

Fountain of Gardens

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I'll be making [perhaps regular] usage of the Book of 1Enoch for the first time on this website, starting with this month's ministry letter. Unsure if that'll be regular usage from this point forward, in the way someone might cite a Study Aid like "Strong's" or "Young's" or "Englishman's" Concordances, or something related to ancient maps, or the way St. Paul would freely quote from heathen poets on Mars Hill in Acts 17 or in his epistles with the occasional odd quote from Confucius or Plato or other ancient writers that some scholars have detected in his writings. Because this may become a habit, I thought I'd speak up with an initial statement, in passing, as to how I might reference 1Enoch & 2Enoch.

I believe they were rejected from the Old Testament canon by the Jews at the close of the 2nd Century both from their frustration at Apocalyptic literature having [in their view] given them so many false Messiahs & because they were keeping the Old Testament canon to what was specifically the faith of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob, as they then understood it. I believe they were rejected from the New Testament canon by the Christians who had final say on the appearance of the New Testament canon because the purpose of the New Testament was to be "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" as it says in Mark 1:1.

I don't believe it speaks to the authenticity of 1st & 2nd Enoch, but merely reflects what was considered the purpose of the Old & New Testament canons & the scope of their intended contents, & that both groups simply made the quasi-difficult decisions to have an overall historical flow & documents with a particular objective, both to document the Abrahamic faith, but both to cover a certain time period of the expression of that faith, hence the Old Testament likewise rejects 3Enoch that's a Kabbalistic text of like the 4th or 5th Century of the Common Era, though that's sorta a misnomer because when you examine 3Enoch, it's about the experiences of a particular mystical Rabbi whose name wasn't Enoch at all & you're told in the text what his name was. But by that time period, even the Talmudic literature was starting to come to some kind of closure. I don't believe 1st or 2nd Enoch are canonical for either Testament.

1Enoch is quoted [or alluded to &/or referenced] by the New Testament into the many hundreds of times, as far as either direct quotes or adaptations of it's cosmology, language, symbols, or themes, to where if you're going to utilize maps, Concordances, & various other historical studies of Rabbinical & other types of Judaism for a better academic understanding of the historical context, relevance, & revolutionary nature of the New Testament, then you really need to give, at least, 1Enoch half a dozen readings a year in the coming decade or two to supplement your New Testament meditations, studies, & understanding of what those writings meant to the earliest Christians in the generations before there was semi universal agreement on what the New Testament canon would look like.

22 But you have come to Mount Zion & to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly & church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, & to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than Abel. Hebrews 12:22-24 New King James Version

It is deeply important for Christians to realize that they are regarded by Scripture as being heavenly Jerusalem & for them not to have the fears of Dispensationalists that by [wholeheartedly] embracing that, [as their identity,] that they've somehow tried to replace Israel's natural born in the Covenants of God. In both the Old & New Testaments we have this acknowledgement of the struggle between the flesh & spirit, between Israel & Jerusalem.

This isn't a concept introduced by St. Paul. This goes back to the books of Isaiah & Zechariah & to the Old Testament writings about two Jewish nations that existed in the middle east in ancient times, "Israel," & "Judah." This goes back to historical events that were the physical expressions of these truths we find in the Gospel & they're not just the esoteric handling of Sarah & Hagar by St. Paul in Galatians 4.

It says in Ephesians & Colossians that God tore down the wall of separation between Jews & Gentiles through the Cross of Christ. When you examine Church history, it was the Anti-Semites & the enemies of Christianity that were making the distinctions between Jews & Christians where the Bible only acknowledges one consummation point for both in the future, only one Omega Point, which is in Christ, according to Ephesians 1:8-10.

You must come to terms with the fact that the natural seed of Israel is cut off from the fathers, from Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob & are currently prodigal sons while they continue in unbelief. Romans chapters 1 through 11 say that God will graft them in again when their eyes are re-opened to Christ Jesus.

Romans says we must stand in this faith, that they are loved for the sake of Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob & though their fate was fixed, their destiny in Christ is likewise secured & God will graft them in again. Origen has asserted that as Moses interceded for Israel & they were spared that St. Paul's desire to be cut off for Israel was likewise an answered prayer & we'll have Israel's restoration as a result.

We have come to heavenly Jerusalem, according to Hebrews 12:22 & to Blood that speaks better things than the blood of Abel. Although there's a fleeting comment in passing about Abel's crying out blood in Genesis, the author of Hebrews is no doubt contrasting the Blood of Jesus in the behalf of the Jews & Romans with a comment in 1Enoch about the blood of Abel, where the blood of Abel is portrayed as being a bit more accusatory than we're accustomed to hearing about. Considering the Old Testament views of one's family line & the blessings that are among some of the earliest blessings in the Bible about having seed that possesses the gates of their enemies, & how often marriages were arranged not only in the behalf of the young or in the behalf of tying powerful families together, but also from the standpoint of both the emerging promises of the future Messianic age & the desire to have both immortality of one's family name via one's descendants & the perpetuity of one's religious convictions & other related matters, I believe it's a quote that accurately reflects an Old Testament & Pre Old Testament sentiment & mindset.

