

Clear Text Editions: The Complete Books of Enoch

Clear Text Editions

This sample includes the introduction to *Enoch: The Complete Modern Translation*, along with a summary of the Book of Watchers and the full text of Chapters 1 through 6.

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Note on Sources and Rights

This volume is based on public domain English translations of ancient texts, adapted and modernized for clarity and readability. The source materials include:

1 Enoch — R.H. Charles, *The Book of Enoch* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1912)

2 Enoch — Rutherford H. Platt, Jr., in *The Forgotten Books of Eden* (1926)

3 Enoch — Hugo Odeberg, *3 Enoch or The Hebrew Book of Enoch* (Cambridge University Press, 1928)

These translations are in the public domain and have been updated to reflect modern English usage and formatting. In addition to the core texts, this edition includes original essays, section introductions, historical commentary, and biblical cross-references.

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Introduction: Making Ancient Wisdom Accessible

Ancient Jewish and Christian apocryphal texts are notoriously difficult to read. The language is often archaic, the structure confusing, and the available translations vary in quality. Our goal with *Clear Text Editions* is simple: to make these profound spiritual texts accessible to everyone. These works deserve to be read not only by scholars and theologians but by anyone curious about the rich spiritual imagination of early Judaism and Christianity.

In this volume, we present the complete *Books of Enoch*—a collection that includes **1 Enoch**, **2 Enoch**, **3 Enoch**, and the **Book of Giants**. Each has been carefully rendered into clear, modern prose while preserving the original structure and intent.

What This Collection Contains

This Complete *Books of Enoch* edition includes:

1. **1 Enoch (The Ethiopic Book of Enoch)**

The most well-known of the Enochic literature, containing five distinct sections:

- The Book of the Watchers (Chapters 1–36)
- The Parables or Similitudes (Chapters 37–71)
- The Book of Heavenly Luminaries (Chapters 72–82)
- The Dream Visions (Chapters 83–90)
- The Epistle of Enoch (Chapters 91–108)

2. **2 Enoch (The Book of Secrets)**

Also known as the *Slavonic Enoch*, this text describes Enoch's ascent through the ten heavens, his transformation, and return with divine knowledge.

3. **3 Enoch (The Book of Palaces)**

Also called the *Hebrew Book of Enoch*, this mystical text details Rabbi Ishmael's journey through the heavenly palaces and his

encounter with the angel Metatron—formerly Enoch himself.

4. The Book of Giants

Discovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls, this fragmentary work expands on the story of the Nephilim—the giant offspring of the Watchers—and their ultimate destruction.

5. Thematic Essays and Biblical Connections

Each section concludes with a comprehensive essay that explores its key themes and parallels with the Hebrew Bible and New Testament.

6. A Historical Essay on the Formation of the Biblical Canon

This volume includes an in-depth exploration of how the biblical canon took shape in Judaism and Christianity. It addresses common questions:

- Why weren't the *Books of Enoch* included in most biblical canons?
- Who made those decisions, and by what

criteria?

- How did these excluded works still manage to shape spiritual traditions?

The Clear Text Approach

We've rewritten these ancient works into clean, easy-to-read prose, based on public domain translations. Our goal is clarity without distortion—preserving the intent and rhythm of the originals while eliminating awkward or outdated language.

Rather than interrupting the reading with frequent biblical footnotes, we conclude each major section with a scholarly essay that connects the Enochic writings to both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. These essays provide rich context while letting the reader engage with the primary text first and reflect afterward.

Why Enoch Matters

The biblical book of *Genesis* only briefly mentions Enoch: “Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him” (Genesis 5:24). This brief statement left ancient writers free to imagine what Enoch saw, learned, and became after being taken.

The *Books of Enoch* were composed during turbulent times. For many, they answered spiritual and ethical questions:

- Why do the wicked prosper?
- What role do angels and heavenly powers play in history?
- How and when will justice be restored?

