

SECOND EZRA

CHAPTER 3¹

In the thirtieth² year after the overthrow³ of the city,⁴ I was in Babel—I, Shealtiel, who am also called Ezra. I was perturbed as I lay on my bed, and my thoughts welled up in my heart, **2** because I saw the desolation of Zion and the abundant wealth of those who lived in Babel.⁵ **3** Hence, my spirit was agitated so greatly that I began to anxiously address the Most High, and said,

4 “O Lord, Lord, at the beginning, when you, and you alone, planted⁶ the heavens and the earth⁷ and everything which is in them,⁸ did you not⁹ speak and command the dust¹⁰ **5** so that it gave¹¹ you Adam, a lifeless body? Yet he was the creation¹² of your hands, and you breathed the spirit of life into him, and he was made alive¹³ in your presence. **6** And you led him into the Garden of Eden¹⁴ which your right hand had planted before the earth appeared.¹⁵ **7** And you laid one commandment¹⁶ upon him that he should know the Lord,¹⁷ but he disregarded it and he was overcome.¹⁸ And immediately you appointed death for him and for his descendants. And nations and tribes sprang from him everywhere,¹⁹ peoples and clans without number. **8** And every nation followed its own inclination;²⁰ they acted impiously²¹ in your sight and rejected your commands;²² however, you did not hinder them.²³ **9** But again, in due time,²⁴ you brought the flood upon the inhabitants of the age²⁵ and destroyed them. **10** And the same fate befell all of them: just as death came upon Adam, so the death of the flood upon them.²⁶ **11** But you spared one of them, Noah with his household—all the righteous who have descended from him.²⁷

12 “When the inhabitants of the earth began to multiply, they produced²⁸ children and peoples and many nations, and again they began to be more impious before you²⁹ than their forefathers were. They persisted in deeds of unrighteousness.³⁰ **13** And it came to pass, when they committed iniquity in your sight, that you chose one of them for yourself, whose name was Abraham. **14** And you loved him, and to him alone you revealed the end of the times,³¹ secretly³² by night. **15** You made an everlasting covenant with him, and promised him that you would never forsake his descendants.³³ And you gave him Isaac, and to Isaac you gave Jacob and Esau.³⁴ **16** Moreover, you set Jacob apart for yourself,³⁵ but Esau you rejected;³⁶ and Jacob became a great multitude as an inheritance.³⁷ **17** And when you led his³⁸ descendants out of Egypt and made an eternal covenant with him,³⁹ you brought them to Mount Sinai.⁴⁰ **18** You bent down the heavens and

shook⁴¹ the earth, and moved the world, and caused the abyss to tremble, and troubled the age.⁴² **19** And your glory passed through the four gates: of fire and earthquake and spirit and ice, to give the law to the descendants of Jacob, and your commandment⁴³ to the generation of Israel.

20 “Yet you did not take away their evil heart from them, so that your law might produce fruit in them. **21** For the first Adam, burdened with an evil heart, transgressed and was overcome, as were also all those who descended from him. **22** Thus the disease became ingrained in them;⁴⁴ though the law was in the hearts of the people, so was the evil root;⁴⁵ but what was good departed, while the evil remained. **23** So after the times passed and the years were completed,⁴⁶ you raised up a servant for yourself, named David. **24** You commanded him to build a city for your name, and to offer oblations to you there from what is yours.⁴⁷ **25** This was done for many years; but the inhabitants of the city transgressed before you⁴⁸ **26** in everything, doing exactly as Adam and all his descendants had done, for they also were burdened with⁴⁹ the evil heart. **27** So you delivered your city into the hands⁵⁰ of your enemies.

28 “Then I said in my heart: Are the deeds of those who inhabit Babel any better? Is that why she has gained dominion over⁵¹ Zion? **29** For when I arrived here I saw ungodly deeds without number, and my soul has seen many sinners during these thirty years.⁵² And behold,⁵³ my heart was utterly perturbed, **30** because I have seen how you endure those who sin, and have spared those who act wickedly, and how you have ruined your people, and protected your enemies; **31** and you have not informed anyone how your way may be comprehended.⁵⁴ Are the deeds of Babel better than those of Zion?⁵⁵ **32** Or has another nation known you⁵⁶ besides Israel? Or what tribes have so believed the⁵⁷ covenants as these tribes of⁵⁸ Jacob? **33** Yet their reward has not appeared, nor has their labor borne fruit. For I have traveled widely among the nations and have seen that they abound in wealth, though they are unmindful of your commandments. **34** Now therefore, weigh our iniquities in the balance against those of the inhabitants of the age; and it will be evident which way the turn of the scale will incline. **35** When have the inhabitants of the earth not sinned in your sight? Or what nation has kept your commandments so well? **36** You may indeed find individuals⁵⁹ who have kept⁶⁰ your commandments, but nations you will not find.”

CHAPTER 4

Then the messenger who had been sent to me, whose name was Uriel, answered **2** and said to me, “Since your understanding has utterly failed regarding this age,⁶¹ do you expect⁶² to comprehend the way⁶³ of the Most High?”

3 Then I said, “Yes, my lord.”

And he replied to me, “I have been sent to show to you three ways, and to put before you three problems. **4** If you can solve one of them for me, then I will show to you the way you desire to see,⁶⁴ and will teach⁶⁵ you why the heart is evil.”⁶⁶

5 I said, “Speak, my lord.”

And he said to me, “Go, weigh for me the weight⁶⁷ of fire, or measure for me a blast⁶⁸ of wind, or call back for me the day which has passed.”

6 I answered and said, “Who of those who have been born can do this, that you should ask me about such things?”⁶⁹

¹ [1-2] All versions except for the Latin do not include Chapters 1 and 2 (which are judged by most to be original Latin interpolations)

² [3:1] Georg “third”

³ [3:1] Ar2 “building”

⁴ [3:1] Arm(H) “of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah” / Lat(C), Eth, Syr, Ar2 “of our city” / Lat(L) “of Jerusalem and Judah” / Ar1 “of the city of Jerusalem”

⁵ [3:3] Ar2 omits “abundant wealth of those who lived in Babel”

⁶ [3:4] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) “formed”

⁷ [3:4] Syr, Eth / Lat(S,A) “people” / Lat (C,M) “world”

⁸ [3:4] Arm adds “the heavens and” & “and everything that is in them”

⁹ [3:4] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) omits “did you not”

¹⁰ [3:4] Syr, Eth / Lat(S,A) “people” / Lat(C,M) “world”

¹¹ [3:5] Syr, Eth / Arm, Ar2 “you made man with your incorruptible hands”

¹² [3:5] Lat(A) omits “the creation”

¹³ [3:5] Arm omits “alive”

¹⁴ [3:6] Lat(L), Arm adds (lit. “of Delight”)

¹⁵ [3:6] Arm omits “before the earth appeared” / Ar2 has “man” instead of “earth”

¹⁶ [3:7] Ar1 / Eth “one righteous commandment” / Syr, Arm “a commandment” / Lat “one of these commandments”

¹⁷ [2Ezr3:7] Arm(H) adds / Arm(V) instead adds “that he should now that he is your work”

¹⁸ [3:7] Arm(H) adds / Arm(V) instead adds “and was deceived”

¹⁹ [3:7] Lat(C) adds

²⁰ [3:8] Lat(C,M), Georg, Ar1 / Lat(S,C) “pleasure” / Syr “works” / Eth, Ar2 “fashion”

²¹ [3:8] Lat(S) “acted in anger” / some C “acted strangely”

²² [3:8] Lat(S,A) / Lat(C,M) omits “your commands”

²³ [3:8] Syr, Ar / Lat(S,A) omit “and you did not hinder them”

²⁴ [3:9] Arm omits “in due time”

²⁵ [3:9] Lat, Syr, Eth / Ar1 “upon the people of that age” / Ar2, Arm “upon them”

²⁶ [3:10] Lat, Eth / Syr adds “the death of” / Arm omits “And the same fate...upon them.”

²⁷ [3:11] Lat (some Lat add “and” between “household” and “all”), Ar1 / Syr, Eth “But you spared one of them, and from him sprang all the righteous” / Arm “You had mercy upon your servant Noah, and on his account upon his sons; and together with all his house he found favor before you because he was pleasing to you.”

²⁸ [3:12] Arm(H) “The earth caused humans to increase from his seed” / Arm(V) “you caused humans to increase from his seed”

²⁹ [3:12] Arm add

³⁰ [3:12] Arm(H), other Arm add

³¹ [3:14] Ar1 “the time of rest”

³² [3:14] Lat(A) “, secrets” / Syr, Eth, Ar2 “, between you and him” / Arm “, by himself”

³³ [3:15] Arm replaces “and promised...descendants” with something else, while Ar1 replaces “that you would...descendants”

³⁴ [3:15] Arm omits “and Esau” and adds other material here

³⁵ [3:16] Lat(M) omits “for yourself”

³⁶ [3:16] Syr, Ar1, Ar2 / Lat “you set apart”

³⁷ [3:16] Syr adds

³⁸ [3:15-17] Eth, Georg omit “And you gave him...led his” (by scribal error)

³⁹ [3:17] Syr adds

⁴⁰ [3:17] Ar1 “to Sinai Desert”

⁴¹ [3:18] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Georg / Lat “and set fast”

⁴² [3:18] most Lat, Georg, Eth / Lat(A) “heavens” / Syr, Ar1 “ages”

⁴³ [3:19] Lat, Eth / Syr, Ar1 “commandments” / Georg “truth”

⁴⁴ [3:22] Syr, Ar1, Arm add

⁴⁵ [3:24] Arm(V) omits “though the law...evil root”

⁴⁶ [3:23] Lat(M) omits “So the times...completed”

⁴⁷ [3:24] Syr “name, and a house in which to offer oblations...” / Arm “name. After him you raised up his son Solomon, whom, in a night vision, you commanded to build the temple. And you commanded all the people to give prayers and offer sacrifices in it.” / Lat(L) instead adds “And his son Solomon built a house for your name and set up a sacrificial altar in it on which the priests would bring you offerings as you commanded Moses your servant.”

⁴⁸ [3:25] Syr, Ar1, Georg add

⁴⁹ [3:26] Lat “also used” / Georg “also put on”

⁵⁰ [3:27] Lat(A,M,C) “hand”

⁵¹ [3:28] Syr “why you abandoned” / Eth “why Zion is abandoned” / Georg “why Zion is delivered over” / Arm “why Zion is spurned”

⁵² [3:29] Eth, Ar1, Arm / Lat, Syr “sinners in this thirtieth year” / Georg “...this is three years”

⁵³ [3:29] Arm(H), Lat(L) add

⁵⁴ [3:31] Syr / Lat “how this way should be forsaken” / Eth “how this way will turn out” / Georg “how their way will turn out” / Arm omits “and you have not...those of Zion”

⁵⁵ [3:31] Lat(A) “Did the Babelians act any better than Zion?”

⁵⁶ [3:32] Syr “Or have you know another nation”

⁵⁷ [3:32] Lat(S,A,C) / Lat(M), Syr, Eth, Ar “your”

⁵⁸ [3:32] Syr, Eth, Ar2, Arm, Georg / Lat adds / Ar1 instead adds “the house of”

⁵⁹ [3:36] Lat, Georg adds “by name” / Syr adds “with names” / Arm adds “few”

⁶⁰ [3:36] Lat(A,C,M) / Lat(S) “who keep” / Eth omits “You may indeed find...commandments” (by scribal error)

⁶¹ [4:1] Eth, Georg, Ar2 omit “regarding this age”

⁶² [4:2] Lat / others “Your understanding...and do you desire”

⁶³ [4:2] Eth “the plan of glory” / Georg “the glory”

⁶⁴ [4:4] Eth, Arm “know”

⁶⁵ [4:4] Lat “show”

⁶⁶ [4:4] S(a,b) “...you from where the heart may be evil” / Arm omits “and will...evil”

⁶⁷ [4:5] Eth, Georg “me on one balance”

⁶⁸ [4:5] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar, Georg “measure”

⁶⁹ [4:6] Lat(M) “about this”

7 And he said to me, "If I had asked you, 'How many dwellings¹ are in the heart of the sea, or how many springs² are at the source of the abyss, or how many ways³ are above⁴ the firmament, or where are the portals of the Netherworld, or where are the entrances⁵ to the Garden?' 8 perhaps you would have said to me, 'I never went down into the abyss, nor as yet descended⁶ into the Netherworld, neither did I ever ascend into heaven, nor have I entered⁷ into the Garden.' 9 But now I have asked you only about fire and wind and the day through which you have passed⁸—things which are yours⁹ from which you cannot be separated.¹⁰ Yet you have given me no answer about them."

I answered and said, "I cannot understand that."

10 And he said to me,¹¹ "Since you cannot understand the very things which belong to you, which have been associated with you; 11 how then can your vessel comprehend the way of the Most High? 12 Since the way of the Most High has been formed without measure,¹³ how, then, can one who is already impaired by the corrupt age¹⁴ understand the way of incorruption?"¹⁵

When I heard this, I fell upon my face 12 and said¹⁶ to him, "It would have been better for us never to have been present¹⁷ here than to come¹⁸ here and live in sin and to suffer¹⁹ without understanding why we suffer."²⁰

13 He answered me and said, "Once upon a time, the forest of trees of the plain went forth,²¹ and they held a consultation 14 and said, 'Come, let us go and make war against the sea, so that it may recede before us and so that we may make more forests²² of trees²³ for ourselves.' 15 In like manner, the waves of the sea also held a consultation and said,²⁴ 'Come, let us go up and subdue²⁵ the forest of the plain so that we may also gain more territory there for ourselves.' 16 But the plan of the forest was in vain, for the fire came and consumed it; 17 likewise the plan of the waves of the sea was also in vain,²⁶ for the sand stood firm and blocked them. 18 If now you were a judge between them, which would you undertake to justify, and which to condemn?"

19 I answered and said, "Each devised a foolish plan, for the land has been assigned to the forest, and the locale of the sea has been assigned²⁷ to carry its waves."

20 He answered me and said, "You have judged rightly, but why have you not judged so in your own case? 21 For as the land has been assigned to the forest and the sea to²⁸ its waves, so also those who inhabit the earth can understand only what is on the earth, and he who is²⁹ above the heavens can understand what is above the height of the heavens."

22 Then I answered and said, "I implore you, my lord, why have I been endowed with the power of understanding? 23 For I did not desire to inquire about the ways above, but about those things which we daily experience: Why has Israel been given over to the nations in disgrace?³⁰ Why have the people whom you loved been given over to impious tribes?³¹ And why has the law of our ancestors been brought to destruction,³² and the written covenants³³ no longer exist? 24 For we pass³⁴ from the age like locusts, and our life is like a mist,³⁵ and

we are not worthy to obtain mercy. 25 But what will he do for his holy³⁶ name which is invoked over us? It is about these things which I have inquired of you."³⁷

26 He answered me and said, "If you are alive, you will see, and if you live long,³⁸ you will often marvel, because the³⁹ age is hurrying swiftly to its end. 27 For this age is not able to bring forth the things which have been promised to the righteous in these times,⁴⁰ because this age is full of sadness and infirmities. 28 For the evil⁴¹ which you ask me about has been sown, but its harvest-time⁴² has not yet come. 29 Therefore, if what has been sown is not reaped, and if the place where the evil has been sown does not pass away,⁴³ the field where the good has been sown will not come. 30 For from the beginning, a small grain⁴⁴ of evil seed was sown in Adam's heart, and how much fruit of⁴⁵ wickedness it has produced until now—and will produce until the time of threshing comes!⁴⁶ 31 Calculate now for yourself how much fruit of wickedness a single⁴⁷ grain of evil seed which has been sown⁴⁸ has produced. 32 When heads of good grain⁴⁹ without number are sown, how great a threshing floor they will fill!"

33 Then I answered and said, "How long? When will these things come to pass? For⁵⁰ our years are few and evil."

34 He answered me and said, "Do not be hastening in spirit above the Most-High. You, indeed, are hastening in spirit for yourself, but the Highest is hastening on behalf of many. 35 Did not the souls of the righteous in their storehouses⁵¹ ask about these matters, saying, 'How long must we remain here?⁵² And when will the harvest of our reward come?' 36 And the chief-messenger Remiel⁵³ answered and said, 'When the number of those like yourselves is completed;⁵⁴ for he has weighed the age in the balance, 37 and measured the times by measure, and numbered the times⁵⁵ by number; and he will not move or arouse them until that measure is fulfilled.' "

38 Then I answered and said, "But, O Lord, Lord, behold,⁵⁶ all of us also are full of ungodliness. 39 It is perhaps on our account, on account of the sins of the inhabitants of the earth, that the time of threshing is delayed for the righteous?"

40 He answered me and said, "Go and ask a pregnant woman whether, when her nine months have been completed, if her womb can retain the fetus within her any longer."

41 And I said, "No, lord, it cannot."

And he said to me, "In the Netherworld and⁵⁷ the storehouses of the souls are like the womb. 42 For just as a woman who is in labor makes haste to escape the pangs of birth, so also do these places⁵⁸ hasten to give back those things which were committed to them from the beginning. 43 Then the things which you desire to see⁵⁹ will be disclosed to you."⁶⁰

44 I answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, and if it is possible, and if I am worthy,⁶¹ 45 show this to me also: whether more time is to come than has passed, or whether the greater part has gone by for us. 46 For I know what has gone by, but I do not know what is to come."⁶²

47 And he said to me, "Stand at my right side, and I will show to you the interpretation by a parable."⁶³

48 So I stood and looked, and saw a flaming furnace pass by before me. And it came to pass,⁶⁴ when the flame had gone by, I looked, and saw that the smoke remained. 49 And after this, a cloud full of water passed before me and discharged a heavy and furious downpour of rain, and when the furious rainstorm had passed, drops⁶⁵ still remained in the cloud.⁶⁶

¹ [4:7] Syr, Arm, Georg "storehouses"

² [4:7] Ar1, Eth / Lat "streams"

³ [4:7] most / Lat "streams"

⁴ [4:7] Lat(M) "under"

⁵ [4:7] Arm, Georg, Ar2 / Syr, Eth, Ar1 "paths" / Lat omits "of the Netherworld, or which are the entrances" (by scribal error)

⁶ [4:8] Syr / others "entered" / Lat omits altogether

⁷ [4:8] Lat(L), two Eth, Arm / Ar2, Georg "looked" / most Lat, Syr omit "nor...Garden"

⁸ [4:9] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm / Eth, Ar1 "the day which has past" / Georg has both readings

⁹ [4:9] Lat adds

¹⁰ [4:9] some Lat / others "cannot exist"

¹¹ [4:10] Ar2, Arm omit "And he said to me" / Georg adds "I answered...that."

¹² [4:11] Eth "you. The way of the Most High was created from eternity."

¹³ [4:11] Syr, Eth (cf. Ar, Arm) / Lat omits "Since the way of the Most High has been formed without measure" (scribal error?)

¹⁴ [4:11] Lat (Lat(S) has "outside world" instead of "corrupt worldage Ar2 / most others "who is corrupt in the corrupt age" / Eth, Georg "who is corrupt")

¹⁵ [4:11] Lat / Syr, Eth "the way of the incorruptible?" / Ar1, Arm "the ways of the incorruptible"

¹⁶ [4:11-12] Ar2 omits "When...face" thus reading "And I said"

¹⁷ [4:12] Lat(M) / Eth "created"

¹⁸ [4:12] Georg "be"

¹⁹ [4:12] Lat(S,A,M) / Lat(C) "and to have sinned"

²⁰ [4:12] Lat / others add / Ar2 omits "When I heard...why."

²¹ [4:13] Syr, Eth, Georg, Arm / Lat "said, 'I went into a forest of trees of the plain'"

²² [4:14] Eth, most Arm, Georg "forest"

²³ [4:14] Eth adds

²⁴ [4:15] Lat(C,M) "plan, saying"

²⁵ [4:15] Lat(S,C) / Lat(A,M) "consummate" / Georg "rule over"

²⁶ [4:17] Lat omits "was" & "in vain"

²⁷ [4:19] some Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar2 "and the sea" / Georg "and the sea has been assigned a place" / others "and the sea a place"

²⁸ [4:21] Lat(M) "with"

²⁹ [4:21] Ar2, Arm, Georg "and they who are"

³⁰ [4:23] some Lat(A) "experience, sin"

³¹ [4:23] Lat(S,C, some A) "to an impious tribe"

³² [4:23] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) "been rendered ineffective"

³³ [4:23] Syr "and covenant"

³⁴ [4:24] Lat(S,A) "We have passed"

³⁵ [4:24] some Lat, Syr, Ar1 / Eth, Georg "smoke" / Lat(S,A,M) "terror" (in error)

³⁶ [4:25] Eth adds

³⁷ [4:25] Ar1, Ar2, Arm omit "It is about...inquired." / Lat(L), Eth, Georg add "of you"

³⁸ [4:26] Syr / Lat omits "long"

³⁹ [4:26] Ar1, Ar2, Arm "this"

⁴⁰ [4:27] Lat, Arm / Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit "in these times"

⁴¹ [4:26-28] Ar1 "the evil seed" / Ar2 "unbelief" / Georg omits "because the age...the evil"

⁴² [4:28] Lat(C) "its uncovering" / Lat(M) "overthrowing"

⁴³ [4:29] Lat(M) omits "and if the place...pass away"

⁴⁴ [4:30] Syr "a small grain"

⁴⁵ [4:30] Lat / others adds / Ar2 instead adds "seed of"

⁴⁶ [4:30] Syr "until the threshing-floor"

⁴⁷ [4:31] Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 / Lat adds

⁴⁸ [4:31] Syr adds

⁴⁹ [4:32] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar2, Georg "When a head of the good" (Ar2 omits "good")

⁵⁰ [4:33] Lat "Why are"

⁵¹ [4:35] Ar2, Arm omit "in their storehouses"

⁵² [4:35] Syr, Eth, Ar2, Georg / Lat "How long shall I hope in this way?"

⁵³ [4:36] Syr / Georg "Uriel" / others "Jeremiel"

⁵⁴ [4:36] Syr, Eth, Ar2 / Lat "number of seeds is completed for you"

⁵⁵ [4:37] Syr "hours" (or "moments") / Eth, Georg omit "and numbered...by number"

⁵⁶ [4:38] Syr, Eth, Georg / Lat "and" / Ar2, Arm omit one "Lord"

⁵⁷ [4:41] Lat / Syr adds

⁵⁸ [4:42] Eth, Georg "also does the earth" / Arm "also do the storehouses of the earth"

⁵⁹ [4:43] Eth, Arm "know"

⁶⁰ [4:43] some Eth, Georg "I will show to you" / Ar2 "you will see" / Arm "you will see and know"

⁶¹ [4:44] Lat, Syr, Ar2 similar / Eth, Georg "sight, and if you reckon it, that it is possible for me"

⁶² [4:46] Lat(M) omits "but I do not...come" / some Arm omits "For I know what...come"

⁶³ [4:47] Lat(A) omits "by a parable" / Arm "the form of a parable"

⁶⁴ [2Erz44:48] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit "it came to pass"

⁶⁵ [4:49] Arm, Georg "dew"

⁶⁶ [4:49] Eth, Arm omit "in the cloud"

50 And he said to me, "Consider it for yourself; for just as the rain is more than the drops, and the fire is greater than the smoke, so the quantity¹ that has passed was far greater; but drops and smoke remain."

51 Then I prayed and said, "Do you think that I will live until those days? Or who will be alive in those days?"²

52 He answered me and said, "Concerning the signs³ about which you ask me,⁴ I can tell you in part; but I was not sent to tell you concerning your life, for even⁵ I do not know."

CHAPTER 5

"Now concerning the signs: behold, the days are coming when the inhabitants of the earth will be seized with great confusion,⁶ and the way⁷ of truth will be hidden, and the land will be barren of faith.⁸ 2 Unrighteousness will increase *and become* greater than anything you yourself now⁹ see, and become incomparably greater than anything you have ever heard of. 3 And the region¹⁰ which you now see ruling will be a trackless waste,¹¹ and they will see the land¹² deserted. 4 But if the Most High permits you to live, you will see it¹³ thrown into confusion after the third *period*.¹⁴

"And the sun will suddenly shine at night,
and the moon during the day.

- 5 Blood will drip from wood,
and the stone will cry out;
the peoples will be troubled,
and the courses will be altered.¹⁵
- 6 And one in whom the inhabitants of the earth do not anticipate will
wield sovereignty,
and the birds will fly away together;
7 and the Sea of Sodom¹⁶ will cast up fish;
and one whom the many¹⁷ do not know will cry out by night,
and all will hear his voice.¹⁸
- 8 Chasms¹⁹ shall appear in many places,
and fire shall often break out,
and the beasts shall roam beyond their haunts,
and menstuous women shall bring forth monsters.²⁰
- 9 And salt waters shall be found in the sweet,
and all friends shall suddenly assault²¹ one another.
Sons with fathers, and fathers with sons,
mothers and daughters opposed to one another;
brothers with brothers, friends with acquaintances,
nations with nations, peoples with peoples,
priests with priests, and ministers with ministers.²²
Then reason shall hide itself,
and wisdom shall withdraw into its storehouse,
10 and it shall be sought by many but shall not be found.
And unrighteousness and unrestraint shall be multiplied upon earth.
- 11 And one country shall ask its neighbor,
'Has righteousness, or anyone who does right,²³ passed through
you?'
And it will answer, 'No.'
- 12 And at that time, humans shall hope but not obtain;
they shall marry and not be happy.²⁴
they shall labor, but their ways shall not prosper.

¹ [4:50] Georg "times" / Arm "part of time" / Ar2 "time"

² [4:51] Lat(Emend), Syr / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 "Or what will take place in those days?" / Georg "Or whatever will be alive in those days?" / Arm "Or especially which of us may be alive, and particularly which of us may exist."

³ [4:52] Eth, Georg "sign"

⁴ [4:52] Syr(Lat ver) "Concerning the predictions of those who you ask me."

⁵ [4:52] Lat(A), Syr, Eth, Georg add

⁶ [5:1] Syr, Georg, Eth / Lat(M) "tumult" / Arm "wonder"

⁷ [5:1] Lat, Ar1 / Syr, Eth, Georg "portion"

⁸ [5:1] Syr "and the land of faith will be barren"

⁹ [5:2] Syr, Ar1 add

¹⁰ [5:3] Lat, Eth / Georg, Ar1 "regions"

¹¹ [5:3] others "be a waste and trackless" / Syr "be a waste without stability and without a track-trodden place"

¹² [5:3] Syr, Eth, Georg / Ar1 "earth"

¹³ [5:4] Syr / Eth, Georg, Ar1, Arm omit "it"

¹⁴ [5:4] Lat(C), Syr / Lat(A.S) "after the third trumpet" / Eth "after three months" / Arm "after the third vision" / Georg "after the third day" / Ar1 "after three signs"

¹⁵ [5:5] Lat(S) "and the goings out will be altered" / Syr, Georg, Ar1, Ar2, Arm "and the atmosphere will be altered" / Eth "and the stars will fall"

¹⁶ [5:7] Georg omits "of Sodom"

¹⁷ [5:7] Lat, Ar1, Ar2 / Syr "whom many" / Georg "whom and many" (in error)

¹⁸ [5:7] Emendation / others "fish, and the voice which many do not understand, and all will hear its voice."

