## what is the of enoch

\*\*Unveiling the Mystery: What Is the Book of Enoch?\*\*

what is the of enoch is a question that often arises among those intrigued by ancient texts, religious history, and biblical apocrypha. The phrase itself appears to be a slight miswording, likely referring to the "Book of Enoch," an ancient Jewish religious work attributed to Enoch, the great-grandfather of Noah. This enigmatic text has fascinated scholars, theologians, and enthusiasts for centuries due to its unique content, mysterious origins, and influence on various religious traditions.

If you've ever wondered about the origins, significance, or content of the Book of Enoch, you're in the right place. This article dives deep into what the Book of Enoch is, its historical context, its impact on religious thought, and why it continues to captivate readers today.

## Understanding the Book of Enoch: An Overview

To grasp what the Book of Enoch entails, it's essential to understand its place within religious literature. The Book of Enoch is an ancient Hebrew apocalyptic text, believed to have been written between the 3rd century BCE and the 1st century CE. Although it is not considered canonical in most Jewish and Christian traditions, it holds a significant place in Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity and has influenced various religious and mystical writings across history.

The text is traditionally attributed to Enoch, a biblical figure mentioned briefly in Genesis 5:21-24 as a man who "walked with God" and was taken to heaven without dying. However, scholars agree that the book itself was likely composed by multiple authors over time, compiling visions, prophecies, and teachings associated with Enochian lore.

### What's Inside the Book of Enoch?

The Book of Enoch is not a single narrative but a compilation of different sections, each focusing on various themes such as angels, judgment, cosmology, and the afterlife. The main parts include:

- The Book of the Watchers: Describes the fall of the Watchers, angels who descended to Earth, mated with human women, and taught forbidden knowledge.
- The Book of Parables: Contains messianic prophecies and visions of the

coming judgment and the Son of Man.

- The Astronomical Book: Offers detailed descriptions of the movements of heavenly bodies and cosmic order.
- **The Dream Visions:** Presents symbolic visions of history and the eventual triumph of good over evil.
- The Epistle of Enoch: Features exhortations and wisdom teachings for righteous living.

These diverse sections contribute to the book's rich tapestry of angelology, eschatology, and early Jewish mysticism.

# The Significance of the Book of Enoch in Religious Traditions

So, why does the Book of Enoch matter? Despite its exclusion from most biblical canons, the text has wielded considerable influence on religious thought, especially in shaping ideas about angels, demons, and the final judgment.

## Influence on Judaism and Christianity

In Jewish tradition, the Book of Enoch is part of the wider body of literature known as the pseudepigrapha—texts written under false names or attributed to ancient biblical figures. Although it didn't become part of the Hebrew Bible, it reflects the theological and cosmological ideas circulating during the Second Temple period.

Within Christianity, the Book of Enoch's impact is most notable in the early Church. Several Church Fathers, such as Tertullian and Origen, referenced Enoch's writings. The Epistle of Jude in the New Testament even quotes directly from Enoch 1:9, demonstrating its early significance.

## The Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Canonical Status

An intriguing aspect of Enoch's legacy is its canonical status in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, where it is considered scripture. This inclusion highlights the diversity of biblical canons across Christian denominations and emphasizes the book's importance in Ethiopian religious culture.

## Exploring the Themes Within the Book of Enoch

To appreciate what is the of enoch in terms of content, it's helpful to explore some recurring themes that resonate through its passages.

### The Watchers and Forbidden Knowledge

One of the most captivating stories in the Book of Enoch revolves around the Watchers—angels who rebelled against God by descending to Earth and mingling with humans. Their offspring, the Nephilim, are described as giants and beings of great wickedness. This narrative delves into themes of divine order, sin, and the consequences of crossing cosmic boundaries.

## **Apocalyptic Visions and Judgment**

The Book of Enoch is rich in apocalyptic imagery, portraying a future where the wicked are punished and the righteous are vindicated. It offers vivid descriptions of celestial battles, resurrection, and the establishment of God's kingdom. Such imagery has shaped later apocalyptic literature, including the Book of Revelation.

### Cosmological Insights and Astronomy

Surprisingly, the text contains detailed astronomical sections that describe the sun, moon, stars, and their movements in a geocentric framework. These passages provide valuable insight into ancient conceptions of the universe and reflect an effort to understand the divine order governing creation.

