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THE TRANSLATION OF ENOCH

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 91
HEBREWS 11:5

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Let us get a corrected translation of the first four verses--

Verse 1

"In fact, doctrine is the reality from which we keep receiving confidence, the proof of matters not being seen."

Verse 2

"For by means of it (doctrine) men of old gained approval (The super grace status)."

Verse 3

"By means of doctrine resident in the soul, we learned that the ages (dispensations) have been put together by the decree from God, with the result that what is being seen (what is unfolding in history) has not come to pass from those things which are visible."

Verse 4

"By means of doctrine resident in the soul, Abel had offered to the God a greater sacrifice than Cain, through which offering he received confirmation, that he kept on being righteous (vindicated) The God approving his gifts or sacrifices, and through the same (doctrine resident in the soul) while he is dead, he still speaks."

HEBREWS 11:5 "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death, and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." This is a very short commentary on Enoch, a man who made an impact on the generation in which he lived, and has also made an impact on all the ages. God the Holy Spirit has left out here in this passage things that we know about Enoch from other Scripture, but has put here in this verse just exactly what he wanted us to know.

"By faith" is the instrumental singular of pistis and it means that which is believed, which is doctrine. So this says, "By means of doctrine." Enoch is the son of Jarad and the father of Methuselah. Methuselah was a super grace believer also, but is not mentioned in this passage.

Genesis 5:18 and 21 give us a commentary on Enoch. He is called the seventh generation from Adam and he was a prophet. In that period of time from Adam to the flood, Enoch was a super grace believer. The words "was translated" is the aorist, passive, indicative of metatithemi. Meta means change and tithemi means place. The time it took for Enoch to go from earth to heaven was an instant. Enoch received this change of station apart from physical death. He didn't accomplish this translation, it was something that God did for him. He received dying grace. The Rapture generation will receive translation just like Enoch did. Enoch had a wonderful relationship with God while he was on the earth and he just departed without seeing physical death. So we read, "By means of doctrine resident in the soul, Enoch was translated." He was translated to heaven without death. He is not coming back. He is not one of the two witnesses in Revelation. He was a Gentile. God just has a marvelous sense of humor and God just decided to do something unusual and unique. Elijah had exactly this same kind of an experience. (You see, it is no problem to God to take dust from the ground and from it form a human being. The Bible says,

"He breathed into man the breath of lives." If he did it once, and he did, then it will be no problem for God to do it when he lifts our sacred dust from the grave.)

Now God doesn't make any promise that if you learn doctrine, you will be translated. But he does promise to be fair to you and to do for you that which is best and that which is in keeping with his perfect will for you.

'he should not see' is the aorist, active, infinitive of horao plus the negative me. This is a culminative aorist and it means that all that had happened in his whole life is now brought into one great transfer moment without any physical death. This is an infinitive of result. So it really means "with the result that he should not see death." The word here for death is thanatos. Back in verse four we had violent death and that word was apothenesko. "And was not found" is the imperfect, passive, indicative of heurisko. The word means that they looked for him every place but he was nowhere to be found. They looked and looked and looked says this imperfect tense. They went to every place Enoch had ever been but he could not be found. He was gone. This transfer was different from physical death. In physical death the physical body stays on the earth and the soul and spirit go to be with God. But in the case of Enoch the body went along. It was never seen again. This same thing will happen in the Rapture. Next we read "because God had translated him." This is an aorist, active, indicative of metatithemi. It is a culminative aorist with the result that he was not found on the earth.

THE DOCTRINE OF DYING GRACE

1. DEFINITION.

Dying grace is the experience of a believer which comes in physical death under God's provision of grace. Not all believers will have dying grace, only believers in fellowship. Some believers go out under the sin unto death. That is God's last chance to discipline them. There will be no discipline in heaven. There is no necessity for it. Death is in the hands of God and he has chosen the time for you to go, so don't have any fear of death. We are absent from the body and are present with the Lord. (The great Bible teacher, Dr. Ironside, died in his sleep. A beautiful way to go.)