¹⁹ [5:8] Syr, Arm, Ar2 / Lat "Chaos"

²⁰ [5:8] Ar2, Eth "wonders" / others "signs"

²¹ [5:9] Lat "conquer" / Syr, Eth add "suddenly"

²² [5:9] Arm adds

²³ [5:11] Lat "righteousness that does right"

²⁴ [5:12] Lat, Ar1, Ar2 / Eth, Georg adds / Syr, Arm (similar) instead adds "they shall toil and not find"

13 "These are the signs which I am permitted to tell you. And if you pray again, and weep as you are now doing, and fast for seven days, you will hear yet greater things than these."

14 Then I woke up, and my body shuddered violently, and my soul was so troubled that it fainted. 15 But the messenger who had come to speak with me took hold of me, and supported me, and set me²⁵ on my feet.

16 And it came to pass on the second night Paltiel,²⁶ a chief of the people, came to me and said, "Where have you been? And why is your countenance sad? 17 Or do you not know²⁷ that Israel, in the land of their exile, has been entrusted to you? 18 Therefore, rise and eat some bread, and do not forsake us, like a shepherd *who leaves* the flock in the clutches of savage wolves."

19 Then I said to him, "Go away from me and do not come near me for seven days; and then you may come to me and I will tell you the matter."²⁸

When he heard what I said, he left me. 20 So I fasted seven days, mourning and weeping, as the messenger Uriel²⁹ had commanded me.

21 But it came to pass³⁰ after seven days, that the thoughts of my heart began once more to trouble me intensely. 22 Then my soul received³¹ the spirit of intelligence, and I began once more to speak words³² in the presence of the Most High. 23 And I said, "O Lord, you are he who, by the will of the Most High, made and prepared everything; and by your wisdom you conduct everything, and you requite each according to his ways. You, O³³ Lord, from every forest of the earth and from all³⁴ its trees, you have chosen one vine for yourself;³⁵ 24 and from all the lands of the world, you have chosen one region³⁶ for yourself; and from all the flowers of the world, you have chosen one lily for yourself;³⁷ 25 and from all the abysses of the sea, you have filled³⁸ one river Jordan³⁹ for yourself; and from all the cities which have been built, you have consecrated Zion for yourself; 26 and from all the birds⁴⁰ which have been created, you have named one dove for yourself; and from all the created flocks, you have provided⁴¹ one sheep for yourself; 27 and from all the multitude of peoples, you have acquired⁴² one people for yourself (and you shall guide things with your strength, and guide them with your wisdom);⁴³ and to this people, whom you have loved, you have given the law which is approved by all.⁴⁴ 28 And now, O Lord, *why* have you handed the one over to the many, and dishonored⁴⁵ the one shoot above the others,⁴⁶ and scattered your only one among the many? 29 And those who opposed your commands⁴⁷ have trampled on those who believed your covenant.⁴⁸ 30 If you really hate your people, they⁴⁹ ought to be punished at your *own* hands."

31 It came to pass⁵⁰ when⁵¹ I had spoken these words, the messenger who had come to me⁵² on a previous night was sent to me. 32 And he said to me, "Listen to me Ezra,⁵³ and I will instruct you; pay attention to me, and I will tell⁵⁴ you more."

33 Then I said, "Speak, my⁵⁵ lord."

And he said to me, "Are you greatly disturbed in mind⁵⁶ over Israel? Or do you love him more than his Maker does?"

34 And I said, "No, my lord, but because of my grief I have spoken;⁵⁷ for every hour my heart torments me, while I strive to comprehend the way⁵⁸ of the Most High and to examine the direction of his judgment."

35 And he said to me, "You cannot."

²⁵ [5:15] Lat(C) omits "and set me"

²⁶ [5:16] Ar "Phaldiel" / Arm "Phaniel" / Lat(C) "Salatiel"

²⁷ [5:17] Lat(A) omits "do you not know"

²⁸ [5:19] Syr "days; and then I will speak to him." / Lat omits "and I will tell you the matter" / Arm omits "and then...matter"

²⁹ [5:20] Syr "Remiel" / Ar2 "Sariel" / Ar1, Arm omit altogether

³⁰ [5:21] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm / others omit "it came to pass"

³¹ [5:22] Syr, Eth(Emend), Georg, Arm / Lat "recovered"

³² [5:22] Lat, Arm, Syr / Eth, Georg, Ar2 omit "words"

³³ [5:23] Arm adds / Arm also changes the order of the following subjects to: trees, flowers, birds, animals, rivers, city, land

³⁴ [5:23] Lat / others omit "all"

³⁵ [5:23] Lat(S,M,A) omit "for yourself"

³⁶ [5:24] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm, Lat(S,M,A) "pit" / Lat(C) "leaf" / Georg "floor"

³⁷ [5:24] Lat, Georg / Syr, Ar1 "flower" / Arm "lily flower" / Eth, Ar2 omit "and from all the flowers...yourself"

³⁸ [5:25] Lat, Eth, Ar1 / Syr "increased" / Georg "honored" / Ar2 omits the entire phrase

³⁹ [5:25] Arm, Georg add

⁴⁰ [5:26] Syr "all the birds" / others "all the winged creatures"

⁴¹ [5:26] Lat / Syr, Ar1, Georg "accepted" / Eth, Ar2 "chosen"

⁴² [5:27] Eth, Ar1 "chosen"

⁴³ [5:27] Arm adds

⁴⁴ [5:27] Lat, Syr, Georg / Eth "the law that you approved of all"

⁴⁵ [5:28] Syr, Eth, Ar / Lat "prepared"

⁴⁶ [5:28] Eth, Georg "the other roots"

⁴⁷ [5:29] Syr / Eth, Georg "law" / Lat "promises"

⁴⁸ [5:29] Lat "covenants" / Georg "law"

⁴⁹ [5:30] Lat(C,M) "you"

⁵⁰ [5:31] Lat, Arm, Georg / Syr, Eth, Ar1 omit "It came to pass"

⁵¹ [5:31] Syr "after"

⁵² [5:31] Lat(C,M) omit "to me"

⁵³ [5:32] Syr adds

⁵⁴ [5:32] Lat(L), Eth, Arm / others omit "tell" / two omit "more"

⁵⁵ [5:33] Lat, Syr, Arm / others omit "my"

⁵⁶ [5:33] most / Lat adds / Arm instead adds "in your heart"

⁵⁷ [5:34] Syr "but suffering it is that I suffered and I spoke"

⁵⁸ [5:34] Ar, Arm, Georg "the ways" / Syr "the decree of judgment"

And I said to him,¹ “For what reason,² my³ lord? Therefore, for what reason was I born?⁴ Or for what reason did the womb of my mother not become a tomb, in order that I might not see the toil of Jacob and the labor of the race of Israel?”

36 {He said to me, “Count up for me those⁵ who have not yet come,⁶ and gather for me the scattered grains,⁷ and relate to me the breadth of the sea and the multitude of the fish, or the heights of the heavens, or the hosts of stars, or the circuits of the sun, or the orbits of the stars, or the forms of the firmament, or the breadth of the earth, or the weight of dust. Count up for me the number of the hairs of your body, or the blinking of your eye, or the power of hearing, or the multitude of sight, or the preparation of smell, or the touches of hands, or the running of veins. Or will you find the imprints of feet, or the appearance and measure of breath, or the wisdom of birds, or the variety of creeping things which are on dry land and which are in the waters, which are hostile to one another, the runnings with feet: or the blowing of the winds? and collect for me the dispersed and spattered raindrops, and make the withered flowers bloom again for me;” 37 open the closed storehouses for me, and bring out for me the spirits which are shut up in them; or show to me the image of him whom you have never seen;⁹ or show to me the picture of a voice; and then I will explain to you the travail that you ask to understand.”

38 And I said, “O Lord, Lord, who is able to know these things¹⁰ except him whose dwelling is not among humans? 39 As for me, I am without wisdom and miserable,¹¹ so how can I speak concerning¹² the things which you have asked me?”

40 He said to me, “Just as you cannot do one of the things which were mentioned, so you cannot discover my judgment, or the goal of the love which I have promised to¹³ my people.”

41 And I said, “Yet¹⁴ behold, O Lord, you have promised¹⁵ those who are alive at the end,¹⁶ but what will our predecessors do, or we, ourselves, or those who come after us?”

42 He said to me, “I shall liken¹⁷ my judgment to a crown;¹⁸ just as there is no disadvantage to the slow, so there is no advantage to the fast.”

43 Then I answered and said,¹⁹ “Could you not have created them all²⁰ at the same time—those who have been, those who now exist, and those who will be—so that you might display your judgment²¹ more quickly?”

44 He replied to me and said, “The creation cannot proceed more rapidly²² than the Creator, nor can the age simultaneously hold all those who have been created in it.”

45 And I answered and said to him,²³ “How can you say to your servant, that you will certainly give life to every one of your creatures at the same time? If therefore all creatures will be alive at the same time²⁴ and the creation will sustain them, how²⁵ might it even now be able to support all of those present at the same time?”

46 And he said to me, “Ask a woman’s womb, and say to it,²⁶ ‘If you bear ten children,²⁷ why one after another?’ Therefore, request it to produce ten at the same time.”

47 And I said,²⁸ “Of course it cannot, but only each in its own time.”

48 And he said to me, “Even so I have made the earth a womb for²⁹ those who, in their particular time, come forth upon it.³⁰ I provide for and exert myself

for the world I created, since I have made things by degrees in their time and according to their measure.³¹ 49 For as an infant does not bring forth, and a woman who has become old does not bring forth any longer, so in the same way I have regulated the age which I created by defined periods of time.”³²

50 Then I inquired and said to him,³³ “Lord,³⁴ Since you have now³⁵ given me the opportunity, let me speak³⁶ before you and inquire of you, my Lord.³⁷ Is our mother Zion,³⁸ of whom you have told me, still young? Or is she now approaching old age?”

51 He replied to me, “Ask a woman who bears children, and she will tell you.³⁹ 52 Say to her, ‘Why are those whom you have borne recently not like those whom you have borne previously, but smaller in stature?’⁴⁰ 53 And she herself will answer you, ‘Those born in the vigor of youth are different from those born during the time of⁴¹ old age, when the womb is failing.’⁴² 54 Therefore⁴³ you also should consider that each of you are smaller in stature than those who were before you, 55 and those who come after you will be smaller⁴⁴ than you, as born of a creation which already is aging and passing the strength of youth.”

56 Then I said, “I implore you, O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight,⁴⁵ show to your servant through whom⁴⁶ you have willed to visit⁴⁷ your creation.”

CHAPTER 6

And he said to me:

“The beginning is through⁴⁸ the son of⁴⁹ a human, and the end is through myself.⁵⁰

For before the circle of the earth existed,⁵¹

before⁵² the portals of the age were established,⁵³

and before the assembled winds blew,

2 and before the rumblings of thunder⁵⁴ resounded,⁵⁵

and before the flares of lightning⁵⁶ flashed,

and before the foundations of the Garden⁵⁷ were laid,

3 and before the beauty of the flowers⁵⁸ were seen,

and before the forces⁵⁹ of motion⁶⁰ were established,

and before the innumerable hosts of messengers were mustered,

4 and before the heights of the air were lifted up,

and before the measures of the firmaments were named,⁶¹

and before the footstool⁶² of Zion was established,

5 and before the present years were reckoned,

and before the imaginations⁶³ of those who now sin were estranged,⁶⁴

and before the accumulators of treasures of⁶⁵ faith were sealed—

6 then I planned these things,

and they all came into being⁶⁶ through me alone and not through⁶⁷ another;

exactly as the end will come through me alone and not through another.”⁶⁸

³¹ [5:48] Ar2 adds

³² [5:49] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar1 add / Georg instead adds “my people”

³³ [5:50] Lat, Georg / Syr, Eth, Ar1 add

³⁴ [5:50] Georg adds

³⁵ [5:50] Lat adds

³⁶ [5:50] Arm “inquire”

³⁷ [5:50] Lat(L) adds

³⁸ [5:50] Syr adds

³⁹ [5:51] Georg, Arm omits “and she will tell you”

⁴⁰ [5:52] some Lat(S,C,M), Syr, Ar1, Georg / Lat(A) “rank” / Eth, Ar2 “strength” / Arm “stature and strength”

⁴¹ [5:53] Lat, Ambrose adds

⁴² [5:53] Lat, Syr / Ar2 omits “Those born in...failing.”

⁴³ [5:54] Lat / Syr, Arm “Also” / Eth “However” / Ar1 “In this manner” / Ar2 omits altogether

⁴⁴ [5:55] Lat omits “will be smaller”

⁴⁵ [5:56] Ar1 “you on account of the Lord to”

⁴⁶ [5:56] Georg, Ar “servant for whose sake”

⁴⁷ [5:56] Eth, Georg, Ar / Lat, Syr “whom you visit”

⁴⁸ [6:1] Georg, Ar “is for the sake of”

⁴⁹ [6:1] Eth, Arm (similar) adds

⁵⁰ [6:1] Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2, Arm (Eth, Georg “is for my sake”) / Lat omits “The beginning...myself.”

⁵¹ [6:1] Lat “For at the beginning of the circle of the earth” / Eth, Georg, Ar2 “Before...earth was created”

⁵² [6:1] Syr “The beginning by the hand of man, but the end by my own hands. For as before the land of the world existed there, and before” / Eth “At first by the Son of Man, and afterwards I myself. For before the earth and the lands were created, and before”

⁵³ [6:1] Lat(M) / Lat(S,A,C) “age stood”

⁵⁴ [6:2] Ar1 “before the cherubs”

⁵⁵ [6:2] Lat(A) omits “resounded”

⁵⁶ [6:2] Georg, Ar1, Arm “before the stars”

⁵⁷ [6:2] Syr, Ar1 “the pillars of the earth” / Ar2 omits “and before the foundations...laid”

⁵⁸ [6:3] Lat / Syr “follies” / Ar1 “works” / Georg “ways”

⁵⁹ [6:3] Syr, Eth, Ar2, Arm “force”

⁶⁰ [6:3] Syr “earthquakes”

⁶¹ [6:4] Lat(S), Syr / Lat(A,C,M) “numbered”

⁶² [6:4] Georg, Ar1 “foundation” / Eth, Arm omits “and before the footstool...established”

⁶³ [6:5] Lat / Syr “follies” / Ar1 “works” / Georg “ways”

⁶⁴ [6:5] Lat / Syr “conceived” / Ar1 “differentiated” / Georg “created” / Eth, Arm omits “and before the imaginations...estranged”

⁶⁵ [6:5] Lat(C,M) / others omit “treasures of”

⁶⁶ [6:6] Ar1, Ar2 / Syr “and they all came into being” / Lat “and they were made” / Eth omits altogether

⁶⁷ [6:6] Georg “for my sake and not for the sake of”

¹ [5:35] Syr, Eth, Ar1 add

² [5:35] Gk(ClemAlex), Syr(emend), Georg “Can I not,” (“For what reason” & “did the womb of...of Israel” from Clemens of Alexandria’s quotation of the Greek translation.)

³ [5:35] most / some add (Gk(ClemAlex) omit “lord”, but his omission may be intentional for a quote

⁴ [5:35] Ar1 “become”

⁵ [5:36] Eth “me the days” / Georg “me the hours”

⁶ [5:36] Arm “Tell me the number of those who are going to be born and going to die, and of those who are and of those who are going to be and who are going to die”

⁷ [5:36] Ar1 adds

⁸ [5:36] Arm adds “and relate...winds, and collect for me the dispersed and scattered raindrops, and make green the flowers which have withered”

⁹ [5:37] Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1 (Georg has “which” instead of “whom”) / Lat, Ar2 omit “or show me...never seen”

¹⁰ [5:38] Lat(S) “know this”

¹¹ [5:39] Lat / most others add / Arm omits “As for me...asked me?”

¹² [5:39] Lat, Syr, Ar2 / Eth, Georg omit “concerning”

¹³ [5:41] Eth, Georg “have preserved”

¹⁴ [5:41] Syr, Lat / others omit “Yet”

¹⁵ [5:41] Lat(emend), Syr, Arm, Ar1, Ar2 / Eth, Georg “preserved”

¹⁶ [5:41] Eth, Georg omit “at the end”

¹⁷ [5:42] Syr, Eth “I have likened”

¹⁸ [5:42] Lat, Syr, Ar1, Arm / Eth, Ar2 “circle”

¹⁹ [5:43] Lat(M) omits “and said”

²⁰ [5:43] Georg omits “not have created them all”

²¹ [5:43] Arm “display what has been prepared”

²² [5:44] Lat, Arm, Georg / Syr, Eth “creation does not grow rapid”

²³ [5:45] Lat / Syr, Georg “And I answered and said” / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “And I said to him” / Arm “And I answered”

²⁴ [5:45] Syr / Lat(S,C,A,M) omits “If therefore...same time.” (by scribal error)

²⁵ [5:45] Ar1, Arm add

²⁶ [5:46] Syr omits “and say to it” / Georg omits “to it”

²⁷ [5:46] most omit “children”

²⁸ [5:47] Eth, Georg, Ar1 omit “And I said”

²⁹ [5:48] Syr, Georg / Lat “I have given the womb of the earth to”

³⁰ [5:48] Syr, Georg / Lat, Ar1 “are sown upon it” / Eth omits “And he said to me...in it.” / Georg omits “And he said to me.”

7 Then I answered and said, “What will mark the division² of the times? Or when will be the end of the first age³ and the beginning of the age to follow?”⁴

8 And he said to me, “From Abraham to Isaac,⁵ because⁶ Jacob and Esau were born from him, for⁷ from the beginning,⁸ Jacob’s hand held fast to Esau’s heel.⁹ 9 Now Esau is the end of this age, and Jacob is the beginning of the age to follow.¹⁰ 10 The beginning of a man is his hand, and the end of a human is his heel;¹¹ seek for nothing else between the heel and the hand,¹² Ezra!”¹³

11 And¹⁴ I answered and said, “O Lord, Lord,¹⁵ if I have found favor in your sight, 12 show to your servant the last of your signs,¹⁶ a portion of which you showed a part to me on a previous night.”¹⁷

13 And he answered and said to me, “Since you inquire into and investigate the ways of the Most High,¹⁸ Rise and stand¹⁹ to your feet and you will hear a full, resounding voice. 14 And it²⁰ the place where you are standing is greatly shaken while the voice is speaking with you,²¹ do not be terrified; 15 because the word concerns the end, and the foundations of the earth will understand that the speech concerns them. 16 They will tremble and be shaken, for they know that their end must²² be changed.”

17 And it came to pass²³ when I heard this, I rose and stood²⁴ to my feet and listened. And behold, a voice spoke,²⁵ whose sound was like the sound of mighty waters.²⁶ 18 And it said, “Behold, the days are coming when I²⁷ draw near to visit the inhabitants of the earth, 19 and when I²⁸ require from the doers of iniquity the penalty of their iniquity,²⁹ and when the humiliation of Zion reaches³⁰ its fullness. 20 And when the seal is placed³¹ upon the age³² which is about to pass away,³³ then I shall do these signs: the books shall be opened before the face of the firmament, and all shall see my judgment³⁴ simultaneously. 21 Year-old infants shall speak with their voices and converse,³⁵ and pregnant women shall give birth to premature³⁶ infants at three and four months, and these shall live and leap about. 22 Sown places shall suddenly appear unsown, and full storehouses shall suddenly be found empty. 23 And the trumpet shall sound aloud, and when all hear it, they shall suddenly be terrified. 24 And it shall come to pass,³⁷ at that time friends shall make war upon friends like enemies, the earth and its inhabitants shall be terrified, and the springs of the fountains shall stand still, so that for three hours³⁸ they shall not flow.

25 “And it shall come to pass³⁹ that whoever survives all these things which I have foretold to you shall be saved⁴⁰ and shall see my salvation and the end of my⁴¹ age. 26 And then, at that time, they⁴² shall see those who were taken up,⁴³

who from their birth have not tasted death; and the heart of the earth’s⁴⁴ inhabitants shall be changed and converted to a different spirit.⁴⁵ 27 For an evil heart⁴⁶ shall be blotted out,⁴⁷ and deceit shall be quenched; 28 faithfulness shall flourish, and corruption⁴⁸ shall be overcome, and the truth, which has been fruitless for so long,⁴⁹ shall be exposed.”

29 And it came to pass⁵⁰ while he spoke to me, behold,⁵¹ little by little⁵² the place where I was standing began to rock to and fro.

30 And he said to me, “I have come to show to you these things this night.⁵³ 31 Therefore,⁵⁴ if you will pray again and fast again⁵⁵ for seven days, I will again declare to you greater things than these by day,⁵⁶ 32 because your voice has surely been heard before the Most High; for the Mighty One has seen your uprightness⁵⁷ and has also observed the purity⁵⁸ which you have maintained from your youth. 33 On account of this, he has sent me to reveal all these things to you, and to say to you:⁵⁹ ‘Believe and do not be afraid! 34 Do not be quick to vainly speculate about the former times; then you will not act hastily in the last times.’”⁶⁰

35 Now it came to pass⁶¹ soon after this⁶² I wept again and fasted seven days in the same way as before,⁶³ in order to complete the three weeks which had been prescribed for me.⁶⁴ 36 And it came to pass⁶⁵ on the eighth night,⁶⁶ my heart was once more troubled within me,⁶⁷ and I began to speak in the presence of the Most High. 37 For my spirit was inflamed, and my soul was anxious.⁶⁸

38 And I said, “O Lord God,⁶⁹ you have indeed spoken at the beginning of your creation,⁷⁰ and said on the first day,⁷¹ ‘Let heaven and earth be made,’ and your word accomplished the work and governed everything which was made.⁷² 39 And at that time, the spirit was blowing fiercely over the waters,⁷³ and darkness and silence embraced everything⁷⁴ upon the earth;⁷⁵ and the sound of a human’s voice was not yet before you⁷⁶ because man was not yet created.⁷⁷ 40 Then you commanded a ray of light⁷⁸ to be brought out from your storehouses, so that your works could be seen. This was on the first day.⁷⁹

41 “And again⁸⁰ in the second day, you created the spirit of⁸¹ the firmament, and you commanded it, so that it divided and made a division between the waters from the waters,⁸² so that one part might recede above, but the other part might remain below.

42 “And on the third day you commanded the waters to be gathered together in the seventh part⁸³ of the earth; six parts you dried up and conserved,⁸⁴ so that some of them might minister before you to be sowed and cultivated. 43 For your word went forth, and at once the⁸⁵ work was done. 44 For immediately fruit came forth in immeasurable⁸⁶ abundance, and of varied appeal to the taste; and flowers

¹ [6:6] Syr, Eth, Ar, Georg omit “just as the end...another”

² [6:7] Lat, Syr, Ar / Eth, Georg “will be the sign”

³ [6:7] Syr / Lat, Eth, Georg omit “age”

⁴ [6:7] Lat / Syr “of the second” / Eth, Georg “of the second age”

⁵ [6:8] Georg “Adam”

⁶ [6:8] Lat(S,A) / Lat(C,M), Eth, Ar2(B) “from Abraham to Isaac, because” / Georg “from Adam to Abraham, because” / Syr “From Abraham to Abraham, because Isaac was born of Abraham and from Isaac” / Ar1 “from the generation of Abraham and his family”

⁷ [6:7] Syr “From Abraham was born Isaac, and from Isaac was born Jacob and Esau” / Lat(C) omits “Jacob and Esau were born from him, for”

⁸ [6:8] Syr, Ar2 omit “from the beginning”

⁹ [6:8] Eth, Ar1, Georg omits “for from the beginning, Jacob’s hand held Esau’s heel”

¹⁰ [6:9] Syr “The heel of the first is Esau, and the hand of the second is Jacob.” / Eth, Georg “; Now Jacob is the beginning of the coming age”

¹¹ [6:10] Syr / Georg, Eth, Ar1 “The end...hell, and the beginning...hand” / Lat only “The beginning...hand”

¹² [6:10] Syr, Lat(S,C,A,M) [Lat has “complain” instead of “seek”] / Ar1 “...else between the hand and the heel” / Ar1 “; and here the heel and the hand have been united.” / Arm omits “then I planned these things...Ezra” / Eth omits “between the heel and the hand”

¹³ [6:10] most / Georg “Israel” / Arm omits altogether

¹⁴ [6:11] Lat, Syr, Eth, Georg / Ar1, Ar2 “Then”

¹⁵ [6:11] Ar1, Ar2 omit one “Lord”

¹⁶ [6:12] Lat, Syr, Eth, Georg / Ar1 “the fullness of days” / Ar2 “the time and the days”

¹⁷ [6:12] Ar1 “on previous days” / Arm “at the end of times”

¹⁸ [6:13] Arm adds

¹⁹ [6:13] Eth, Ar1, Arm add

²⁰ [6:14] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 / Lat, Syr, Georg “And it shall come to pass that”

²¹ [6:14] Lat / others add / Eth instead reads “while I speak”

²² [6:16] Syr “will”

²³ [6:17] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 / Lat, Syr, Georg add

²⁴ [6:17] Eth, Ar1 adds

²⁵ [6:17] Syr “; and I heard a voice speaking” / Georg, Ar1 “and heard a voice speaking”

²⁶ [6:17] Lat, Syr / Arm “of a great tumult”

²⁷ [6:18] Lat, Arm, Georg / Eth “he” / some Eth “the Most High” / Ar1 “Lord”

²⁸ [6:19] Lat, Arm, Georg, Eth / Ar1 “he”

²⁹ [6:19] Arm omits “and when I require...iniquity”

³⁰ [6:10] Arm “the tribulations of my servants will reach” / Ar2 “when the humiliation reaches”

³¹ [6:20] Ar1, Ar2, Arm “completed”

³² [6:20] Arm “life”

³³ [6:20] Eth, Georg “that is coming”

³⁴ [6:20] Syr / Lat omits “see it”

³⁵ [6:21] Syr “will give their voices” / Ar1 “will raise up their voices and talk” / Eth adds “and converse”

³⁶ [6:21] Eth omits “premature”

³⁷ [6:24] Lat, Syr Ar1, Eth / others omit “it will come to pass”

³⁸ [6:24] Eth, Ar2 “years” / Arm “times”

³⁹ [6:25] Lat, Syr, Georg / others omit “it will come to pass”

⁴⁰ [6:25] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg “shall live” / Ar2 “shall enter eternal life”

⁴¹ [6:25] Lat, Eth, Georg / Syr “the”

⁴² [6:26] Lat, Georg / Syr, Eth “he” / Ar1 “the people” / Eth, Georg add “then, at that time”

⁴³ [6:26] Georg “who were taken into heaven” / Arm “who fly to me on high”

⁴⁴ [6:26] Syr, Lat(L) (compare Eth, Ar1, Arm) / most Lat omit “earth’s”

⁴⁵ [6:26] Syr “understanding”

⁴⁶ [6:27] Ar1 “an evil heart”

⁴⁷ [6:27] some Syr “be extinct” / some Syr “be covered over”

⁴⁸ [6:28] Eth “mortality”

⁴⁹ [6:28] Syr “for many years” / Eth “during these times” / Georg “until now” / Ar “in those many past years”

⁵⁰ [6:29] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm / Eth, Ar2, Arm omit “it came to pass”

⁵¹ [6:29] Eth, Georg omit “behold”

⁵² [6:29] Syr / others “; suddenly”

⁵³ [6:30] Syr / Lat “you the things that will come” / Eth, Georg “show you these things on the night which is past” / Ar1 “show you these things on the day which is past” / Arm omits “I have...night.” /

⁵⁴ [6:31] Lat / Syr, Eth “new” / Ar1, Ar2, Arm omit (Ar2, Arm also omit “will pray again and”)

⁵⁵ [6:31] Lat, Eth, Arm / Syr, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 omit “again”

⁵⁶ [6:31] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Arm / Lat adds

⁵⁷ [6:32] Ar1, Arm “seen the uprightness of your heart”

⁵⁸ [6:32] Lat, Syr, Ar1 / Eth, Georg omit “and has also observed the purity”

⁵⁹ [6:33] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg “you.” And he said to me, / others omit

⁶⁰ [6:34] Ar1 “former times in desiring the acceleration of the end” / Georg “former times, that you may not

being to tremble in these last times”

⁶¹ [6:35] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm (Lat(C,M) add “soon”) / Eth “Now after this” / Ar1 “After this” / Ar2 omit

altogether

⁶² [6:35] Lat (Lat(M) omits “again”) / Eth “again as before for seven days and I fasted” / Georg “again as

before and I fasted for seven days” / Syr, Ar1, Arm “and fasted for seven days” (Arm omits “wept again

and”)

⁶³ [6:35] Eth, Georg, Ar1 “that he had prescribed” / Ar2, Arm omit “as before...for me”

⁶⁴ [6:36] Eth, Arm omits “it came to pass”

⁶⁵ [6:36] Eth, Georg “on that night” / Arm “on the eighth”

⁶⁶ [6:36] Eth, Arm omit “within me”

⁶⁷ [6:37] Arm omits “His (lit. ‘My’) spirit...anxious.”