## Why Does the Book of Enoch Still Matter Today?

In our modern age, the Book of Enoch continues to attract interest for several reasons. Whether you're a historian, a theology enthusiast, or simply curious about ancient mysteries, understanding this text offers a window into the spiritual and cultural landscape of antiquity.

### Historical and Cultural Value

The Book of Enoch is a treasure trove for scholars studying Second Temple Judaism and early Christian thought. It reveals how people of that era grappled with questions about angels, evil, and divine justice. The text's

preservation in Ge'ez, the ancient Ethiopian language, also underscores the importance of cross-cultural transmission of religious ideas.

### Influence on Popular Culture and Esoteric Traditions

Beyond academia, the Book of Enoch has inspired various esoteric and New Age movements. Its stories of angels and cosmic battles resonate with modern spiritual seekers and have been referenced in literature, movies, and even UFO lore. This modern fascination keeps the text alive in popular imagination.

### **Lessons and Reflections for Today**

The moral and spiritual themes within the Book of Enoch—such as the dangers of pride, the importance of righteousness, and the hope for divine justice—remain relevant. Reading the text can encourage reflection on ethical living and the mysteries of existence.

## How to Access and Study the Book of Enoch

If the lure of the Book of Enoch has piqued your curiosity, you might wonder how to explore this ancient text yourself. Fortunately, many translations and editions are available, ranging from scholarly works to more accessible versions.

### **Recommended Translations**

- \*\*R.H. Charles' Translation:\*\* One of the most respected English translations, offering detailed notes and historical context.
- \*\*Richard Laurence's Version:\*\* An earlier translation that helped popularize the text in the 19th century.
- \*\*Modern Editions:\*\* Various contemporary editions provide updated language and annotations for readers new to the text.

## Tips for Reading

- Approach the book with an understanding of its complex composition and historical background.
- Consider reading alongside commentaries to grasp the symbolism and theological nuances.
- Reflect on the text's themes and how they connect with broader religious

traditions and human concerns.

The Book of Enoch is more than just an ancient manuscript; it is a portal into a world where heaven and earth intertwine, where angels and humans collide, and where visions of cosmic justice unfold. By exploring what is the of enoch, we tap into a rich vein of spiritual heritage that continues to inspire and provoke thought across millennia.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is Enoch in the Bible?

Enoch is a biblical figure mentioned in the Book of Genesis. He is known as the great-grandfather of Noah and is notable for 'walking with God' and being taken by God without experiencing death.

## What is the significance of Enoch in religious texts?

Enoch is significant because he is one of the few people in the Bible who did not die but was taken directly by God. He is also associated with mystical knowledge and apocalyptic writings in various religious traditions.

### What is the Book of Enoch?

The Book of Enoch is an ancient Jewish apocalyptic text attributed to Enoch, the great-grandfather of Noah. It contains visions and prophecies about the heavenly realms, fallen angels, and the coming judgment.

### Why is Enoch important in Christianity and Judaism?

In Christianity and Judaism, Enoch is important because he represents a model of righteousness and close communion with God. The Book of Enoch influenced early Christian thought and is considered canonical in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

## What does 'the age of Enoch' refer to?

The phrase 'the age of Enoch' often refers to the antediluvian period, the time before the Great Flood, during which Enoch lived. It symbolizes an era of close divine-human interaction and the transmission of secret knowledge.

### **Additional Resources**

\*\*Exploring the Enigma: What is the of Enoch?\*\*

what is the of enoch remains a phrase that invites curiosity and investigation, particularly in theological, historical, and literary contexts. The figure of Enoch has intrigued scholars and lay readers alike, given his unique position in biblical texts and apocryphal writings. This article aims to dissect the multifaceted nature of Enoch, exploring what his identity represents, the significance of the "Book of Enoch," and how his story influences religious traditions and cultural interpretations.

## The Identity and Historical Context of Enoch

Enoch is primarily known as a biblical figure, the great-grandfather of Noah, mentioned in the Book of Genesis. However, the phrase "what is the of enoch" seems incomplete yet points towards a deeper inquiry into either the identity, role, or the textual tradition associated with Enoch. Historically, Enoch is portrayed as a man who "walked with God" and was taken by God without experiencing death (Genesis 5:24). This remarkable aspect has positioned him as a symbol of piety and divine favor across various traditions.

Beyond the canonical texts, Enoch emerges as a pivotal character in several apocryphal and pseudepigraphal writings, most notably the Book of Enoch. This collection of ancient Jewish apocalyptic texts, attributed to Enoch himself, delves into themes of divine judgment, angelology, and cosmology. These writings, though excluded from the canonical Hebrew Bible and most Christian Old Testaments, offer significant insight into Second Temple Judaism and early Christian thought.

