

# The Mysteries of Enoch

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## Mysteries of Enoch: Overview

### ❖ Four sessions

- ◆ *Tuesday*: Ancient Israelite Era
- ◆ *Wednesday*: 1 Enoch; Intertestamental and New Testament Era
- ◆ *Thursday*: **Early Christians and Rabbinic Judaism**
- ◆ *Friday*: Modern interpretations of Enoch

## Resources

- ❖ Slide notes and Bibliography are available at:
  - ◆ **Mormon Scripture Explorations**
    - <http://mormonscriptureexplorations.org/>
- ❖ J Bradshaw and D. Larsen, "Ancient Affinities within the LDS Book of Enoch"
  - ◆ *Interpreter* 4 (2013): 1-74
    - <http://www.mormoninterpreter.com/>
- ❖ Bradshaw and Larsen's new book

## Summary of Wednesday's topics

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- ❖ 2.1- First Enoch
- ❖ 2.2- Enoch in the Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha
- ❖ 2.3- Enoch in the New Testament

## The Mysteries of Enoch 3: Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism

### The Mysteries of Enoch 3: Rabbinic Judaism

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- ❖ 3.1- Enoch and the Early Christians
- ❖ 3.2- Second Enoch
- ❖ 3.3- Third Enoch
- ❖ 3.4- Metatron/Enoch

## 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

- ❖ **Second Century; Apostolic Fathers** (AD 90-140)
  - ✦ knew Jude 14-15 quoted 1 Enoch 1:9
    - = accepted as scripture?
  - ✦ *Barnabas* 16.4-5 quotes 1 Enoch 89:56, 66 as authentic “scriptural” prophecy of the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem by the Romans
  - ✦ Similitudes of the *Shepherd of Hermas* similar symbolically to Similitudes of Enoch (1 Enoch 37-71)

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

- ❖ **Third Century**
  - ✦ Not important in the *Nag Hammadi Texts*; mentioned only in passing
  - ✦ Tertullian (d. 225) *On the Apparel of Women*, 1.3,
    - argues for authenticity of 1 Enoch
    - ✦ disagrees that it couldn't have survived the flood
    - notes that it is rejected by the Jews

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

#### ❖ **Third Century: Origen**

- ✦ Quotes 1 Enoch
- ✦ Origen (d. 254), *Against Celsus* 5.54
  - “sons of God” are not precursors of Jesus as Son of God
  - 1 Enoch is not scripture
- ✦ Origen, *De Principiis* 4.4.8 (4.35)

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

#### ❖ **Christian Marginalization of Enochian literature**

- ✦ 1- not in Jewish scripture (= Septuagint)
- ✦ 2- disputed authenticity = not really from Enoch
- ✦ 3- pagans use idea of human children from “sons of God” as anti-Christian polemic
- ✦ 4- rise of Christian interpretation that “sons of God” = human sons of Seth

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

#### ❖ **Christian Marginalization of Enochian literature**

- ✦ 5- Jewish usurpation of Enoch as Metatron
  - fulfills role of Great Angel and mediator
- ✦ 6- Ascended Enoch becomes seen as a Jewish rival of Jesus for the honor of the Great Angel



### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

#### ❖ **Christian Marginalization of Enochian literature**

- ◆ “adulterated by Jews and heretics” Synkellos
- ◆ Intentionally suppressed by both Greek and Latin Imperial Churches from fourth century on
- ◆ 1 Enoch lost and unknown in the West until manuscript discovered in Ethiopia in 1773

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

#### ❖ **Survival of 1 Enoch**

- ◆ Nothing survives among the Jews
  - Rejected by Rabbis because Christians use as prophecies of Jesus (Similitudes of Enoch)
- ◆ Aramaic (Judea) → Greek (Jews of Egypt) → Coptic (Egyptian Christians)? → Ethiopic (Christians)
- ◆ Survives only in Ethiopia as part of Bible

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

#### ❖ **Myth of the Fallen Angels/Watchers/Nephilim**

- ◆ The “Watchers,” Fallen Angel, and Giants myth survives indirectly among Christians
  - quotations from George Synkellos (d. 810)
  - story is known and told, but not directly quoted from 1 Enoch

### 3.1- Enoch and Early Christians

- ❖ **Changing Christian Interpretation of Fallen Angels/ Watchers/Nephilim Myth among Jews and Christians**
- ✦ Sons of God = humans sons of Seth: "Seth, which was the son of **Adam, which was the son of God.**" Luke 3:38
- ✦ Daughters of Men = daughters of Cainites
- ✦ Giants ≠ pagan demigods
- ❖ Later Christians discuss biblical Enoch's ascent as allegory or homily for perfection of soul or mysticism

