

ELDAD & MEDAD

(FRAGMENTS)

FRAGMENT #1 & #2 (Targum Pseudo-Jonathan & Targum Neofiti, quoted by Shepherd of Hermas[c.90AD])

And two men remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the second was Medad. And the prophetic¹ spirit rested upon them.

Eldad² was prophesying and said, “Behold, Moses the prophet³ shall be gathered from the world⁴ and Joshua son of Nun shall be standing in his place and leading the people of the house of Israel and bringing them to the earth of the Chana’anites and giving them possession of it.”

Medad⁵ was prophesying and said, “Behold, quail came⁶ up from the sea and were covering the entire camp of Israel and <will be>⁷ a stumbling-block to the people.”

<p>But the two prophesied as one and said, “Behold, at the end of days, a king shall arise from the earth of Magog. He shall gather kings crowned with crowns, and prefects clad in silken clothing, and all the nations will obey him. And they will wage war in the earth of Israel against the sons of the exile. However, the Lord is near to those who turn <i>to him</i> in the hour of distress, and all of them shall be killed by a burning breath in a consuming fire which comes from beneath the throne of Glory; and their corpses will fall on the mountains of the earth of Israel. Then all the beasts and birds of the heavens shall come and consume their bodies. And after this, all the dead of Israel shall live and shall delight themselves with the good which was hidden for them since the beginning. Then they shall receive the reward of their labors.”</p>	<p>And both of them prophesied together, saying, “At the very end of days, Gog and Magog shall ascend on Jerusalem,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and they shall fall at the hands of a royal anointed-one.</p> <p>And for seven years the children of Israel shall kindle fires from their weapons; and they will not have to go out to the forest.”</p>
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POSSIBLE FRAGMENTS

Possible Fragment #1 (Targum Pseudo-Jonathan)

<Eldad and Medad were> the sons of Eliasphan son of Parnak. Jochebad, daughter of Levi, birthed them for him at the time when Amram her man divorced her, and to whom she was married to before she birthed Moses.

Possible Fragment #2 (Targum Pseudo-Jonathan)

And they belonged to the elders whose *names* were found inscribed on the registers. They had not gone to the tent, but hid themselves in order to escape the honor *which awaited them*.⁸

¹ Targum Pseudo-Jonathan / Targum Neofiti “holy”

² Targum Pseudo-Jonathan / Targum Neofiti “Medad”

³ Targum Neofiti / Targum Pseudo-Jonathan does not have “the prophet”

⁴ Targum Pseudo-Jonathan / Targum Neofiti “shall be taken up from the midst of the camp”

⁵ Targum Pseudo-Jonathan / Targum Neofiti “Eldad”

⁶ Targum Pseudo-Jonathan / Targum Neofiti “quail are coming”

⁷ Targum Pseudo-Jonathan does not have this phrase, but this grammar is altered here to keep this clause consistent with the first part of the sentence / Targum Neofiti “and shall become” / b. Sahn (who also confirms the rest of these segments in summary form, instead quotes here “Arise, quail! Arise, quail!”)

⁸ b. Sahn either retains or expands the original narrative “When the Holy *One* said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men”, Eldad and Medad said, “We are not worthy of that high position.” The Holy One said, “Since you have diminished yourselves, behold, I shall add greatness to your greatness.””