

REVELATION OF ELIJAH¹

(POSSIBLE FRAGMENTS)

Possible Fragment #1 (Ephesians 5:14, Clement of Alexandria: Protr 9:84:2)

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and the Anointed-One will give light to you;
the sun of resurrection,
begotten before the day star,
who bestows life with his own rays.

Hippolytus (On Christ and Anti-Christ 65)

And the prophet² says, "Awake, O sleeper...give light to you."

Hippolytus (On Daniel 4:56):

And Isaiah says, "Awake, O sleeper...give light to you."

Epiphanius (Haer. 42.12.3):

Where did the apostle get "Therefore he says," but plainly from the Old Testament? This is in Elijah... Now if it was of the Anointed-One that he prophesied, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and the Anointed shall give light to you," then the type of this had been brought to fulfillment...

George Synkellos:

And in the letter to the Ephesians from the Apocrypha of Jeremiah...

Jerome: Commentary on Ephesians

Someone may ask, 'Who is it who says, "Awake you who sleep and arise from the dead"?' or, 'Whose testimony has the apostle used?' One who is content with a simple answer will say that he has brought these words forth for public knowledge which were in the hidden prophets and in those which are called apocrypha (since it is clear that he has done this in other passages). This does not mean that he completely approved of the apocrypha, for he also used the verses of Aratus, Epimenides, and Menander to verify at the appropriate time those things which he wished. Paul's testimony that these latter said some things correctly does not mean that everything which Aratus, Epimenides, and Menander wrote is holy... I, to be sure, have never found this statement while carefully sifting, in my poverty of understanding, through all the versions of the old Scriptures including the volumes of the Hebrews.

Euthalius "Book of Jeremiah"

Margin of Codex G "Book of Cenocho"

Possible Fragment #2 (as found in 1 Corinthians 2:9)

But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered the heart of man, what God has prepared for those who love him."

Origen (Comm. Matthew 5:29): "This is found in no canonical book, but in the apocryphon of Elijah."

Jerome (Ep. 101 to Pammachius): "The devil lies in wait in the apocrypha, for the Ascension of Isaiah³ and the Revelation of Elijah have this quotation".

Jerome (Comm. Isaiah 17): In this place some will follow after the drivellings of apocryphal writings and say that the quotation is taken from the Apocalypse of Elijah, whereas we read this in Isaiah according to the Hebrew.⁴

Pseudo-Philo (Biblical Antiquities 26:13)

And God said... "And it shall be when the sins of my people are filled up, and their enemies have the mastery over their house, that I will take these stones and the former together with the tables, and lay them up in the place from where they were originally brought forth, and they shall be there until I remember the

¹ Not to be confused with the Coptic Revelation of Elijah, where neither of these quotations appear.

² At this point Hippolytus is quoting a series of quotations. When he quotes from a letter of Paulus, he states such.

³ Only the Latin and Slavonic version contain this quotation, not the more ancient Ethiopic version (though all show heavy Christian interpolations), which shows that this was a late addition to that text. Therefore, I would side with Origenes as a Revelation of Elijah possibly being the source text.

⁴ Similar, but not exact. Isaiah 64:4 reads with the MT vowels, "...such as had not been heard from of old. No ear has heard, nor eye ever seen, any God besides you performing such deeds for those who wait for him." LXX reads, "We have not heard from of old, neither have our eyes seen any God besides you, and your works which you will perform for those who wait for mercy."

world, and visit the inhabitants of the earth. And then will I take them, along with many others better than them, from that place which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered the heart of man, until the like comes to pass unto the world, and the righteous shall have no need for the light of the sun nor of the shining of the moon, for the light of the precious stones shall be their light.”

George Synkellos

Paul occasionally used some passages from apocrypha, as when he says in his first letter to the Corinthians: “What eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered the heart of man,” and so forth, from the Apocrypha of Elijah.