In times of persecution, Enoch’s story became one of cosmic justice, divine insight, and ultimate hope.

Major Themes in Enochic Literature

These texts tackle some of the deepest questions in ancient theology. Key themes include:

The Origin of Evil - Evil enters the world through fallen angels who corrupt humanity with forbidden knowledge.

Cosmic Justice God will judge the Watchers, the wicked, and all who rebel—while preserving the righteous.

The Messiah A divine figure called the “Elect One” or “Son of Man” will carry out God’s justice and rule eternally.

Heavenly Journeys Enoch explores multiple heavens, learning cosmic truths from angels and God Himself.

Apocalyptic Vision Human history is moving toward a divinely orchestrated final judgment and renewal.

Ancient Cosmology Detailed explanations of the sun, moon, stars, and timekeeping reflect a sacred view of the cosmos.

Historical Context: The Formation of the Biblical Canon

This edition includes a comprehensive essay exploring the historical process of canon formation in Judaism and early Christianity.

It addresses essential questions:

- Why were the *Books of Enoch* excluded from most scriptural canons?
- Who decided which books were “inspired”?
- How did different communities come to different conclusions?
- What happened to texts that fell outside the canon?

This background helps readers understand why Enoch's writings, though not part of the Bible, remained influential for centuries—and why they're worth rediscovering today.

Our Sources

This edition builds on the foundational work of early translators and scholars. Each text is adapted from a respected public domain English edition:

- **1 Enoch:** R.H. Charles (Oxford, 1912)
- **2 Enoch:** Rutherford H. Platt Jr., *The Forgotten Books of Eden* (1926)
- **3 Enoch:** Hugo Odeberg (1928), based on the Hebrew mystical tradition

All translations were edited for clarity, consistency, and readability—making these texts more accessible without compromising substance.

How to Read This Book

These writings can be strange and visionary—filled with cosmic landscapes, angelic armies, and divine judgment. You don't need to understand every detail to appreciate them.

Read slowly. Let the symbolism unfold. Pay attention to the broader themes: justice, wisdom, revelation, and restoration.

Each section is followed by a thematic essay to help you reflect on what you've read and how it connects to the Bible you may already know.

Let these ancient voices speak—clearly.

The Book of Watchers

The Book of Watchers tells the story of 200 angels who came down from heaven to watch over and guide humanity. These angels, called Watchers, were supposed to protect people and maintain order in the world. But under their leader Semyaza, they broke their sacred duty by making a pact to marry human women. This wasn't just breaking the rules—it was one of the worst violations of God's law in ancient Jewish writings. Their sin was twofold: they had forbidden relationships with humans that created hybrid giant offspring called Nephilim, and they taught humans knowledge that was meant to stay hidden.

After coming down to Mount Hermon—a mountain that stands between the human and divine worlds—the Watchers had children with mortal women. These children grew into giants with enormous appetites and strength. They were incredibly violent and destructive, first eating all the food humans produced, then turning to eat humans

themselves when that wasn't enough. Their cannibalism and violence caused so much suffering that cries from the earth and its people rose up to heaven.

Even worse than this physical harm was the spiritual damage the Watchers caused. Each angel taught humans specific forbidden knowledge that was supposed to remain divine secrets. Azazel taught men how to make weapons and armor, and showed women how to use makeup and jewelry—not as cultural advances, but as tools for deception and war. Other angels taught astrology, fortune-telling, how to track stars and planets, magic spells, sorcery, and reading omens. The text views these teachings as causing the moral breakdown of human society, giving people ways to lie, destroy, and rebel against the natural order God created.

Heaven's response to this corruption was swift and severe. The earth's cries reached heaven, and the archangels—Michael, Uriel, Raphael, and Gabriel—brought the matter to God. God condemned both the Watchers and their children. The Nephilim would destroy each other in a divinely planned civil war. The Watchers

themselves would be bound and thrown into a deep pit where they would stay imprisoned until the final judgment day. Azazel received an especially harsh punishment: he was tied up hand and foot and thrown into a dark desert, covered with sharp stones, waiting for judgment in eternal fire.

