

ANALYTICAL OUTLINE: 1 ENOCH 33-36

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Title of Document: 1 Enoch 33-36

What do we know about the author and the time when this original text was written?

- A. **Dating of Document:** According to scholars, this original text was written between 200 and 150 BCE, with some scholars dating it to be written around 3rd century BCE.¹
- **Approximate Date:** 3rd Century BCE
- B. **Author(s)/Editor(s) of Document:** The author of this document would have been Enoch, a man who did not die but had been taken by God during the time of the book of Genesis.

What was going on in the Jewish world and the locality when this text was created?

- A. List major events such as Greek/Roman invasion or Seleucid/Ptolemaic rule:
- The Jewish people were exiled and scattered geographically
 - Many Jews settled in Egypt due to the Egyptian climate
 - Alexandria became the center of the Hellenistic world
 - They were under the rule of Ptolemy
- B. List key historic figures such as Alexander the Great or Judas Maccabeus
- Ptolemy

Identify the Audience

- A. Who was the **Intended Audience**? (Was it for the faithful, the powerful, the everyday person, women, men, etc.? Make an informed guess (hypothesis) about who the intended audience might be and be ready to support your answer.
1. **Identity/Description of the Intended Audience:** The intended audience would have been Jewish people who believed in God and in His ultimate rule.
 2. **What Evidence leads you to this conclusion?:** One piece of evidence is the use of apocalyptic language, such as the author's description of going to the ends of the earth and the beasts that were seen.

Are the contents of this text **prescriptive** or **descriptive**?

- A. **Prescriptive or Descriptive?** Prescriptive

¹ Craig A. Evans, *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies: A Guide to the Background Literature* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011) 11.

- B. What particular things do you see in the document that support this view?
- In 1 Enoch 33:1, the author explains seeing the ends of the earth and seeing beasts and birds.
 - 1 Enoch 33: 3-4, the author describes the stars and the angel Uriel writing down the names of the stars, their names, and their appointed functions.
 - 1 Enoch 36:4, the author says “And when I saw I blessed – and shall always bless – the Lord of Glory”, saying this in a way that leads the reader to want to bless the Lord as well.

Structural Divisions

Describe in detail what you see (use an outline format).

- A. Identify the main divisions (focus on change of themes, characters, events, etc.)
1. Explanation of the stars and their functions
 2. Description of the three gates of heaven at the north
 3. Description of the three gates of heaven at the west and east
 4. Description of the three gates of heaven at the south, and blessing to God

Key Theological Themes/Topics

- A. Is there a detectable theological point of view?
- Yes, there is an eschatological point of view that explores topics that are similar to those seen in the book of Revelation
- B. What do you see that you did not expect?
- What I saw that I did not expect to see was the use of wind and weather in 1 Enoch 34-36; the use of different gates showing harsh weather conditions on the other gates.
- C. What powerful words and ideas are expressed?
- In 1 Enoch 36:4, the author says “... the Lord of Glory, who has wrought great and glorious wonders, to show his great deeds to the angels and to spirits of human beings...”
 - 1 Enoch 33:2: “And I saw the stars of heaven come forth, and I counted the gates from which they emerge”
 - 1 Enoch 34:4: “He showed me and also he wrote down for me everything, and also their names and their appointed times and their functions.”
- D. What questions does it raise?

- Why would God want to show His great deeds to the spirit of human beings and not all of them?
 - How would stars come forth, and what gates would they be coming from?
 - Why would the angel show Enoch the function of stars, but they aren't seen anywhere else in the Bible's canon?
- E. Does the section provide a challenge to certain behaviors or attitudes?
- It challenges the understanding of the end times as described in the book of Revelation.
 - It also challenges the understood belief of heaven as having one gate, as the author describes multiple gates in the north, the south, the east, and the west.
- F. What biases or stereotypes do you see?
- Upon reading this section, there does not appear to be any glaring biases or stereotypes.

Analytical skills

Connections

- What do you think the author's purpose was for writing this text? Why did this person write this document?
 - o Upon reading this section, it seems as though the author wanted to share with other Jewish people the wonders of God and His might.
- What conclusions can you draw about what the author means or is trying to get across to his or her audience? What is your strongest evidence for those conclusions?
 - o One conclusion that can be drawn is that God's might is to be praised and glorified, as evidenced by the author describing heaven, God's creation.
 - o Another conclusion to be drawn is that the author believes that close communion with God will lead to being in communion with His angels, as evidenced in 1 Enoch 33:3-4, where the angel Uriel writes out the names of the stars for the author.
- In what way does this document confirm and/or challenge your assumptions about the past?
 - o This document challenges my assumptions about the past in that the writing styles were incredibly varied. When compared to the writings of the Torah by Moses, we can see how there is a certain poetic language that is missing from the book of Enoch.

- How does this document relate to our understanding of Second Temple Judaism?
 - This document follows the thought process during the era of Second Temple Judaism in that those who read the book of Enoch would relate to its symbolism and end times language.
- How does this document relate to the New Testament writings?
 - This document follows similar eschatological explorations that are seen within the book of Revelation, including the beasts and the different sections of heaven.

Summary statement (no more than one (1) paragraph, with five (5) to ten (10) sentences) that states explicitly what you learned about Second Temple Judaism from this document that challenges, informs, and/or expands your understanding of either Judaism or the New Testament.

There are subtle references to Second Temple Judaism throughout the text of 1 Enoch 33-36. It appears that there was a sort of hopefulness for being united with God and seeing the wonders He performs following the Jewish exile. However, in reading this passage in particular, it is surprising to see speech regarding the stars and their importance. It appears the author would have adopted some beliefs or ideas from the Greek tradition. Within both the Old and New Testament canon, there are references to astrology, the stars, and the moon, however this section explores astrology as a spiritually understood concept among his audience.

- Identify at least three (3) clear questions that have arisen from this study that could use further investigation.
 1. Why is there an emphasis on the stars?
 2. Why is the use of the “north, south, east, and west” important to the author?
 3. Would the audience have understood the use of these directions, and if so, why?