

Walk with God

Genesis 5:21-24 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹ Enoch lived sixty-five years, and became the father of Methuselah. ²² Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had other sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Introduction

Genesis 5 is the genealogy of Adam and his descendants all the way to Noah. 10 generations (2000 years from Adam's birth to Noah's death). By the way, Enoch was the great grandfather of Noah. By the time God took him alive into Heaven, he was 365 years old.

You may wonder: how is it possible to live that long, 365 years? In fact, you will be shocked to find out how many individuals in the Old Testament lived for hundreds of years. In Genesis 5 alone, 7 people lived over 900 years. Methuselah has the record, 969 years! The oldest man in human history. Almost 1,000 birthday candles!

The average life of Noah's forefathers was 847 years. If you discount Enoch because he never died, it is whopping 908 years! What an impressive family longevity!

By the way, don't think that Bible is the only book that records extraordinary longevity of people. Both in the East and West, from Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, China, Korea, Japan, Persian Empire, Greece, Ancient Rome, to Middle East, many ancient records show that people lived a longer life compared to what we have in the 21 century.

Question: How do we explain such longevity?

One view says that before Noah's flood a "firmament" over the earth (Genesis 1:6-8) contributed to people's advanced ages" (Wikipedia, longevity myth). ---even today, the Hunza tribe in the Himalayas have "life expectancy of 120 years and live up to 150 years" (<https://www.gaia.com/article/hunza-people-longevity-health-secrets>).

Some tried to make a sense out of Genesis 5 saying that they mistranslated the ancient scripts converting the word 'month' to 'year,' "*mistaking lunar cycles for solar ones: this would turn an age of 969 years into a more reasonable 969 lunar months, or about 78.3 solar years*" (Wikipedia, *op.cit.*).

Another scholar, Donald Etz, says "*that the Genesis 5 numbers were multiplied by ten by a later editor.*" His interpretation introduces another dilemma and "*inconsistency: "It would mean that the ages of the first nine patriarchs at fatherhood, ranging from 62 to 230 years in the manuscripts, would then be transformed into an implausible range such as 5 to 18½*

years” (*ibid*). Following this theory, Enoch became a father when he was 6 ½ years old (Genesis 5:21). Four out of nine forefathers of Noah became a father under the age of 9.

This is what I believe: “*man was originally to have everlasting life, but as sin was introduced into the world by Adam, its influence became greater with each generation and God progressively shortened man's life*” (*ibid.*) For instance, Noah lived up to 950 years. After the Great Flood, his son Shem died at 600. As time passed by, the upper limit kept coming down. By the time of Abraham, it went down to 175. His grandson Jacob was 147. Moses died at 120. Joshua at 110.

Now, if you have a hard time believing in Genesis 5, here’s my advice for you: Leave it alone until proper time. God’s Word is given to us to believe not to analyze. When you try to analyze, speculate, or try to explain in human understanding, you may end up either missing out God’s miracles (e.g. Naaman’s refusal to wash in Jordan River. 2 Kings 5:1-14) or making absurd claims (in *italics*). E.g. Parting of the Red Sea (*it was never the ‘sea’ of ‘waters,’ rather the ‘sea’ of reeds*). Five loaves and two fish (*people brought their own lunch*). Christ’s resurrection (*He never died on the cross, just fainted*).

If you can’t accept such longevity or any miracles in the Scripture, leave them alone until next time, because some day God will give you either understanding or faith to believe. All you don’t want to do is this: to dismiss it as a myth or nonsense (as some public schools do).

Listen again. God’s Word is inspired by God’s Spirit (2 Timothy 3:15). The Holy Spirit is the author. With the help of the Author, everything becomes so believable and real to those whose spiritual eyes are enlightened. The same Word of God is absolutely non-sensical to those whose spiritual eyes are veiled.

The reason why I believe them true, both Genesis 5 and other miracle accounts in the Bible, is because the Bible tells us the truth and nothing but the truth. In fact, you’ll be surprised to see how brutally honest and true God’s Word is. It doesn’t show favoritism. It doesn’t exaggerate or hide anything. It tells everything as it is. E.g. Matthew 1. Christ’s genealogy includes a foreigner, a prostitute, and a daughter-in-law who bore twin sons of her father-in-law.

Here’s another reason why it is wise to leave God’s Word alone rather than trying to rationalize it. God will hold accountable whoever handles the Scripture inaccurately (Revelation 22:18-19): ¹⁸ *I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*

Content

Walk with God—Enoch walked with God for three hundred years and never saw death. He was taken to the Lord alive. This great honor only belongs to him and Elijah.

Let's consider the meaning of walking with God. It means to live a righteous and blameless life before God. It means to conduct a lifestyle in obedience to God's commandments. It means to love and serve the Lord. With all heart and mind. It means to walk in God's law. Walk in truth and love (2 John 4, 6). To do justice. To Love kindness (Micah 6:8).

Reality: Let's check out our reality. How are we doing on walking with God? We think it is a great idea. A+ on that. We all desire to walk with Him, too. Another A+. In practice, though, our records are not stellar. Many, in fact, end up walking with the world, not with God. How, you may say? By befriending the world more than God. By spending more time with the world. By not spending even 5 minutes in prayer or not spending even 5 minutes with the Bible when we watch hours of TV, Netflix, or internet every day.

Here's another instance. Many of us are heavily influenced by the world, more than we admit. Not by God's Word, though. To the point where we think God's Word is rather strange, burdensome, outdated and even irrelevant today. As far as the world of entertainment is concerned, it is always entertaining, inviting, never boring, or even relevant to us today.

Here's the warning from God about such a thinking. James 4:4: *You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.* May God have mercy on us.

What do we do when we walk with God? E.g. Walk to Emmaus (Luke 24:13 ff). We do everything, walking, talking, and listening to each other. We discuss the world affairs. We talk about God's Word and spiritual matters, too. We talk about everything in our life.

How do we communicate with God? We don't physically walk with God, talk or listen to God, but we do them in prayer. We may not hear His voice audibly, but we incline our spiritual ears to the Word of God.

End result: health, prosperity, and longevity promised in Deuteronomy 5:33: *You shall **walk** in all the way which the LORD your **God** has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well **with** you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you will possess.*

The real blessing, though, is to become like Him. To learn from Him and imitate Him. And to be with Him 24/7. Isn't that we ask for from Him? His presence all the time? After doing over 300 years, God didn't wait until Enoch died. He took him home alive. Taken up. Rapture. To be with God. What a blessing!

Conclusion

Walk with God. Step by step. One day at a time. One moment at a time. Do not go before God or fall behind, nor go into the opposite direction of God. Go together in step by step in the same direction. All the way to the end of life's journey. God invites. God

commands. To walk with Him. Every step of your way. It's up to you to take His invitation. What's your answer? Will you walk with Him every day? In prayer and in God's Word? Amen.