Enoch, known for his righteousness and close relationship with God, becomes a go-between for the divine and fallen worlds. God chooses Enoch to deliver his judgment to the Watchers. When the fallen angels beg for mercy, Enoch travels to speak to God on their behalf, writing down their plea and bringing it to the Most High. But God refuses to forgive them. Their sin was especially terrible because, unlike humans, they knew heaven's holiness directly and still chose to rebel. Enoch's visions are detailed and often frightening, showing cosmic realms, heavenly records of judgment, and divine commands. Eventually, he takes a journey through the heavens to see the edges of the earth, where the Watchers are imprisoned, and how cosmic justice works.

The Watchers story helps explain where evil comes from, how demon spirits began (they come from

the dead Nephilim in later Enoch traditions), and why the world before the Great Flood became so corrupt. It shows that evil isn't just from human sin but from heavenly beings abandoning their proper roles. The story connects with broader Jewish concerns about purity, mixing of different realms, and keeping sacred boundaries. In this story, revealing knowledge is dangerous rather than helpful—the opposite of how Greek and Gnostic thinking would later view knowledge.

The Watchers narrative establishes important themes that influenced later Jewish and Christian apocalyptic writings. These include heavenly rebellion, the battle between good and evil, and the idea of a coming judgment day when cosmic disorder will be fixed. The fallen Watchers became a model for understanding Lucifer's fall in Christian tradition and helped explain how demonic forces result from angels disobeying God. Enoch's role as a messenger who receives divine secrets points forward to later messianic figures, and the text's focus on heavenly law, tablets of destiny, and divine justice connects it with other apocalyptic literature like Daniel and the Apocalypse of Abraham.

In short, the Watchers story in the Book of Enoch offers a richly symbolic narrative blending myth, theology, and moral teaching. It explains how a good world became corrupted and warns against pride, crossing divine boundaries, and seeking forbidden power. It presents an early Jewish vision of cosmic order, divine judgment, and the dangerous consequences of angelic rebellion and human involvement. The Watchers remain one of the most influential elements of Enoch's writings, shaping how people thought about demons and the end times for centuries afterward.

Key Figures in the Book of Watchers

Key Figures and Elements in the Book of the Watchers

Heavenly Beings

The Watchers – A group of 200 angels originally appointed to watch over humanity. They abandoned their divine mission and descended to earth to take human wives.

Semyaza (also spelled **Semjaza** or **Shemihazah**) – The leader of the rebellious Watchers who initiates the pact to descend and corrupt humanity.

Azazel – A chief Watcher who teaches humanity warfare, weapon-making, and forbidden arts. He receives a unique punishment and is blamed for much of the world's corruption.

Michael – An archangel who brings the Watchers' sins to God's attention and later oversees their judgment.

Uriel – An archangel who guides Enoch through visions and explains heavenly secrets and cosmic structure.

Raphael – The archangel assigned to bind Azazel and cleanse the earth from the corruption he caused.

Gabriel – An archangel who helps execute judgment against the Watchers and their hybrid offspring.

The Lord of Spirits – A divine title for God, the supreme being who passes judgment on the Watchers and determines their fate.

Earthly and Hybrid Beings

Enoch – A righteous man who is chosen to serve as an intermediary between God and the fallen angels. He records divine revelations and is shown the mysteries of heaven.

The Nephilim – Giant, violent offspring born from the union of Watchers and human women. They are characterized by their great strength, destructive appetites, and role in corrupting the earth.

Mortal Women – Human females taken as wives by the Watchers, giving birth to the Nephilim and becoming participants in the heavenly rebellion.

Key Locations

Mount Hermon – The earthly location where the Watchers descended and made their mutual pact to defy divine law.

The Abyss – A dark prison beneath the earth where the rebellious Watchers are bound in chains until the final judgment.

