

# **The Good, The Bad, The Ugly**

Character: (Webster's 1828)

4. The peculiar qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others; these constitute real character, and the qualities which he supposed to possess, constitute his estimated character, or reputation. Hence we say, a character is not formed, when the person has not acquired stable and distinctive qualities.
7. By way of eminence, distinguished or good qualities; those which are esteemed and respected; and those which are ascribed to a person in common estimation. We enquire whether a stranger is a man of character.

In various portions of the scriptures, there is a focus on individuals that have certain characteristics that define their true "character." Let's look:

## **The Good**

Solomon declared: "A good man shall obtain favor of Jehovah... a good man shall be satisfied from himself" (Prov. 12:2; 14:14).

4. Having moral qualities best adapted to its design and use, or the qualities which God's law requires; virtuous; pious; religious; applied to persons, and opposed to bad, vicious, wicked, evil. Yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. Rom. 5:7."
5. Conformable to the moral law; virtuous applied to actions. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works Tit. 2:7 (Webster's 1828).

## **Enoch**

"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: 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." (Genesis 5:21-24).

Enoch is, to a casual reader of the scriptures, not a character well remembered. However, the New Testament applauds the faith of Enoch, saying, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and he was not found, because God translated him: for he hath had witness borne to him that before his translation he had been well-pleasing unto God: and without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him" (Heb. 11:5-6).

The scriptures establish that Enoch was translated: the term is defined as, “ to transfer, that is, (literally) transport, (by implication) exchange, (reflexively) change sides” (Strong’s). In the case of Enoch, his “change” was a result of his faith, which the Hebrew writer describes, saying, “without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him” (Heb. 11:6). Enoch, therefore, believed that God is, was a seeker “after him,” being assured that a reward was imminent, i.e., forthcoming.

For the child of God, the apostle Paul says, the Father, “ delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love; in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins” (Col. 1:13-14). Having “the forgiveness of our sins,” the child of God has a clearer understanding of the statement of Jesus, saying, “ I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die.” (Jn. 11:25-26). ret