⁶⁸ [6:38] Lat omits “God”

⁶⁹ [6:38] Eth “judgment” / Syr, Eth add “your”

⁷⁰ [6:38] Georg “night”

⁷¹ [6:38] Ar1 adds / Ar2 “for you ordered everything”

⁷² [6:38] Ar1, Ar2 add

⁷³ [6:39] Syr “darkness covered it and silence of sound”

⁷⁴ [6:39] Ar1 adds “upon the earth” / Ar2 instead adds “and the world” / Arm instead adds “and the earth”

⁷⁵ [6:39] Lat omits “and”

⁷⁶ [6:39] Arm omits “the spirit was blowing fiercely” & “the sound of men’s...before you” / Syr, Eth, Ar

omit “before you”

⁷⁷ [6:39] Ar2 adds

⁷⁸ [6:40] Lat “commanded some light of light” /

⁷⁹ [6:40] Arm omits “Then you commanded...could be seen.” & adds “This...first day.”

⁸⁰ [6:41] Lat(S,A), Ambrose / Lat(C,M)

⁸¹ [6:41] Lat, Ambrose / Ar2, Arm omit “spirit of”

⁸² [6:41] Syr, Ar1 add / Arm “; and you commanded the lower waters” / Ar1 omits “and commanded it”

⁸³ [6:42] Syr “in one of the seven parts”

⁸⁴ [6:42] Georg “and set” / Eth “to remain”

⁸⁵ [6:43] Eth, Georg “your” / Ar2, Arm omits “For your word...was done.”

⁸⁶ [6:44] Syr / Lat “immense”

of inimitable color; and trees of incalculable variety,¹ and odors of² inexpressible fragrance. These were made on the third day.

45 “But on the fourth day you commanded the brightness of the sun, the light of the moon, and the arrangement of the stars to come into being; 46 and you commanded them to serve a human, who was about to be formed by you.”³

47 “But⁴ on the fifth day you commanded the seventh part, where the water had been gathered together,⁵ to bring forth living creatures, birds, and fishes; and so it was done. 48 The mute and lifeless water produced living creatures, as it was commanded,⁶ so that the nations⁷ may extol your wonderful works.

49 “And you preserved two living creatures⁸ which you made,⁹ the one you called Behemoth,¹⁰ and the other you named Leviathan. 50 And later you separated them,¹¹ one from the other. For the watery¹² seventh part, where the water had been gathered together, was unable to hold them both. 51 And the one part which had been dried up on the third day, where there are a thousand¹³ mountains, you gave to Behemoth¹⁴ to live in it; 52 but to Leviathan you gave the seventh part, the watery part,¹⁵ and you have kept them to be eaten¹⁶ by whomever you wish, and when you wish.¹⁷

53 “But on the sixth day you commanded the earth to bring forth before you¹⁸ cattle, beasts of the field,¹⁹ and creeping things;²⁰ 54 and over these you placed Adam, as ruler over all the works which you had previously²¹ made; and from him, all of us whom you chose as a people have descended.

55 “But, O Lord, Lord,²² I have spoken all these things before you, because you have said, that it was for our sakes that you created this age.²³ 56 As for the other nations which have descended from Adam, you declared them to be as nothing,²⁴ like spittle, and you have compared their profusion to a drop from a bucket. 57 And now, O Lord, these nations, which are reputed to be as nothing, domineer over us and devour us.²⁵ 58 But we, your people whom you have called your firstborn, only begotten, kin,²⁶ and dearly beloved, have been given into their hands. 59 If the age has indeed been created²⁷ for us, why do we not enjoy possession of the heritage of our age? How long will this continue?”

CHAPTER 7

And it came to pass²⁸ when I had finished speaking²⁹ these words, the³⁰ messenger who had been sent to me on the previous nights³¹ was sent to me again. 2 He said to me, “Rise, Ezra, and listen to the words which I have come to speak to you.”

3 And I got up and stood,³² and I said to him,³³ “Speak, my lord.”
And he said to me, “There is a sea³⁴ set in a wide expanse, and³⁵ deep³⁶ and vast, 4 but its entrance³⁷ is confined to a narrow space, like a river. 5 If one earnestly desires to reach the sea, to look at it or to rule over it,³⁸ how can he reach the broad part except by passing through the narrow part?”

¹ [6:44] Syr, (Eth, Georg, Ar1 similar) / Lat omits “and trees of incalculable variety”

² [6:43] Syr, Eth, Georg / Lat adds

³ [6:46] Syr, Ar1, Ar2 add “by you” / Arm omits “about to be formed by you”

⁴ [6:47] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “And”

⁵ [6:47] Syr “water was” / Georg “the water, which they call the south, was”

⁶ [6:48] Lat / all others omit “as it was commanded”

⁷ [6:48] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “generations”

⁸ [6:49] Syr, Eth / Lat “two souls”

⁹ [6:49] Lat / Syr, Eth adds

¹⁰ [6:49] other Lat “Enoch”

¹¹ [6:50] Syr adds

¹² [6:50] Syr adds / Georg instead adds “southern”

¹³ [6:51] Eth, Georg “four”

¹⁴ [6:51] other Lat “Enoch”

¹⁵ [6:52] Lat / Syr, Eth “you gave one of the seven watery parts” / Georg “you gave the seventh part of the sea”

¹⁶ [6:52] Syr “food”

¹⁷ [6:48-53] Eth, Georg omit “and when you wish” / Arm omits “as it was commanded, so that the...Behemoth to live in it” / Ar1 omits “Then you preserved...by whomever you wish, and when you wish.”

¹⁸ [6:53] Ar1, Ar2 omit “before you”

¹⁹ [6:53] Eth adds

²⁰ [6:53] Eth, Georg “and birds of the heaven” / Ar1 omits altogether / Arm reads here “before you, the quadrupeds, the reptiles, and the birds”

²¹ [6:54] Lat, Ar1 / other add / Ar1 omits “and from him...have descended.” / Ar2 omits “and over these...have descended”

²² [6:55] Syr adds

²³ [6:55] Syr, Ar2, Georg / Lat “the firstborn age” / Ar1 “first age” / Eth “the age” / Arm omits “that it was...this age” (by scribal error)

²⁴ [6:56] Georg “declared that they are reckoned”

²⁵ [6:57] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar1 “and trample us” / Georg omits altogether

²⁶ [6:58] Syr / Lat “zealous”

²⁷ [6:59] Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 “You created the age”

²⁸ [7:1] Eth, Ar2, Ar2 omit “it came to pass”

²⁹ [7:1] Lat, Syr, Ar1 / Eth, Georg, Arm “had finished” / Ar2 “had spoken”

³⁰ [7:1] Eth, Georg, Arm “that”

³¹ [7:1] Eth “who...me first on that night” / Georg, Ar1 “who...on the first night” / Arm “who had previously spoke with me” / Ar1 omits altogether

³² [7:3] Arm adds

³³ [7:3] Syr, Eth add

³⁴ [7:3] Syr, Arm, Georg “If a sea”

³⁵ [7:3] (lit. “so that” – omitted in this translation) / Eth, Georg instead have “and”

³⁶ [7:3] most Lat / Syr “broad”

³⁷ [7:4] Eth “way”

³⁸ [7:5] Ar2 omits “to look at it or to rule over it”

6 “Again, hear Another example:³⁹ There is a built city set on an open plain, and it is full of all good things;⁴⁰ 7 but its entrance way⁴¹ is narrow and set in a precipitous place,⁴² so that⁴³ there is fire on the right side and deep water on the left. 8 And there is but a single narrow path lying between both of⁴⁴ them, that is, between the fire and the water, so that only one human can walk on the path at a time. 9 If now the city is given to a human as an inheritance, how will the heir claim the inheritance if he does not traverse the dangerous path set before him?”⁴⁵

10 I said to him,⁴⁶ “That is right, lord.”

And he answered and⁴⁷ said to me, “So also is Israel’s portion.⁴⁸ 11 For I made the age for their⁴⁹ sakes. And when Adam transgressed my statutes, what had been made was judged.⁵⁰ 12 And so the entrances⁵¹ of this age were made narrow and sorrowful and toilsome; they are few and evil,⁵² full of dangers and involved in great hardships. 13 But the entrances⁵³ of that coming⁵⁴ age are broad and safe, and yield the fruit of immortality. 14 Therefore unless the living enter through the difficult and vain⁵⁵ experiences, they will be unable to receive those things which have been reserved for them. 15 Now why do you agitate yourself, seeing that⁵⁶ you are perishable? And why do you torment yourself, seeing that you are mortal? 16 And why have you not considered⁵⁷ in your mind what is to come, rather than what is now present?”

17 Then I answered and said, “O Lord, Lord, behold, you have ordained⁵⁸ in your law that the righteous shall inherit these things, but that the ungodly shall perish. 18 Therefore, the righteous can well⁵⁹ endure narrow circumstances because they have hope for the spacious circumstances; but those who have behaved wickedly have not⁶⁰ suffered⁶¹ the narrow circumstances and will never see the spacious ones.”

19 And he said to me, “You are not a judge⁶² superior to God,⁶³ or wiser than the Most High! 20 Let the many who now exist⁶⁴ perish, rather than that the law of God, that is set before them, be disregarded!⁶⁵ 21 For the Lord⁶⁶ strictly commanded those coming into the age, when they came,⁶⁷ what they should do to live, and what they should observe to avoid punishment.

22 “Nevertheless they were disobedient, and spoke against him; they devised vain⁶⁸ thoughts for themselves,

23 and proposed devious frauds for themselves; they even denied the existence of the Most High, and they ignored his ways.

24 They scorned his law, and disavowed his covenants;⁶⁹ they have been unfaithful to his statutes, and have not performed his works.

25 Therefore, Ezra,⁷⁰ emptiness to the empty, and fullness to the full.

26 “For⁷¹ behold, the time will come⁷² and will be,⁷³ when the signs⁷⁴ which I have foretold to you will come to pass,⁷⁵ that the invisible city shall appear,¹ and

³⁹ [7:6] Syr “Again, hear another example”

⁴⁰ [Ezra7:6] Ar1, Eth “located in a garden and a plain with fruitful, green fields, and its streets are filled with good things”

⁴¹ [7:7] Ar1 adds

⁴² [7:7] Syr “and set in a high place” / Eth, Georg “and is precipitous” / Ar1 “difficult and dangerous” / Arm “thin and rough”

⁴³ [7:7] Eth, Georg “, and”

⁴⁴ [7:8] Syr, Georg add

⁴⁵ [7:9] Lat, Syr / some Eth “the rough path.” / some Eth “the narrowness.” / Georg “the narrow and terrible path.” / Ar1 “the narrow way.” / Arm “the narrow place.”

⁴⁶ [7:10] Syr, Eth, Ar1 add

⁴⁷ [7:10] Syr, Arm add

⁴⁸ [7:10] Ar1 “So it has fallen to Israel.” / Arm “For this reason the portion of inheritance was given to Israel.” / Ar2 omits “I said...portion.”

⁴⁹ [7:11] Arm “mankind’s”

⁵⁰ [7:11] Ar1, Georg “split” / Eth omits

⁵¹ [7:12] Eth, Ar1 “ways”

⁵² [7:12] Lat / Syr “they are full of pain and hardships”

⁵³ [7:13] Eth, Ar1 “ways”

⁵⁴ [7:13] Syr, Georg / Eth “of that” / Ar1 “of the coming” / Lat “of the greater”

⁵⁵ [7:14] Lat / others “bad”

⁵⁶ [7:15] Arm “, because” instead of “seeing that” (also in next sentence)

⁵⁷ [7:16] Arm “attained”

⁵⁸ [7:17] Eth, Georg “said”

⁵⁹ [7:18] Syr, Eth adds

⁶⁰ [7:18] Ar, Georg add

⁶¹ [7:18] Eth “believed”

⁶² [7:19] Syr omits “a judge”

⁶³ [7:19] Lat, Arm “to God” / Eth, Georg “to the One”

⁶⁴ [7:20] Lat, Arm / Georg “many of this world” / Syr “many who came” / Eth has only “many”

⁶⁵ [7:20] Lat, (Arm similar) / Syr, Eth “was disregarded in them” / Georg “since they have disregarded”

⁶⁶ [7:21] others “For God”

⁶⁷ [7:21] Georg “those fathers before him” / Eth, Arm omit “when they came”

⁶⁸ [7:22] Eth, Georg “bad”

⁶⁹ [7:24] most Lat, Syr, Eth / Georg “commands” / Lat(M) omits “They scorned...covenants”

⁷⁰ [7:25] Eth, Georg omit “Ezra”

⁷¹ [7:26] Georg “And” / Ar, Arm omit altogether

⁷² [7:26] Lat(S,A), most / Lat(C,M), Georg “time is coming” / Syr, Eth “the days will come”

⁷³ [7:26] Lat adds

⁷⁴ [2Ezra7:26] Georg, Arm “sign”

⁷⁵ [7:26] Lat, Syr, Ar1, Arm / Eth, Georg “will be seen” / Ar1 “you will see”

the land² that now is hidden³ shall be disclosed. **27** And everyone who has been delivered from the foretold evils shall see my wonders.⁴ **28** For my son, the Anointed⁵ shall be revealed, together with those who are with him; and those who remain shall rejoice⁶ 400⁷ years. **29** After those years⁸ my son, the Anointed,⁹ shall die, as well as all who draw human breath.¹⁰ **30** Then the age shall be turned back to primeval silence for seven days, as it was at the first beginnings,¹¹ so that no one will remain.

31 “And it shall be¹² after seven days, the age which is not yet awake shall be roused, and what is corruptible shall pass away.¹³ **32** And the earth shall give back¹⁴ those who are asleep in it, and the dust shall release those who rest there in silence;¹⁵ and the storehouses shall give up the souls which have been entrusted to them. **33** And the Most High shall appear on the seat of judgment,¹⁶ then the end shall come,¹⁷ and compassion shall pass away, and mercy¹⁸ shall cease,¹⁹ and patience shall be withdrawn.²⁰ **34** But only judgment of the Lord²¹ shall remain; his truth²² shall stand, and faithfulness shall grow strong.²³ **35** And recompense shall follow, and the reward shall be manifested; righteous deeds shall awake, and unrighteous deeds shall not sleep. **36** Then the pit²⁴ of torment²⁵ shall appear, and opposite it shall be the place of rest; and the furnace of Gehenna²⁶ shall be disclosed, and opposite it the true²⁷ Garden of Eden.

37 “Then the Most High shall say to²⁸ the nations²⁹ which have been raised:
‘Consider³⁰ now, and understand whom you have denied,
whom you have not served,
whose faithfulness³¹ you have despised.

38 Look on this side and on that;
here are delight and rest,³²
and there are fire and torments.’³³

“This is how he shall³⁴ speak to them on the day of judgment: The day of judgment will be like this:³⁵

39 a day which has neither sun, nor moon, nor stars,

40 nor cloud, nor thunder, nor lightning,
nor wind, nor water, nor air,

nor darkness, nor evening, nor morning,
41 nor summer, nor spring,³⁶ nor harvest,³⁷
nor heat, nor³⁸ frost, nor cold,
nor hail, nor rain, nor dew,

42 nor noon, nor night, nor dawn,³⁹
nor shining, nor brightness, nor light,⁴⁰
but only the splendor of the glory⁴¹ of the Most High,

by which all shall see what has been destined.

43 “The time shall last for a week of years.⁴² **44** This is my⁴³ judgment and its disposition; and to you alone I have shown these things.”

45 And I answered and said,⁴⁴ “O Lord, Lord,⁴⁵ I said before and⁴⁶ I say now: Blessed are all⁴⁷ those who are alive and keep the commandment laid down by you!⁴⁸ **46** But what about those for whom I asked? For who is there among the living who has not sinned, or who is there among those born of the sons of humans⁴⁹ who has not violated your covenant?⁵⁰ **47** And now as⁵¹ I see that the coming age will bring delight to the few, but torments⁵² to the many. **48** For an evil heart has grown up in us,⁵³ which has alienated us from this,⁵⁴ and has driven us into corruption and the ways of death, and has shown to us the paths of perdition, and removed us far from life—and that not merely for a few, but for almost⁵⁵ all who have been created.”

49 He answered me and said, “Listen to me, Ezra,⁵⁶ and I will instruct you, and I will⁵⁷ admonish you once more. **50** For this reason⁵⁸ the Most High has made not one age but two. **51** Inasmuch as you have said that the righteous are not many but few, while the ungodly abound,⁵⁹ hear the explanation for this.⁶⁰

52 “If you have just a few precious stones,⁶¹ will you add to them⁶² lead and clay?”

53 I said, “Lord, how could that be?”

54 And he said to me, “Not only that,⁶³ but ask the earth and she will tell you; speak to⁶⁴ her, and she will enlighten you. **55** Say to her, ‘You produce⁶⁵ gold and silver and bronze, and also⁶⁶ iron and lead and clay; **56** but silver is more abundant than gold, and bronze than silver, and iron than bronze, and lead than iron, and clay than lead.’⁶⁷ **57** Therefore, judge⁶⁸ for yourself and see⁶⁹ which things are precious and desirable, those which are abundant or those which are rare?’⁷⁰

58 I said, “O Lord, Lord,⁷¹ what is plentiful is of less worth, for what is more rare is more precious.”

59 He answered me and said, “Consider within yourself⁷² what you have reflected upon, for he who possesses what is hard to come-by rejoices more than he who has what is plentiful. **60** So it will also be with the⁷³ promised judgment;⁷⁴ for I will rejoice over the few who will be saved,⁷⁵ inasmuch as they are the ones who have made my glory to prevail⁷⁶ now, and through them my name has now been honored.⁷⁷ **61** And I will not grieve over the great number of those who perish; for they are the ones who even now are made like a mist, and are⁷⁸ similar to a flame⁷⁹ and smoke—they are set on fire and burn hotly, and are extinguished.”

62 I replied and said, “O earth, what have you brought forth, if the mind is made out of the dust like the other created things?⁸⁰ **63** For it would have been better if the dust itself had not been born, so that the mind might not have been

¹ [7:26] Ar1, Arm / Lat, Syr “that the bride will appear, even the city appearing” / Eth “and the city which now appears will be hidden” / Georg “and reveal himself to this city which now appears”

² [7:26] Lat, Eth, Ar / Georg “pit” / Ar2 “the abysses” / Syr omits / Arm has for his phrase “and every knee will crawl upon the earth”

³ [7:26] Lat(A) “is put under” / Lat(M) “is spoken about” / Syr omits “land”

⁴ [7:27] Eth, Arm “glory” / Ar1 “son”

⁵ [7:28] Eth / Ar1 “the Anointed” / Arm “the Anointed of God” / Syr, Ar1 “my son the Anointed” / Lat “my son Jeshua”

⁶ [7:28] Lat(A,M,C) / Lat(S) “with him, and he will bring joy to those who remain for” / Eth “who are raised up,” / Ar2 “who does my will shall rejoice” / Arm “who persisted in faith and patience.”

⁷ [7:28] Ar1, Georg / Syr “30” / Ar2 “1000” / Lat(A) “300” / Eth, Arm omit “shall rejoice...years”

⁸ [7:29] Eth, Syr “After these things” / Lat(A) omits altogether

⁹ [7:29] Georg “my Elect Anointed”

¹⁰ [7:29-31] Georg “my Elect Anointed” / Ar1, Ar2 omit “After...human breath.” / Arm omits “After...corruptible shall pass away.”

¹¹ [7:30] Syr “at the first beginning” / Eth “at first”

¹² [7:31] Lat, Georg add

¹³ [7:30-31] Ar2 omits “so that no one...pass away.” / Arm omits (see above)

¹⁴ [7:32] Syr, Ar1 “up”

¹⁵ [7:32] Lat / Syr “who sleep there” / others omit “in silence”

¹⁶ [7:33] Eth “which he created”

¹⁷ [7:33] Lat, most others / Syr, Ar2 add

¹⁸ [7:33] Eth, Ar1 “grace”

¹⁹ [7:33] Syr “mercy will be distant” / Ar1, Eth “mercy will come”

²⁰ [7:33] Lat “will gather together” / Syr “will be distant”

²¹ [7:34] Ar1 “judgment of the Lord” / Syr “my judgment”

²² [7:34] Eth (Georg similar) “his truth”

²³ [7:34] Eth, Georg omit “strong”

²⁴ [7:36] Syr, Eth / Lat(A,C,M,V) “place” / Lat(S) omits “The pit of torment”

²⁵ [7:36] Eth, Georg “judgment”

²⁶ [7:36] Lay, Syr, Eth, Georg / Ar1, Ar2, Arm “the fiery furnace”

²⁷ [7:36] Arm adds / some translate to “Garden of Delight” (Eden means ‘Delight’)

²⁸ [7:37] Syr “against”

²⁹ [7:37] Ar2, Arm “sinners”

³⁰ [7:37] Syr / Lat “Look”

³¹ [7:37] Lat(C,M,V) / Syr “commandments”

³² [7:38] Arm “delight prepared for you righteous” / Ar2 “grace and joy which I have prepared for my faithful ones”

³³ [7:38] Eth “judgment”

³⁴ [7:38] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat “You will”

³⁵ [7:38] most Lat, Ar1 / Lat(L), others add

³⁶ [7:41] Syr “nor summer, nor beginning of year”

³⁷ [7:41] Lat “summer” (or “heat”)

³⁸ [7:41] Lat “nor winter, nor” / Eth “neither”

³⁹ [7:42] Syr “day”

⁴⁰ [7:42] Lat, Georg / Syr, Eth “shining”

⁴¹ [7:42] Arm “but only a crown of glory and joy for the righteous, while for the wicked the undying fire and eternal darkness and unending torment”

⁴² [Eztra7:43] Eth “for seven years” / Georg “for seven years, that is to be given seven” / Ar2 “for seventy years”

⁴³ [7:44] Syr, Eth “his” / Ar2 omits “This is...these things”

⁴⁴ [7:45] Lat omits “and said”

⁴⁵ [7:45] Lat, Syr / Eth omits “Lord” / Arm omits “O...Lord”

⁴⁶ [7:45] Lat, Syr / others omit “I said before and”

⁴⁷ [7:45] Syr adds

⁴⁸ [7:45] Lat / Syr “commandment fixed by you” / others have only “commandment”

⁴⁹ [7:46] Ar1 adds

⁵⁰ [7:46] Lat, Ar1 / Syr, Eth, Arm “commandment” / Georg “law”

⁵¹ [7:47] Georg, Ar1, Arm add

⁵² [7:47] Eth “judgment”

⁵³ [7:48] Lat, Eth / Syr “For an evil heart is in us” / Georg “For an evil heart is set in us” / Ar1 “The evil in our hearts” / Ar2 “Our heart has fallen into wickedness”

⁵⁴ [7:48] Syr, Eth / Lat “these”

⁵⁵ [7:48] Lat, Syr / Eth omits “almost”

⁵⁶ [7:49] Syr, Ar1, Georg / Lat, Eth omits “Ezra”

⁵⁷ [7:49] Syr adds

⁵⁸ [7:50] Ar1, Ar2 “Is this the reason...?”

⁵⁹ [7:51] Lat, Ar1, Ar2, Arm / Syr omits “but few, while the ungodly abound”

⁶⁰ [7:51] Syr “, on the other hand, listen to these things” / Eth, Georg omit altogether

⁶¹ [7:54] Eth, Georg “are not many (but few). Make yourself a vessel of clay and lead”

⁶² [7:52] Syr, Ar1, Arm / Lat “are they more precious than”

⁶³ [7:54] Ar1, Ar2, Arm omit “Not only that”

⁶⁴ [7:54] Syr, Eth, Georg / Lat “; defer to” / Ar1, Ar2 “; ask”

⁶⁵ [7:55] Lat / Syr “yield”

⁶⁶ [7:55] Lat adds

⁶⁷ [7:56] Arm stars with “clay” and ends with “gold” & also adds “precious stones”

⁶⁸ [7:57] Syr “weigh”

⁶⁹ [7:57] Syr adds

⁷⁰ [7:57] Syr “, the many or the few”

⁷¹ [7:58] Eth, Georg, Ar2 omit “Lord” / Ar1, Arm omit “O Lord, Lord”

⁷² [7:59] Syr “Compare for yourself” / Ar2, Arm omit “Consider...reflected upon”

⁷³ [7:60] Syr “my” / others “his”

⁷⁴ [7:60] Syr, Ar1 / Lat, Georg “creation”

⁷⁵ [7:60] Syr, Eth “will live”

⁷⁶ [7:60] Syr “who confirm my glory”

⁷⁷ [7:60] Lat, Ar1 “named” / Arm “who glorified his name...and by whom his name is praised”

⁷⁸ [7:61] Eth omits “like a mist, and are”

⁷⁹ [7:61] Ar1, Ar2, Arm “to Gehenna fire”

⁸⁰ [7:62] Syr “O earth, what have you done, that these have been born from you and go into destruction. If now, the mind...” / Arm “O earth, why did you bear man?” / Eth omits the reference to “mind”

made from it.¹ **64** Nevertheless, the mind grows with us,² and, therefore, we are tormented, because we are aware of our perishing. **65** Let the human race lament, but let the wild animals of the field be glad; let all who have been born lament, but let the quadrupeds and the flocks³ rejoice. **66** For they are far better off than us, for they do not expect a judgment, and they are unaware of any torment⁴ or salvation promised to them after death.⁵ **67** For what does it profit us to be preserved alive⁶ only to be cruelly tormented?⁷ **68** For all who have been born are entangled in⁸ iniquities, and are full of sins and burdened with transgressions. **69** And if after death we were not to come into judgment, perhaps it would have been better for us.⁹

70 He answered me and said, “When the Most High made the age and Adam and all his descendants,¹⁰ he first ordained the judgment and the matters pertaining to the judgment.¹¹ **71** But now, understand¹² from your own words—for you have said that the mind grows with us. **72** Therefore, for this reason, those who live on earth shall be tormented, because, though they had understanding, they committed iniquity; and though they received the commandments, they did not keep them; and though they obtained the law, they dealt unfaithfully with what they received.¹³ **73** What, then, will they have to say at¹⁴ the judgment, or how will they answer in the last times?¹⁵ **74** How long the Most High has been patient with those who inhabit *this* age!—and not for their sake, but because of the times which he has foreordained.”¹⁶

75 I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, Lord¹⁷ also show the following to your servant: whether after death, as soon as each of us surrenders his soul, will we really be kept in rest¹⁸ until those times come¹⁹ when you will renew the creation,¹⁹ or will we be tormented at once?”²⁰

76 He answered me and said, “I will also show this to you, but do not entangle yourself with scorners, nor number yourself among those who are tormented. **77** For you have a treasure of good²¹ works stored up with the Most High, but it will not be revealed to you until the last times. **78** For the conception of death²² is this: When the decisive decree has gone out from the Most High that a person shall die, as the soul²³ leaves the body to return²⁴ again to him who gave it, first of all it adores the glory of the Most High.

