CHAPTER 1
It came to pass in the twenty-sixth year of his reign, that Hezekiah king of Judah summoned his son Manasseh who was eleven years old. Now he was his only son. And he summoned him into the presence of the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, and into the presence of Jashub, the son of Isaiah. 3 And while Hezekiah was giving commands, Jashub the son of Isaiah stood by.

4 But when they were no longer in the presence of Manasseh, Isaiah spoke to Hezekiah the king alone, 5 “As Yahweh lives, whose name has not been sent into this world, 6 and as his beloved son lives, 7 and as the spirit which uttereth within me lives, all these commands and these words will have no effect on your son Manasseh, and through the agency of his hands I will depart from life 8 while my body is in the presence of the Adversary will dwell in the heart of your son Manasseh. 9 And I will be saved into two by him, from head to feet, with a woodcutting saw; and he will cause many in Jerusalem and in Judah to abandon the living God and to bow-down to idols.”

10 Now when Hezekiah heard these words he was exceedingly grieved, and tore his robes, and threw dust upon his head, and fell on his face as though he was a corpse.

11 And the great prophet of God, Isaiah said to him, “Nothing shall avail you from this day forth. 12 For the Adversary’s 13 counsel against your son 14 Manasseh is complete.”

15 But in that hour, 16 Hezekiah rationalized that he would kill his son Manasseh.

17 And the great 18 Isaiah said to King 20 Hezekiah, “The Beloved has made your plan ineffective, for the 19 purpose of your heart shall not be accomplished, for with this calling have I been called 20 and I shall inherit the inheritance of the Beloved.”

CHAPTER 2
After this, it came to pass that Hezekiah came to his-end and was added to his fathers and his son Manasseh received his kingdom. But he did not remember the instructions of his father Hezekiah, 2 instead he forgot all of them. And Sammael dwelled within Manasseh and clung close to him.

2 And he got rid of the service of God, 3 and he was willing to follow golden and silver idols, 4 and he served the Adversary and his messengers and his powers. 5 And all of those who belonged to his father’s house, who had been with Hezekiah, 33 he turned away from the words of wisdom and from the service and adoration of God. And Manasseh served the Slanderer and his messengers, the profane and unclean idols.

4 And the Slanderer rejoiced over Jerusalem because of Manasseh, and he enabled him in the insurrection and in the lawlessness which was sown abroad in Jerusalem. 5 And the sorcery 6 and the magic and the divination and the augury, and the sexual-immorality, 7 and the adultery, 8 and the profligacy 9 and the rabbles of the righteousness-ones increased in the hands of Manasseh and the hands of Belchira, and the hands of Tobiah the Canaanite, and the hands Johanan of Anathoth, and in the hands of Zadok, the one who was over these operations. 10 And behold, the rest of the accounts are written in the book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

7 And when Isaiah the son of Amoz saw the great iniquity which was being committed in Jerusalem 11 and the bowing-down to and worship of the Adversary and his procession, 12 he withdrew from Jerusalem and settled in Bethlem of Judah. 13 But there was also much lawlessness here, so he withdrew from Bethlem and settled on the mountain in a desert region. 14 And not only he, but instead Micaiah the prophet, and the aged Hananiah, and Joel and Habakkuk, and his son Jashub, 15 and many of the faithful-ones who had faith in the ascension into heaven, withdrew and settled on the mountain.

9 And everyone there was clothed in sackcloth, and they were all prophets, nor did they have anything with them; instead they were destitute, and they all lamented bitterly because Israel had gone astray. 10 And they had nothing to eat except wild herbs which they gathered on the mountains, and they cooked them. They lived there together with Isaiah the prophet. And they dwelt there for two years of days.

And after this, while they were in the desert, there was a certain man in Samaria named Belchira, 1 who was of the family of Zekeiah 2 son of Chernah, the false-prophet whose dwelling was in Bethlem. 3 And Zekeiah 35 son of Chernah was the brother of his father, but had been a teacher of the 400 prophets of Baal 46 in the days of Ahab, king of Israel. This Belchira had himself smitten and reproved Micaiah the son of Imlak the prophet. And he was been abused by Ahab and Micaiah 37 cast into prison, and he was with Zekeiah the false-prophet, 38 by Ahaziah the son of Ahab, king in Samaria.