Chrysostom (Hom. on Paul to the Corinthians 7.6)

...or probably it was actually written in some books, and the copies have perished. For indeed many books were destroyed, and a few were preserved entire even in the first captivity. And this is plain, in those which remain to us.

Zacharias of Chrysopolis (Harmonia Evang.)

[GET QUOTATION – he actually read the words in the Apocryphon of Elijah]

Theodoret

[He states that it is from a lost book]

Possible Fragment #2B (as found in Clement of Rome 34:8)

For it says, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered the heart of man, what he has prepared for those who wait for⁵ him.”

Possible Fragment #2C (as found in Clement of Alexandria: Protrep 44)

For this reason, the Scripture with reason makes this promise to those who have believed:

“But the holy ones of the Lord shall inherit the glory of God and his power.”

“Tell me what glory, O blessed one?”

“What eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered the heart of man. And they shall rejoice in the Kingdom of their Lord forever. Amen.”

Possible Fragment #2D (as found in Pseudo-Apostolic Constitutions)

Then the wicked shall depart into everlasting punishment. But the righteousness shall go into life eternal, inheriting what eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered the heart of man, what God has prepared for those who love him. And they shall rejoice in the Kingdom of God.

Possible Fragment #3 (Pseudo-Letter of Titus)

The prophet Elijah bears witness to what he saw, saying:

The messenger of the Lord showed to me a deep valley, which is called Gehenna, burning with sulfur and pitch. And in that place are many souls of sinners, and are they tortured with divers torments in the following manner. Some suffer hanging... by their tongues, some by their eyes, other hang head downward; women will be tormented by their breasts, and youths hanging by their hands; certain maidens are burned upon a gridiron and some souls are pierced with perpetual pain.

Now by these divers torments is shown the acts of every one...

Those hanging by their tongues are blasphemers and also false witnesses.

Those hanging *by* their eyes are those who have been offended in regard of sight, because they looked upon things done guiltily in concupiscence.

But those hanging head downwards are those who hated the righteousness of God, being of evil counsel; neither did any agree with his brother. Therefore, they are rightly hung by the decree of punishment.

But as for the women commanded to be tormented in their breasts, these are those who gave their bodies to men in lasciviousness. For this reason, the men will also be **hard** by them in torments, hanging by their hands on this account.”

[ALSO SEE Chrysostom fragment – Pans MS (Gr. 4)

"It is contained in apocryphal writings that Elias the prophet spoke concerning Antichrist, of what aspect he is to appear at that time. His head a flame of fire: his right eye mingled with blood, but the left bright having two pupils : his eyebrows (-lashes) white, and his lower lip large : his right thigh thin and his feet broad, and the great toe of his foot hath been broken."

[NOTE “We have two Apocalypses of Elias, and in each of them is a description of Antichrist : only neither agrees with that which we have read in the Greek fragment.]

⁵ [1Clem34] I “who love”

Possible Fragments from Dead Sea Scrolls:

[...] And he hid them fifty [to a cave, and provided them with bread and water...] [...] He feared Jezebel and Ahab the king [of Israel...] [...] Obadiah in the land of Israel [...]

[So Obadiah went to meet] Ahab, and told [him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When Ahab saw] Elijah, [Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?"]

[And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Do you] know that today Yahweh will take [your master away from you?"]

He replied, "I know."

Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, [my] son; [for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.]"

But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you] yourself [live,] I will not leave you."

[So they went down to Bethel...]

[...] great, to give them into the power of all the nations [...]

[...] at the end shall arise a mighty man [...]

[...] for to all the spirits [...]

[...the] prophets [...]

[...not to turn away] from your words, to hold fast to your covenant so that their hearts may be sanctified [... you sent forth] your hands to make them yours, and yourself theirs, and justified [...] Surely you are as the bestower of an inheritance; you have become their master, their father [...yet you] have left them in the power of their kings, and will make them stumble among the nations [...] your life. Did you give to them [the law] by the hand of Moses [...] your judgment, taking the sin of your people upon [his head...] your patience and abundant forgiveness [...]