

THE ETHIOPIAN BIBLE

The Lights of Heaven and the Dream Visions

NOTEBOOK 3

Enoch's calendar and the Animal Apocalypse

1 ENOCH 72-90

BLUSABOOKS



The Lights of Heaven and the Dream Visions

THE ETHIOPIAN BIBLE · NOTEBOOK 3 · 1 ENOCH 72-90

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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FOREWORD

This is the third notebook of the series "The Ethiopian Bible". The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church has read its Scriptures for centuries in Ge'ez, its ancient liturgical language, and its canon is wider than that of any other church. That is why the Book of Enoch, lost almost everywhere else, has survived complete only in Ethiopia.

Where this notebook belongs. The Book of Enoch falls into five large parts: the Book of the Watchers (chapters 1–36), the Parables (37–71), the Book of the Heavenly Luminaries (72–82), the Dream Visions (83–90) and the Epistle of Enoch (91–108). This notebook contains two of them. In the first, the angel Uriel shows Enoch how the sun and the moon pass through the portals of heaven, how the year is counted, where the winds come from and what is written on the heavenly tablets. In the second, Enoch tells his son Methuselah two dreams: the earth destroyed by the Flood, and the whole history of Israel, in which people and nations appear as animals, from Adam to the new house at the end of days.

The translation. The 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 a few missing verse numbers, mending words broken in the old printing and removing Charles's scholarly brackets and marks. His verse numbering is kept, and his headings appear as sub-headings. Some passages, above all the astronomical chapters with their many "parts" and "portals", are hard going even in the original; we leave them as they stand and explain them in our own sections.

How to read. Each chapter has four parts. *The ancient text* is the full passage, verse by verse, without cuts. *In plain words* tells what happens in it. *Terms* explains key words and ideas, also gathered in the glossary at the end. *What*

history and science say describes what scholars know about the text and the world behind it.

For many believers these pages are holy; they are also a precious historical source. The astronomical chapters show how ancient people tried to bring order to the sky and the calendar, and the Dream Visions show how one Jewish writer read the history of his people in a troubled time. We present them with respect and try to keep apart what the text says, what tradition has made of it and what scholarship can show.

The series "The Ethiopian Bible": 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 COURSE OF THE SUN

THE ANCIENT TEXT

✦ 1 ENOCH 72 ✦

*The Book of the Courses of the Heavenly Luminaries**The Sun*

¹ The book of the courses of the luminaries of the heaven, the relations of each, according to their classes, their dominion and their seasons, according to their names and places of origin, and according to their months, which Uriel, the holy angel, who was with me, who is their guide, showed me; and he showed me all their laws exactly as they are, and how it is with regard to all the years of the world and unto eternity, till the new creation is accomplished which dureth till eternity.

² And this is the first law of the luminaries: the luminary the Sun has its rising in the eastern portals of the heaven, and its setting in the western portals of the heaven. ³ And I saw six portals in which the sun rises, and six portals in which the sun sets and the moon rises and sets in these portals, and the leaders of the stars and those whom they lead: six in the east and six in the west, and all following each other in accurately corresponding order: also many windows to the right and left of these portals.

⁴ And first there goes forth the great luminary, named the Sun, and his circumference is like the circumference of the heaven, and he is quite filled with illuminating and heating fire. ⁵ The chariot on which he ascends, the wind drives, and the sun goes down from the heaven and returns through the north in order to reach the east, and is so guided that he comes to the appropriate portal and shines in the face of the heaven. ⁶ In this way he rises in the first month in the great portal, which is the fourth of those six portals in the east. ⁷ And in that fourth

portal from which the sun rises in the first month are twelve window-openings, from which proceed a flame when they are opened in their season.

⁸ When the sun rises in the heaven, he comes forth through that fourth portal thirty mornings in succession, and sets accurately in the fourth portal in the west of the heaven. ⁹ And during this period the day becomes daily longer and the night nightly shorter to the thirtieth morning. ¹⁰ On that day the day is longer than the night by a ninth part, and the day amounts exactly to ten parts and the night to eight parts. ¹¹ And the sun rises from that fourth portal, and sets in the fourth and returns to the fifth portal of the east thirty mornings, and rises from it and sets in the fifth portal.

¹² And then the day becomes longer by two parts and amounts to eleven parts, and the night becomes shorter and amounts to seven parts. ¹³ And it returns to the east and enters into the sixth portal, and rises and sets in the sixth portal one-and-thirty mornings on account of its sign. ¹⁴ On that day the day becomes longer than the night, and the day becomes double the night, and the day becomes twelve parts, and the night is shortened and becomes six parts. ¹⁵ And the sun mounts up to make the day shorter and the night longer, and the sun returns to the east and enters into the sixth portal, and rises from it and sets thirty mornings.

¹⁶ And when thirty mornings are accomplished, the day decreases by exactly one part, and becomes eleven parts, and the night seven. ¹⁷ And the sun goes forth from that sixth portal in the west, and goes to the east and rises in the fifth portal for thirty mornings, and sets in the west again in the fifth western portal. ¹⁸ On that day the day decreases by two parts, and amounts to ten parts and the night to eight parts. ¹⁹ And the sun goes forth from that fifth portal and sets in the fifth portal of the west, and rises in the fourth portal for one-and-thirty mornings on account of its sign, and sets in the west.

²⁰ On that day the day is equalized with the night, and becomes of equal length, and the night amounts to nine parts and the day to nine parts. ²¹ And the sun rises from that portal and sets in the west, and returns to the east and rises thirty mornings in the third portal and sets in the west in the third portal. ²² And on that day the night becomes longer than the day, and night becomes longer than night,

and day shorter than day till the thirtieth morning, and the night amounts exactly to ten parts and the day to eight parts. ²³ And the sun rises from that third portal and sets in the third portal in the west and returns to the east, and for thirty mornings rises in the second portal in the east, and in like manner sets in the second portal in the west of the heaven.

²⁴ And on that day the night amounts to eleven parts and the day to seven parts.

²⁵ And the sun rises on that day from that second portal and sets in the west in the second portal, and returns to the east into the first portal for one-and-thirty mornings, and sets in the first portal in the west of the heaven. ²⁶ And on that day the night becomes longer and amounts to the double of the day: and the night amounts exactly to twelve parts and the day to six. ²⁷ And the sun has therewith traversed the divisions of his orbit and turns again on those divisions of his orbit, and enters that portal thirty mornings and sets also in the west opposite to it.

²⁸ And on that night has the night decreased in length by a ninth part, and the night has become eleven parts and the day seven parts. ²⁹ And the sun has returned and entered into the second portal in the east, and returns on those his divisions of his orbit for thirty mornings, rising and setting. ³⁰ And on that day the night decreases in length, and the night amounts to ten parts and the day to eight.

³¹ And on that day the sun rises from that portal, and sets in the west, and returns to the east, and rises in the third portal for one-and-thirty mornings, and sets in the west of the heaven.

³² On that day the night decreases and amounts to nine parts, and the day to nine parts, and the night is equal to the day and the year is exactly as to its days three hundred and sixty-four. ³³ And the length of the day and of the night, and the shortness of the day and of the night arise—through the course of the sun these distinctions are made. ³⁴ So it comes that its course becomes daily longer, and its course nightly shorter. ³⁵ And this is the law and the course of the sun, and his return as often as he returns sixty times and rises, i.e. the great luminary which is named the sun, for ever and ever.

³⁶ And that which thus rises is the great luminary, and is so named according to its appearance, according as the Lord commanded. ³⁷ As he rises, so he sets and