### The Book of Enoch: Origins and Influence

The Book of Enoch, often a focal point when discussing "what is the of enoch," is an amalgamation of several texts, including the Book of Watchers, the Book of Parables, and the Astronomical Book. Composed between the 3rd century BCE and 1st century CE, it was preserved primarily in Ge'ez, the ancient Ethiopian language, which is why it remains part of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church's biblical canon.

This text expands upon Enoch's role as an intermediary between God and fallen angels, providing a detailed account of the Watchers—angelic beings who descended to Earth and corrupted humanity. The vivid descriptions of celestial realms and eschatological visions found in this text influenced early Christian apocalyptic literature, including the New Testament.

## **Comparing Enoch Across Religious Traditions**

Understanding "what is the of enoch" also requires examining how Enoch is

perceived across different faiths. In Judaism, Enoch is a somewhat enigmatic figure, acknowledged in the Torah but predominantly elaborated upon in mystical and apocalyptic literature. The Kabbalah, for instance, often references Enoch as a model for mystical ascent and divine knowledge.

Christianity, particularly in its early stages, was significantly influenced by Enochic traditions. The Epistle of Jude in the New Testament quotes directly from the Book of Enoch, attesting to its early authoritative status. However, as Christian canonicity solidified, the Book of Enoch was excluded from most biblical canons but retained importance in the Ethiopian Church.

Islamic tradition recognizes Enoch under the name Idris, portraying him as a prophet and sage who was elevated to a high station by God. Idris/Enoch is often associated with wisdom, writing, and the transmission of knowledge, reflecting themes similar to those found in Judeo-Christian texts.

#### Features and Themes in Enochic Literature

Several recurring themes characterize texts associated with Enoch:

- **Divine Revelation**: Enoch is depicted as a recipient of profound, often secret, knowledge concerning the cosmos, angels, and divine judgment.
- Angelology: Detailed descriptions of angelic hierarchies, including the Watchers and their fall, are central to Enochic literature.
- Judgment and Eschatology: The texts emphasize impending divine judgment on both celestial beings and humans, highlighting moral accountability.
- Mystical Ascent: Enoch's journey through heaven serves as a prototype for spiritual enlightenment and heavenly revelation.

These elements underscore why Enoch's story is not only a religious narrative but also a rich source for mystical and esoteric traditions.

# Implications of Enoch's Story in Modern Scholarship

Modern biblical scholarship and historical studies continue to debate and analyze "what is the of enoch" in terms of its textual authorship, historical reliability, and theological implications. The Book of Enoch provides critical context for understanding Jewish apocalypticism and the development of early Christian eschatology.

From a literary perspective, Enochic texts are a window into ancient worldviews, blending myth, theology, and cosmology. The influence of Enoch extends to contemporary culture, inspiring novels, films, and theological discourse.

## Pros and Cons of Enochic Traditions in Religious Study

#### • Pros:

- $\circ$  Offers rich insight into Second Temple Judaism and early Christian thought.
- Expands understanding of angelology and apocalyptic literature.
- Provides a unique perspective on divine-human interaction and eschatology.

#### • Cons:

- $\circ$  Non-canonical status in most religious traditions limits its authority.
- Complex and symbolic language can lead to varied and conflicting interpretations.
- Historical authenticity is debated due to mythic and visionary content.

These considerations highlight the challenges and opportunities in engaging with Enochic literature.

## Conclusion: The Enduring Mystery of Enoch

The question of "what is the of enoch," while seemingly incomplete, opens a broad investigative path into one of the most fascinating figures of ancient religious literature. Enoch embodies themes of divine closeness, esoteric knowledge, and cosmic justice that have resonated through millennia. Whether as a biblical ancestor, a mystical seer, or a prophet across multiple traditions, Enoch's narrative continues to stimulate theological debate and

cultural imagination.

Understanding Enoch requires not only examining ancient texts but also appreciating the interplay between history, religion, and myth that shapes his legacy. As scholarship progresses and new findings emerge, the figure of Enoch remains a compelling subject for those seeking to unravel the mysteries of ancient spirituality and its impact on modern faiths.

