

Sunday September 14th 2014
WOK Conference
Kenya – August 2014
By Faith – Part Five

1). Ge 5:21 ¶ *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. 25 ¶ Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech. 26 After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters. 27 So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. 28 ¶ Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. 29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."*

a). Enoch, as we have seen is our foundational picture for the resurrection/rapture of the 'Church' and from the original account concerning Enoch we see that after he begot Methuselah Enoch walked with God 300 years. And we also know from the reference to him in Hebrews 11 that his walk with God was 'by faith' to the saving of the soul.

b). As we have seen, for Enoch to walk 'by faith' to the saving of the soul means that he had believed that which God had said and organized his life accordingly. And if we can see that which Enoch believed it must impart to us great spiritual truth concerning our own walk with God.

c). Now, from the original account of Enoch from the lineage of Adam through Seth in Genesis Chapter 5 we see that he 'begot Methuselah' at the age of 65. Now although he lived another 300 years beyond this point and had 'sons and daughters', it is only Methuselah who is singled out for mention.

d). We will also note that it is after the birth of Methuselah that we see Enoch walking with God for 300 years – and from this we can know that something happened around the time of Methuselah's birth which caused Enoch to have the kind of faith associated with the salvation of the soul for which he is commended in Hebrews Chapter 11.

e). So, the intriguing question would be, 'What happened?' – can we possibly know?

f). Well, yes, I think we can – the name that Enoch gives his son will certainly provide us with a strong indication. The name, 'Methuselah' literally means, 'When he is gone it will be sent' – in other words, once Methuselah died, 'it would be sent' – and to find what the 'it' is we only have to compare scripture with scripture.

g). After Enoch was 'taken' Methuselah lived another 669 years and then died. Now the year of Methuselah's death coincided with the 600th year of Noah's life; and this is what the scripture records with regards to Noah in his 600th year - *Ge 7:6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.*

h). Upon the death of Methuselah then, in the 600th year of Noah's life, judgment is sent upon the earth in the form of the world wide flood.

i). And so from this we can conclude that God had revealed to Enoch that destruction was to come upon the earth because of the wickedness and violence that filled it, and that this destruction would come after the death of his son, hence the name 'Methuselah', and that he, Enoch, would be taken alive into the heavens before the death of his son and therefore before the events surrounding this judgment would come to pass.

j). Enoch acted by faith and this could only be in response to that which God had revealed to him. It is impossible to act by faith apart from acting in accordance with that which God has said, and that which God had said had to do with his removal from the earth and an impending judgment that would follow.

k). Not only this, but we also have the record of a prophecy given by Enoch which we find in the Book of Jude - *Jude 1:14 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."*

l). Now here is the intriguing thing, although Enoch's prophecy would of necessity relate to the coming flood of Noah, as we see it presented in Jude it was made with regards to the judgment of Christian apostates and false teachers.

m). These are the same individuals who are described in 2 Peter –

2Pe 2:1 ¶ *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 ¶ By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.*

n). And then contextually, within the Book of Hebrews, these would be those described as follows - Heb 10:28 *Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

o). And all these that we see in Jude, Peter and Hebrews are Christians, those who have acted apart from faith and have been rejected as Cain was rejected – we might see these also pictured in Orpah, the experience of Lot and his family, the 5 foolish virgins etc.

p). We will realize then that there is a triple aspect to that which is to come pictured through the translation of Enoch. From a Christian standpoint, from what we have just seen, there will be judgment following the resurrection/rapture, which is exactly what we saw in our last session which we can read about in Revelation Chapters 2-3.

q). Then from a Jewish perspective there will be judgment upon the Jewish people which we see pictured through Noah and the flood and then from a Gentile perspective there will be judgment on the Gentile nations pictured through the destruction of the earth in the days of the flood of Noah.

r). So, here is the thing – through Enoch's prophecy we can know that he understood and believed that which God had revealed to him concerning the coming of judgment, not just that which would come with the flood, but also the judgment reserved for a day millenniums beyond his lifetime concerning 3 groups of individuals who, during Enoch's lifetime, did not exist. And believing this he organized his life accordingly and was pleasing to God.

s). Now we are the ones who will comprise the resurrection/rapture of the 'Church', whom Enoch foreshadows, and God has revealed to us the impending judgment that will come upon all Christians at Christ's Judgment

Seat and the judgment that will come upon Israel and the Gentile nations during the Tribulation. And if we should believe that which God has said then like Enoch we will organize our lives accordingly and walk with God – and if we do then in that day when we stand before the Lord's Judgment Seat we will have this testimony – that we pleased God – we will have had faith to the saving of the soul without which it is impossible to please Him.