2. DYING GRACE REMOVES THE FEAR OF DEATH.

Psalm 23:4 says, "Even though I walk through the valley of the deep darkness of death." The result, "I will fear no evil." Dying grace removes the fear of death. David said, "For thou art with me." This is true of every believer at the moment of death.

3. DYING GRACE IS THEREFORE A SUPER GRACE BLESSING.

Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Godly ones." A super grace believer gets the best possible send off into heaven. Hebrews 11:5 teaches this also. No one is going to be embarrassed in heaven. No red faces in heaven. God keeps a lot of people alive down here just so he can discipline them, for there will be no discipline in heaven. He blesses you and disciplines you on the basis of grace.

4. WE HAVE A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF DYING GRACE.

Job 5:21-27 is one of the greatest passages in the Word of God concerning death.

In verse 24 the words, "And shall not sin" mean that you will not have an old sin nature in the resurrection body.

In verse 26 "thou shalt come to the grave in a full age" means that you will die at exactly the right time.

This means that God's timing on death is perfect. The secret of long life is the grace of God. Exercise is very important, and God expects us to take care of our physical bodies. (I heard a man who laughed at taking exercise. He said, "I don't exercise. I get my exercise carrying the caskets of my friends who exercise.")

A better answer is this--"I am a hundred, and it is because God wants me to be there."

So this verse correctly translated says, "By means of doctrine resident in the soul, Enoch was translated with the result that he should not see death, and he was not found though they looked everywhere for him, because the God has transferred him."

The verse goes on to say, "For before his transfer to heaven" then we have "he had this testimony" and this is a perfect, passive, indicative of martureo. It means he had this testimony in the past with the result that it still stands. Then we have "He pleased" and this is a perfect, active, infinitive of euaresto and it means "that he had pleased God." So this part of the verse says, "For before his transfer to heaven he had obtained the testimony in the past, with the result that it stands forever, that he had pleased God." "Pleased God" means that he had entered the super grace life.

HEBREWS 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." The importance of the Word of God means that we give it a correct interpretation and that means a correct understanding of every word. We have studied two deaths. One died violently and the other didn't have any death at all, was just transferred. Now we have the words "Without faith" and it means "Without doctrine resident in the soul." Next we have the word adunatos which means impossible. It is impossible to please God without having doctrine resident in the soul. The words "to please" is the aorist, active, infinitive of euaresteo. This is a constantive aorist and it means every positive volition to take in doctrine gathered into one act. This means we are to have positive volition toward doctrine all the time. So this says, "It is impossible to please God apart from taking in doctrine." Now that brings up the question--Who are you trying to please? Are you trying to please every Tom, Dick and Harry that comes down the road, or are you trying to please God? Everything that is pleasing to God is related to Bible Doctrine. Study--assemble together for Bible study. Recognize the authority of the pastor-teacher. Make up your mind what is important and stay with it. This means academic discipline. Next we have "For he that cometh to God" and this is the present, active participle of proserchomai and it means approach, it means the way you come to know God and please him. Next we have the words "Must believe" and it is from the verb dei from deo the present, active, indicative and it is used to show compulsion of duty. Right with it we have a second verb, the aorist, active, infinitive of pisteuo meaning "to believe." So it means "there must be an

inner compulsion, we must be convinced." The idea in these two words is that there must be an inner drive for you to stay with it and keep on taking in doctrine day by day. Next we have the words "that he is" and this is a present, active, indicative of eimi and this refers to the eternal essence of God. In other words it means that God exists in his perfect character. He has always been perfect, he is perfect today and he will be perfect throughout all eternity.

WE HAVE TWO "HE IS"

This is one of the most wonderful statements in the Bible. We have already explained the first "He is." This refers to his eternal character. But this second "He is" is entirely different. This is not eimi but is ginomai and it means "He becomes something to you that he was not before." This is a present, middle, indicative of ginomai and it means "He becomes a rewarder."