## 3.2- Second Enoch (Slavonic Apocalypse of Enoch)

### 3.2- Second Enoch

- ❖ **Early Rabbis Reject 1 Enoch**
- ✦ Early Christians used 1 Enoch as prophecies of Jesus and destruction of the temple
- ✦ Knowledge of 1 Enoch does not survive in Rabbinic Judaism
- ✦ Significance and role of Enoch in Judaism transformed and replaced by 2 Enoch → 3 Enoch

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ Background on Jewish Mysticism

- ❖ Peter Schafer, *The Origins of Jewish Mysticism*, (Princeton, 2011)
- ❖ New forms of Jewish Mysticism
- ❖ *Hekhalôt* = temple / palace
- ❖ *Merkabah* = chariot = chariot-throne of God
- ❖ *Be-re'shît* = "in the beginning" = creation mysteries

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ Background

- ❖ Origin = Hellenistic Jews of Egypt
- ❖ Date = before AD 70 (destruction of the Temple)
- ❖ Language: (Hebrew / Aramaic?) → Greek → **Old Slavonic**
  - survives only in Old Slavonic manuscripts in east Europe from 14th century AD + Coptic fragments
- ❖ Not preserved by Jews, but Slavic Christian monks
  - Unknown among Western Christians

## Translation

- ❖ Andersen, F., trans. "2 (Slavonic Apocalypse of) Enoch," OTP 1:91-222
- ❖ <http://www.marquette.edu/maqom/2enoch.html>



## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ Contents of Second Enoch

- ◆ 1- Enoch's heavenly Ascent (2 Enoch 1-38)
  - revelation of the secrets of creation
- ◆ 2- Enoch's teachings to his children (2 Enoch 39-67)
- ◆ 3- Enoch's priestly lineage (2 Enoch 68-73)

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 1- Enoch's heavenly Ascent (2 Enoch 1-38)

- ◆ Angels come to take Enoch into heaven (1-2)
- ◆ Ascent through the seven heavens (3-22)
  - geocentric: concentric spheres around the earth
  - each heaven with different astronomical bodies, different natural phenomenon, different angels
- ◆ *Dante's Divine Comedy: Paradiso*

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 1- Enoch's heavenly Ascent (2 Enoch 1-38)

- ◆ 3rd Heaven = paradise of righteous (Eden) & Tree (of Life?) (8-10 → 2 Cor. 12:2-4)
- ◆ 4th heaven, gates of the Sun (11-17)
  - solstice and equinox
- ◆ 6th Heaven = hierarchies of angels (18-21)



## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 1- Enoch's heavenly Ascent (2 Enoch 1-38)

- ✦ 7th Heaven = **Enoch transformed before the Lord** (22)
- ✦ "The Lord said, 'Let Enoch come up and **stand in front of my face forever!**' ... The Lord said to Michael, 'Take Enoch, and extract him from the earthly clothing. And anoint him with the **delightful oil**, and put him into the **clothes of glory.**' [Michael does this] ... And I [Enoch] gazed at all of myself, and I had become **like one of the glorious ones**, and there was no observable difference."

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 1- Enoch's heavenly Ascent (2 Enoch 1-38)

- ✦ Enoch reads the 360 **heavenly books** (23-24) M 6:46
- ✦ God reveals the secrets of creation to Enoch (24-29)
- ✦ Creation and Fall of Adam (30-32) M 6:48-54
  - no original sin (31:7) = M 6:54
- ✦ Enoch sees future of the world (33-35)
- ✦ **Enoch ordered to return and teach his children** (36-38)
  - M 6:58 "teach these things freely unto your children"

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 2- Enoch's teachings to his children (2 Enoch 39-67)

- ✦ teaches 30 days (36:2) → 40 days (Acts 1:3)
  - Testament Literature = last teachings for children
- ✦ Moral and Ethical Teachings, parables, beatitudes
  - "Happy is he who speaks peace and possesses peace in his heart; cursed is he who speaks peace, but there is no peace in his heart." (52:15)

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 2- Enoch's teachings to his children (2 Enoch 39-67)

- ✦ No mention of Law of Moses
  - "He who brings a sacrifice of **clean** beasts it is a healing; he heals his soul" (59:1)
    - ✦ sacrifice as healing the soul
- ✦ Enoch's ascent into heaven watched by his descendants (67:1-3) → Jesus in Acts 1:3