2). Re 5:7 *Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

a). Beyond that pictured through Enoch we come to that pictured through Noah and as we had seen last time the events of the Tribulation are the events that bring about the redemption of the inheritance. The 7 sealed scroll seen in revelation Chapter 5 contains the terms of that redemption, releasing through the opening of these seals the judgment to come upon Israel and the Gentile nations.

b). And if we remember that which we have read concerning Noah we will recall that Noah and his family pass through the flood and are not destroyed by it. And contained in this fact is a glorious promise for the nation of Israel – they will have to go through the horror of the Tribulation, but they will not be destroyed by it.

c). This same promise is previously pictured in - Ex 3:2 *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.*

And again in - Da 3:19 ¶ *Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.....24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." 25 "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

A promise that is also expressed directly in - Jer 30:7 *Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.....11 For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.'*

And in - Da 12:1 ¶ *"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered,*

3). Re 6:1 ¶ *Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." 2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. 3 ¶ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." 4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.*

a). In Revelation Chapter 6 the opening of the first 4 seals of the 7 sealed scroll give us a complete overview of the Tribulation – from the beginning where Antichrist is pictured going forth on a white horse conquering and to conquer, to the end where Antichrist is now seen on a pale horse personified as 'Death' death and followed by Hades, the place of the dead.

b). Now, remember from Daniel that we had seen that God had determined 70 'weeks' – 490 years to bring an end to Israel's sinfulness with a view to the coming Millennial Kingdom. And also remember that we had seen that 69 of these 'weeks', 483 years were brought to a close with the Messiah being 'cut off' – which would leave the 70th 'week', the final 7 years, remaining for this prophecy to be fulfilled – this 70th 'week', these final 7 years, are the 7 years of the Tribulation. And if we go back to Daniel we will find that which we read about in Revelation Chapter 6 described for us - Da 9:26 *"And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

c). The 'prince who is to come' who destroys 'the city and the sanctuary' is the Antichrist and in connection with this we see war and desolations – this is the content of the second half of v26, then v27 takes us back to describe how this comes about.

d). The confirmation of a covenant with 'many' [in Israel] for 'one week' takes us to the beginning of the Tribulation – this is the same event pictured in Revelation Chapter 6 by the rider on the white horse going forth conquering and to conquer.

e). We will note here just for our own clarity that the Tribulation begins with the confirmation of the covenant with the many in Israel, not with the resurrection/rapture of the 'Church'.

4). Let's begin to draw some things together here by remembering what we have learned in foundation – Nimrod we will remember is the first king of Babylon, which was the beginning of his kingdom, which then expanded to encompass the land of Shinar and Assyria, encompassing then the entirety of the geographical area ruled by Nebuchadnezzar at the time of the Jewish captivity and we will also remember that in the days of Moses, Egypt was ruled by a Pharaoh who also came from this same geographical area – all of which provides for us an unchangeable truth concerning that which must take place with respect to the events of Daniel's 70th week.

a). Let's go back to Daniel for a moment and look at what is recorded there concerning the interpretation of the great image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream - Da 2:36 *"This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37 "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all-you are this head of gold. 39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 "And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. 41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 "And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. 44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone*

was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

b). Nebuchadnezzar's dream reveals a great image that is seen standing in Babylon, an image that represents 4 inter-related kingdoms, all placed firmly in the area of the Babylonian empire. [These same 4 kingdoms are presented after a different fashion as 4 beasts, a lion, a bear, a leopard and a dreadful and terrible beast in Daniel Chapter 7]. The first of these kingdoms, the head of gold, is identified as that of Nebuchadnezzar himself. The remaining 3 can be identified in history and through prophecy. The second kingdom, the chest and arms of silver is that of the Medes and Persians – Da 5:30 ¶ *That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.* And what we would know historically about the Medes and the Persians is that they ruled the then known world from Babylon.

c). The third kingdom, historically is that of the Greeks under Alexander the Great who took the kingdom from the Medes and the Persians and Alexander ruled the then know world from Babylon. Following Alexander's death the kingdom was divided and ruled by his 4 generals and faded away.

d). This leaves a 4th kingdom, which like all the others must rule the world from Babylon – this will be the coming worldwide kingdom of Antichrist who we find described in - Mic 5:6 *They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, And the land of Nimrod at its entrances; Thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, When he comes into our land And when he treads within our borders.*

Antichrist is 'the Assyrian', the last king of Babylon, and will therefore come out of that geographical area covered by the old Babylonian/Assyrian Empire. And we can't miss here in Micah the connection with 'the land of Assyria' and 'the land of Nimrod' which takes us back to foundation in Genesis Chapter 10.

e). So, to continue the connection with the foundation, Antichrist, the Assyrian, in the middle of Daniel's 70th week, after 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, breaks his covenant with Israel and declares himself to be God – 2Th 2:3 ¶ *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

