

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #21

Genesis 5:18-32

As we look through this list, we discover a couple of key names stand out, both of whom show up in the faith chapter of Hebrews 11 (11:5, 7); both of whom are said to be men who “walked with God” (Genesis 5:24; 6:9); both of whom were spared destruction. This phrase “walked with God” means these two lived life in close fellowship with God. The two are Enoch and Noah.

**GOD WILL ALWAYS BLESS THOSE WHO ARE PROPERLY RELATED TO HIM, BUT HE WILL DO SPECIAL THINGS FOR AND WITH AND GIVE SPECIAL REWARDS TO THOSE WHO CLOSELY WALK WITH HIM.**

For Israel and us this text means there are two types of believers - those who are in the family whom God will bless and those who walk close with Him whom He will mightily use and bless.

**QUALITY #1** - Enoch and Noah were in the right lineage. **5:3**

Enoch and Noah were in the right family line. This specifically means they were not in the line of Cain - the lineage who loved the world, but the line of Seth, the lineage who loved God. The genealogy in chapter 5 is very precise for it is repeated in I Chronicles 1:1-4 and Luke 3:38-36. This is the line of people who meant something to God.

Enoch's father was Jared (5:18) and Noah's father was Lamech (5:28-29). Not much is known about Jared, but a couple of things are known about Lamech - 1) The Lamech in Seth's line is completely opposite of the Lamech in Cain's line (4:19-24); 2) Lamech kept a great focus on God and the fact that he referred to Noah as the “one who could give rest from the curse” (4:29) means he kept his focus on the curse of God and the promise of deliverance (Genesis 3:15).

How does one get into the right line today? By spiritual birth (John 3:3-6).

**QUALITY #2** - Enoch and Noah had the right walk. **5:22; 6:9**

These two antediluvians (men who lived before the flood), were men who “walked with God.” This quality was very unique to these two and this point is not said of any other in Seth's line.

The idea of “walking with God” is the idea of living all areas of life in such a righteous way that it is so accepted and approved by God that He can have close intimate fellowship with the individual. Walking with God is living all areas of life God's way.

Walking with God is not a quick relationship. Enoch maintained his walk for 300 years (Genesis 5:22) and Noah maintained his walk for many hundreds of years. Step by step, hour by hour, day by day, week by week, year by year, both Enoch and Noah continually and consistently walked with God and as a result God did very special things with them and gave them many wonderful blessings.

**QUALITY #3** - Enoch and Noah had the right faith. Hebrews 11:5, 7

Enoch and Noah had such great faith that both end up in the hall of fame faith chapter – Hebrews 11. The type of faith they had is a faith that was not stagnant or dead, but active and alive - the kind of faith that in the midst of a depraved, mocking and sinful world dared to obey God and stand alone for God. The Hebrews context of their faith indicates that:  
1) They believed in God's creation - Hebrews 11:3; 2) They believed God rewards those who diligently seek Him - Hebrews 11:6.

Enoch and Noah were men who believed and followed God when the rest of the world mocked them and what they were doing.

**QUALITY #4** - Enoch and Noah had the right testimony. Hebrews 11:5; Jude 14-15; II Peter 2:5

Both Enoch and Noah testified for God. Based on Jude 14, Jewish fathers not only consider Enoch to be the first prophet, but also may have been the first to write various letters on theological subjects (Gesenius, p. 291). He preached coming judgment to an ungodly world (Jude 14-15). Based on II Peter 2:5, we know that Noah was the “eighth preacher of righteousness.” Since Enoch (Genesis 5:19) and Lamech (Genesis 5:26) were outlived by their fathers (Enoch was raptured 435 years before his father, Jared, died and Lamech died five years before his father, Methuselah), there were only seven men in the line before Noah who carefully taught the Word of God, which would make Noah preacher number eight (Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Methuselah and Noah). So of all the people in existence from Adam to Noah, only eight patriarchal leaders really proclaimed the Word of God and His righteousness.

What we specifically know is that Enoch was a prophet who spoke for God (Jude 14) and Noah was a preacher of righteousness (II Peter 2:5). What this means is that both of these two were not afraid to proclaim the truth of God in the midst of a wicked, God-mocking world.

Enoch did not see death. We learn from Hebrews 11:5 that God raptured Enoch. He was only 365 years old when this happened to him (Genesis 5:23-24). Prior to this event, every other person who loved God died, but not Enoch, he was taken up to Glory. This event occurs about half way between Adam and the flood, which would have left wicked people talking about what happened to him, but not repenting of their own sin. The point is before God poured out His wrath, He raptured Enoch. This is precisely what God will do for all believers in another dispensation. Before He pours out His wrath, He will rapture all who are “in Christ” (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Noah did not see destruction either. When God destroyed the world by flood, Noah, because of his faithfulness, was saved. This very event pictures N.T. Spirit baptism (I Peter 3:20-21), which means we live in an evil age, but we will not experience God's wrath because we have been baptized into Jesus Christ.

The truth for every N.T. believer is that each has already been delivered from the wrath of God (I Thessalonians 5:9), and each will be translated at the rapture of God (I Corinthians 15:51). But also the truth is, not every believer “walks with God” in close intimate fellowship and communion.