79 “And if it is one of those who have scorned and have not adhered to the ways²⁵ of the Most High, who have despised his law and hated²⁶ those who fear God—**80** such souls²⁷ will not enter into habitations,²⁸ but will immediately roam about in torments,²⁹ ever grieving and sad, in seven ways.

81 “The first way: because they have scorned the law of³⁰ the Most High.

82 “The second way: because now they are unable to change their minds and do good³¹ so that they may live while they were in this age.³²

83 “The third way: that³³ they shall see the reward deposited for those who were faithful to the covenants of³⁴ the Most High.

84 “The fourth way: that they shall contemplate³⁵ the torment deposited for themselves in the end³⁶, whereby the souls of the wicked are reminded, that while

¹ [7:63] Lat, Syr, Ar2 / Arm omits “from it”

² [7:64] Lat(V) “you”

³ [7:65] most, Ar2, Arm / Eth “let the herds of cattle”

⁴ [7:66] Syr “vexation” / Eth “judgment”

⁵ [7:66] Syr “or life after death” / Ar2 “after death they expect neither reward nor punishment, and do not know what the rising is.”

⁶ [7:67] “living we live”

⁷ [7:67] Eth omits “only to be cruelly tormented”

⁸ [7:68] Syr “defiled with” // Arm omits “For all who have been born....with transgressions.”

⁹ [7:69] Syr / Lat “it might possibly go better with us.” / Eth “we would be better off if we did not come to judgment after death.” / Ar2 “it might be better for us not to have been created since our way after death leads to punishment.”

¹⁰ [7:70] Lat, Ar1, (Arm similar) / Syr, Eth “the judgment for Adam...”

¹¹ [7:70] Eth “prepared the judgment and its damnation.” / Ar2 “prepared the judgment on account of the wickedness of their works.”

¹² [7:71–72] Arm omits “from your...” to middle of 7:72

¹³ [7:72] Lat / Syr “they rejected it.”

¹⁴ [7:74] Ar1, Ar2, Arm “the day of”

¹⁵ [7:74] Syr “because of the foreordained times”

¹⁶ [7:75] Eth, Ar1 omit “O...Lord” / Syr adds a second “Lord”

¹⁷ [7:75] Ar2 “be without bliss”

¹⁸ [7:75] Eth, Ar1 “until that time comes”

¹⁹ [7:75] Eth “when he will carry out his judgment” / Arm “to the day of judgment”

²⁰ [7:75] Lat(A,M) / Lat(C,V) “, and in what manner we shall be tormented?” / Eth “or will we be judged at once?”

²¹ [7:77] Lat(L), Ar1, Arm adds

²² [7:78] Ar2 “of what you asked me concerning death” / Arm “For concerning the conception of what you asked me”

²³ [7:78] Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 “soul” / Lat, Syr “spirit”

²⁴ [7:78] Eth, Ar1 / Lat “to send down” / Syr “sent” / Ar2 omits altogether

²⁵ [7:79] Syr, Eth, Ar1 “ways” / Lat “way” / Ar2, Arm omit

²⁶ [7:79] Georg, Eth, (Ar1 similar) “and not accounted”

²⁷ [7:80] Georg “a soul” / Lat “a spirit” / Ar2, Arm omit

²⁸ [7:80] Ar2 “—those souls will come to Gehenna and to torment, and a place has been set apart from them and their kind”

²⁹ [7:80] Lat, Eth / Syr, Georg “but they are already in torment”

³⁰ [7:81] Ar2 “have rebelled against” / Syr “have resisted” / Arm “have scorned the law through the law and the faith”

³¹ [7:82] Syr, Georg (Arm similar) / Lat “to truly change their minds” / Eth “to change their minds”

³² [7:82] Arm adds

³³ [7:83] Lat omits “that” (and also after ways “third” to “sixth”)

³⁴ [7:83] Lat / Eth, Ar1 “the injunctions of” / Georg “the promise of” / Syr, Ar2 omits altogether / Arm has “the righteous” for the entire phrase

they had time for salvation, they did not submit to the commandments of the Most High.³⁷

85 “The fifth way: that they shall see how the storehouses of the others³⁸ are guarded by messengers in profound quietness.

86 “The sixth way: that they shall see how *some* of them will immediately cross over into torments.³⁹

87 “The seventh way (which is worse than all the ways which have been mentioned);⁴⁰ because they shall utterly waste away in confusion and be consumed with shame,⁴¹ and will wither away⁴² in fears when they see⁴³ the glory of the Most High before whom they sinned now⁴⁴ while they were alive, and in whose presence they are to be judged in the last times.⁴⁵

88 “Now this is the order⁴⁶ of those who have kept the ways of the Most High, when the day comes that⁴⁷ they shall be separated from *their* corruptible vessel.⁴⁸ **89** During the time that they lived in it,⁴⁹ they diligently served the Most High, and withstood danger every hour so that they might perfectly keep the law of the Lawgiver. **90** Therefore this is the teaching concerning them:⁵⁰ **91** First of all, they shall with great joy see the glory of him who receives⁵¹ them, for they will have rest in seven orders.⁵²

92 “The first order:⁵³ because they have striven with great diligence to overcome the evil thought which was molded with them, so that it might not lead them astray from life into death.

93 “The second order: because they see the perplexity⁵⁴ in which the souls of the wicked wander⁵⁵ and the punishment which awaits⁵⁶ them.

94 “The third order: that⁵⁷ they see⁵⁸ the witness which He who formed them⁵⁹ bears concerning them, that throughout their life they kept the law which was given to them in faith.⁶⁰

95 “The fourth order: that they see and understand⁶¹ the rest which they now enjoy, being gathered into their storehouses and guarded by messengers in profound quietness, and the glory waiting for them in the last days.

96 “The fifth order: that they rejoice that they have now escaped what is corruptible and shall inherit what is to come;⁶² but in addition, they shall see the straits and toils⁶³ from which they have been delivered, and the spacious liberty which they are to receive and enjoy in immortality.

97 “The sixth order: when it is revealed to them how⁶⁴ their face is to shine like the sun, and how⁶⁵ they are to be made like the light of the stars, no longer corruptible.

98 “The seventh order (which is greater than all which have been mentioned);⁶⁶ because⁶⁷ they shall rejoice with boldness, and shall be confident without confusion, and shall be glad without fear,⁶⁸ for they press forward to see the face of Him whom they served in life and from whom they are to receive their reward when glorified.

99 “This is the order⁶⁹ of the souls of the righteous which have been mentioned above, and of the previously mentioned ways of torment, which those who failed to observe will suffer from now on. These souls will not rise into the

³⁵ [7:84] Eth, Georg, Ar1 “see”

³⁶ [7:84] Syr, Ar1 / Lat “in the last times” / Eth “in the last time” / Arm, Georg “eternally” / Ar2 “in the other world”

³⁷ [7:84] Syr adds

³⁸ [7:85] Lat / Syr “the storehouses of the other souls” / Eth “the souls of the righteous in their storehouses” / Georg “the souls of the others”

³⁹ [7:86] others “see the torments coming upon them from now on” / Syr “see the torments prepared for them from now on”

⁴⁰ [7:87] Eth, Georg “predicted”

⁴¹ [7:87] Syr, Eth / Lat “honors” / Lat(A**) “in terrors” [Eth, Georg (Arm?) transpose “confusion” and “shame”]

⁴² [7:87] Syr “will burn up”

⁴³ [7:87] Lat “fears at seeing”

⁴⁴ [7:87] Lat, Ar1, Arm / others add

⁴⁵ [7:87] Lat / Georg “in the last time” / Eth omits

⁴⁶ [7:88] Syr, Eth “the way of” / Georg “the renewal of” / Ar1, Ar2 omit

⁴⁷ [7:88] Syr adds

⁴⁸ [7:88] Lat, Syr, Georg / Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm “body”

⁴⁹ [7:89] Georg “they stood in a world”

⁵⁰ [7:90] Ar, Arm omits “Therefore this is...them.”

⁵¹ [7:91] Syr “led”

⁵² [7:91] Lat, Eth, Ar1 / Syr, Ar2, Arm “ways” and so throughout this discourse

⁵³ [7:92] for each of the seven occurrences of “order” Syr, Arm read “way” / Ar2 omits altogether

⁵⁴ [7:93] Lat / Syr “turning” / Georg “judgment” / Eth omits

⁵⁵ [7:93] Georg omits “in which the souls of the wicked wander”

⁵⁶ [7:93] Ar2, Arm “prepared”

⁵⁷ [7:94] Lat omits “that” (and also after order “third” to “fifth”)

⁵⁸ [7:94] Georg “they hear” / Eth omits

⁵⁹ [7:94] Ar1 “which the Most High” / Ar2 “which the Lord” / Arm “which God”

⁶⁰ [7:94] Georg, Ar1 / others “trust”

⁶¹ [7:95] Syr “see and understand” / Eth “see” / Arm “are revealed”

⁶² [7:96] Ar1 includes a phrase from the same apocryphal statement as found in 1 Corinthians 2:9–10

⁶³ [7:96] Syr, Eth / Lat (A,C,M,V) “fullness”

⁶⁴ [7:97] Syr, Eth, Ar1 “that”

⁶⁵ [7:97] Syr, Eth “that” / Georg omits / Ar2, Arm omit “and how they are to be made...stars”

⁶⁶ [7:98] Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm omit “that have been mentioned”

⁶⁷ [7:98] Lat, Georg, Arm “for” / others “that”

⁶⁸ [7:98] Ar2 omits “and shall be confident without confusion” / Syr omits “and shall be glad without fear” / Arm omits “without fear”

⁶⁹ [7:99] Syr, Georg, Ar1, Arm, (Ar2 similar) “These are the orders”

storehouses, but from now on, will writhe in torment and groan and lament in seven ways.”¹

100 Then I answered and said, “Therefore, after the souls have been separated from the bodies, will time and opportunity² be given to them to see what you have described to me?”

101 He answered and³ said to me, “They shall have freedom for seven days, so that during these seven days they may see the things of which have been predicted;⁴ and afterwards, they shall be gathered in their storehouses.”⁵

102 I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, also make clear to me, your servant, whether, on the day of judgment, the righteous will be able to intercede for the wicked or to entreat the Most High on their behalf⁶— **103** fathers for sons,⁷ or sons for fathers,⁸ brothers for brothers, relatives for their kindred,⁹ or friends for friends.”¹⁰

104 He answered me and said, “Since you have found favor in my sight, I will make it clear to you. The day of judgment is decisive¹¹ and displays the seal of truth to all.¹² Just as now a father cannot commission his son, or a son his father, or a master his servant,¹³ or a friend his dearest *one*,¹⁴ to be ill¹⁵ or sleep or eat or be healed in his place, **105** so no one will ever pray for another on that day, neither will anyone lay a burden on another;¹⁶ for then all will bear their own righteousness or unrighteousness.”

106 I answered and said, “Then why do we find that first Abraham interceded for the Sodomites, and Moses for our fathers¹⁷ who sinned in the desert, **107** and Joshua son of Nun¹⁸ after him for Israel in the days of Achan,¹⁹ **108** and Samuel in the days of Saul,²⁰ and David on account of the plague²¹ and the people,²² and Solomon on behalf of those at the dedication of the house,²³ **109** and Elijah for those who received²⁴ the rain, and for the one who was dead, that he might live, **110** and Hezekiah for the people in the days of the siege of Sennacherib, the King of Babel,²⁵ and many others prayed²⁶ for many? **111** So if now, when corruption has increased and unrighteousness has multiplied, the righteous have prayed for the wicked, why will it not be so then *as well*?”

112 He answered me and said, “This present age is not the end;²⁷ the full glory of God²⁸ does not²⁹ remain in it; therefore those who were strong prayed for the weak.³⁰ **113** But the day of judgment will be the end of this age and the beginning³¹ of the immortal age to come, in which corruption has passed away, **114** sinful indulgence³² has been abolished, faithlessness has been cut off, and righteousness has increased and truth has arisen. **115** Therefore no one will then be able to have mercy upon the one who has been condemned in the judgment, or to harm³³ the one who is victorious in the judgment.³⁴

116 I answered and said, “This is my first and last comment:³⁵ it would have been better for us³⁶ if the earth had not produced Adam, or else, when it had produced him, had restrained him from sinning.³⁷ **117** For what good is it for any of us³⁸ to live in sorrow now, with the expectation of punishment after death? **118**

¹ [7:99] Syr adds / Arm omits “that have been mentioned....from now on.”

² [7:100] Syr adds

³ [7:101] Lat, Ar1, Ar2, Arm / Syr, some Eth, Georg add

⁴ [7:101] Eth “which I told you” / Ar1 “which I foretold to you”

⁵ [7:101] Lat “habitations”

⁶ [7:102] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Georg “whether the righteous will be able to entreat the Most High on behalf of the sinners”

⁷ [7:103] most, Lat / “boys-and-girls” if Pseudo-ApoCon is quoting this

⁸ [7:103] most, Lat(L), if Pseudo-ApoCon / most Lat, Georg(O) “parents”

⁹ [7:103] “, kinsmen in-behalf of kinsmen” (if Pseudo-ApoCon)

¹⁰ [7:103] Syr, most others, if Pseudo-ApoCon / Lat, Georg “or fiends for *their* dearest-ones”

¹¹ [7:104] Syr / Eth “sudden” / Lat “is violently-bold”

¹² [7:104] Eth, Georg omit “to all”

¹³ [7:104] Lat(A) omits “He answered him and said, “Since....his servant” (scribal error)

¹⁴ [7:104] Eth, Ar1 “his friend”

¹⁵ [7:104] Syr, Eth, Arm / Lat “to understand”

¹⁶ [7:105] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat omits “on that day...on another”

¹⁷ [7:106] Lat(L), Syr “for the fathers” / Georg “for the people”

¹⁸ [7:107] Syr, Georg, Ar2 adds

¹⁹ [7:107] Joshua7(MT), 1Chron2:7(some MT) “Achan” / Syr, Lat, Ar1, Joshua7(LXX(B), Syr),

1Chron2:7(most MT, LXX, Syr) “Achar” / Eth “Ahas” / Ar2 omits the name / Arm omits the whole reference to Joshua

²⁰ [7:108] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat, Ar2, Arm omit “in the days of Saul”

²¹ [7:108] Lat, Syr “breach”

²² [7:108] Lat, Eth / others add

²³ [7:108] most Lat / Ar adds “of the house” / Lat(A), Syr, “Solomon on behalf of those who were in the holy-place” / Eth, Georg “Solomon on behalf of the holy-place”

²⁴ [7:109] Eth, Georg (Ar1?) omit “those who received”

²⁵ [7:110] Ar2 adds

²⁶ [7:110] Lat, Syr omit “others prayed”

²⁷ [7:112] (Lat(L) adds “*adhuc non erat*”) / Syr “This age has an end” / Eth, Georg “The end of this age has not yet come to pass” /

²⁸ [7:112] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg add

²⁹ [7:112] Syr, others / Lat omits “not”

³⁰ [7:112] Syr “prayed, in whom there is no strength”

³¹ [7:113] Syr, Eth / Lat(S,A,C) omits “the beginning”

³² [7:114] Eth “away, weakness”

³³ [7:115] Syr, Eth / Lat “overwhelm”

³⁴ [7:115] Syr adds

³⁵ [7:116] Ar2, Arm omit “last comment”

³⁶ [7:116] Eth adds

³⁷ [7:116] Lat / Syr, Eth (Ar1 similar) “had instructed him not to sin” / Ar2 omits “or else, when...from sinning.”

³⁸ [7:117] Lat, Syr (lit. “for everyone”) / Lat(S,A**M,C) “for every man” / Eth “for us” / Ar2 “for man”

O Adam, what have you done? For though it was you who sinned, the fall³⁹ was not yours alone, but all of⁴⁰ ours too who descended from you. **119** For what good is it for us, if an immortal time⁴¹ has been promised to us, when, in fact, we have done deeds which bring death? **120** *And what good is it* that an everlasting⁴² hope has been promised to us, when, in fact, we have miserably failed? **121** Or that safe and healthful habitations⁴³ have been reserved for us,⁴⁴ when, in fact, we have lived wickedly? **122** Or that the glory of the Most High will defend those who have led a pure life, but we have walked in the most wicked ways? **123** Or that a garden shall be revealed, whose fruit remains unspoiled⁴⁵ and in which are abundance and healing, *when*, in fact, we cannot enter it **124** because we have lived in perverse ways?⁴⁶ **125** Or that the faces of those who exercised self-restraint⁴⁷ shall shine more *brilliantly* than the stars,⁴⁸ though, in fact, our faces *shall be* blacker than darkness? **126** For while we lived and committed iniquity we did not realize⁴⁹ what we were to endure after our death.⁵⁰

127 He answered and said to me,⁵¹ “This is the significance of the contest⁵² which must be waged by those born on earth: **128** if he is defeated, he shall suffer what you⁵³ have said; but if he is victorious, he shall receive what I have said.⁵⁴ **129** For this is the way⁵⁵ of which Moses, while he was alive, spoke to the people, saying, ‘Behold, today I have set before you life and death, good and evil; therefore⁵⁶ Choose life for yourself,⁵⁷ so that you and your descendants⁵⁸ may live!’ **130** But they resisted and did not believe him⁵⁹ or the prophets after him, or even myself who have spoken to them. **131** Therefore there will not be⁶⁰ grief at their destruction, as there will be joy over those who have believed.⁶¹

132 I answered and said, “I know, O Lord, that the Most High is now called the Merciful, because he has mercy on those who have not yet come into the age; **133** and the Gracious *One*, because he is gracious to⁶² those who change their mind⁶³ to his law; **134** and the Longsuffering,⁶⁴ because he manifests longsuffering toward those who have sinned, since they are his own creatures;⁶⁵ **135** and the Bountiful,⁶⁶ because he would rather give than take away;⁶⁷ **136** and Abundant in Compassion, because he makes his compassions abound more and more⁶⁸ to those now living and to those who are gone⁶⁹ and to those yet to come⁷⁰— **137** for if he did not make his compassions⁷¹ abound, the age along with its inhabitants would not have life; **138** and he is called the Giver, because if he did not give out of his goodness so that those who have committed iniquities might be relieved of them, not one ten-thousandth of mankind⁷² would be able to have life; **139** and the Judge, because if he did not pardon those who were created by his word and blot out⁷³ the multitude of *their* sins,⁷⁴ **140** there would doubtless⁷⁵ be left only very few of the innumerable multitude.”

CHAPTER 8

He answered me and said, “The Most High made this age for the sake of many, but the world to come for the sake of only a few. **2** But let me tell you a parable,⁷⁶ Ezra. Just as, when you inquire of the earth, it will tell you that it provides a large amount of clay from which earthenware is made, but only a little dust from which

³⁹ [7:118] Syr, Eth “evil” / Ar1, Arm “misfortune”

⁴⁰ [7:118] Ar1, Arm adds

⁴¹ [7:119] Lat, Syr / Ar1 “life” / Arm “rising”

⁴² [7:120] Eth “good”

⁴³ [7:121] Syr, (Eth similar) “that storehouses without care and without malady”

⁴⁴ [7:121] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) omits “for us”

⁴⁵ [7:123] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar2 “whose fruits do not spoil”

⁴⁶ [7:124] Lat “because...in perverse places” / Eth “as we were not promised”

⁴⁷ [7:125] Lat, Eth / Syr “of the holy ones” / Arm “of the righteous”

⁴⁸ [7:125] Lat, Syr / Ar1 “shine like the luminaries of heaven” / Ar2 “shine like lightning” / Arm “shine like the sun” / Eth “shine”

⁴⁹ [7:127] Eth “And behold, we live” / Georg “And what good is our life”

⁵⁰ [7:126] Lat, Arm / others add “our” / Eth omits “after our death”

⁵¹ [7:127] Lat, Arm omit “to me”

⁵² [7:127] Ar2 “battlefield” / Eth, Georg, Ar1 “this world”

⁵³ [7:128] Lat, Eth, Ar1 / Syr could be “I” or “you” / Eth, Georg, Arm “I” / Ar2 omits

⁵⁴ [7:128] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat “what I say”

⁵⁵ [7:129] Lat(M) “life”

⁵⁶ [7:129] Syr adds

⁵⁷ [7:129] Syr “yourselves”

⁵⁸ [7:129] Syr adds

⁵⁹ [7:130] Syr “And they resisted and were not convinced *by* him.”

⁶⁰ [7:131] Syr / Lat “there was not”

⁶¹ [7:131] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg “joy to whom salvation is assured”

⁶² [7:132-133] Lat(M) omits “those who have not yet come into the world...gracious to” (by scribal error)

⁶³ [7:133] Syr / Lat “who have made a change in relation”

⁶⁴ [7:134] Syr “and long of spirit”

⁶⁵ [7:134] Syr “since we are his works” / Eth “as on his children”

⁶⁶ [7:135] Lat(S,A,C,M) / Syr, Eth, Arm “Giver”

⁶⁷ [7:135] most Lat, Syr / Lat(M) omits “than take away” / Eth “give to those who are worthy on account of their works” / Georg “give their first works”

⁶⁸ [7:136] Lat(M) omits “more and more”

⁶⁹ [7:136] Lat, Syr, Ar2 / Eth, Georg “disobedient”

⁷⁰ [7:136] Eth, Georg “to give praise”

⁷¹ [7:137] Syr / Lat omits “compassions”

⁷² [7:138] Syr “not one out of ten-thousand”

⁷³ [7:139] Syr “and forget”

⁷⁴ [7:139] Syr / Lat “contempts”

⁷⁵ [7:140] Lat adds

⁷⁶ [8:2] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1 “But let me explain a parable to you” / Arm “I shall tell you one parable and you *shall* respond to me”

gold comes, so too is the course¹ of the present age. **3** Many have been created, but only a few shall be saved.²

4 I answered and said, “Then drink your fill of³ understanding, O my soul; and drink wisdom, O my heart.⁴ **5** For you entered *the age* involuntarily,⁵ and will depart without consent,⁶ for you have been allotted only a brief span⁷ of time to live. **6** O Lord above us,⁸ if you will, grant permission to your servant that we may pray⁹ before you, and plant a seed in our heart and cultivate our understanding¹⁰ so that fruit may be produced, so that every corruptible *thing* which bears the likeness¹¹ of a human may be able to live.

7 “For you are the only one,¹² and we are one formation, we are the work¹³ of your hands, as you have declared. **8** Now when you give life to the body which is fashioned in the womb, and furnish *it* with members,¹⁴ what you have created subsists¹⁵ amid fire and water; and for nine months your handiwork bears your creature¹⁶ which has been created in it.¹⁷ **9** But that which shelters and that which is sheltered are both sheltered by your shelter.¹⁸ And when the womb discharges what has been created in it,¹⁹ **10** you have commanded that out of the members themselves (that is, out of the breasts)²⁰ milk, the fruit of the full²¹ breasts, should be supplied, **11** so that what has been fashioned²² may be nourished for a brief²³ time. And afterwards you *will* guide²⁴ it in your mercy, **12** nurture it in your righteousness, and instruct it in your law, and reprove²⁵ it in your wisdom. **13** Then you kill it (it is your own creation), and restore it to life (it is your own handiwork). **14** If therefore, by your command, you will suddenly and quickly²⁶ destroy what was fashioned with many labors,²⁷ for what purpose was it made?²⁸

15 “And now I will speak out: you know best about every human of those which I command;²⁹ but about your people, I am dejected. **16** And I lament over your heritage. And I sorrow because of Israel.³⁰ And I am perturbed on account of the seed of Jacob. **17** Therefore I desire to pray before you for myself and for them, for I see the³¹ failings of us who inhabit the earth; **18** and now, I have also³² heard of the swiftness of³³ the coming judgment.³⁴ **19** Therefore, hear my voice and understand my words of prayer,³⁵ and I will speak before you, Lord, my God.³⁶

The beginning of the words of Ezra’s prayer, before he was taken. He said:³⁷

20 “O Lord, you who inhabit the age,³⁸
whose eyes are lifted up,³⁹
and whose chambers are in the air,

21 whose throne is beyond measure,⁴⁰
and whose glory is beyond comprehension,
before whom the hosts of messengers stand trembling,

22 and at whose command⁴¹ they are changed to wind and fire,⁴²
whose word is trustworthy,⁴³

and whose utterances are steadfast,
whose command is mighty,
and whose ordinance is fearsome,

23 whose look dries-out abysses,
and whose⁴⁴ threat⁴⁵ melts mountains,
and whose truth remains⁴⁶ into the age.⁴⁷

24 O Lord,⁴⁸ listen to the prayer⁴⁹ of your servant,
and give ear to the petition of your creature;
and⁵⁰ attend to my words!

25 For as long as I live I will speak,
and as long as I have discernment, I must respond.

26 Do not gaze upon the sins of your people,
but *upon those* who serve you in truth.

27 Do not take note of the endeavors of the impious,⁵¹
but of the endeavors *of those* who have kept your covenants amid afflictions.

28 Do not think of⁵² *those* who have conducted themselves wickedly in your sight,
but remember *those* who have voluntarily acknowledged that you are to be feared.

29 Do not decree the destruction *of those* who have lived like⁵³ cattle,
but be mindful of those who have gloriously taught your law.⁵⁴

30 Do not be angry with those who have been deemed worse than beasts,
but love *those* who have always put their trust⁵⁵ in your glory.

31 “For we and our fathers⁵⁶ have pursued⁵⁷ the ways of death; yet, it is because of us sinners that you are called the Merciful. **32** For if you have desired to have mercy upon us, *we* who are without works of righteousness,⁵⁸ then you will be called the Merciful. **33** For the righteous, whose many⁵⁹ works are laid up with you, shall receive their reward⁶⁰ by virtue of their own deeds. **34** But what is a human that you should be angry with him in truth,⁶¹ or the corruptible race that you should be so embittered against it? **35** For in truth, there is not one born who is without sin; nor is there one who exists who is without fault.⁶² **36** For in this, O Lord my Lord,⁶³ your righteousness and your goodness⁶⁴ will be declared, when you are merciful to those who have no storehouse of⁶⁵ good⁶⁶ works.”

37 He answered me and said, “On some matters⁶⁷ you have spoken correctly, and it will turn out according to your words. **38** For indeed I will not concern myself about the fashioning⁶⁸ of those who have sinned, or about *their* death, or *their* judgment, or *their* destruction; **39** but I will rejoice over the creation of the righteous, over *their* pilgrimage as well,⁶⁹ and *their* salvation,⁷⁰ and the reception of *their* reward. **40** As I⁷¹ have spoken, therefore, so it shall be.

