

THE TESTAMENT OF LEWI

CHAPTER 1

1 The copy of the words of Lewi, the things which he ordained to his sons, according to all that they should do, and what things should befall them until the day of judgement.

2 He was sound in health when he called them to him; for it had been revealed to him that he would 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 Shekem.

2 And I was young, about twenty years of age, when, with Shimeon, I wrought vengeance on Chamor 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 petitioned 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 shamayim were opened, and a malak of אֱלֹהִים said to me, Lewi, enter.

7 And I entered from the first shamayim, and I saw there a great sea hanging.

8 And further, I saw a second shamayim 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 shamayim more brilliant and incomparable.

10 And when you have ascended there, 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 shamayim which have been shown to you. The lowest is for this cause gloomy to 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 judgement, in the righteous judgement of אֱלֹהִים; for in it are all the ruachim 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 judgement, to work vengeance on the ruachim of deceit and of Beliar (Baal). And above them are the consecrated ones.

4 And in the highest of all dwells the Great Esteem, far above all consecration.

5 In the shamayim next to it are the archmalakim, who minister and make intercession to אֱלֹהִים for all the sins of ignorance of the righteous;

6 Offering to אֱלֹהִים a sweet-smelling savour, a reasonable and a bloodless offering.
7 And in the shamayim below this are the malakim who bear answers to the malakim of the presence of אֱלֹהִים
8 And in the shamayim next to this are thrones and dominions, in which always they offer praise to אֱלֹהִים
9 When, therefore, אֱלֹהִים looks upon us, all of us are shaken; yes, the shamayim, 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 the Most High.

CHAPTER 4

1 Know, therefore, that אֱלֹהִים will execute judgement upon the sons of men.
2 Because when the earth lies in trouble, the Most High will visit it Himself.
3 And the earth will be filled with men and beasts, and if these things come to pass, the time of the visitation will be fulfilled.
4 And all men will walk after their own iniquity, and unrighteousness will be increased upon the earth.
5 And the Most High will send forth His deliverance in mercy for all men, and His creation will not be left without defence.
6 Then will אֱלֹהִים Himself arise in righteousness to execute judgement upon the earth.
7 In those days unrighteousness will be forgotten, and all men will return to their rightful estate.
8 And every man will know אֱלֹהִים in truth, and serve Him in righteousness.
9 And you, my sons, will be priests of אֱלֹהִים, and will be esteemed and magnified in all generations.

CHAPTER 5

1 Now I teach you, my children, to keep yourselves from all unrighteousness, and to walk in all the righteousness of אֱלֹהִים
2 Do justice, each one with his neighbour, and walk in kindness and compassion, and do not walk in the ways of wickedness.
3 For if you walk in righteousness, men will esteem you, and אֱלֹהִים will be your helper.
4 But if you walk in unrighteousness, men will hate you, and אֱלֹהִים will be your enemy.
5 Therefore choose righteousness, that you may live, and that your seed may inherit the earth in righteousness.
6 For the righteous will inherit the earth, and will delight themselves in the abundance of shalum.
7 But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors will be rooted out of it.

CHAPTER 6

1 And now, my children, know that your father's lot is in the priesthood.
2 And אֱלֹהִים gave it to me and to my seed until the end of the world.
3 And your seed will minister before אֱלֹהִים continually, and will serve in His sanctuary.
4 And you will teach the Torah of אֱלֹהִים to all men, and will proclaim His words to the nations.

5 And in you will be the covenant of אלהים, and in your seed will His covenant be established.
6 And all the nations will know that you are the sons of אלהים, and they will honour you as the priests of the Most High.

CHAPTER 7

1 And now, my sons, keep the commandments of אלהים, and walk in all His ways, and be not double-hearted nor double-tongued.
2 Be not hypocrites in your deeds, nor deceive yourselves with falsehood.
3 For if you keep the commandments of אלהים, He will bless you, and your seed will be blessed after you.
4 But if you forsake the commandments of אלהים, you will be cursed, and your seed will be cursed after you.
5 Choose, therefore, the blessing, that you may live, and inherit the land which אלהים gave to Abraham, Yatschaq, and Ya'aqob.
6 For אלהים will bless those who keep His commandments, and He will destroy those who forsake Him.

CHAPTER 8

1 And when Lewi had ended commanding his sons, he stretched out his feet on the bed and slept with his fathers.
2 And they laid him in a coffin, and afterwards they carried him up to Hebron, and buried him with Abraham, Yatschaq, and Ya'aqob.