

## Lesson 01

### The Early Prophets: Enoch and Abraham

Text: 2 Peter 1:19

#### Introduction:

1. When studying about God's revelation of His plan of redemption, the Patriarchal Age is often referred to as the time of starlight.
  - a. The Mosaic Age is called the time of moonlight.
  - b. The Gospel Age is seen as the time of sunlight.
2. Most of God's plan was still shrouded in darkness; but there were pinpoints of light, stars of Truth revealed in prophecy.
3. Therefore, concerning the prophets and prophecies of those early days, little is known.
4. Yet, there are glimpses given in the record of Scripture...

#### I. Enoch: The Prophet Who Walked with God

- A. Little is revealed about Enoch in the Old Testament Scriptures (Gen. 5:18-24).  
{*Note that the Enoch of Genesis 4:17-18 is a descendant of Cain and not the same person read about in Genesis 5.*}
- B. However, in the New Testament, a few more details are made known.
- C. Jude wrote that Enoch prophesied (Jude 14-15).
  1. Of course, this means that Enoch was a prophet.
  2. This passage indicates that his prophesying included foretelling the future.
- D. Enoch prophesied of the Lord's coming with His "holy ones" in judgment on the ungodly and wicked.
  1. One cannot help seeing in these words a warning against the destruction of the world by the Flood in the days of Noah, his great-grandson.
  2. However, this was only a foreshadowing of the Lord's return at the end of time for the Day of Judgment.
- E. As simple as this prophecy is, it raises some complicated questions.
  1. If this is true, why was it not recorded in the Old Testament?
    - a. The doctrine of Inspiration answers this challenge.
    - b. It did not need to be recorded back then.
    - c. God chose to reveal Truth in this manner.
    - d. Furthermore, this is not without precedent in the Bible (cf. Acts 20:35; 2 Timothy 3:8; 2 Peter 2:5, 8).
  2. Did Jude quote from Apocryphal books?
    - a. Jude 9 tells of a dispute between Michael and Satan about the body of Moses.
    - b. It is assumed by many that this is a reference to the apocryphal book called *The Assumption of Moses*.
      - i. This writing exists only in fragments.

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- ii. It is assumed that the missing parts of this book include the event mentioned by Jude.
- iii. However, it has never been found and at this time does not exist.
- c. It is also claimed that the passage in Jude 14-15 is a quotation from the apocryphal writing called *The Book of Enoch*.
  - i. It is important to note that nothing is stated in this passage about *The Book of Enoch* or any book.
  - ii. *The Book of Enoch* was written by several authors and is usually dated to around 200 BC.
  - iii. Some, assuming that Jude quoted from this book, claim that *The Book of Enoch* is inspired and should be accepted as Scripture.
    - aa. It cannot be proven that Jude quoted this book.
    - bb. Even if he did, it does not mean that the book is inspired (cf. Acts 17:28; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Titus 1:12-13).
  - iv. Others, assuming the same, have claimed that Jude could not have been inspired and his book should not be included in the New Testament.
  - v. In truth, it is difficult to date accurately the writing of *The Book of Enoch*.
  - vi. Many believe that it was written after the New Testament was completed and that it quotes from Jude, not the other way around (cf. Guy N. Woods).
- F. Enoch was an inspired prophet who walked with God.

### II. Noah: The Preacher of Righteousness

- A. Noah was called a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).
- B. Though he is not called a prophet, he was an inspired teacher who likely foretold future events – namely, the Flood.
  - 1. By his righteous life (Genesis 6:8-9)
  - 2. By his righteous obedience (Gen. 6:22; Heb. 11:7 – preparing the Ark)
  - 3. By his righteous preaching (1 Peter 3:18-20)
- C. Notice that it was the Spirit of Christ Who was preaching through Noah (1 Peter 3:18-20; cf. 1:11-12; Heb. 11:7; Gen. 6:3).
- D. Whether or not he was technically a prophet, Noah was a preacher of righteousness.

### III. Abraham: The Prophet to Whom the Gospel Was Preached

- A. In Genesis 20:7, Abraham is referred to as a prophet.
- B. In this situation, the prophet would speak to God on behalf of man to make forgiveness available for Abimelech (Gen. 20:17).
- C. Due to his knowledge of God's promise, Abraham also communicated the will of God to his extended family (Gen. 18:19; Gal. 3:8).
- D. Thus, Abraham was a true prophet of God – and the first to be identified this way in Scripture.

Conclusion: The things “written aforetime were written for our learning” (Romans 15:4).