

LAMPSTAND HISTORY

THE BOOK OF ENOCH

Read It With the Sources

The complete text in the R. H. Charles translation, with every Bible echo, manuscript and early reader marked beside the verse it belongs to.

FREE SAMPLE · CHAPTERS 1–5

BIBLICAL MYSTERIES · ANCIENT EVIDENCE



INSIDE THIS SAMPLE

THE OLDEST WORDS OF ENOCH'S BOOK

"…not for this generation, but for a remote one which is for to come." — 1 Enoch 1:2

108	5	1
CHAPTERS	BOOKS IN ONE	VERSE QUOTED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

01	How to read this book	*three kinds of notes*
02	Where the text comes from	*four witnesses*
03	Chapter 1	*the Holy Great One comes*
04	Chapters 2–4	*the order of creation*
05	Chapter 5	*"ye shall find no peace"*
06	Enoch 1:9 beside Jude 14–15	*word for word*

Every line above is a link. So are the arrows (→) inside the notes.

Image: Henoch (Enoch), engraving, Rijksmuseum RP-P-OB-5441. Public domain (CC0).

START HERE

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

Most editions of Enoch hand you the text and leave you alone with it. This one keeps the text whole and puts three kinds of help in the margin, each with its own colour, so you always know what you are looking at.

BIBLE ECHO B

Where a line of Enoch and a line of the Bible meet. Each one is graded: **quotation** (the Bible cites Enoch by name), **allusion** (the wording follows an older Bible passage), or **shared phrase** (same words, no proven link).

MANUSCRIPTS M

What the surviving copies do at this point: where the Greek and the Ethiopic differ, where a passage survives in only one of them, and where the translator rearranged lines.

IN THE TEXT T

What to notice inside Enoch itself: a word that returns later, a turn in the argument, the first appearance of a character.

Nothing in the margin tells you what to believe. The notes say what the text says, where the wording comes from, and who made the connection. When a link is our reading and not a stated fact, the note says so.

THE MARKS INSIDE THE TRANSLATION

The translation is by R. H. Charles (1855–1931), first published at Oxford in 1912. He left signs in the text to show where his manuscripts disagree. We keep every one of them. His own key:

MARK	WHAT CHARLES SAYS IT MEANS
⌜ ⌝	Words found in the Greek fragment from Akhmim but not in the Ethiopic version.
⌜⌜ ⌝⌝	Words found in the Ethiopic version but not in the Greek.
[ ]	Words Charles judged to be interpolations — added to the text by a later hand.
( )	Words supplied by Charles to complete the English sense.

TRY IT

…and there shall be a judgement upon all (men).
1 Enoch 1:7

WHAT THE MARK TELLS YOU

The round brackets mean “men” is not in the manuscripts. Charles added the word so the English reads smoothly. The text itself says only “upon all.”

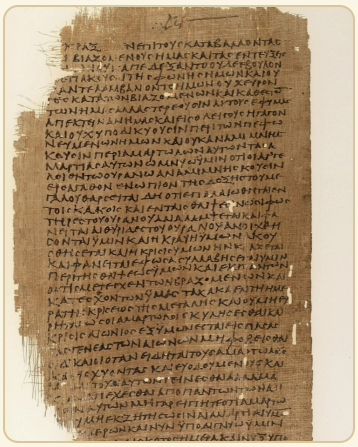
THE WITNESSES

WHERE THE TEXT COMES FROM

No single ancient copy holds the whole book in its original language. What we read today is pieced together from four witnesses.



GE‘EZ, THE LANGUAGE THAT KEPT ENOCH
An Ethiopian manuscript written in Ge‘ez (a prayer book, not Enoch). The Metropolitan Museum of Art. CC0.



GREEK, FOURTH CENTURY
Chester Beatty Papyrus XII, leaf 3 verso — a page of Enoch in Greek. Public domain.



ENOCH AS EUROPE PICTURED HIM
Henoch, engraving. Rijksmuseum. CC0.

WITNESS	WHAT IT HOLDS
Ethiopic (Ge‘ez)	The only version in which the whole book survives. Enoch is part of the Bible of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church.
Aramaic, Qumran Cave 4	Fragments numbered 4Q201–4Q212 among the Dead Sea Scrolls, published by J. T. Milik in 1976. Charles did not have them.
Greek, Akhmim codex	Chapters 1–32, found in Egypt and published in 1892. This is Charles’s “Greek” in the chapters of this sample.
Greek, Chester Beatty XII	A fourth-century papyrus with chapters 97–107.