41 “For just as the farmer sows an abundance of seeds in the ground⁷² and plants a multitude of seedlings, and yet not all which have been sown will come up⁷³ in due season, and not all which were planted will take root; so also not all who have been sown in the age will live.”⁷⁴

¹ [8:2] Syr, Eth, Georg “work” / Ar2 “people”

² [8:2] Syr, Eth “few are alive”

³ [8:4] Georg / Syr, Eth “Then take delight in” / Lat “Then release”

⁴ [8:4] Syr / Eth, Georg, Ar1 “O my ears” / Lat omits altogether

⁵ [8:5] Syr / Lat “For you...world to obey” / Eth “For the ear has come to hear” / Georg “For my mind is a stranger to hear”

⁶ [8:5] Syr / Lat “and will end it unwillingly”

⁷ [8:5] Syr “power”

⁸ [8:6] Lat / Syr “O Lord Lord” / Arm “O Lord Most High” / others “O Lord”

⁹ [8:6] Syr, Ar2 “I may pray” / Eth, Georg omits

¹⁰ [8:6] Eth “give us understanding and thought”

¹¹ [8:6] Syr / Lat “place” / Eth “world” / Georg “life”

¹² [8:7] Lat / Syr, Ar2 “For you are one” / Eth “For we are all like” / Georg, Ar1 “one in which one”

¹³ [8:7] Syr adds

¹⁴ [8:8] Syr, Georg / Lat “and its members”

¹⁵ [8:8] Eth, Georg “, you preserved it”

¹⁶ [8:7] Lat, Syr / others “months the womb bears your creature” / Georg, (Ar2 similar) “your creation is born” / Eth “yours is born”

¹⁷ [8:8] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1 “that you created”

¹⁸ [8:9] most Lat, Syr / Lat(C,M) omits “by your shelter” / Eth “and it will be sheltered through your own word” / Ar1 “and these created things were preserved with you” / Ar2 “and you are he who preserved them” / Arm “and it preserves them”

¹⁹ [8:9] Lat, (Eth, Arm similar) / Syr, Ar1 “what was in it”

²⁰ [8:10] Lat / Ar1 “(what is necessary for the need)” / Syr, Eth omit altogether

²¹ [8:10] Syr adds

²² [8:11] Eth “so that your work” / Georg “so that your creation”

²³ [8:11] Syr adds

²⁴ [8:11] Lat / Syr “govern”

²⁵ [8:12] Lat / Syr “instruct”

²⁶ [8:14] Syr, Arm / Lat “will with a light command” / Eth, Ar omit

²⁷ [8:14] Syr / Lat “with such pains” / Eth “in so many days” / Arm “for so long a time are caused to be born with labor and pains”

²⁸ [8:14] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “, why then was it made?”

²⁹ [8:15] Georg adds

³⁰ [8:16] Eth, Georg omit “And I sorrow because of Israel”

³¹ [8:17] Syr “our”

³² [8:18] Syr / Lat “but”

³³ [8:18] most / Lat adds / Syr instead adds “the decree of”

³⁴ [8:18] Eth “the law of the future world” / Georg “the law of the future creation” / Ar1 “the judgment of your creation”

³⁵ [8:19] Georg, Ar1 “voice...word of my mouth” / Syr “voice and pay attention to my words of prayer”

³⁶ [8:19] Syr adds

³⁷ [8:19] Syr, Eth, Georg / Lat “The beginning of Ezra’s words...taken” / Arm “The prayer of the prophet Ezra.” / Ar1 “I answered saying” / Ar2 “I, el-Uzzir, pray to you and implore you.”

³⁸ [8:20] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar2 “who lives forever” / Ar2 “who lives in the age of ages”

³⁹ [8:20] Lat, Arm / Syr “whose heights are exalted” / one Lat, Eth, Georg, Ar2 “whose are the highest heavens”

⁴⁰ [8:21] Lat, Syr / Ar1 “is beyond description” / Eth, Georg “is invincible”

⁴¹ [8:22] Syr, Eth, Arm, some Lat / Lat(S,A) “observance”

⁴² [8:22] Syr / Latin “they those service takes the form of wind and fire”

⁴³ [8:22] Lat(S,A) / Lat(C), Syr “firm”

⁴⁴ [8:23] Gk(Pseudo-ApoCon) quotation actually add “and whose”

⁴⁵ [8:23] Gk(Pseudo-ApoCon) / Lat “indignation”

⁴⁶ [8:23] Gk(Pseudo-ApoCon), Ar2 / others “truth testifies” (Pseudo-Apostolic constitutions preserve the Greek translation of all of verse 23)

⁴⁷ [8:24] Gk(Pseudo-ApoCon), others / Lat omit “into the age”

⁴⁸ [8:24] Lat(M), Syr, Eth, Ar, Arm omit “O Lord”

⁴⁹ [8:24] Lat, Ar2 / other Lat, Syr, Eth, Ar1, Arm “voice”

⁵⁰ [8:24] some Lat omit “and”

⁵¹ [8:27] Eth, Georg, Ar1, Arm / Syr “of the follies of the tricks of the impious”

⁵² [8:28] Eth, Ar1 “Be angry with”

⁵³ [8:29] Syr, Eth, Ar2 / Lat, Arm “have the ways of”

⁵⁴ [8:29] Syr “have received the brightness of your law” / some have “clearly” instead of “gloriously”

⁵⁵ [8:30] other Lat “hope”

⁵⁶ [8:31] Lat / Syr “and those before us”

⁵⁷ [8:31] some Lat / Syr, Eth, Arm “have done deeds in” / some Lat “have been corrupted by”

⁵⁸ [8:32] some Lat / some Lat, Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm “without good works” / Syr, Georg “without works”

⁵⁹ [8:33] Eth “good” / Syr, Georg, Ar1 omit altogether

⁶⁰ [8:33] most Lat, Georg, Arm / some Lat, Syr omit “their reward”

⁶¹ [8:34] Ar1, Arm add “in truth” or “righteousness”

⁶² [8:35] Eth, Georg, Arm omits “For in truth...without fault.”

⁶³ [8:36] Syr adds

⁶⁴ [8:36] some Lat “your righteousness and your goodness” / Ar2 “your mercy and righteousness”

⁶⁵ [8:36] Syr, Georg “power of” / Eth omits altogether

⁶⁶ [8:36] Syr omits “good”

⁶⁷ [8:37] Lat, Syr / Georg “On all matters” / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omits

⁶⁸ [8:38] Syr, Georg “works”

⁶⁹ [8:39] Syr “rejoice over the coming of the forms of the righteous” / Eth omits “the creation of...well, and” / Georg omits “over pilgrimage as well”

⁷⁰ [8:39] Lat / Syr, Eth “and how they live” / Georg “and their rising”

⁷¹ [8:40] Lat, Syr / Eth, Georg “you”

⁷² [8:41] Lat, Ar1, Ar2 / Syr, Eth omits “in the ground”

⁷³ [8:41] Syr, Eth, Ar1 “will live” / Lat “will be saved” / Georg “will increase”

⁷⁴ [8:41] Lat, Georg “will be saved”

42 I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, let me speak to you.¹ 43 If the farmer’s² seed does not come up because it has not received³ your⁴ rain in due season, or if it has been ruined by too much rain,⁵ it perishes.⁶ 44 But a human—who has been formed by your hands and is called your own image because he is made like you, and for whose sake you have formed all things—would you compare⁷ him to the farmer’s seed? 45 Surely not, O Lord above!⁸ But spare your people and have mercy upon your inheritance, for you have mercy upon your own creation.”

46⁹ He answered me and said, “The present¹⁰ is for those present;¹¹ the future¹² is for those to come.¹³ 47 For you come far short of being able to love my creation more than I love it. But you have often reckoned your soul among¹⁴ the unrighteous, though you are no sinner.¹⁵ Never do so!¹⁶ 48 But even¹⁷ in this respect you will be praiseworthy before the Most High, 49 because you have humbled your soul, as is proper for you, and have not reckoned your soul to be among the righteous. You will receive the greatest glory,¹⁸ 50 for many miseries will afflict the world’s inhabitants in the end,¹⁹ because they have walked in great pride.²⁰

51 “But think of your own case, and inquire concerning the glory of those who are like yourself, 52 because it is for all of you²¹ that the true²² Garden is opened, the tree of life is planted, the age²³ to come is prepared, delight²⁴ is provided, a city²⁵ is built, rest is appointed,²⁶ goodness is achieved, and wisdom pre-established.²⁷ 53 The root of evil²⁸ is sealed up from you, infirmity is banished from you, and death²⁹ is hidden; the Netherworld has fled, and corruption into oblivion;³⁰ 54 afflictions have passed away; and in the end,³¹ the treasure of immortality³² is made manifest.

55 “Therefore, ask no further questions about the great number of those who perish. 56 For when they had opportunity to choose, they despised the Most High, and were contemptuous of his law, and abandoned³³ his ways. 57 Moreover, they have even trampled on his righteous³⁴ ones, 58 and said in their hearts that there is no God—though they knew well that they must die.³⁵ 59 For just as the good³⁶ things which have been predicted³⁷ await³⁸ you, so the thirst and torment already prepared await them. For the Most High did not intend for a human to be destroyed;³⁹ 60 but those who were created have themselves defiled the name of him who made them, and have been ungrateful to him and they did not

acknowledge me⁴⁰ who now⁴¹ prepared this⁴² life⁴³ for them. 61 Therefore my judgment is now drawing near.⁴⁴

I answered, I spoke with the Lord and I said, “I beseech you, speak with this wretched people, that they may hear from you and believe, that they may fear and change their mind and not perish, but be saved. For if someone else should speak, perhaps they would not have faith and this is a human.”

And the Lord answered and said, “I myself always revealed myself to my servants who were pleasing to me. I spoke with those who were worthy of me; but to the others, I made myself known through humans. I am the Lord who tests the heart and the reins, and I know a human and what is in him before he comes from the womb. I know that if I should speak with them face to face, they will not obey, but will be even more strongly disobedient.”

I answered the Lord and I said, “I ask of you, Most High, why did you not give us a heart to only know the good, and that we should do it alone, and that we should desire it alone, and that it alone should be sweet for us to know? Accordingly, since we received the knowledge of evil, why do we desire what you hate? Why indeed did you create it at all, that we should have it, and through it, we might sin?”

The Lord answered me and said, “I made a human, not that he might perish, but that he might live this life with honor and inherit that future life. And, exactly like my messengers, I gave him wisdom to know what is good and what is evil. And I honored him and gave him the authority to do whatever he desired, and I subjected to him all things which are under the heavens that he might rule over them. And I gave the law the commandment how he might be able to live and how he might obtain immortal goods. And he received these great goods and authority from me. What was created well, he did not use well and he sinned. Not that I created anything evil, but everything which I created was very good: each thing which existed, existed for its own purpose, just as iron existed, not that it might kill, but that it might work the ground and fulfill the needs of all humans. But humans did not remain in that same state in which they were created, but they undertook what was not made for good. This was how, in other things as well, what had come into being for good, they changed to evil. Therefore, the cause was not he who creates things well, but he who did not use them well; he offended their Creator. Therefore torments await them. For all should be guided by those things which have come into being through me so that they might know me. He too, who does not enjoy them, has known me. Therefore, cease, and care nothing about them.⁴⁵ 62 I have not shown this to⁴⁶ all people, but only to you and a few like you.”

63 Then I answered and said, “O Lord, who do not bear resentment, my soul does not have temerity to question you. Listen to your servant concerning what⁴⁷ you have already shown to me a great number of the signs which you will perform in the last times, but you have not shown to me when it will be that⁴⁸ you will do them.”

CHAPTER 9

He answered me and said, “Measure carefully in your mind; and it shall be⁴⁹ when you see that some of the predicted⁵⁰ signs have occurred, 2 then you will know that it is indeed the time when the Most High is about to visit the age which he has made. 3 So when the following appear in the age: earthquakes⁵¹ in places, tumult of peoples, intrigues of nations, wavering of leaders, confusion of princes, 4 then you will know that these are the things which the Most High spoke about from the days which were of old, from the beginning.⁵² 5 For⁵³ just as with everything which has taken place in⁵⁴ the age, its beginning is evident, and its end manifest;⁵⁵ 6 so also are the times⁵⁶ of the Most High: the beginnings are attested⁵⁷ by wonders and signs and mighty works,⁵⁸ and the end by penalties⁵⁹ and in signs.⁶⁰

⁴⁰ [8:60] Syr adds

⁴¹ [8:60] Lat adds

⁴² [8:60] Lat(M) adds

⁴³ [8:60] Lat, Syr / Georg “good” / Eth omits

⁴⁴ [8:61] Eth “Therefore their judgment will overcome them”

⁴⁵ [8:61] Arm adds

⁴⁶ [8:62] Georg “for”

⁴⁷ [8:63] Arm adds

⁴⁸ [8:63] Georg, Arm add

⁴⁹ [9:1] Lat, Arm adds

⁵⁰ [9:1] Lat(S,A), Syr / Eth “past”

⁵¹ [9:3] Lat(S,C,M), others / Lat(A) “defense”

⁵² [9:4] Lat, Ar2 / Syr “spoke from the beginning” / Eth “spoke before their time” / Georg, Ar1 “spoke about in the days that were of old”

⁵³ [9:5] Eth, Georg, Lat(A) omit “For”

⁵⁴ [9:5] Syr “that is in”

⁵⁵ [9:5] Syr / Lat “world, beginning to end as well as the end, has been made know”

⁵⁶ [9:6] Eth “world”

⁵⁷ [9:6] Eth “in the world”

⁵⁸ [9:6] Syr “the beginnings...wonders and signs and mighty works” / Eth “the beginnings...in words, and signs, and mighty works” / Ar1 “the obscure beginning will be revealed in mighty works and miracles”

⁵⁹ [9:6] Syr / Lat, Eth, Ar1 “deeds”

⁶⁰ [9:6] Syr / Lat, Eth “in effects”

¹ [8:42] Syr, Eth add

² [8:43] Lat(M) omits “farmer’s”

³ [8:43] Syr “it is not receiving”

⁴ [8:43] Lat, Syr / others omit “your”

⁵ [8:43] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar2, Arm omit “or if it has been ruined by too much rain, it perishes”

⁶ [8:43] Lat(M) / Lat(S,A,C) “, this is father and son”

⁷ [8:44] Eth, Georg “why have you compared”

⁸ [8:45] Syr “No, I beseech you, Lord, my Lord!” / Lat(M) “Do not, O Lord, be angry over us.” / Eth “Be this far from you, O Lord” / Georg “Do not destroy, Lord” / Ar1 “No, O Lord” / Ar2 “Lord” / Arm “Therefore, Lord”

⁹ [8:46–8:49 & ~63] Arm omits “He answered me and said, ‘The present...You will receive the greatest glory.’” / Ar1 omits “He answered me and said...when you will do them.” / Ar2 omits “because it is for...that the Garden is opened...when you will do them.”

¹⁰ [8:46] Eth, Georg “This world”

¹¹ [8:46] Eth, Ar1 “those in this world”

¹² [8:46] Eth “; that world” / Georg omits “is for those present...future”

¹³ [8:46] Eth, Georg “for that world” / Ar1 “for the coming world”

¹⁴ [8:47] Syr, Eth / Lat “often brought your soul near”

¹⁵ [8:47] Eth, Ar1 adds

¹⁶ [8:47] Syr, Georg “Let it not be so.” / Eth, Ar1 “although you are no sinner” / Ar2 “do not set yourself in such a place” / Lat(C,M) omit altogether

¹⁷ [8:48] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit “even”

¹⁸ [8:46–49] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) “that you greatly glory” / Arm omits “He answered him and said, ‘Things...greatest glory.’”

¹⁹ [8:50] Lat, Syr / Eth “in the last days” / Arm “in the future time”

²⁰ [8:50] Syr “because of the many arrogances of arrogance.”

²¹ [8:52] Arm “for you”

²² [8:52] Arm adds

²³ [8:52] Syr, Eth / Lat “time” / Georg “coming kingdom” / Ar1 “that life”

²⁴ [8:52] Syr, Eth, Arm / Georg “happiness” / Lat “abundance”

²⁵ [8:52] Eth, Georg omit “a city”

²⁶ [8:52] Syr, Eth / Lat “allowed”

²⁷ [8:52] Lat / Syr “and wisdom perfected beforehand” / Eth “and the root of wisdom plucked off”

²⁸ [8:53] Lat omits “of evil”

²⁹ [8:53] Syr, Eth, Arm / Lat omits “death”

³⁰ [8:53] Lat / Syr “the Netherworld has fled and corruption has been forgotten”

³¹ [8:54] Lat, Syr / Georg “and complete” / Eth, Arm omit

³² [8:54] Syr “the treasures of life”

³³ [8:56] Syr “destroyed”

³⁴ [8:57] Syr “holy”

³⁵ [8:56–58] Georg “God on account of this, and they know their own death.” / Arm omits “For when they had opportunity...they must die.”

³⁶ [8:59] Eth, Georg add

³⁷ [8:59] Arm “thing that I stated before”

³⁸ [8:59] Syr / Lat “will receive”

³⁹ [8:59] Eth “things thus now that destruction for them” / Arm “them. And I made man to keep my commands and to avoid eternal death”

7 “It shall be that everyone who will be saved¹ and who will be able to escape by virtue of his works, or by the faith in which he trusted, 8 he will survive² the dangers which have been predicted, and will see my salvation in my land and within the borders,³ which I have set apart for myself from the beginning.⁴ 9 Then those who have abandoned⁵ my ways shall be amazed,⁶ and those who have contemptuously rejected them⁷ shall live in torments. 10 For everyone who failed to acknowledge me in their lifetime, though they received my benefits;⁸ 11 and everyone who scorned my law, while they still had freedom, and, while the opportunity⁹ for a change-of-mind¹⁰ was still open to them, nevertheless failed to understand it, even scorned it, 12 these must acknowledge it¹¹ by torment¹² after death.¹³ 13 Therefore, do not continue to be inquisitive about how the wicked will be afflicted; but inquire how the righteous will live,¹⁴ those to whom the age belongs and for whose sake the age was made.”¹⁵

14 I answered and said, 15 “I said before, and I say now, and will say it again:¹⁶ the lost are more numerous than those who will live,¹⁷ 16 as a wave¹⁸ is greater than a drop¹⁹ of water.”

17 He answered me and said, “As is the field,²⁰ so is the seed; and as are the flowers, so are the colors;²¹ and as is the work, so is the product;²² and as is the farmer, so is the threshing floor.²³ 18 And then there was a time in this age²⁴ when I was preparing for those who now exist, before the age²⁵ was made for them to live in, and no one opposed me then, for no one existed; 19 but now those who have been created in this ordered²⁶ world, though supplied with both an unfailing table and an inexhaustible pasture,²⁷ have become corrupt in their conduct.²⁸ 20 So I considered my world,²⁹ and saw that it was lost. I saw that my earth was in peril because of the devices³⁰ of those who had come into it. 21 And I saw, and spared some³¹ with great difficulty,³² and saved for myself one grape out of a cluster, and one plant³³ out of a great forest.³⁴ 22 So let the multitude which has been born in vain³⁵ perish, but let my grape and my plant be saved, because with much labor I have perfected them.³⁶

23 “Now wait another seven days; however, do not fast during them,³⁷ 24 but go into a field of flowers³⁸ where no house has been built, and eat only of the flowers³⁹ of the field, and taste no meat and drink no wine, but eat only flowers.⁴⁰ 25 If you will do this and pray to the Most High without ceasing,⁴¹ then I will come and speak with you.”

26 So I went, as he directed me, into the field called Ardat.⁴² There I sat among the flowers and ate of the plants⁴³ of the field, and the nourishment they afforded satisfied⁴⁴ me. 27 And it came to pass⁴⁵ after seven days, while I lay on

¹ [9:7] Syr “who will survive”

² [9:8] Syr “he will be spared from”

³ [9:9] Ar1 “mountain”

⁴ [9:8] Eth, Georg “from this world”

⁵ [9:9] Lat “abused”

⁶ [9:9] Eth “purified”

⁷ [9:9] Syr “have held in contempt and rejected them” / Eth “have scorned my commands and held me in contempt” / other Eth “who have rejected them with fear” / Ar1 “who have rejected them with my fear”

⁸ [9:10] Syr “though I was good to them”

⁹ [9:11] Lat / Syr, Eth “while a place”

¹⁰ [9:11] Syr, Eth “patience”

¹¹ [9:12] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar1 “me”

¹² [9:12] Ar1 / Syr, Eth omit “by torment”

¹³ [9:8–12] Ar2 omits “in my land and within...after death.” / Arm omits “and, while the opportunity...after death.”

¹⁴ [9:13] Syr / Lat, Ar1 “will be saved”

¹⁵ [9:13] Syr / Lat “saved, and whose is the age and for whose sake the age was made and when”

¹⁶ [9:15] Syr omits “I said before” / Eth omits “and will say it again”

¹⁷ [9:15] Syr / Lat, Ar1 “than the saved”

¹⁸ [9:16] Syr / Eth, Ar1 “flood”

¹⁹ [Ezra9:16] Syr “a little drop” / Eth “than drops” / Ar1 “than raindrops”

²⁰ [9:17] Syr “place” / Eth, Ar1 “land”

²¹ [9:17] Lat, Syr / Eth omits “and as are the flowers, so are the colors”

²² [9:17] Lat / Syr “odor” / Eth, Georg, Ar1 “sentence” / Arm, Ar2 “reward”

²³ [9:17] Lat / Syr “the harvest” / Ar2 “every man will be chastised for his own deed”

²⁴ [9:18] Lat / Eth “For...these days” / Syr “For in the time of the age” / Lat(M) adds “before”

²⁵ [9:18] Lat / others “before they came into being, the age”

²⁶ [9:19] Syr adds

²⁷ [9:19] Emendation / Lat, Syr “law”

²⁸ [9:19] Syr “their works” / Ar “their evil deeds”

²⁹ [9:20] most Lat, Syr / Eth “the world” / Ar1 “this world” / Lat(S) omits altogether

³⁰ [9:20] Syr “of their perverseness” / Eth, Ar1 “of their deeds”

³¹ [9:21] Lat “them”

³² [9:21] Lat(S) omits “difficulty”

³³ [9:21] Syr / Lat “cutting”

³⁴ [9:21] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat “tribe”

³⁵ [9:22] Syr “born because it is useless”

³⁶ [9:22] Syr “are created” / Eth “increased” / Ar1 “prepared”

³⁷ [9:23] Eth, Ar1 “, and fast” / Arm omits altogether

³⁸ [9:24] Eth, Arm omit “of flowers”

³⁹ [9:24] Eth “fruit”

⁴⁰ [9:24] Syr “only fruit of trees” / Ar1 “only fragrant herbs” / Ar2 adds “stalks of grass” / Eth “only fruit”

⁴¹ [9:25] Syr, Ar1 “High zealously” / Ar2 “High zealously and humbly”

⁴² [9:26] Lat(S**) / Lat(A) “Ardad” / Lat(C) “Ardas” / Lat(M) “Ardaf” / Lat(L) “Ardaph” / Syr, Eth “Arpad” / Arm “Ardab” / Ar1 “Araab”

⁴³ [9:26] Lat / Syr “roots”

⁴⁴ [9:26] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) “filled”

⁴⁵ [9:27] Lat, Syr, Eth, Arm / others omit “it came to pass”

the grass, my heart was troubled again⁴⁶ as it had been before. 28 Then my mouth was opened,⁴⁷ and I began to speak before the Most High, and said:⁴⁸

29 “O Lord, you indeed revealed yourself among us,⁴⁹ to our ancestors in the desert of Sinai.⁵⁰ When they came out from Egypt, and when they came⁵¹ into the untrodden⁵² and unfruitful desert,⁵³ 30 you said to them,⁵⁴ ‘Hear me, O Israel, and give heed to my words, O seed of Jacob.’⁵⁵ 31 For I am sowing my law in you, and it shall bring forth fruit of righteousness⁵⁶ in you, and you shall be eternally glorified⁵⁷ through it.”

32 “However, our fathers who received the law did not keep it nor did they observe⁵⁸ the⁵⁹ statutes; nevertheless the fruit of the law did not perish—for it could not perish,⁶⁰ because it was yours. 33 Yet those who received it perished, because they did not keep what had been sown in them.⁶¹ 34 And behold,⁶² this is the rule that, when the ground has received seed, or the sea a ship, or any dish some food or drink placed in it,⁶³ and when it happens that what was sown, or what was launched, or what was put in⁶⁴ is destroyed, 35 they are destroyed,⁶⁵ but the vessels which held them remain; yet with us it has not been so.⁶⁶ 36 For we who have received the law and sinned will perish, as well as our hearts which received it; 37 however, the⁶⁷ law does not perish but endures in its glory.”⁶⁸

38 When I said these things in my heart, I looked around,⁶⁹ and beheld⁷⁰ on my right⁷¹ I saw a woman; she was mourning and weeping with a loud voice, and was deeply grieved in her soul;⁷² her clothes were torn, her hair was disheveled and her curls plucked out,⁷³ and there were ashes on her head. 39 Then I dismissed the thoughts which I had been occupied with,⁷⁴ and turned my face⁷⁵ toward her 40 and said to her, “Why are you weeping, and⁷⁶ why are you grieved in soul?”

41 She answered and⁷⁷ said to me, “My lord, allow me to weep for myself and continue to⁷⁸ mourn, for I am greatly embittered in soul and deeply distressed. For the lamentation of my heart is full of bitterness for me, and I have fallen into much humility and disrepute.”⁷⁹

42 I said to her, “What has happened to you? Tell me.”

43 And she said to me, “Your servant was barren and had no child, though I lived with my husband⁸⁰ for thirty years. 44 And so⁸¹ every day and every hour⁸² for thirty years I beseeched the Most High,⁸³ night and day to give fruit to my womb.⁸⁴ 45 And it came to pass⁸⁵ after thirty years God heard your handmaid,⁸⁶ and looked upon my disgrace, and considered my distress,⁸⁷ and gave me a son. I rejoiced greatly over him, I along with my husband and all my citizens;⁸⁸ and we gave great glory to the Mighty One.⁸⁹ 46 And I brought him up with great pains and he attained maturity.⁹⁰ 47 And it came to pass⁹¹ after he had grown up, I

⁴⁶ [9:27] Syr “my heart began to be troubled” / Ar2 “I began to feel in my heart”

⁴⁷ [9:28] Lat, Syr, Ar2, Arm / Eth, Ar1 “I opened my mouth”

⁴⁸ [9:29] Syr, Eth “Lord, my Lord”

⁴⁹ [9:29] Lat adds

⁵⁰ [9:29] Syr adds

⁵¹ [9:29] Syr, Arm “and traversed” / Eth “and”

⁵² [9:29] Ar1, Arm “waterless”

⁵³ [9:29] Syr adds “a land”

⁵⁴ [9:30] Syr, Ar2, Arm add

⁵⁵ [9:30] Eth omits “O seed of Jacob”

⁵⁶ [9:31] Syr adds

⁵⁷ [9:31] Arm “, and I shall be glorified in you”

⁵⁸ [9:32] Lat(C), Syr / Lat(S,A) “keep”

⁵⁹ [9:32] Lat “my”

⁶⁰ [9:32] Lat(-L) / others add

⁶¹ [9:33] Ar1, Ar2 omit “what had been sown in them”

⁶² [9:34] Syr, Eth omit “behold”

⁶³ [9:33–35] Syr, some Eth “food placed in it” / other Eth “food or drink placed in it” / Arm omits “Yet those who received it perished...has not been so.”

