

Connecting The Dots From Enoch To Sheba And Solomon

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Jews of Ethiopia have long believed they were descended from King Solomon through the mysterious queen of Sheba. In *I Kings*, chapter 10, she is said to have traveled to Jerusalem to experience for herself the riches and wisdom of King Solomon, son of David and greatest of the Hebrew kings. If the event ever took place, it probably happened between 965 and 931 BC. She brought a caravan full of lavish gifts and seemed to be quite taken with the king himself. The Queen of Sheba said to the king: *"The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness."* And she gave the king 120 talents of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.



17th-century AD painting of the Queen of Sheba from a church in Lalibela, Ethiopia. National Museum of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Who Was Sheba

Here is the problem. No one really knows who the queen of Sheba was or where she came from. There are two traditions: First: According to Arab and Islamic sources, the queen of Sheba was called *Bilquis*, and ruled over a nation on the southern Arabian Peninsula. It would have been located in what is now Yemen. Second: Ethiopian records have long claimed that she was called *Makeda*, and ruled over an empire based in northern Ethiopia.

There may be confirmation that one is dealing with history and not unsubstantiated legend, since archaeological evidence indicates that at the same time the mysterious monarch was said to have lived, Ethiopia and Yemen were ruled by a single dynasty for some four centuries. In other words, both traditions might be right. The queen of Sheba might have ruled over the entire empire of Ethiopia and Yemen.

When she departed from Jerusalem to return home, she appears to have taken with her more than Solomon's gifts of gold and silver. The story was told from generation to generation that Solomon was so smitten with Makeda, or Bilquis, or Sheba, that he invited her to stay in his wing of the castle. She agreed, as long as Solomon promised to make no sexual advances toward her.



Bilquis reclining in a garden, Persian miniature (c. 1595), tinted drawing on paper (Public Domain)

To this Solomon acquiesced, but, given his nature, he, too made a demand. He said he would not seek a physical relationship as long as she did not take anything that belonged to him. When she said yes, he invited her to dinner. But Solomon was crafty. He ordered a spicy, salty meal that she obviously enjoyed. Then he set out a pitcher of water by her bed. When she awoke with a great thirst following such a rich dinner, she drank the water and fell into Solomon's trap. He immediately entered her room and declared she had just stolen his water. Having forfeited her deal, she slept with Solomon that very night, causing one to wonder if she was really dumb or just flirting in her own, come-hither way. Whatever transpired, she returned to Ethiopia carrying Solomon's son, Menelik I.



Menelik I by Menelik I. Axum, Ethiopia. (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Song Of Solomon

Echoes of this love affair may still echo down the corridors of biblical history. Solomon may have been smitten by love as well as lust. In the Hebrew Scriptures there is one book that gives scholars fits. It is called *The Song of Solomon*, and consists of a series of love poems, some of which are so graphic most rabbis interpret them as an allegory representing God's love for humanity. In Christian circles it is

usually interpreted as a metaphor representing God's love for the church. The detailed language of the Song is thus given a theological sheen of respectability, representing the union of the human soul with God. That makes it easier to explain to lay people.

This is a subject that could easily lead one astray so only a few verses are quoted to make a point.

Read these words from chapter 1, verses 5 and 6, uttered by a woman who is expressing her love: *"I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon. Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me."* It thus appears as though Solomon, if he is indeed the author of this *Song*, had an affair with a black woman. Why not suspect the object of his desires was the queen of Sheba from Ethiopia?

To this day many Ethiopians believe the fabled Ark of the Covenant is housed in one of their temples. It has become a staple of books and TV documentaries. Haile Selassie, the Crown Prince and Regent of Ethiopia, referred to himself as "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah" until his death in 1975. Could the legends be true that Menelik, the son of Solomon, returned to Jerusalem as an adult, probably to meet his father for the first time, and somehow returned with the Ark of the Covenant and, perhaps, copies of Hebrew Scripture? If so, a good case can be made that one of those texts was *The Book of Enoch*.



