

Men Who Never Died

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. Heb. 11:5; Gen. 5:21-24 - How many among us understood that even in the Patriarchal age when God spoke to heads of families that the righteous walked by faith?
- B. 2Kings 2:8-14 - What better end for the prophet the scriptures treat as the greatest of Old Testament prophets?
 - 1. Has it occurred to you that even Jesus the Son of God had to experience death and was not permitted to leave this world without it?
- C. Death is designed to be experienced by all men - Heb. 9:27
 - 1. It is part of the human predicament - 1Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:14
 - 2. What is so special about these two men that they never saw death?

I. THE MEANING OF TRANSLATION

- A. Metatithemi - "Literally transport, exchange, change sides, carry over, change, remove, translate, turn" (Strongs)
 - 1. Enoch was alive when this event took place - Gen. 5:24
 - 2. A similar event happened to Elijah; he was alive when he left this world
 - a. 2Kings 2:11
- B. To date, these are the only two men to be translated and leave this world alive
 - 1. But they will not be the only ones to do so.
 - 2. John 14:1-3, 5:28-29 - We unconsciously assume that everyone will experience death before the Judgment
 - 3. 1Cor. 15:50-54; 1Thes. 4:15-17 - Multitudes will enter heaven without experiencing death
 - 4. There will be two types of persons in heaven: those who experienced death and the resurrection, and those who experienced translation
 - 5. One from the Patriarchal age, one from the Mosaic age, and multitudes from the Christian dispensation
 - 6. Will the difference matter in heaven? Not at all
- C. How will it happen?
 - 1. In 1Thes. 4, the phrase "caught up" is a military term. It means to "seize with firmness and force, to take for oneself eagerly, to carry off." The Lord will eagerly, firmly grasp His people and carry them away to glory
 - 2. In Matt. 24:44, it will be unexpected, necessitating a constant state of readiness
 - 3. In 1Cor. 15, the change will be instantaneous.
 - 4. In 1Thes. 4:16, the ascension will be selective for the dead in Christ and the righteous who are alive
 - 5. In Phil. 1:23 and Titus 2:13, we will see Jesus
 - 6. More than that is not revealed

II. GOD OVERSEES TRANSLATION

- A. That's His responsibility

1. It is not important that we know the means or mechanism; satisfying human curiosity is not a Divine priority
 2. I suspect it will be by the same expression of power He manifested in the creation - Heb. 11:3; John 5:28-29
- B. God translated Enoch
1. Heb. 11:5 says, "He was not found, because God had taken him"
 - a. Gen. 5:24 says, "God took him."
 2. God controlled when Enoch was translated - Gen. 5:24, "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."
 - a. Enoch lived on the day he was translated just as he had on every other day, pleasing the Lord
 3. God controlled how Enoch and Elijah left this world; He could have chosen death, instead He chose translation and a whirlwind
 4. God controlled where Elijah was taken; Elijah's response to Elisha indicated that he had no certain idea of where and when - 2Kings 2:10
- C. God Who gives life, knows best the where, when, and how of its end
1. Job 14:5; Psalms 104:9, 39:4; Heb. 9:27.

III. GOD DETERMINES THE DESTINATION OF THE TRANSLATED

- A. The righteous, whether by death and resurrection, or translation are going to a land where - Rev. 21:4, 22:3-5
- B. What did Enoch miss?
 1. He did not get to witness the world of his son Methuselah descend into complete sin except for the family of Noah
 2. He did not get to witness his son Methuselah descend into sin; his son's death corresponds with the beginning of the flood
 3. His name means "his death shall bring judgment"
- C. What did Elijah miss?
 1. He did not get to see Judah fall into complete idolatry and be taken into captivity after his life's work of combatting idolatry.
- D. What will be missed by those who are translated at the second coming?

Conclusion:

- A. 1Thes. 5:1-8