⁶⁴ [9:34] Syr omits “what was sown or” / Eth omits “what was launched or” / Ar1 omits “or what was

launched, or what was put in”

⁶⁵ [9:35] Lat / others omit “they are destroyed”

⁶⁶ [9:32–36] Syr omits “with us” / Arm omits “nor did they...not been so.” having only “because of that they perished”

⁶⁷ [9:37] Syr, Ar2, Arm “your” / Eth omits “For we who have received...survives in its glory.”

⁶⁸ [9:37] Lat(C,M), Syr / Lat(S,A) “work” // Eth omits “they are destroyed...in its glory”

⁶⁹ [9:38] Syr, Ar, Arm / Lat “I lifted up my eyes”

⁷⁰ [9:38] Lat adds

⁷¹ [9:38] Ar2, Arm omits “on...right”

⁷² [9:38] Lat, Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Ar2, Arm omits “in soul”

⁷³ [9:38] Ar2 adds

⁷⁴ [9:38] Lat(M) omits “that I had been occupied with”

⁷⁵ [9:39] Ar1 adds

⁷⁶ [9:40] Lat(C) omits “Why are you weeping, and”

⁷⁷ [9:41] Syr, Arm add

⁷⁸ [9:41] Lat(C) “resign myself to”

⁷⁹ [9:41] Ar1 adds

⁸⁰ [9:43] Syr, Ar, Eth / Lat, Arm “though I was married”

⁸¹ [9:44] Ar1, Ar2, Arm omit “And so”

⁸² [9:44] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Arm / Lat “every hour and every day”

⁸³ [9:44] Lat, Syr, Eth, Arm / Ar1 “beseeched God” / Ar2 “beseeched the Lord”

⁸⁴ [9:44] Ar1 adds / Ar2 instead adds “since no child was vouchsafed me”

⁸⁵ [9:45] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit “it came to pass”

⁸⁶ [9:45] Eth, Ar1 “heard his handmaid” / Ar2 “heard me”

⁸⁷ [9:45] Ar2 omits “and looked upon...distress”

⁸⁸ [9:45] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar1 “all the children of my city”

⁸⁹ [9:45] Lat, Syr / Eth, Arm “to God” / Ar1 “to God the Mighty One” / Ar2 “to the Most High”

⁹⁰ [9:46] Ar2, Arm “And we brought him up with great pains and he attained maturity”

⁹¹ [9:47] some Lat, Arm adds

came¹ to take a wife for him, and I set a day for the marriage feast and a great banquet.²

CHAPTER 10

“But it happened, that when my son entered his secret³ wedding chamber, he fell over and died. **2** So all of us⁴ extinguished the⁵ lamps, and all of my citizens⁶ rose⁷ to console me; I remained quiet until the evening of the second day. **3** But it came to pass⁸ when all of them had ceased consoling me, encouraging me to be quiet,⁹ I arose in the night and fled, and I came to this field, as you see.¹⁰ **4** And I am not going to return to the¹¹ city, but will remain here; and I will neither eat nor drink, but will mourn and fast incessantly until I die.”

5 Then I broke off the ponderings¹² which I had been occupied with until now, and answered indignantly¹³ and said, **6** “You most foolish of women,¹⁴ do you not see our plight, and what has happened to us? **7** For Zion, the mother of us all, is in deep grief¹⁵ and great distress. **8** It is most appropriate to mourn now, because all of us are mourning,¹⁶ and to be sorrowful, because all of us are sorrowing.¹⁷ However, you are sorrowing for one son,¹⁸ but we, over the whole world, for our mother.¹⁹

9 “Now ask the earth, and she will tell you that she is the one who ought to mourn over so many who germinate²⁰ upon her. **10** And from the beginning²¹ all have been born of her, and others will come;²² and, behold, almost²³ all walk straight to perdition, and a great number of them will come to doom. **11** Who then ought to mourn the more, she who lost so great²⁴ a number, or you who are grieving for one son alone?²⁵

12 “But should you say to me,²⁶ ‘My lamentation is not like the earth’s sadness,²⁷ for I have lost the fruit of my womb, which I brought forth in pain and bore²⁸ in sorrow; **13** whereas the earth *generates* in its own way²⁹—the multitude³⁰ who is currently in it goes out as it came in’,³¹ **14** then³² I would say to you, ‘Just as you gave birth in travail, so from the beginning, the earth also has given her fruit, *that is*, a human, to him who created her.’³³ **15** Now, therefore, keep your sorrow to yourself,³⁴ and bravely bear the calamities and judgment³⁵ which have come upon you. **16** For if you acknowledge the decree of³⁶ God who sees you³⁷ to be right, you will receive your son back in due time, and will be highly extolled among women. **17** Therefore go into the city to your husband.”

18 She said to me, “I will not do so; nor will I enter into the city and not to my husband,³⁸ but I will die here in this field.³⁹

19 So I spoke to her further, and said, **20** “Do not do that thing,⁴⁰ but let yourself be persuaded⁴¹—for how many are the calamities of Zion?—and be consoled because of the distress of Jerusalem. **21** For you see how our holy-place⁴² has been demolished, our altar⁴³ thrown down, our temple destroyed,⁴⁴ **22**

our harp⁴⁵ has been laid low, our hymns have been silenced, and our rejoicing has been ended; the light of our lampstand⁴⁶ has been extinguished, the ark of our covenant has been plundered, our holy things⁴⁷ have been polluted, and the name by which we are called⁴⁸ has been profaned; our children⁴⁹ have suffered abuse, our priests have been burned, our Levites⁵⁰ have gone into exile, our virgins have been defiled,⁵¹ and our women have been ravished; our righteous-ones⁵² have been carried off, our little⁵³ ones have been cast out, our juveniles have been enslaved, and our strong *men* rendered impotent. **23** And, worst of all, the seal of Zion has been deprived of its glory, and given over into⁵⁴ the hands of those who hate us. **24** Therefore shake off your great sadness and lay aside your many sorrows,⁵⁵ so that the Mighty One may be merciful to you again,⁵⁶ and the Most High may give you rest, a respite⁵⁷ from your troubles.”

25 And it came to pass,⁵⁸ while I was speaking to her, her face suddenly⁵⁹ began to shine exceedingly; her countenance flashed like lightning,⁶⁰ and her form so fearsome⁶¹ that I was too frightened to approach her, and my heart was terrified. While⁶² I was wondering what this meant, **26** behold,⁶³ she suddenly uttered a fearful cry so loud that the earth shook at the⁶⁴ sound. **27** When I looked up, the woman was no longer visible to me, but there was an established city⁶⁵ at the place upon conspicuously massive foundations.

I was afraid, and cried with a loud voice and said, **28** “Where is the messenger Uriel, who came to me at first?⁶⁶ For it was he who brought overpowering bewilderment upon me,⁶⁷ my end⁶⁸ has become corruption, and my prayer a reproach.”

29 While I was speaking these words,⁶⁹ behold,⁷⁰ the messenger who had first come to me, came to me *once more*. **30** And when he saw me lying there like a corpse, deprived of my senses, he grasped my right hand and supported me and set me on my feet, and said to me, **31** “What is the matter with you? And why are you troubled? And why is your mind confused and the thoughts of your heart troubled?”

32 I said to him,⁷¹ “It was because you deserted me. For I followed your directions,⁷² and went out⁷³ into the field; and behold,⁷⁴ I saw, and can still see,⁷⁵ what is impossible for me to explain.”

33 He said to me, “Stand up like a man,⁷⁶ and I will instruct you.”

34 I said, “Speak, my lord; only do not forsake me, lest I die before my time.⁷⁷

35 For I have seen what I did not know,⁷⁸ and I hear⁷⁹ what I do not understand—**36** or is my mind deceived,⁸⁰ and my soul dreaming?⁸¹ **37** Now therefore I your servant⁸² beg you to give your servant an explanation of this bewildering vision.”⁸³

38 He answered me and said, “Listen to me, and I will teach you, and I will inform you⁸⁴ about the things which you fear; for the Most High has revealed many secrets⁸⁵ to you. **39** He has seen your righteous conduct, and that you have

¹ [9:47] Arm, “we desired” / Eth, Ar1 omit

² [9:47] Syr adds

³ [10:1] Ar1 adds

⁴ [10:2] Lat / others “So we”

⁵ [10:2] Lat / Syr / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “our”

⁶ [10:2] Lat / Syr “and all the sons of my city” / others “and all the people of my [the] city”

⁷ [10:2] Lat, Ar “attempted” / Eth, Ar1 “began”

⁸ [10:3] Lat, Arm adds

⁹ [10:3] Lat, Arm / Syr “when all of them had fallen asleep and believed that I too had fallen asleep” / Ar2 “those who were with me believed that I no longer thought of them and fell asleep”

¹⁰ [10:3] Eth omits “as you see”

¹¹ [10:4] Ar1, Ar2 “my”

¹² [10:5] Lat, Arm “words”

¹³ [10:5] Eth, Ar2 omits “indignantly”

¹⁴ [10:6] Syr “You are very unwise, O woman”

¹⁵ [10:7] Arm “all, Jerusalem is groaning greatly”

¹⁶ [10:8] Syr, Ar1 / Lat(C) “distress, wailing bitterly. So there is reason for all of us to mourn” / Eth omits “because all of us are mourning”

¹⁷ [10:8] Syr omits “and to be sorrowful, because all of us are sorrowing”

¹⁸ [10:8] Syr / Ambrose “And now, while all of us mourn and are sorrowful, while all of us are gloomy, you are in fact gloomy over a son.”

¹⁹ [10:8] Syr / others omit “but we, over the whole world, for our mother”

²⁰ [10:9] Syr, Ar1 “who are” / Eth “who are born”

²¹ [10:10] Lat(M), Vul / others “and in the beginning” / Eth “and from of old”

²² [10:10] Syr “all who have been and the others who will come”

²³ [10:10] Lat / others omit “almost”

²⁴ [10:11] Lat, Arm / Eth “so many” / Syr “this great”

²⁵ [10:11] Lat(M), Arm add “son” / Ar1 “for your only son”

²⁶ [10:12] Eth, Ar1 omit “to me” / Ar2 “Then she said”

²⁷ [10:12] Lat, Syr / others add

²⁸ [10:12] Lat (Syr similar) / others omit “bore”

²⁹ [10:13] Syr “*generates* according to the nature of the earth”

³⁰ [10:13] Arm “grief”

³¹ [10:13] Syr “who came to her passes away as it came”

³² [10:14] Lat, Arm “and”

³³ [10:14] Lat(A*), Syr, Ar1 “him” / Arm “the earth”

³⁴ [10:15] Arm “place”

³⁵ [10:15] Eth, Ar1 adds

³⁶ [10:16] Eth omits “the decree of”

³⁷ [10:16] Eth adds

³⁸ [10:18] Syr adds

³⁹ [10:18] Ar2 adds

⁴⁰ [10:20] some add “thing” / Syr “No woman! No woman!”

⁴¹ [10:20] Ar1 “but console your heart”

⁴² [10:21] Syr “holy-places”

⁴³ [10:21] Syr “altars”

⁴⁴ [10:21] Eth omits “holy-place has been demolished....down, our” / Ar1, Arm omit “our temple destroyed”

⁴⁵ [10:22] Syr, Eth “psalm”

⁴⁶ [10:22] Syr “menorah”

⁴⁷ [10:22] Eth, Ar1, Ar “thing” / Syr “men”

⁴⁸ [10:22] Lat “and the name which has been named over us” / Eth “and our name”

⁴⁹ [10:22] Eth “free men”

⁵⁰ [10:22] Ar2 omits “our priests” & “our Levites”

⁵¹ [10:22] Eth “killed”

⁵² [10:22] Syr “our seers”

⁵³ [10:22] Syr “righteous”

⁵⁴ [10:23] Syr / Eth “, Zion is sealed and her glory has been withdrawn from her” / Ar1 “, the seal that was in Zion has been trampled and made inglorious” / Ar2 “the dissolution of the glory of Zion” / Arm “Zion was rejected like a worthless vessel and her glory was taken away”

⁵⁵ [10:24] Syr omits “and lay aside your many sorrows”

⁵⁶ [10:24] Lat adds

⁵⁷ [10:24] Lat adds

⁵⁸ [10:25] Lat, Syr, Arm, Eth / Ar1, Ar2 omit “And it came to pass”

⁵⁹ [10:25] Syr, Arm omit “suddenly”

⁶⁰ [10:25] Syr “countenance was the likeness of lightning”

⁶¹ [10:25] Arm adds “and her form so fearsome”

⁶² [10:25] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat omits “I was too frightened....While”

⁶³ [10:26] Lat, Ar1 / Arm “and” / Ar2 “then” / Syr, Eth omit altogether

⁶⁴ [10:26] Lat, Ar1 / others “her”

⁶⁵ [10:27] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm / Lat “but a city was being built”

⁶⁶ [10:28] Syr, Arm “me on the first day”

⁶⁷ [10:28] Eth “investigations” instead of “bewilderment” / Arm, Ar1 “brought me into this place of overpowering bewilderment”

⁶⁸ [10:28] Lat(S,C,M), Syr, Eth Ar1 / Lat(A) “weeping”

⁶⁹ [10:29] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “in this way” / Lat “this” / Arm omits altogether

⁷⁰ [10:29] most / some Lat, Eth add / most Lat, Arm add it later

⁷¹ [10:32] Lat(L), Syr, Georg, Ar1 / most Lat, Ar2, Arm omit “to him”

⁷² [10:32] Lat, Ar1 “followed your words” / Arm “followed your word” / Ar2 omits

⁷³ [10:32] Syr omits “went out”

⁷⁴ [10:32] Ar1, Ar2 omit “behold”

⁷⁵ [10:32] Lat(C,M,N,V), Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit “and can still see”

⁷⁶ [10:33] Lat, Eth, Ar1, Arm / Syr “Stand upon your feet”

⁷⁷ [10:34] Syr, Eth, Ar / Lat, Arm “die to no purpose”

⁷⁸ [10:35] Eth, Ar1, Arm “I have not seen”

⁷⁹ [10:35] Lat(S,A), Syr / Lat(C,M), Eth, Ar “and I have heard”

⁸⁰ [10:36] Syr “or is my mind deceiving me” / Ar1, Ar2 omit altogether

⁸¹ [10:36] Arm “astounded”

⁸² [10:37] Ar1 adds

⁸³ [10:37] Syr / Lat “of this confusion” / some Eth “of all” / Ar1 “of this hidden speech” / Arm “of these wonders” / Eth, Ar2 “of this”

⁸⁴ [10:38] Lat, Syr, Ar1, Ar2 / Eth, Arm omit “and I will inform you”

⁸⁵ [10:38] Eth “revealed a hidden secret” / Ar1 “revealed a mighty secret” / Ar2 “revealed a secret”

been greatly disturbed concerning your people,¹ and that you have sorrowed incessantly² for your people and mourned greatly over Zion. **40** Therefore, this is the meaning of the vision.³ **41** The woman who appeared to you a little while ago, whom you saw mourning⁴ and whom you began to console **42** (you do not now see the form of a woman, but an established city⁵ appeared to you there) **43** and who told you about the misfortune of her son—this is the interpretation:⁶

44 “The woman whom you saw is Zion, which you now see as a finished city.⁷ **45** When she informed you about herself⁸ that she⁹ was barren for 30¹⁰ years, the reason is that for 3000¹¹ years no offerings were offered in her. **46** And it came to pass¹² after 3000¹³ years Solomon built the city wall of Jerusalem and built the temple,¹⁴ and offered offerings in it,¹⁵ then it was that the barren woman bore a son. **47** And when she told you that she had exercised great care in his upbringing,¹⁶ that was *the period of residence in Jerusalem*. **48** And when she told you, ‘My son died as he entered his wedding chamber,’ and that misfortune had overtaken her,¹⁷ this was the destruction which befell Jerusalem. **49** And behold,¹⁸ you saw her likeness,¹⁹ how she mourned for her son,²⁰ and you began to console her because of what had happened to her. These were the things to be opened to you.²¹

50 “So when the Most High saw that your entire²² soul was grieved and that your entire²³ heart was distressed for her, he showed to you the brilliance of her glory, and the loveliness of her beauty. **51** Therefore I told you to remain²⁴ in the field where no house had been built, **52** for I knew that the Most High would reveal all²⁵ these things to you. **53** Therefore I told you to go into the field²⁶ where there was no building foundation, **54** because no edifice of human construction could stand in the place where the city of the Most High was to be revealed.²⁷

55 “Therefore do not be afraid, and do not let your heart be terrified; but go in and see the splendor²⁸ or²⁹ the vastness of the building of that city,³⁰ as far as it is possible for your eyes to see it. **56** And afterward you will hear as much as your ears are capable of hearing. **57** For you are more blessed than many, and you have been called to be with³¹ the Most High as few *have been*. **58** But you must remain here tomorrow night, **59** and the Most High will show to you in those dream visions³² what the Most High will do to the inhabitants of the earth in the last days.”

So I slept there³³ that night and the following one, as he had directed me.

CHAPTER 11

And it came to pass³⁴ on the second night I had a dream:³⁵ and I saw³⁶ an eagle in its exceeding greatness³⁷ rising out from the sea. It had twelve³⁸ feathered³⁹ wings and three heads. **2** And as I watched, I saw it spread out its wings⁴⁰ over⁴¹ the whole earth, so that all the winds of heaven blew upon it, and the clouds⁴²

¹ [10:39] Syr adds (a doublet)

² [10:39] Lat, (Arm similar) / others “greatly”

³ [10:40] Lat(C,M,N) / Lat(V,L), Syr, Eth “this is the word” / Arm “these are the words”

⁴ [10:41] Lat, Ar1 / Syr, others “who was mourning”

⁵ [10:42] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm / Lat “but a city being built”

⁶ [10:41–43] Eth, Arm omit “this is the interpretation” / Ar2 omits “whom you saw mourning...interpretation”

⁷ [10:44] Lat / others “as a city being built”

⁸ [10:45] Syr adds

⁹ [10:45] Eth, Ar1, Arm “I”

¹⁰ [10:45] most Lat “3”

¹¹ [10:45] Lat(A*), Syr, Eth, Ar / Lat(C,M) “3” / Arm “many”

¹² [10:46] Lat, Syr add

¹³ [10:46] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat “3” / omitted by Ar2, Arm

¹⁴ [10:46] Lat(L) adds / Ar1, Arm add only “and the temple” / Ar2 replaces “the city” with “an altar”

¹⁵ [10:46] Syr, Ar1, Arm add / Ar2 instead adds “to the Most High”

¹⁶ [10:47] Eth, Ar1 “you, ‘I have exercised great care in his upbringing.’ / Arm omits “And when she...in Jerusalem.”

¹⁷ [10:48] Ar2 / Eth, Ar1 “me” / Arm omits / Syr omits “and that misfortune had overtaken her”

¹⁸ [10:49] Syr, Ar2, Arm omit “behold”

¹⁹ [10:49] Syr / Lat “her figure” / Eth, Arm omit altogether

²⁰ [10:49] Syr, Eth “sons”

²¹ [10:49] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A), Ar1 adds / Ar2 instead adds “And all this God showed and revealed to you.”

²² [10:50] Lat, Ar1 omit “entire”

²³ [10:50] Ar1 omits “entire”

²⁴ [10:51] Syr “to await me” /

²⁵ [10:52] Lat / Syr, others add

²⁶ [10:53] Lat / Eth “go to” / others “go into the place”

²⁷ [10:51,52,54] Ar2 omits “There I told you...things to you.” & “because no work...revealed.”

²⁸ [10:55] Syr “see the light of its glory”

²⁹ [10:55] Lat(S,A,C) / Lat(M), others “and”

³⁰ [11:55] Eth “the strength of its walls” (also omits “as far as it...see it”) / Ar1 adds “of that city”

³¹ [10:57] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar1 “you have been named before” / Arm “you are pleasing before”

³² [10:59] Lat, Eth / Arm “in that dream vision” / Ar1 “in the revelation of the vision” / Ar2 “in the other visions”

³³ [10:59] Lat, Eth / Syr, Ar1, Ar2 add / some Arm “So I fell asleep” / one Arm “So I entered the house”

³⁴ [11:1] Eth, Ar2 omit “And it came to pass”

³⁵ [11:1] Syr, Ar1 “I had a vision” / Ar2, Arm omit altogether

³⁶ [11:1] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit “and I saw”

³⁷ [11:1] Syr “a great eagle in its exceeding greatness”

³⁸ [11:1] Ar2 “ten” (by scribal error)

³⁹ [11:1] Lat adds

⁴⁰ [11:2] Lat, Syr, Ar1 / Eth, Ar2 “it flew with its wings” / Arm “it raised its wings and flew”

⁴¹ [11:2] Ar2, Arm / Lat, Syr, Eth “in”

⁴² [11:2] Syr / Lat, Arm omits “the clouds”

gathered around it.⁴³ **3** Moreover, I watched rival wings spring up out of its wings; and they became little, puny⁴⁴ wings. **4** But its heads were dormant; the middle head was larger than the other heads,⁴⁵ but it too was dormant as they were.

5 And as I watched, I saw the eagle fly⁴⁶ with its wings in order that it might reign over the earth and over its inhabitants. **6** And I saw how everything under heaven was subjected to it, so that no one spoke against it—not a single creature *which was on the earth*.

7 And as I watched, I saw the eagle rise upon its talons, and it uttered a cry to its wings, saying, **8** “Go, take dominion over all the earth, but for now, remain quiet.”⁴⁷ Do not all keep watch at the same time; let each sleep in its own place, and keep watch in its turn, awake from time to time;⁴⁸ **9** but let the heads be reserved till last.”

10 And as I watched, I saw that⁴⁹ the voice did not come from its heads, but from the middle of its body. **11** I counted its rival⁵⁰ wings,⁵¹ and I saw that⁵² there were eight.

12 As I watched, I saw⁵³ one wing on the right side rise up, and it reigned over all the earth.⁵⁴ **13** Then after a time,⁵⁵ its reign came to an end, and it disappeared, so that even its place⁵⁶ was no longer visible. Then the next wing rose up and reigned, and it continued to reign a long⁵⁷ time. **14** And it came to pass⁵⁸ as its reign⁵⁹ came to its end, it disappeared like *its predecessor*. **15** And a voice spoke to it, saying, **16** “Listen to me,⁶⁰ you who have ruled the earth all this time;⁶¹ I announce this⁶² to you before you disappear. **17** After you no one shall rule as long as you *have ruled*,⁶³ not even half as long.”

18 Then the third wing raised itself up, and held the rule over all the earth⁶⁴ as *its predecessors had done*, but as its predecessors, it also disappeared. **19** And so it went with all the wings; they wielded power one after another and then were never seen⁶⁵ again.⁶⁶ **20** As I kept watching, I saw in due time the other wings⁶⁷ also rising up on⁶⁸ the right⁶⁹ side, in order to rule the earth.⁷⁰ Some of them ruled, yet disappeared at once;⁷¹ **21** while others of them rose up, but did not hold the rule.

22 And after this, as I watched, I saw that the twelve wings and the two little wings⁷² had disappeared, **23** so that nothing remained on the eagle’s body except the three dormant heads and six little wings⁷³ which came out and arose above the twelve wings and were exalted.⁷⁴

24 And as I watched, I saw⁷⁵ two of the six little wings disengage themselves *from the rest*⁷⁶ and remain under the head which was on the right side; but four remained in their place. **25** And as I watched, I saw⁷⁷ that these four⁷⁸ underwings⁷⁹ planned to set themselves up to hold the rule. **26** And as I watched, I saw⁸⁰ one set itself up, but it disappeared at once; **27** a second also, and this disappeared more quickly than the preceding one.⁸¹

28 And as I watched, I saw that⁸² the two remaining ones were planning between themselves to reign together,⁸³ **29** and while they were planning to reign

⁴³ [11:2] Syr (compared Eth, Ar) / Lat “and were gathered.”

⁴⁴ [11:3] Syr “became minute, small, little”

⁴⁵ [11:4] Syr “than these others” / Eth “that its two other heads” / Ar1 “than all the heads” / Ar2, Arm “than the others”

⁴⁶ [11:5] Syr “command” / Ar2 “spread out” / Arm “rise up”

⁴⁷ [11:8] Syr adds

⁴⁸ [11:8] Syr adds

⁴⁹ [11:10] Lat, Arm / others omit “I saw that”

⁵⁰ [11:11] Syr “little”

⁵¹ [11:11] Eth “heads”

⁵² [11:11] Lat adds

⁵³ [11:12] Eth, Ar2, Arm omit “I saw”

⁵⁴ [11:12] Ar1 “and it circled over the face of the earth”

⁵⁵ [11:13] Eth / Lat “And it came to pass” / Arm “And while this took place” / Syr “And I saw”

⁵⁶ [11:13] Ar1 “track”

⁵⁷ [11:13] most / Lat(A) omits “long”

⁵⁸ [11:14] Lat, Syr add

⁵⁹ [11:14] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “as it”

⁶⁰ [11:16] Ar2 omits “Listen to me”

⁶¹ [11:16] Eth “earth so long a time” / Ar1 “earth this long time” / Ar2 “earth a long time”

⁶² [11:16] Syr “I will announce this announcement”

⁶³ [11:17] Lat “rule your time”

⁶⁴ [11:18] Eth “and ruled” / Syr adds

⁶⁵ [11:19] Lat, Ar2 / Syr, Eth, Arm “and disappeared”

⁶⁶ [11:19] Syr, Ar1 omit “again”

⁶⁷ [11:20] Syr, Ar2 “the little wings”

⁶⁸ [11:20] Lat “to” / Syr, Eth, Arm “from” / Ar1, Ar2 omit

⁶⁹ [11:20] most / five Eth “left” / Ar omits

⁷⁰ [11:20] Syr adds

⁷¹ [11:20] Eth omits “yet disappeared at once”

⁷² [11:22] Eth “and the two heads” / Ar2 omits altogether

⁷³ [11:23] Eth “and its six heads” / Ar2, Arm omit altogether

⁷⁴ [11:23] Ar1 adds

⁷⁵ [11:24] Eth, Ar2 omit “And as I watched, I saw”

⁷⁶ [11:24] Eth “that two disengaged themselves from the six heads” / Syr omits “six” / Ar1 “that two disengaged themselves from these elegant ones” / Ar2 “that two of the seven little wings disengaged themselves from the rest”

⁷⁷ [11:25] Lat, Syr / Arm “And I saw” / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit altogether

⁷⁸ [11:25] Lat, Ar1 / Syr, Eth, Arm add

⁷⁹ [11:25] Lat / Syr, Eth, Arm “little wings”

⁸⁰ [11:26] Lat, Syr, Arm / Ar1 “And I saw” / Eth omits altogether

⁸¹ [11:27] Arm, Ar2 omit “a second also...preceding one”

⁸² [11:28] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth omits “And as I watched, I saw that” / Ar1, Ar2 omit “I saw that”

⁸³ [11:28] Lat adds

over the earth.¹ I saw² one of the dormant heads (the one which was in the middle and larger than the other two) suddenly awake. **30** And I saw how the two heads were conjoined with it, **31** and how³ the head, along with both of⁴ its conjoiners, turned and devoured the two little wings⁵ which were planning to reign. **32** Moreover this head subdued the whole earth, and with much oppression dominated⁶ its inhabitants; it exercised greater power over the world than all the wings which had preceded it.

