn to do that unless we walk with God. It's when we walk with Him, that we learn to see life through His eyes and call things by God's vocabulary.

I. Enoch Lived In Evil Days

II. Enoch Was A Preacher Of Righteousness

III. Enoch Walked With God

IV. Enoch Was Transferred Into The Presence Of God

Read verses 23, 24

Enoch walking with God is mentioned twice in Genesis 5 and when the statement occurs the second time in verse 24 it is for the purpose of Moses astounding statement ... *Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took Him.*

The reason that God took him was because he walked with God.

The New Testament commentary on this is the verse we already looked at in Hebrews 11:5 *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because*

God had taken him."

God took Enoch as if to show that he was an example of a human being who had fulfilled his destiny. (He had done what we were created for in the first place.) And as if to show that he was a type of what would be the destiny of all mankind might have been if sin had never entered the world.

The Greek verb translated "taken away" in Hebrews is *metatithemi*. *Meta* means "another" and *tithemi* is the verb "to place." It means "put in another spot."

Death is the gap, the gulf that divides this life from the next. It's the river that separates this world from the world to come.

Standard procedure is you don't get to the next life without passing through the river, but Enoch was an exception. When he got there God carried him across. God transferred him, picked him up and put him over on the other shore.

Enoch was walking by faith one moment and walking by sight the next.

We don't know why it was that God waited over 300 years before taking Enoch. Maybe it was to allow sufficient time for him to speak God's truth to the hardened, unbelieving generation in which he lived.

Actually we don't know why God took Enoch in that unusual way at all. Maybe it was to spare him further persecution and ridicule, which he was bound to have experienced. Maybe it was because God enjoyed Enoch's companionship so much that He wanted it to be even closer than it was.

As one man put it, God and Enoch had simply been out walking and God said to Enoch "Let's not go back to your place tonight, why don't you just come home with me?" And so he did.

Martin Luther has fun with this idea in his commentary on Genesis. He imagines the effect this translation of Enoch must have had on his friends. His father, grandfather and son must have all been very upset. They probably organized a search party to find out what happened to him.

I'm sure Enoch wasn't the most popular guy around always calling the descendants of Cain ungodly. Maybe he had been killed like Abel and buried secretly.

At last they learn through God's revelation what really happened, Enoch was taken by God into heaven.

Luther then gives us the reason why he thinks God took Enoch. It was "to show that death is not the end but rather that there has been prepared and set aside for men another and also a better life than this present one that is replete with so many misfortunes and evils."

"Enoch was God's testimony to the fact that those who walk with God in this life will also walk with God in a better life hereafter, thanks to the future work of the promised seed."

That was the hope of those believers in God who lived before the flood. Not that they wouldn't die, but that they would be with God eternally if they would come to Him in faith. Enoch showed the truth of life with God.

Our hope is pictured by what happened to Enoch too. For us Enoch is a beautiful picture of believers who will be taken up directly to heaven when Jesus returns for the church.

Just as Enoch was transferred to heaven without dieing, believers who are alive at the rapture will be caught up too.

What God did for Enoch, he can and will do for a whole generation of believers at the rapture. God has promised:

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. I Corinthians 15:51-52

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. I Thessalonians 5:16-17

If Jesus Christ should return for His people today would you be caught up without dying to join Him?

You can be sure. Place your faith in the Son of God, believing that He died for you, and that He rose again. Trust the Lord Jesus as your Savior and you can look forward with confidence to His coming.

And for those of you who are believers and have received Christ, are you walking with God? Is it going to be a shock to you to be caught up into the presence of God and to stand in the shadow of His holiness? Or is it going to be a natural transition like it was for Enoch?

Walk with God now in holiness, submitting your will to His in loving obedience and there won't be any culture shock when you meet him face to face. You'll just take a step from this life into the next, and the only thing that will change will be that your faith was turned to sight.