

**Abel, Enoch, and Noah (Hebrews 11:1–7)**  
**By Pastor Jeff Alexander (5/21/2017)**

**Introduction**

1. Considerable truth hidden by God is *selectively* and often *cryptically* revealed.
  - a. Take Genesis 6:4 for example.
    - 1) Who were the *Nephilim* (giants)?
    - 2) Who are the “*sons of God*”?
    - 3) What was the sin and why so great as to provoke God to destroy all life with the flood?
    - 4) The Bible does not provide full details; however, extra-biblical literature does (1 Enoch 6:1–8).
  - b. While searching out information is encouraged (Prov. 25:2; 2 Tim. 2:15), God desires His children to take Him at His word, trust Him in everything, and walk by faith (Heb. 10:18; citing Hab. 2:3, 4).
  - c. Studying under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and unlocking the mysteries of the Word also builds faith (Rom. 16:25; Col. 1:25–27).
2. In Hebrews 11, the author takes us on a journey through biblical history and highlights the faith of many believers, many of whom never experienced the full realization of what God promised.
  - a. This “Hall of Faith” begins in the antediluvian world after the fall of Adam.
  - b. Again, we ask, is there a mystery significance in the use of these particular names: Abel, Enoch, and Noah? Why isn’t Seth mentioned?
    - 1) Seth (*appointed*, see Gen. 5:3, 4) is a type of the *believer* who is born to replace Abel, the second man whose son, Enosh (*mortal*) reflects the character of fallen man in need of salvation.
    - 2) Abel (*vanity*), Enoch (*dedicated*, the scribe of judgment), and Noah (*rest*) are types of *Jesus Christ* and each prefigures the work of Christ in salvation and judgment.
  - c. The antediluvian world covers a period of at least 2000 years, about one half of the human history recorded in Scripture—but only 160 verses in Genesis.
  - d. The first eleven chapters of Genesis form the foundation for all the doctrines of Scripture, making these chapters the target of those who would discredit the authority of the whole Bible.
  - e. It is my opinion that the history found in this period, if fully understood, would change everything we think we know about our world.

**I. The Faith of Abel**

1. Background
  - a. Abel was the second son born to Adam and Eve after their sin of rebellion and expulsion from the Garden of Eden (Gen. 4:2).
  - b. Abel (*Hebel*, *breath* or *vanity*) was murdered by Cain in an act of jealous rage because God rejected His offering (Gen. 4:8–13).
  - c. Cain (*Qayin*, from *qanah*, having a connection to metal working [Gen. 4:22; 1 Enoch 8:1]) means “*gotten*” or “*possession*” (see Gen. 4:1).
2. Mystery
  - a. How did Abel know to bring an offering of the firstborn of his flocks and the fat portions (Gen. 4:4; Ex. 13:12; Num. 18:17)?
  - b. Scripture says nothing of Abel’s relationship to God save this one fact: “*Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts*” (Heb. 11:4).
  - c. What is revealed is enough to establish the truth that there are those who walk with God and those who oppose God and, like the evil one, wish to destroy the ones who do follow God (1 John 3:12; Jude 11; John 8:44)—the beginning of persecution.
3. Witness
  - a. Abel was commended (*martureo*, *given witness*) due to his obedient faith; although the ages have passed, his witness stands and still speaks to the truth.

- b. Abel is the forerunner of the martyrs of all time.
- c. God used Abel's death, the consequence of his obedience, to encourage faith and perseverance in his obedient children as they face opposition.

## II. The Faith of Enoch

### 1. Background

- a. *Enoch (dedicated)* was the son of Jared, the sixth generation from Adam in the line of Seth (Gen. 5:15–24).
- b. Non-biblical literature places Enoch in a special place, his being the seventh generation (special hidden knowledge) and his earthly years (365) relating to astronomy.
- c. Kittle writes: “Not surprisingly, the NT refers to the Enoch literature but has no Enoch tradition of its own. Luke 3:37 is based on Gen. 5:21ff. Hebrews 11:5 repeats ideas found in Ethiopian Enoch and Jubilees. Jude 14 quotes literally from Eth. En. 7:9 [1 Enoch 1:9]” (*TDNTA*, Logos Bible Software).
- d. There is a surprising number of NT references from Jesus to Paul and Peter that come from 1 Enoch.

### 2. Mystery

- a. Jesus seems to deny Enoch's translation to heaven in John 3:13, but that would also deny Elijah's (2 Kings 2:11). Scripture does not contradict itself. The context of Jesus' reference was His incarnation, He being the only one to come from heaven with *revelation* as the incarnate Word of God.
- b. Hebrews cites Gen. 5:24 from the Septuagint: “*He was not found*” (“*and was not,*” KJV).
- c. “*Before these things Enoch was hidden, and no one of the children of men knew where he was hidden, and where he abode, and what had become of him*” (1 Enoch 12:1, 2) (The Book of Enoch, p. 11, iap. Kindle Edition). Enoch was sent to inform the Watchers of “*a severe sentence,*” being bound for 70 generations (see Jude 6 and 2 Pet. 2:4, 5) and that they would also witness the destruction of their children (the *Nephilim*).

### 3. Witness

- a. Only Hebrews tells us that Enoch “*was taken up so that he should not see death,*” just opposite to the fate of Abel.
- b. His witness was not in his translation but in his life before God took him. He walked with God by faith and displayed to the world a life that pleased God (Heb. 11:5b, 6).

## III. The Faith of Noah

### 1. Background

- a. *Noah (rest,* see Gen. 5:29) was the son of Lamech, the tenth descendent from Adam (Gen. 5:15–24).
- b. There is a clear connection between Enoch and Noah: (1) both are connected to the judgment of God on the Watchers and their children, (2) both “*walked with God,*” (3) both were righteous in a world of increasing wickedness.
- c. The faith principle is clearly seen in Noah.
  - 1) Noah listened to God's warning concerning something outside his experience.
  - 2) Noah believed God about what he heard and responded correctly (“*moved with fear*”).
  - 3) His response involved obedience (building the ark) by which he accomplished the will of God in the deliverance of his family from destruction.

### 2. Mystery

- a. Why was Noah chosen for this task?
  - 1) Noah was prepared both spiritually and physically.
  - 2) Noah was (*tamiym*) unimpaired—genetically uncorrupted in his generation—his bloodline was free of Nephilim contamination.
- b. How did he condemn the world? Simply by his obedient faith.

### 3. Witness

- a. The ark was a type of salvation in Jesus Christ—deliverance, not from, but through the judgment.
- b. The flood was a preview of the final judgment that awaits the earth (2 Pet. 3:5–7; 11, 12).

## What This Means for Us

Our walk in the world is a witness to the world about the true desires of our hearts. We cannot say that we walk with God when our hearts are married to the world. Walking with God by faith signals both our differences from the world and testifies to the condemnation of the world.