33 And after this, as I watched, I saw the head in the middle suddenly⁷ disappear, just as the wings had done. **34** However, the two other⁸ heads remained, those which, in like manner, also ruled over the whole⁹ earth and all¹⁰ its inhabitants. **35** And as I watched, I saw the head on the right side devour the one on the left.

36 Then I heard a voice saying to me, “Look in front of you, Ezra,¹¹ and contemplate what you see at the end.”¹²

37 And as I watched, I saw what appeared to be¹³ a raging lion, craving and¹⁴ roaring as it came out of the forest; and I heard it talk with a human voice to the eagle.¹⁵ And it spoke, saying to him,¹⁶ **38** “Listen and I will speak to you, O eagle.”¹⁷ The Most High says to you, **39** ‘Are you not the only one who remains of the four beasts whom I had appointed to reign¹⁸ in my¹⁹ age; so that through them, the end of the²⁰ times might come? **40** You are the fourth who has come, and you²¹ have conquered all the preceding beasts; and you have held sway over the age with great terror,²² and over all the earth with grievous oppression;²³ and for so long you have lived on the earth with deceit. **41** You have judged the earth, but not with truth, **42** for you have oppressed the meek and injured the peaceable; you have hated those who speak the truth, and have loved liars; you have destroyed the fortifications²⁴ of the fruit-bearers,²⁵ and have laid low the walls of those who did you no harm. **43** Your insolence has come up before the Most High, and your pride²⁶ to the Mighty One. **44** The Most High has considered his times; now they have ended, and his ages have reached completion. **45** Therefore you, eagle, will surely disappear, you and your terrifying²⁷ wings, your most evil little wings, your malicious heads, your ghastly talons, and your whole sinister²⁸ body. **46** Thus the whole earth, freed from your violence, may be refreshed and relieved. Then it may hope for the judgment and mercy of him who made it.’”

CHAPTER 12

While the lion²⁹ was speaking these words to the eagle, I watched, **2** and I saw that the remaining head had suddenly³⁰ disappeared. Then the two wings which had gone over to it rose up and³¹ set themselves up to reign, but their reign was brief³² and full of tumult.³³ **3** And as I watched, I saw that³⁴ they were already vanishing. And the whole body of the eagle went up in flames, and the earth was aghast.

And because my mind was filled with great aberration and because I was trembling with³⁵ great fear, I awoke. And I said to my spirit, **4** “You have brought this upon me, because you search out the ways of the Most High. **5** Behold, I am fatigued in soul and feeble in my spirit, and not even a little³⁶ strength is left in

¹ [11:29] Syr adds

² [11:29] Ar2, Arm omit “I saw”

³ [11:30-31] Lat, Ar1, (Eth, Arm have “Then” instead of “And I saw how”) / Syr omits the first part / Ar2 omits “I saw how...with it” and has “then” instead of “and how”

⁴ [11:31] Syr, Ar1, Ar2 add

⁵ [11:31] Syr / Lat “the underwings”

⁶ [11:32] Syr, Eth “and humiliated” / Ar2 “and tormented”

⁷ [11:33] Lat, Syr / others omit “suddenly”

⁸ [11:34] Ar1, Ar2 add

⁹ [11:34] Syr, Ar1 add

¹⁰ [11:34] Ar1, Ar2 add

¹¹ [11:36] Syr adds

¹² [11:36] Syr adds

¹³ [11:37] Eth, Ar2 omit “what appeared to be”

¹⁴ [11:37] Syr, Arm add

¹⁵ [11:37] Ar2 omits “a human voice to the eagle”

¹⁶ [11:37] Lat(S,A*) / Syr “saying to him” / Ar1 “to him” / most Lat, others omit altogether

¹⁷ [11:38] Syr adds

¹⁸ [11:39] Ar1 “made from the beginning”

¹⁹ [11:39] Lat, Syr, Arm / others omit “my”

²⁰ [11:39] Lat “my” / Ar2 “all”

²¹ [11:40] all / Lat “he” (in error?)

²² [11:40] Syr “pains”

²³ [11:40] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar1 omit “over all the earth with grievous” / Arm omits “and over all the earth with grievous oppression”

²⁴ [11:42] Lat “habitations”

²⁵ [11:42] Lat / Eth “the righteous” / Arm “the mighty”

²⁶ [11:43] Syr omits “your pride”

²⁷ [11:45] Syr “highest”

²⁸ [12:45] Lat “vain”

²⁹ [12:1] Eth “the Merciful One”

³⁰ [12:2] Syr adds

³¹ [12:2] Eth omits “rose up and”

³² [12:2] Syr “ended”

³³ [12:2] Eth omits “but their reign...of tumult”

³⁴ [12:3] Eth, Ar2, Arm omit “as I watched, I saw that”

³⁵ [12:3] Ar1 adds

³⁶ [12:5] Lat, Syr “and no”

me, because of the great fear³⁷ I encountered this night. **6** Therefore I will now entreat the Most High that he may uphold me to the end.”³⁸

7 Then I said, “O Lord, Lord, if I have found favor³⁸ in your sight, and if I have been accounted by you to be more righteous than the many,³⁹ and if you have exalted me beyond my worth,⁴⁰ and if my prayer has indeed come up before your face,⁴¹ **8** uphold me and disclose to me, your servant,⁴² the interpretation and meaning of this terrifying vision which I have seen⁴³ so that you may fully comfort my soul.⁴⁴ **9** For you have judged⁴⁵ me worthy to be shown the end of the times⁴⁶ and the conclusion of the times.”⁴⁷

10 He answered and⁴⁸ said to me, “This is the interpretation of this⁴⁹ vision which you have seen:⁵⁰ **11** The eagle which you saw coming up from the sea is the fourth⁵¹ kingdom which appeared in a vision to your brother Daniel.⁵² **12** But it was not explained to him as I now explain to you or have explained it.⁵³ **13** Indeed, the days are coming when a kingdom shall arise on earth, and it shall be more terrifying than all the kingdoms which have been before it.⁵⁴ **14** And twelve kings shall reign⁵⁵ in it, one after another.⁵⁶ **15** But the second which is to reign shall hold sway for a longer time than any of the other twelve. **16** This is the interpretation of the twelve wings of the eagle⁵⁷ which you saw.

17 “As for the voice you heard⁵⁸ speaking, not coming from its heads but⁵⁹ from the middle of its body, this is the interpretation:⁶⁰ **18** In the middle of⁶¹ that kingdom’s time,⁶² considerable struggles⁶³ shall arise, and it shall be in danger of falling; nevertheless it shall not fall then,⁶⁴ but shall regain its former power.⁶⁵

19 “As for the eight⁶⁶ underwings⁶⁷ which you saw springing from⁶⁸ its wings, this is the interpretation:⁶⁹ **20** Eight kings shall arise in it,⁷⁰ whose times shall be short and their years swift;⁷¹ **21** two of them shall perish when the middle of its time draws near; while four shall be reserved for the time when its end approaches,⁷² but two shall be reserved until the end.

22 “As for the three dormant heads on it,⁷³ this is the interpretation:⁷⁴ **23** At its consummation⁷⁵ the Most High will raise up three kings;⁷⁶ and they⁷⁷ shall renew many things in it,⁷⁸ and shall rule⁷⁹ the earth **24** and its inhabitants more oppressively⁸⁰ than all who were before them. For this reason, they are called the heads of the eagle, **25** because they are the ones who shall be the heads of⁸¹ his wickedness and bring about his end. **26** Concerning the larger⁸² head which you saw disappearing: one of the kings⁸³ shall die in his bed, but in agonies.⁸⁴ **27** But

³⁷ [12:5] Lat(S,A), Syr / Lat(C,M) “terror”

³⁸ [12:7] Lat “if I am righteous”

³⁹ [12:7] Eth “sight, and if I am greatly blessed with you”

⁴⁰ [12:7] Ar1 adds

⁴¹ [12:7] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Ar1 omit “indeed” / Ar2 omit “and if my prayer...face”

⁴² [12:8] Ar1, Ar2 omit “your servant”

⁴³ [12:8] Syr “this vision which I have seen” / Arm “this terrifying vision which I have seen”

⁴⁴ [12:8] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar1 “spirit” / Ar2 adds “my heart”

⁴⁵ [12:9] Lat, Syr, Ar2 (lit. “held”) / Eth, Ar1, Arm “made”

⁴⁶ [12:9] Eth “days” / Arm “years”

⁴⁷ [12:9] Eth “days”

⁴⁸ [12:10] Lat, Eth, Arm / Syr adds / Ar1, Ar2 instead adds “appeared to me and”

⁴⁹ [12:10] Syr “the” / Eth “this your”

⁵⁰ [12:10] Ar2 omits “This...have seen” / Lat(S,A), Eth, Ar2, Arm omits “that you have seen”

⁵¹ [12:11] Lat(S) omits “fourth”

⁵² [12:11] Ar2 “that your brother Daniel, the prophet, saw” / Ar2 “which your brother Daniel saw”

⁵³ [12:12] Eth, Ar1 / Lat, Syr adds

⁵⁴ [12:13] Ar2 “than all the kings of the earth”

⁵⁵ [12:14] Ar1, Ar2 “arise”

⁵⁶ [12:14] Eth omits “one after another”

⁵⁷ [12:16] Ar1 adds

⁵⁸ [12:17] Lat, Arm / Syr, Eth, Ar1 “saw”

⁵⁹ [12:18] Ar2 omits “which did not...but”

⁶⁰ [12:17] Lat / Syr, Eth, Arm “pronouncement” / Ar1 “voice”

⁶¹ [12:18] Lat “after” / Ar1, Ar2, Arm “in”

⁶² [12:18] Syr, Eth, Arm / Lat “After the period of that king’s reign”

⁶³ [12:18] Syr “divisions”

⁶⁴ [12:18] Eth, Ar1 “fall in that time” / Ar2, Arm have only “fall”

⁶⁵ [12:18] Eth, Ar1, Arm / Lat, Syr “its beginning.”

⁶⁶ [12:19] Arm “many” / Eth omits altogether

⁶⁷ [12:19] Lat / Syr “little wings”

⁶⁸ [12:19] Syr, Eth, Ar / Lat “saw clinging to”

⁶⁹ [12:19] Lat / Syr, Eth, Arm “pronouncement” / Ar1 “voice”

⁷⁰ [12:20] Emendation / Lat “arise in time” / Syr, Eth “arise in the kingdom” / Ar2 “arise from the wings” / Arm “arise from it”

⁷¹ [12:20] Eth “whose years will be evil and their days short” / Syr, Ar1, Arm “whose times shall be short and their times swift” / Ar1 “whose days shall be evil and their times short” / Arm “whose times shall be short and their hours swift”

⁷² [12:21] Lat “when her time was approaching when he will begin to end it” / Arm “when the consummation of the time will desire to approach them”

⁷³ [12:22] Lat, Ar1 / others add

⁷⁴ [12:22] Lat, Ar1 / Syr, Eth, Arm “pronouncement”

⁷⁵ [12:23] Lat, Ar1, Arm / Syr “At the end of times” / Ar2 “At the conclusion of time”

⁷⁶ [12:23] Syr, Eth, Ar, Arm / Lat “kingdoms”

⁷⁷ [12:23] Syr, Eth, Arm / Lat “he”

⁷⁸ [12:23] Ar1 “and in their days will be much turmoil and many changes”

⁷⁹ [12:23] Lat / others “oppress”

⁸⁰ [12:24] Ar2 “violently”

⁸¹ [12:25] Lat “shall sum up”

⁸² [12:26] Lat / others “large”

⁸³ [12:26] Lat “of them”

⁸⁴ [12:26] Ar2 omits “but in agonies”

as for the two who remained, the sword shall devour them.¹ **28** For the sword of one shall devour his companion; but in the end, he too shall fall by the sword.

29 “As for the two underwings² which you saw passing over³ to⁴ the head which was on the right side, this is the interpretation:⁵ **30** These are the ones whom the Most High has reserved for its⁶ end; this was the reign which was⁷ brief⁸ and full of tumult, as you have seen.

31 “And concerning the Lion whom you saw roaring out of the forest and speaking to the eagle and reproving him for his unrighteousness, and as for all his words which you have heard:⁹ **32** this is the Anointed One¹⁰ whom the Most High has reserved until the end of days, who will arise from the seed of David, and will come and speak¹¹ with them.¹² He will upbraid them¹³ for their wickedness, and will condemn them for their injustices, and confront them directly with their contemptuous dealings.¹⁴ **33** For first, he will bring them alive for judgment,¹⁵ and when he has upbraided them, then he will destroy them. **34** But the remnant of my¹⁶ people who remain¹⁷ throughout my borders,¹⁸ he will set free with compassion; and he will make them joyful until the end, the day of judgment,¹⁹ of which I spoke to you at the beginning.

35 “This is the dream which you saw, and this is its interpretation. **36** However, you alone have been deemed worthy to learn this secret²⁰ of the Most High. **37** Therefore write everything which you have seen in a book, and put it²¹ in a hidden place; **38** then teach them to the wise and intelligent²² among your people of God,²³ whose hearts you know are able to comprehend and preserve these secrets. **39** But as for you, wait here seven more days, so that whatever the Most High finds it necessary to reveal to you may be revealed to you.”

Then he²⁴ left me.

40 When all the people heard²⁵ that the seven days had passed and that I had not returned²⁶ to the city, they all gathered together, from the least to the greatest, and came to me and spoke to me, saying,²⁷ **41** “How have we offended you, and how have we mistreated you,²⁸ so that you have forsaken us to linger in this place? **42** For of all the prophets you alone are left to us, like a cluster of grapes from the vintage, and like a lamp in a dark place, and like a haven for a ship saved from a storm.²⁹ **43** Are not the evils which have befallen us enough, but that you should have also forsaken us?³⁰ **44** Therefore if you also forsake us, how much better it would have been for us if we also³¹ had been consumed in the conflagration of Zion. **45** For we are no better than those who died there.” And they³² wept with a loud voice.³³

Then I answered them and said, **46** “Take courage,³⁴ O Israel; and do not be sorrowful, O house of Jacob; **47** for the Most High has you³⁵ in remembrance, and the Mighty One has not forgotten you in your struggle.³⁶ **48** As for me, I have not forsaken you, nor will I withdraw from you;³⁷ but I have come to this place to pray on account of the desolation of Zion, and to seek compassion on account of

¹ [12:27] Ar2 “, they shall fall in war” / Eth, Ar1 omit “But as for the two...devour them.”

² [12:29] Lat / Ar1 “two little wings”

³ [12:29] Lat(S,A**), Syr, Eth, Ar / Lat(C,M) “saw springing up”

⁴ [12:29] Syr, Eth / Lat omits “to”

⁵ [12:29] Lat, Ar1 / Syr, Eth, Arm “pronouncement”

⁶ [12:30] Syr / Arm “for the eagle’s” / Lat “his” / Eth, Ar1 “the”

⁷ [12:30] Lat(M,A**), Syr, Eth “this reign will be”

⁸ [12:30] Lat “small” / Syr “has an end” / Arm “worthless” / Ar2 “whose disappearance is at hand”

⁹ [12:31] Ar2 omits “rousing up out...have heard”

¹⁰ [12:32] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Ar1 “is he” / Ar2 “is the king”

¹¹ [12:32] Syr, most others / Lat omits “of days...and speak”

¹² [12:32] Arm “him”

¹³ [12:32] Syr, most others / Lat omits “will upbraid them”

¹⁴ [12:32] Ar1 “their folly”

¹⁵ [12:33] Syr “for their judgment” / Ar1, Arm “for his judgment”

¹⁶ [12:34] Arm “his” / Eth, Ar1 omit

¹⁷ [12:34] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Arm / Lat “who have been saved”

¹⁸ [12:34] Lat, Syr / Ar1 “my holy mountain” / Arm “his borders”

¹⁹ [12:34] Lat / Syr “until the end of the judgment” / Eth “until the day of judgment” / Ar1 “until the fullness of the judgment” / Ar2 “until the end of the age” / Arm “until the end of judgment”

²⁰ [12:36] Lat, Eth / Syr “learn the secret” / Ar1, Ar2 “learn the secrets” / Arm could be “the secret” or “this secret”

²¹ [12:37] Eth, Ar, Arm / Lat, Syr “them”

²² [12:38] Ar1 adds

²³ [12:38] Arm adds

²⁴ [12:39] Arm “Then the messenger”

²⁵ [12:40] Syr “saw” / Ar2 omits “that the seven days...gathered together”

²⁶ [12:40] Syr, Eth, Ar1 “come”

²⁷ [12:40] Lat, Syr / others omit “saying”

²⁸ [12:41] Ar2 omits “and how have we mistreated you”

²⁹ [12:42] Ar2 omits “and like a...storm”

³⁰ [12:43] Syr, Ar2 / Lat, Eth, Ar1, Arm omit “but that you...us”

³¹ [12:44] Lat, Syr add & omit “also” earlier in the sentence

³² [12:45] Syr, Ar “I”

³³ [12:45] Lat, most others / Ar2 “wept profusely”

³⁴ [12:46] Ar2 “Rejoice” / Arm omits “Take courage O Israel”

³⁵ [12:47] Lat / Eth, Arm “us”

³⁶ [12:47] Lat / Syr, Arm “forgotten you forever”

³⁷ [12:48] Syr “nor am I forsaking you” / Ar1 omits “I have not forsaken...from you” / Arm omits “nor will I withdraw from you”

the humiliation³⁸ of our³⁹ holy-place.⁴⁰ **49** Now go to your homes, every one of you, and I will stay for seven days,⁴¹ and after these⁴² days I will come to you.”

50 So the people went into the city,⁴³ as I advised them to do. **51** But I sat in the field seven days, as he⁴⁴ had commanded me; and I ate only flowers⁴⁵ of the field, and plants were my food during those days.

CHAPTER 13

And it came to pass⁴⁶ after seven days, that I dreamed a dream⁴⁷ in the night. **2** And behold,⁴⁸ a strong⁴⁹ wind arose from the sea stirring⁵⁰ up all its waves. **3** And as I watched, I saw that⁵¹ the wind brought up out of the heart⁵² of the sea, something like the figure of⁵³ a human. And as I watched, I saw⁵⁴ that this human flew⁵⁵ with the clouds of heaven; and wherever he turned his face to look, everything under his gaze trembled,⁵⁶ **4** and whenever his voice issued from his mouth,⁵⁷ all who heard his voice melted as wax melts⁵⁸ when it feels fire.

5 After this, as I watched, I saw that⁵⁹ an innumerable multitude of people were gathered together from the four winds of heaven⁶⁰ to wage war against the human who had come up out of the sea.⁶¹ **6** And as I watched, I saw that he carved out⁶² a great mountain for himself,⁶³ and flew and sat⁶⁴ upon it. **7** And I tried to see⁶⁵ the region or place⁶⁶ from which the mountain was carved,⁶⁷ but I could not.

8 After this, as I watched, I saw that⁶⁸ all who had gathered together to wage war against him⁶⁹ were filled with fear of him;⁷⁰ and yet they dared to fight against him.⁷¹ **9** And I saw that⁷² when he saw the onrush of the approaching multitude, he neither lifted his hand nor held a spear⁷³ or any weapon of war; **10** but I saw only how he emitted from his mouth something like⁷⁴ a torrent of fire, and from his lips a spirit of flame,⁷⁵ and from his tongue he emitted a tempest of sparks.⁷⁶ **11** And all these were mingled together, the torrent of fire and the spirit of flame and the great tempest. And they fell upon the onrushing multitude which was prepared to fight, and cremated all of them,⁷⁷ so that suddenly nothing was seen of the innumerable multitude⁷⁸ but only the dust of ashes and the smell of smoke. When I saw it, I was amazed.⁷⁹

12 After this I saw the⁸⁰ human himself come down from the⁸¹ mountain⁸² and call to himself another multitude which was peaceable.⁸³ **13** Then the faces of⁸⁴ many humans came to him, some of whom were joyful and some sorrowful; some of them were bound, and some were bringing others as offerings.⁸⁵

Then I woke up in great terror,⁸⁶ and prayed to the Most High, and said, **14** “Lord,¹ From the beginning you have shown to your servant these wonders and

³⁸ [12:48] Ar2 “plundering”

³⁹ [12:48] Syr, Eth / Lat “your”

⁴⁰ [12:48] Eth “happiness” / Arm omits

⁴¹ [12:49] Ar2 adds

⁴² [12:49] Lat(M) “eight”

⁴³ [12:50] Eth “So the people went into their homes” / others “So the people went into the homes of the city” / Ar2 “And the people went away”

⁴⁴ [12:51] Lat(L), some Arm “as the messenger of the Lord” / one Arm “as the messenger”

⁴⁵ [12:51] Eth “fruit”

⁴⁶ [13:1] Lat, Syr / others omit “And it came to pass”

⁴⁷ [13:1] Syr “I saw a vision” / Ar1, Ar2 omit “a dream”

⁴⁸ [13:2] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A), Ar1, Ar2 omit “behold”

⁴⁹ [13:2] Lat, Ar2 / Syr, Eth, Ar1, Arm adds

⁵⁰ [13:2] Eth, Ar2 “sea and stirred”

⁵¹ [13:3] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar2, Ar2 omits “As I watched” / Arm omits “As I watched, I saw that”

⁵² [13:3] Eth, Ar2 omit “of the heart”

⁵³ [13:3] Eth, Arm “something like” / Ar2 “the figure of”

⁵⁴ [13:3] Syr, Lat(L) / most Lat omit “the wind...I saw” (by scribal error) / others omit “And as I watched, I saw that”

⁵⁵ [13:3] Syr, others / Lat(S,A,C,M) “man grew strong”

⁵⁶ [13:3] Syr, Eth, Ar, Arm / Lat “grew strong”

⁵⁷ [13:4] Lat / Syr, Arm “whenever the voice of his mouth issued forth”

⁵⁸ [13:4] Syr / Latin “burned as the earth rests”

⁵⁹ [13:5] Lat, Syr / others omit “I saw that”

⁶⁰ [13:5] Ar2, Arm “from the ends of the earth”

⁶¹ [13:5] Ar2 omits “who came up out of the sea”

⁶² [13:6] Eth “he built” / Ar1 “he made”

⁶³ [13:6] Lat, Syr, Arm / others omit “for himself”

⁶⁴ [13:6] Syr “flew and sat” / Ar1 “mounted” / Arm “entered into”

⁶⁵ [13:7] Eth “know” / Arm “find”

⁶⁶ [13:7] Ar1, Ar2 “the place” / Eth “where”

⁶⁷ [13:7] Eth “build” / Arm “made”

⁶⁸ [13:8] Lat, Syr / Arm “this also” / Ar1 “this” / Ar2 omits

⁶⁹ [13:8] Lat, Arm / others omit “against him”

⁷⁰ [13:8] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 add

⁷¹ [13:8] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 add

⁷² [13:9] Lat adds

⁷³ [13:9] Lat “lance” / others “sword”

⁷⁴ [13:10] Eth, Arm omit “something like”

⁷⁵ [13:10] Ar2 “lips like a burning wind”

⁷⁶ [13:10] Lat / Syr, Eth “storm of fiery coals” / Ar2 “forth like a powerful wind” / Arm omits the whole phrase

⁷⁷ [13:11] Ar2 omits “the stream of fire...all of them”

⁷⁸ [13:11] Eth, Ar1 “nothing remained of them”

⁷⁹ [13:11] Eth, Ar2 “smoke, and I awoke seeing”

⁸⁰ [13:12] Arm “saw a certain”

⁸¹ [13:12] Syr, Eth “that”

⁸² [13:12] Ar1 “heaven”

⁸³ [13:12] Ar1 “he concluded peace and covenant with those who were at peace, those who came to him”

⁸⁴ [13:13] Lat / Syr, Ar1 “the forms of” / Eth, Ar1 omit altogether

⁸⁵ [13:13] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar2, Arm omits “and some were bringing others as offerings”

⁸⁶ [13:13] Ar2 omits “in great terror”

understanding,² and have deemed me worthy³ to have my prayer heard by you; **15** now show to me the interpretation of this dream also. **16** For as I consider it in my mind:⁴ Woe to those who survive in those days! And still more dreadful for those who do not survive! **17** For those who do not survive will be sad **18** because they do not⁵ understand the things which are reserved for the last days, but cannot attain them.⁶ **19** But also, woe to those who do survive, and for that very reason!⁷ For they will undergo⁸ great dangers⁹ and much distress, as these dreams attest.¹⁰ **20** Yet it is better¹¹ to attain these *things*,¹² despite incurring peril,¹³ than to pass from the age like a cloud, without seeing¹⁴ what will happen in the last days.”

21 He¹⁵ answered me and said, “I will tell you both¹⁶ the interpretation of the vision,¹⁷ and I will also explain to you the things which you have mentioned.¹⁸ **22** As for what you mentioned about those who survive,¹⁹ and concerning those who do not survive, this is the interpretation:²⁰ **23** At that time,²¹ the one responsible for²² the peril will protect those who fall into peril, that is, those who have works and faith toward the Highest and the Almighty.²³ **24** Therefore be assured that those who survive are far more blessed than those who have died.

25 “This is the interpretation²⁴ of the vision: As for the man who you saw come up from the heart of²⁵ the sea, **26** this is the *man* whom the Most High has been keeping for many ages, who will himself deliver his creation;²⁶ and he will direct²⁷ those who are left.

27 “And as for the spirit of flame and the tempest²⁸ which you saw discharged from his mouth, **28** and because he, without spear²⁹ or weapon of war, was destroying the onrushing³⁰ multitude which came to conquer him, crushing them with the word of his mouth,³¹ this is the interpretation:³² **29** The days are coming when the Most High will deliver³³ those who are on the earth. **30** And mental trepidation and bewilderment³⁴ shall seize the inhabitants of the earth. **31** And they shall plan to make war against one another,³⁵ city against city, locality against locality,³⁶ people against people, and kingdom against kingdom and leaders against leaders, priests against priests: the faith of worship shall be split into various sides.³⁷ **32** When these things take place, the signs which I showed to you before will occur; and then my son³⁸ will be revealed, whom you saw as a man coming up from the heart of the sea³⁹ and some of the nations will destroy the images of their abomination.⁴⁰

33 “Then it shall come to pass,⁴¹ when all⁴² the nations hear his voice, everyone without exception shall leave their own lands⁴³ and their internecine warfare, **34** and they shall unite into an innumerable host consisting of all of

¹ [13:14] Ar1, Arm add

² [13:14] Eth “servant your glory” / Ar1 adds “and understanding” / Ar2 (for first part of verse) “you loved me and came to me” / Ar2 also has “secrets” instead of “wonders”

³ [13:14] Syr “and although I was unworthy, you regarded me as if I were”

⁴ [13:16] Ar2 “And I said”

⁵ [13:18] Eth, Ar1 adds

⁶ [13:17-18] Ar2 omits “For those who do not survive will be sad” / Arm omits “For as I consider it...attain them.”

