

God Took Enoch

Hymns from "Favorite Hymns of Grace."

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Hymns of Worship

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Devotional Summary: "God Took Enoch"

Greetings in the matchless, marvelous, mighty name of the Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings. What a privilege to be able to reflect on the wonder and wisdom of God Who has worked in our lives to bring us to the place of surrender and partaking of His merciful, bountiful salvation. What a wonderful gift, beyond imagination, is this grace of God which He has poured upon us even though we know we do not, and never will, deserve it. The longer we live, the more obvious and glorious God's unmerited favor becomes. As the old Gospel song says, "Sweeter as the Years Go By." Halleluiah!!!

We realize that we are ministering today to some of God's saints who have had many, many years to grow in their embrace of God's enduring love. It is a great privilege and very humbling to lead you in worship and meditation on their precious Lord. As the Holy Spirit "moves" about the room during our little "church service" today, we invite you to embrace His presence, fresh and anew in your hearts. Let thankfulness and anticipation of your next blessing from heaven flow from your heart to His. God is here to bless you in the depths of your soul and to strengthen your faith in His loving hand. May we open our minds to the honor of a glimpse into the love and mercy and kindness and patience and faithfulness of Jesus Christ. He died for our sins, paying the price we owe, and He invites us to walk with Him through the wilderness of this life toward a better home in heaven someday soon.

Oh, listen to the words of the familiar hymn, "Just As I Am" (Charlotte Elliott):

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28 KJV

Let us remind ourselves of the testimony found in Holy Scripture about Enoch. **"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."** (Genesis 5:24 KJV). Someone has told a story about the relationship these two shared and it goes something like this: God and Enoch were close friends who often took strolls together. One day, as evening approached,

God said to him, "Enoch, we're closer to My house than yours. Why don't you just come home with me tonight." Though just a dramatization of what we read in Scripture, what this little story highlights is the intimacy and friendship God longs to have with all His children.

There is another important fact in the story of Enoch: We read in verses 22 and 23 of Genesis 5 (KJV): **"And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters. 23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years."** Enoch walked with God 300 years before the Lord took him home! We can only imagine the work God had to do in Enoch's heart when he first started getting to know the Lord. Here was a fallen human hanging out with a perfect God! I'm sure there were some hard lessons. And who knows what hardships and disappointments lay behind the phase, **"begat sons and daughters!"** God walked with Enoch while Enoch walked in the everyday mire of living in a fallen world – FOR 300 YEARS! We can only imagine how intensely Enoch loved God...how solid his trust in God was...how deep His worship was of the meek and lowly Almighty One who walked and talked with him! It is reflections of this kind of love that we see in some of the lives of God's elderly saints in long-term care.

The intimacy, the familiarity, the deep, deep abiding love for the Father reflected in the story of Enoch we long to see in our own lives and in the lives of everyone around us – our family, our friends, our neighbors, and yes, our enemies. Some here have tasted His goodness and the joy of His presence in your hearts. He stands with open arms calling to each of us this day – "Come unto Me!"

Do you struggle today with disappointment, with despondency, with pain or sorrow? Your Best Friend, Jesus, knows all about it and He is ever present with you to hold you close with His loving care. Reach out to Him right now. Take a step toward Him in your heart, right now. Many here have known the Lord for years. Maybe your struggles have distracted you from your experiences with Him in the past. Maybe you feel a bit distant and cool in your faith in Christ today. It is my deepest prayer and I believe it is God's will for you, that you find victory over the cares and battles in your life.....as you take His hand by faith today. God walked with Enoch - He will walk with YOU! Hear Him speaking to you this morning..."COME UNTO ME!" Allow God to take you up in His all-sufficient arms and love you as only He can! God took Enoch...let Him take you!

Closing Hymn

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Prayer Requests and Corporate Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Recessional

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