

# THE TESTAMENT OF LEWI

## CHAPTER 1

1. The copy of the words of Lewi, the things which he ordained unto his sons, according to all that they will do, and what things will befall them until the day of judgment.
2. He was sound in health when he called them to him; for it had been revealed to him that he will die. And when they were gathered together he said to them:

## CHAPTER 2

1. I, Lewi, was born in Haran, and I came with my father to Shechem.
2. And I was young, about twenty years of age, when, with Shimeon, I wrought vengeance on Hamor for our sister Dinah.
3. And when I was feeding the flocks in Abel-Maul, the ruach of understanding of אֱלֹהִים came upon me, and I saw all men corrupting their way, and that unrighteousness had built for itself walls, and lawlessness sat upon towers.
4. And I was grieving for the race of the sons of men, and I prayed to אֱלֹהִים that I might be saved.
5. Then there fell upon me a sleep, and I beheld a high mountain, and I was upon it.
6. And behold the heavens were opened, and a malak of אֱלֹהִים said to me, Lewi, enter.
7. And I entered from the first heaven, and I saw there a great sea hanging.
8. And further, I saw a second heaven far brighter and more brilliant, for there was a boundless height also therein.
9. And I said to the malak, Why is this so? And the malak said to me, Marvel not at this, for you will see another heaven more brilliant and incomparable.
10. And when you have ascended thither, You will stand near אֱלֹהִים, And will be His minister, And will declare His mysteries to men, And will proclaim concerning Him that will redeem Yashar'al.
11. And by you and Yahudah will אֱלֹהִים appear among men, Saving every race of men.
12. And from אֱלֹהִים's portion will be your life, And He will be your field and vineyard, And fruits, gold, and silver.

## CHAPTER 3

1. Hear, therefore, regarding the heavens which have been shown to you. The lowest is for this cause gloomy unto you, in that it beholds all the unrighteous deeds of men.
2. And it has fire, snow, and ice made ready for the day of judgment, in the righteous judgment of ﷻ; for in it are all the ruachs of the retributions for vengeance on men.
3. And in the second are the hosts of the armies which are ordained for the day of judgment, to work vengeance on the ruachs of deceit and of Beliar (Baal). And above them are the consecrated ones.
4. And in the highest of all dwelleth the Great esteem, far above all consecration.
5. In the heaven next to it are the arch-malaks, who minister and make propitiation to ﷻ for all the sins of ignorance of the righteous;
6. Offering to ﷻ a sweet-smelling savour, a reasonable and a bloodless offering.
7. And in the heaven below this are the malaks who bear answers to the malaks of the presence of ﷻ.
8. And in the heaven next to this are thrones and dominions, in which always they offer praise to ﷻ.
9. When, therefore, ﷻ looketh upon us, all of us are shaken; yea, the heavens, and the earth, and the abysses are shaken at the presence of His majesty.
10. But the sons of men, having no perception of these things, sin and provoke ﷻ.

## **CHAPTER 4**

1. Now, therefore, know that ﷻ will execute judgment upon the sons of men. Because when the rocks are being rent, and the sun quenched, and the waters dried up, and the fire cowering, and all creation troubled, and the invisible ruachs melting away, and Hades taketh spoils through the visitations of ﷻ, men will be unbelieving and persist in their iniquity. On this account with punishment will they be judged.
2. Therefore, ﷻ has heard your prayer, to separate you from iniquity, and that you will become to Him a son, and a servant, and a minister of His presence.
3. The light of knowledge will you light up in Ya'aqob, and as the sun will you be to all the seed of Yashar'al.
4. And there will be given to you a barak, and to all your seed, until ﷻ will visit all the Gentiles in His tender mercies for ever.
5. And therefore there have been given to you counsel and understanding, that you might instruct your sons concerning this;

6. Because they that barak Him will be barak, And they that curse Him will perish.

## CHAPTER 5

1. And thereupon the malak opened to me the gates of heaven, and I saw the consecrated temple, and upon a throne of esteem אֱלֹהִים.

