

**What Did 4 Ezra and 1 Enoch  
Teach Regarding the Rapture?**

# 4 Ezra

- **4 Ezra (2 Esdras or Latin Ezra) is an apocalyptic book in the Catholic Bible.**
- **Tradition ascribes it to the biblical Ezra in the 5th C. BC.**
- **Scholars say it was written between AD 70 and 218.**

**“Those who survive all these things that I  
have predicted will be rescued when I  
bring to an end this world that I created.  
They will see those who never died but  
were taken up alive into heaven ....”**

**(2 Esdras 6.25-27 GNT)**

**“The text says that those people who have survived the tribulation will see the return of the men who have never tasted death, but were caught up before the time of trouble began. The two witnesses of Revelation had not previously died, but will be killed by the Antichrist. So, at the beginning of the millennial reign, the only group of men who had never died but were now returning to earth could only be those who were in a pre-tribulational Rapture.”**

**—Ken Johnson**

**“I heard a voice that sounded like a roaring river. It said, “The time is near when I will come to judge the people living on the earth. I will punish those who have hurt others with their injustice. Jerusalem’s humiliation will come to an end, and this age which is about to pass away will have the final seal put on it. Then I will give the following signs: the books will be opened across the sky for all to see. Children only a year old will speak. Pregnant women will give birth after only three or four months, and their premature babies will live and run about. Planted fields will suddenly become bare, and full barns will suddenly become empty. Then the trumpet will sound, and sudden terror will grip the heart of everyone when they hear it. Friends will fight like enemies, and the earth and its people will be terrified. Rivers will stop flowing and stand still for three hours.”**

**(2 Esdras 6:17–24)**

- **God will punish the unjust.**
- **Jerusalem's humiliation will come to an end.**
- **This age which is about to pass away will have the final seal put on it.**
- **The books will be opened for all to see.**
- **Then the trumpet will sound.**
- **Terror will grip the heart of everyone who hears it.**

**“Those who survive all these things that I  
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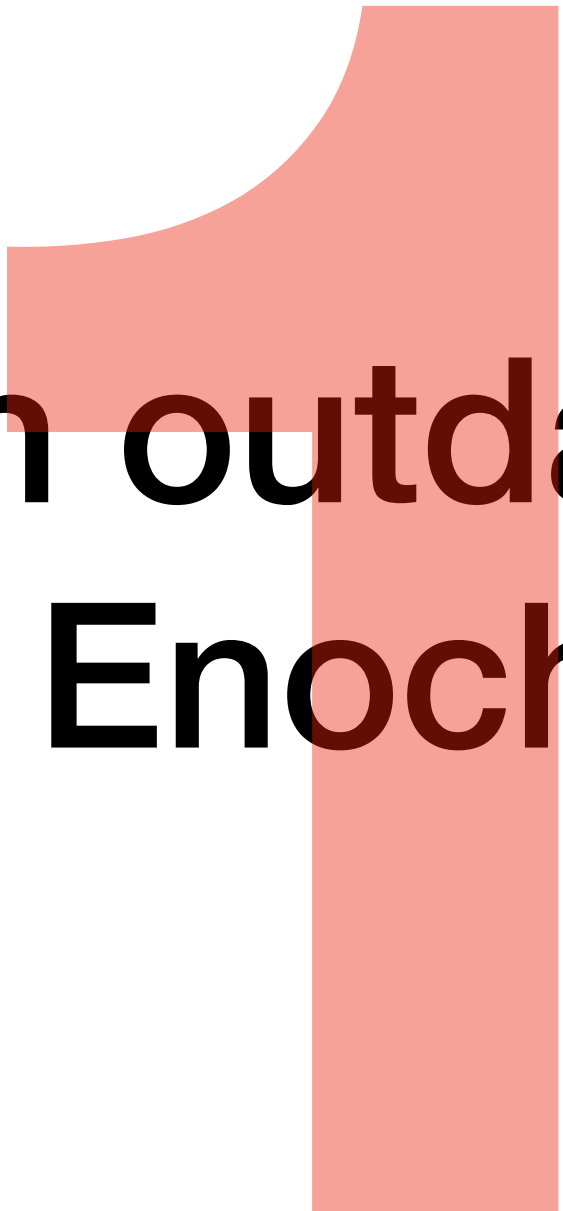
# 1 Enoch

**“In chapter 50 of the Book of Enoch he refers to the time when believers are changed into a glorious form. We know that is our resurrected bodies and that event occurs at the Rapture / Resurrection.”**

**— Ken Johnson**

**“In those days a change will take place for the holy and elect, and the light of days will abide upon them, and glory and honour will turn to the holy.** On the day of tribulation on which evil will gather against the sinners, **the righteous will overcome in the name of the Lord of Spirits.** He will cause the others to witness it that they may repent and cease the works of their hands.”

