**Beginnings**  August 23, 2015

Enoch: God’s voice to his generation

Question: in North America today who do you think speaks for God?

Feedback:

Back in April we contrasted the way of life pursued by Cain and his descendants with the way of life pursued by Seth and his descendants.

Let me remind you of several things from that teaching.

Cain and his family members lived without reference to God.

Read from verses 17-24 and you discover there is nothing said about God.

They based their life and identity on human achievement

v.20 - raised livestock

v.21 - musicians

v.22 - metallurgists

We also discover that they did what was right in their own eyes

v.23 - there is no remorse expressed by Lamech

They were energized by pride and boasting.

v.23-24.

Violence was a way of life.

In contrast, Seth and his family members lived with reference to God.

v.26 - they called on the name of the Lord.

They based their life and identity on their relationship with God.

v.21-24 - Enoch walked with God

They did what was right in God’s eyes.

v.24 - God took Enoch because he was pleased with Enoch (Hebrews 11:5b)

The seventh name in Cain’s line was Lamech (4:19-24) and with intent God gave to Moses additional information about Lamech and the kind of life he lived and its results.

The seventh name in Seth’s line was Enoch. And God did the same thing. Why?

We are meant to see how quickly humanity divided into two very distinct groups.

Those who lived without God in their lives and those who did.

Humans love to create distinctions between themselves - language, race, economics, are but a few that are used. But the distinction that matters - not only for this life, but also for the life to come is where one stands in relationship to God.

We learned last week that Enoch practiced a long obedience as he walked faithfully with God for 300 years. His life is meant to both encourage and challenge us to do as he did.

Enoch began to walk with God after the birth of his son.

We talked last week that often it is the birth of a child that initiates a person’s spiritual awakening. Was this the case with Enoch or was there more to it?

The passage we are going to consider today teaches us that Enoch was given a revelation from God. He saw into the future. He saw the coming of the Lord. He saw the destruction of a world living only to please itself. Quite possibly he was even given a timeline of when this would all happen. I say that because of the name he gave his son.

The name Methusaleh **מְתוּשָׁלַח**  literally means, “His death shall bring it.”

Let’s read our passage for today. **Jude 14-16**.

The first thing I want to point out to you is another distinction that existed between Seth and Cain; between those who walked with God and those who didn’t. We learn from the book of Jude that **Enoch was a voice for God to his generation.**

What did God communicate through Enoch?

**He is coming.**

Why was the Lord’s coming something that people needed to be warned of?

Because when the Lord came, every person would appear before him to be judged.

What would be the criteria used by the Lord in his judgement?

Whether or not a person was like him.

Did you catch how many times the word ‘ungodly’ or ‘ungodliness’ was used?

Three times in two verses.

Ungodly means un-god-like.

Humans were originally created in God’s image.

We were tasked by God with a great responsibility: steward the creation just like God would if he were us. This was how God wanted the creation to experience his care.

But we chose against God and corruption entered our nature.

It is sin within us that has made us unlike God.

And it is this presence of sin within us that manifests in our actions and our words, showing just how different we are to God.

Enoch announced that the Lord was coming to judge and to convict.

Did the Lord come as Enoch warned? Or are we still waiting for his coming?

The coming of the Lord that Enoch warned of happened.

Genesis 6-7 gives us the details.

But because the Spirit of God directed Jude to include Enoch’s prophecy in his letter

and apply it to people in his day, we learn that there is a second fulfillment of Enoch’s prophecy that has not yet happened.

Many times, prophetic words have more than one fulfilment.

What do we learn about the first fulfillment of Enoch’s prophecy?

Here we need to tie together Genesis 6-7 and Jude 14-16.

**\*** The flood happened because... the Lord came.

The flood was an act of divine judgement, not simply a natural event.

Look at Genesis 7:11.

As the Lord came with thousands upon thousands of his holy one, it was at the Lord’s direction and word that on the seventeenth day of the second month in Noah’s 600th year that the springs of the great deep burst and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

God used water to bring judgement upon the inhabitants of the earth in that time.

**\*** From Jude 14-16 and Genesis 5-7 we learn that the coming of the Lord... was not sudden.

When you work the numbers in Genesis 5 and 6 you discover there were 969 years between when Enoch began to walk with God and the flood came.

There is nothing sudden about 969 years.

Let me show you how I got these numbers.

We start counting from the birth of Methusaleh.

When Methusaleh was **187** years old he had a son - Lamech.

When Lamech was **182** years old he had a son - Noah.

In Noah’s **600**th year the flood came.

187 + 182 + 600 = 969.

Now here’s something intriguing about this number 969 and the meaning of Methusaleh’s name. How old was Methusaleh when he died?

Look at Genesis 5:27. **969**.

