

Enoch

No book of Biblical oddities would be complete without mentioning Enoch. He is probably the most famous oddity of all! A great many people are familiar with the story of the man who never died. We find him mentioned in the first book of the Bible:

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

Enoch lived to be 365 years old, and then God simply took him. Instead of dying, Enoch was translated so that he would not have to see death. The book of Hebrews tells us that the reason God did that was because Enoch's faith pleased God:

Hebrews 11:5: "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.**"

By faith Enoch pleased God and walked with Him, and one day God took him and he was gone. Enoch's faith literally saved him from death.

But that is not all that there is to know about Enoch. The book of Jude tells us that Enoch was a prophet who spoke of the Second Coming:

Jude 1:14: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, **prophesied** of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his**

saints,

15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

As far as can be seen in the Biblical record, Enoch is the very first prophet. Thousands of years before the *first* coming of Christ, Enoch spoke of the Second Coming. He foresaw the day when the Lord would return to Earth with His Church and execute judgment upon the ungodly. (This is discussed in greater detail in Revelation 19:11-21.)

But there is still more. Enoch named his son “Methuselah”. Methuselah is famous for living longer than anyone else mentioned in the Bible (a staggering 969 years). What many people don't know is that his name is actually a prophecy. Methuselah means “when he dies, it will come”. Sure enough, the year that Methuselah died, the Flood came and destroyed the world.

That brings us to our last fascinating fact about Enoch. Because Enoch lived by faith and pleased God, Enoch never saw death; instead he was *raptured*. In fact, God removed him from the world *before* the Flood came and destroyed it. Thanks to his faith in God, Enoch did not have to live through that time of judgment; instead he was spared.

Enoch, then, can be seen as a symbol of the Church. Just as Enoch pleased God by living by faith, so the Church pleases God by living by faith. Just as Enoch was raptured so he did not have to see death, so one day Jesus will return and rapture the Church, and those who are alive when He comes will never see death. Just as Enoch was taken before God poured out His judgment upon the world, so the Church will be taken before God pours out His judgment upon the world. The parallels are astonishing.

Yes, it is true that Enoch was taken centuries before the

Flood happened – but people lived for so long back then that the Flood occurred *within a single generation of his departure*. After all, the Flood came the year that his son died!

There is no way to know when the Rapture will occur. All that the Bible tells us is that it is imminent; it can happen at any time. Enoch was taken before God poured out His wrath upon a wicked world – and we will be taken as well.

