

ENOCH ... and the baby which changed his life
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(GENESIS 5: 21-24)

A baby is a mighty atom ; the outstanding example of dynamic helplessness. Its smiling eyes can remove mountains ; its gurgles of merriment can delight an empire, and produce chuckles of delight in ancients who have long since forgotten the days of their youth. Its tiny fingers, unable to hold the lightest article, can effectively grasp the hearts of all who watch it ; the small feet, unable as yet to take one step, can ruthlessly march into the inner precincts of any heart ; and the eyes which as yet cannot recognize a mother, can captivate and enthrall a world. Its wrath can take the sunshine from a home. Its insistent cries for attention can bring kings and queens running to its side. Its likes and dislikes can govern families. His Lordship the Baby is the master of ceremonies in every abode. It has been thus from the beginning of time. One of the greatest men of the ancient world owed everything to the coming of his baby. When he looked into the innocent face of a helpless child, his entire outlook was changed, and he was never the same again.

How Thrilling the Methods of God

"And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters." It is significant that the beginning of Enoch's walking with God dates from the birth of his first child. The sacred record is content to say that Enoch merely lived for the first sixty-five years of his sojourn on earth. He was like any other man. He fulfilled the normal functions and requirements of existence. He lived as a man among men. Then suddenly everything was changed. The expected baby arrived, and from that moment the father was amazingly transformed. The glad event transported him to heights of joy hitherto unknown ; and when the unprecedented ecstasy had passed, the proud father was left with a consuming desire to keep in step with God. The Almighty had sent this inestimable gift, and gratitude could only be expressed in holy conduct. How strange are the ways of God! A baby accomplished in one moment what sixty-five years of experience had failed to do.

How Transcendent the Man of God

The child was named Methuselah. Many and varied interpretations of the meaning of this strange name have been given. Certain scholars have declared that it " Man of the dart or javelin." Yet another startling suggestion is that the name Methuselah means, " It shall not come till he die " (Lange's Commentary). Jude, in the 14th verse of his short epistle, says that Enoch the seventh from Adam was a prophet who foresaw an outpouring of judgment upon sinful people. Thus it would appear that in naming his child, the father indicated that a great spiritual revelation had been linked with the birth of his baby. It is even more startling to notice that the prediction was fulfilled. Methuselah was destined to become famous, for he lived longer than any other person. He reached the age of nine hundred and sixty-nine years ; but in the year of his death, the great flood devastated the earth. This awesome truth was clearly seen by Enoch long before it happened, and although the name Methuselah had never been given to a child, no other name could possibly meet the requirements

ENOCH ... and the baby which changed his life of the new arrival. Whenever the proud father nursed his son, he remembered his great revelation, and calmly walked with his Lord.

How Tremendous the Mercy of God

"And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." Amid the increasing corruption of earth, this saint was out of place, and ultimately God translated him to higher and nobler society. But Methuselah lived on and on. Possibly some men thought he would never die; that he had discovered the secret of perennial youth. Yet we know now that the length of the patriarch's life was an indication of the overwhelming mercy of God. "It shall not come till he die." The Homecall of the aged man would coincide with the closure of God's offer of mercy to a guilty world. Thus he was allowed to linger. When other people were taken away, he remained; and every day of his long life proved to be another opportunity for men to repent. Alas, the spiritual state of the people constantly deteriorated, and finally the Lord repented that He had ever made man. During that year Methuselah died, and his decease was followed by outpoured judgment. Enoch recognized all this when his son was born. His life was changed by innocent helplessness—a baby boy.

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