

I. Introduction:

- A.** One of the more fascinating characters in the biblical narrative is a man named Enoch. We are given so little information about this remarkable person, but the information we do have is both extraordinary as well as instructive for us as followers of Jesus today. What I have learned from over 20 years of diligent Bible study is an exegetical principle—sometimes in saying very little about one of His friends, God means for us to understand that He is really saying a lot. Enoch is, I believe, one of these instances.
- B.** When the New Testament authors afford us additional insight into Old Testament figures by revelation (as in the case of Enoch), it's an especially rare and priceless jewel of insight that we study with fascination and gratitude. We don't always know how the New Testament writers came to some of their conclusions—especially if it's not clearly stated in the Old Testament record—other than that the Holy Spirit illuminated their understanding and they penned what they did under His inspiration. Of course, we know that all Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16), but it's still remarkable to think that men like Paul, John, Luke, etc. were writing under the inspiration of God Himself—revelation directly from His mind and heart.

II. Four insights Scripture provides about Enoch:

1. Enoch walked with God.

Genesis 5:22-24 | ²² After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. ²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. ²⁴ And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

- A.** Perhaps the most noteworthy thing we read about Enoch is that he walked with God. The text suggests that he started walking with God when he was 65 years old since He walked with God for 300 years and lived to be 365. A couple things to mention here:
- Walking with God speaks of a relaxed disposition and devotion. Enoch was not known for running with God or sprinting with God or crawling with God; He walked with God. Do you ever go on long walks to pray or appreciate nature (or both)? Walks don't feel hurried; they feel peaceful, relaxed. I am concerned that in many Christian circles we emphasize running hard after God ("pressing in") without truly understanding the lifelong implications of our devotion. Although we do run the race (1 Corinthians 9:24, 2 Timothy 4:7, Hebrews 12:1), the paradox is that we do so by walking with God in close relationship.
 - Also, you are never too old to begin a relationship with God, or to be walking more closely with Him. Making the decision to be a disciple of Jesus and to live in relationship with your heavenly Father by the power of the Holy Spirit is the most important choice in life. Don't keep putting it off. Receive His forgiveness. Press delete on all your past failures.

2. Enoch pleased God.

Hebrews 11:5 | By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- A.** The author of Hebrews somehow knew by revelation that Enoch was pleasing to God. He goes so far as to say that there was testimony of this, which means he was "on record" as being pleasing to the Lord. There was some kind of evidence for it. What a thought to ponder! Brothers and sisters, the one thing that is going to matter at the end of our life is that we lived for Him. Make radical life choices now so that when you come before Him for your time of judgment (life evaluation), He says to you, "Well done" (Matthew 25:21-23, Luke 19:17).

3. Enoch prophesied about the coming of God.

Jude 14-15 | ¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

- A.** Because Enoch walked with God, he was sensitive to God. He became prophetic, which includes speaking biblical truth under the inspiration of the Spirit. I don't have a lot of time to spend here, but there is a tremendous need for genuinely prophetic people and Christian communities who walk with God, know God and speak the truth of God into a desperately confused culture (and even church) today. The secret to begin to hear more from God is to walk with Him, study Him in the Word, talk to Him in prayer. According to Jude, Enoch had eschatological understanding about the return of the Lord before any other biblical figure. What a crazy but significant thought worth thinking about much more.

4. Enoch was taken by God.

Hebrews 11:5 | By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

- A. Enoch was taken alive by God directly to Heaven. He did not die physically or otherwise. This foreshadows a time before the second coming of the Lord Jesus when those who please God (followers of Jesus/the church) are raptured (translated) (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The Scripture is clear about this phenomenon although the timing of it is fiercely debated (pre-tribulation, post-tribulation, pre-wrath, etc.). Make no mistake, there will be an entire generation of saints who are “caught up” to meet Jesus in the air at His second coming without ever seeing death. Paul says this truth comforts hearts when we share it with one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
- B. Whether we live to be raptured, or we die in the traditional sense, we will all be taken by God at some point. Beloved, let’s be reminded of this: we will all step into eternity so very soon. Whether it’s just moments from now, or many decades from now, we will all be in either Heaven or Hell for time without end. May we always hold fast to this perspective, and help others to as well.

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for March 5, 2021.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we’re glad you’re here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday’s, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10 a.m. - noon. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENTS:**
 - We’re open from 7-8 p.m. every night seven days a week. Hope to gather with you in prayer!
 - I am starting the planning for our 2021 family leadership gathering later in March. More to come on this!
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We’d love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** (YWAM, Hawaii); **Alicia Wright** (India); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Austin and Amy Zhu** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer; Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global; Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead the Illinois Valley House of Prayer in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Military:** Please keep the following members of our military in prayer as they valiantly serve the United States of America: **Jake Gerst**, currently stationed in Grafenwoehr/Grafenwöhr, Germany.
6. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you’re interested in helping with GPHOP’s social media.
7. **Haven ministries:** Do you need space to pray just one-on-one. Maybe your Christian group needs a place to meet every once in awhile. We’re making available the upper Prayer Room and lower-level Gathering Grounds for rent by donation. Email info@gphop.org if interested.

8. We provide **free Wi-Fi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
9. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
10. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to “Greater Peoria House of Prayer” or “GPHOP”—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It’s helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. Use the large Gathering Grounds fellowship area downstairs if you would like to chat at length.*