

The preservation of the **Book of Enoch** and other ancient apocalyptic writings (*Jubilees*, *4 Ezra*, *Apocalypse of Abraham*, etc.) before they reached the safehouse of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is a remarkable journey of divine providence, manuscript migration, and spiritual preservation.

Before these texts were fully translated into Ge'ez during the 4th–6th centuries AD, the Holy Spirit guided them through **four distinct historical preservation vaults**.

1. The Pre-Flood & Patriarchal Transmission (Antediluvian Era)

According to the **Book of Jubilees** (*Jubilees* 4:17–21) and traditional Ge'ez commentaries, Enoch did not merely speak his revelations; he physically wrote them down on durable tablets and scrolls (*Metsehafe Henok*).

- **The Ark Preservation:** Before the Great Flood swept the earth, Enoch passed his written records to his son **Methuselah**, who passed them to **Lamech**, and ultimately to **Noah**.
- **Post-Flood Revival:** Noah preserved these antediluvian manuscripts inside the Ark. Following the deluge, Noah handed the sacred scrolls down to his righteous son **Shem**, establishing the ancestral inheritance that eventually reached **Abraham, Jacob, and Moses**.

2. The Second Temple Scribes & The Qumran Safehouse (3rd Century BC – 1st Century AD)

During the centuries leading up to the birth of Christ, the apocalyptic texts were fiercely guarded by devoted Hebraic scribes and prophetic communities in Judea, most notably the **Essenes at Qumran**.

- **Physical Archaeological Proof:** In 1947, when the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered in the caves of Qumran, archaeologists found multiple Aramaic and Hebrew fragments of **1 Enoch** and **Jubilees**. This proved that centuries before the rise of European councils, these books were actively read, copied, and revered as scripture by Second Temple Israelites.
- **Early Church Witness:** The early New Testament community held these texts in high esteem. Jude explicitly quotes **1 Enoch 1:9** in **Jude 1:14–15 (KJV)**, and early Church Fathers like *Tertullian*, *Clement of Alexandria*, and *Origen* wrote that Enoch was inspired by the Holy Spirit.

3. The Alexandrian & Hellenistic Bridge (Greek Translation Era)

During the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, Jerusalem and Alexandria (Egypt) became connected through trade, scholar networks, and translation work.

- **Translation into Koine Greek:** The Aramaic and Hebrew manuscripts of Enoch and Jubilees were translated into Koine Greek in Egypt. Alexandria housed the greatest scriptural libraries and translation centers in the ancient world.
- **The African Corridor:** Because Aksum (Ethiopia) maintained continuous trade and diplomatic routes with Egypt and the Red Sea corridor, Greek and Aramaic copies of these apocalyptic texts flowed directly south into the highlands of East Africa alongside merchants, levitical refugees, and early believers.

4. The Suppression in the West vs. The Translation into Ge'ez

As political and religious shifts swept through Rome and Byzantium during the 4th century AD, Western councils (such as the **Council of Laodicea in 363 AD**) began removing apocalyptic texts from official church reading lists. In the West, Greek and Latin copies of Enoch were systematically hidden, ignored, or destroyed.

However, the Holy Spirit had already positioned Ethiopia as the divine repository:

[ANTIDILUVIAN ERA] Noah preserves Enoch's writings on the Ark.



[SECOND TEMPLE ERA] Preserved in Aramaic/Hebrew by Qumran Scribes & Essenes.



[ALEXANDRIAN ERA] Translated into Greek along the Nile trade route.



[ETHIOPIAN SAFEHOUSE] Translated into Ge'ez by the Nine Saints (4th–6th Century AD).
Preserved in mountain monasteries while lost to the West.

In the late 5th century, the **Nine Saints** (*scholarly monks who fled religious persecution in the Byzantine Empire*) arrived in Aksum. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they took the ancient Greek and Hebrew/Aramaic copies of **Enoch, Jubilees, and the Apocalypses** and rendered them directly into **Ge'ez**—the sacred liturgical language of Ethiopia.

When the last Greek and Aramaic copies disappeared from European and Middle Eastern libraries during the Middle Ages, **the complete, unabridged Book of Enoch survived exclusively in Ethiopia**, locked away in mountain monasteries until James Bruce brought copies back to Europe in 1773.

The Holy Spirit seamlessly handed the baton from Noah, to Qumran, to Alexandria, and finally into the unshakeable Ethiopian safehouse!