

Enoch's Outpost

Two considerations: Separation and Evangelism

Today, I want to talk to you about Enoch, who was translated to heaven without seeing death. How many have had that experience? [Two, Enoch/Elijah]

Will any others have that experience? [Yes, 144,000]

Think of it, thousands will be translated. Are any of them around now? [Hope so]

Remember stirring appeal, *"Let us strive with all the power that God has given us to be among the hundred and forty-four thousand."* RH, March 9, 1905 par. 4; 7BC 970.10

So we have special reason to study the life and experience of Enoch.

There is not a lot in the Bible about Enoch but enough to picture his work/experience and apply it to our own.

Heb 11:5 "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." KJV

What was his testimony before he was translated from this sinful world? [He pleased God]

GW 54 *"To such communion God is calling us. As was Enoch's, so must be their holiness of character who shall be redeemed from among men at the Lord's second coming."*

Will you have an experience like Enoch's? You will, unless you are lost or unless you die before Jesus comes.

But all of us are to make translation our goal, our hope.

Let's notice what the Bible says about Enoch in Genesis.

Gen 5:22-24 "After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. 23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. 24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him." NKJV

What does it mean, "he was not?" [He wasn't in this world anymore] People couldn't find him. Our walk with God should be more and more like Enoch's.

"Enoch's walk with God was not in a trance or a vision, but in all the duties of his daily life. He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world." GW 51.3

In early Christianity there were groups of men who sought to live holy lives by retreating to a cave or monastery like a hermit – just read and pray; but Enoch was not a hermit.

"In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of God." GW 51.3

Was Enoch a preacher? Yes, Jude 14-15 gives us a view: *"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied...saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed."* KJV

What was Enoch's subject according to this text? [Second coming] Today, we'd call him an Adventist preacher. He was focused on telling the people of the coming of Christ with all His angels, and to execute judgment on the wicked. He is like a type for you and me to study – we have the same message to give to the world as Enoch did!

What did Jude say the conditions were in Enoch's day? [Very wicked]

In fact, if you want to know how wicked it was in Enoch's day, read **Genesis 6:5** The imagination of men were evil continually and a flood would have to come upon the earth as the consequence.

And parallel to that, God is going to destroy the world again, not by flood/by fire.

Will any one get out alive? Yes, the righteous will be taken out of the world, like Noah was preserved.

Enoch's message is appropriate for this hour as it was back there.

Two things about Enoch we want to notice:

First, **separation**.

He walked with God, not the world.

He walked in the world, but not *with* the world.

[Amos 3:3 asks the question, “Can two walk together, except they are agreed?”](#) [No they can’t]

If you want to go to Vienna and I want to go to Bucharest we can’t travel together, we just have to say goodbye. To walk together we have to be agreed.

The fact that Enoch walked with God is evidence he *agreed* with God. [“Holiness is agreement with God.”](#)
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If you and God agree, then you are living a life of holiness.

If you don’t agree, you don’t have holiness. No matter bliss of feeling, no matter how much men shout and sing and pray, if their lives are not in agreement with God, they don’t have holiness.

Before we study this life of holiness that Enoch lived and what he did to obtain it and maintain that life of holiness, let’s look at the background.

God placed Adam and Eve, our first parents, in the Garden of Eden. He gave them His law; they broke it, and were cast out from the garden, and had to learn by hard toil, the lessons of real repentance and obedience.

Adam and Eve had two sons. Abel was righteous; Cain pretended to be, but he didn’t do what God said—he had his own ideas, just like a lot of people today; they are not agreed with God. Cain got so angry that Abel was accepted of God and he wasn’t that he killed his brother. Then Cain fled from Eden to another part of the world, and there he built a city. **Genesis 4:17**. This is the first use of the word “city” in the Bible.