Dudael – A desolate region where Azazel is specially bound among jagged stones, symbolizing the severity of his sin.

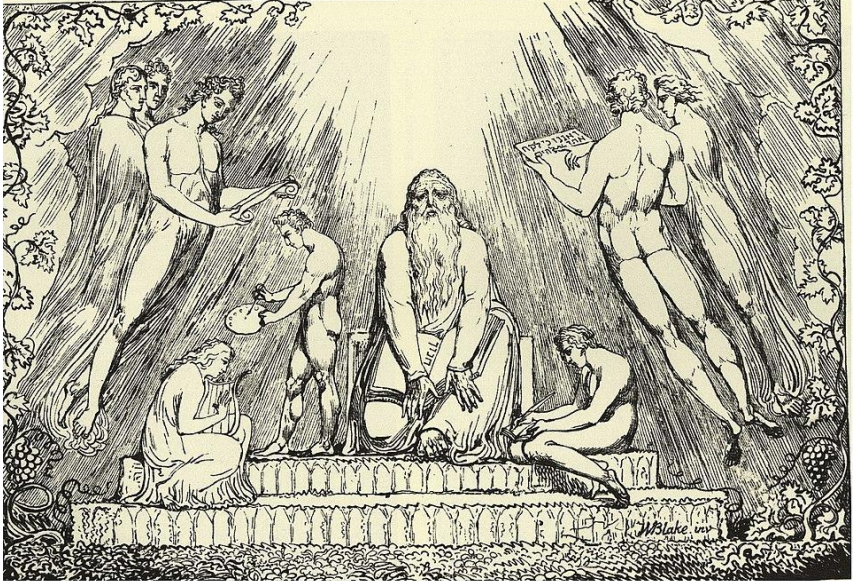
Major Concepts and Themes

Forbidden Knowledge – Skills imparted by the Watchers to humanity, including metallurgy, enchantments, cosmetics, astrology, and magical arts. These teachings led to widespread corruption.

Heavenly Tablets – Celestial records that contain divine laws, cosmic truths, and the destinies of beings. Enoch is granted access to read them.

The Great Flood – A divinely ordained act of judgment meant to cleanse the earth of the corruption introduced by the Watchers and their offspring.

I - Book of Watchers - Ch. 1



“Enoch” by William Blake (1757–1827), English poet and painter known for his spiritual and mystical works. This 1807 lithograph shows Enoch uplifted by divine light, symbolizing his chosen status as one who ‘walked with God’ and was not subject to death.

Introduction and Enoch's blessing

1- These are the words of Enoch's blessing. He was a good man, chosen by God. His vision showed how things would unfold far in the future—when evil people would be removed from the world.

2- Enoch's spiritual eyes were opened by God. Angels revealed a holy vision to him—a message not meant for his own time, but for a generation far ahead. He understood everything he saw, knowing it was a prophecy for the distant future.

3- Speaking about the faithful, Enoch declared that the Holy Great One would leave his divine home and come into the world.

4- God would walk on the earth, specifically on Mount Sinai. He would appear with incredible power, coming from the highest heavens.

5- When this happened, everyone would be terrified. The spiritual guardians called the Watchers would shake with fear. Terror would spread to the very edges of the earth.

6- The highest mountains would shake and collapse. Tall hills would be brought low, melting like wax in a flame.

7- The earth itself would break apart completely. Everything on earth would be destroyed. A final judgment would come to all people.

8- But those who were good would find peace with God. He would protect and bless them. They would belong to God, prosper, and receive mercy. God would help them, and light would shine on them. Peace would be made with them.

9- Look! God comes with thousands of holy beings to judge everyone and destroy the wicked. He would expose all the wicked actions and harsh words that sinners had spoken against Him.

II - Book of Watchers - Ch. 2

Order in nature and God's works

1- Look at everything in the sky. Notice how the stars and planets stay in their paths and don't change their orbits. The sun, moon, and stars all rise

and set in perfect order during their seasons. They never break the schedule God set for them.