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 2- Enoch's teachings to his children (2 Enoch 39-67)

- ✦ Enoch is assigned to be the celestial scribe and recording angel
  - "[The LORD] appointed [Enoch] to be the one who makes a written record of all his creation, visible and invisible, and the one who carried away the sin of mankind." (64:5b)
    - ✦ "angels above us are silent notes taking"

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 3- Enoch's priestly family (2 Enoch 68-73)

- ✦ Enoch has ascended
  - no communal ascent of city of Enoch in ancient Enoch texts
- ✦ Enoch's son Methuselah constructs altar for Sacrifice (68)
  - People want a priest (69:1-2)
  - God "himself will raise up a priest over his own people" (69:2)
  - God calls Methuselah to priesthood in vision & dream (69)

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 3- Enoch's priestly lineage (2 Enoch 68-73)

- ✦ Enoch →Methuselah →Lamech →Nir →Melchizedek
- ✦ Methuselah gives priesthood to his son Lamech (70a)

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 3- Enoch's priestly lineage (2 Enoch 68-73)

- ✦ Methuselah gives priesthood to grandson (non-biblical) Nir, the second son of Lamech (Noah is first) (70b)
- ✦ Nir's wife is barren (71:1); She conceives while Nir is serving in the temple (71a)
  - = miraculous conception = **Zechariah** (Lk. 1)
- ✦ **Gabriel** announces divine miracle of conception (71c)
- ✦ baby is born (71:17) after the death of his mother, with "the **sign of priesthood** is on his chest" (71:19)

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 3- Enoch's priestly lineage (2 Enoch 68-73)

- ✦ "And Noah said to [his younger brother] Nir, 'Behold, God is renewing the **continuation of the blood of the priesthood after us.**' And Noah and Nir hurried, and they **washed** the child, and they dressed him in the **garments of the priesthood**, and they gave him the **holy bread** [of the temple] and he ate it. And they called his **name Melchizedek.**" (71:21) = priest from birth
- ✦ "without mother or father" (Heb. 7:3)



## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 3- Enoch's priestly lineage (2 Enoch 68-73)

- ✦ "Melchizedek will be my **priest to all [other] priests**, and I will sanctify him" (71:29) & "Melchizedek will be the **head of the priests [high priest] in another generation**" (71:33, 37b)
- ✦ Melchizedek ascends to God's paradise to preserve him from the flood = Melchizedek's celestial priesthood (72) = Enoch; returns after flood (communal ascent?)
- "neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but **made like unto the Son of God**; abideth a priest continually." (Heb. 7:3b)

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 3- Enoch's priestly lineage (2 Enoch 68-73)

- ✦ Nothing about priest or priesthood in JS Enoch
- ✦ "And are **priests of the Most High**, after the **order of Melchizedek**, which was after the **order of Enoch**, which was after the **order of the Only Begotten Son**." (DC 76:57 + 84:16)

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 3- Enoch's priestly lineage (2 Enoch 68-73)

- ❖ DC 84:14 Which Abraham received the priesthood from **Melchizedek**, who received it through the **lineage of his fathers, even till Noah**; 15 And from **Noah till Enoch**, through the lineage of their fathers; 16 And from Enoch to Abel, ...



## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ 2 Enoch as a temple ascent text

- ◆ 1- heavenly ascent to the celestial temple
- ◆ 2- metamorphosis / translation / transformation of Enoch into a celestial being
- ◆ 3- initiation into heavenly mysteries
- ◆ 4- Enoch's priesthood and priestly lineage
- ◆ 5- apocalyptic revelation of future
- ◆ 6- Sees the face of God

## 3.2- Second Enoch

### ❖ Loss of 2 Enoch

- ◆ Never widely read by Christians
- ◆ Authenticity also rejected by rabbis
- ◆ survives only in Old Slavonic 14th century manuscripts
  - = esoteric secret lore of mystic monks?
- ◆ Note lost 1 Enoch and 2 Enoch survive only on *fringes* of Imperial Church

## 3.3- Third Enoch

*Sefer Hekhalot* =

“Book of [Celestial] Temples”

### 3.3- Third Enoch

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#### ❖ Background

- ◆ Alternate Titles
  - *Hebrew Apocalypse of Enoch*
  - *Sefer Hekhalot* = “Book of [Celestial] Temples”

