

ENOCH REMOVED WITHOUT DEATH

Ask your children how old is the oldest person they know. Talk about people who have lived long lives and the ages that they were. Methuselah was the oldest man in the Bible. He lived to be 969 years old. Can you imagine?! Even though he lived to be this old, he still died before his father. How could this be? Enoch and the prophet Elijah were the only two people in the Bible who did not die. Enoch walked with God, and God took him; Elijah was taken up into heaven by a whirlwind. This week we will look at this man Enoch. Why was it that God did not let him die but took him into heaven without seeing death? Enoch is one of those biblical characters we know little about, but what we do know teaches us a great deal.

Day One Enoch's Transformation

Picture It

How does a person's life change when they have a baby? There are a lot of ways: they lose sleep, have to change diapers, make bottles, but they also become more responsible. When a man becomes a dad, he must consider another person when making decisions.

This is what happened to Enoch in the Bible. He "begot Methuselah" when he was 65 years old. We don't know anything about his life before that time, but there was a big change that must have happened at that point.

Read Genesis 5:21-22

Think about It Some More

Enoch's life was set apart from those around him. His life was changed by the birth of Methuselah, but there was more to it. God made him aware of something. Look at these passages in the New Testament book of Jude:

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints,¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." **Jude 1:14-15 (NKJV)**

These verses talk about Enoch giving a prophecy about men who were not following God and who had rebelled against Him. This prophecy was soon to be fulfilled, and it would impact the world forever. The name Methuselah means, "his death shall bring." Could it be that the message that Enoch preached about the coming judgement and the name he gave his son was getting ready for the flood? The flood was God's judgement, and it did come, the year after Methuselah died.

Talk about It

- What was Enoch's son's name? (*Methuselah*)
- What does Methuselah mean? (*his death shall bring*)
- Enoch prophesied about God's judgement; how did God bring judgement on the people? (*the flood*)
- What do you think changed Enoch's life to the point that he walked with God (vs 22)? (*Examples could be the birth of his son, the name he gave to his son, knowing judgement was coming, etc.*)

Pray about It

Enoch knew judgement from God was coming, and he changed his life to walk with God. Pray that God will help you walk with Him also.

Day Two Enoch Taken by God

Picture It

You are taking a walk with your best friend. You start at your house, and the two of you walk for a long time. It starts to get dark outside, so instead of going back to your house a long way away, you just walk to your friend's house which is closer. (Of course, you call your parents to make sure it's ok to stay there!).

We read yesterday that Enoch walked with God. Enoch walked so closely with God instead of going back home, God just took Him to heaven to live with Him!

Read Genesis 5:21-25

Think about It Some More

Genesis 5:24 tells us the account of Enoch being taken. *"Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away."* Unlike his ancestors who the Bible tells us "died," Enoch was taken by God. God rescued Enoch before judgement (the flood) came into the world.

Just like all of God's activities, this is an incredible event. What else could we possibly expect but for God to act in an incredible and supernatural way? After all, look at creation, the amazing human body, the virgin birth, the death and resurrection of Jesus. God does amazing things that leave us in awe. The account of Enoch being taken is a reminder of God's grace and mercy.

Talk about It

- How did Enoch die? (*He didn't! He was taken by God.*)
- What are some of God's miraculous events in the Bible, and what are miracles that you have seen Him do? (*creation, Jesus' birth and resurrection, a person being healed, the birth of a baby, etc.*)

Pray about It

God, please change my life and reveal yourself to me like you did to Enoch.

Day Three Connect to Jesus

Picture It

Jesus always takes care of us. His plan is so much better than anything we could come up with. Before He was to suffer on the cross, Jesus prepared and comforted His disciples about what was going to happen. He assured them that He was getting a place ready for them to join Him, and He is getting a place ready for all who are saved through Him. Just like He took care of Enoch by taking him before the judgement of the flood, He takes care of all of His children.

Read John 14: 1-3 and Thessalonians 4:13-18

Think about It Some More

The verses in 1 Thessalonians talk about believers being taken just as Enoch was. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 says that Jesus will deliver us from the wrath to come. Doesn't that sound exactly like what He did for Enoch? Enoch was "taken," and the believers who are alive when Jesus returns will be "caught up." The believers who have already died will be "caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." Wow!