### What Is The Of Enoch

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what is the of enoch: The Blessing of Enoch Philip Francis Esler, 2017-06-09 In recent decades the ancient apocalyptic work 1 Enoch has been intensively explored for its historical meaning and its contribution to Israelite and Christ-movement thought and identity. Yet its theological meaning, what it can contribute to understanding of the divine-human interface today, has been neglected by scholarship. This is surprising given that 1 Enoch is Scripture for the Ethiopian and Eritrean Orthodox churches and has been a major influence on Christian theology, experience, and art in Ethiopia since the fifth and sixth centuries CE. This book inaugurates a project in Western scholarship to bring 1 Enoch into theological discussion. It contains a number of essays delivered at meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Cheltenham, England, involving scholars from Ethiopia, Germany, the UK, and the USA. The papers cover topics such as the appropriate theological response to a text that is Scripture for only some Christians; the role of 1 Enoch in Ethiopian ecclesial and theological tradition; the theological potential of 1 Enoch in areas such as the environment, politics, social justice, Christology, persecution, the problem of evil and how 1 Enoch stimulates artistic expression today. The Blessing of Enoch aims to launch a wider discussion on 1 Enoch and contemporary theology.

what is the of enoch: The Book of Enoch Robert Henry Charles, 1893 what is the of enoch: The Book of Enoch Enoch, 2013-01-03 The Book of Enoch is the most notable extant apocalyptic work outside the canonical Scriptures. It describes the fall of the Watchers, the angels who fathered the Nephilim (cf. the bene Elohim, Genesis 6: 1-2). The fallen angels went to Enoch to intercede on their behalf with God after he declared to them their doom. The remainder of the book describes Enoch's visit to Heaven in the form of a vision, and his revelations.

what is the of enoch: The Book of Enoch Prophet Enoch, 2023-01-06 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more for God took him. The Book of Enoch is a pseudoepigraphal work (a work that claims to be by a biblical character). The Book of Enoch was not included in either the Hebrew or most Christian biblical canons, but could have been considered a sacred text by the sectarians. The original Aramaic version was lost until the Dead Sea fragments were discovered. This is a compilation of several separate works, most of which are apocalyptic. Its oldest portion is the Apocalypse of Weeks, written shortly before the Maccabean uprising of 167 BC against the Seleucids. The Ethiopic Book of Enoch is called a pseudepigraphical work, meaning one that is not included in any canon of scripture, outside of even the Apocrypha. The only complete extant version is an Ethiopic translation of a previous Greek translation made in Palestine from the original Hebrew or Aramaic. The Book of the Watcher, tells the story of fallen angels from Gen 6:1-4 that took wives,

created the Nephilim, and taught advanced technology to mankind, ultimately leading to the great flood and their destruction. The Parables of Similitude, is an apocalyptic book about the Son of Man and the Ancient of Days. These ancient prophecies of Jesus are directly in line with what we find in the Bible, and are remarkably similar to The Book of Revelation. The Book of the Courses of the Heavenly Luminaries is a detailed account of the stars and their functions. The Dream Visions is the prophecy of all human history, from the creation of mankind all the way to the end times and the final judgement. The past, present, and future are foretold in grand detail. The prophecy of weeks is similar to the prophecy structure in the book of Daniel. The Noah Fragments is the untold story of Noah from the Bible. We learn more about his mission to save all humanity and the struggles of his father Lamech and his grandfather Methuselah. Finally, included herein are all known fragments of The Book of Giants. Each work is independent, but all the works are bound by a common theme: the punishment of the wicked and the blessedness of the righteous.

what is the of enoch: The Book of Enoch Enoch, 2022-10-23 The Book of Enoch is an ancient religious text, traditionally ascribed to the Judeo-Christian prophet Enoch, the ancestor of the biblical figure, Noah. Some scholars estimate that some parts of the book vary widely in age from several hundred years before Christ to the last parts in the century before the birth of Jesus. This text is widely considered non-canonical although it is accepted that it is a genuine attempt to record information as best the authors were able in the pre-Christian era. In the text, Enoch is a figure who receives direct personal revelation from God. He sees the magnificence of God and begins to preach to those around him against sin. He warns that the sinners will be winnowed and that God himself will appear on Mount Sinai to judge the humans as well as the fallen angels on Earth. Among the more controversial material within this text is the detailed account it gives of fallen angels on earth and their cursed offspring, the Nephilim. Azazel features heavily as the instigator of metal weapon production, the use of cosmetics and advocate of widespread promiscuity and fornication. In this book, the figure of Enoch is charged with the knowledge of God's chosen and brutal punishment for the Nephilim, their human mothers and their Angel fathers. August Dillman's translation from the Ethiopian is part of his extensive work translating biblical era manuscripts and this particular version is augmented with his observations, Latin excerpts and a stunning foreword by R. H. Charles. One of the most important apocryphic works of the Second Temple Period is Enoch. According to the biblical narrative (Genesis 5:21-24), Enoch lived only 365 years (far less than the other patriarchs in the period before the Flood). Enoch walked with God; then he was no more for God took him. The original language of most of this work was, in all likelihood, Aramaic (an early Semitic language). Although the original version was lost in antiquity, portions of a Greek translation were discovered in Egypt and quotations were known from the Church Fathers. The discovery of the texts from Qumran Cave 4 has finally provided parts of the Aramaic original. In the fragment exhibited here, humankind is called on to observe how unchanging nature follows God's will. The Book of Enoch is a pseudoepigraphal work (a work that claims to be by a biblical character). The Book of Enoch was not included in either the Hebrew or most Christian biblical canons, but could have been considered a sacred text by the sectarians. The original Aramaic version was lost until the Dead Sea fragments were discovered.

