

Jude 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Analysis

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, Jude now quotes from 1 Enoch 1:9, a Jewish apocalyptic work written around 200-100 BC. "Enoch, the seventh from Adam" (Greek Henoch hebdemos apo Adam, Ἐνὼχ ἑβδομος ἀπὸ Αδὰμ) identifies the antediluvian patriarch who "walked with God: and he was not; for God took him" (Genesis 5:21-24). The number seven often signifies completeness or perfection in Scripture; Enoch's position as seventh may suggest completeness of witness before the flood.

The verb "prophesied" (Greek proephēteuse, προεφήτευσε) indicates Enoch spoke prophetically about coming judgment. "Prophesied of these" specifically applies his ancient warning to contemporary false teachers—judgment pronounced millennia ago remains relevant. "Behold, the Lord cometh" (Greek idou ēlthen kyrios, οἶδον ἤλθεν κύριος) uses prophetic perfect tense—the coming is so certain it's spoken of as already accomplished.

"With ten thousands of his saints" (Greek en hagiais myriasin autou, ἐν ἀγίαις μυριάσιν αὐτοῦ) depicts the Lord accompanied by countless holy ones—either angels or glorified believers or both. "Myriads" suggests innumerable multitudes. This vision of Christ's return in glory with His people to execute judgment echoes throughout Scripture (Deuteronomy 33:2, Daniel 7:10, Zechariah 14:5, Matthew

25:31, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, Revelation 19:14). The imagery emphasizes both the certainty and magnificence of coming judgment.

Historical Context

Jude's quotation from 1 Enoch raised questions about canonicity in early church debates. How could Scripture quote a non-canonical source? Several responses emerged:

1. Paul quoted pagan poets without endorsing paganism (Acts 17:28, Titus 1:12). Quoting a source doesn't canonize it, just affirms the truth of the quoted portion.
2. Under inspiration, Jude could authenticate genuinely prophetic material preserved in extrabiblical tradition.
3. Both Jude and 1 Enoch may draw from common oral tradition going back to Enoch himself.

1 Enoch was popular in Second Temple Judaism.

Fragments were found among Dead Sea Scrolls, indicating widespread circulation. Ethiopian Orthodox Church includes it in their canon. While most Christians rejected it as Scripture, they recognized it contained some authentic tradition. Jude's use legitimizes selective quoting of extrabiblical sources when they preserve truth, without requiring acceptance of entire works.

The concept of Enoch's translation without death (Genesis 5:24, Hebrews 11:5) made him a significant figure in Jewish apocalyptic thought. As one who entered God's presence directly, he was viewed as privy to heavenly secrets. Whether Enoch actually spoke these words or they represent later tradition, Jude's inspired use establishes their prophetic validity for this context.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should the certainty of Christ's return in judgment shape daily Christian living and priorities?
2. What does it mean that believers will accompany Christ and participate in judgment?
3. How does applying ancient prophecy to current situations demonstrate Scripture's timeless relevance?

Interlinear Text

προεφήτευσεν	δὲ	καὶ	τούτοις	ἔβδομος	ἀπὸ	Άδαμ	Ἐνώχ
prophesied	And	also	of these	the seventh	from	Adam	Enoch
G4395	G1161	G2532	G5125	G1442	G575	G76	G1802
λέγων, Ἰδού,	ἡλθεν	Κύριος	ἐν	μυριάσιν	ἀγίαις	αὐτοῦ	
saying	Behold	cometh	the Lord	with	ten thousands	saints	G846
G3004	G2400	G2064	G2962	G1722	G3461	G40	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 33:2 (Holy): And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (Holy): To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Matthew 16:27 (Parallel theme): For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Matthew 25:31 (Holy): When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Genesis 5:18 (Parallel theme): And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Zechariah 14:5 (Holy): And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

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