

BY FAITH ENOCH

Sunday Morning: January 6, 2002

Text: Hebrews 11:5-6 "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and **was not found**, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that **he pleased God**. 6. But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

We are studying the men and women of faith in Hebrews chapter eleven. Last Sunday we considered Able who offered a more excellent sacrifice than that of Cain in verse four. Today I want to consider verse 5, the life of Enoch.

It seems to me that verse six goes with verse five as well as the whole eleventh chapter of Hebrews. I do think that Enoch was a man who desired to please God. I do believe that Enoch was diligent in seeking fellowship with God.

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

Genesis 5:21-24 "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22. And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah (= when he is dead it shall be sent, the flood) three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23. And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24. And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

I think it is significant that it is recorded twice in this passage of scripture that Enoch walked with God. That means to me that Enoch was diligent in seeking to walk with the Lord. To walk with someone you must have a time and place to meet to begin that walk. Having a time and place to meet shows diligence on the part of Enoch as well as with the Lord.

It is also significant that he did not begin to walk with the Lord until after he begat Methuselah. The meaning of the name of Methuselah is not a sure thing. Two of my sources say that it means "when he is dead it shall be sent" which seems to be a reference to the flood and judgment. Another source says that his name means "The man of the javelin." Both implies judgment and we can see that it was the judgment of the flood of Noah. It seems to me that Enoch learned of the judgment of God that was coming. Having Methuselah around the tent every day reminded Enoch that there was judgment coming. We can read in this passage that Methuselah live 969 years and died before the flood.

Methuselah was the oldest man that ever lived yet he died before his son. Enoch is alive in heaven today. Enoch walked with God and God took him.

THEY AGREED

Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

This verse give us some insight in how Enoch and God walked together. As they walked together Enoch followed the Lord where ever God walked. As Enoch walked with God you could hear Enoch say, "Yes, that is right." "I am changing my mind on that right now." You can say that Enoch walked in the narrow way that leads to life because Enoch agreed with God.

What would the conclusion be if others could hear us walk with the Lord. Would they be hearing, "But, Lord, wouldn't it be better this way..." or "Not so Lord..." Enoch's testimony to us is that we need to be in agreement with the Lord and not annulling his judgments as in Job 40:8 "Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?"

ENOCH A PROPHET OF JUDGMENT

Jude 1:14-15 "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold,

the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15. To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

These verses reveals to us that Enoch was a prophet, just like Abel was a prophet. Abel was killed by his brother Cain and the generation that Jesus ministered to was accountable for the death of the prophets from Abel to Zacharias. Enoch, as a prophet, prophesied of coming judgment.

ABEL A PROPHET OF THE KINGDOM

Luke 11:50-52 "That **the blood of all the prophets**, which was shed **from the foundation of the world**, may be required of **this generation**; 51. **From the blood of Abel** unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be **required of this generation**.

Most of the time we stop reading in verse 51. I do believe that verse 52 is significant.

KEY OF KNOWLEDGE

52. **Woe** unto you, lawyers! for **ye have taken away the key of knowledge** (by killing the prophets): ye **entered not in yourselves**, and **them that were entering in** (who responded to the prophets) **ye hindered**."

The warning is to the lawyers who were the ones that interpreted the law of Moses. The phrase "Ye entered not in yourselves" is a key to understanding the knowledge that they were taking away. They were hindering God's people from entering into the kingdom of the heavens. They were not entering into the kingdom and by taking away the key of knowledge, they were hindering others from entering into the kingdom of the heavens.

By killing Abel, in type, they were putting out the light of the knowledge of the kingdom of heaven. Because of Abel being mentioned in the context, I believe it was the killing of Abel, as well as other prophets, that the spiritual leaders of their day were hindering others from pleasing the Lord with their lives.

It is Abel and his brother that gives us a type to help us to understand what it takes to enter into the kingdom of the heavens or age-lasting life. We will see this in 1 John chapter 3.

Before we continue our thoughts in Jude 1:14 I want to remind ourselves that it was the prophets that prophesized of the salvation of the soul which is the salvation with age lasting glory. We will get some insight into that salvation in the following verses.

THE PROPHETS

1 Peter 1:9-12 "Receiving the **end** of your **faith**, *even* the **salvation** of *your souls*."

This salvation is associated with faith and faith is that which allows us to please God. Walking with God in agreement and seeking Him diligently. The word *end* speaks of the conclusion of something. In this case it is the consummation of *faith*. If one departs from the faith, there is no consummation of the faith. If one makes shipwreck of the faith, there will be no salvation of the life. This salvation is not the salvation one receives when they believe on the Lord Jesus which brings them into the family, but is the so great salvation of Hebrews 2.