### 3.3- Third Enoch

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#### ❖ Background

- ◆ Language = Hebrew
- ◆ Date= 5th Century AD (based on earlier traditions)
- ◆ Location = Babylon or Palestine
- ◆ Public study forbidden by Rabbis (*b. Hagigah* 2.1)
  - Restricted, secret, esoteric, mystical lore only taught to a restricted few

### 3.3- Third Enoch

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#### ❖ Translation

- ◆ Alexander, P. trans. “3 (Hebrew Apocalypse of) Enoch,” OTP 1:223-316
- ◆ Oldenberg, H. *3 Enoch*, (Cambridge, 1928 [rep. New York: KTAV, 1973])

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ Contents of 3 Enoch

- ♦ 1- The Ascent of Rabbi Ishmael (3 Enoch 1-2)
- ♦ 2- Exaltation of Enoch (3 Enoch 3-16)
- ♦ 3- The Heavenly Order (3 Enoch 17-40)
- ♦ 4- Ishmael's Cosmic Vision (3 Enoch 41-48)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 1- The Ascent of Rabbi Ishmael (3 Enoch 1-2)

- ♦ Ishmael is the last High Priest, from the time of Bar Kochba rebellion (132-135 AD) and attempt to restore temple. (2)
- ♦ Ascends to heaven; Metatron serves as guide (1)
  - Enoch as visionary (1 & 2 Enoch) vs. Enoch as celestial guide (3 Enoch)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 2- Story of the Exaltation of Enoch (3 Enoch 3-16)

- ♦ Told by Metatron/Enoch to Ishmael (3)
- ♦ Metatron is Enoch, made ruler over the angels (4)
- ♦ Fall of Adam and Fall of Angels
  - *Shekinah* is removed from the earth (5)
  - *Shekinah* is "indwelling" = Holy Spirit
- ♦ Angels object to Enoch's exaltation (6)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 2- Story of the Exaltation of Enoch (3 Enoch 3-16)

- ✦ Enoch ascends on wings of the *Shekinah* (7)
- ✦ Gates of Blessings are opened (8)
- ✦ God **lays hand** on Enoch, gives him **all Blessings**, and **transforms** him (9)
- ✦ Enoch is given a "**throne** like the throne of glory" (10) (M 7:59b)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 2- Story of the Exaltation of Enoch (3 Enoch 3-16)

- ✦ God **reveals all secrets & mysteries** to Enoch (11)
- ✦ Given a **robe, crown** (12) and **new name "lesser YHWH"** (12:5)
- ✦ Enoch's **crown** inscribed by **God's finger** (13) with **mysteries**
  - "the pattern given by the finger of God" (M 6:46)
- ✦ All the angels pay homage to Enoch (15)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 2- Story of the Exaltation of Enoch (3 Enoch 3-16)

- ✦ Transformation of Enoch into a fiery being (15)
  - "fiery ones" = *serāfim*, סֵרָפִיִּם (Isa. 6:2, 6)
- ✦ Enoch was wiped 60 lashes when **Aher** [Elisha Ben Abuya] thinks there are two powers in heaven (16)  
*b. Hagigah 15a*



### 3.3 Third Enoch

- ❖ **3- The Heavenly Order, Celestial Hierarchies (3 Enoch 17-40)**
  - ✦ Hierarchies and names of the angels of the seven heavens (17-18)
  - ✦ list of princes (*sar/sarim*) & hierarchies of angels (19-29)
    - Dan. 8-10 describes angelic princes
  - ✦ The Order of the Heavenly Court (30-35)
    - ruled by justice, mercy and truth (31)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

- ❖ **3- The Heavenly Order, Celestial Hierarchies (3 Enoch 17-40)**
  - ✦ The Heavenly liturgy (38-40)
    - celestial temple ritual as model for earthly
  - ✦ Angels Sing the *Qeddušah* and prostration
    - "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isa. 6:3)
  - ✦ Inscribed words fly off the throne and walls (39)
    - Words as spiritual power/beings

### 3.3 Third Enoch

- ❖ **4- Ishmael's Cosmic Vision (3 Enoch 41-48)**
  - ✦ Mysteries of the Letters and Divine Name (41-42)
    - creation through letters, words and names
  - ✦ Ishmael given vision of the Cosmos (42-44)
    - state of the righteous and wicked
  - ✦ The veil of the cosmic temple (45)
    - names of all generations of time written on veil
    - Messiah son of Joseph and son of David (45:5)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 4- Ishmael's Cosmic Vision (3 Enoch 41-48)