HOW THE BOOK CAME BACK TO THE WEST

4th century — Greek papyrus copied (Chester Beatty XII)

1773 — James Bruce brings Ge‘ez copies from Ethiopia to Europe

1821 — Richard Laurence prints the first English translation

1892 — The Akhmim Greek (chapters 1–32) is published

1912 — R. H. Charles’s Oxford edition — the text in this book

1976 — Milik publishes the Aramaic fragments from Qumran

BOOK ONE · CHAPTERS 1–36

THE BOOK OF THE WATCHERS

What you are about to read (chapters 1–5). Before any angel falls, the book opens with a short speech in Enoch's voice. God will come down to judge — "on Mount Sinai"; the mountains will melt; the righteous will be kept safe. Then an argument from nature: everything in creation keeps its appointed order, except the people being addressed.

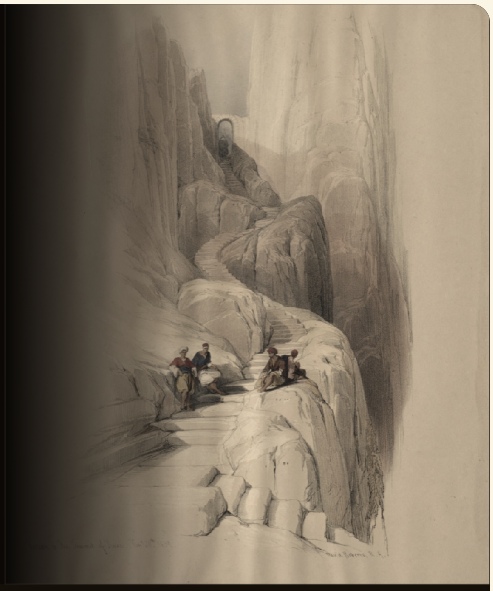


Image: David Roberts, Ascent to the Summit of Sinai, 1839. The Cleveland Museum of Art, 1927.119. CC0.

1 CHAPTER ONE

The Holy Great One comes to judge

1 The words of the blessing of Enoch, wherewith he blessed the elect ⌈⌈and⌉⌉ righteous, who will be living in the day of tribulation, when all the wicked ⌈⌈and godless⌉⌉ are to be removed. 2 And he took up his parable and said—Enoch a righteous man, whose eyes were opened by God, saw the vision of the Holy One in the heavens, ⌈which⌉ the angels showed me, and from them I heard everything, and from them I understood as I saw, but not for this generation, but for a remote one which is for to come. 3 Concerning the elect I said, and took up ⌈my⌉ parable concerning them:

BIBLE ECHO 1:1 · Deuteronomy 33:1

The book opens the way Moses' last speech does: "And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death" (KJV). *Grade: allusion* — noted by R. H. Charles (1912).

BIBLE ECHO 1:2 · Numbers 24:3–4

"Took up his parable" and a man "whose eyes are open" who "saw the vision of the Almighty" are the words used of Balaam (KJV). *Grade: allusion* — Charles: the phrase "is taken from" Numbers 24.

IN THE TEXT 1:2

The book says who it is for: "not for this generation, but for a remote one which is for to come." Hold on to this line; the last section of the book (chapters 91–108) returns to it.

The Holy Great One will come forth from His dwelling,

4 And the eternal God will tread upon the earth, (even) on Mount Sinai,

[And appear from His camp]

And appear in the strength of His might from the heaven ⌜of heavens⌝.

5 And all shall be smitten with fear,

And the Watchers shall quake,

And great fear and trembling shall seize them unto the ends of the earth.

BIBLE ECHO 1:3-4 · Micah 1:3

"For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth" (KJV). *Grade: allusion* — Charles cites Micah 1:3 here.

IN THE TEXT 1:5

First appearance of the **Watchers**, the angels whose story fills chapters 6–16. The word is biblical: Daniel 4:13 speaks of "a watcher and an holy one" coming down from heaven (KJV).

6 And the high mountains shall be shaken,

And the high hills shall be made low,

And shall melt like wax before the flame.

7 And the earth shall be ⌜wholly⌝ rent in sunder,

And all that is upon the earth shall perish,

And there shall be a judgement upon all (men).

8 But with the righteous He will make peace.

And will protect the elect,

And mercy shall be upon them.