SALVATION IN CHRIST

2 Timothy 2:9-10 "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, *even* unto bonds; but **the word of God** is not bound. 10. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the **salvation which is in Christ** Jesus with **eternal** [age-lasting or kingdom age] **glory**."

Notice that the phrase "the word of God" is used in verse 9. I believe that this is significant in that the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven is being revealed in this passage. The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven can not be bound.

In verse 10 we have the word salvation used. This salvation is the salvation that is in the body of Christ. This salvation is not to be confused with the salvation that puts the lost sinner into the body of Christ. The salvation that Paul is referring to is the salvation in the body of Christ that is to be associated with the glory for the coming kingdom age. This salvation is not for sinners but for the elect who have been called unto his kingdom and glory.

SAVED PROPHET INQUIRED ABOUT IT

10. Of **which salvation** the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you:

11. Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of [for] Christ, and the glory that should follow.

The glory that would follow the suffering for Christ is the age-lasting glory of 2 Timothy 2:10. This glory again has to do with the coming kingdom of Christ.

12. Unto whom it was **revealed**, that **not unto themselves**, but **unto us** they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; . . ."

This salvation was not revealed unto these saved prophets. These prophets were desiring to know about a salvation that they did not have. This salvation was not revealed unto them but it was revealed unto us. 1 Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." The salvation for the elect was kept hidden until that last of the, so called, church age.

Now back to Jude 1:14 and Enoch.

PROPHESIED OF THESE

Jude 1:14 "And **Enoch** (Genesis 5:18) also, the **seventh** from Adam (not the Enoch of Cain, Gen. 4:17), **prophesied of these** [masculine plural], saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints."

I used to wonder why Jude put the phrase "seventh from Adam" in verse 14. In Genesis 4:17 we find another Enoch and he is the third from Adam. Jude did not want us to be confused about which Enoch he was referring to. This Enoch in Genesis 4:17 is of Cain.

If you look in Luke 3:37 you will find Enoch in the genealogy of our Lord.

We notice that Enoch prophesied of *these* in this verse. Who are the *these* in this verse. The word *these* is a masculine plural pronoun. There are other masculine plural pronouns in the book of Jude that will help us to know the ones that he is prophesying about. Enoch is warning *these* that the Lord is coming with his saints to exercise judgment. He is warning *these* that a judgment coming and that there needs to be some changes in their lives.

To keep the context in perspective we need to understand that *these* are saved people.

CERTAIN MEN

Jude 1:4 "For **there are certain men** crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness**, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jude is warning the saints that there will be men who will come into the fellowship unawares and they are *ungodly men*. Peter and Paul warn us of the same thing in 2 Peter and Acts 20. Peter I

believe, gives us more light on these that will come into the fellowship to lead many astray.

FALSE TEACHERS

2 Peter 2:1-2 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord **that bought them**, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2. And **many** shall **follow** their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

Peter tells us that these false prophets and teachers are those who have been bought by the Lord. The fact that the Lord bought them means that these false prophets and teachers were redeemed. Redemption is a family matter, so that means that these false prophets and teachers are part of the family of God.

PAUL WARNED OF THESE

Acts 20:29-31 "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, **not sparing the flock**. 30. **Also of your own selves** shall men **arise**, speaking **perverse things**, to **draw away disciples** after them. 31. Therefore **watch**, and **remember**, that by the space of three years I **ceased not to warn** every one night and day with tears."

Paul knew that there would be those who would rise up from their midst and become false teachers. There would be others that would join with them and begin to teach perverse doctrines to get some of their disciples to follow them. These are not lost people as such, but those who change their mind about the doctrine that Paul taught them during his ministry. These are the same type of people that Jude is writing about and that Enoch prophesied about in his day.

THESE WHO ARE SAVED

Jude 1:10-17 "But **these** [masculine plural] speak evil of those things which **they** know [present passive] not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things **they** corrupt [present passive] themselves.

11. Woe unto **them** [masculine plural!] for they have gone in the **way** of **Cain** (hating their brother), and ran greedily after the error of Balaam (lawlessness) for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core (Korah, Num. 16-1-3).

The plural masculine pronouns, *these* and *them*, are those who will be judged by the Lord and ten thousands of his saints. These teachers are teaching things that they have come to irrationally understand as do animals. When you do not use scripture to restrict your interpretation of scripture, what you teach becomes corrupt.