Now we have the key to this reward. "Them that diligently seek him" and this is the dative of indirect object "them." "Earnestly seek" is the present, active, participle of ekzeteo. This is a verb of obsession. This means that Bible doctrine has become the constant daily desire of your life. It is a verb of positive volition toward doctrine. This is a condition that must perpetually exist. It says, "God--He, himself" becomes the one doing the rewarding.

Seeking him does not mean running around having some ecstatic experience, speaking in tongues, or having emotional experiences. It means taking in doctrine every day.

So this verse says, "And without doctrine resident in the soul, it is impossible to please him. For when he is occupied with doctrine, he must be convinced that he is (his eternal existence) and that he becomes the rewarder to those who keep on diligently seeking him."

Get Some Principles

1. Please note how this passage gives emphasis to the importance of doctrine resident in the soul. This may be the greatest chapter in the Bible on the importance of doctrine. Doctrine became the very life of the people in this chapter.
2. As the believer begins to take in doctrine into his mind and soul, he finds that it does two things for him.
 - a. He becomes more convinced as to the reality of the essence of God and of the reality of each member of the Trinity.
 - b. Doctrine begins to formulate in his soul the difference between what God wants for the individual believer and what the world and others may want for him. Doctrine says to the individual believer, "Look, this is what God wants for you and from you."
3. The persistence in taking in doctrine causes the invisible to become more real than that which is visible.
4. This begins to develop in the believer a capacity to love God. There is no way to really love the invisible God apart from doctrine.
5. The love for the written word develops in the believer a love for the living Word.

6. This motivates the believer to be consistent for the purpose of learning more and more doctrine.
7. This leads to the erection of an edification complex in the soul. This leads to occupation with Christ. Then it also involves a battle to take in doctrine so you can stay there once you have arrived in super grace.

HEBREWS 11:7 "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." Now we come to Noah and he too reached the high ground by doctrine resident in the soul. For the first 500 years, Noah went up and down then Noah and his three sons reached the high ground. Read Genesis 5:32 and 6:10 and you will realize that the last 450 years were super grace years. "Being warned" is the aorist, passive, participle of chrematizo. It means to utter divine communication. To be warned by doctrine. Noah stuck it out. People all around him said that Noah was a nut in listening to all this doctrine. "Of things not seen" is from medepo plus the present, passive, participle of blepo and means "about things not yet being seen." It means about things that had not yet occurred in history. Super grace believers always are tuned in so they can receive warning of coming disasters. That boat Noah constructed was ridiculed by everybody, but Noah knew what he was doing. Super grace brought preservation and salvation to the human race. Bible doctrine warned him 120 years before the flood, and he gave a minority report for 120 years. He was the greatest comedian in world history and the world laughed at him for 120 years without any let up. He always spoke to a full house and they never failed to laugh at his act. His performance lasted for 120 years. This is a world's record for repeat performance, and it never ceased to bring the house down. He found the right formula and stayed with it. Noah got the doctrine from God, put it down in his soul and lived by it. Next we have "moved with fear" and it really means "Having been motivated by reverence." This is an aorist, passive, participle of eulaubeomai and it means to be concerned, to have respect for authority. Next we have "he prepared" and this is an aorist, active, indicative of kataskeuazo and it means to construct on the basis of exact blueprints. Now why did Noah do this? He was motivated by doctrine in his mind. The word for ark is kibotos. Then we have eis soteria and it means for the purpose of the deliverance of his family.

Blessing By Association

Here is a principle you need to understand. His wife and children were believers, but they were blessed in an amazing way by being associated with this super grace believer. This is as close as some will ever get to super grace, and that is to be associated with some others who have it. The blessings of Noah fell on his whole family. Then we have dia hos and this means "through which doctrine." Next we have the words "He condemned" and this is an aorist, active, indicative of katakrino. This is a culminative aorist and refers to the result of his work upon the whole human race. He built the ship against all kinds of opposition. He was the only living super grace believer in the world of his time. Methuselah died just before the water began to fall. Noah condemned Satan's world and became heir. This is from our old friend ginomai and it means he became something that he was not before.