TITLE: “Man of the Year”

TEXT: Gen. 5:18-24; Heb. 11:5; 1st Thess. 4:15-18;

1st Co. 15:51-58

INTRODUCTION: Every year in the January issue of time magazine they feature the man or person of the year. The person of the year is the person that they choose who they feel has made the biggest impact on our world in the past year.

 It was interesting who some of the people chosen where for Man of the Year in times past..

1927 Charles Augustus Lindbergh

1932 Franklin Delano Roosevelt

1934 Franklin Delano Roosevelt

1938 [Adolf Hitler](https://www.thoughtco.com/adolf-hitler-biography-1221627)

1939 [Joseph Stalin](https://www.thoughtco.com/body-of-stalin-lenins-tomb-1779977)

1940 Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill

1941 Franklin Delano Roosevelt

1942 Joseph Stalin

1945 and 1948 [Harry Truman](https://www.thoughtco.com/harry-s-truman-1779843)

1958 Charles De Gaulle

1959 Dwight David Eisenhower

1963 [Martin Luther King Jr.](https://www.thoughtco.com/martin-luther-king-jr-1779880)

1972 Nixon and Henry Kissinger

1998 Bill Clinton and Kenneth Starr

1980 [Ronald Reagan](https://www.thoughtco.com/ronald-reagan-1779927)

2005 Bill Gates, Melinda Gates, & Bono

2006 You

2019 Greta Thunberg

This Year 2021 Elon Musk

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My favorite that made the list was probably 2006 -YOU

 As I was reading about this I had an interesting thought..

 Who would we choose as man of the year if we had to get our list from the pages of Scripture….

 To make it interesting lets exclude the natural #1 choice, Jesus, and limit our list to those less then Deity….

 The Common, ordinary men mentioned in Scripture….

 Common, ordinary men, who because of their faith in God did un-common, extraordinary things that made a real impact on their world…

 Our list of candidates might become a very long one…..

 Possibly Noah, the only godly man of his generation whom God spared when He got fed up with the progressive wickedness of mankind and destroyed the earth by the flood.

 Or maybe Abraham, the man God declared righteous because of his faith in God.

 Or possibly Abraham’s son or grandson, Isaac or Jacob, who lived lives of the faith of their father Abraham.

 Maybe your man of the year would be the man who God described as a man after His own heart, a shepherd boy who became a King, David the son of Jesse..

 Maybe it would be one of the prophets who committed their lives to be Gods spokesperson to His people during very difficult times, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos…

 Maybe it would be one of the three young Hebrew slaves such as Shadrach, Meshach or Abednego, who would rather suffer a fiery death in the furnace of Nebuchadnezzar then to bow down to his image….

 Possible you would choose someone a little more contemporary from the pages of new Testament Scripture..

 Such as John the Baptist or one of the original disciples, or the Apostle Paul….

 The list of candidates could become a very long one and all good choices….

 But I found someone who I think would be my choice back in the days before Noah… back in the first ten generations of man.

The seventh generation from Adam. The man is Enoch Not Enoch the son of Cain but Enoch the son of a man named Jared.

 A man’s testimony really tells it all and even though this man Enoch’s testimony is a very short one, only a couple of sentences in Scripture, it is a mighty one…. It tells us everything that we need to know about this man Enoch…

It is in the genealogies of those from Adam to Noah that we fist find mention of this man Enoch…

**Gene 5:18 (NIV) When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch.**

**19 And after he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters.**

**20 Altogether, Jared lived 962 years, and then he died.**

Here we have the introduction to the man Enoch. He was born the son of a man named Jared. Enoch is the seventh generation from Adam… Generations were a lot longer back then. Enoch’s dad, Jared lived to be 962 years old…

 Now listen to the testimony of Enoch…

21 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah.

**22 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.**

**23 Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.**

**24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.**

 What a powerful testimony of a man’s life!

 In fact, in my view, this is probably the most powerful testimony of any man found in the pages of Scripture!

 It says that Enoch was 65 years old when he had his first child. He was 65 years old when he became a dad for the first time…. Guys, can you imagine that? Raising a teenager when you are in your 70”s & 80’s.. And Enoch was a young man by the standards of the day when he first became a father. His dad, Jared was 162 when Enoch was born.

 But notice what happened to Enoch after he became a father…

**22 And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.**

After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years!

This is a very specific and meaningful phrase in Scripture. When Enoch became a Father at age 65 Enoch then walked with God.

Hebrew word for Walked

**01980 halak {haw-lak'}**

**1a2) to walk i.e. manner of life (fig.)**

**1d) (Niphal) to lead, bring, lead away, carry, cause to walk**

What this tells us is one of two things:

1. When Enoch was 65 he became a father and he started walking closely with God at that time. When he was 65 years old he took on the manner of living for his God.
2. Or After Enoch became a father at 65 he continued his close walk with God for another 300 years.

Either way Enoch would be my personal choice for person of that year for what it says next about him…

**23 Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.**

24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

 Do you understand what this is saying?

 Enoch didn’t die! Enoch didn’t face death in the physical!

**Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.**

 Enoch had such a special relationship with God that God just reached down and snatched him up to be with Himself!

 And Enoch was just a young man. He was only 365 years old at a time in history when Most of those before and after him lived to be 800-900 years old and then they died.

 Enoch was just 365; he hadn’t even reached middle age. He was in his prime! His body hadn’t started to fall apart yet! And God snatched Him up!

The Apostle Paul tells of this great testimony in**:**

**Hebr 11:5 (NIV) By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.**

Can there be a better testimony of one’s life then this?