2. And He said to me: Lewi, I have given you the barak of the priesthood until I come and sojourn in the midst of Yashar'al.

3. Then the malak brought me down to the earth, and gave me a shield and a sword, and said to me: Execute vengeance on Shechem because of Dinah, your sister, and I will be with you because אֱלֹהִים has sent me.

4. And I destroyed at that time the sons of Hamor, as it is written in the heavenly tablets.

5. And I said to him: I pray You, O אֱלֹהִים, tell me Your name, that I may call upon You in a day of tribulation.

6. And he said: I am the malak who intercedeth for the nation of Yashar'al that they may not be smitten utterly, for every evil ruach attacketh it.

7. And after these things I awaked, and barak אֱלֹהִים, and the malak who intercedeth for the nation of Yashar'al and for all the righteous.

## CHAPTER 6

1. And when I was going to my father, I found a brazen shield; wherefore also the name of the mountain is Aspis, which is near Gebal, to the south of Abila.

2. And I kept these words in my heart. And after this I counselled my father, and Re'uban my brother, to bid the sons of Hamor not to be circumcised; for I was jealous because of the abomination which they had wrought on my sister.

4. And I slew Shechem first, and Shimeon slew Hamor.

5. And after this my brothers came and smote that city with the edge of the sword.

6. And my father heard these things and was wrath; and he was grieved in that they had received the circumcision, and after that had been put to death, and in his baraks he looked amiss upon us.

7. For we sinned because we had done this thing against his will, and he was sick on that day.

8. But I saw that the sentence of אֱלֹהִים was for evil upon Shechem; for they sought to do to Sarah and Rebecca as they had done to Dinah our sister, but אֱלֹהִים prevented them.

9. And they persecuted Abraham our father when he was a stranger, and they vexed his flocks when they were big with young; and Eblaen, who was born in his house, they most shamefully handled.

10. And thus they did to all strangers, taking away their wives by force, and they banished them.

11. But the wrath of אֱלֹהִים came upon them to the uttermost.

## CHAPTER 7

1. And I said to my father Ya'aqob: By you will אֱלֹהִים destroy the Kanaani, and will give their land to you and to your seed after you.

2. For from this day forward will Shechem be called a city of imbeciles; for as a man mocketh a fool, so did we mock them,

3. Because also they had wrought folly in Yashar'al by defiling my sister. And we departed and came to Bethel.

## CHAPTER 8

1. And there again I saw a vision even as the former, after we had spent there seventy days.

2. And I saw seven men in white raiment saying unto me: Arise, put on the robe of the priesthood, and the crown of righteousness, and the breastplate of understanding, and the garment of amat, and the plate of faith, and the turban of the head, and the ephod of prophecy.

3. And they severally carried (these things) and put (them) on me, and said unto me: From henceforth become a priest of אֱלֹהִים, you and your seed for ever.

4. And the first anointed me with consecrated oil, and gave to me the staff of judgment.

5. The second washed me with pure water, and fed me with bread and wine (even) the most consecrated things, and clad me with a consecrated and glorious robe.

6. The third clothed me with a linen vestment like an ephod.

7. The fourth put round me a girdle like unto purple.

8. The fifth gave me a branch of rich olive.

9. The sixth placed a crown on my head.

10. The seventh placed on my head a diadem of priesthood, and filled my hands with incense, that I might serve as priest to אֱלֹהִים.

11. And they said to me: Lewi, your seed will be divided into three offices, for a sign of the esteem of אֱלֹהִים who is to come.

