

THE ETHIOPIAN BIBLE

The Epistle of Enoch

NOTEBOOK 4

The ten weeks, the righteous and the sinners

1 ENOCH 91-108

BLUSABOOKS



The Epistle of Enoch

THE ETHIOPIAN BIBLE · NOTEBOOK 4 · 1 ENOCH 91–108

Every chapter — four parts

THE ANCIENT TEXT

the complete text, verse by verse

IN PLAIN WORDS

what happens in this chapter

TERMS

names and words worth knowing

**WHAT HISTORY AND
SCIENCE SAY**

*manuscripts, archaeology and ancient
parallels*

A sacred text for believers, a historical source for scholars.

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CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i>	4
I The apocalypse of weeks	6
II Woe to the rich	13
III The judgement of sinners	19
IV Heaven and sea bear witness	27
V The fate of the dead	32
VI The birth of noah	38
VII The last book	44
<i>Closing words</i>	49
<i>Printable pages — two pages</i>	50
<i>Glossary</i>	53



FOREWORD

This is the fourth notebook of the series "The Ethiopian Bible". The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church has kept its Scriptures for many centuries in Ge'ez, its ancient liturgical language, and its canon is wider than that of any other church. Among the books it preserved is the Book of Enoch, which has survived complete only in Ge'ez.

Where this notebook belongs. The Book of Enoch, known to scholars as 1 Enoch, is a collection of five books. The Book of the Watchers (chapters 1–36) tells of the angels who came down to earth and of Enoch's journeys; the Parables (37–71) speak of the Son of Man and the judgement of the kings; the Book of the Heavenly Luminaries (72–82) describes the courses of the sun, moon and stars; the Dream Visions (83–90) retell the history of the world as a dream about animals. The fifth part, the Epistle of Enoch (91–108), closes the whole book, and it is the subject of this notebook.

What the Epistle contains. Here Enoch no longer travels through heaven; he speaks to his children as an old father before his death. He sums up the history of the world in ten "weeks", pronounces a long series of woes on the rich and the oppressors, comforts the righteous who suffer, and promises that the dead who were faithful will not be forgotten. At the end come two further pieces: the story of the wondrous birth of Noah and a short appendix, "another book which Enoch wrote".

The translation. The English text is R. H. Charles's translation from the Ge'ez (1912), which is in the public domain. We reproduce it word for word, only restoring verse numbers, mending words broken in the old printing and removing Charles's scholarly brackets and marks. His headings are kept as sub-headings.

How to read. Each chapter has four parts. *The ancient text* is the full passage without cuts. Then come three parts of our own: *In plain words* — what happens; *Terms* — the key words, also gathered in the glossary at the end; and *What history and science say* — what scholars know about the world behind the text. These pages are Holy Scripture for believers and a source for historians; we present them with respect and keep apart what the text says, what tradition added and what scholarship can show.

The series. 1 · The First World 2 · The Parables of Enoch 3 · The Lights of Heaven and the Dream Visions 4 · The Epistle of Enoch 5 · The Secrets of Enoch

CHAPTER I

THE APOCALYPSE OF WEEKS

THE ANCIENT TEXT

✦ 1 ENOCH 91 ✦

Enoch's Admonition to his Children

¹'And now, my son Methuselah, call to me all thy brothers And gather together to me all the sons of thy mother; For the word calls me, And the spirit is poured out upon me, That I may show you everything That shall befall you for ever.' ²And there upon Methuselah went and summoned to him all his brothers and assembled his relatives.

³And he spake unto all the children of righteousness and said: 'Hear, ye sons of Enoch, all the words of your father, And hearken aright to the voice of my mouth; For I exhort you and say unto you, beloved: Love uprightness and walk therein.

⁴And draw not nigh to uprightness with a double heart, And associate not with those of a double heart, But walk in righteousness, my sons. And it shall guide you on good paths, And righteousness shall be your companion.

