

House of Sages

ENOCH

25TH JANUARY, 2026

COME & LEARN

וַיִּתְהַלֵּךְ חֵנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֵינֶנּוּ כִּי־לָקַח אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים:

Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, for God took him.

Genesis 5:24



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SOURCE 1 – GENESIS 5:21-24

When Enoch had lived 65 years, he begot Methuselah.

After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years; and he begot sons and daughters.

All the days of Enoch came to 365 years.

Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, for God took him.

וַיְחִי חֲנוֹךְ חֲמִשׁ וְשָׁשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיֻּלְדַּת
אֶת־מֶתוּשֶׁלַח:
וַיִּתְהַלֵּךְ חֲנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹקִים אַחֲרַי
הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־מֶתוּשֶׁלַח שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת
שָׁנָה וַיֻּלְדוּ בָנִים וּבָנוֹת:
וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי חֲנוֹךְ חֲמִשׁ וְשָׁשִׁים
שָׁנָה וְשֹׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה:
וַיִּתְהַלֵּךְ חֲנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹקִים וְאֵינְנו
כִּי־לָקַח אֹתוֹ אֱלֹקִים:

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- In the plain text of Genesis 5:21–24, what do you learn about Enoch?
- What questions arise as you read these verses?
- What do you imagine for the phrase “Enoch walked with God” could mean?
- What do you imagine for the phrase “he was no more, for God took him” could mean?

SOURCE 2 – GENESIS 6:9

This is the line of Noah.—Noah was a righteous man; he was blameless in his age; Noah walked with God.

אֵלֶּה תּוֹלְדוֹת נֹחַ נֹחַ אִישׁ צַדִּיק
תָּמִים הָיָה בְּדַרְתּוֹ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים
הִתְהַלַּךְ־נֹחַ:

SOURCE 2 – TARGUM ONKELOS ON GENESIS 5:24

Second century, Land of Israel

Chanoch walked with [the fear of] God, and he was no longer [there] for God took him [put him to death].

וְהַלִּיךְ חֲנוֹךְ בְּדַחְלֵתָא דְהַ' וְלִיתוּהַ'
אַרִי (לָא) אָמִית יְתָה הַ':

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SOURCE 3 – RASHI ON GENESIS 5:24

11th century, France

AND ENOCH WALKED [WITH GOD] — He was a righteous man, but his mind was easily induced to turn from his righteous ways and to become wicked. The Holy One, blessed be He, therefore took him away quickly and made him die before his full time. This is why Scripture uses a different expression when referring to his death by writing ואיננו “and he was not”, meaning, he was not in the world to complete the number of his years.

ויתהלך חנוך. צדיק היה וקל
בדעתו לשוב להרשיע, לפיכך
מהר הקב"ה וסלקו והמיתו קדם
זמנו, וזהו ששנה הכתוב במיתתו
לכתב ואיננו בעולם – למלאות
שנותיו (בראשית רבה):

SOURCE 4 – BEKHOR SHOR ON GENESIS 5:24

12th century, northern France

Enoch walked with God. This is because his days were short compared to others who lived nine hundred years, except for this detail: he lived only three hundred years and a fraction. People thought he died in the middle of his days due to his wickedness; therefore, it says "Enoch walked [with God]," meaning he was completely righteous. "And he is not [in the world]" because he died in one-third of his days—"for God took him" and removed him from among those wicked beasts, for "He does not trust in His servants."

ויתהלך חנוך את האלקים. לפי
שהיה קצר ימים שהאחרים היו
חיים ט' מאות לבד הפרט וזה לא
היה חי אלא ג' מאות ופרט והיה
סבור שברשעו מת בחצי ימיו לכך
הוא אומר ויתהלך חנוך שחסיד
גמור היה, ואיננו בעולם כי מת
בשליש ימיו, כי לקח אותו אלהים
וסילק אותו מבין הרשעים ההמה
כי בעבדיו לא יאמין:

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SOURCE 5 – HAAMEK DAVAR ON GENESIS 5:24

1850-1890, Volozhin

And Enoch walked [with God] etc. One time he secluded himself and immersed himself in love of God until he reached the point of ascending to heaven.

ויתהלך חנוך וגו'. פעם א' היה מתבודד ומשקיע עצמו באהבת ה' עד שהגיע לעלות לרקיע:

SOURCE 6 – CHIBBAH YETEIRA ON GENESIS 5:24

1988–1992, Jerusalem

"And Enoch walked with God, and he is not." "With" is interpreted as "toward," like in Judges (19): "and to the house of the Lord I am walking." For Enoch sought to reach the Throne of Glory through seclusion and cleaving to God via the mystical path.

ויתהלך חנוך את האלקים ואיננו. את פי' עם וגם אל האלקים כמו בשופטים (יט) ואת בית ה' אני הלך, כי חנוך בקש להגיע עד כסא הכבוד על ידי התבודדות ודביקות בה' בדרך הסוד

SOURCE 7 – THE TORAH: A WOMEN'S COMMENTARY

21st century, United States

and then was no more, for God had taken him. This report, one of the most tantalizing in the Torah, is obscure. Compare the ascent to heaven of the prophet Elijah (II Kings 2:11–18).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Is there a perspective that stands out to you? Why?
- Do you have any remaining questions about Enoch and who he was? If so what?

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