

# THE TESTAMENT OF BINYAMIN

## CHAPTER 1

- 1 The copy of the words of Binyamin, which he commanded his sons to observe, after he had lived a hundred and twenty-five years.
- 2 And he kissed them, and said: As Yatschaq was born to Abraham in his old age, so also was I to Ya'aqob.
- 3 And since Rakhal my mother died in giving me birth, I had no milk; therefore I was suckled by Bilhah her handmaid.
- 4 For Rakhal remained barren for twelve years after she had borne Yabusaph; and she petitioned אלהים with fasting twelve days, and she conceived and brought forth me.
- 5 For my father loved Rakhal dearly, and petitioned that he might see two sons born from her.
- 6 Therefore was I called Binyamin, that is, a son of days.

## CHAPTER 2

- 1 And when I went into Mitsrayim, to Yabusaph, and my brother recognized me, he said unto me: What did they tell my father when they sold me?
- 2 And I said unto him, They dabbled your coat with blood and sent it, and said: Know whether this be your son's coat?
- 3 And he said unto me: Even so, brother, when they had stripped me of my coat they gave me to the Yishma'alites, and they gave me a loin cloth, and scourged me, and bade me run.
- 4 And as for one of them that had beaten me with a rod, a lion met him and slew him.
- 5 And so his associates were afraid.

## CHAPTER 3

- 1 Do you also, therefore, my children, love אלהים AL'uah of shamayim and aratz, and guard His commandments, following the example of the good and qodash man Yabusaph.
- 2 And let your mind be unto good, even as you know me; for he that has his mind right, sees all things rightly.
- 3 Fear אלהים, and love your neighbour; and even though the ruach of Beliar (Baal) claim you to afflict you with every evil, yet will they not have dominion over you, even as they had not over Yabusaph my brother.
- 4 How many men wished to slay him, and אלהים shielded him! For he that fears אלהים and loves his neighbour cannot be smitten by the ruach of Beliar (Baal), being shielded by the fear of אלהים.
- 5 Nor can he be ruled over by the device of men or beasts, for he is helped by אלהים through the ahaba which he has towards his neighbour.
- 6 For Yabusaph also besought our father that he would petition for his brethren, that אלהים would not impute to them as sin whatever evil they had done unto him.
- 7 And thus Ya'aqob cried out: My good child, you have prevailed over the bowels of your father Ya'aqob. And he embraced him, and kissed him for two hours, saying:

8 In you will be fulfilled the prophecy of shamayim concerning the Lamb of AL'uah, and Deliverer of the world, that a blameless one will be delivered up for lawless men, and a sinless will die for unrighteous men in the blood of the covenant, for the deliverance of the nations and of Yashar'al, and will destroy Beliar (Baal) and his servants.

#### **CHAPTER 4**

1 See you, therefore, my children, the end of the good man? Be followers of his compassion, therefore, with a good mind, that you also may wear crowns of esteem.

2 For the good man has not a dark eye; for he shows racham to all men, even though they be sinners.

3 And though they devise with evil intent concerning him, by doing good he overcomes evil, being shielded by אֱלֹהִים; and he loves the righteous as his own soul.

4 If any one is esteemed, he envies him not; if any one is enriched, he is not jealous; if any one is valiant, he praises him; the virtuous man he lauds; on the poor man he has racham; on the weak he has compassion; unto אֱלֹהִים he sings zamar.

5 And him that has the favour of a good ruach he loves as his own soul.

#### **CHAPTER 5**

1 If, therefore, you also have a good mind, then will both wicked men be at shalum with you, and the profligate will revere you and turn unto good; and the covetous will not only cease from their inordinate desire, but even give the objects of their covetousness to them that are afflicted.

2 If you do well, even the unclean ruachim will flee from you; and the beasts will dread you.

3 For where there is reverence for good works and aur in the mind, even chashak flees away from him.

4 For if any one does violence to a qodash man, he repents; for the qodash man is merciful to his reviler, and holds his peace.

5 And if any one betrays a righteous man, the righteous man petitions: though for a little he be humbled, yet not long after he appears far more esteemed, as was Yahusaph my brother.

#### **CHAPTER 6**

1 The inclination of the good man is not in the power of the deceit of the ruach of Beliar (Baal), for the malak of shalum guides his soul.

2 And he gazes not passionately upon corruptible things, nor gathers together riches through a desire of pleasure.

3 He delights not in pleasure, he grieves not his neighbour, he satiates not himself with luxuries, he errs not in the uplifting of the eyes, for אֱלֹהִים is his portion.

4 The good inclination receives not esteem nor dishonour from men, and it knows not any guile, or lie, or fighting, or reviling; for אֱלֹהִים dwells in him and lights up his soul, and he rejoices towards all men always.

5 The good mind has not two tongues, of barak and of cursing, of contumely and of honour, of sorrow and of joy, of quietness and of confusion, of hypocrisy and of amat, of poverty and of wealth; but it has one disposition, uncorrupt and pure, concerning all men.

6 It has no double sight, nor double hearing; for in everything which he does, or speaks, or sees, he knows that אֵלֹהִים looks on his soul.