12. And the first portion will be great; yea, greater than it will none be.
13. The second will be in the priesthood.
14. And the third will be called by a new name, because a king will arise in Yahudah, and will establish a new priesthood, after the fashion of the Gentiles to all the Gentiles.
15. And his presence is beloved, as a prophet of אֱלֹהִים, of the seed of Abraham our father.
16. Therefore, every desirable thing in Yashar'al will be for you and for your seed, And you will eat everything fair to look upon, And the table of אֱלֹהִים will your seed apportion.
17. And some of them will be high priests, and judges, and scribes; for by their mouth will the consecrated place be guarded.
18. And when I awoke, I understood that this (dream) was like the first dream.
19. And I hid this also in my heart, and told it not to any man upon the earth.

## CHAPTER 9

1. And after two days I and Yahudah went up with our father Ya'aqob to Yatschaq our father's father.
2. And my father's father barak me according to all the words of the visions which I had seen. And he would not come with us to Bethel.
3. And when we came to Bethel, my father Ya'aqob saw a vision concerning me, that I will be their priest unto אֱלֹהִים.
4. And he rose up early in the morning, and paid tithes of all to אֱלֹהִים through me.
5. And so we came to Hebron to dwell there.
6. And Yatschaq called me continually to put me in remembrance of the Torah of אֱלֹהִים, even as the malak of אֱלֹהִים showed unto me.
7. And he taught me the Torah of the priesthood, of sacrifices, whole burnt-offerings, first-fruits, freewill-offerings, peace-offerings.
8. And each day he was instructing me, and was busied on my behalf before אֱלֹהִים, and said to me:
9. Beware of the ruach of fornication; for this will continue and will by your seed pollute the consecrated place.
10. Take, therefore, to yourself a wife without blemish or pollution, while yet you are young, and not of the race of strange nations,

11. And before entering into the consecrated place, bathe; and when you offer the sacrifice, wash; and again, when you finish the sacrifice, wash.

12. Of twelve trees having leaves offer to אֱלֹהִים, as Abraham taught me also.

13. And of every clean beast and bird offer a sacrifice to אֱלֹהִים.

14. And of all your first-fruits and of wine offer the first, as a sacrifice to אֱלֹהִים; and every sacrifice you will salt with salt.

## CHAPTER 10

1. Now, therefore, observe whatsoever I command you, children; for whatsoever things I have heard from my fathers I have declared unto you.

2. And behold, I am clear from your ungodliness and transgression, which you will commit in the end of the ages against the Saviour of the world, יֵשׁוּעַ מְרִיטָא, acting godlessly, deceiving Yashar'al, and stirring up against it great evils from אֱלֹהִים.

3. And you will deal lawlessly together with Yashar'al, so He will not bear with Jerusalem because of your wickedness; but the veil of the temple will be rent, so as not to cover your shame.

4. And you will be scattered as captives among the Gentiles, and will be for a reproach and for a curse there.

5. For the house which אֱלֹהִים will choose will be called Jerusalem, as is contained in the book of Enoch the righteous.

## CHAPTER 11

1. Therefore when I took a wife I was twenty-eight years old, and her name was Melcha.

2. And she conceived and bare a son, and I called his name Gersam, for we were sojourners in our land.

3. And I saw concerning him, that he would not be in the first rank.

4. And Kohath was born in the thirty-fifth year of my life, towards sunrise.

5. And I saw in a vision that he was standing on high in the midst of all the congregation.

6. Therefore I called his name Kohath, which is, beginning of majesty and instruction.

7. And she bare me a third son, Merari, in the fortieth year of my life ; and since his mother bare him with difficulty, I called him Merari, that is my bitterness, because he also was like to die.

8. And Jochebed was born in Egypt, in my sixty-fourth year, for I was renowned then in the midst of my brethren.

## CHAPTER 12

1. And Gersam took a wife, and she bare to him Lomni and Semei.

2. And the sons of Kohath, Amram, Yissachar, Hebron, and Ozeel.

3. And the sons of Merari, Mooli and Mouses.

4. And in my ninety-fourth year Amram took Jochebed my daughter to him to wife, for they were born in one day, he and my daughter.

5. Eight years old was I when I went into the land of Kanaan, and eighteen years when I slew Shechem, and at nineteen years I became priest, and at twenty-eight years I took a wife, and at forty-eight I went into Egypt.

