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1-800-611-8080 / [www.cgom.org](http://www.cgom.org)  
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

## Mini Study

### Enoch is Dead

*'...all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:  
And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him'* (Genesis 5:23-24)

*'These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth'*  
(Hebrews 11:13)

Some - certainly some Bible commentators - will challenge our title. Indeed the question: Where is Enoch is commonly asked by enquiring students. Careful study of the Scriptures, however, confirms the assertion: Enoch is indeed dead.

- First, though, who is Enoch? (Bible sceptics should leave now, unless you want to learn something.) He is described as *'the seventh from Adam'* (Jude 14), and was born around six hundred and twenty-two years from Adam's creation. Enoch had the shortest life (365 years) of the pre-Flood patriarchs - though his son Methuselah had the longest (969 years). He is notable in that he *'walked with God'* and, it is assumed, he was taken to Heaven. He was also, Jude tells us, a prophet who foretold events for the last days.
- Most Christians will cheer that Enoch has *'gone to Heaven'* (along, it is believed, with Elijah). But is that what the Scriptures tell us? Notice the text in Hebrews: *'These all died in faith.'* In verse 5 Enoch is listed in that number. So he died.
- Back to Genesis: *'And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years'* (Gen 5:23). All his days - so he died. But what of verse 24: *'And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him?'*
- Enoch *'walked with God.'* Bible names have significance, and Enoch means initiated, instructed, dedicated. Adam, at the birth of Enoch, had another three centuries of life, so it's not unlikely that - through him and the Godly line of Seth - Enoch was instructed in the way of righteousness. Tradition, for example, as stated in the 2nd Century BC apocryphal Book of Enoch, has *'righteous Noah'* recognizing his spiritual debt to his great grandfather Enoch.
- By whatever means, Enoch had a special relationship with God, who revealed to him end-time events (Jude 14-15). He inspired him to name his son Methuselah - a name that has been translated as *'when he dies it shall come'* or *'he dies, a sending forth.'* It is no coincidence, then, that Methuselah died in the year that *'it'* - the great universal flood - was sent on the earth. His nearly a millennium of life was a constant warning to increasingly sinful mankind.

## Enoch is Dead

- Who knows for how many long decades - perhaps his whole life - Enoch walked with God in an increasingly lawless society. It's likely that he, like Noah, like all who *'walk with God'* and who witness to His Word, experienced opposition and persecution. Paul, who himself suffered greatly for the faith, writes: *'...all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution'* (II Timothy 3:12 ASV). Anyway, at some point in his life and for whatever reason, *'God took him.'*
- What of *'God took him?'* We are, in the book of Hebrews, informed that Enoch *'...was translated that he should not see death and was not found, because God had translated him'* (Hebrews 11:5 ASV). 'Translated' simply means transferred - taken from one place to another. Jacob was 'carried over' (same word, 'translated') from Egypt to Shechem for burial (Acts 7:16). Note, too, that - unlike Elijah who also disappeared but who later turned up alive - Enoch 'was not found.' His family, likely, diligently searched for him but couldn't find him. Moses was in a similar situation - dead and buried, but *'...no man knows of his sepulchre unto this day'* (Deuteronomy 34:6).
- Sometime before his death *'God took him'* (Enoch). While not directly stated, it is likely he was 'moved away' to avoid being killed by some who were seeking his life. See the example of Philip (Acts 8:39). Enoch's persecutors could not find him.
- Where, then, are these spiritual giants of old? Certainly not in Heaven. Notice what Jesus told Nicodemus: *'And no man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven'* (John 3:13). The apostle says of King David that he, too *'...is not ascended into the heavens'* (Acts 2:34) - a thousand or so years after he died.
- Paul again: *'... in Adam all die.'* (I Corinthians 15:22) And not just the body: *'...the soul that sins, it shall die.'* (Ezekiel 18:20) The concept of 'going to heaven (or hell)' on death is based on the first ever lie: *'...you shall not surely die.'* (Genesis 3:4). The author? The serpent. Satan. But God had said *'...you will die.'*
- All who die - righteous, kind, wicked - all will be 'buried.' The Bible terms are *sheol* (Hebrew) and *hades* (Greek), terms which refer to the state of the dead. Sang the Psalmist: *'His breath goes forth, he returns to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.'* (Psalm 146:4) But all, including Enoch, will in time be resurrected (see Hebrews 11:13-14). The destiny of mankind, including Enoch, is here on earth, not in heaven.

Request the booklet *Where Are Enoch and Elijah?* and the article *When Someone Dies*

Have you subscribed yet to our (free) magazine *New Horizons*?

*(All Scripture references are KJV unless otherwise noted.)*

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