These are those who have gone after the way of Cain. What is the way of Cain? The way of Cain is to hate your brother. To hate your brother, who is striving to enter into the kingdom of the heavens, is to shut up your bowels of mercy and ministry to him. When one brother, who at one time was seeking to enter into the kingdom, turns against another brother who is trying to enter into the kingdom of heaven, there is judgment coming. The judgment of Cain was to be cast out. Notice that they "Ran greedily after the error of Balaam." What was the error of Balaam? In a nut shell lawlessness. Balaam was able to get the children of Israel to let down their guard and have fellowship with the people of the land. Israel failed to live separated lives from those who did not hold to the Word of God.

Notice, again, that "They perished in the gainsaying of Core." Who is Core, it is Korah of Numbers 16:1-3. Korah told Moses that he did not have any more authority in the things of God than I do. Why the whole nation of Israel is holy. We all can swing the censors of incense before

God. Korah was teaching that God has not chosen anyone over another when it comes to the office of the priesthood.

FORSAKEN THE RIGHT WAY

2 Peter 2:15 "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of **Balaam** *the son* of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;"

These to who Enoch was warning were in the right way and then went astray. They enjoyed the pleasures of sin for a season as did the children of Israel did in the days of Balaam.

WITHOUT FEAR

12. **These** [masculine plural] are spots in your feasts of charity, when **they** [masculine plural] feast with you, **feeding** [present active, shepherding] **themselves** without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;

These are blemishes in your feasts. It does make a difference how you live and you don't live for the Lord it does effect the rest of the body. In the Old Testament, the unclean were put out of the camp. Do not have fellowship with the unclean, do not intermarry, get them out. Notice that they feed themselves without fear. The word *feeding* is interesting. It can be translated *shepherding*. These spots are shepherding themselves and are not under any type of authority or accountability. Being without fear gives them an appearance of being in charge and in control. They look like clouds that have water in them. Those in need of water will be disappointed because they are empty clouds. They are like trees that should be bearing fruit and when you go to get fruit you are disappointed again. Dried fruit comes in boxes or bags like dried apples or apricots. When you have a juicy peach who would pick a withered peach. They are twice dead. First death is in their trespasses and sins and then they lose the life they could have had in the coming kingdom if they had continued in the way.

WANDERING STARS

13. Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; **wandering stars**, to **whom** is reserved the blackness of darkness for **ever** [age, millennial kingdom].

What causes the waves of the sea to rage? Wind. Who is the prince of the power of the air, the Devil. These people are driven to and fro by every wind of doctrine that will result in their shame. They are wandering stars. The children of Israel were as the stars of heaven when they entered into the land flowing with milk and honey in Deuteronomy 1:10. Stars are a type of those who enter into the kingdom of the heavens. Wandering stars are like Elimelech and his two sons who left the land flowing with milk and honey and perished in the land Moab.

The blackness of darkness for the age is outer darkness during the millennial kingdom.

Enoch was preaching judgment for those who know kingdom truths and are not seeking first the coming kingdom and glory. They are not being obedient to the holy commandment to enter into the kingdom. Enoch was living by faith walking with the Lord. Those to whom he was preaching were not walking with the Lord neither living by faith.

HEAVENLY SEED

Hebrews 11:12 "Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the **stars** of the sky in multitude, and as the **sand** which is by the sea shore innumerable."

Abraham had two seeds. The seed of Ishmael is typified by the sand which is by the sea shore where Isaac is typified by the stars of the sky in multitude.

PROPHESED OF JUDGMENT

Jude 1:14-15 "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied of these**, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, **15. To execute judgment upon all (them, from the context)**, and to convince all that are **ungodly among them [masculine plural]** of all their ungodly deeds which **they** have ungodly committed, and of all **their hard speeches** which ungodly sinners have spoken against him (the Lord)."

Here we see Enoch prophesying the impending judgment of those who were called unto his kingdom and glory and rebelled against that calling. Maybe the Lord will use the saints to bind them hand and foot and cast them into the blackness of darkness. Matthew 22:13 "Then said the king to the servants, Bind him **hand and foot**, and take him away, and **cast him into outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

JUDGMENT ON THE HOUSE OF GOD

1 Peter 4:17-18 "For the time *is come* that **judgment** must begin **at the house of God**: and if *it first begin* at **us**, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God? **18. And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?**"

These verses are written to saved ungodly people. Some people believe if you are ungodly you are not saved, but that is just not so. If you are saved and ungodly you are going to be judged and the judgment will be severe if you have been a star entering into the kingdom and begin to wander away from that calling. If the righteous, or just, are scarcely delivered from outer darkness where shall the ungodly child of God wind up? Again, in outer darkness.