*Imperial Coat of Arms of Ethiopia under Haile Selassie
(HubertHerald./CC BY-SA 3.0)*



*Enoch translated. Mortier's Bible
by Phillip Medhurst (CC BY-SA 3.0)*

Book Of Enoch

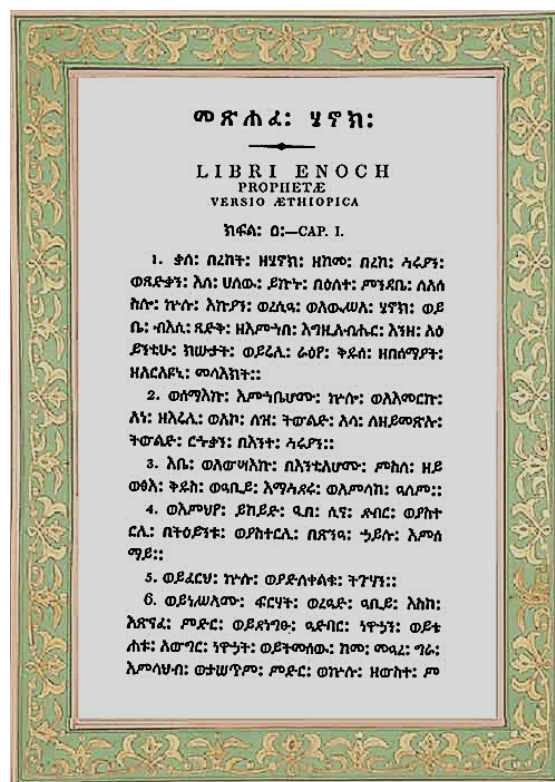
The original authors of *Genesis* and *Jude* must have known about this book, because they quoted from it. But when it came time to compile the *Bible*, it was not

considered worthy of inclusion, so it was destroyed. And that was it, for almost 2,000 years. But in 1770 everything changed. James Bruce, an Englishman with a thirst for adventure, visited Ethiopia for three years. Upon his return he announced an astounding discovery. He had obtained an old manuscript written in Ge'ez, the sacred language of Ethiopia. It turned out to be a translation of the long-lost *Book of Enoch*, purportedly written by Enoch himself.

*Excerpt from the Book of Enoch written in Ge'ez
(LesÉditionsFilbluz / CC BY-SA 4.0)*

Since this book had been quoted in the *Bible* and a few other texts, scholars knew of it. Apparently, it had been a mainstay of ancient Hebrew mystical theology. But it had been lost for so long no one ever thought, in their wildest dreams, that it still existed. Why was it not included in the *Bible*? Why was it not deemed worthy? That is a fascinating tale, because Enoch tells a compelling story. He seems to be from a much older tradition than that of the Hebrew patriarchs. As a matter of fact, he seems to be more a Shaman than a typical prophet. He was a dreamer. He engaged in out of body experiences.

He claimed to have been contacted by spirit entities who existed on foreign planes of existence. But he was also a Hebrew elder who no doubt embodied some of the very same cultural sexual prejudices of his descendants.





*The sons of God saw the Daughters of Men that they were fair by Maurice Greiffenhagen (1862 – 1931)
Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent (Public Domain)*

Sexual Taboos Of Old

The writers of the Old Testament did not approve of sex unless it was very tightly controlled and regulated. It was a practice strongly circumscribed in the book of *Leviticus*. By disobeying the precepts laid down by the holy books even kings were brought low. It scarred the reigns of King David, King Solomon, King Ahab, and many others. Apparently, Enoch shared their fears. During what

sounds a lot like a Shamanic vision, he was given advanced warning that a deluge was coming which would destroy the world. The reason for the flood was, basically, sexual in nature. According to both the *Book of Enoch* and the book of *Genesis*, a group of other-worldly entities called "the sons of god" were attracted to women called "the daughters of men." The products of their union disturbed God so much he decided he needed to wipe out humankind from the earth and start over.