⁵For I know that violence must increase on the earth, And a great chastisement be executed on the earth, And all unrighteousness come to an end: Yea, it shall be cut off from its roots, And its whole structure be destroyed. ⁶And unrighteousness shall again be consummated on the earth, And all the deeds of unrighteousness and of violence And transgression shall prevail in a twofold degree. ⁷And when sin and unrighteousness and blasphemy And violence in all kinds of deeds increase, And apostasy and transgression and uncleanness increase, A great chastisement shall come from heaven upon all these, And the holy Lord will come forth with wrath and chastisement To execute judgement on earth.

⁸In those days violence shall be cut off from its roots, And the roots of unrighteousness together with deceit, And they shall be destroyed from under heaven. ⁹And all the idols of the heathen shall be abandoned, And the temples burned with fire, And they shall remove them from the whole earth, And they shall be cast into the judgement of fire, And shall perish in wrath and in grievous judgement for ever.

¹⁰And the righteous shall arise from their sleep, And wisdom shall arise and be given unto them. ¹¹And after that the roots of unrighteousness shall be cut off, and the sinners shall be destroyed by the sword ... shall be cut off from the blasphemers in every place, and those who plan violence and those who commit blasphemy shall perish by the sword.

The Last Three Weeks

¹²And after that there shall be another, the eighth week, that of righteousness, And a sword shall be given to it that a righteous judgement may be executed on the oppressors, And sinners shall be delivered into the hands of the righteous. ¹³And at its close they shall acquire houses through their righteousness, And a house shall be built for the Great King in glory for evermore,

¹⁴And after that, in the ninth week, the righteous judgement shall be revealed to the whole world, And all the works of the godless shall vanish from all the earth, And the world shall be written down for destruction. And all mankind shall look to the path of uprightness. ¹⁵And after this, in the tenth week in the seventh part, There shall be the great eternal judgement, In which He will execute vengeance amongst the angels. ¹⁶And the first heaven shall depart and pass away, And a new heaven shall appear, And all the powers of the heavens shall give sevenfold light. ¹⁷And after that there will be many weeks without number for ever, And all shall be in goodness and righteousness, And sin shall no more be mentioned for ever.

Enoch's Admonition to his Children (continuation)

¹⁸And now I tell you, my sons, and show you The paths of righteousness and the paths of violence. Yea, I will show them to you again That ye may know what will

come to pass. ¹⁹ And now, hearken unto me, my sons, And walk in the paths of righteousness, And walk not in the paths of violence; For all who walk in the paths of unrighteousness shall perish for ever.'

✦ 1 ENOCH 92 ✦

The Epistle of Enoch: Enoch's Book of Admonition for his Children (continuation)

¹ The book written by Enoch—Enoch indeed wrote this complete doctrine of wisdom, which is praised of all men and a judge of all the earth—for all my children who shall dwell on the earth. And for the future generations who shall observe uprightness and peace. ² Let not your spirit be troubled on account of the times; For the Holy and Great One has appointed days for all things.

³ And the righteous one shall arise from sleep, Shall arise and walk in the paths of righteousness, And all his path and conversation shall be in eternal goodness and grace. ⁴ He will be gracious to the righteous and give him eternal uprightness, And He will give him power so that he shall be endowed with goodness and righteousness. And he shall walk in eternal light. ⁵ And sin shall perish in darkness for ever, And shall no more be seen from that day for evermore.

✦ 1 ENOCH 93 ✦

The Apocalypse of Weeks

¹ And after that Enoch both gave and began to recount from the books. ² And Enoch said: 'Concerning the children of righteousness and concerning the elect of the world, And concerning the plant of uprightness, I will speak these things, Yea, I Enoch will declare them unto you, my sons: According to that which appeared to me in the heavenly vision, And which I have known through the word of the holy angels, And have learnt from the heavenly tablets.'

³ And Enoch began to recount from the books and said: 'I was born the seventh in the first week, While judgement and righteousness still endured. ⁴ And after me there shall arise in the second week great wickedness, And deceit shall have sprung