

# The Book of Jubilees

## Article by W. Bro. Rob Lund

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The Book of Jubilees is one of the Apocrypha (a number of ancient sacred Jewish writings that were excluded from the Old Testament by the early Christian fathers). After reading this book, you will understand why it was excluded—it contradicted certain Christians teachings.

The English translation was compiled from a number of document fragments written in several languages. The only complete versions found were Ethiopic, which were translations of a Greek version. Hebrew fragments were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran, and are believed to have been written between 100 BC and 200 BC by a Pharisee of the Essene community.

Jubilees is a Midrashic writing covering the events found in Genesis 1:1 through Exodus 12:50 and attempts to answer and explain questions unaddressed in Genesis, and also to expound Hebrew Law. Jubilees is also known as “The Little Genesis” and also as “The Apocalypse of Moses”.

The authorship of the book is revealed in chapter 1. Quoting verse 4 and 5: *Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights, and God taught him the earlier and the later history of the division of all the days of the law and of the testimony. He said “Open your heart to every word which I shall speak to you on the mountain, and write them in a book in order that their generations may know how I have not forsaken them for all the evil which they committed ....”.*

In verse 27 and 29: *He said to the angel of the presence “Write for Moses from the beginning of creation until my sanctuary has been built among them for all eternity..... concerning the law and the testimony of the weeks of the Jubilees ....”.*

Chapter 2, verse 1: *The angel of the presence spoke to Moses ...saying “Write the complete history of the creation .....”.*

*The text then describes the creation, and follows the stories in Genesis and Exodus in much more detail than in the Old Testament, and somewhat repetitively.*

*What follows here is some of the history of Adam and Eve and their family.*

Chapter 4, verse 1: *In the third week in the second Jubilee she gave birth to Cain, and in the fourth ... she gave birth to Abel,*

*and in the fifth ... she gave birth to her daughter Awan.*

You may be confused by the above. Note that the “week” referred to is a week of years i.e. 7 years. A Jubilee is seven weeks of years, or 49 years. The jubilee year is the fiftieth year.

Verse 7 says *she gave birth to a son, Seth.*

Verse 8 says *another daughter Azura.*

Verse 9 is interesting: *.. and Cain took Awan his sister to be his wife and she gave birth to Enoch.* Note that this is not the Enoch of the Royal Arch. This is also probably the reason this book was rejected. Then *Adam and Eve had nine sons. Seth took his suster Azura as a wife, and she gave birth to Enos.*

After this it starts getting complicated, as the family expands. Later on, there is another Enoch: *“He was the first among men born on the earth who learned writing and knowledge and wisdom and who wrote down the signs of heaven...”*

Then Methuselah was born: *“He was with the angels of God these six jubilees of years [ 6 x 49 = 294] and they showed him everything that is on Earth and in the heavens, the rule of the sun, and he wrote down everything ...”.* *“And he testified to the Watchers, who had sinned with the daughters of men ... and Enoch testified against them all”.* *“And he was taken from among the children of men, and we conducted him into the Garden of Eden ...”.*

Those familiar with the Ancient Alien theories will see lots of connections in the above, and in subsequent parts.

Chapter 4, verse 29: *At the close of the nineteenth Jubilee ... Adam died ... and he was the first to be buried in the earth. He lacked 70 years of 1000 years [he was 930 years old].*

The writings deal with generation after generation: from Noah through Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, and ending with Moses and the exodus from Egypt.

Sometimes fascinating, sometimes tedious, this is an interesting insight into the laws and holidays of the Jewish tradition.