

ENOCH'S HEAVEN

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HEBREWS 11:5

JUDE 14,15

This first book in the Bible, the book of Genesis, is a book of biographies because God is interested in man. Thank God for that because it shows that He is interested in you and me. Because He is interested in man, He works in man to make man what He wants him to be. God has revealed His mind towards man. What did He originally design or purpose for man? What has He been doing in the lives of men? What will He ultimately, eventually get in man? Because of God's work in them, we see in each of these eight persons a symbol, a sign, a trademark that comes out of their life. By knowing the signs and symbols of God's work in these eight men, it will help us to know the work of God.

In the first man, Adam, there is the tree because God's purpose for man is the tree of life. God wants man whom He created to receive His own life into himself and thus be united with God in life. This is God's intention for man. In the second person, Abel, the symbol is sacrifice. Because of the sin of man, man was driven from the face of God and there is only one way that man can return to God. That is through sacrifice; not just any kind of sacrifice, but the sacrifice that God has ordained, even a lamb. Through the blood of the lamb, Abel offered a more excellent sac-

rifice than Cain and because of this he was accepted. If we, who are sinners, want to be accepted by God, there is only one way. We must have that more excellent sacrifice, which is our Lord Jesus. How He died on the cross as the Lamb of God for the sins of this world!

The third person in the book of Genesis is Enoch. In the whole Bible, there are only a few verses about Enoch. There are a few verses in Genesis 5, a few verses in Hebrews 11, and a few verses in Jude. That is all you will find in the whole Bible. Yet, in these few verses, there is a volume of thought of what God did in this life and what was expressed through this life to the glory of God.

THE GENERATIONS OF ADAM

At the beginning of Genesis 5 it says, "This is the book of Adam's generations." Here is the genealogy, the book of the generations of Adam, the book of the generations of man. First there was Adam. After Adam there was Cain, Abel, and Seth; then generation after generation. As a matter of fact, the book of the generations of Adam does not stop at Genesis 5. It goes on even into our day because, so far as mankind is concerned, all men came from Adam.

What do you find in that book of the generations of Adam? One generation succeeds another generation. Man was born, man lived, man begot sons and daughters, and man died. Generation after generation is the same description. So-and-so

was born, he lived, he begot sons and daughters, and then he died. Then so-and-so was born, he lived, he begot sons and daughters, and then he died. Every generation just repeats itself. This is the history of the generations of Adam; this is the history of man. One day you are born, you live, you beget sons and daughters, and then you die. Or to simplify it: you live and you die. You were born and you will die. That is the history of mankind. What a sad history it is!

I like to visit cemeteries. As Ecclesiastes says in 7:2: "It is much better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting." When I visit cemeteries, I like to read the tombstones. There are two things that are always on the tombstones. One is that so-and-so was born in a certain year, certain month, and certain day. The other thing is that he died in a certain year, certain month, and certain day. On some tombstones they put lots of junks there (*sic*). But if you conclude them, invariably these two things are always there: date of birth and death. Isn't it sad? People may put lots of things on their tombstones, such as the great achievements they have done while in life. But when God wrote the epitaph, when God wrote upon the tombstones of man, what do you find? You find nothing! All you find is birth and death, lived and died. In other words, when the Holy Spirit wrote on the tombstones of mankind, He had nothing to

write about man. All He could write was that man was born and he died. That was all. Nothing was worthwhile. Maybe in the eyes of man, some people have done great things, but in the eyes of God, nothing has eternal value. There is nothing to be mentioned, nothing to be recorded. That is the history of mankind. Man under sin has done nothing worthwhile to be recorded in heaven. All that is recorded is that he was born and he died; that is the history of man.

It is very depressing when you read Genesis 5 if you understand what it means. But thank God, in that chapter suddenly you find something different. There was a man whose name was Enoch. He lived, yes. He was born and lived 65 years and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah he continued on to live 300 more years and begot sons and daughters. All the years of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God and he was not, for God took him. In other words, in the history of mankind generation after generation was just no different—born, lived, begot, and died. But suddenly, here was a man who was born, who lived, who begot, but he did not die. He was raptured. He was taken by God alive. He overcame death. Now that is good news! Certainly it should catch our attention, and we would like to know this man. Who is he? What kind of man is he? Why is it that he overcame death?

WHO WAS ENOCH?

Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam. He came from the godly line of Seth. You remember Adam had two lines of descendants. One was the line of Cain, the wicked, evil line. The other line was Seth, which is the godly line, and Enoch came from the godly line of Seth. He lived 65 years during which he lived just like other so-called good people, but there was nothing recorded by God. He just lived. He existed for 65 years. Then he begot a son, Methuselah, and after he begot a son something happened. His life was completely changed. He walked with God for 300 years, and God took him.