- ✦ Visions of the angels as stars and fallen angels (46-47)
- ✦ Enoch reveals the "**right hand** of the Omnipotent One" (48; quote 48:1); and takes Ishmael by hand (48:2)

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 4- Ishmael's Cosmic Vision (3 Enoch 41-48)

- ✦ heavenly Jerusalem and Temple (48a; 48:3)
- ✦ restoration of the Temple and Jerusalem (48:10)
  - "At once Israel shall be saved from among the gentiles and the **Messiah** shall appear to them and bring them up to **Jerusalem** with great joy. Moreover, the kingdom of Israel, **gathered from the four quarters** of the world, shall eat with the **Messiah**, and the **gentiles shall eat with them**"

### 3.3 Third Enoch

#### ❖ 4- Ishmael's Cosmic Vision (3 Enoch 41-48)

- ✦ "**gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth**, unto a place which I shall prepare, an **Holy City**, ... for there shall be my **tabernacle**, and it shall be called **Zion**, a **New Jerusalem** ... And the Lord said unto **Enoch**: 'Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there' " M 7:62b-63

### 3.3- Third Enoch

#### ❖ Impact

- ✦ From the traditional Rabbinic and mystical Jewish perspective, 3 Enoch is the *only* Enoch book.
- ✦ 1 Enoch and 2 Enoch were rejected by rabbinic Jews and knowledge of them was lost by 3rd or 4th century AD.
  - Note the significance of the loss and rediscovery of the Enochian traditions
- ✦ 3 Enoch is foundational to later Jewish Mysticism

## 3.4- Metatron/ Enoch

### 3.4- Metatron/ Enoch

- ❖ Metatron (*mttrwn* and *mytrwn*) = Greek *meta thronou*? = “[he who sits] beside the throne [of God]”
- ❖ Enoch ascends and is transfigured into a celestial being who receives the **new name** Metatron
  - ✦ anointed, clothed in divine garments, crowned, like God, sits enthroned in God’s presence
- ❖ Enoch/ Metatron becomes major mystical figure in Jewish mysticism



### 3.4- Metatron/ Enoch

- ❖ Metatron/ Enoch is the **High Priest** in God's celestial temple (3 En. 10); angels are priests
- ❖ **Deification:** Enoch is deified with the title "Lesser Yahweh (Jehovah)" (*YHWH ha-qātôn*) (3 En. 12:5)
- ❖ Metatron = "Angel of the Lord" in Ex. 23:21, "my name [YHWH] is in him [Enoch/Metatron]"

### 3.4- Metatron/ Enoch

- ❖ Metatron/ Enoch called *na'ar* ("youth") (3 En. 3:2)
  - ♣ = M 6:31, "I am but a lad"
- ❖ "prince of the **countenance/face**" of God (*śar ha-pānīm*)
  - ♣ = allowed to go behind veil and **see face of God**
  - ♣ = M 7:4, Enoch "saw the Lord; and he **stood before my face**, and he talked with me ... **face to face**"

### 3.4- Metatron/ Enoch

- ❖ *Synthronos* = "enthroned together"
  - ♣ (Ps. 110:1 "sit thou at my right hand")
- ❖ Metatron/ Enoch *alone* can sit in the presence of God
  - ♣ (*b. Hagigah* 15a; + *b. Sanhedrin* 38b; *b. Av. Zar.* 3b)
  - ♣ Revelation 3:21 "the **one who conquers**, I will grant him to **sit with me on my throne**, as I [Jesus] also conquered and **sat down with my Father on his throne.**" + Rev. 4:2-6, 11:16, 20:4
    - Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:29-30
- ❖ God has "given unto [Enoch] a right to **thy throne**" (M 7:59b)



### 3.4- Metatron/ Enoch

#### ❖ Two Powers in Heaven

- ✦ Enoch among the Jewish mystics plays a similar mediator and revelatory role as Jesus
- ✦ humbling of Metatron (3 En. 16 = *b. Hagigah* 15a)
  - Elisha ben Avuyah (archetypal heretic) sees Metatron and says “**there are two powers in heaven**” (= Christianity)
  - Metatron is whipped to show he is not God

### 3.4- Metatron/ Enoch

#### ❖ Later Jewish Mysticism (Kabbalah)

- ✦ Existence, importance, and role of Metatron/ Enoch assumed in *Zohar* and other Kabbalistic texts
- ✦ Plays significant background role in Jewish mystical writings
- ✦ **Bibliography:** A. Orlov, *The Enoch-Metatron Tradition*, (2005)