

## HE WALKED WITH GOD

In chapter 5 of Genesis we read of a man named Enoch. He was of the seventh generation from Adam and was the father of Methuselah, who was the oldest man. Enoch himself was on the earth 355 years. But the most remarkable thing about Enoch was that he never died. The record says: "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." In the New Testament, we find this explanation: "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." (Hebrews 11: 5) Here was a man whose life was so pleasing to his Heavenly Father that he was permitted to by-pass death. (Elijah was the only other person who was allowed to leave this world without dying.) Here is evidence for us that there is something beyond this world. Heaven is a real place for real people. Enoch and Elijah were real men who went directly there.

In the verses we read about Enoch, there are several things revealed about his character. First, we find that he "walked with God." We may be sure that Enoch avoided all forms of evil while walking with God. Companionship with Jehovah would have to be in paths of righteousness. Walking with God requires going in His direction. Had Enoch been unwilling to keep his heart and life in harmony with God's will he could not have walked with Him. Neither can we. Those who walk with God are those who live Godly lives. The Bible says, "if we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1: 6-7

We also find that Enoch was a man of faith. It was "by faith" that he was changed. If we are going to walk with God it must be by faith. "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7) Let us understand, however, what "by faith" means. To be guided merely by what we feel to be right is not walking by faith. Romans 1 a: 17 teaches that faith comes by hearing the word of God. True faith is based on God's word. To really walk by faith, therefore, is to believe God's word and live in harmony with it.

Finally, we read that Enoch, before his translation, had this testimony, "that he pleased God." Of all the things that might be said, no better or greater tribute could be given. Here was a man whose life could be summarized in three words - "he pleased God."

By modern standards, Enoch lived in very primitive times. Still his character was such that modern men would do well to imitate him. We do not expect to be

taken away without dying- not unless the Lord comes while we are yet alive - but we can walk with God. We can walk with Him by faith. And we are assured that such a life is pleasing to Him.

**"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." I John 2:25**