It says in 1Enoch 22:5-8 in the Richard Laurence translation:

5. Their appointed period will be long, even until the great judgment. & I saw the spirits of the sons of men who were dead; & their voices reached to heaven, while they were accusing.

6. Then I inquired of Raphael, a messenger who was with me, & said, Whose spirit is that, the voice of which reaches to heaven, & accuses?

7. He answered, saying, This is the spirit of Abel, who was slain by Cain his brother; & who will accuse that brother, until his seed be destroyed from the face of the land;

8. Until his seed perish from the seed of the human race. 1Enoch 22:5-8 Richard Laurence Translation

So the Blood of Jesus is held up to us in Scripture as being Covenantal, [bridge-building,] Blood rather than blood that's bottom-line is the enmity of white blood cells that would be perpetually seeking the destruction of enemies. Instead, it's presented to us as what nourishes, replenishes, restores, & what's for the perpetual multiplication of the Abrahamic faith into every heart on earth, even in those hearts where it must pull down things, first, before it can fully establish God's proper Thanksgiving table with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob in God's Kingdom.

The Bible calls Christians spiritual Jerusalem, though some mistakenly think they're spiritual Israel, which is in fact a very bad thing, because they've labeled themselves as those who are opposed to what Isaiah would call "God's New Thing" that He's doing in the earth. Focusing on the fact that Hebrews 12:22 calls us spiritual Jerusalem, & embracing that He's torn down the wall of separation between Jews & Gentiles & has made Christians to Shepherd both Israel & the other nations, according to Zechariah 2:4-5 & various other passages, let's focus on some things that I believe that God is saying to many Christians among us who've specifically warred for years a good warfare with the Word of God on their mouths against the law of sin & death in their lives, circumstances, neighbors, & after having driven out 7 heathen nations from their own personal Canaan. Because I'm not a sensationalist, I don't believe that this applies to the whole Body of Christ, but to fathers & mothers in the faith, when considering 1John 2:12-14. In Isaiah, Zephaniah, & Zechariah it says:

1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. 2 " Speak comfort to Jerusalem, & cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins." Isaiah 40:1-2 New King James Version

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad & rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more. Zephaniah 3:14-15 New King James Version

9 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, Show mercy & compassion Everyone to his brother. 10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother.'" Zechariah 7:9-10 New King James Version

2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; With great fervor I am zealous for her.' 3 "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, & dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' 4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men & old women shall again sit In the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age. 5 The streets of the city Shall be full of boys & girls Playing in its streets.' Zechariah 8:2-5 New King James Version

15 So again in these days I am determined to do good To Jerusalem & to the house of Judah. Do not fear. 16 These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, & prosperity; 17 Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; & do not love a false oath. For all these are *things* that I hate,' Says the LORD." Zechariah 8:15-17 New King James Version

19 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'The fast of the fourth, The fast of the fifth, The fast of the seventh, & the fast of the tenth, Shall be joy & gladness & cheerful feasts For the house of Judah. Therefore love truth & prosperity.' Zechariah 8:19 New King James Version

With regards to the Isaiah passage, quoted above, the double that the Lord's given for iniquity that would have resulted in pardon is no doubt the double portion that belonged to Christ Jesus as firstborn from the dead, firstborn of God's New Creation, & firstborn of all. The end of warfare for those who've been living a righteous life, have kept all of the Word of the Lord in their mouths day & night, blamelessly, & have not neglected the weightier matters of the commandments of Christ is what I see dawning on the maturing segments of the Body of Christ right now.

Some will no doubt view this prosperity as liberalism that they equate with heathenism rather than as the necessary consequence of a righteous life that shuns idolatry, adultery, lies, hypocrisy, & every other form of injustice & uncleanness. But people like that aren't new to our day. They've twisted the Scriptures since before the time of St. Peter, which is the theme of all of his 2nd epistle. But the figurative equivalent of a new heavens & new earth is unstoppable & the inescapable conclusion of Scripture for those who've been His disciples & have exceeded His righteousness according to John 14:12.

For sooo long we've been told to fast, fast, fast, & yet Zechariah says that to those that have, they're now entering an era when they'll feast, feast, feast, & no doubt, like the Son of God, be accused of gluttony & drunkenness, because like their Head & Master, they've fasted before their Father who sees in secret & their Father is rewarding them openly, because whether fasting or eating, they've done this in remembrance of Him, according to Zechariah 7:4-6 & 1Corinthians 11:26. Those who've not fasted will fast!!

Meditate in these Scriptures that I've given you & it'll be strength to your bones, according to Isaiah 66:14; life to those that find them & health to all of their flesh, according to Proverbs 4:20-5:2. We're in a totally new day when the crooked places are being made straight, every valley is being lifted up, & every mountain is being brought low, & all flesh is seeing the salvation of our God. But in this salvation, making straight, bowing down, & lifting up, it's not going to be very "religiously correct." It's time for those who've thus far been steadfastly obedient in all things to [totally] pig out (Zechariah 8:19)!!