

Christians At Texas State Bible Study—Genesis #10

The Line of Life with Enoch (1)

Verses:

Gen. 5:22 And Enoch ¹walked with God after he had begotten ²Methuselah three hundred years, and he begot more sons and daughters. **23** And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty-five years. **24** And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God ¹took him.

Footnotes:

22¹ - walked - To walk with God is to take Him as our center and everything, to do things not according to our own concept and desire but according to His revelation and leading, and to do everything with Him. This implies the denying of our self and everything that is of our self (Matt. 16:24-25) that we may be one with Him.

22² - Methuselah - Meaning when he is dead, it will be sent. This name has a prophetic significance. By naming his son Methuselah, Enoch prophesied of the coming of the flood in the year that Methuselah died, which was Noah's six hundredth year (7:6; 5:25-29a). Enoch had received the revelation from God that He would judge the entire ungodly generation of mankind (cf. Jude 14-15). This motivated Enoch not to follow the current of the age but to walk with God (vv. 22, 24) and thus live a godly and holy life (cf. 2 Pet. 3:10-12).

24¹ - took - Enoch was the first person to be raptured. By this he escaped death, the ultimate issue of man's fall (Heb. 11:5). This first mentioning of the rapture establishes the principle of the rapture: our being raptured depends on our being mature in the divine life by our walking with God. Enoch walked with God day and night for three hundred years. According to Heb. 11:5-6, he did this by faith, believing that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. After three hundred years of seeking God and walking with Him, Enoch was taken by God, thus obtaining the reward of not seeing death.

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2** For in this the elders have obtained a good testimony. **5** By faith Enoch was translated so that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God had translated him. For before his translation he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God. **6** But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing *to Him*, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. **13** All these died in faith, not receiving the promises but seeing them from afar and joyfully greeting *them* and confessing that they were strangers and sojourners on the earth.

Rom. 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit. **14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Gal. 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh. **25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

1 Cor. 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thus far, we have seen the line of life with three people in Genesis-Adam, Abel, and Enosh. In this Bible study we want to see the line of life with Enoch. In the line of life with Adam, we saw that Adam was a vessel of God to contain God. Even though Adam fell, God preached the gospel to him, the good news of God with Christ as the seed of the woman. Then in the line of life with Abel, we saw that Abel was an overcoming martyr living on the earth for God's satisfaction. Then with Enosh we saw a frail, mortal man. We are all frail and mortal, but even though we are frail, mortal, fragile, and weak, we can call on the name of the Lord

Now we need to go on from calling to a very precious matter related to Enoch. The subject of this Bible study is the line of life with Enoch--walking with God by faith to escape death and obtain the testimony of being well pleasing to God. As we go through these messages, our prayer should be that all of these points would become our reality. We pray that the Spirit of reality would guide us into the reality of these points and make us the real Enochs in this age. We want to be those who escape death. We should hate death and should escape death every day until we are raptured and escape death in a full way.

Something quite momentous happened to Enoch when he was sixty-five years old. He received a particular revelation from the Lord, who had opened up His heart to him in a particular way. At that point, his life changed. That point in time was a turning point in his life. For the next three hundred years, he walked with God day by day and moment by moment. He became closer and closer to God and more and more one with God until eventually he was not. He was not in his whole being. Hebrews says that he was translated (11:5). In other words, he was fully transferred into God in his spirit, soul, and body. This happened because he had been walking with God for three hundred years.

The ultimate issue of man's fall is death (Gen. 5; Rom. 5:12; 1 *Cor.* 15:26). In Genesis 5 there is a genealogy which lists a number of people. For each person in the genealogy, the Bible says that he lived, begot certain people, and then died. However, when we come to Enoch, the Bible does not say that he died. Instead, it says, "And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him" (v. 24). Enoch escaped the ultimate issue of man's fall--death. Actually, he was escaping death every day because he was living in oneness with God, taking God as his center and everything day by day.

The way to escape death and obtain the testimony of being well pleasing to God is to walk with God (Gen. 5:22-24; Heb. 11:5-6). At the age of sixty-five, Enoch had a son and named him Methuselah, which is a name with prophetic significance. Every time Enoch looked at his son, he was motivated to walk with God. Every time he looked at his son, he realized that the Lord was coming and could come at any time. Thus, Enoch, at the age of sixty-five, began to walk with God, and he walked with God for three hundred years and was raptured. We need to ask ourselves what kind of a life we are living. The Bible tells us that the Lord will come as a thief to steal, and we want to be the precious things that He steals from this earth (Matt. 24:43-44). Do you know that there is a way to escape from death? Do you believe there is a way? The way was discovered by the seventh generation of mankind. Calling on the name of the Lord was discovered by the third generation, and, four generations later, the way to escape the ultimate issue of man's fall was discovered by the seventh generation, Enoch. Enoch lived in such a way that he was kept from death both literally and totally. Before Enoch was taken up by the Lord and while he was living and walking on earth, death had ceased to kill him. Enoch overcame the killing of death.