The Lord gave Adam and Eve another son to take Abel’s place. As Seth grew up he was righteous like Abel. He gladdened his parent’s heart by walking in the commandments of God. His descendants had the glorious privilege of maintaining the truth. [81]

At the head of the two great divisions of mankind stood those two sons of Adam: Cain and Seth. Now notice something very interesting. [“Cain had withdrawn from his father's household. He had first chosen his occupation as a tiller of the soil, and he now founded a city, calling it after the name of his eldest son. He had gone out from the presence of the Lord, cast away the promise of the restored Eden, to seek his possessions and enjoyment in the earth under the curse of sin, thus standing at the head of that great class of men who worship the god of this world.”](#) PP 81

While Cain was developing his city and those with him the various arts and sciences, we read what Abel did. [“Abel had led a pastoral life, dwelling in tents or booths, and the descendants of Seth followed the same course, counting themselves ‘strangers and pilgrims on the earth,’ seeking ‘a better country, that is, an heavenly.’”](#) PP 81

Abel dwelt in what? [Tents and booths] What is a booth: It’s a house made of vines or trees, an arbor, similar to what they had in Eden. Point is, they were not extravagant, man-made structures costing millions of dollars. Cain went to his city program, where the works of man were continually exalted; but Seth led out in a pastoral, country life. [82]

What did Enoch do up there?

As we have studied, for sure he went there to be separate from sinners, to get away from their evil influence; but that’s just half the reason.

Also, he went up there to be with God. He went up there to get something....

Finish with PP 85 from page 85

Enoch’s evangelism

Now we come to the second part of our study, Enoch’s evangelism.

We know Enoch was not a hermit. He spent time in the hills but he didn't stay all the time. God never intended that we should just go to the hills or country to save ourselves, our families—this could be selfish, just focusing on trying to save ourselves.

Enoch was a preacher of righteousness. When he was refreshed from being in the country communing with God, receiving power from God, he went down into those cities and preached the coming judgments of God on the wicked world and called men to repentance. He was an evangelist.

In this next statement we learn something interesting about his evangelism.

“He [Enoch] did not make his abode with the wicked. He did not locate in Sodom, thinking to save Sodom. He placed himself and his family where the atmosphere would be as pure as possible. Then at times he went forth to the inhabitants of the world with his God-given message. Every visit he made to the world was painful to him. He saw and understood something of the leprosy of sin. After proclaiming his message, he always took back with him to his place of retirement some who had received the warning.” (MS 42, 1900). 1BC 1087-1088

Can you picture this? Imagine the influence the people felt as they went with Enoch to hear more of his preaching but out in the country, in the hills where all is quiet and peaceful and the Holy Spirit abounds; this was true evangelism. [86]

Did you notice that word “always?” “After proclaiming his message, he always took back with him to his place of retirement some who had received the warning.”

Do you think the Lord would be pleased if we did evangelism like that too? Meet people in the cities and when you sense they are under some conviction, invite them to get out of the city.

“Some of these became overcomers, and died before the Flood came.” Ibid.

They weren't translated, like Enoch; they didn't go through the flood with Noah in the ark; but they were saved.

Can you see Enoch coming home from an evangelist trip? His boys looking down the road, Methuselah, the oldest boy says, “Daddy's coming, and he's got some folks with him!” And Enoch's wife and children have things ready, they shared in the mission. Day after day these people drink in the atmosphere of that home, attend the family worship, eat the meals—do you think the diet was just the same as they were used to in the cities? You know it was a better diet. There was no TV, no video, but there was love and the power of the Holy Spirit and little by little, worship by worship, meal by meal, they began to revive spiritually, and accepted joyfully their new life in the hills, far from the cities, and they were saved. Even though they died, they died in the hope; and they'll be resurrected and be in the city of God because Enoch pulled them out to his home in the hills.

Unfortunately, not everyone stayed.

“But some had lived so long in the corrupting influence of sin that they could not endure righteousness.” Ibid
Some of them lasted a few hours, some a few days, they began to get itchy and fidgety, “Oh its been good to be here and we appreciate the messages, the food, hospitality, but there are some things we must take care of back home, back to the plains. For some it's back to their cigarettes, or alcohol, McDonalds or Burger King, video games, something more exciting, the moral temptations that are filling the world at that time; that's what he wants—one or all those things.

