

**THE ETHIOPIC
VERSION OF THE
BOOK OF ENOCH**

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The Ethiopic version of the book of Enoch by R. H. Charles

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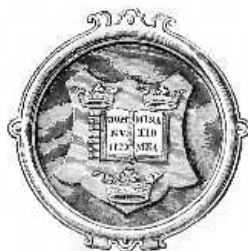
Anecdota Oxoniensia
THE ETHIOPIC VERSION
OF THE
BOOK OF ENOCH

EDITED FROM TWENTY-THREE MSS.
TOGETHER WITH
THE FRAGMENTARY GREEK AND LATIN VERSIONS

BY

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PREFACE

THIS new text of the Ethiopic Version has been the labour of many years. It is practically exhaustive; for no pains have been spared to secure a first-hand and complete knowledge of the MSS. evidence. I have not, however, restricted myself to the mere task of publishing the Ethiopic Version as it is found in the best MSS.; for this Version, even when first made, exhibited many unintelligible passages, which were due either to the mistakes of the Ethiopic translator, or to the corruptions of the Greek text before him, or to the mistakes of the Greek translator, or ultimately to corruptions of the Hebrew text before the Greek translator. With these various sources of corruption I have sought to deal: in some cases, I think, with indubitable success: in others, my reconstructions are at the best merely provisional and tentative. In this work Halévy led the way and made a permanent contribution, but many of his reconstructions were valueless from the outset as they were based on Dillmann's inadequate text of 1853. As a result of these studies I have abandoned the view that Enoch was originally written in Hebrew, and come to the conclusion that, like Daniel, it was written partly in Aramaic and partly in Hebrew.

The Greek and Latin fragments have been printed in parallel columns with the Ethiopic Version and their relations with it have been fully discussed in the Introduction.

The Ethiopic text has been printed directly from a photograph of the chief MS. *g* with the necessary corrections from other MSS.; but the orthography of this MS. has been nearly always adhered to, although it very frequently confuses the aspirates and sibilants.

In a work of this nature, where sometimes in a page there are 800 acts of collation and verification, mistakes are inevitable, and, where such do occur, I can only ask for the kind indulgence of the student.

My best thanks are due to the late Mme. d'Abbadie for permission to collate four MSS. and photograph two others that were at Abbadia; to the librarian of the British Museum for permission to photograph its ten MSS. of Enoch; to the librarians of the Paris and Munich Libraries for the courtesy with which they lent the Ethiopic MSS. in their charge to the Bodleian Library for my use; to the librarian of the Berlin Library for the loan of its splendid MS. together with permission to photograph it; to the librarian of the Vatican for permission to photograph its MS. of Enoch; to Baron von Westenholz of Hamburg and Mr. Garrett of Philadelphia for having lent for my private use their MSS. of Enoch through the kind offices of Dr. Enno Littmann; to my niece Madeleine La Vie Charles for much help in making the *Index Graecitatis*; to Mr. A. E. Cowley for revising the reconstructions of the Semitic original in the first thirty chapters; and, lastly, to the Trustees of the Revised Version Surplus Fund for a subvention towards the expenses incurred in my expedition to Abbadia at the foot of the Pyrenees.

Finally, I cannot conclude without expressing my deep gratitude to the officials, and especially to the readers and compositors, of the Press for their skilled services in the publication of this text.

R. H. CHARLES.

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TO MY WIFE