We would like to know what made this change. Before he got his son, Methuselah, Enoch lived, maybe a good life from the eyes of man, but nothing different. He was not wicked, but he was not spiritual either. He walked by himself. Probably, sometimes he would ask God to come and walk with him. But suddenly, after he begot Methuselah, his whole life style was changed. He began to walk with God, not asking God to walk with him, but he walked with God. What happened?

WHAT CAUSED ENOCH'S CHANGE?

According to the sacred record, Methuselah was the person who lived the longest life in the world. He lived 969 years, almost a thousand years. In China, according to our legend, the person who lived the longest

life was Peng Zu, who lived 800 years, not quite as long as Methuselah. Methuselah lived a long life—969 years. But if you compute it, do you know that in the very year that Methuselah died, the flood came? Evidently, at the birth of Methuselah, Enoch received a revelation. God revealed to him that when this son dies, the judgment will come; when this son dies, something terrible is going to happen. God gave him revelation at the birth of that child. And when Enoch received that revelation, it transformed his whole outlook. Before that, he was probably just living for himself. He came from the godly seed, but he just lived for himself and sometimes asked God to come to walk with him. But when God gave him the revelation that in the year that Methuselah, his son, should die, judgment would come upon this earth, he feared God. By faith he began to walk with God for 300 years. That revelation transformed his life.

Do we have such revelation? As we look into the history of man today, it is no different than Genesis 5, generation after generation. We do not know exactly how many generations mankind has existed upon this earth. (Now forgive me for mentioning China because China is an old country.) According to our Chinese history, we often trace our history back to the Emperor. Then, according to our Chinese history we have a little over 100 generations. I have met a man who was the 100th generation

from his forefather. But no matter how many generations have passed, generation succeeds generation, and the history has not changed. Even in our day, the generation before us lived, begot sons and daughters, and died. Now, in our generation, we live, we will beget sons and daughters, and we will die. It is the same story.

Is there no exception? Can there be no exception? Are you expecting something different? Certainly we are living at the end of the very end of our age. According to the word of God we have great expectations. On the one hand, we know by the word of God, that the day will soon come when God will judge this world. Enoch received such a revelation that one day God would judge the world, the flood would come, and his son was a sign. Oh, I wonder what Enoch would think if his son suddenly had a fever, because on the day that he died, something would happen. He had that revelation, and it changed his life.

Do we have a similar revelation from the word of God? Do we not see that the end of this age is approaching? Do we not see that, because the sin of this world is such that it is almost full, God is going to judge this world? Judgment is coming upon this world and maybe in our lifetime. As the Bible says, when people think of what is going to happen they are so frightened. But to us the Lord said, "Lift up your head for your redemption draweth nigh." In other words, we have great expectation. We know that

judgment is coming upon this world, but thank God, we have a hope that we may be raptured. We may go alive without passing through death, as Enoch did. But when Enoch received that revelation he changed his life style.

Do we have this revelation? Mentally we may all have this kind of knowledge. We can even talk about it: "The world is coming to an end. The Lord is coming soon. Judgment will come upon this earth." As you look around, it seems closer and closer. We have this knowledge, but does that affect our life style? Do we still go on living as usual? We walk our own way. It is not bad, but it is just living as we lived before. Or is it that such a revelation comes to us and really transforms us? It changes our life style, and because of the soon coming judgment we begin to walk with God.

How many of God's people today are earth dwellers? Now it is true, we are still on this earth. The Lord said, "You are not of the world. You are in the world but you are not of the world." Because He has called us out of the world, we are strangers and sojourners upon this earth. We are just passing by. We know that this world is not eternal. We are looking for a city with foundations that God has built, just like Abraham, like Isaac, like Jacob. They were looking for a city, a country, a better country that God has built. We are strangers, sojourners, passers-by, but how often we forget. How often we become

earth dwellers, rooted and grounded in this earth. We begin to seek for the things of this world just like other people. We forget that we are just passing by; we begin to make this our home. We begin to love the world. We begin to live for ourselves. If we do, then when the day shall come, we shall be caught unaware. The Lord has warned us already. He has already given us the revelation. He has shown us that the world is passing by and judgment is coming upon this earth. Oh, how we need to rise up and begin to walk with God!

AGREE WITH GOD

How can a person walk with God? In Amos 3:3, the prophet says, "Shall two walk together except they agree?" In other words, you cannot walk together if you do not agree. If I want to walk south and you want to walk north, how can we walk together? If we want to walk together we have to agree. And if we agree, then we walk together. If we want to walk together with God, remember it is not that God walks with us, it is that we walk with God. If you want to walk with God, you have to agree with Him. Do you agree with Him that the judgment is coming upon this world? Or do you think that the world is getting better and better, like some people who are building the Millennial upon this earth? Do you agree with God that His purpose is to bring all things under the feet of His own beloved Son, that His Son shall have the first place in all things?

