



Enoch

Welcome to the rabbit trail. Jewish and other ancient traditions share stories that have transversed time. Are they true? One must remember that the Bible is God's word. His word is solid because it has spoken truth to millions of people over the centuries. Gods word never fails. Yet, we do have these traditional stories. I know so many people who believe extra events that have not been told in the Bible. These stories are found in other ancient books and in oral tradition. We must remember that Santa is a story that evolved. Folklore are stories that evolved. You cannot have it both ways. Do we accept only the Bible or the oral traditions as well?

Is Jesus a story that has evolved? I say no because some stories from other works depict Jesus in different ways. Ways that the Bible for-fathers rejected. The Bible narrative has remained consistent through the centuries. There are thousands of writings that tell the Jesus story the same way. Jesus did not evolve but remains true to His word. We (people) on the other hand have taken stories like Enoch further than they needed to go. The Catholic religion made Enoch into a saint and a holy man. That may be true, but how much more should be added to the story of Enoch? Let the Bible tell us the truth.

Depending on your Bible version the name Enoch can be confusing. The line of Cain has an Enosh but some spell in Enoch. One other offspring is named Enos but some translations spell it Enosh or Enoch. Yet, Paul is telling us in Hebrews 11 that Enoch is the offspring Jared who is

in the line of Seth, not Cain. In the Bible setting are common names. Simon and James are common names. Jesus was a very common name. It is not surprising that a name like Enoch was given to many boys from that era. It is why we must do our due diligence when studying the Bible. Who are we talking about?

Enoch was 65 when he fathered the oldest person to live in the Bible: Methuselah. Enoch then lived another 300 years walking faithfully with God. Then in comes the strange verse of Genesis 5:24 *“Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.”* Did Enoch die? Some have suggested that he was moved to another place on earth. Yet, we get this piece of info from Paul in Hebrews 11 *“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.”*

Enoch said nothing in the Bible. In-fact He did nothing. As with last weeks study look at Abel, we have no record of what these two men did to deserve honorable mention in the Bible. There are, however: clues. I suspect (by tradition) Paul has come to know the name Enoch as a holy man. He must have been because God took him as opposed to letting him die. In Jude 1:14-15 he mentions that Enoch prophesied. This prophesy is not in the Bible. Where is it referenced from? Enoch has a collection of books from the early days before the flood. It is possible that by oral tradition Jude had heard more about Enoch than we have written. Either way the Jewish faith respects the man named Enoch.

Sometimes in the Bible we have people say something twice. It is assumed that the saying is important. In genesis 4 the writer mentions twice that Enoch walked faithfully with God. Then we have God taking him away unexpectedly. I feel that the disappearing event is to prove that God felt something special towards Enoch. Paul mentions Enoch in Hebrews 11.

Clearly the Jewish people had high reverence towards Enoch. Paul mentions that Enoch pleased God. Then Paul mentions that those who earnestly seek God will gain great rewards. Like the reward of not dying.

There is a very fine line between oral tradition and the final writings that made it into the Bible. They all began as oral tradition. Yet, I almost feel that Jewish oral tradition that has survived thousands of years means something. They deeply as honoring Enoch. To walk with God and be faithful means something deep to the Jewish people. To be taken by God is on the level of Elijah. There are very few people in the Bible that hold special order among Jewish scholars. Enoch is one of them. Yet, he literally did and said nothing in Biblical literature.

I just want this to sink into your heart. There are moments when each of us feel that we can give nothing to God. That our talents cannot help the kingdom of God. Men have elevated Mary to saint status. People have elevated Peter and Stephan. Yet, the Bible has made special mention of a hand full of people we know little about. It shows us that God knows. That God sees all our works. A man or woman of few words might do great deeds for God. We should be encouraged by the faith of Enoch. Certainly, Paul and the Jewish nation were.