And they shall all belong to God,

And they shall be prospered,

And they shall ⌜all⌝ be blessed.

⌜And He will help them all⌝,

And light shall appear unto them,

⌜And He will make peace with them⌝.

BIBLE ECHO 1:6 · Micah 1:4; Psalm 97:5

"The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD" (Psalm 97:5, KJV). *Grade: allusion* — Charles: "From Ps. 97:5."

IN THE TEXT 1:7-8

The pattern of the whole book in five lines: judgement "upon all," then peace, protection and light for the righteous and the elect.

KEY VERSE **1 Enoch 1:9 – the line the New Testament quotes** see it beside Jude →

9 And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of ⌜His⌝ holy ones
To execute judgement upon all,
And to destroy ⌜all⌝ the ungodly:

And to convict all flesh
Of all the works ⌜of their ungodliness⌝ which they have ungodly committed,
⌜And of all the hard things which⌝ ungodly sinners ⌜have spoken⌝ against Him.

BIBLE ECHO 1:9 · Jude 14-15

The verse the New Testament quotes. Jude introduces it with Enoch's name: "Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying…" *Grade: quotation.* See the two texts side by side →

BIBLE ECHO 1:9 · Deuteronomy 33:2

"He came with ten thousands of saints" (KJV) — the next verse of the same blessing of Moses echoed in 1:1. *Grade: allusion* — Charles: "From Deut. 33:2."

2–4 CHAPTERS TWO TO FOUR

Everything in creation keeps its order

CHAPTER 2

1 Observe ye everything that takes place in the heaven, how they do not change their orbits, ⌜and⌝ the luminaries which are in the heaven, how they all rise and set in order each in its season, and transgress not against their appointed order. 2 Behold ye the earth, and give heed to the things which take place upon it from first to last, ⌜how steadfast they are⌝, how ⌜none of the things upon earth⌝ change, ⌜but⌝ all the works of God appear ⌜to you⌝. 3 Behold the summer and the winter, ⌜⌜how the whole earth is filled with water, and clouds and dew and rain lie upon it.⌝⌝

IN THE TEXT 2:1-5:3

The argument: sky, earth, seasons, trees, sea and rivers keep the order God gave them. Chapter 5:4 turns on the reader: "But ye — ye have not been steadfast."

MANUSCRIPTS 2:3-5:1

The double corner marks ⌜⌜ ⌝⌝ run from 2:3 to the first words of 5:1. By Charles's key they enclose words found in the Ethiopic version but not in the Greek. For this stretch the Ethiopic is the witness.

CHAPTER 3

1 Observe and see how (in the winter) all the trees ⌈⌈seem as though they had withered and shed all their leaves, except fourteen trees, which do not lose their foliage but retain the old foliage from two to three years till the new comes.

IN THE TEXT 3:1

"Fourteen trees" that keep their leaves: Charles points to the *Geoponica* (book 11), a Greek farming compilation that lists fourteen evergreen trees.

CHAPTER 4

1 And again, observe ye the days of summer how the sun is above the earth over against it. And you seek shade and shelter by reason of the heat of the sun, and the earth also burns with glowing heat, and so you cannot tread on the earth, or on a rock by reason of its heat.

PAUSE & NOTICE

Chapters 2–4 never mention sin, angels or judgement. Why would a book about judgement stop to look at trees and seasons? Read 5:4 next and see what the author was setting up.

5 CHAPTER FIVE

"But ye — ye have not been steadfast"

1 Observe ye⌉⌉ how the trees cover themselves with green leaves and bear fruit: wherefore give ye heed ⌈and know⌉ with regard to all ⌈His works⌉, and recognize how He that liveth for ever hath made them so.

2 And ⌈all⌉ His works go on ⌈thus⌉ from year to year ⌈for ever⌉, and all the tasks which they accomplish for Him, and ⌈their tasks⌉ change not, but according as God hath ordained so is it done.

3 And behold how the sea and the rivers in like manner accomplish and ⌈change not⌉ their tasks ⌈from His commandments⌉.

4 But ye—ye have not been steadfast, nor done the commandments of the Lord,
But ye have turned away and spoken proud and hard words
With your impure mouths against His greatness.
Oh, ye hard-hearted, ye shall find no peace.

5 Therefore shall ye execrate your days,
And the years of your life shall perish,
And the ⌜years of your destruction⌝ shall be multiplied in eternal execration,
And ye shall find no mercy.

