

THE ETHIOPIAN BIBLE

The Parables of Enoch

NOTEBOOK 2

The Son of Man, the Elect and the Last Judgement



1 ENOCH 37-71

BLUSABOOKS



The Parables of Enoch

THE ETHIOPIAN BIBLE · NOTEBOOK 2 · 1 ENOCH 37-71

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 second notebook of the series "The Ethiopian Bible". The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, whose faith goes back to the kingdom of Aksum in the 4th century, keeps a wider canon than any other church, in the ancient language Ge'ez. One of its books, the Book of Enoch, has survived in full only in that language.

Where this notebook belongs. The Book of Enoch (1 Enoch) is not one work but a collection of five. The Book of the Watchers (chapters 1–36) was the subject of the first notebook. This notebook contains the second part, the Parables, or Similitudes, of Enoch (chapters 37–71). After it come the Book of the Heavenly Luminaries (72–82), the Dream Visions (83–90) and the Epistle of Enoch (91–108).

What the Parables are. Enoch speaks three "parables" — long visions of the heavens and of the end of days. In them appears a figure found nowhere else in the book: the Elect One, the Righteous One, the Son of Man, who sits on the throne of glory and judges the kings and the mighty of the earth. Between the visions stand fragments in which Noah speaks, and at the end Enoch himself is taken up into heaven. For many readers these are the most important chapters of the whole book, because their language is so close to that of the Gospels.

The translation. The English text is R. H. Charles's translation from the Ge'ez, published in 1912 and now in the public domain. We give it word for word and in full, with Charles's verse numbers. We have only mended words broken in the old printing, restored a few verse numbers, and removed his scholarly brackets and critical marks; one short editorial note of his, which stands in place of a lost passage, has been left out. His headings are kept as sub-headings.

How to read. Each chapter has four parts. *The ancient text* is the full passage. *In plain words* tells what happens in it. *Terms* explains the key words, which are also gathered in the glossary. *What history and science say* describes what scholars know about the text and its world, kept apart from what the text itself says and what believers hold.

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 FIRST PARABLE

THE ANCIENT TEXT

✦ 1 ENOCH 37 ✦

The Parables

¹The second vision which he saw, the vision of wisdom—which Enoch the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, saw. ²And this is the beginning of the words of wisdom which I lifted up my voice to speak and say to those which dwell on earth: Hear, ye men of old time, and see, ye that come after, the words of the Holy One which I will speak before the Lord of Spirits. ³It were better to declare them only to the men of old time, but even from those that come after we will not withhold the beginning of wisdom.

⁴Till the present day such wisdom has never been given by the Lord of Spirits as I have received according to my insight, according to the good pleasure of the Lord of Spirits by whom the lot of eternal life has been given to me. ⁵Now three parables were imparted to me, and I lifted up my voice and recounted them to those that dwell on the earth.

✦ 1 ENOCH 38 ✦

The First Parable: the Coming Judgement of the Wicked

¹The First Parable. When the congregation of the righteous shall appear, And sinners shall be judged for their sins, And shall be driven from the face of the earth: ²And when the Righteous One shall appear before the eyes of the righteous, Whose elect works hang upon the Lord of Spirits, And light shall appear to the righteous and the elect who dwell on the earth, Where then will be the dwelling of the sinners, And where the resting-place of those who have denied the Lord of Spirits? It had been good for them if they had not been born. ³When the secrets of

the righteous shall be revealed and the sinners judged, And the godless driven from the presence of the righteous and elect,

⁴ From that time those that possess the earth shall no longer be powerful and exalted: And they shall not be able to behold the face of the holy, For the Lord of Spirits has caused His light to appear On the face of the holy, righteous, and elect.

⁵ Then shall the kings and the mighty perish And be given into the hands of the righteous and holy. ⁶ And thenceforward none shall seek for themselves mercy from the Lord of Spirits For their life is at an end.

✦ 1 ENOCH 39 ✦

The Abode of the Righteous and of the Elect One: the Praises of the Blessed

¹ And it shall come to pass in those days that elect and holy children will descend from the high heaven, and their seed will become one with the children of men.

² And in those days Enoch received books of zeal and wrath, and books of disquiet and expulsion. And mercy shall not be accorded to them, saith the Lord of Spirits.

³ And in those days a whirlwind carried me off from the earth, And set me down at the end of the heavens. ⁴ And there I saw another vision, the dwelling-places of the holy, And the resting-places of the righteous. ⁵ Here mine eyes saw their dwellings with His righteous angels, And their resting-places with the holy. And they petitioned and interceded and prayed for the children of men, And righteousness flowed before them as water, And mercy like dew upon the earth: Thus it is amongst them for ever and ever.

⁶ And in that place mine eyes saw the Elect One of righteousness and of faith, And I saw his dwelling-place under the wings of the Lord of Spirits. ⁷ And righteousness shall prevail in his days, And the righteous and elect shall be without number before Him for ever and ever. And all the righteous and elect before Him shall be strong as fiery lights, And their mouth shall be full of blessing, And their lips extol the name of the Lord of Spirits, And righteousness before Him shall never fail, And uprightness shall never fail before Him. ⁸ There I wished to dwell, And my spirit longed for that dwelling-place: And there heretofore hath been my portion, For so has it been established concerning me before the Lord of Spirits.

⁹ In those days I praised and extolled the name of the Lord of Spirits with blessings and praises, because He hath destined me for blessing and glory according to the good pleasure of the Lord of Spirits. ¹⁰ For a long time my eyes regarded that place, and I blessed Him and praised Him, saying: 'Blessed is He, and may He be blessed from the beginning and for evermore. ¹¹ And before Him there is no ceasing. He knows before the world was created what is for ever and what will be from generation unto generation. ¹² Those who sleep not bless Thee: they stand before Thy glory and bless, praise, and extol, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Spirits: He filleth the earth with spirits."

¹³ And here my eyes saw all those who sleep not: they stand before Him and bless and say: 'Blessed be Thou, and blessed be the name of the Lord for ever and ever.'

¹⁴ And my face was changed; for I could no longer behold.

♦ 1 ENOCH 40 ♦

The Four Archangels

¹ And after that I saw thousands of thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand, I saw a multitude beyond number and reckoning, who stood before the Lord of Spirits. ² And on the four sides of the Lord of Spirits I saw four presences, different from those that sleep not, and I learnt their names: for the angel that went with me made known to me their names, and showed me all the hidden things.

³ And I heard the voices of those four presences as they uttered praises before the Lord of glory. ⁴ The first voice blesses the Lord of Spirits for ever and ever.

⁵ And the second voice I heard blessing the Elect One and the elect ones who hang upon the Lord of Spirits. ⁶ And the third voice I heard pray and intercede for those who dwell on the earth and supplicate in the name of the Lord of Spirits. ⁷ And I heard the fourth voice fending off the Satans and forbidding them to come before the Lord of Spirits to accuse them who dwell on the earth. ⁸ After that I asked the angel of peace who went with me, who showed me everything that is hidden: 'Who are these four presences which I have seen and whose words I have heard and written down?'

⁹ And he said to me: 'This first is Michael, the merciful and long-suffering; and the second, who is set over all the diseases and all the wounds of the children of men, is