At which point he becomes the ruler of a worldwide kingdom with its base in Babylon having been given that authority by his father Satan - Re 13:2 *Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

And with this power he begins his program of genocide against the Jewish people. A sequence of events that the Lord Himself describes, recorded in - Mt 24:15 *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 "Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 "And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 "And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.*

With additional information given in the account as recorded by Luke - Lu 21:24 *"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

f). So then, at this point there is no longer a nation of Israel in the Middle East and Israel is once again enslaved and persecuted amongst the Gentile nations - a time of persecution in which we find this - Eze 5:12 *'One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.*

Zec 13:8 *And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"*

Mal 3:2 *"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.*

g). Let's remember that what befalls the Jewish people is because of their continued unfaithfulness and disobedience and was spelled out for them in detail in Leviticus Chapter 26 and repeated in Deuteronomy Chapter 4 – and so, 2/3rds of all Jews alive on the earth at the mid-point in the Tribulation will be killed, but as we see from Zechariah these devastating events have a glorious purpose – the nation will be refined as silver is refined and tested as gold is tested - Eze 22:15 *"I will scatter you among the nations, disperse you throughout the countries, and remove your filthiness completely from you.* Here then is the purging of the centuries of the nation's sin of disobedience and unbelief.

h). And let's also remember as we marvel at the horror that will engulf God's chosen people that which God had promised Cain, who is a picture of Israel, the Brother killer - Ge 4:15 *And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold."*

i). The Gentile nations then, under Antichrist, will be used to bring Israel to repentance through God's judgment and then will experience the sevenfold vengeance of God for having set their hand against the Jewish people.

j). Not only will 2/3rds of the Jewish people be killed during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation but according to - Re 6:8 *So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.*

According to this verse ¼ of the earth's entire population, excluding Israel, will be killed at this time also and the kingdom of Antichrist will be utterly devastated, pictured through the events associated with the opening of the 7th seal in the same way that Pharaoh's kingdom was utterly devastated by the 10 plagues which foreshadow the opening of the 7th seal. And just as Pharaoh pursues Israel to the Red Sea following the first Passover and is completely destroyed with all his army - Ex 14:30 *So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.* Just as with Pharaoh so Antichrist will pursue a restored Israel into the land following the fulfillment of Passover at which point Gentile world power will be totally destroyed for all time at what we have come to call the battle of Armageddon - Isa 14:24 ¶ *The LORD of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, And as I have purposed, so it shall stand: 25 That I will break the Assyrian in My land, And on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his yoke shall be removed from them, And his burden removed from their shoulders. 26 This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole*

earth, And this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. 27 For the LORD of hosts has purposed, And who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, And who will turn it back?"

Re 16:14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." 16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

k). The totality of this destruction is pictured in graphic detail –

Re 14:19 So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Re 19:19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Zec 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

5). The conclusion of these events fulfills the times of the Gentiles, brings Man's Day to a close and ushers in the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, a new beginning with respect to the rulership of the earth. And here we are at that pictured through the 4th of the OT saints in our panorama from Hebrews Chapter 11:4-10, Abraham. And it is entirely fitting that Abraham is singled out to represent this as the promise given to him encompasses the 'Church', following the Judgment Seat, Israel, following the Tribulation and Christ –
Ge 22:17 "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

a). Christ and His co-heirs will rule from the New Jerusalem in the heavens and Christ and Israel will rule from the Jerusalem on the earth – Christ’s co-heirs will have been taken from the land of their birth to the land of their calling and Israel from the land of their captivity to the land of promise. The descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, both physical and spiritual - Ga 3:29 *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Will be in possession of that which God has promised and God’s 3 firstborn sons will rule the earth for 1000 years – which brings us right back to where we had begun in our introductory study of the Book of Hebrews.

6). Now before we close let’s draw our attention to a couple of things – Heb 11:7 *By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear,*

a). Noah had believed God concerning ‘things not yet seen’ and organized his life accordingly and for this he is commended – throughout the course of our study we have been divinely warned of things not yet seen concerning the impending judgment of Christians, Jews and Gentiles so the question is what will we do next? Will we believe God, have faith to the saving of the soul and organize our lives accordingly or will we draw back to perdition?

b). Heb 11:8 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

Abraham is commended for having faith to the saving of the soul through believing that which God had said, leaving the land of his birth to go to a land he had never seen – and we have been called to leave the land of our birth to go to a heavenly land, a land which we have never seen, so the question is will we believe God and go or will we be like Orpah and turn around and go back?

c). Here is what the scriptures record concerning our 4 OT saints – Heb 11:13 *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

d). What will you choose this day?