**—Enoch 50:1-2**



**Johnson uses an outdated translation of  
Enoch.**

**The four primary translations of 1 Enoch are the following:**

- **Richard Laurence (1883)**
- **R. H. Charles (1893, revised 1912)**
- **E. Isaac (1983)**
- **George Nickelsburg and James VanderKam (2012)**

Johnson relies on R. H. Charles' translation. This translation is over 110 years old. It is based on a very limited number of Ethiopic manuscripts. Very important Aramaic fragments of Enoch were not even discovered and published until after 1948. These more modern, superior translations simply don't support Johnson's conclusions. *They speak of the righteous being victorious during the trials to come. The text says nothing of them being removed.*

“On the day of tribulation on which evil will gather against the sinners, *the righteous will overcome in the name of the Lord of Spirits.* He will cause the others to witness it that they may repent and cease the works of their hands.”

— Enoch 50:1-2

**Both 1 Enoch 50 and 51 address the resurrection. They envision the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked happening together when Messiah returns.**



**In those days, the earth will give back what has been entrusted to it, and Sheol will give back what has been entrusted to it, and destruction will restore what it owes. For in those days, my Chosen One will arise and choose the righteous and holy from among them, for the day on which they will be saved has drawn near. And the Chosen One, in those days, will sit upon my throne,**

and all the secrets of wisdom will go forth from the counsel of his mouth, for the Lord of Spirits has given (them) to him and glorified him. In those days the mountains will leap like rams, and the hills will skip like lambs satisfied with milk; and the faces of all the angels in heaven will be radiant with joy, and the earth will rejoice, and the righteous will dwell on it, and the chosen will tread upon it.

(1 Enoch 51, Nickelsburg)

**The prophecy of Enoch literally begins with one of the clearest post-tribulational statements one could find. Johnson ignores this.**

The words of the blessing with which *Enoch* *blessed the righteous chosen who will be present on the day of tribulation*, to remove all the enemies; and the righteous will be saved. And he took up his discourse and said, “Enoch, a righteous man whose eyes were opened by God, who had the vision of the Holy One and of heaven, which he showed me.

(1 Enoch: 1:1-2)

From the words of the watchers and holy ones I heard everything; and as I heard everything from them, I also understood what I saw. *Not for this generation do I expound, but concerning one that is distant I speak.* And concerning the chosen I speak now, and concerning them I take up my discourse. The Great Holy One will come forth from his dwelling, and the eternal God will tread from thence upon Mount Sinai. He will appear with his army, he will appear with his mighty host from the heaven of heavens.

(1 Enoch: 1:3-4)

All the watchers will fear and *those who are hiding in all the ends of the earth will sing.* All the ends of the earth will be shaken, and trembling and great fear will seize them (the watchers) unto the ends of the earth. The high mountains will be shaken and fall and break apart, and the high hills will be made low and melt like wax before the fire. The earth will be wholly rent asunder, and everything on the earth will perish, and there will be judgment on all.

(1 Enoch 1:7-8)

**With the righteous he will make peace, and over the chosen there will be protection, and upon them will be mercy. They will all be God's, and he will grant them his good pleasure. He will bless (them) all, and he will help (them) all.** Light will shine upon them, and he will make peace with them. Look, he comes with the myriads of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all, and to destroy all the wicked, and to convict all humanity for all the wicked deeds that they have done, and the proud and hard words that wicked sinners spoke against him.

**(1 Enoch 1:7-9)**

**“In those days a change will occur for the holy and chosen, and the light of (many) days will dwell upon them, and glory and honor will return to the holy. On the day of distress, evil will be stored up against the sinners, and the righteous will conquer in the name of the Lord of Spirits.”**

**(1 Enoch 50:1-2, Nickelsburg, 2012)**