THE QUESTION

What does "the moon shall alter her order" mean (1 Enoch 80:4)?

Asked by a THF member on April 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026, updated November 11, 2026 · 6 numbered quotations · the 10 early Christian passages and 68 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-does-the-moon-shall-alter-her-order-mean-1-enoch-80-4

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Probably it pictures the moon leaving its set course, as part of wider disorder in the sky and seasons before the end. No passage here explains Enoch directly, but Lactantius describes the moon moving in unusual ways, and Jesus foretold signs in the sun and moon.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 5

The moon will leave its usual paths

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Lactantius, describing the last days, says the signs in the sky will not happen in the usual way. The moon will fail and pass through unusual movements, so that people can no longer follow the paths of the heavenly bodies or the order of the seasons. This is very close to the Enoch line about the moon changing its order.

1

"Wonderful signs in heaven also will overwhelm the minds of men with the greatest terrors: the trails of comets, the darkness of the sun, the color of the moon, and the falling course of the stars. However, these things will not happen in the usual way."

later in the same passage

"The moon will at times fail, not for three hours only, but covered with continual blood, it will pass through unusual movements, so that it will not be easy for man to know the paths of the heavenly bodies or the order of the seasons."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 16 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 9, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 5

Seasons and calendar will fall out of order

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

In his shorter summary, Lactantius lists the same signs: the moon stained with blood and not getting back its lost light, and the seasons no longer keeping their proper order, with winter and summer mixed up. Even the year, the month and the day will be shortened.

2

"To these evils, signs from heaven will also be added, so that people will lack nothing that could cause fear. Comets will appear often. The sun will be darkened with lasting paleness. The moon will be stained with blood, and it will not regain the light it has lost. All the stars will fall, and the seasons will no longer keep their proper order, because winter and summer will be confused. Then the year, the month, and the day will all be shortened."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 71 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 3 OF 5

Jesus foretold signs in the sun and moon

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tatian's harmony of the Gospels gives Jesus' warning, found in Matthew 24:29, that there will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. After a time of great distress, the sun will grow dark, the moon will not give its light, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.

3 “And there will be signs in the sun and the moon and the stars. And upon the earth there will be affliction of the nations, and wringing of hands because of the confusion caused by the noise of the sea and an earthquake. The souls of men will go out from fear of what is coming upon the earth. And in those days, immediately after the distress of those days, the sun will become dark, and the moon will not show its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven will be shaken.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tatian,** *Diatessaron* 42 (c. 150–180 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 2, page 5 **Read it in the library ›**

POINT 4 OF 5

The sky's normal order was seen as meaningful

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Theophilus treats the moon's monthly waning and return as a picture of man's death and resurrection. He also compares the fixed order of the stars, which do not turn aside from their place, to people who keep God's commands. Read against that picture, a moon that breaks its order would suggest a world out of joint; that is our reading, not his words.

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4

"The sun is a type of God, and the moon is a type of man. And just as the sun greatly surpasses the moon in power and glory, so God greatly surpasses man. And just as the sun always remains full and never becomes less, so God always remains perfect, being full of all power, understanding, wisdom, immortality, and every good thing. But the moon decreases each month, and in a way dies, being a type of man. Then it is born again and becomes a crescent, as a pattern of the future resurrection."

later in the same passage

"The arrangement of the stars also contains a type of the arrangement and order of the righteous and godly, and of those who keep the law and commandments of God. For the shining and bright stars are an image of the prophets, and so they remain fixed, not turning aside or moving from place to place."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Theophilus of Antioch,** *To Autolycus* 15 (c. 169–183 AD) **Source 3, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 5

These signs point to God renewing the world

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius says that when such signs come, God is near to return and change the world. Methodius adds that creation will pass through the burning not to be destroyed but to be made new, quoting the psalm about God renewing the face of the earth.