Based on the revelation God gave to him, Enoch named his son “his death shall bring it.”

While Methusaleh lived there was opportunity for people to respond to God’s warning spoken through his father Enoch.

But when Methusaleh died, in that very same year, the door of opportunity slammed shut.

As awesome as the numbers and the name is, what they reveal to us of the character of God is even more astounding!

**God revealed to Enoch what he was about to do.**

**And then God enabled and called Enoch to speak on his behalf to his generation, both warning and invitation.**

In addition, Methusaleh was a sign and a voice for God; as was Noah.

Peter in his second letter, chapter 2, verse 5, describes Noah as being a *“preacher of righteousness.”*

While we do not see God with our physical eyes and typically hear his voice with our physical ears, God is not impeded in his communication to humanity. The example of Enoch teaches us that God speaks through his people.

In this present time, around the globe there are many early warning systems - for tornados, for tsunamis, for solar storms, etc. God’s people are God’s early warning system to the inhabitants of this earth!

You and I, like Enoch, are called by God to be his voice to our generation.

I cannot stress to you how important that task is.

The teaching in Ezekiel 3 confirms we will be held accountable by God if we do not speak his warning to our generation.

**\*** In light of the fact that the second fulfillment of Enoch’s prophecy hasn’t yet happened,

the warning and invitation God wants to speak through us is the same one spoken by Enoch.

Jude 14 - *Jesus is coming...*

Jude 14 - *Jesus is coming...with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones...*

Jude 14 - *Jesus is coming...with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones...to judge everyone and to convict...*

> Jesus is the world’s rightful king and he will return.

> When Jesus visibly and bodily comes to earth, the victory he won at the cross over sin, death and Satan, will be fully applied and a new age will begin.

> When Jesus comes, no one will be able to escape appearing before God to give an accounting of their life. To all who believed in and received Jesus, there will be no sentencing, for through Jesus their sin has been covered over. But for those who’ve rejected Jesus, they will be held accountable by God for what they have done and said, and will receive God’s just sentence for any and all sin committed.

The fact that God gave 969 years of warning in the time of Enoch tells us that **God is patient... and good...and merciful.**

**But know this also... God is just.**

**Know that.. God hates sin.**

**Be aware that God is all powerful and is committed to restoring his creation to the pristine condition in which he first created it.**

969 years of warning were given in the time of Enoch.

Enoch’s son Methusaleh was a sign to his generation, not just of the warning of coming judgement, but also of the opportunity to escape it by returning to God in repentance.

Since Jesus’ return to heaven, there have been almost 2000 years of opportunity.

How much more time will there be?

We don’t know.

But of this we are certain: Jesus is coming.

Enoch was not the only one who spoke of the Lord’s coming.

This is an often repeated theme of the Bible.

Look at 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2:1-8.

Look at 2 Peter 3:3-13.

Do you know what Jesus’ last recorded words were?

Revelation 22:20: *Yes, I am coming soon!*

This is the prophetic word that we who follow Jesus are to announce to our generation.

Judgment is coming.

But there is a way of escape in Jesus.

In Jesus not only can you return to God and be forgiven; but in Jesus you can become a brand new person.

What Jesus did on the cross when he gave his life in exchange for ours, is sufficient to make a person right with God and begin in them a work that undoes and reverses the inner corruption that exists because of sin.

This news seems almost too good to be true.

But in Jesus a person can become flawless in God’s sight.

We are to be God’s voice to speak his warning.

But coupled with that warning is the good news of Jesus - his cross is enough.

If you have heard and understood this good news this morning, I urge you act upon it.

Turn your life towards God.

Receive his Savior Jesus into your life.

Agree with God that your way of living without him is wrong and has grieved him.

Welcome him to lead your life.

I’m using a music video done by Mercy Me as our closing song.

The words to the song are an insert in your bulletin.

Pull that insert out and refer to it as you need to.

The words to his song are profound.

They have captured the heart of the good news God calls us to announce.

But the imagery in this video is also profound.

Watch carefully as to how they demonstrate the impact of the gospel of Jesus upon the life of a person who receives and believes in Jesus.

If you are a follower of Jesus this song announces who you are in Jesus and the message you are to announce to others on his behalf.

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, this song announces who you can become if you will receive and believe in Jesus.

**The Blessing**

Jesus said in Revelation 22:20: *I am coming soon.*

He also repeatedly invited people to come to him.

*Come follow me.*

*Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

*Come to me to have life.*

*Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.*

*Whoever comes to me I will never drive away.*

*Whoever is thirsty...come to me and drink.*

There is great blessing when we come to Jesus.

But having come to Jesus he then directs us to go in his name to others.

And there is also great blessing in going to others on his behalf.