

On Wednesday night I had the privilege of speaking to our youth group about Gen. 5 and the first thing I asked them to do was tell me some of the ages they saw. It was kind of humorous in light of their ages – **Then I said, “if you’re 11-13 yrs. old come over here and stand by the cross” 14-17 over here by the table. 18-21 next to that window. 21-30 over by that window – that took care of the young couple who help lead the group. And so there I was on the platform all by myself.... the old guy, 58 yrs. old.**

I told them, “I’m old – my knees make weird noises and the Air Force has told me I have to get out next year –why? because I’m old” [60 -dirt]

But that’s nothing compared to some of the striking ages we see in Gen. 5. **Methuselah holds the record at 969 yrs..**

[Bob Hope said you’re getting old when your birthday candles cost more than the cake]

Well, as you can imagine, there are lots of theories on these enormous numbers in Gen. 5... ■ they had a better diet

■ a vapor canopy continued to enveloped the earth after creation and it protected these early humans from the harmful & aging rays of the sun.

■ some “scholars” suggest these years should be divided by a factor of 5/10, but the main thrust behind these theories is simply trying to bring down these staggering ages, not linguistic evidence.

■ some would say the years here are “*idealized*” to show God’s blessing on the line of Seth, who took up the lineage of his murdered brother Abel. [Cain’s line in ch. 4 has no ages listed]

The most promising argument in my mind is **biblical/theological**: The impact of sin on the physical body in the early generations was minimal, graciously slow. But as sin [and demonic activity on earth] increased, age eventually decreased. Gen. 6 indicates that God saw the level of evil in the yrs. before the flood and

in response ordains a high end age of 120yrs... [Gen. 11]
By the time you get to Ps. 90 – it's 70 or 80 yrs.

That said, the 10 generations mentioned in Gen. 5 are *striking*; especially the sections dealing w/ Adam, Enoch and Noah. They break the standard pattern here in Gen. 5 – but Enoch takes the cake.

His description is the most unique and he is our focus today.

Let me read Gen. 5:18-27 to give you some context [read]

I think you can see there are some unique things about Enoch, but the first thing we are going to look at is....

Enoch walked with God

[2x] [v. 22 & v. 24][Noah 6:9]

So let's unpack this idea of Enoch walking with God...

What comes to mind when you think of walking with someone?

-we tend not to walk with complete strangers. *One kid at youth group was trying to be funny, he said, "I do" – I said, "you know what that's called? Stalking? Stop it. That's weird!*

Closeness [relationship] – Enoch walked with God, not away from God or at a distance from God as though he was a stranger.

No, he knew God personally - from v. 22 to v. 24 is a span of 300 yrs. - **And why did he walk w/ God for 300 yrs.? [and perhaps longer?]**

because knowing God is the greatest thing in the entire world!

J.I. Packer asks & answers some questions on the back cover of his book "Knowing God"

What were we made for? To know God

What should be the aim of our lives? To know God

What is the eternal life that Jesus gives? Knowing God

What is the best thing in life? Knowing God

What in us gives God the most pleasure? Knowing Him

One of the songs we sing about Jesus Christ, the Son of God goes like this [with one little tweak] - **Knowing you Jesus, Knowing you, there is no greater thing. You're my all, You're my rest, You're my joy, my righteousness and I love you Lord.**

Enoch's walk with God had that sentiment [that closeness]

Ps. 63 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you... [a close personal relationship]

Secondly, I think that walking with God implies...

Communication – Enoch communed w/ God & surely communicated w/ God.... It would be a bit strange to see two people walking together on the river path and not talking to each other.

So I imagine Enoch being a man of prayer. **[look at Gen. 4:26]**

This entails salvation, worship and prayer [talking to God].....

But how would God talk to Enoch? – well, God did talk to Cain and warned him that sin was crouching at his door in Gen. 4. God's audible words are possible, though rare.

-Another form of communication could have been Enoch's internal conscience given by God...a moral compass if you will

-And then lastly let me suggest that there were also oral lessons passed down thru the generations. Depending on how literal you take the 10 generations in Gen. 5, Adam was still alive in the lifetime of Enoch. **What could Adam have said about God's**

creation, the tree of life, Eve, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the fall, God's promise, the worship offering of Able, his murder at the hands of Cain and so forth? So many lessons about God/ungodliness

And if that was the case, I picture Enoch hanging on every word.

I told the kids on Wednesday night that we have the blessing of God's inspired word in Scripture. You can go for a walk and listen to the bible on a bible app. Or you can retreat to a quiet place for some quiet time in God's word. And there thru the Holy Spirit,

God will talk to you, encourage you, correct you.

And this should translate into a third C word - **Consecration**

Enoch's walk with God was not a walk among equals.

Enoch was walking w/ Almighty God and so he was committed to obeying God, doing His will....