what is the of enoch: The Lost Prophecies of Enoch Ronan Ellis, 2024-12-08 Are you prepared to unveil the hidden truths of Enoch and uncover what the fallen angels, Nephilim, and divine prophecies reveal about God's eternal plan? Do you feel ready to confront the spiritual mysteries that shape our understanding of the end times? For centuries, believers and scholars alike have been captivated by the enigmatic figure of Enoch—the man who walked with God and was taken into heaven. His story holds the keys to understanding supernatural mysteries, ancient prophecies, and God's ultimate judgment. Yet, for many, these secrets remain locked away. This book provides a clear, engaging path into Enoch's world, revealing his unique role in biblical history and its relevance for us today. Discover the extraordinary life of Enoch, the only man to ascend to heaven without experiencing death. Understand the fall of the Watchers and their connection to the Nephilim, offering insights into the origins of evil in the world. Unravel Enoch's heavenly visions,

revealing profound truths about God's throne, the angelic realm, and divine judgment. Explore the apocryphal Book of Enoch and its critical connection to biblical prophecies. Gain practical guidance on how to "walk with God" in your spiritual journey, inspired by Enoch's example. Prepare for the end times with clarity and confidence by understanding Enoch's prophetic insights. Strengthen your faith by bridging ancient scripture with your personal spiritual growth. You may wonder, Can this book truly deepen my faith? or Will it provide accurate and meaningful insights? Rest assured, this work is rooted in comprehensive research, combining biblical scripture with apocryphal writings, and is designed to provide you with clarity, inspiration, and actionable spiritual wisdom. Whether you're seeking to grow your faith, uncover biblical mysteries, or explore ancient texts, this book is your guide. Don't wait to unlock the secrets of Enoch and strengthen your faith. The answers are waiting—start your journey today!

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the later 2 Enoch (the Slavonic "Book of the Secrets of Enoch") and the so-called Hebrew "Book of Enoch" (3 Enoch) Said to have been written by the prophet Enoch, the great-grandfather of Noah, the Book of Enoch disappeared for many centuries, except for one place: the Bible of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, which held the book as canonical. Revealing the profound influence of the Book of Enoch on world thought over the past two thousand years, Tobias Churton investigates the entire history of the Book of Enoch and its important esoteric offshoots, including the later 2 Enoch (the Slavonic Book of the Secrets of Enoch) and the so-called Hebrew Book of Enoch (3 Enoch). He explains how Enoch was taken to Heaven where he received personal instruction from God and examines in depth Enoch's full story of the Watchers, the fallen angels who came to Earth and shared corrupting forbidden knowledge. He explains how the Book was a vital component of Second Temple messianic Judaism and speculative Jewish mysticism, playing a key role in the development of both the Kabbalah and Gnostic mythology. Informed by continuing studies of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Churton provides the first comprehensive examination of the Book of Enoch, clarifying and refuting many errors of understanding about Enoch's apocalyptic and sometimes sensational prophecies.

what is the of enoch: Essays on the Book of Enoch and Other Early Jewish Texts and Traditions Michael Anthony Knibb, 2009 This volume brings together twenty-one essays by Michael Knibb on the Book of Enoch and on other Early Jewish texts and traditions, which were originally published in a wide range of journals, Festschriften, conference proceedings and thematic collections. A number of the essays are concerned with the issues raised by the complex textual history and literary genesis of 1 Enoch, but the majority are concerned with the interpretation of specific texts or with themes such as messianism. The essays illustrate some of the dominant concerns of Michael Knibb's work, particularly the importance of the idea of exile; the way in which older texts regarded as authoritative were reinterpreted in later writings; and the connections between the apocalyptic writings and the sapiential literature.