Do you agree with God in His will? If you do, what will you do? You will have to abandon yourself and take the will of God to be your will, His mind to be your mind, His purpose to be your purpose. Only then can you walk with God.

The problem with us today is that we do not agree with God. Sometimes we agree with Him when it happens that He agrees with us. But most of the time we do not agree because we have our own will, we want to do our own things, and we have our own plans. We just want God to come along and help us. That is why we do not walk with God. If we want to walk with God, we have to yield our will to God's will. God does not want us to have no will. He makes us with a will. He wants us to exercise our will. He does not want us to have a passive will. He wants us to have an active will, to actively will His will. That is cooperation. God wants us to agree with Him, and if we agree with Him, then we are able to walk with Him. Do you agree with Him? Are you willing to lay down yourself and take His will as your will? Take His mind as your mind? If you do, you will be walking with Him. That is the first condition.

TAKE GOD'S YOKE

If you want to walk with God, you have to take His yoke upon you. In Matthew 11 the Lord said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and you shall find rest in your soul." To walk with God is a life of

discipline. The very name *Enoch* in the original means "discipline" or "devoted." Enoch was a man of discipline. He lived a disciplined life. He put his neck under the yoke of God with Christ.

The yoke has two kinds of curves. Christ is under one curve and you are to be put under the other curve. Then you yoke together with Christ. The yoke is the will of God and Christ is meek and lowly. Oh, how he accepted the will of God, the discipline of God! He is so disciplined there is no resistance, only active cooperation, one hundred percent willingness. But we are not like that. We fight against God's will. That is where discipline comes in. We need to be disciplined. As we accept His discipline, then we are able to walk together with Him.

What God's people need today is discipline. In Hebrews 12, you find that a father chastens his son. Our heavenly Father treats us as His own sons and because of this He disciplines us, He chastens us. That word *discipline* or *chasten* in the original simply means "child training." He "child trains" us. He trains us that we may grow into maturity. It is only when we are willing to accept the discipline of the Lord that we are able to walk with Him. If we always want to have our own way, if we always gratify our own flesh, if we throw off discipline, we think that being disciplined is not being free. We want our own liberty and then we are not able

to walk with Him.

WALK BY FAITH

If we want to walk with Him, we have to walk by faith not by sight. Enoch walked with God and he pleased God. There is no one that can please God unless he believes that God is and He is the rewarder of them who seek Him. Enoch had faith in God. He believed in God's word. He believed in God's revelation. He believed that judgment was coming and he believed that God is a rewarder of them who seek Him. If he should seek God with all his heart, God would reward him by taking him out, without passing through death, or through the flood. He walked by faith.

If we want to walk with God we have to believe. You cannot walk by your own feeling. You cannot walk by sight, by what you see. You have to walk by faith because you have seen the invisible. Do we believe that God is? Do we believe that He is the great I AM? Do we believe that He is everything to us?

The Scripture says that you must believe He is. He is what? Another way to put it is that He is the great I AM. I Am what? "I AM that I AM." In other words, God is everything. We have to believe that He is everything and He will reward those that seek Him. If we have such faith, we will be able to walk with Him.

PLEASE GOD

Fourth, Enoch pleased God and God took him. Actually, the Holy Spirit puts it in different ways. In the Old Testament, in

Genesis 5 it says, "Enoch walked with God and God took him." But in Hebrews 11, the Holy Spirit changed the words. Instead of saying Enoch walked with God, He said, "Enoch pleased God." In other words, to walk with God is to please God, to please God is to walk with God. And because Enoch pleased God, God took him.

Can we please God? Is it our life purpose to please God? Whom do we want to please? Are we men pleasers? Are we self pleasers? Or are we God pleasers? Have you ever thought of this? Whom are you pleasing? Whom do you like to please most? Are we able to please God?

You may think that to please God must be very difficult because God is so perfect. How can you please Him? There is one person who has pleased Him, well pleased Him. Do you remember? Three times the heavens opened and a voice came from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." It is our Lord Jesus. When He was on earth, He pleased the Father in all things. And God said, "I am well pleased. I am so satisfied. I am delighted with Him." And do you know that, in Christ, we can please Him too.

To put it simply, we can please Him by walking with Him. If you walk with Him you will please Him. God wants walking companions. God is always walking on. In the Bible you never find that God runs, except one case. In a parable in Luke 15, when the prodigal son

came back, he stood afar off and dared not take another step. He wondered. He looked at himself in rags. He was not like a son. He was thinking that maybe his father would receive him as a slave, a servant. But even that, he doubted. After he came back from a far country and saw his own father's house, he could not move anymore. He stood afar off. The elderly father was at the door, and he saw his son way off, standing there. And you know what he did? He ran to him. That is the only place in the Bible that in a sense speaks of God running.