God took Enoch, (Genesis 5:24) Illustration from the 1728 Figures de la Bible; illustrated by Gerard Hoet. Bizzell Bible Collection, University of Oklahoma Libraries (Public Domain)

Traditions found all the way from Egypt to Arabia give Enoch the honor of being the one who invented writing. He is also credited with having been given the secrets of the "art of building." That is why he figures so prominently in Freemason traditions about ancient builders. Given these gifts, the *Book of Enoch* records that he carved on a stone tablet the message that the world was going to be destroyed in a great flood. He then buried this record "in the bowels of the earth." This raises some interesting areas for speculation.



Gobekli Tepe In The Bowels Of The Earth

Turkey's Göbekli Tepe is sometimes called the most ancient temple site known in the world today. It was built a little more than 11,000 years ago, right after the global catastrophe that caused the end of the Younger Dryas Ice Age, an event that produced world-wide flooding as masses of glacial ice melted



*Ancient Site of Gobekli Tepe in SanliUrf, Turkey, The Oldest Temple of the World.
(Haluk/ Adobe Stock)*

suddenly with devastating effects. But Göbekli Tepe is close to Mount Ararat, which is said to be the place Noah's Ark landed following the biblical flood. Thus, the resting place of the Ark and a nearby temple built shortly after the flood are linked in a common mythology.

After only a few generations of use, however, Göbekli Tepe was deliberately buried. Could it be that the book of Enoch transcribes a garbled mythology that remembered these events? Was Göbekli Tepe once thought to be the "stone that he (Enoch) then buried in the bowels of the earth" — the place that contains the secrets of "the art of building?"

Sons Of God

No one knows who Enoch's "sons of God" were. Some believe them to be beings from another dimension — in effect, the fallen angels of *The Book of Enoch*. If this was indeed the case, was Enoch, in his role as Shamanic Prophet, inadvertently drawn into a cosmic war between other-worldly entities who were using this planet as their battleground? This is the scenario put forth in all the major monotheistic religions of history. God against the devil, Jehovah against Satan, Ahura Mazda against Angra Mainyu, and to a lesser degree, Allah against Iblis. All religions that have a conception of spiritual gods also feature their counterparts. Even Buddhism tells the story of Siddhartha's temptation by Mara. Enoch could well be within this tradition.

But there is also speculation that the "sons of god" were really human beings of an advanced Ice Age civilization that were dispersed, in the tradition of the Atlantis story, to rebuild their lost civilization following a world-wide catastrophe. Their mission might have been to observe, but only observe, the stone age peoples of the Middle East who had survived the flood, a prime directive familiar to followers of the TV series, *Star Trek*.



An imagining of Idris visiting Heaven and Hell from an illuminated manuscript version of *Stories of the Prophets*. (1577) (Public Domain)

Mythology remembers these observers as being more advanced than the local population whom they visited. Hence, they were remembered by the indigenous population as being "sons of god." But, like missionaries sometimes do, they might have "gone native" and begun to marry the locals. Such a practice would have bothered Enoch, who was a Jewish patriarch with typical Jewish Old Testament sensibilities. Much later, in Abraham's time, Jews were forbidden to mix with non-Jews, a custom obviously flouted by Solomon. Old Testament kings such as Ahab later brought down the wrath of God by marrying Gentiles. That might have been because thousands of years earlier the "sons of god" had set a bad example by sleeping with the indigenous population. Whether they were

angelic or human in nature, the offspring of these unions were impressive. They were called *Nephilim*, and became even more famous than their parents. *Genesis 6:4* refers to them as "the heroes of old, the men of renown."

Life And Times Of Enoch Idris Hermes

Enoch's fame does not begin and end within the Hebrew tradition, however. In the Islamic *Quran*, the name given for Enoch is Idris. Muslim tradition also links Idris/Enoch with Hermes, a member of the Greek pantheon. These were gods such as Zeus and Apollo, who were also known as "the heroes of old, the men of renown." The Persian philosopher Abu Mashar reminds that "*the name Hermes is a title. Its first bearer, who lived before the Flood, was he whom the Hebrews call Enoch, whose name in Arabic is Idris...*"

Besides being a builder, a prophet, and the inventor of the written word, apparently Enoch/Idris/Hermes was an astronomer. Tamara Green, in *The City of the Moon God*, records that "*He wrote many books, whose wisdom he preserved on the walls of Egyptian temples lest it be lost. It was he who constructed the pyramids.*" Was Enoch the one who carried the secrets of the building tradition from Asia to Egypt, and possibly beyond? Does his identification with the Greek Hermes tie the various locations together and reveal that they were all recipients of an ancient tradition that later mythology identified with the Enoch we know from the Bible?