How was Enoch saved? He believed in God. How are we saved? We believe in God. All through the Bible we see how God saves people who believe in Him. Abraham is an example; he was made right because he believed in God (Genesis 15:6 and Galatians 3:6). The event that happens is being taken, but how this happens is because of belief.

Talk about It

- What did Jesus tell His disciples about where He was going? (*He was going to prepare a place for them.*)
- What is God going to do for all who believe in Him? (*He is going to take us all up to be with Him, just like He took Enoch.*)
- How can you be saved? (*Believe in God.*)

Pray about It

Thank you, God, for always taking care of us. Thank you for the coming day when all who are saved will be “caught up” with Jesus.

Day Four Why did God take Enoch?

Picture It

Has anyone you know ever been lost? When someone gets lost, everyone around begins looking for them. So many questions are asked: Where could they be? Where was their last location? Why would they leave?

Can you imagine all of the questions that were asked when Enoch was taken by God? His family was probably frantic with questions about where he was. But, Enoch wasn't lost, he was with God. Even though the people on earth may have been confused, the Bible makes it clear to us, God took him!

Read Hebrews 11:5-6

Think about It Some More

What is the Gospel all about? It's that you can escape the judgement to come and enter into God's grace. That's what God did; He made it possible. He took Enoch before the judgement of the flood came, and Enoch entered into God's presence.

God wants all people to be brought to repentance rather than to perish (2 Peter 3:9). To repent is to turn away from what is not of God and turn to Him. God's plan is to destroy all that is opposing Him, and He will make all things new and holy like Him. Anything that is contrary to Him will suffer judgement, and what is in His favor will live forever with Him. It is clear that God gave Enoch his favor rather than His judgement. This shows us that Enoch repented after receiving God's revelation and after Methuselah was born. God took Enoch, so he would not go through the flood of God's judgement.

Talk about It

- What is the Gospel? (*The gospel is the good news that we can escape judgment and enter into God's grace through Him.*)
- Who does God want to be saved? (*All people*)
- Did Enoch go through God's judgement? (*No, God saved Enoch from the flood and took him to heaven.*)

Pray about It

If you have not repented to God, are you ready to turn away from sin and turn to God? If you have already made this decision, thank God for saving you from judgement and showing you His grace.

Day Five Where Enoch Fits in History

Picture It

How much do you know about your grandparents? What about your great-grandparents? Great-great-grandparents? The Bible gives us the history of the line of Jesus. We can follow Christ's ancestors all the way from Adam and Eve to when Jesus was born. How does the life of your family from generations ago affect your life now?

Read Genesis 5:1-20

Think about It Some More

The more we read and study the Bible, the more will be revealed to us. When we believe the account of creation, the most amazing miracle ever, it's not as hard to believe in the virgin birth, that God would become man, and the resurrection of Jesus. There's also the miracle of Enoch we have been studying this week. It's fun to see how the Bible makes sense and how all of the miracles fit in along the way. It's like a giant puzzle, and the more pieces we fit together, the more of the whole picture we can see.

An example of this is when you look at the meanings of the names of the first 10 men listed in the genealogy of Jesus.

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|------------|-----------------------|
| Adam | Man (is) |
| Seth | Appointed |
| Enosh | Mortal |
| Kenan | Sorrow; (but) |
| Mahalalel | The Blessed God |
| Jared | Shall come down |
| Enoch | Teaching |
| Methuselah | His death shall bring |
| Lamech | The Despairing |
| Noah | Comfort, rest |

So here is the message that is found in the original Hebrew roots:

Man (is) appointed mortal sorrow; (but) the Blessed God shall come down teaching (that) His death shall bring (the) despairing rest.

How amazing! It seems pretty clear that Enoch knew something was going on.

God is always at work. There are no circumstances, only divine appointments! Enoch must have been paying attention. He must have been looking forward to hearing from God.

Talk about It

- Who was Enoch's son? (*Methuselah*). Who was his great-grandson? (*Noah*)
- Are there any parts of the Bible that once seemed confusing, but now seem to make more sense? (*Discuss these areas of confusion with your children. If they can't think of anything, share something that has been or is still confusing to you.*)

Pray about It

Pray that God will open your eyes and ears to be ready to hear from him.