

# Before We Begin

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# Sermon Series

## Power of Promise

1. Love is a Promise (Feb 13)
2. Promise Presents Choice (Mar 13)
3. Promises Must Be Shared



# Promises Must Be Shared

- Enoch
- Old Testament figure briefly mentioned
- In the New Testament, his name appears on the “short list” of spiritual elders who demonstrated great faith



# Enoch: Who Was He?



# Enoch: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (7th generation)



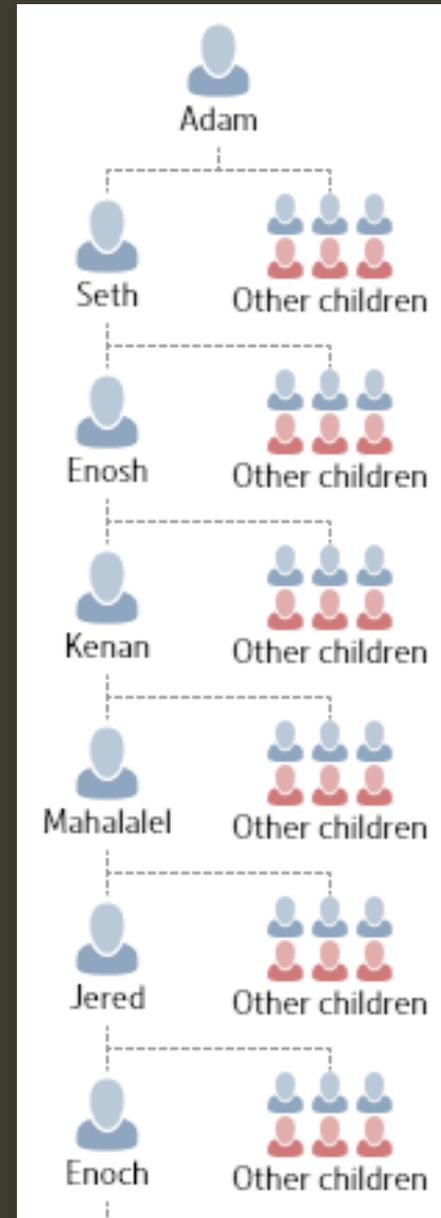
# Enoch: Who Was He?

- Descendant of Adam (7th generation)
  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-3



# 1 Chronicles 1:1-3 (NRSV)

- 1 Adam, Seth, Enosh;
- 2 Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared;
- 3 Enoch, ...



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  - 1 Chronicles 1:1-3
- Father of Methuselah
  - Genesis 5:21-24



## Genesis 5:21-24 (NIV)

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.

22 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

23 Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.

24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.



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- An ancestor of Jesus



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- An ancestor of Jesus
  - Luke 3:23-38



## Luke 3:23-38 (NIV)

23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, ...

(the son of... the son of...)

37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, ...



# What Was Enoch's World Like?



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- Enoch lived six generations after Adam and Eve (born 622 years after Adam), so there are a lot more people