2- Now look at the earth. Pay attention to everything that happens on it from beginning to end. See how reliable these patterns are. Nothing on earth truly changes its nature. All of God's creation works exactly as He designed it.

3- Look at summer and winter. See how the whole earth fills with water, clouds, dew, and rain during their appointed times.

III - Book of Watchers - Ch. 3

The regularity of the seasons

1- Notice how all the trees seem dead in winter, as if they had lost all their leaves. But there are fourteen special trees that keep their old leaves for two or three years until new ones grow.

IV - Book of Watchers - Ch. 4

Warning not to alter God's works

1- Now observe the summer days when the sun is directly overhead. You seek shade and shelter because of the intense heat. The ground becomes so hot you cannot walk on the earth or rocks because they burn.

V - Book of Watchers - Ch. 5

Sinners altering God's order

1- Watch how trees cover themselves with green leaves and produce fruit. Pay attention and understand all of God's works. Recognize how the eternal living God has made everything work together.

2- All His creation continues this way year after year forever. Everything completes the tasks God gave

them. These tasks never change but are carried out exactly as God commanded.

3- See how the seas and rivers also complete their duties and never change their God-given tasks.

4- But you people have not been faithful. You haven't followed God's commands. Instead, you've turned away and spoken proud, harsh words against God's greatness with your impure mouths. You hard-hearted people will never find peace.

5- Because of this, you will hate your own days. The years of your life will waste away. Your years of destruction will multiply under an eternal curse. You will find no mercy.

6- At that time, your names will become a lasting curse among all the righteous. Everyone who utters a curse will use your names as examples. All sinners and godless people will condemn you.

7- For you godless ones, there will be a curse. But the faithful will rejoice. There will be forgiveness of sins, mercy, peace, and patience. They will find salvation and a beautiful light.

8- But for all you sinners, there will be no salvation. A curse will remain on all of you.

9- For God's chosen ones, there will be light, joy, and peace. They will inherit the earth.

10- Then wisdom will be given to the chosen ones. They will live and never sin again, either through ungodliness or pride. Those who are wise will be humble.

11- They will not break God's laws again. They will not sin for the rest of their lives. They will not die from God's anger or wrath. They will live out their full lifespans.

12- Their lives will increase in peace. Their years of joy will multiply in eternal happiness and peace throughout all their days.

VI - Book of Watchers - Ch. 6



“The Fall of the Rebel Angels” by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525–1569), a Flemish Renaissance painter known for his vivid, chaotic depictions of moral and biblical themes. This painting captures the cosmic upheaval and grotesque distortion unleashed by heavenly rebellion—paralleling the Watchers’ descent and corruption in Enoch 6.

The descent of the Watchers to earth

1- As people multiplied on the earth, beautiful and attractive daughters were born to them.

2- The angels—those from the heavens—saw these women and were filled with desire. They said to each other, “Let’s choose wives from among the human women and have children with them.”

3- Their leader, Semjâzâ, warned them: “I’m afraid you won’t go through with this plan, and I alone will be left to bear the punishment for this great sin.”

4- But they all replied, “Let’s swear an oath—together. Let’s bind ourselves with a curse, so none of us backs out before it’s done.”

5- So they all swore together, binding themselves by mutual curses.

6- There were two hundred angels who descended in the days of Jared, landing on the summit of Mount Hermon. They named it Mount Hermon because there they swore the oath and sealed it with a curse.

7- These were the names of their leaders: Sêmîazâz (their chief), Arâkîba, Râmêêl, Kôkabîêl, Tâmîêl, Râmîêl, Dânel, Êzêqêêl, Barâqîjâl, Asâêl, Armârôs, Batârêl, Anânêl, Zaqîêl, Samsâpêêl, Satarêl, Tûrêl, Jômjâêl, and Sariêl.

8- These were the captains—leaders over groups of ten.

We hope you enjoyed the beginning of ENOCH: The complete modern translation.

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