Prov 26:11 “As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.” NKJV

But we must not be discouraged, we must continue to work all the harder with more earnestness and love. Some will persevere, even of those who seem to be most hopeless, if we can get them from the cities, from looking at the things of the world, and look to Jesus on the cross, in the sanctuary, God's love revealed in nature. Dear friends, all that we have been studying today is for our example, our encouragement, to give us a vision how to finish the work on earth.

Here's what book Evangelism says:

“As God's commandment-keeping people, we must leave the cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities but not dwell in them.” Manuscript 85, 1899. Ev 77.5

“The truth must be spoken, whether men will hear, or whether men will forbear. The cities are filled with temptation. We should plan our work in such a way as to keep our young people as far as possible from this contamination.” Ev 77.3

Should we take our children to see the sights and sounds of these cities? Is that the kind of education they need? [No, the less, the better]

“The cities are to be worked from outposts.” Ev 77.4

Is that the way Enoch did it? {Yes}

“Said the messenger of God, ‘Shall not the cities be warned? Yes, not by God’s people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.’”--Letter 182, 1902. Ev 77.4

“We must make wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from the contaminating and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places.” Life Sketches, p. 410. (1915); Ev 76.5

We are told plainly that there should be church buildings in the cities; but our institutions should be outside.

“Repeatedly the Lord has instructed us that we are to work the cities from outpost centers. In these cities we are to have houses of worship, as memorials for God.” CL 31.1; 2SM 358.3

Why? They are life-saving stations; that’s what they are for!

“But institutions for the publication of our literature, for the healing of the sick, and for the training of workers, are to be established outside the cities. Especially is it important that our youth be shielded from the temptations of city life.” CL 31.1; 2SM 358.3

God helping us, we want to do it, don’t we?

This is the lesson we want to finish with today.

Do you see it’s not enough to get separated from sin and sinners, and get out in the country?

Do you see that it isn’t enough just to live in the country and then go out and warn people?

What the next thing to do?

Get hold of them and bring them back.

There are some who may be able to be saved where they are. We don’t want to limit God. But the Word of God and the Testimonies of His Spirit say that the only way to save some of these people is to pull them out; and that vision should be in our hearts while—looking, looking like a shepherd looking for his sheep. Jesus is looking: “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth.” 2 Chronicles 16:9

What kind of home are you going to bring them to? Do you have a place to bring anybody? What kind of place is it?

Do you remember that when Jesus came back from the wilderness, the Spirit of inspiration rest upon John the Baptist and he said to his disciples as he saw Jesus coming, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” And Andrew and John followed Him. Knowing that they were following Him, Jesus turned and said, “What do you seek?” They said, “Master, where do you live?” He said to them, “Come and see.” John 1:38 TLB

And thank the Lord, that very hour began a fellowship which never ended. John 1:38 TLB

Again, do you have something to bring people to? All Jesus had, probably, was a little booth down there by the river; that’s all. He didn’t have any palace. Anywhere where God is and a child of God is, is a place for somebody to get close to God.

Then one more point, important to consider. We’ve asked what kind of home you have to bring them to, but the vital thing, the very center and core, is this: What kind of *experience* do you have to share with them? Do you have one? Oh, if you haven’t friends, get one! You can; Enoch did, and you can. And don’t think it’s something you have to wait years for. God longs to do things for people, and at once have them begin to share with others.

What do you say we get busy with God getting something from God and sharing it with others that we haven’t time for a lot of worryings and complainings, a lot of fears and discouragements, a lot of lusts and ambition? Let’s fill our time and our lives with this one thing: and it’s like a coin with two faces, and the two faces are these—to get ready for heaven ourselves, and to help get many others ready before Jesus comes. [91 end]