BIBLE ECHO 5:4 · Jude 15

"Proud and hard words" picks up the "hard things" of 1:9 — the same phrase Jude carries into the New Testament as "hard speeches" (KJV).

IN THE TEXT 5:4

"Ye shall find no peace" is a refrain. It comes back when the Watchers are sentenced (12:5; 16:4). Compare Isaiah 48:22: "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked" (KJV).

6a In those days ye shall make your names an eternal execration unto all the righteous,
b And by you shall ⌜all⌝ who curse, curse,
⌜And all⌝ the sinners ⌜and godless⌝ shall imprecate by you,
7c And for you the godless there shall be a curse.

6d ⌜And all the . . . shall rejoice,
e And there shall be forgiveness of sins,
f And every mercy and peace and forbearance:
g There shall be salvation unto them, a goodly light.

i And for all of you sinners there shall be no salvation,
j But on you all shall abide a curse⌝.
7a But for the elect there shall be light and joy and peace,
b And they shall inherit the earth.

MANUSCRIPTS 5:6–7

The letters (6a, b, 7c, 6d…) are Charles's. He judged the lines had been displaced in the manuscripts and printed them in the order he reconstructed, keeping the old numbers so the reader can see it.

BIBLE ECHO 5:7 · Psalm 37:11; Matthew 5:5

"They shall inherit the earth." Psalm 37:11: "the meek shall inherit the earth"; Matthew 5:5: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (KJV). *Grade: shared phrase* — not a quotation in either direction.

8 And then there shall be bestowed upon the elect wisdom,
And they shall all live and never again sin,
Either through ungodliness or through pride:
But they who are wise shall be humble.

9 And they shall not again transgress,
Nor shall they sin all the days of their life,
Nor shall they die of (the divine) anger or wrath,
But they shall complete the number of the days of their life.

And their lives shall be increased in peace,
And the years of their joy shall be multiplied,
In eternal gladness and peace,
All the days of their life.

IN THE TEXT 5:8–9

The promise to the elect: wisdom, a life without sin, and full length of days. The opening parable ends here. Chapter 6 begins the story: "And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied…"

READING TRACKER

☐ Chapter 1 ☐ Chapters 2–4 ☐ Chapter 5 ☐ Enoch 1:9 beside Jude

Three things to carry into chapter 6: who the **Watchers** are (1:5), the refrain **"no peace"** (5:4), and the promise that the elect **"shall inherit the earth"** (5:7).

WHAT THE BIBLE DID WITH THIS

ENOCH 1:9 AND JUDE 14–15

This is the one place where a New Testament writer quotes the Book of Enoch and names Enoch as the speaker. The shared wording is highlighted. ← back to the verse in context



THE LETTER OF JUDE

The initial that opens Jude, with the apostle holding a scroll. Latin Bible, c. 1275–1300. Cleveland Museum of Art, 2008.2.481.b. CC0.

1 ENOCH 1:9 · CHARLES

And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of His holy ones
To execute judgement upon all,
And to destroy all the ungodly:
And to convict all flesh
Of all the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed,
And of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

JUDE 14-15 · KING JAMES VERSION

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

WHAT IS CERTAIN

Jude attributes the words to Enoch, "the seventh from Adam," and the wording matches 1 Enoch 1:9 closely.

WHAT THIS VERSE DOES NOT SETTLE

Whether Jude regarded the whole book as scripture. Early Christian writers disagreed, and the full edition sets their statements out one by one.

IN THE FULL EDITION

All 108 chapters, annotated the same way

- The five books of Enoch, each with an opening guide
- The Watchers file: each name in chapters 6–8 and what he taught
- What the early church said, writer by writer
- Enoch in the Bible: every echo side by side, graded
- Enoch and the gods of Greece: Titans, Tartarus, Justin Martyr
- A 30-day reading plan, glossary and full source list

SOURCES AND IMAGE CREDITS

- R. H. Charles, *The Book of Enoch, or 1 Enoch* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1912): translation, key to brackets, notes on 1:1, 1:2, 1:3–4, 1:6, 1:9, 3:1, 5:4 and 5:6–7. Public domain.
- Bible quotations: King James Version. Public domain.
- Manuscripts: J. T. Milik, *The Books of Enoch: Aramaic Fragments of Qumrân Cave 4* (Oxford, 1976); Akhmim Greek, first published 1892; Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri XII.
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