what is the of enoch: The Mysteries of the Book of Enoch in its 7a Edition Ari El Luzi, 2025-04-21 Thousands of years ago, in a time before the flood, a man walked among men and the heavens, a chosen being who would bear witness to a lost world. His name was Enoch, seventh in the lineage of Adam, and his story was not perpetuated by the pages of kings or by stone temples, but by visions and words that passed through the centuries in silence. Enoch was not just a man, but a seer, a man of deep listening, capable of capturing the murmurs of the sky and the echoes of the primordial chaos that threatened to consume the Earth. The Book of Enoch, or 1 Enoch, is one of the most enigmatic and significant texts in Jewish tradition. Although its exact origin is still a mystery, it is believed to have been composed between the 3rd century BC and the 1st century AD, and to have circulated widely among Second Temple Jewish groups, such as the Essenes, who lived at Qumran, near the Dead Sea. This text was not included in the Hebrew Bible, and is therefore considered apocryphal and often ignored or suppressed by religious scholars over the centuries. The Book of Enoch, in its most complete form, was preserved in Ge'ez, the liturgical language of Ethiopia, where it became part of the Canon of the Ethiopian Church. Its survival in Ethiopia reflects the spiritual importance that this manuscript had for certain Christian and Jewish traditions. However, most of Enoch's texts and fragments were lost to the Western world until the rediscovery of Ethiopian manuscripts in the 18th century. Later, Aramaic fragments were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, suggesting that the text had an even greater influence than previously imagined, especially among Jewish sects awaiting the Messiah and spiritual restoration.

what is the of enoch: Book of Enoch Anders Bennett, 2022-06-16 Looking for a commentary and researched reference on the Book of Enoch? The Book of Enoch has had many translations that have been very academic in nature; often daunting and inaccessible to the modern reader. Book of Enoch: The Ways of God, Angels and Men has no pretensions to highbrow academic scholarship but seeks to be properly researched, helpful, and prove itself reliable to readers. Angels and Demons have occupied a special place the human imagination. They personify the continued struggle between two opposing forces: light and darkness, Heaven and Hell, good and evil. Roman Catholics

are familiar with statues and paintings of Michael the Archangel stepping on the body of Lucifer while brandishing a flaming sword. Christians know of the Nativity story that began with Angel Gabriel's Annunciation to the Virgin Mary to the choir of angels that heralded the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds out in the fields. Sometimes referred to as The lost books of Christianity, Enoch deserves to be as popular as the recent translations of Gnostic works made available from the latest discoveries like the Gospel of Judas. From the Best selling author Anders Bennett, comes a refreshing commentary.

what is the of enoch: The Book of Enoch, Second Edition R. H. Charles, 2011-03-09 This is not so much a second edition as a new book. A brief comparison of the first edition and the present work will make this clear even to the cursory reader. Alike in the translation and in the commentary it forms a vast advance on its predecessor. The translation in the first edition was made from Dillmann's edition of the Ethiopic text, which was based on five MSS. With a view to this translation the present editor emended and revised Dillmann's text in accordance with nine hitherto uncollated Ethiopic MSS. in the British Museum, and the Greek and Latin fragments which had just come to light, but notwithstanding every care he felt his work in this respect to be of a wholly provisional character. From the date of the publication of the first edition in 1893 he steadily made preparation for an edition of the Ethiopic text and of the Greek and Latin fragments. This text, which is exhaustive of existing textual materials in these languages, was published by the University Press in 1906, and from this text the present translation is made. A new and revolutionary feature in the translation is due to the editor's discovery of the poetical structure of a considerable portion of the work. The editor calls it revolutionary for it proves to be in respect of the critical problems of the text. By its means the lost original of the text is not infrequently recovered, phrases and clauses recognized as obvious interpolations, and not a few lines restored to their original context, whose claims to a place in the text were hitherto ignored on the ground of the weakness of their textual attestation. The critical advance made in the present volume is not of a revolutionary character, but consists rather in more detailed application of the principles of criticism pursued in the first edition. . . To the biblical scholar and to the student of Jewish and Christian theology 1 Enoch is the most important Jewish work written between 200 BC and 100 AD. -- From the Preface

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