

Truth for Today

The Bible Explained

For reply: Email: truthfortoday@aol.com

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Speaker: Paul Thomson

Old Testament Types The Rapture of Enoch

*[Please note: sections in blue type are not broadcast on every radio station.
The English Standard Version of the Scriptures used unless otherwise stated.]*

The title of this series is Old Testament types.

Enoch, I believe is a type of the coming Rapture of every true Christian. 1 Thessalonians 4 vv.13-18 tells us that everyone who believes that Jesus died and rose again, God will take to heaven. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven, there will be a cry of command, a loud voice of an archangel and the sound of the trumpet of God. Every believer, dead and alive, will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. What happened to Enoch is a picture of what will happen to every Christian who is alive when the Lord comes. I pray this picture will encourage you if you are a Christian and challenge you if you are not.

The title of this talk is The Rapture of Enoch.

The Bible tells us that over six thousand years ago a man called Enoch lived on the earth. The story of Enoch is fascinating. Who was he? What do we know about him? There are only a handful of verses in the whole Bible that tell us about him. We are told that he was the seventh generation from Adam and lived in the world for 365 years. He was over 300 years old when Adam died at 930 years. Enoch was a family man who had both sons and daughters. One of his sons, called Methuselah, lived for 969 years and is the oldest recorded person in the Bible. Enoch pleased God and walked with God for 300 years. The world was a dark place and, ever since the sin of Adam and Eve, it had been in moral freefall. Enoch was the first recorded prophet who was used by God to warn people about judgement that was coming. He was one of only two men recorded in the Bible who never died; the other was Elijah. The Bible says that God took Enoch. He was raptured around 70 years before Noah was born.

You may well be thinking, if that is all we know about Enoch, it will be a short talk! Not so! There is very little said about Enoch but what is said is important.

In Genesis 5 vv.21-24 we have Enoch's obituary.

In Hebrews 11 vv.5-6 we have God's verdict.

In Jude vv.14-15 we have Enoch's message.

Please come with me to the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and chapter 5. The chapter begins with a genealogy beginning with Adam. As you go down the list of names from verse 1 – 20, six times we read "and he died." Death is a terrible thing; it ends human relationships and causes so much sorrow and feeling of loss. Death came into this world when Adam and Eve sinned against God. Romans 5 v.12 tells us this:

"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

Death is no respecter of persons, you could have fame and fortune, but you will die. When we come to verse 24, we read,

“Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.”

[Enoch was taken by God to heaven without going through physical death.](#)

You may be wondering why was Enoch taken, and the six men mentioned before him died? Well, we need to study other scriptures to piece together what was possibly in God's thoughts. Hebrews 11 v.5 says,

“By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken, he was commended as having pleased God.”

Enoch had faith; he believed and trusted in God. Enoch pleased God. Enoch lived a godly life in a dark sinful world. Enoch was well known and had a fantastic testimony which was evident to those who knew him. [Enoch walked with God for 300 years.](#) He sought God's company and communicated daily with God. Remember God came down into the Garden of Eden and walked in the cool of the evening, but Adam was afraid. Enoch on the other hand had an unbroken relationship with God. God wants to have a relationship with us, but we need to have pure hearts, pure minds, and a righteous life. Enoch's name means 'dedicated'; he was dedicated to God.

So, one reason why God took him is because he lived a faithful committed life to God and because of his faith he was forgiven of any sin he had committed, but in my opinion the main reason is because of the type he was of the Church. The Church is made up of every true believer in Jesus Christ after His death and resurrection. The Bible tells us clearly that the Church will not go through the tribulation. The Church will be taken before the judgement that God will unleash on this earth. Every true believer living at the Rapture will be taken alive into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Enoch knew from God that the judgement of the flood was coming upon this world. He knew that he would not be around to see it. The clue to this is that he called his son Methuselah, which means 'when he dies it shall come.' What shall come? The flood, the judgement of God on this sinful creation over 4000 years ago.

What an amazing type! Can you see it? It is clear! God is giving us an example of what is going to happen so you can be in no doubt.