**Before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.**

Enoch earnestly sought after God. He lived for God. Enoch walked with God. And what a reward God gave Enoch…

**By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away.**

What a testimony of a man’s life! **He walked with God and then he was no more for God took him away..**

Noah had a special relationship with God. Noah lived a long life. Yet Noah eventually died in his flesh.

 Abraham had a good relationship with his God. Abraham’s faith was credited as righteousness by God yet Abraham died in his flesh.

 King David had a good relationship with God. God called him a man after His own heart yet David died in his flesh.

Enoch had such a special relationship with God that God just reached down and took Enoch to be with Himself without Enoch having to die in His flesh.

 Enoch had such a tight relationship with God that God just said Enoch, I don’t want to wait another 400-500 years for you to come to live with Me. I want you to come to Me now! And I mean right this instant! I am not even going to wait the time it would take to stop your heart!

**Enoch walked with God and then he was no more for God took him away!**

Enoch has my vote for man of his year.

 He has my vote for man of the century. Man of the millennium.

 Because Enoch was a man who walked with God and then he was no more for God took him away.

 What a way to live our life and what a way to have our life on this earth end…

 To live our life walking with God and then to have God simply snatch us up and take us to be with himself. Never having to face death but to pass from mortal life directly and instantly into eternal, ever lasting life.

 Sound like an impossibility today? Sound like something that could never happen again? Never happen to you?

 Actually Scripture says that this is not just a possibility but that it is a probability. Scripture says that there will be others like Enoch.

 Others who live their lives walking with God and then they will be no more because God will take them away..

 What if I told you that there may very well be some sitting here today who will experience the same thing that Enoch experienced..

 To live a life walking with God and then simply will be no more for God took them away.

 Do you know that this is actually an unfulfilled promise of Scripture that is yet to be fulfilled for those who walk with God as Enoch did?

 The Apostle Paul has these words to say to us as Christians.

**1The 4:15 (NIV) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

**17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

**18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.**

What are the words that we are to encourage each other with here?

 That there will be some who, like Enoch, will live their lives walking with God and then they will be no more for God will take them away!

**1The 4:15 (NIV) According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

We who are still alive when the lord returns will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep, proceed those who have died after living a life walking with God.

 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

**17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.**

 This is exactly what happened to Enoch on an individual basis.

 He walked with God and then he was no more for God took him away.

 And God has promised that this may happen to us as well!.

 Paul in speaking to the Christians in Corinth says this….

**1Cor 15:51 (NIV) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep,** (we will not all die) **but we will all be changed--**

**52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

**54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."**

**55 "Where, O death, is your victory?**

**Where, O death, is your sting?"**

**56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.**

**57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

 If we live our lives walking with God, live our lives communing and fellow-shipping with Him, live our lives in intimate relationship with Him, then we may one day just be walking down the street, or sitting in our recliner, or talking to our neighbor, and then, all of a sudden, we will hear the sound of a trumpet, look up to see Christ coming on the clouds of Glory and hear him call our name… and in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye we will be snatched up to be with Him!

Paul says:  **Listen, I tell you a mystery:** ( I tell you something mysterious, something profound, something really, really neat) **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—**

We will not all have to face or experience death!

 But we will all be changed! We will all be transformed! We will all be raised in the newness of resurrected eternal life!

52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

 **The perishable will be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality!**

These bodies that we live in are perishable, they are passing away, they are in the process of death. The older that we become the more of a reality that this fact becomes.

 We are mortal. The death process started for us at our birth.

 The day that we are born we are one day closer to our death. The day that we are born the countdown to our death begins.

 But God tells of a coming day when….

The perishable will be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality!

This is speaking of a time when those who have lived their lives walking with God and have died while walking that walk, even though they perish at that day they will be clothed with that which will never perish.

 It is speaking of a time when those who are living their mortal lives walking with God will be instantly changed from mortal to immortal without ever suffering death.

 And it will all happen in an instant, in a split second, a micro second.

**In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

**54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."**

**55 "Where, O death, is your victory?**

**Where, O death, is your sting?"**

 Paul anticipated this event actually happening in his day. He preached this message to those he spoke to in his time.

 How much closer is the realization of this promise of Scripture to us today?

 Again, there may very well be some of us here this morning who will never have to face death but will, in an instant, in the time it takes an eye to twinkle, be changed from perishable to imperishable and from mortal to immortality.

 Some of us here today may never have to personally experience the sting of death.

 Paul says; therefore encourage one another with these words!

 Jesus is coming back! And when He does all those who have died in Christ will be raised into the newness of resurrection life!

 And all those who are still alive at the time of His coming will never have to face death but will pass from life on earth directly into life eternal with God!

 And this promise is for all, who like Enoch, live their lives walking with God.

 This is a promise for all who embrace Jesus as the Lord and Savior of their life and then faithfully live their lives in fellowship and communion with Him.

 This is a win, win proposition.

 If we walk with God and die we will be raised into the newness of resurrection life when Christ returns.

 If we walk with God and are still alive when Jesus returns we will simply be caught up to be with Him and never have to face death…. We will simply pass from life into life that will never end.

 Either way we win. Either way we will claim the prize.

 The prize of eternal life in Christ as we make Him the Lord of our life.

 Is this a promise that you can embrace this morning?

 Do you have the hope of Enoch?

 That one day you might simply just be no more because God has snatched you away?

 Do you have this hope, and not just this hope, but do you have the assurance of the resurrection in your life?

 Are you living your life walking with God?

 Are you living your life in the manner of Him?

 If you are then this promise of God is for you!

 If not then God wants you to have the realization of this promise in your life. He wants you to start walking with Him today so that you can walk with him for an eternity of tomorrows.

 This morning, have you started that walk with God?

 Have you embraced Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life? For that is how and when our walk with God begins!