I WILL RECOMPENSE

Hebrews 10:30-31 "For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. **31. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**"

These clouds without water take the word *fearful* out of the judgment seat of Christ. They cast this judgment on the nation of Israel and say that it does not apply to the New Testament child of God. That type of teaching is weathered fruit.

MURMURERS

Jude 1:16 "**These [masculine plural]** are murmurers, complainers, **walking after their [masculine plural] own lusts**; and **their [masculine plural] mouth speaketh great swelling words**, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."

These that will be judged are murmurers. In 1 Corinthians 10:10 "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." we see that the murmurers perished in the wilderness and fail to enter into the land flowing with milk and honey.

These walked after their own lust and not with God as Enoch.

THOSE WHO HOPE AND BELIEVE

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 "But I would not have **you** to be ignorant, **brethren**, concerning them which are asleep, that **ye** sorrow not, even as others which have [εχω, present active] no **hope**. **14. For if we (brethren, elect, who esteem hope) believe [present active]** that Jesus died and **rose again** (power of the resurrection, Philippians 3:10, 11), even so **them (brethren, elect, who esteem hope and believe, present active) also** which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15. For this we** say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we** which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent **them** which are asleep. **16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead (who hope and believe, present tense) in Christ**

shall rise first: 17. Then **we** which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with **them** in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall **we** ever be with the Lord. 18. Wherefore **comfort** [παρακαλεω, exhort] **one** another with these words."

Enoch is a type of the beloved brethren who have been chosen in the body of Christ who make their calling and election sure by continuing to please God. They are the ones who will be taken before the great tribulation.

I believe that 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 is a reference to the catching away of those, who are like Enoch, that walked with God. There are those who are in the body of Christ that are not walking with God they will not be caught up.

In verse 13 we see that Paul is addressing brethren. Brethren are those who are seeking to enter into the kingdom of heavens. Brethren are those who have a living hope of reigning with Christ. The word **have** in the phrase "Have no hope." could be translated *esteem* or *regard*. The word **have** is a present active participle of εχω that could be translated **regarding** or **esteeming**. There are those in the family who do not esteem the hope of glory. Beloved brethren who are the chosen do esteem the coming kingdom and glory of Christ.

Verse 14 starts with a conjunction **for** connecting us to the previous verse. The word **we** is a reference to Paul and the brethren who do esteem the hope of glory. The word *believe* is a verb that is in the present tense which means that the believing is continuous. If we, who are the chosen beloved brethren, will continue to believe in the present tense we will be with those who have already died who also continuing to believe in the present tense.

Verse 15 states that **we**, believing brethren, which are alive unto the coming of the Lord will not go before those who are already dead.

Verse 16 tells us that the dead brethren who continued to believe in the present tense shall rise first.

Verse 17 says that those brethren who continue to believe in the present tense shall be caught up together with the brothers of verse 16.

It seems to me that Enoch was one who believed in the present tense. Enoch is mentioned in Hebrews 11:5 and next verse shows us that he was Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith (believing in the present tense) *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." I believe that faith and believing in the present tense are equivalent. The word *seek* is a present active participle. The ones who are diligently seeking him are the ones who are diligently believing him.

DON'T BE MOVED AWAY

Colossians 1:22-23 "In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: 23. If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the **hope of the gospel**, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

Paul exhorted those in Colossi not to move away from the hope of the gospel. Enoch and Jude presented the consequences if you would move away from the hope of the gospel. The gospel here in Colossians has to do with the kingdom.

WARNING AND TEACHING EVERY MAN

Colossians 1:26-28 "*Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27. To whom God would make known what *is* the

riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, **the hope of glory**: 28. Whom we preach, **warning every man**, and **teaching every man in all wisdom**; that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus:"

As in the case of Enoch, Paul also warned every child of God not to move away from the hope of the gospel. Paul and Enoch through the Word of God is warning us that there is a price to pay if we fail to continue in the faith. We see Paul's burden in 2 Corinthians 5:9-11 "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we **may be accepted** of him. 10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may **receive** the things *done* in *his* body, **according** to that he hath done, whether *it be good* or **bad**. 11. Knowing therefore the **terror** [fear] of the Lord, we persuade men; . . ."

May the Lord help us to believe and be warned of the certain judgment if we become like **these** in Jude. May we be convinced that the gloom of darkness for the age will be our portion if we live like Balaam, Korah, and Cain. May we not become wandering stars that would lead others to go astray. May we have fruit that is not withered but a blessing to the saints and faithful.

This can happen if we keep our hope alive by means of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ our high priest.