*The Fall of the Rebel Angels by Pieter Brueghel the Elder (1562) Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, Brussels.
(Public Domain)*

The Watchers

The *Book of Enoch* amplifies the story of the “sons of god” even further. Apparently, according to the text, there were those who were watching the “Watchers.” A group of angels named Uriel, Raphael, Michael, and Gabriel were taking part in the drama as well. Those who identify the Watchers with angelic beings see this new group as good angels, who had not fallen to the temptation that snared the “sons of god.” Some of them, such as Gabriel and Michael, return to play significant roles in later biblical events.

But those who look for more down-to-earth explanations of the Watchers have a different theory. Perhaps this new group was sent out from the homeland to reign in the first group of missionaries who had broken their prime directive. One cannot be sure, of course, and Enoch does not offer any explanation. But this reading certainly implies that there must have been concern back at headquarters.



Enoch translated. Genesis cap 5 v 24 by Phillip Medhurst (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Some Heroes Too Great

To summarize; right after a global catastrophe that ended the Younger Dryas Ice Age, the first religious temple was built. That is historical fact. Göbekli Tepe still stands to this day. Soon after, people discovered the agricultural arts. It marked the beginning of the Neolithic Revolution, also known as the Agricultural Revolution. This is important, because it represents the beginning of modern civilization. Soon after came the invention of writing, city building, and settled communities. The world has never been the same.



Harran Ruins at Sanliurfa. (Gerry Lynch/ CC BY-SA 3.0)

What if the story of Enoch is a mythologized account of those days? One can imagine that the Watchers were members of an advanced civilization who, after the catastrophic floods of the Younger Dryas Ice Age event destroyed their homeland, set out to rebuild. Because they were advanced beyond the experience of the stone age people who survived the inundation, the more primitive people remembered the Watchers as being "the sons of god." The Watchers would have probably settled in places with which they were somewhat familiar from previous exploratory visits. They might have even been doing cultural "missionary" work. They went to Egypt, to Turkey and Göbekli Tepe, to Lebanon at Baalbek, and maybe even Central and South America.

Göbekli Tepe is central to this whole epic. It is located near the birthplace of Judaism, the city of [Sanliurfa](#), the place the *Bible* calls Abraham's hometown, or *Ur of the Chaldees*. That city, in turn, sits on the outskirts of the traditional location of the Garden of Eden, where the four rivers of *Genesis* begin their journey to the Persian Gulf

Reading the old, familiar stories of the *Bible*, beginning with Solomon and Sheba and continuing down through the ages, one cannot help but wonder if the *Book of Enoch* is a mythological account that connects all these dots. Enoch, an ancient Jewish patriarch, might have experienced an out of body Shamanic journey to astral plains. Or he might have encountered real men, not gods, and recorded his accounts as Shamanic visions based on historical, albeit amplified and garbled, accounts. The tales of that encounter grew, no doubt, with the telling and re-telling after thousands of years. But reading them with this insight, at the very least, it breathes life into them.

The *Book of Enoch* thus reveals an alternative history that is more complicated, but perhaps closer to the truth, than the accounts usually taught. Can we read it as though it were a straightforward history book? No. Can we place it in a specific time and location? Probably not. Was Enoch an actual historical personage or a mythological composite? Maybe, like most literary heroes, a little of both. Was Enoch, assuming he really ever existed, an ancient Shamanic visionary with psychic powers? Perhaps.

If any of this is true, it might explain why Enoch was made to disappear from history until he mysteriously showed up a few thousand years later in Ethiopia, thanks to a predestined encounter between Solomon and Sheba. Some heroes are too big to die.

Top Image: Solomon and The Queen of Sheba, Giovanni De Min (19th Century) (Public Domain)

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