Taking it further as we think about Enoch being taken from the world before the judgement and God's man Noah being put in place. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. So, we know that Noah continued to warn people of their sinful deeds and the judgement that was imminent. However, we see God's marvellous grace and longsuffering as He gave men and women hundreds of years to repent. But only eight people from the whole world were saved from the flood. Today, many are turning down God's offer of grace. Is this you? God has provided a Saviour, His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who gave up His life on the cross so you can be saved through faith in Him. The Bible says in Hebrews 3 v.15,

“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”

Please listen to God's warning.

Enoch was a family man. Genesis 5 v.21 tells us that Methuselah was born when he was 65 years old and that he had other sons and daughters after this. It appeals to me that Enoch lived a what you could call a normal life. I used to think of Enoch as some sort of loner, a bit like John the Baptist, living a life of solitude wandering in the wilderness spending his days meditating, praying,

and talking with God. I was wrong, he had responsibilities, he had a wife and children to provide for. Time is precious when a family is growing up and no doubt Enoch felt this pressure. But Enoch dedicated his life to God while bringing up his family. It was after Methuselah was born that he walked with God for 300 years. So, for the rest of his life, until God took him out of this world, he was dependent on God for the practical things of daily life. He made the time to spend in God's company; he lived a godly life and trusted in God for everything. There is a lesson for each of us who are fathers; we have a responsibility to our family. The Bible makes this clear, but we must never forget to dedicate our lives to God. Another consideration is that Enoch was a witness to his family. Our families know us best and by our actions we witness to them of Christ.

Earlier we put a heading over these verses in Genesis, **Enoch's obituary.**

Why is there so little said about him? Why were the names of the other children and his wife not mentioned? You find in the Bible that God says what He wants to say and leaves out what we do not need to know. In summary, Enoch lived for 65 years before he had children; he walked with God for 300 years, and again it says he walked with God. There is a double emphasis here. The Bible underlines that he lived a life dedicated to pleasing God which was the direct opposite of people in the world at that time. We read that God took him. A very short memorial service indeed! I say memorial because Enoch was a missing person. According to Hebrews 11, they searched for him but, "he was not found." I wonder what the headline of the local newspaper was that day? Maybe, 'Enoch, the well-known holy man, has gone missing.' Enoch lived an exemplary life in an evil world and God recognised this.

In Hebrews 11 vv.5-6 we have **God's verdict.**

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as 'God's hall of fame.' A hall of fame today is an institution honouring the achievements of an individual in a particular activity or field. God's hall of fame is reserved for those who were heroes of faith - Bible men and women, some of whom were named and some not. Here we are given some further information about Enoch's life, and what God thought about him. Enoch had great faith. He trusted God for his life, but he looked to God for his future. God made Enoch aware of the future; he believed God and took Him at His word. Enoch was aware of the judgment that was to come on the world, and he trusted God that he would not be here to see it. It was by faith that Enoch was taken up. God removed His servant from this world and transported him to heaven. Enoch never had to walk through the valley of death, something that cannot be avoided, and that men and women fear today.

Enoch's testimony is one that every Christian should be hoping to attain: he pleased God. It seems to me that not only God was pleased with him; it was well known to everyone who knew him that he pleased God. It goes on to say that without faith it is impossible to please God. So, if you are not a Christian you cannot please God in any way. It does not matter how good a person you are, how righteous a life you live, how many good deeds you do, you just cannot please God. You need to have faith in God! You must believe that God exists, and He promises to reward those who seek Him. Why is it that only a Christian can please God? God out of love for you gave His Son, the Lord Jesus, as a sacrifice for your sins. The Lord Jesus has paid for your salvation, but you must accept that this as the only way of salvation. It is the only way you can be forgiven, and then you can begin to please God. Remember Cain; he brought to God the very best he had worked hard to cultivate, but this was not acceptable to God. However, Abel's offering of a lamb and its blood being shed, was acceptable to God. Dear friend, God loves you, He showed this when He gave His Son to die for you, but you need to make the next move; you must accept the Lord Jesus in faith, then you will become a child of God and you can start pleasing Him.

