

THE MAN WHO DID NOT DIE (Genesis 5:21-24)

Introduction:

1. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote:

“The lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime,
And passing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time.”
2. One way to study history is to read biographies of those who made history.
3. A good way to study the Bible is to study the lives of the men and women GOD used in His service.
4. One of the most interesting, but least known men in the Bible is Enoch:

“Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with GOD three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with GOD: and he was not, for GOD took him” (Gen. 5:21-24).
5. There are ten generations from Adam to Noah.
 - a. Seven of the patriarchs lived to be more than nine hundred years old.
 - b. Eight times the patriarch’s name is followed by “and he died.”
 - c. Every biography ends in the same way (Gen. 3:19; Heb. 9:27).
6. There were two remarkable exceptions to this universal experience of death: Enoch and Elijah.
 - a. Moses simply summed up his life: “Enoch walked with GOD; and he was not; for GOD took him” (Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5).
 - b. He simply disappeared from the walks of men - there was no death, funeral, or mourning; he was simply gone.
7. What can we learn from the life of this remarkable man?

Discussion:

- I. ENOCH BECAME THE FATHER OF METHUSELAH AT THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE.
 - A. Methuselah is the oldest man mentioned in the Bible.
 1. He died at the age of 969 years.

2. There may have been others who lived as long or longer.
- B. Enoch lived just a little more than a third of his son's lifespan.**
1. Methuselah is known only for his long life.
 2. Enoch is known for walking with GOD and being taken by Him.
- C. It is not how long we live, but how we live that really counts.**
1. Jesus lived on the earth for only thirty-three years.
 2. No one has ever accomplished more for this world than He.

II. ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD.

- A. "To walk with GOD" means to travel with GOD, to walk in the same direction.**
1. Enoch walked "with" GOD, not ahead of Him.
 2. This indicates a closeness, a companionship (Amos 3:3).
- B. Christians walk with GOD.**
1. The churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria "walked in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and were multiplied" (Acts 9:31).
 2. Paul spoke of those who "walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised" (Rom. 4:12).
 3. Following baptism, Christians must "walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).
 4. Christians "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).
 5. Christians are admonished: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25).
 6. Paul begged Christians to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Eph. 4:1).
 7. We have access to the cleansing blood of Christ when "we walk in the light as He is in the light" (1 John 1:7).
 8. John also writes: "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:6).

III. ALL THE DAYS OF ENOCH WERE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE YEARS.

- A. Enoch was in the seventh generation from Adam (Jude 14).**
1. Seven of the patriarchs lived to be over nine hundred years.

2. Except for Enoch, the youngest any of them lived was 777.
 3. Enoch was only on the earth about a third of this time.
- B. Enoch was more blessed than the other patriarchs for he was able to be with GOD much sooner than they (Phil. 1:21-24).

IV. ENOCH WAS NOT FOR GOD TOOK HIM.

- A. "He was not" is spoken from man's standpoint, not GOD's.
1. There is never a time we will not exist as far as GOD is concerned.
 2. Enoch did not have to suffer the pangs of death that all others except Elijah have suffered.
 - a. One observed, "I want to be with the Lord, but I don't want to go through the agony of death to get there."
 - b. J. W. McGarvey suggested that for the Christian death is no more than closing one's eyes in sleep and opening them in Paradise.
- B. Enoch was not "for GOD took him."
1. Elijah was separated from Elisha by a chariot and horses of fire and taken up in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2).
 2. Enoch seems to have just vanished.
 - a. His family and friends must have wondered where he was.
 - b. Perhaps they searched for him as the prophets searched for Elijah?
 - c. A child said: "GOD and Enoch were walking together one day and GOD said, "We're closer to My house than yours. Why don't you come home with me?"

Conclusion:

1. There are only four other references to Enoch in the Bible:
 - a. He is found twice in genealogies (1 Chron. 1:3; Luke 3:37).
 - b. Hebrews 11:5 says "By faith Enoch was taken away."
 - c. He prophesied the Lord would come in Judgment (Jude 14,15).
2. Are you walking with GOD?

