

wisdom, which Enoch saw ;" and the "similitudes" which succeed are evidently the complement of the preceding revelations, introducing themes of higher character, and rising from mundane and material elements to matters of heavenly and spiritual signification. We may reasonably conjecture that it was composed some few years later than the preceding portion.

There remain the Noachian sections, which are introduced often most inappropriately, and are now found in chaps. liv. 7-lv. 2, lxv.-lxix., cvi.-cvii., and scattered confusedly in some other places.¹ They are probably derived from some lost Apocalypse of Noah, and have been inserted by some late editor, who, without much critical skill, wove the materials into a form which would give a *quasi* unity to the whole. The last chapter (cviii.) is probably the latest of all, though there is nothing in it to determine its date accurately.

The great fact which seems most surely ascertained is that the Book of Enoch is, with the exception of some few possible interpolations, of pre-Christian origin. It was written certainly before the Romans had obtained possession of Palestine, as throughout the whole work there is no mention whatever of them, and they never appear as the enemies of Israel. No knowledge of the New Testament is anywhere exhibited ; the name of Jesus never appears ; His death and resurrection are not mentioned :² all that is of Christological import might fairly be gathered from the Old Testament. The writer especially had studied the prophecies of Daniel, and derived much of his language and matter therefrom, amplifying what he found in previous utterances, and colouring it with his own poetical and often crude fancies.³

As to the place where the authors lived, we have good reason for asserting this to be Palestine. This situation best

¹ E.g., xxxix. 1, 2 ; lx ; and perhaps xvii. and xix.

² It is curious that in the "Testaments of the xii. Patriarchs," under *Levi*, occurs an allusion to a prediction of Messiah's rejection, death, and resurrection, stated to be found in the Book of Enoch. No such passage is now extant in that work, and if it ever existed, it was probably a Christian interpolation.

³ See Dr. Pusey's *Lectures on Daniel* pp. 382 ff.