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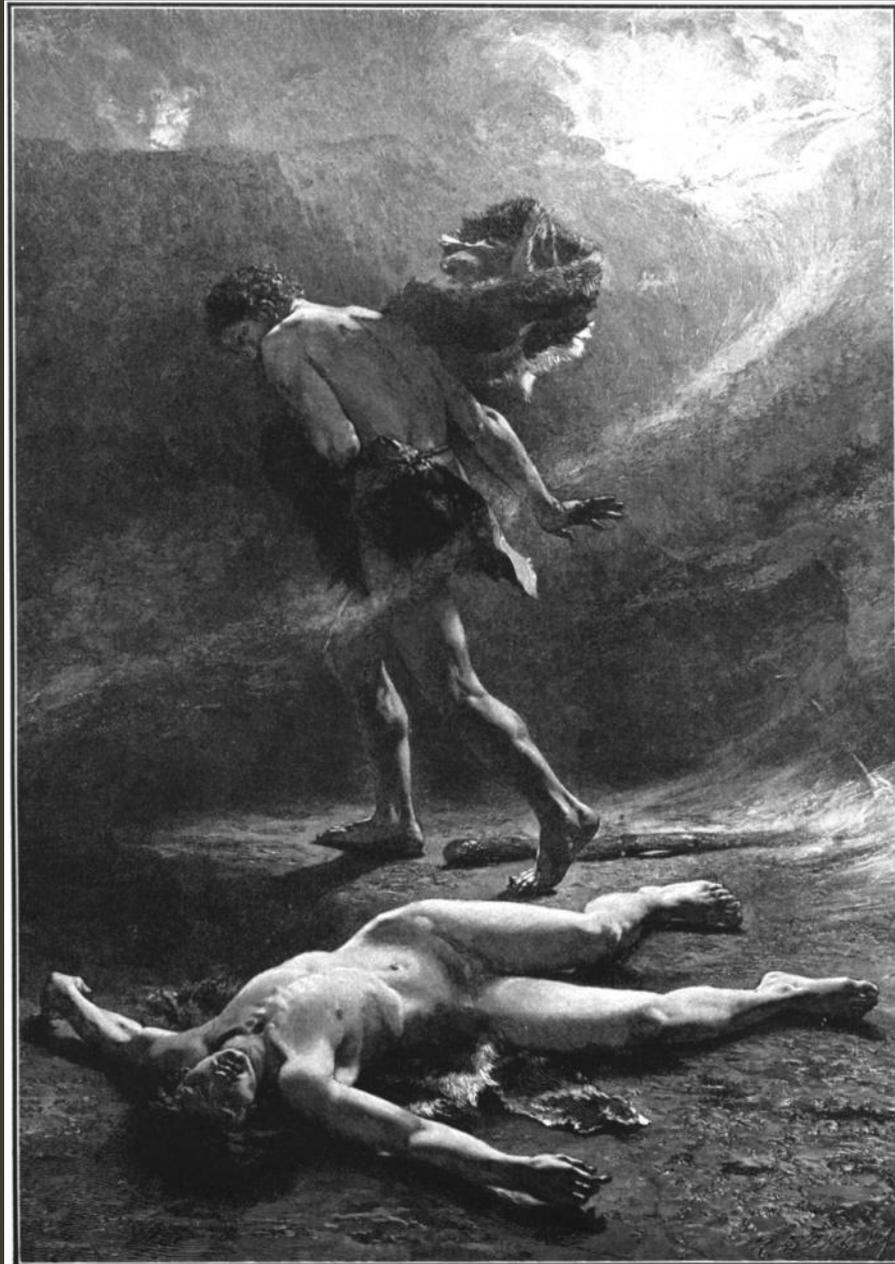
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- People lived in cities (like the city Enoch)



# The City Enoch

“So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden... building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch.” (Genesis 4:16-17)

- Cain’s son Enoch is not the same Enoch whom we are studying today
- Enoch may have been common name



# What Was Enoch's World Like?

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# What Was Enoch's World Like?

- Enoch lived six generations after Adam and Eve (born 622 years after Adam), so there are a lot more people
- It is a world of violence (Cain and Abel)
- People lived in cities (like the city Enoch)
- Evil was increasing in the world



## Genesis 6:5-6 (NIV)

5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.



# What Did Enoch Do?



# What Did Enoch Do?

- Enoch walked with (served) God



## Genesis 5:21-24 (NIV)

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22 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

23 Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.

24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.



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# What Did Enoch Do?

- Enoch walked with (served) God
- Enoch prophesied (preached) about God's impending judgment



## Jude 3-4, 14-15 (NIV)

3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you...



## Jude 3-4, 14-15 (NIV)

4 ...They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: ...



## Jude 3-4, 14-15 (NIV)

14 ... “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones  
15 to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”



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# What Did Enoch Do?

- Enoch walked with (served) God
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- Enoch left planet Earth without experiencing death



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μετατίθημι – Greek metatíthēmi



# μετατίθημι – metatíthēmi

- 1) Literally: as causing a change from one place to another transfer, bring to, transplant
- 2) Figuratively: change, alter

Source: “Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament.”  
Baker's Greek New Testament library (2000), 261





# What Did Enoch Do?

- Enoch walked with (served) God
- Enoch prophesied (preached) about God's impending judgment
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*What did this mean for the original readers?  
What does it mean for us today?*



# Original Readers

- Who were the original readers?
- Probably, Moses was the person who wrote the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy



# Moses: Prophet and Historian

- Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it... (Exodus 17:14)
- Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end (Deuteronomy 31:24)



# Original Readers (cont.)

- The first readers of the first five books of what today we call the Old Testament were the Hebrews of the Exodus
- Enoch was a legend among other groups of people as well
- Enoch is described in other ancient books besides the Bible



# The Book of Jubilees

- Second-century B.C. retelling of Old Testament Bible stories
  - Genesis 1 (Creation) through
  - Exodus 19-24 (God's covenant at Mount Sinai)
- Lost book discovered in Ethiopia (1850)
- Fragments found in Dead Sea Scrolls (1949)

Source: "The Book of Jubilees" by James C. VanderKam (2001), 11-22



# Writings Associated with Enoch

- The Book of Enoch (1 Enoch) “Ethiopic Enoch”
  - c. 300 B.C.– A.D. 200
- The Secrets of Enoch (2 Enoch)
  - Date of writing unknown
- Hebrew Enoch (3 Enoch)
  - Fourth or fifth centuries A.D.

Source: “The Lost Prophet” by Margaret Barker (1988), 6-7



# The Book of Enoch (1 Enoch)

- Used by first-century Christians, like the Old Testament Hebrew “Bible”
- The Epistle of Jude in the Bible quotes from 1 Enoch 1:9

Source: “NIV Archaeological Study Bible” (2005), 2042



# 1 Enoch 1:9

9 Behold, he will arrive with ten million of the holy ones in order to execute judgment upon all. He will destroy the wicked ones and censure all flesh on account of everything they have done, that which the sinners and the wicked ones committed against him.



## Jude 3-4, 14-15 (NIV)

14 ... “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones  
15 to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”



# Transition to Modern Interpretation

- Shortly before Jesus' crucifixion, the disciples desired to know about the coming of the Lord and final judgment
- “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3 NIV)



## Matthew 24:30-31 (NRSV)

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory.

31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other



# Transition to Modern Interpretation (cont.)

- Enoch preached about the coming of the Lord with final judgment, an event that is still in our future
- Enoch left planet Earth without experiencing death, an event many modern Christians believe they will personally experience in the future



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# Rapture

- The Latin term *rapio*, which means to “snatch away” or “carry off,” is the source of the English word
- Doctrine based on
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17
  - John 14:1–3
  - 1 Corinthians 15:51–52

Source: “Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary” (2003), 1366



# 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 (KJV)

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord...



## John 14:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.



# 1 Corinthians 15:51–52 (KJV)

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.



# What Does the Story of Enoch Mean for Us Today?

- Jude brought up the subject of Enoch not because of the rapture, but to “urge you to contend for the faith” (Jude 3)
- The writer of Hebrews described Enoch’s translation not because he wanted to talk about the rapture, but so he could talk about Enoch’s faith



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Believing God’s promise = FAITH



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What promise did God make to Enoch?



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# What Did Enoch Do? (cont.)

- Enoch walked with (served) God
- Enoch prophesied (preached) about God's impending judgment
- Enoch left planet Earth without experiencing death ***because God told him he would escape the judgment to come, and he believed God's promise***



# What Does the Story of Enoch Mean for Us Today? (cont.)

- God has also promised that Christians will escape the judgment to come (God's punishment for sin at Christ's second coming)



# What Does the Story of Enoch Mean for Us Today? (cont.)

- God has also promised that Christians will escape the judgment to come (God's punishment for sin at Christ's second coming)
- The question is: Do we believe God's promise?



# What Does the Story of Enoch Mean for Us Today? (cont.)

- God has also promised that Christians will escape the judgment to come (God's punishment for sin at Christ's second coming)
- The question is: Do we believe God's promise *enough to tell others?*



# 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 (KJV)

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord...



# 1 Thessalonians 4:15–18 (KJV)

... 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.



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6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.



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# Coming to God

1. Believe that God exists
2. Believe that God rewards those who diligently seek him (as he has promised)

The question is: Do we believe God's promise *enough to tell others?*



## Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

9 ...If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.



# Coming to God

1. Believe that God raised Jesus from the dead (as he promised)
2. Diligently seek God by following the example of Christ, and tell others that you do so (“Jesus is Lord”)

Will you begin a relationship with God today?

