



Men Who Never Died

**Lessons Learned from
Enoch and Elijah**

Men Who Never Died

- Heb. 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.”
- Gen. 5:21-24 - “Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 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.”

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- 2Kings 2:8-10 - “Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground. 9 And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?’ Elisha said, ‘Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.’ 10 So he said, ‘You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so.’”

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- 2Kings 2:11-14 - “Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, ‘My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen’! So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. 13 He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. 14 Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, ‘Where is the LORD God of Elijah?’ And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.”

Men Who Never Died

- Death is designed to be experienced by all men.
 - Heb. 9:27 - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”
- It is half of the human predicament.
 - 1Cor. 15:22 - “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”
 - Rom. 5:14 - “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam.”

The Meaning Of Translation

- Metatithemi from Heb. 11:4 - “Literally transport, exchange, change sides, carry over, change, remove, translate, turn” (Strongs - 3346).
- Laqach from Gen. 5:24 - “Hebrew: to take accept, carry away, drawn, fetch, get, in-fold, receive, seize, send for, take away” (Strongs - 03947)
- Enoch was alive when this event took place - Gen. 5:24.
- A similar event happened to Elijah; he was alive when he left this world - 2Kings 2:11.
- To date, these are the only two men to be translated and leave this world alive. But they will not be the only ones to do so.

The Meaning Of Translation

- We unconsciously assume that everyone will experience death before the Judgment.
 - John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”
 - John 5:28-29 - “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

The Meaning Of Translation

- Multitudes will enter heaven without experiencing death.
 - 1Cor. 15:50-54 - “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory.”

The Meaning Of Translation

- 1Thes. 4:15-17 - “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

The Meaning Of Translation

- How will it happen?
 - In 1Thes. 4:17, the phrase “caught up” is a military term. It is from harpazo which means to “seize with firmness and force, to take for oneself eagerly, to carry off” (Strong's - 726).
 - In Matt. 24:44, it will be unexpected, necessitating a constant state of readiness.
 - In 1Cor. 15:52, the change will be instantaneous.

The Meaning Of Translation

- In 1Thes. 4:16, the ascension will be selective for the dead in Christ and the righteous who are alive.
- In Phil. 1:23 and Titus 2:13, we will see Jesus.
- More than that is not revealed.

God Oversees Translation

- It is not important that we know the means or mechanism; satisfying human curiosity is not a Divine priority.
- Very likely by the same expression of power He manifested in the Creation.
 - Heb. 11:3 - “By faith we understand that the worlds were *framed by the word* of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”
 - John 5:28-29 - “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves *will hear His voice and come forth...*”

God Oversees Translation

- God translated Enoch.
 - Heb. 11:5 says, “He was not found, because God had taken him.”
 - Gen. 5:24 says, “God took him.”
- God controlled when Enoch was translated.
 - Gen. 5:24 says, “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”
- God controlled how Enoch and Elijah left this world.
- God controlled where Elijah was taken.
 - 2Kings 2:11 - “Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”
 - Elijah’s response to Elisha indicated that he had no certain idea of where and when - 2Kings 2:10

God Oversees Translation

- God, Who gives life, knows best the where, when, and how of its end.
 - Job 14:5 - “Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.”
 - Psalm 104:9 - “You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, that they may not return to cover the earth.”
 - Psalm 39:4 - “LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.”

God Determines The Destination Of The Translated

- The righteous, whether by death and resurrection, or translation are going to a land where...
 - Rev. 21:4 - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
 - Rev. 22:3-5 - “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.”

God Determines The Destination Of The Translated

- What did Enoch miss?
 - He did not get to witness the world of his son Methuselah descend into complete sin, except for the family of Noah.
 - He did not get to witness his son Methuselah descend into sin; chronologically, his son's death corresponds with the beginning of the flood.

God Determines The Destination Of The Translated

- Was Methuselah righteous until the end?
 - Methuselah was 187 years old when he had Lamech - Gen. 5:25
 - When Lamech was 182-years-old he had Noah - Gen. 5:28
 - The flood happened in the 600th year of Noah's life - Gen. 7:11
 - $187+182+600 = 969$ (Methuselah's age when he died)
 - In Gen. 6:3, 5-6, 120 years before the flood, God determined that he would give humankind 120 more years and then destroy them.
 - Methuselah was 849 years old.
 - Later, He instructs Noah to build the ark and said that Noah and his family were righteous.
 - That list did not include Methuselah, and as the command to build the ark and the observation of the righteousness of Noah's family came long before the flood, Methuselah would have been numbered among the unrighteous before the flood.

God Determines The Destination Of The Translated

- What did Elijah miss?
 - He did not get to see Judah fall into complete idolatry and be taken into captivity after his life's work of combatting idolatry.
- What will be missed by those who are translated at the second coming?

1Thes. 5:1-8 - “But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.”