⁷ [13:19] Arm omits “But also woe...very reason”

⁸ [13:19] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) “they have undergone”

⁹ [13:19] Ar1, Arm “great difficulties” / Eth “pain”

¹⁰ [13:19] Eth, Ar1, Arm “as this dream attests” / Ar2 omits “and much distress...attest”

¹¹ [13:20] Eth (compared Ar2) / Lat “easier”

¹² [13:20] Syr / Lat “attain this”

¹³ [13:20] Arm omits “despite incurring peril”

¹⁴ [13:20] Eth “knowing”

¹⁵ [13:21] Arm “The messenger”

¹⁶ [13:21] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit “both”

¹⁷ [13:21] Lat, Ar1 / Syr “of your vision” / Eth “of this your vision” / Arm “of this vision” / Ar2 “of what you have seen”

¹⁸ [13:21] Ar2 “explain what has occurred in your mind”

¹⁹ [13:22] Syr, Ar1 / Lat omits “and...not survive” / Ar2 omits “as for what you said...interpretation”

²⁰ [13:22] Lat / others “pronouncement”

²¹ [13:23] Eth, Arm “In those days”

²² [13:23] Syr “who endures” / Eth “who sees” / Ar1 “who will be” / Arm “happiness shall be to those who come in those days”

²³ [13:23] some Lat, Ar1 / Syr, Eth, Ar1 “the Most High and the Almighty” / some Lat, Ar2 “the Most High” / Arm omits

²⁴ [13:25] Lat “These are the interpretations”

²⁵ [13:25] Eth, Ar2, Arm omit “the heart of”

²⁶ [13:26] Eth “deliver the world” / Ar2 “to deliver the one who belongs to him”

²⁷ [13:26] Syr / others “will create the new order for”

²⁸ [13:27] Syr, Ar1 / Lat “the spirit and the fire and the tempest” / Eth “the fire and flame and coals as a tempest” / Ar1 “the fire and the spirit” / Arm “the spirit of flame”

²⁹ [13:28] Lat “lance” / Arm “weapon”

³⁰ [13:28] Lat, Syr, Arm / others omit “onrushing”

³¹ [13:28] Ar2 adds

³² [13:28] Lat / Ar1 “meaning” / others “pronouncement”

³³ [13:29] Ar2 “visit”

³⁴ [13:30] Syr “And confusion” / Ar1 adds “and bewilderment” / Eth omits “And mental trepidation...the earth”

³⁵ [13:31] Ar2 “They fight one the other”

³⁶ [13:31] Ar1 “house against house” / Eth “land against land” / Sah omits “And they shall plan...locality” / Ar2 omits “city again...locality”

³⁷ [13:31] Arm adds

³⁸ [13:32] Lat, Syr / Eth “then that man” / Ar1 “then my boy” / Ar2 “then my servant” / Arm “then the Most High” / Sah “then my son the man”

³⁹ [13:32] Syr, Lat(L), Eth, Ar2, Arm / most Lat omits “from the sea” / Ar1 has “from the heart of the sea”

⁴⁰ [13:32] Arm adds

⁴¹ [13:33] Lat, Sah add

⁴² [13:33] Ar2, Arm omit “all”

⁴³ [13:33] Ar1 “speaking” / Ar2 “their ways will change”

earth’s inhabitants, to serve the Lord faithfully; and at the approach of the end, they will be separated from one another. This is the multitude⁴⁴ as you saw, determined to come and conquer him.⁴⁵ **35** But he himself shall stand on the summit of holy Mount Zion.⁴⁶ **36** And Zion, prepared and built, shall come and be made manifest to all its heirs,⁴⁷ as you saw the mountain carved out without hands. **37** Then he, my son who is from you,⁴⁸ will reprove the assembled nations for their impiety (this was symbolized by the storm),⁴⁹ **38** and will reproach them to their face with their evil thoughts⁵⁰ and the torments with which they are to be tortured (which were symbolized by the flames), and will destroy them without effort by means of the law⁵¹ (which was symbolized by the fire). Because they have fallen away and sacrificed to demons, and he will crush and pulverize the transgressors; and he will cast them into the fire of Gehenna, but he will respect those who have kept his commandments.⁵²

39 “And as for the other multitude, which you saw him summon and⁵³ gather to himself, the one which was peaceable,⁵⁴ **40** these are the nine and a half⁵⁵ tribes which were taken away from their own land into exile in the days of King Hoshea,⁵⁶ whom Shalmaneser, king of the Assyrians,⁵⁷ led away into captivity; he transported them across the Euphrates river,⁵⁸ and they were brought into another land. **41** But they formed this plan for themselves, that they would leave the multitude of the nations and go to a more remote region, where the human race had never inhabited, **42** so that there they might at least keep their statutes⁵⁹ which they had not kept in their own land.⁶⁰ **43** And when they passed through the narrow passages of the Euphrates⁶¹ River, **44** the Most High performed signs⁶² for them, and stopped the channels⁶³ of the river until they had crossed over. **45** The way to that region,⁶⁴ which is the country called Arzareth, which means ‘another land,’ required a long trek of a year and a half at the end of the world.⁶⁵

46 “There they dwelt until the last times. And now, when they are about to come again,⁶⁶ **47** the Most High will once again⁶⁷ stop⁶⁸ the channels⁶⁹ of the river, so that they may not⁷⁰ be able to cross over. That is why you saw the multitude assembled in peace. **48** But the survivors of your people, who reach within my holy borders,⁷¹ will be saved.⁷² **49** And it will be⁷³ when he destroys⁷⁴ the multitude of the nations which are gathered together, he⁷⁵ will defend the people who remain. **50** And then he will show to them many great wonders.”⁷⁶

51 I said, “O Lord, Lord, explain this to me: Why did I see the man coming up from the heart of⁷⁷ the sea?”

52 He said to me, “Just as no one can explore or discover or know⁷⁸ what is in the depths of the sea, so no one on earth can see my son⁷⁹ or those who are with him, except in the time of his day.⁸⁰ **53** This is the interpretation of the dream which you saw. And you alone have been enlightened about this, **54** because you have forsaken your own affairs and have applied yourself to mine, and have searched out my law; **55** for you have devoted your life to wisdom, and called understanding your mother. **56** Therefore I have shown these things to you; for there is a reward laid up with the Most High.⁸¹ But⁸² you set aside, dividing much grace. Yet remain and excel in this field, praying to the Lord and giving thanks to

⁴⁴ [13:34] Arm adds

⁴⁵ [13:34] Ar2 “saw, to resist him.”

⁴⁶ [13:35] Ar1 adds “holy” / Ar2 “Golgatha in Zion”

⁴⁷ [13:36] Ar2 adds

⁴⁸ [13:37] Lat, Syr / Eth “my child” / Ar1 “my boy” / Ar2 “my boy who is from you”

⁴⁹ [13:37] Lat, Syr, Eth / Arm omits “this was symbolized by the storm”

⁵⁰ [13:38] Lat / Syr, Eth “deeds”

⁵¹ [13:38] Syr / Lat “effort and the law” / Eth effort with sin” / Ar1, Ar2, Arm only “effort”

⁵² [13:38] Ar2 adds

⁵³ [13:39] Syr, Ar1 / Ar2 adds

⁵⁴ [13:39] Ar2 “the foreign people”

⁵⁵ [13:40] Syr, Ar1, two Eth “nine and a half” / Lat(A*,C,V,L), most Eth “the nine” / most Lat “the ten” / Ar2 “the rest of the nine tribes”

⁵⁶ [13:40] Lat(C), some Lat(A) / Syr, Ar2 “Josiah”

⁵⁷ [13:40] Eth “Persians”

⁵⁸ [13:40] Syr adds / Ar2 omits “made captives...Euphrates River”

⁵⁹ [13:42] Syr, Eth “law” / Ar2 “service of God”

⁶⁰ [13:42] Ar2 “in the holy land”

⁶¹ [13:43] Greek / from Persian “Ufratu” / Hebrew “Furat”

⁶² [13:44] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar “miracles”

⁶³ [13:44] Lat / others “springs”

⁶⁴ [13:45] Lat “The way through that region” / Syr, Sah omit

⁶⁵ [13:45] Syr adds

⁶⁶ [13:46] Syr “now again when it will be that they come” / Ar2, Arm omit altogether

⁶⁷ [13:47] Lat, Eth / Syr, Ar1, Ar2 omit “once again”

⁶⁸ [13:47] Syr / Lat “High again stops” / Ar2 “High will again cut off”

⁶⁹ [13:47] Lat / others “springs”

⁷⁰ [13:47] Ar1 adds

⁷¹ [13:48] Ar1, Ar2 “my mountain”

⁷² [13:48] Syr / Lat(L) “with good works and faith will be saved” / Lat(-L), others omit “will be saved” / Eth omits “But the survivors...will be saved”

⁷³ [13:49] Syr / Lat “Therefore”

⁷⁴ [13:48] Lat “losses”

⁷⁵ [13:49] Ar1 “when I destroy...together, I”

⁷⁶ [13:50] Arm omits “And then he will...wonders.”

⁷⁷ [13:51] Ar2, Arm omits “the heart of”

⁷⁸ [13:52] Lat / Syr, Ar1 “explore or discover or know” / Eth “can know”

⁷⁹ [13:52] Lat, Syr / Ar1, Ar2 “my servant” / Eth “the son of man” / Arm “the secrets of the Most High”

⁸⁰ [13:52] Syr / Eth “except when his time and his day have come” / Lat omits “his”

⁸¹ [13:56] Ar2, Arm omits “for there is a reward...High”

⁸² [13:56] Syr / Lat “For”

God for all those things which are known to you. And then¹ after three more days, I will tell you other things,² and explain weighty and wondrous matters³ to you.”

57 Then I continued to walk across the field, exceedingly⁴ glorifying and praising the Most High for the wonders which he performs⁵ in due season, 58 and because he governs the times and whatever things are produced in these seasons.⁶ So I stayed there three days.

CHAPTER 14

And it came to pass⁷ on⁸ the third⁹ day, while I was sitting under an oak,¹⁰ suddenly a voice came out of a bush opposite me¹¹ and said, “Ezra, Ezra!”

2 And I answered, “Here I am, Lord,”¹² and I rose to my feet.

3 When I rose to my feet, he said to me, “I revealed myself from a bush¹³ and spoke to Moses when my people were enslaved in Egypt; 4 and I sent him to lead¹⁴ my people out of Egypt; and I brought them to the desert,¹⁵ and I led him up on Mount Sinai, where I kept him¹⁶ with me for many days.¹⁷ 5 I told¹⁸ him many¹⁹ wondrous things, and showed to him the secrets of the times and declared to him²⁰ the end of the times. Then I commanded him, saying, 6 ‘These words you shall publish openly, but these²¹ you must keep secret.’

7 ‘And now I say²² to you, Ezra:²³ 8 Lay up in your heart and conceal²⁴ the signs which I have previously²⁵ shown to you, the dreams which you have seen, and²⁶ the interpretations²⁷ which you have heard; 9 for you shall be taken up from among humans, and from then on²⁸ you shall live²⁹ with my son³⁰ and with those who are like you, until the times of the age³¹ are ended. 10 The age has lost its youth, and the times are approaching old age.³² 11 For the age is divided into twelve³³ parts, and nine of its parts have already passed,³⁴ as well as half of the tenth part;³⁵ 12 so two of its parts remain,³⁶ after the second half of the tenth part.³⁷

13 ‘Now therefore,³⁸ set your house in order, and reprove your people;³⁹ comfort the lowly among them, and instruct⁴⁰ the wise. And now renounce the life which is corruptible, 14 and put mortal thoughts⁴¹ away from you;⁴² cast human burdens⁴³ away from you, and divest yourself at once of feeble nature;⁴⁴ 15 and put aside⁴⁵ your most grievous thoughts, and hurry to escape from these times.⁴⁶ 16 For evils worse than any which you have yet seen happen shall take place in the future. 17 For the weaker the world becomes through old age,⁴⁷ the more numerous will evils be upon its inhabitants. 18 Truth shall become more distant,

¹ [13:56] Lat(L) adds

² [13:56] Arm omits “other things”

³ [13:56] Syr, Ar1 “explain the last wonders” / Eth, Arm “explain wonders” / Ar2 “explain other things”

⁴ [13:57] Lat(C,M), Eth, Ar2, Arm omit “exceedingly”

⁵ [13:57] Lat “performed”

⁶ [13:58] Ar2 omits “and because he governs...seasons.”

⁷ [14:1] Lat, Syr, Arm / others omit “it came to pass”

⁸ [14:1] Lat, Eth, one Arm / Syr, Ar2, some Arm “after”

⁹ [14:1] Ar1 “fourth”

¹⁰ [14:1] Eth, Ar1 “tree”

¹¹ [14:1] Eth “from opposite this tree” / Ar2 “from under it”

¹² [14:2] most Lat, Ar2, Eth / others omit “Lord” / Lat(M) omits “And I answered...his feet.”

¹³ [14:3] Ar2 “myself on Mount Sinai”

¹⁴ [14:4] Ar2 / Lat(C), Syr, Ar1 “and I sent him and led” / Lat(S,A), Eth, Arm “and I led” / Lat(M) omits “and I sent him...of Mizraim”

¹⁵ [2Ezr14:4] Syr adds / Ar1 instead adds “out of the desert”

¹⁶ [14:4] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar “it” / Arm “them” / Ar2 “Moses”

¹⁷ [14:4] Ar2 “for forty days and forty nights”

¹⁸ [14:5] Syr “explained” / Ar1 “revealed”

¹⁹ [14:5] Ar1 “extraordinary”

²⁰ [14:5] Syr, Eth, Ar, Arm / Lat omits “declared to him”

²¹ [14:6] Syr “but the others” / Ar1, Ar2 (Arm similar) “and which”

²² [14:7] Ar1, Ar2 “teach”

²³ [14:7] Syr adds

²⁴ [14:8] Syr adds

²⁵ [14:8] Syr, Arm add

²⁶ [14:8] Ar2 omits “the signs that I...seen, and”

²⁷ [14:8] Lat / others “interpretation”

²⁸ [14:9] Lat “and the remainder”

²⁹ [14:9] Lat “convert” / Eth “remain”

³⁰ [14:9] Ar1 “youth” / Ar2 “servant” / Arm “with me”

³¹ [14:9] Eth, Ar2 “world” / Ar1 “times of the world”

³² [14:10] Arm omits “The age has lost...old age.”

³³ [14:11] Lat, Ar2 / Eth “ten” / Ar1 “the greater part of its years” (Syr, Arm see below)

³⁴ [14:11] Lat(S,A,C,V), Ar2 “and ten of...passed” / Lat(M,N,L) “and the eleventh...passed” / Eth “and has come to the tenth”

³⁵ [14:11] Lat / Ar2 “and half a part” / Eth most omit altogether

³⁶ [14:12] Lat / others omit “so two...remain”

³⁷ [14:11-12] Eth “For the world is divided into ten parts, and has come to the tenth, and half of the tenth remains.” Ar2 “...and only a little remains.” / Syr omits “For this age is divided...tenth part.” / Lat(M) omits “but two of its parts...tenth part.” / Arm omits “The age has lost...tenth part.” / Ar2 omits “after the...tenth part”

³⁸ [14:13] Ar1 “And now” / Ar2, Arm “So”

³⁹ [2Ezr14:13] Lat, Eth omits “and reprove your people”

⁴⁰ [14:13] Syr / Ar2 “honor” / Lat omits “and instruct those who are wise.”

⁴¹ [14:14] Eth, Ar1 / Ar2 “put the thought of death” / Arm “put confusion of mind”

⁴² [14:14] Eth, Ar2 omit “from you”

⁴³ [14:14] Syr “cast thoughts of death”

⁴⁴ [14:14] Syr “of sick nature” / Eth “put on that which does not die” / Ar1 “the weakness of this nature subject to sufferings, sicknesses, and darkness” / Ar2 “signs of pride”

⁴⁵ [14:15] Lat, Syr, Ar1 / Arm “put from yourself” / Eth, Ar2 have only “put”

⁴⁶ [14:15] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar1 “from this world” / Ar2 “from the time” / Arm “from this earth”

⁴⁷ [14:17] Ar2, Arm omit “through old age”

and falsehood shall draw nearer. For the eagle which you saw in the vision⁴⁸ is already hastening to come.”

19 Then I answered and said, “Let me speak⁴⁹ in your presence, Lord.⁵⁰ 20 For behold, I will go, as you have commanded me, and I will reprove the people, your flock⁵¹ who are now living; but who will warn those who are yet to be born? For the age lies in darkness, and its inhabitants are without light. 21 For your law has been burned, and so⁵² no one knows what has been done by you or what is yet to be done.⁵³ 22 If then, I have found favor with you, put me your holy spirit in me, and I will write everything which has happened in the age from the beginning, all⁵⁴ the things which were written in your law, so that people may be able to find the path,⁵⁵ and that those who want to live in the last days⁵⁶ may do so.”⁵⁷

23 He answered me and said, “Go and gather the⁵⁸ people, and tell them not to seek you for⁵⁹ forty days. 24 But prepare for yourself many writing tablets, and take with you Seraiah, Dabiah, Shelemiah, Elkanah,⁶⁰ and Asiel⁶¹—these five, who are trained to write rapidly.⁶² 25 Then you shall come here, and I will light the lamp of understanding in your heart, which shall not be extinguished until what you are about to write is finished.⁶³ 26 And when you have finished, you must publish some of your works, but deliver others in secret to the wise; tomorrow at this hour you must begin to write.”

27 Then I went as he⁶⁴ commanded me, and I gathered all the people together, and said to them,⁶⁵ 28 “Listen to these words from me,⁶⁶ O Israel. 29 Formerly,⁶⁷ our fathers were aliens in the land of⁶⁸ Egypt, but they were liberated from that place 30 and received the law of life, which they did not keep, which you also have transgressed⁶⁹ after them. 31 Then the land in the territory of Zion was given to you⁷⁰ as a dowry; but you and your fathers committed iniquity⁷¹ and repudiated the ways which he⁷² commanded you. 32 And since he⁷³ is a righteous judge, in due time⁷⁴ he took from you what he had given. 33 And now you are here in tribulation,⁷⁵ and your brothers are still further away⁷⁶ than you.”⁷⁷

34 “Therefore, if you will control your inclination⁷⁸ and discipline your hearts,⁷⁹ you shall be preserved alive, and after death you shall obtain mercy.⁸⁰ 35 For after death the judgment will come,⁸¹ when we shall live again; and then the names of the righteous shall become manifest, and the deeds of the wicked shall be disclosed. 36 But let no one approach me now,⁸² and let no one seek me for forty days.”

37 So I took with me⁸³ the five men, as he⁸⁴ commanded me, and we proceeded to the field, where we remained as he said to me.⁸⁵ 38 And it came to pass⁸⁶ on the next day, that, behold, a voice called me, saying to me,⁸⁷ “Ezra, Ezra.”

And I answered, “Here I am!”

⁴⁸ [14:18] Eth, Ar2 omit “in the vision”

⁴⁹ [14:19] Syr, Eth, Ar, Arm / most Lat omit “Let me speak”

⁵⁰ [14:19] Ar2 omits “Lord”

⁵¹ [14:20-25] Ar2 omits “For behold...write is finished” has “And there is no wise man present, or one with insight, or one with skill to distinguish between good and evil.”

⁵² [14:20] Ar2 adds

⁵³ [14:21] Lat “account that” / Georg “about this” / Arm “after this” / others omit

⁵⁴ [14:21] Arm “nor the commandments which you commanded” / Lat omits “is yet to be”

⁵⁵ [14:22] Syr, Eth add

⁵⁶ [14:22] Arm “the paths of redemption” / Ar1 “your path” / Eth “the path of life”

⁵⁷ [14:22] Lat, Syr / Georg “want to live forever” / Arm “who desire the other life”

⁵⁸ [14:22] Lat (lit. “may live”) / Ar1 “days walk in your commands.” / Arm “to live in purity of way” / Syr “might know the way” Eth omits “in the last days...may do so”

⁵⁹ [14:23] Syr, Eth “your”

⁶⁰ [14:23] Ar1 “end of”

⁶¹ [14:24] Syr, Eth, Arm / Lat “Ethan”

⁶² [14:24] Arm “Ethen”

⁶³ [14:24] Eth “five are skillful in writing” / Arm omits “rapidly”

⁶⁴ [14:25] Lat, Arm (similar) / others “until you finish what you are about to write”

⁶⁵ [14:27] Georg, Arm “as the Lord”

⁶⁶ [14:27] Lat, Georg omit “to them”

⁶⁷ [14:28] Ar2 adds

⁶⁸ [14:29] Ar1, Ar2 omit “Formerly”

⁶⁹ [14:29] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2 add

⁷⁰ [14:30] Ar2 “which you defected from God”

⁷¹ [14:31] Eth, Georg, Ar1 “Then he gave...to you” / Ar2 “Then Mount Sinai was given to you”

⁷² [14:31] Arm “fathers were rebels”

⁷³ [14:31] Georg, Ar1 / Lat “that the Most High” / Syr “that Moses, the servant of the Lord” / Ar2 “that the Lord”

⁷⁴ [14:32] Syr, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 “But the Most High”

⁷⁵ [14:32] Syr, Eth, Georg, Arm / Lat, Ar2 omit “in due time” / Ar1 reads “in time of favor and grace”

⁷⁶ [14:33] Syr adds

⁷⁷ [14:33] Ar2 “are farthest east” / Syr “are in another land” / Lat “are among you.”

⁷⁸ [14:33] Eth, Syr, Ar1, Arm add

⁷⁹ [14:34] Ar1 “will restrain your freedom”

⁸⁰ [14:34] Ar2 “and keep wisdom in your hearts”

⁸¹ [14:34] Eth “and not die” / Ar2 “you will be delivered from the judgment” / Arm omits “and after death...mercy”

⁸² [14:35] Ar2 “For God will consign all men to judgment after death”

⁸³ [14:36] Ar2 omits “But let no one...now”

⁸⁴ [14:37] Ar1, Ar2 add

⁸⁵ [14:37] Ar2 “as the Most High”

⁸⁶ [14:37] Syr adds / Ar2 instead adds “as the Most High had commanded me”

⁸⁷ [14:38] Eth, Ar2 omit “it came to pass”

⁸⁸ [14:38] Eth, Georg add

And he said to me,⁴¹ “open your mouth and drink what I give you to drink.”

39 When I opened my mouth, I saw that a full cup was offered² to me; it was full of something like³ water, but its color was like fire.⁴ **40** And I took it and I drank.⁵ And when I had drunk it,⁶ behold,⁷ my heart poured forth intelligence, and wisdom increased in my breast,⁸ and⁹ my spirit retained *its* memory, **41** and my mouth was opened and was no longer closed. **42** However, the Most High gave intelligence to those¹⁰ five men, and by turns they wrote what was dictated, using characters¹¹ which they did not understand. And they sat¹² for forty days; they wrote during the day, and ate their bread at night. **43** But as for me, I spoke during the day and was not silent at night.¹³ **44** So during the forty days, ninety-four¹⁴ books were written.

45 And when the forty days were ended, the Most High spoke to me, saying to me,¹⁵ “Publish the twenty-four¹⁶ books which you wrote first, and let the worthy and the unworthy of the people¹⁷ read them; **46** but keep the seventy which were written last,¹⁸ in order to give them to the wise among your¹⁹ people. **47** For in them are the springs²⁰ of understanding, the fountains²¹ of wisdom, and the river²² of knowledge.”²³ **48** And I did so. in the 7th²⁴ year of the 6th week, 5000²⁵ years and three months and 22²⁶ days after creation.²⁷

At that time Ezra was caught up, and taken to the place of those²⁸ who are like him, after he had written all these things. And he was called the scribe of the knowledge²⁹ of the Most High³⁰ forever and ever. Let it be.³¹

The first discourse of Ezra is finished.^{32 33}

¹ [14:38] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm adds “Ezra” / Ar2 further adds “And I answered...to me.”

² [14:39] Eth, Georg, Ar2 “that he offered a full cup”

³ [14:39] Eth, Georg, Ar2 omit “something like”

⁴ [14:39] Arm “water”

⁵ [14:40] Ar2 “And I sipped it”

⁶ [14:40] Eth, Georg omit “And when I had drunk it”

⁷ [14:40] Syr, Syro-Arab add / Lat instead adds “when”

⁸ [14:40] Ar2 “and my mouth uttered wisdom”

⁹ [14:40] Lat “for”

¹⁰ [14:42] Syr / Ar1, Ar2 “the”

¹¹ [14:42] Syr “in a series of letter signs” / Eth “as signs” / Ar1 “after the arrangement of signs of the successive matters” / Ar2 “their script was foreign” / Arm “they wrote in turn”

¹² [14:42] Lat, Eth “They remained” / Syr, Syro-Arab, Arm “I sat” / Georg, Ar1 “I was” / Ar2 “We remained”

¹³ [14:43] Arm “and ceased at night” / Ar2 omits altogether, instead reading “And they wrote what I dictated.”

¹⁴ [14:44] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Berlin, Arm, Lat(S,M) “904” / Lat(A) “974” / Lat(C) “970”

¹⁵ [14:45] Syr, Syro-Arab, Eth add

¹⁶ [14:45] Syr, Ar1 / Lat, Eth, Arm omit “twenty-four”

¹⁷ [14:45] Syr adds

¹⁸ [14:46] Syr, Syro-Arab, Eth, Georg omit “that were written last” / Eth omits “seventy...last”

¹⁹ [14:46] Syr, Arm omit “your’s”

²⁰ [14:47] Syr, Syro-Arab / Lat “spring” / Eth, Georg “lamp”, “fire” / Ar1 “leaven” / Arm “proverbs”

²¹ [14:47] Lat, Georg, Arm “fountain” / Ar2 omits

²² [14:47] Syr, Syro-Arab “and the light” / Ar1 “and a wide sea”

²³ [14:47] Eth “is the light of lights” / Ar2 “is the leaven of wisdom” / Berlin “is the vein of piety”

²⁴ [14:48] Syr, Syro-Arab, Georg / Eth, Arm “4th”

²⁵ [14:48] Georg “5020” / Ar1 “5025”

²⁶ [14:48] Eth, Ar1, Syro-Arab / Syr “12”

²⁷ [14:48] Syr (in general) / Eth “in the 4th year of the weeks of the year after the year of creation in the 5000th year, in the 10th of the darkness, in the 3rd month and in its 22nd day.” / Ar1 “and I lived 76 years after the 5,025 years of the work of creation, in the 3rd month, and its 22nd day.” / Syro-Arab “in the 7th year of the 6th week and after 5,000 years, 3 months, and 22 days, Ezra was removed...” / Arm “in the 4th year of a week of years after 5,000 years of the creation of the world, and two months of days.” / Georg has something about “...in my 5th month”

²⁸ [14:48] Georg “kingdom with those” / Ar1 “lands of the living” / Arm “company of those”

²⁹ [14:48] Ar1 “called the author of the law and the understanding and the knowledge”

³⁰ [14:48] Ar1 adds here “to whom is the fame and the power” / Arm(Y) adds “to whom is the glory” / Arm(H) ends here

³¹ [14:48] Ar2 omits “And when the forty days were ended...and ever.” / Ar1, Arm, some Eth add “Let it be”

/ Georg omits “after he had written...” to end.

³² [14:48] Syr adds / Arm(W) instead adds “This book of Ezra is finished.” / Georg instead adds “glory to God” / Ar1 instead adds “End of the first writing of the books of Ezra, scribe of the law; and the second follows it.”

³³ [15-16] All versions except for the Latin do not include Chapters 15 and 16 (which are judged by most to be original Latin interpolations)