

How Should We View The Book of 1 Enoch?

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Enoch Speaks from the Beginning

Long before Moses received the Torah, before Abraham received a covenant, before Noah saw a flood, there was Enoch. Genesis 5 tells us that Enoch “walked with God” and “was not, for God took him” (Genesis 5:24). But in the New Testament, Jude tells us something Genesis did not: Enoch was a prophet who foretold the return of Jesus.

Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” (Jude 14–15)

Jude quotes a prophecy not found anywhere else in the Old Testament, but rather directly from *1 Enoch*—a book preserved in Jewish and early Christian tradition but not found in the Hebrew canon.

Enoch’s words give us the first apocalyptic vision of the return of the Lord and the final judgment of the wicked.

What Is the Book of Enoch?

The Book of Enoch (also called *1 Enoch*) is an ancient Jewish apocalyptic text that most scholars agree was likely composed between the 3rd and 1st centuries BC. It is not part of the Bible (except in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church), but it was widely read by Jews during the Second Temple period and by early Christians.

1 Enoch contains:

- A detailed retelling of the Genesis 6 story of the “sons of God” and Nephilim
- The judgment of rebellious angels (Watchers)
- Prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and the final judgment
- Heavenly visions of God’s throne and cosmic geography

- An ethical call to righteousness amid a fallen world

Though it was never canonized by the Jewish rabbis or the Christian church at large, it is quoted or alluded to by multiple early Christian writers and clearly influenced New Testament thought.

Why Include Enoch Early?

I include the prophecy of Enoch early in this book because:

- 1.** It is the first explicit prophecy of the Second Coming of the Lord in judgment. Jude 14–15 shows that this ancient expectation existed even before the flood. The “Seed of the Woman” (Genesis 3:15) was not just expected to suffer, but to return in glory with the armies of heaven.
- 2.** It connects Genesis 3, 6, and Revelation. The Book of Enoch links the fall of the Watchers (Genesis 6) with the corruption of the world, and ties their final judgment to the Lord’s return. This bridges the early rebellions in Genesis with the apocalyptic hope in Revelation.
- 3.** It affirms the Jewish apocalyptic worldview. Enoch presents a two-age framework: the present evil age, ruled by rebellious powers, and a coming age of righteousness, ruled by the Son of Man. This is precisely the worldview of the apostles—and of Jesus Himself.
- 4.** It was considered valuable by the apostles. Jude not only quotes Enoch but also treats the quote as authoritative prophecy. Peter echoes Enoch’s themes in 2 Peter 2 and 3. They clearly saw in it a faithful tradition, even if they did not elevate the entire book to Scripture.



Enoch: Prophet of Judgment

A Balanced View of Enoch: The Book of Enoch is important, but not Scripture

What We Affirm:

- Jude treats *1 Enoch 1:9* as an authentic prophecy.
- The early Church and Jewish writers viewed Enoch as preserving genuine insights about the spiritual rebellion, the coming judgment, and the Messiah.
- Enoch provides essential historical and theological context for New Testament apocalyptic thought.

What We Reject:

- While *1 Enoch* preserves true traditions concerning things Enoch said, it also likely contains embellishments that were added later. Other than the portions that are cited in the New Testament, we cannot know the difference.
- It was rejected as canonical by both the Jews and Christians.
- *1 Enoch* includes imaginative cosmology and esoteric details not supported by Scripture.
- We do not build doctrines on *1 Enoch*. All truth must be measured by the canonical Scriptures.

“Test all things; hold firmly to that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Conclusion: Why Enoch Still Matters

The prophecy of Enoch reminds us that at the end of this age, the Lord will come from heaven to judge the wicked and deliver the righteous. Enoch is the first among the righteous seed line who saw that Day coming. Even before the flood, the return of Jesus was the ultimate point of hope among the righteous.



Enoch: The First Prophet Who Saw the Return of the Lord