When we come to Jude we are told about **Enoch's message.**

Let me read vv.14-15,

“It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.””

We discover here that Enoch not only walked with God, but he prophesied. He made it known to everyone he met what God had made clear to his heart. The interesting thing here is that Enoch sees past the flood in Noah’s day, past the incarnation of the Lord Jesus, past the cross, past the resurrection, past the ascension and even past the Rapture. His eyes were on the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ when he will come back to this world in power, majesty, and glory to take control of this world and then go on to judge the world in righteousness. That is amazing!

Enoch living around 4000 years B.C. believed everything that God told him. [This was evidence of real faith and he made it known to everyone he met.](#) We are now over 6000 years since Enoch’s prophecy so where are we now in God’s timeline? The Bible makes it clear in 1 Thessalonians 4 vv.13-18 that the next event will be the Rapture. When will it take place? We are not told. We are told it will be soon. We are told it will be a private affair. We are told that the Lord Jesus will come into the clouds and a trumpet will sound which only the Christian will hear, and every believer will be taken by God to meet the Lord in the air. It will happen in the twinkling of an eye. The graves of those who have died over the years will be emptied as the bodies of every Christian will rise along with every Christian who is alive at this time. The world will be unaware of this event taking place. Can you imagine the reaction of the world? Social media will go crazy. There will be headlines like; “millions missing!” There will no doubt be conspiracy theories to try and deflect from the truth, but there will be those who will know full well that it was the Rapture, the second coming of Jesus Christ and they will be inconsolable because they were warned about it and they decided not to accept God’s offer of salvation. There will be no second chance.

Enoch is a type of the Church today. Enoch in his day warned people of their sins and of the judgement that was coming on the world. We said already that he called his son Methuselah whose name means ‘when he dies it shall come.’ The flood was coming which was God’s judgement on a wicked world. God told Noah to build an ark which would be a way of escape from the flood. We recognise God’s mercy and grace as He allowed time for sinners to repent. Noah preached righteousness to everyone and made it known why he was building the ark on the top of a mountain in a world that had never seen rain. They thought he was mad and probably made fun of him! But unfortunately, we are told that God’s offer was turned down by most. There were only eight persons saved when the world was flooded. Enoch was taken before the judgement. That is why he is a picture of the Church which will be taken before the judgement that is coming on this world as we know it today. Please take this seriously and don’t laugh at God’s offer as they did in Noah’s day.

Once the Rapture has taken place there will be a short time of peace before tribulation will come upon this world. The tribulation as the years go by will get worse and worse. We don’t have time to go into this today, but the Bible tells us what it will be like. It will not be pleasant. Covid-19 will seem like nothing compared to this. Israel as a nation will come under severe attack and then the Lord Jesus will step in. Just as Enoch prophesied over 6000 years ago. The Lord will come with tens of thousands of His holy ones. His holy ones are the Church, every believer that was taken at the Rapture as well as believers throughout the Bible. This time the world will see the event. The Bible says that every eye shall see Him, it goes on to say, ‘they shall look on Him who they pierced.’ The Lord will come back to take control of the world where He was rejected, disowned, and nailed to a cross of wood.

I do feel I am giving you a lot of information without giving the full details. But please contact us if you would like to know more about future events as detailed in the Bible. Please seriously consider this talk.

Think about Enoch, his walk with God, the way he pleased God, the sinful world around him, his rapture to heaven, the coming judgement of the flood and the glimpse he had of the future coming in glory, majesty, and power of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a clear picture of what will happen soon, without any doubt.

This world is heading for judgement; the Bible says in 2 Timothy 3 that in the last days there will be difficult times. The believer is looking for the Lord to come. Are you ready for the Rapture or will you be left behind to face the judgement of God? Please do not neglect God's offer of salvation while you have time.

May God bless you.

Thank you for listening to the Truth for Today talk on Old Testament Types – The Rapture of Enoch, talk number T1190.

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