6. And behold, my children, you are a third generation.

7. In my hundred-and-eighteenth year Yahusaph died.

## CHAPTER 13

1. And now, my children, I command you: Fear  $\aleph\aleph\aleph$  your  $\aleph\aleph\aleph$  with your whole heart, and walk in simplicity according to all His Torah.

2. And do you also teach your children letters, that they may have understanding all their life, reading unceasingly the Torah of  $\aleph\aleph\aleph$ .

3. For every one that knoweth the Torah of  $\aleph\aleph\aleph$  will be honoured, and will not be a stranger wherever he goeth.

4. Yea, many friends will he gain more than his parents, and many men will desire to serve him, and to hear the Torah from his mouth.

5. Work righteousness, therefore, my children, upon the earth, That you may have (it) as a treasure in heaven.

6. And sow good things in your ruachs, that you may find them in your life. But if you sow evil things, you will reap every trouble and affliction.

7. Get wisdom in the fear of  $\aleph\aleph\aleph$  with diligence; For though there be a leading into captivity, and cities and lands be destroyed, and gold and silver and every possession perish, the wisdom of the wise naught can take away, save the blindness of ungodliness, and the callousness (that comes) of sin.

8. For if one keep oneself from these evil things, then even among his enemies will wisdom be an esteem to him, and in a strange country a fatherland, And in the midst of foes will prove a friend.

9. Whosoever teacheth noble things and doeth them, will be enthroned with kings, as was also Yahusaph my brother.

## CHAPTER 14

1. Therefore, my children, I have learnt that at the end of the ages you will transgress against אלהים, stretching out hands to wickedness against Him; and to all the Gentiles will you become a scorn.

2. For our father Yashar'al is pure from the transgressions of the chief priests who will lay their hands upon the Saviour of the world.

3. For as the heaven is purer in אלהים's sight than the earth, so also be you, the lights of Yashar'al, (purer) than all the Gentiles.

4. But if you be darkened through transgressions, what, therefore, will all the Gentiles do living in blindness? Yea, you will bring a curse upon our race, because the light of the Torah which was given for to lighten every man, this you desire to destroy by teaching commandments contrary to the ordinances of אלהים.

5. The offerings of אלהים you will rob, and from His portion will you steal choice portions, eating (them) contemptuously with harlots.

6. And out of covetousness you will teach the commandments of אלהים, wedded women will you pollute, and the virgins of Jerusalem will you defile; and with harlots and adulteresses will you be joined, and the daughters of the Gentiles will you take to wife, purifying them with an unlawful purification; and your union will be like unto Sodom and Gomorrah.

7. And you will be puffed up because of your priesthood, lifting yourselves up against men, and not only so, but also against the commands of אלהים.

8. For you will contemn the consecrated things with jests and laughter.

## CHAPTER 15

1. Therefore the temple, which אלהים will choose, will be laid waste through your uncleanness, and you will be captives throughout all nations.

2. And you will be an abomination unto them, and you will receive reproach and everlasting shame from the righteous judgment of אלהים.

3. And all who hate you will rejoice at your destruction.

4. And if you were not to receive mercy through Abraham, Yatschaq, and Ya'aqob, our fathers, not one of our seed will be left upon the earth.

## **CHAPTER 16**

1. And now I have learnt that for seventy weeks you will go astray, and profane the priesthood, and pollute the sacrifices.

2. And you will make void the Torah, and set at nought the words of the prophets by evil perverseness. And you will persecute righteous men, and hate the godly; the words of the faithful will you abhor.

3. And a man who reneweth the Torah in the power of אֱלֹהִים, you will call a deceiver; and at last you will rush (upon him) to slay him, not knowing his dignity, taking innocent blood through wickedness upon your heads.

4. And your consecrated places will be laid waste even to the ground because of him.

5. And you will have no place that is clean; but you will be among the Gentiles a curse and a dispersion until He will again visit you, and in pity will receive you through faith and water.