7 And he cleanses his mind that he be not condemned by men as well as by אֵלֹהִים. And in like manner the works of Beliar (Baal) are twofold, and there is no singleness in them.

## CHAPTER 7

1 Therefore, my children, I tell you, flee the malice of Beliar (Baal); for he gives a sword to them that obey him.

2 And the sword is the mother of seven evils. First the mind conceives through Beliar (Baal), and first there is bloodshed; secondly, ruin; thirdly, tribulation; fourthly, exile; fifthly, dearth; sixthly, panic; seventhly, destruction.

3 Therefore was Qayin also delivered over to seven vengeancees by אֵלֹהִים, for in every hundred years אֵלֹהִים brought one plague upon him.

4 And when he was two hundred years old he began to suffer, and in the nine-hundredth year he was destroyed. For on account of Hebel, his brother, with all the evils was he judged, but Lamek with seventy times seven.

5 Because forever those who are like unto Qayin in envy and hatred of brethren, will be punished with the same judgement.

## CHAPTER 8

1 And do you, my children, flee evil-doing, envy, and hatred of brethren, and cleave to goodness and ahaba.

2 He that has a pure mind in ahaba, looks not after a woman with a view to fornication; for he has no defilement in his heart, because Ruach ha'Qodash rests upon him.

3 For as the sun is not defiled by shining on dung and mire, but rather dries up both and drives away the evil smell; so also the pure mind, though encompassed by the defilements of aratz, rather cleanses them, and is not itself defiled.

## CHAPTER 9

1 And I believe that there will be also evil-doings among you, from the words of Chanok the righteous: that you will commit fornication with the fornication of Sodom, and will perish, all save a few, and will renew wanton deeds with women; and the kingdom of אֵלֹהִים will not be among you, for straightway He will take it away.

2 Nevertheless the temple of אֵלֹהִים will be in your portion, and the last temple will be more esteemed than the first. And the twelve tribes will be gathered together there, and all the nations, until the Most High will send forth His deliverance in the visitation of an only-begotten prophet.

3 And He will enter into the first temple, and there will אֵלֹהִים be treated with outrage, and He will be lifted up upon a tree.

4 And the veil of the temple will be rent, and Ruach ha'Qodash will pass on to the nations as fire poured forth.

5 And He will ascend from Sheol and will pass from aratz into shamayim. And I know how lowly He will be upon aratz, and how esteemed in shamayim.

## CHAPTER 10

1 Now when Yabusaph was in Mitsrayim, I longed to see his figure and the form of his countenance; and through the petitions of Ya'aqob my father I saw him, while awake in the day-time, even his entire figure exactly as he was.

2 And when he had said these things, he said unto them: Know you, therefore, my children, that I am dying.

3 Do you, therefore, amat each one to his neighbour, and guard the Torah of אלהים and His commandments.

4 For these things do I leave you instead of inheritance. Do you also, therefore, give them to your children for an everlasting possession; for so did both Abraham, and Yatschaq, and Ya'aqob.

5 For all these things they gave us for an inheritance, saying: Guard the commandments of אלהים, until אלהים will reveal His deliverance to all nations.

6 And then will you see Chanok, Noach, and Sham, and Abraham, and Yatschaq, and Ya'aqob, rising on the right hand in gladness.

7 Then will we also rise, each one over our tribe, worshipping the King of shamayim, Who appeared upon aratz in the form of a man in humility. And as many as believe on Him on the aratz will rejoice with Him.

8 Then also all men will rise, some unto esteem and some unto shame. And אלהים will judge Yashar'al first, for their unrighteousness; for when He appeared as AL'uah in the flesh to deliver them they believed Him not.

9 And then will He judge all the nations, as many as believed Him not when He appeared upon aratz.

10 And He will convict Yashar'al through the chosen ones of the nations, even as He reproved Esau through the Madianites, who deceived their brethren, so that they fell into fornication, and idolatry; and they were alienated from אלהים, becoming therefore children in the portion of them that fear אלהים.

11 If you therefore, my children, walk in qodash according to the commandments of אלהים, you will again dwell securely with me, and all Yashar'al will be gathered unto אלהים.

## CHAPTER 11

1 And I will no longer be called a ravening wolf on account of your ravages, but a worker of אלהים distributing food to them that work what is good.

2 And there will arise in the latter days one beloved of אלהים, of the tribe of Yahudah and Luwi, a doer of His good pleasure in his mouth, with new knowledge enlightening the nations.

3 Until the consummation of the age will he be in the kahal of the nations, and among their rulers, as a strain of music in the mouth of all.

4 And he will be inscribed in the qodash books, both his work and his word, and he will be a chosen one of אלהים forever.

5 And through them he will go to and fro as Ya'aqob my father, saying: He will fill up that which lacks of your tribe.

## **CHAPTER 12**

1 And when he had said these things he stretched out his feet,

2 And died in a beautiful and good sleep.

3 And his sons did as he had enjoined them, and they took up his body and buried it in Hebron with his fathers.

4 And the number of the days of his life were a hundred and twenty-five years.