Ethiopian Bible Starter Lesson

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Enoch: a person, a passage, and a book

This lesson helps you separate three things that can sound alike: the Enoch described in Genesis, the Genesis passage about him, and the separate literary work called 1 Enoch. It uses your own copies of the readings and does not reproduce a modern copyrighted translation.

Allow about 30–45 minutes. Have a Bible, an identified English translation of 1 Enoch, and a notebook ready. If you do not have Enoch yet, complete the Genesis and Jude exercises first; use https://ethiopianbiblebooks.com/ethiopian-bible-pdf for reading sources.

This is a complete website exercise, written separately from our unfinished study-guide manuscript.

Read before answering

1. Genesis 5:18–24.
2. Genesis 6:1–8.
3. Jude 14–15.
4. 1 Enoch 1–5, paying particular attention to 1:9.

Record your editions:

- Bible translation and edition:
- Enoch translator and edition:
- Date of study:

Questions

1. What facts does Genesis 5:18–24 give about Enoch? Write only details you can locate in that passage. Put interpretations in a separate sentence.

2. Does Genesis 5 contain the text of 1 Enoch? Explain how you would show the difference to someone who has never heard of either work.

3. Compare Genesis 6:1–8 with your next Enoch reading assignment, 1 Enoch 6–11. Before reading the latter, list the questions the short Genesis passage leaves unanswered. Afterward, record which questions Enoch addresses. Do not assume that every reader or tradition accepts the relationship in the same way.

4. What connection can you observe between Jude 14–15 and 1 Enoch 1:9? Compare the passages without copying long portions into material you intend to publish.

5. Does a connection between two texts, by itself, establish every church's canon? State what you would need to check before making a claim about a church's teaching.

6. What information would make an English Enoch edition easier to evaluate? Give four concrete items to look for in the front matter or publisher's listing.

Explained answers

1. Start with observation. Depending on the translation, you should be able to locate Enoch's place in the genealogy, his family connections, the years recorded, his relationship with God, and the unusual description of his departure. The passage is brief. A claim about the composition date of the separate Book of Enoch is not an observation from these verses.

2. A passage about someone is not identical to a book attributed to that person. Genesis 5 belongs to Genesis. The separate work called 1 Enoch contains many chapters and has its own manuscript and translation history. To demonstrate the difference, show the contents and reference system of each rather than relying on the name alone.

3. This is an open observation exercise. Your first list may ask who the figures in Genesis are, how their actions connect to the surrounding narrative, or why the passage moves toward judgment. In your second list, record only what you actually find in Enoch, with references. “Enoch supplies more detail” and “Genesis explicitly states every one of those details” are different claims. Keep them separate.

4. You should notice a close relationship in wording and subject. Jude's passage attributes a prophecy to Enoch, and 1 Enoch 1:9 provides the text to compare. Your translations may not use identical English wording. That difference can reflect translation choices; it is a reason to consult an introduction rather than to assume the relationship disappears.

5. No. Canon is a question about which writings a community receives as scripture. Literary use is evidence to study, but a claim about a church's canon should be checked against that church's sources and appropriate scholarship. For the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, begin with its church-hosted list: https://www.ethiopianorthodox.org/english/canonical/books.html.

6. Useful items include a named translator, the language and textual sources used, the publication or revision date, and notes explaining difficult readings. A clear contents page and sample also help establish that you are looking at 1 Enoch, rather than another Enoch work or a commentary about it. More items are possible; explain how each helps you evaluate the edition.

Review your notes

Choose one statement from your work and label it “observation,” “interpretation,” or “source claim.” For a source claim, record where you would verify it. Then write a question you want your next reading to answer.

Continue with the full plan: https://ethiopianbiblebooks.com/how-to-read-ethiopian-bible.

Source and reuse note

The exercises and explanations are original website material. Biblical passages are referenced rather than reproduced. Canon background follows the church-hosted source above; English editions and their limitations are documented at https://ethiopianbiblebooks.com/research/english-translation-source-index. This lesson is educational material from an independent publisher, not a church-authorized course. You may print this lesson for personal study and classroom discussion; attribute EthiopianBibleBooks.com when sharing the lesson itself.