Enoch was the first person to be raptured. Today many Christians are fond of discussing prophecy and the rapture. Many say that the Lord Jesus will soon return and that we all shall be taken to the air. In a sense, this is according to the prophecy of the Scripture (1 Thes. 4:16-17). But, in another sense, I am afraid that most Christians apply this prophecy according to their human understanding. If you read the Bible carefully, with the divine light, you will see that the rapture revealed in the Bible is not in the way that so many Christians imagine. Since the first mention of a thing in the Bible establishes the principle

for that thing, the case of Enoch, the first mention of the rapture, establishes the principle of the rapture. What is the principle of the rapture? It is to be matured in life by walking with God. Enoch walked with God for three hundred years, and God took him away (Gen. 5:22-24).

Luke 24:15 illustrates the need for us to walk with God instead of God walking with us. It describes how God walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. The disciples were not walking with Him. Rather, He was walking with them. Whenever we walk with God, we go upward into God, but whenever God walks with us, we go down, not up, just as the two disciples were going down to Emmaus. Whenever we are not one with God and are doing something that we know would not please the Lord, then we are going from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Perhaps we may decide to go to a certain place such as the movie theater. The Lord within us will not smile at this decision, but He will walk down with us to that place. He walks down with us so that He can cause us to repent and turn and so that He can bring us back up to Jerusalem to walk with Him. Thus, we want to be those who walk with God. Enoch walked with God; God did not walk with Enoch. God walks with us to recover us so that we might walk with Him.

To walk with God is to take Him as our center and everything, to live and do things according to God and with God, according to His revelation and leading, and to do everything with Him (Rom. 8:4, 13-14; Gal. 2:2a; 2 Cor. 5:14-15). We should pray, "Lord, make me this kind of person. I want to be a person who takes You as my center and my everything day by day. I want You to be my center and my everything. I want to live and do things not merely for You but also according to You and with You. Whatever I do I want to do according to Your revelation and leading. I want to do everything with You." This is what it means to walk according to the spirit and to be led by the Spirit of God in the New Testament sense. These kinds of people are the real sons of God. Galatians 2:2 tells us that even when Paul went to Jerusalem, he went up by revelation. He followed the Lord's instant leading when he went to Jerusalem to meet with the disciples there. He did everything according to the Lord's revelation and leading.

In order to take God as our center and everything, we need 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, which says, "For the love of Christ constrains us ... that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised." Day by day we need to pray, "Lord, constrain me with Your love so that I would no longer live to myself but that I would live to You, the One who was crucified for me and the resurrected One who lives in me. I want to be constrained by Your love to live to You." This is what it means to walk with God.

Enoch walked upward with God. Do not think that Enoch's being taken away by God happened suddenly. Do not think that one moment he was on earth and that the next he was in heaven. He continually walked upward until he touched heaven. At the age of three hundred sixty-five, as he was nearly touching heaven, God said to him, "Dear child, I am here. Come with Me." And Enoch was taken away.

Do you believe that Enoch walked with God inconsistently and that God said to him, "Poor child, come up quickly"? I do not believe that that was God's way of taking Enoch up. Enoch walked with God day and night for three centuries, for more than a hundred thousand days. Enoch walked with God day by day, a little closer to God each day than the day before. Enoch looked at the situation, the environment, the people and their deeds, and saw that everything was ungodly. Yet he kept on walking with God in a godly and holy way, walking with Him in this way for three hundred years.

In order to walk with God we must be with Him (1 Cor. 1:9). We must be one with Him in our thinking, loving, and choosing. As I have already pointed out, it is not easy for one person to walk with another. Suppose, while I am walking with you, I have a different concept from you and say, "Brother, I love

you and I want to walk with you, but don't go that way. Turn this way. I don't want to go that way." If I say this, I am not walking with you, I am arguing with you. However, this is exactly what so many lovers of Jesus do. They say, "Lord, I love You and I like to follow You. I want to go with You." However, when the actual time comes, many do not walk with Him, but argue with Him. For you to walk with the Lord implies a great deal: the denial of yourself, the denial of your thinking and your loving, the denial of everything that is of you (Matt. 16:24). It implies that you have given yourself to Him, that you will give in to Him and let Him take the lead. To walk with the Lord is not a small thing. If you are going to walk with me, you have to deny yourself. On the other hand, if I am going to walk with you, I must forget myself that I may be one with you. If I am unwilling to do this, I cannot walk with you or with anyone else.

It is not simply a matter of calling on the name of the Lord. It is wonderful and enjoyable to call, "O Lord Jesus," but what follows the calling? When the Lord says, "Follow Me," will you follow Him? Will you walk with Him? Never forget that calling is found in Genesis 4 and that walking is revealed in Genesis 5. If walking does not follow our calling, our calling will not be very genuine. In a future Bible study we shall see that after the walking we have the building. Enosh called, Enoch walked, and Noah walked and built. We must go on from Genesis 4, progressing from calling to walking. Calling makes you living. However, walking always kills you (Gal. 5:16). But it will also resurrect you. Walking firstly kills you, then it resurrects you to make you so living in enjoying the presence of God. You will be living to the uttermost, not in a natural way, but in a resurrected way. Oh, how we all must learn to walk with God! Gal. 5:25 says, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."

* Ministry portions from *Ministry Magazine* and *Life-Study of Genesis*. Verses and footnotes from *Recovery Version of Bible*.