5

"And when this happens, it must be understood that the time is near when God will return to change the world."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 71 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

6

"We may expect that the creation will pass away, as if it were to perish in the burning, in order that it may be renewed. Not, however, that it will be destroyed, but that we who are renewed may dwell in a renewed world without taste of sorrow, according as it is said, "When You let Your breath go forth, they shall be made, and You shall renew the face of the earth.""

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Methodius,** *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (c. 270–311 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages quotes or explains 1 Enoch 80:4 itself, so linking them to this line is our reading.
- The passages do not say exactly how or when the moon would change its course.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 10 early Christian passages and 68 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–10, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 11–65, in Bible order), then 13 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *10 passages from 8 writers*

Minucius Felix, *c. 150–270 AD · source 1*

1 *Octavius* 13 (on point 4) “shall I say of the recurring changes of darkness and light… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 2*

2 *Diatessaron* 42 **Quote 3, page 3** him. For false Messiahs and lying prophets will arise, and they will do signs and wonders in order to lead astray even the elect, if they are able. But as… [continues online] **read ›**

Theophilus of Antioch, *c. 169–183 AD · source 3*

3 *To Autolycus* 15 **Quote 4, page 4** “things also contain the pattern and type of a great mystery. The sun is a type of God, and the moon is a type of man. And just as the… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 4*

4 *Against Celsus* 11 (on point 4) God, who is the light of the true light. Nor do we speak this way of the sun, moon, and stars in order to depreciate these great works of God… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 4) “light also and the sun were begotten for days and the production of fruit, and the moon for the change of seasons, by its increase and diminutions… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) who sent me." For if even things without life keep good order—the night, the day, the sun, the moon, the stars, the elements, the seasons, the months, the weeks… [continues online] **read ›**

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Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · source 7*

7 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* **Quote 6, page 4** like a garment," in Isaiah 51:6, we answer: because it is usual for the Scriptures to call the change of the world from its present condition to a better… [continues online] **read ›**

Arnobius, *c. 290–330 AD · source 8*

8 *Against the Heathen* 6 (1885 English; on point 4) "moon is always in motion, and in its restoration every month puts on thirty faces: with you, as leaders and designers, that is represented as a woman, and has one… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 9–10*

9 *Divine Institutes* 16 **Quote 1, page 2** "of men with the greatest terrors: the trails of comets, the darkness of the sun, the color of the moon, and the falling course of the stars. However, these things… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 71 (1885 English) **Quotes 2, 5, pages 2, 4** "moon will be stained with blood, nor will it repair the losses of its light taken away… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *55 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

11 **1 Samuel 20:5** David said to Jonathan, "Look, tomorrow is the new moon, and I will by no means sit down to eat; and you shall send me away, and I will hide in the plain until evening. **read ›**

12 **1 Samuel 20:18** Jonathan said, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed, because your seat will be vacant. **read ›**

13 **1 Samuel 20:27** On the next day, the second day of the month, David's place was vacant; and Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to the table, either yesterday or today?" **read ›**

14 **Job 25:5** If he gives an order to the moon, it does not shine, and the stars are not pure before him. **read ›**

15 **Job 26:9** He holds fast the face of his throne, spreading his cloud over it. **read ›**

16 **Job 31:26** or do we not see the shining sun eclipsed, and the moon waning? For it is not in their power— **read ›**

17 **Psalms 81:3** Blow the trumpet at the new moon, on the notable day of your feast. (Septuagint Psalm 80:4 (Psalm 81:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

18 **Psalms 104:19** He made the moon for seasons; the sun knows its going down. (Septuagint Psalm 103:19 (Psalm 104:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

19 **Psalms 121:6** The sun shall not burn you by day, nor the moon by night. (Septuagint Psalm 120:6 (Psalm 121:6 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

20 **Psalms 136:9** the moon and the stars to rule the night, for his mercy is forever. (Septuagint Psalm 135:9 (Psalm 136:9 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

21 **Isaiah 13:10** For the stars of heaven and Orion and all the array of heaven will not give their light; and it will be dark when the sun rises, and the moon will not give her light. **read ›**

