

## Who Killed Enoch?

### Commentary for May 15, 2023 – Can We Know For Sure? (Dr. Ernest Martin, 1977)

The Book of Hebrews said that Enoch died (Hebrews 11:13). Genesis 5:22 shows that Enoch lived only 365 years while most of his contemporaries were living seven, eight, or nine centuries. But Enoch **“was not; for God took him”** (verse 24). He was “taken” before most ordinary people were **“gathered to their fathers.”** His death happened when he was a comparatively “young man.” But how did Enoch die? The Bible seems to have the answer.

The first nine chapters of Genesis are very condensed accounts of the first seventeen centuries of human history. Seth, the righteous man of Adam, is only appointed two verses for the record of his life. Several other important men are given equally terse mention. But one man and the evil line of which he came, is given eight verses — four times that of Seth. That person was named Lamech.<sup>1</sup>

This wicked Lamech was the seventh in succession from Adam (Genesis 4:17–18). Righteous Enoch was also the seventh from Adam (Genesis 5:6–8 and Jude verse 14). They were close contemporaries.

Now, what was one of the main sins that Lamech committed? **“I have slain a man to my wounding, and a young man [Hebrew: *yeh-led*] to my hurt”** (Genesis 4:23). The Hebrew word **“young man”** does not necessarily mean a very young child or a teenager. In 1 Kings 12:8, 10, and 14 the word referred to men who were approaching middle age. Lamech could well have slain someone who was of similar age.

Lamech’s crime must have been like Cain’s crime because he mentioned that criminal act of his ancestor relative to his own crime. **“If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold”** (Genesis 4:24). Recall that Cain slew his brother — righteous Abel, but he got a sevenfold protection from God against vengeance (Genesis 4:15). This shows that God was merciful to Cain though he did not deserve it.

And now, some centuries later, a descendant of Cain’s asks for even greater protection. Does this mean that Lamech also killed a righteous man — perhaps one of even more importance?

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<sup>1</sup> Later, a different Lamech was fathered by Methuselah. This second Lamech descended from the line of Seth and not Cain. He was the father of Noah (Genesis 5:26-31):

**“And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died. Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son: And he called his name Noah, saying,**

**‘This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which YHWH has cursed.’**

**And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.”**

Remember that Lamech asked for seventy times the protection that God gave Cain for killing Abel. [ There is no evidence Lamech received that protection from God. *DWS* ]

Enoch was a very important man. In addition to being righteous, Enoch was also a prophet:

**“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these [evil people], saying ‘Behold, YHWH comes with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment.’”**

• *Jude verses 14–15*

The prophet Enoch was certainly a significant individual. Enoch gave his son Methuselah a prophetic name that meant: **“When he [Methuselah] dies, It will be sent,”** referring to the future Deluge. Methuselah died precisely in the year of the great Flood of Noah. This and other prophecies of Enoch came true!

[ For more information about Methuselah, [“Secret Number 54 - Why Methuselah Lived So Long,”](#) from Dr. Ernest Martin’s book: [101 Bible Secrets That Christians Do Not Know](#), free online. *DWS* ]

It could well be that it was wicked Lamech who killed righteous Enoch. All the evidence leads to this possibility. Notice again the coincidences.

- [1] Lamech and Enoch were both the seventh from Adam.
- [2] Lamech killed a young man, and Enoch died comparatively young. And,
- [3] Lamech must have killed an important righteous person because he wanted the protection afforded to Cain who did the same.

But why would Lamech want to kill Enoch? Lamech said he committed the murder **“for wounding me”** [actual Hebrew, Genesis 4:23]. Since Enoch was a preacher of righteousness, he would no doubt have been preaching heavily against the actions of the wicked people of his time — and Lamech was a major descendent of the evil genealogical line.

A confrontation had no doubt taken place between the two, because Lamech was “wounded” and “bruised” by his adversary. Enoch may have tried to put down the evil of Lamech by physical force (like Samuel did with the Amalekites) and in retaliation Lamech could have Enoch martyred in his 365<sup>th</sup> year of age.

Though the information to prove this is meager in this section of Genesis, and one cannot state with dogmatism that this is the answer, yet the solution is compatible with the available evidence.

Dr. Ernest Martin, 1977

For more information about Enoch, read [“Secret Number 83 - Did Enoch and Elijah Die?”](#) in again, [101 Bible Secrets](#), free online.

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