In Deut. 30:16 Moses writes ... If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules.... The Lord will bless you”

Now Enoch lived long before this OT Law was written, but he walked with God in obedience to what he knew of God's standards.

Hebrews 11 says that Enoch “pleased God”

And what was it that undergirded Enoch's walk with God that pleased Him? It was **faith** - look at Heb. 11:5-6 [read]

So Enoch drew near to God believing that **He exists**... he looked at the world around him, the sun, moon & stars, the design of nature, even his own capacity for sight, sound, smell, the ability of his mind, his conscience, and he knew that God must be the creator and knowable.

And today with science we see intelligent design everywhere – we're the perfect distance from the sun, we have oxygen, water, food. The earth is turning 1,000mph [and people are not flinging off the planet]. And the human body is a wonder w/ 7million cones in the eye. 3 billion heartbeats in the ave. lifespan. Blood vessels so plentiful that together they measure 100,000 miles. And then to gross the youth out on Wednesday I said “you produce 1 litre of saliva/day.”

Anyways, the universe, large & small, has God's fingerprints all over it.

and then God rewards those who seek him

And Enoch did seek the God who revealed Himself in creation and thru the teachings of his predecessors. And he sought God's forgiveness. And he sought God's fellowship & character and God rewarded him with eternal life.

So the operative questions this morning are – **Do you believe He exists? Are you walking w/ Him? Are you close? Are you communicating? Are you consecrated to His holy standards?**

If you are it's because of **faith**...*without faith it is impossible to please God*. Faith brings you into a right relationship w/ the God who revealed Himself to you thru creation, His word and His Son - and then you live by faith in Him, not your own strength or smarts or righteousness.

So by faith Enoch walked w/ God, he also Spoke for God

– Gen. 5?, Heb. 11?, **Jude 14-15 [read]**

There's some source challenges that go along with these verses, but it's not unreasonable to think that Enoch, in some sense, warned his generation about God's coming judgment in the years before the flood [much like Noah]. It's interesting when you do the math and you see that Enoch's son *Methuselah* seems to live until the year of the flood.

Personally, I'm struck by Enoch's forthrightness about the ungodliness he saw. He uses that term **4x** here in Jude. He spoke out against the ungodliness in his time- Jude applies this to his context naming pride, favoritism, grumbling, selfishness, irreverence and [in context] sexual immorality.

Enoch took a stand and we need to take a stand as well.

And he didn't soft pedal God's judgment – it's real, it's coming.

But how do we do this in a way people will hear us?

Yelling & telling them they're going to hell may not do it...

[W+2] Witnessing

On Wednesday night I told the youth group that they could personalize God's judgment in their testimonies....

“ I came to realize that I was a rebel, a sinner before God.

I came to realize that even if I sinned only once a day against God that's over 25,000 sins in 70 yrs.. I'd be guilty in any courtroom, deserving punishment, if not, there's something wrong w/ the judge. But not God. He judges rightly and would cast me out of His holy presence...”

But I also came to realize that God had solved my sin problem by sending his Son to pay for my sins on the cross...

And this is where our testimonies and the message of Enoch become like the warning beacons of Gondor in the Lord of the Rings. Danger & Death are approaching. God's patience will end. **And who can save us from God's wrath? Only God.**

And this is where Gen. 5 is such a beacon of hope for us

We see God's grace in the long lives of Seth's family tree – many over 900 yrs.. In the garden, God told Adam eat of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil and you will surely die. But after God casted Adam & Eve out of the garden He granted Adam another 800+ years of life. That's God's grace.

But that said, look at Gen. 5:5 [read] Drop down to v. 7 [read]
“and he died”

But then we come to Enoch who is like a lighthouse of hope in Gen. 5. **Put your eyes on v. 24 [read]**

Enoch was taken by God – he didn't die a physical death.

Enoch is God's way of saying – Even though sin & death have been unleashed on earth. I can and will overcome sin & death! Years later, God took Elijah in much the same way – no death. And if you're a believer at the time of Christ's return the same will happen to you – 1 Thess. 4:16-17

But what about believers who have died [and will die] before the return of Christ? They are taken too. First the soul... Later the body in the resurrections:

But here are Jesus' words in **Jn. 14**

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

At the moment of his return or at the moment of your death – Jesus is there to take you be with Him and the Father.

And that hope & truth has roots that go back to God's promise in Genesis 3:15 and then goes thru the line of Seth in Gen. 5, including Enoch thru Noah... thru Shem to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob, Judah thru David, to Jesus Christ. Beacons of hope that God will overcome sin & death thru the death & resurrection of His Son.

So don't put your hope in your own goodness or religion...

put your hope in the God of Enoch.

put your hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ
walk with him by faith

Hebrews says, "it is appointed unto each man once to die and then comes judgment"

Are you ready to be taken? Or will you be cast away?

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except thru me.” Let’s pray.