THE ONGOING OF GOD

God never runs. He is never in haste. We are always in haste, but God is never in haste. In the Bible it says that God walks. Walking means that He will just take a step at a time, but it is very steady, it is continuous. And He is walking towards His goal. He never stays put. He never runs. He neither delays nor hastens, but He walks on and on and on and on. The ongoing of God is a tremendous thing in the Bible. God is always going on. In one sense, God is perfect; therefore, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. But on the other hand, so far as God's purpose is concerned, He is always walking on and on towards His purpose.

In the Bible you find the same thing with our Lord Jesus. One day, when the disciples were rowing in a boat in the night, there was a storm and our Lord Jesus was walking on the

water. Was the Lord Jesus walking towards the boat? No. He was passing by. They had to call Him back. He was always going on. Remember also when He was resurrected, He appeared to two men going to Emmaus? The Lord was always walking on. They had to ask Him to stay. It is the on-going of God. God always walks on. Are we walking on with God?

In our Christian life sometimes people make a dash and then they disappear. Our walking with God is so sporadic. Sometimes we rush and then we stay put, or even go back, but not Enoch. He walked with God. It was a steady step for 300 years. He never let up, never hastened, but just steadily walked with God.

This is what we need. We need to walk with God. The only preparation for the judgment that is to come upon this world is to walk with God. It is not storing food. It is not buying guns. It is not going to the desert. It is walking with God. That is the best preparation to escape the things that are coming and to stand before the Son of Man. Just walk with God. God does not expect you to make a 100-yard dash. God wants you to just walk steadily with Him, day by day. Walking is a daily matter. Walking is practical living.

WALKING WITH GOD

The secret of walking is abiding. Abiding is the secret within and walking is the outward expression, but we need

that practical walking with God. In our lives we need to walk with God. In the Scriptures you find a number of places that speak of walking with God. For instance, in Psalms it says, "Walk in the light of His countenance." To walk with God means to walk in the light of His countenance. This thought is found again in I John: "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son cleanses us from all our sins." To walk with God means to walk in the light of His countenance. To walk with God means you see His face. Now you cannot see His face if you are too far away. You see His face when you are very close to Him. The light of His countenance shines upon you and you walk in the light as He is in the light. That is walking with God.

Walking with God is to keep His commandments. If we keep His commandments then we walk with Him.

Walking with God is to walk in love because God is love. Therefore if we walk in love, we walk with God.

Walking with God is to walk in truth. If we walk in truth, then we walk with God because He is truth.

Walking with God is to walk with Him according to His character. Walking with God is to do His will.

Walking with God is to

abandon ourselves to Him. That is walking with God.

Are we walking with God? God is not expecting you to do something spectacular. Our problem is that we always think in terms of spectacular, as if Christian life is just something spectacular. In one sense, it is always supernatural; that is true. But in another sense, it is a daily matter. Daily we learn to deny ourselves. Daily we learn to take up our cross and do His will. Daily we learn to yield ourselves to Him and obey Him. We learn to do His commandments. We learn to walk in the light that He has given us and be obedient. We learn to walk in truth and we learn to walk in love because He is love. In our daily life it has to be a steady step by step walking with Him. We are to be His walking companion.

"And Enoch walked with God for three hundred years and God took him." It is almost as if Enoch walked and walked and walked with God until suddenly He found that he walked to heaven. He is there, the end of the journey. And if you walk with God today, suddenly you will find that He took you.

Oh, there is nothing that encourages my heart more than what the Scriptures say: "As the days of Noah so shall be the days of the coming of the Son of Man" (see Matthew 24). It says that suddenly, when people were unaware, the flood came. There are two sleeping, one is taken, one is left. Two women are

grinding the meal, one is taken, and one is left. Two are working in the field, one is taken and one is left. And the Lord said, "Watch, pray, and be ready."

What does it mean? Two is the number of witness—by the mouth of two or three, everything is certain. So here you find two and these two refer to Christians, not to unbelievers. Two are sleeping—that is night; two are grinding—that is early morning; two are working in the field—that is daytime. It is because the earth is round. In some places it is night. In other places it is morning. In other places it is noontime.

Actually, it is two, the same two representing Christians who are living at the time of the coming of the Lord. It refers to us. We are living at such a time. It is true that judgment is coming upon this earth, but we can escape, not to the desert but by being raptured. When the day comes, one is taken. Who is taken? The one who walked with God. You walk and walk and you find you are leaving the earth more and more until you are there. That is the way to walk.

Thank God for this blessed hope! I often tell people, I am not waiting for death, I am waiting for rapture. I am not sure of it; nobody is sure of it. If you are too sure, beware. But if we walk with Him, that is all He asks of us. If we walk with Him, we will be there by His grace. May the Lord help us.