And Elijah the prophet of Tebon of Gilead reproved Ahaziah and Samaria, and prophesied regarding Ahaziah that he should die on his bed of sickness, and that Samaria would be delivered into the hand of Shalmanezer because he slain the prophets of God. And when the false-prophets, 39 who were with Ahaziah...
the son of Abah and their teacher Jalerias44 from Mount Israel45 had heard—now he46 was a brother of Zedekiah—when they heard, they persuaded Ahaziah the king of Gomorrah47 and he murdered Micahiah.48

CHAPTER 3

And Belchira discovered and saw the place of Isaiah and the prophets who were with him; for he dwelt in the country of Bethel, and adhered to Manasseh. And he was a false-prophet in Jerusalem, and many Jerusalemites adhered to him. But he was also from Samaria.

2 And it had come to pass, when Shalmaneser king of Assyria had come and captured Samaria and taken and carried away to the mountains49 of the Medes and the rivers of Gozan, 3 this Belchira, was still a youth, and he had escaped and come to Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah; but he did not walk in the ways of his Samarian father, because he hated Hezekiah. 4 And in the time of Hezekiah, he was found uttering accounts of lawlessness in Jerusalem. 5 And the boys of Hezekiah accused him, but he escaped to the country of Bethel.46

6 And Belchira49 discovered Isaiah and those who were with him, and he accused Isaiah, saying, “50 Isaiah and the prophets who are with him prophesies51 against Jerusalem and against all52 the cities of Judah that they will be laid waste, and against the sons of Judah and53 Benjamin that they will go into captivity, and against you, O lord the king, that you will go bound with hooks and iron chains. 7 And they prophesy lies even against Israel and against Judah and against Jerusalem.” 8 And Isaiah himself has stated, ‘I see more than Moses the prophet.’ 9 For Moses stated, ‘No man can see God and live.’ But Isaiah has said, ‘I have seen God and behold I live.’54 10 Therefore, know, O king, that he is a liar. 11 And he has also called Jerusalem, Sodom, and the chiefs of Judah and Israel55 he has declared to be the people of Gomorrah.”

And in this way, he brought many accusations before Manasseh against Isaiah56 and57 the prophets. 11 And Belial dwelt in the heart of Manasseh, and in the heart of the chiefs of Judah and Benjamin, and in the eunuchs, and in the councilors of the king, 12 so that the accounts of Belchira pleased him exceedingly. 80 And he sent and seized Isaiah.81

CHAPTER 4

And he saved him in half with a woodcutting-saw.82 2 And while Isaiah was being sawn in two, his accuser Belchira stood by, and all the false-prophets stood by, laughing and rejoicing because of Isaiah. 3 And Belchira, with the aid of Matanbuchus,83 stood up before Isaiah, laughing and84 deriding him.

4 And Belchira the false prophet85 said to Isaiah,86 “Say: ‘I have lied in all that I have spoken,’ and likewise, ‘the ways of Manasseh are good and right’5 and also ‘the ways of Belchira and of his associates are good.’” 6 And he said this to him when he began to be sawn in two. 7 But Isaiah was in a vision of the Lord56 whose eyes opened.

8 And Belchira spoke the following to Isaiah, “Say what I tell you and I will turn your heart, and I will compel Manasseh and the chiefs of Judah and the people and all Jerusalem to worship you.”88

9 And the holy89 Isaiah answered and spoke to him,91 “If it is within my power: Damned and cursed be you and all your powers and all your house! 10 For you cannot take anything from me save the skin of my body.”

11 And they seized Isaiah the son of Amoz, and sawed him in half with a woodcutting-saw. 12 And Manasseh and Belchira and the false-prophets and the chiefs and the people and all stood looking on. 13 And before he had been sawn in half, he said to the prophets who were with him, “All of you, go into the region of Tsr and Sidon; for God has mixed this cup for me alone.”

14 And when Isaiah was being sawn in half, he neither cried aloud nor wept, but his lips spoke with the Holy Spirit until he was sawn in two. Belial did this to Isaiah through Belchira and through Manasseh, for Sammael was very angry with Isaiah from the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, because of Sammael’s exposure by which Isaiah had exposed him in the days when Hezekiah was king, and he did as the Adversary wished.93


93 [2] Gk2, Eth / Lat “Melchiah the false prophet”

94 [3] Gk1 has “And while this was quickly happening, and...” / Eth “And while this was quickly happening...”

95 [3] Gk2, Eth / Lat “that they are false prophets” / Gk1 “that they are false prophets”

96 [3] Gk1 “...and the prophesies are good” / Eth “...and the prophesies are good”

97 [3] Gk1 “...and the ways of Belchira and of his associates are good” / Eth “...and the ways of Belchira and of his associates are good”

98 [3] Gk1 “...and the ways of Manasseh are good and right” / Eth “...and the ways of Manasseh are good and right”