## **CHAPTER 17**

1. And whereas you have heard concerning the seventy weeks, hear also concerning the priesthood.

2. For in each jubilee there will be a priesthood. And in the first jubilee, the first who is anointed to the priesthood will be great, and will speak to אֱלֹהִים as to a father. And his priesthood will be perfect with אֱלֹהִים, and in the day of his gladness will he arise for the salvation of the world.

3. In the second jubilee, he that is anointed will be conceived in the sorrow of beloved ones; and his priesthood will be honoured and will be esteemed by all.

4. And the third priest will be taken hold of by sorrow.

5. And the fourth will be in pain, because unrighteousness will gather itself against him exceedingly, and all Yashar'al will hate each one his neighbor.

6. The fifth will be taken hold of by darkness.

7. Likewise also the sixth and the seventh.

8. And in the seventh will be such pollution as I cannot express before men, for they will know it who do these things.

9. Therefore will they be taken captive and become a prey, and their land and their substance will be destroyed.

10. And in the fifth week they will return to their desolate country, and will renew the house of אֱלֹהִים.

11. And in the seventh week will come priests, (who are) idolaters, adulterers, lovers of money, proud, lawless, lascivious, abusers of children and beasts.

## CHAPTER 18

1. And after their punishment will have come from אֱלֹהִים, the priesthood will fail.

2. Then will אֱלֹהִים raise up a new priest. And to him all the words of אֱלֹהִים will be revealed; And he will execute a righteous judgment upon the earth for a multitude of days.

3. And his star will arise in heaven as of a king, Lighting up the light of knowledge as the sun the day, And he will be magnified in the world.

4. He will shine forth as the sun on the earth, And will remove all darkness from under heaven, And there will be shalom in all the earth.

5. The heavens will exult in his days, And the earth will be glad, And the clouds will rejoice ; And the knowledge of אֱלֹהִים will be poured forth upon the earth, as the water of the seas ; And the malaks of the esteem of the presence of אֱלֹהִים will be glad in him.

6. The heavens will be opened, And from the temple of esteem will come upon him sanctification, With the Father's voice as from Abraham to Yatschaq.

7. And the esteem of אֱלֹהִים will be uttered over him, And the ruach of understanding and sanctification will rest upon him in the water.

8. For he will give the majesty of אֱלֹהִים to His sons in amat for evermore ; And there will none succeed him for all generations for ever.

9. And in his priesthood the Gentiles will be multiplied in knowledge upon the earth, And enlightened through the grace of אֱלֹהִים : In his priesthood will sin come to an end, And the lawless will cease to do evil. And the just will rest in him.

10. And he will open the gates of paradise, And will remove the threatening sword against Adam.

11. And he will give to the consecrated ones to eat from the tree of life, And the ruach of consecration will be on them.

12. And Beliar (Baal) will be bound by him, And he will give power to His children to tread upon the evil ruachs.

13. And אֱלֹהִים will rejoice in His children, And be well pleased in His beloved ones for ever.

14. Then will Abraham and Yatschaq and Ya'aqob exult, And I will be glad, And all the consecrated ones will clothe themselves with joy.

## CHAPTER 19

1. And now, my children, you have heard all; choose, therefore, for yourselves either the light or the darkness, either the Torah of אֱלֹהִים or the works of Beliar (Baal).

2. And his sons answered him, saying, Before אֱלֹהִים we will walk according to His Torah.

3. And their father said unto them, אֱלֹהִים is witness, and His malaks are witnesses, and you are witnesses, and I am witness, concerning the word of your mouth. And his sons said unto him : We are witnesses.

4. And thus Lewi ceased commanding his sons; and he stretched out his feet on the bed, and was gathered to his fathers, after he had lived a hundred and thirty-seven years.

5. And they laid him in a coffin, and afterwards they buried him in Hebron, with Abraham, Yatschaq, and Ya'aqob.