22 **Isaiah 24:23** And the brick will melt, and the wall will fall; for the Lord will reign from Zion and from Jerusalem, and he will be glorified before the elders. **read ›**

23 **Isaiah 30:26** And the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold in the day, when the Lord heals the breach of his people and heals the anguish of your wound. **read ›**

24 **Jeremiah 31:35** Thus said the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, the moon and stars for a light by night, and a roar in the sea, and its waves resounded—the Lord Almighty is his name: (Septuagint Jeremiah 38:36 (Jeremiah 31:35 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

25 **Jeremiah 33:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

26 **Ezekiel 3:9** and it shall be continually stronger than rock. Do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their faces, for it is a provoking house." **read ›**

27 **Ezekiel 25:5** And I will make the city of Ammon pastures for camels, and the children of Ammon a pasture for sheep; and you shall know that I am the Lord. **read ›**

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28 **Hosea 12:2** And the Lord has a case against Judah, to punish Jacob; according to his ways and according to his practices he will repay him. (Septuagint Hosea 12:3 (Hosea 12:2 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

29 **Joel 3:15** The sun and the moon will be darkened, and the stars will withdraw their light. (Septuagint Joel 4:15 (Joel 3:15 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

30 **Habakkuk 2:10** You have devised shame for your house; you have made an end of many peoples, and your soul has sinned. **read ›**

31 **Habakkuk 3:4** And his brightness will be like light; horns are in his hands, and he has established the mighty love of his strength. **read ›**

32 **Malachi 3:11** And I will set apart food for you, and I will by no means destroy the fruit of your land, and your vine in the field will never fail, says the Lord Almighty. **read ›**

33 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:14** For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its own swift course was at its midpoint, **read ›**

34 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:11** The talk of a godly man is always wisdom, but the fool changes like the moon. **read ›**

35 **Wisdom of Sirach 43:6** And the moon too, in all things, keeps its season, a marking of times and a sign of the age. **read ›**

36 **Wisdom of Sirach 43:7** From the moon is the sign of a feast, a light that wanes toward its completion. **read ›**

37 **Wisdom of Sirach 43:8** The month is named after it, growing wonderfully in its changing, an instrument of the hosts on high, shining in the firmament of heaven; **read ›**

38 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:67** they will certainly not show signs in the heavens among the nations, nor shine like the sun, nor give light like the moon. **read ›**

39 **1 Enoch 69:20** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

40 **1 Enoch 72:35** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

41 **1 Enoch 72:37** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

42 **1 Enoch 73:1** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

43 **1 Enoch 73:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

44 **1 Enoch 73:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

45 **1 Enoch 74:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

46 **1 Enoch 74:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

47 **1 Enoch 74:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

48 **1 Enoch 74:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

49 **1 Enoch 74:62** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

50 **1 Enoch 78:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

51 **1 Enoch 78:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

52 **1 Enoch 78:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

53 **1 Enoch 78:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

54 **1 Enoch 78:13** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

55 **1 Enoch 79:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

56 **1 Enoch 79:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

57 **1 Enoch 80:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

58 **1 Enoch 80:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

59 **1 Enoch 80:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

60 **1 Enoch 80:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

61 **1 Enoch 82:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

62 **Matthew 24:29** “Immediately after the distress of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon will not give her light; the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. **read ›**

63 **Mark 13:24** But in those days, after that distress, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, **read ›**

64 **Acts 2:20** The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and manifest day of the Lord comes. **read ›**

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65 **Acts 13:10** and said, “You son of the devil, full of all deceit and all cunning, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *13 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 1:14 · 2:1

Matthew 19:17 · 24:35

Mark 10:18

John 1:5 · 17:22

Acts 9:5

Romans 1:24

1 Corinthians 4:4 · 7:31 · 14:33

1 John 1:5

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What does "the moon shall alter her order" mean (1 Enoch 80:4)?” on April 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY