

THE
APOCALYPSE
OF
BARUK
(BARUCH)

The Apocalypse of Baruk (Baruch)

Chapter 1

1 And it came to pass in the twenty-fifth year of YakanYAHU king of Yahudah, that the word of אֲבִיבָא came to Baruk the ban of NariYAHU, and said to him:

2 "Have you seen all that this people are doing to Me, that the evils which these two tribes which remained have done are greater than those of the ten tribes which were carried away captive?"

3 For the former tribes were forced by their kings to commit sin, but these two of themselves have been forcing and compelling their kings to commit sin.

4 For this reason, behold I bring evil upon this city, and upon its inhabitants, and it will be removed from before Me for a time, and I will scatter this people among the nations that they may do good to the nations.

5 And My people will be chastened, and the time will come when they will seek for the prosperity of their times."

Chapter 2

1 "For I have said these things to you that you may say them to YarmiYAHU, and to all those who are like you, in order that you may retire from this city.

2 Because your works are to this city as a firm pillar, and your petitions as a strong wall."

Chapter 3

1 And I said: "אֲבִיבָא, my Master, have I come into the world for this purpose that I might see the evils of my mother? Not so, my Master.

2 If I have found favor in Your sight, first take my breath that I may go to my fathers and not behold the destruction of my mother.

3 For two things vehemently constrain me: for I cannot resist You, and my being, moreover, cannot behold the evils of my mother.

4 But one thing I will say in Your presence, אֲבִיבָא.

5 What, therefore, will there be after these things? For if You destroy Your city, and deliver up Your land to those that hate us, how will the name of Yasharal be again remembered?

6 Or how will one speak of Your esteem? Or to whom will that which is in Your law be explained?

7 Or will the world return to its nature of aforesaid, and the age revert to primeval silence?

8 And will the multitude of beings be taken away, and the nature of man not again be named?

9 And where is all that which You did say to Moshah regarding us?"

Chapter 4

1 And אֱלֹהִים said unto me: "This city will be delivered up for a time, and the people will be chastened during a time, and the world will not be given over to oblivion.

2 Do you think that this is that city of which I said: On the palms of My hands have I graven you?

3 It is not this building which is now built in your midst; it is that which will be revealed with Me, that which was prepared beforehand here from the time when I took counsel to make Paradise, and showed it to Adam before he sinned, but when he transgressed the commandment, it was removed from him, as also Paradise.

4 And after these things I showed it to My servant Abraham by night among the portions of the victims.

5 And again also I showed it to Moshah on Mount Sinai when I showed him the likeness of the tabernacle and all its vessels.

6 And now, behold, it is preserved with Me, as also Paradise.

7 Go, therefore, and do as I command you."

Chapter 5

1 And I answered and said: "I will, therefore, be in great straits in Tsiyon, because Your enemies will come to that place and pollute Your sanctuary, and lead Your inheritance into captivity, and will lord it over those whom You have loved, and they will depart again to the place of their idols, and will boast before them. And what will You do for Your great name?"

2 And אֱלֹהִים said unto me: "My name and My esteem have an eternal duration; My judgment, moreover, will preserve its rights in its own time.

3 And you will see with your eyes that the enemy will not overthrow Tsiyon, nor burn Yarushalayim, but be subservient to the judge for a time.

4 But do you go and do whatever I have said unto you."

5 And I went and took YarmiYAHU, and Adu, and Seriah, and Jabish, and Gedaliah, and all the honourable men of the people, and I led them to the valley of Cedron, and I narrated to them all that had been said to me.

6 And they lifted up their voices, and they all wept.

7 And we sat there and fasted until the evening.

Chapter 6

1 And it came to pass on the morrow that, lo! The army of the Chaldees surrounded the city, and at the time of the evening I, Baruk, left the people, and I went forth and stood by the oak.

2 And I was grieving over Tsiyon, and lamenting over the captivity which had come upon the people.

3 And, lo! suddenly a strong breath raised me, and bore me aloft over the wall of Yarushalayim.

4 And I beheld, and lo! four malakiym standing at the four angles of the city, each of them holding a lamp of fire in his hands.

5 And another malak began to descend from shamayim, and said unto them: "Hold your lamps, and do not light them till I tell you.

6 For I am first sent to speak a word to the earth, and to place in it what אֵלֹהִים the ALmighty has commanded me."

7 And I saw him descend into the Consecrated of Consecrated, and take from thence the veil, and the consecrated ephod, and the mercy-seat, and the two tables, and the consecrated raiment of the leaders, and the altar of incense, and the forty-eight precious stones, wherewith the leader was adorned, and all the consecrated vessels of the tabernacle.

8 And he spoke to the earth with a loud voice: "Earth, earth, earth, hear the word of אֵלֹהִים ALmighty, and receive what I commit to you, and guard them until the last times, so that, when you are ordered, you may restore them, so that strangers may not get possession of them.

9 For the time comes when Yarushalayim also will be delivered up for a time, until it is said that it is again restored forever.

10 And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up."

Chapter 7

1 And after these things I heard that malak saying unto those malakiym who held the lamps: "Destroy, therefore, and overthrow its walls to its foundations, lest the enemy should boast and say: We have overthrown the wall of Tsiyon, and we have burnt the place of אֵלֹהִים ALmighty."

2 And the Breath restored me to the place where I had been standing before.

Chapter 8

1 Now the malakiym did as he had commanded them, and when they had broken up the angles of the walls, a voice was heard from the interior of the temple, after the wall had fallen, saying:

2 "Enter you enemies, and come you adversaries; for He who kept the house has forsaken it."

3 And I, Baruk, departed.

4 And it came to pass after these things that the army of the Chaldees entered and seized the house, and all that was around it.

5 And they led the people away captive, and slew some of them, and bound TsadaqYAHU the king, and sent him to the king of Babylon.

Chapter 9

1 And I, Baruk, came, and YarmiYAHU, whose heart was found pure from sins, who had not been captured in the seizure of the city.

2 And we rent our garments, and wept, and mourned, and fasted seven days.

Chapter 10

1 And it came to pass after seven days, that the word of אֱלֹהִים was upon me, and said unto me:

2 "Tell YarmiYAHU to go and confirm the captivity of the people unto Babylon.

3 But do you remain here amid the desolation of Tsiyon, and I will show to you after these days what will befall at the end of days."

4 And I said to YarmiYAHU as אֱלֹהִים commanded me.

5 And he, indeed, departed with the people, but I, Baruk, returned and sat before the gates of the temple, and I lamented with that lamentation over Tsiyon and said:

6 "Barak is he who was not born, or who was born has died.

7 But as for us who live, woe unto us, because we see the afflictions of Tsiyon, and what has befallen Yarushalayim.

8 I will call the Sirens from the sea, and you Lilin, come from the desert, and you Shedim and dragons from the forests: awake and bind your loins unto mourning, and take up with me lamentation, and mourn with me.

9 You husbandmen, sow not again; and you, earth, why do you give the fruits of your produce? Keep within you the sweets of your sustenance.

10 And you, vine, why further do you give your wine? For an offering will not again be made therefrom in Tsiyon, nor will first-fruits again be offered.

11 And do you, shamayim, withhold your dew, and open not the treasuries of rain.

12 And do you, sun, withhold the light of your rays; and do you, moon, extinguish the multitude of your light; for why should light rise again where the light of Tsiyon is darkened?

13 And you, you bridegrooms, enter not in, and let not the brides adorn themselves with garlands; and, you women, petition not that you may bear.

14 For the barren will rejoice more, and those who have no baniym will be glad, and those who have baniym will have anguish.

15 For why should they bear in pain and bury in grief?

16 Or why, again, should mankind have baniym; or why should the seed of their nature again be named, where that mother is desolate, and her baniym are led into captivity?

17 From this time forward speak not of beauty and discourse not of favorfulness.

18 Moreover, you leaders, take the keys of the sanctuary and cast them into the height of shamayim, and give them to אֱלֹהִים, and say: Guard Your house Yourself, for lo! We found false stewards.

19 And you, you virgins, who spin fine linen and silk with gold of Ophir, hasten and take all things and cast them into the fire, that it may bear them to Him who made them, and the flame send them to Him who created them, lest the enemy get possession of them."

Chapter 11

1 Moreover, I, Baruk, say this against you, Babylon: "If you had prospered, and Tsiyon had dwelt in her esteem, it would have been a great grief to us that you should be equal to Tsiyon.

2 But now, lo! the grief is infinite, and the lamentation measureless, for lo! you are prospered and Tsiyon desolate.

3 Who will be judge regarding these things? Or to whom will we complain regarding that which has befallen us? אֱלֹהִים, how have You borne it?

4 Our fathers went to rest without grief, and lo! the righteous sleep in the earth in tranquillity.

5 For they knew not this anguish, nor yet had they heard of that which had befallen us.

6 Would that you had ears, earth, and that you had a heart, dust, that you might go and announce in Sheol, and say to the dead:

7 Barak are you more than we who are living."

Chapter 12

1 But I will speak this as I think, and I will speak against you, land, which are prospering.

2 The noonday does not always burn, nor do the constant rays of the sun always give light.

3 Do not conclude or expect that you will always be prosperous and rejoicing, and be not greatly uplifted and boastful.

4 For assuredly in its own season wrath will awaken against you, which now in long-suffering is held in as it were by reins.

5 And when I had said these things, I fasted seven days.

Chapter 13

1 And it came to pass after these things, that I, Baruk, was standing upon Mount Tsiyon, and lo! a voice came from the height and said unto me:

2 "Stand upon your feet, Baruk, and hear the word of אֱלֹהִים ALmighty.

3 Because you have been astonished at what has befallen Tsiyon, you will therefore be assuredly preserved to the consummation of the times, that you may be for a testimony.

4 So that, if ever those prosperous cities say: Why has אֱלֹהִים ALmighty brought upon us this retribution?

5 You and those like you may say to them even you who have seen: This evil and these retributions which are coming upon you and upon your people are placed in its time that the nations may be perfectly chastened.

6 And then they will expect.

7 And if they say at that time: When?

8 You will say to them: You who have drunk the strained wine, drink also of its dregs, the judgment of the Lofty One who has no respect for persons.

9 On this account He had before no mercy on His own baniym, but afflicted them as His enemies, because they sinned.

10 They were therefore chastened then that they might receive mercy.

11 But now, you peoples and nations, you are debtors because all this time you have trodden down the earth, and used the creation unrighteously.

12 For I have always benefited you, and you have always denied the beneficence."

Chapter 14

1 And I answered and said: "Lo! You have shown me the method of the times, and that which will be after these things, and You have said unto me, that the retribution, which has been spoken of by You, will be of advantage to the nations.

2 And now I know that those who have sinned are many, and they have lived in prosperity, and departed from the world, but that few nations will be left in those times, to whom those words will be said which You did say.

3 For what advantage is there in this, or what evil, worse than what we have seen befall us, are we to expect to see?

4 But again I will speak in Your presence:

5 What have they profited who confessed before You, and have not walked in vanity as the rest of the nations, and have not said to the dead: Give us life, but always feared You, and have not left Your ways?

6 And lo! they have been carried off, nor on their account have You had mercy on Tsiyon.

7 And if others did evil, it was due to Tsiyon, that on account of the works of those who wrought good works she should be forgiven, and should not be overwhelmed on account of the works of those who wrought unrighteousness.

8 But who, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, my Master, will comprehend Your judgment, or who will find out the profoundness of Your path? Or who will think about the gravity of Your way?

9 Or who will be able to think of Your incomprehensible counsel? Or who of those that are born has ever found the beginning or end of Your wisdom?

10 For we have all been made like a breath.

11 For as the breath ascends from the heart, and returning not is extinguished, such is the nature of men, who depart not according to their own will, and know not what will befall them in the end.

12 For the righteous loyally hope for the end, and without fear depart from this habitation, because they have with You a store of works preserved in treasuries.

13 On this account also these without fear leave this world, and trusting with joy they hope to receive the world which You have promised them.

14 But unto us there is woe, who also now are shamefully entreated, and at that time look forward only to evils.

15 But You know accurately what You have made on behalf of Your servants; for we are not able to understand by means of any good thing that You are our Creator.

16 But again I will speak in Your presence, אֱלֹהֵי, my Master.

17 When of old there was no world with its inhabitants, You devised and spoke with a word, and forthwith the works of creation stood before You.

18 And You said that You would make for Your world man as the administrator of Your works, that it might be known that he was by no means made on account of the world, but the world on account of him.

19 And now I see that as for the world which was made on account of us, lo! it abides, but we, on account of whom it was made, depart."

Chapter 15

1 And אֱלֹהֵי answered and said unto me: "You are rightly astonished regarding the departure of man, but you have not judged well regarding the evils which befall those who sin.

2 And as regards what you have said, that the righteous are carried off and the impious are prospered,

3 And as regards what you have said: Man knows not Your judgment -

4 On this account hear, and I will speak to you, and hearken, and I will cause you to hear My words.

5 Man would not rightly have understood My judgment, if he had not accepted the law, and if his fear had not been rooted in understanding.

6 But now, because he transgressed though he knew, yea, on account of this also, he will be tormented because he knew.

7 And as regards what you did say touching the righteous, that on account of them has this world come, nay more, even that which is to come is on their account.

8 For this world is to them a trouble and a weariness with much labour; and that accordingly which is to come, a crown with great esteem."

Chapter 16

1 And I answered and said: "אֱלֹהֵי, my Master, lo! the years of this time are few and evil, and who is able in this little space to acquire that which is measureless?"

Chapter 17

1 And אֱלֹהִים answered and said unto me: "With the ALmighty account is not taken of much time nor of a few years.

2 For what did it profit Adam that he lived nine hundred and thirty years, and transgressed that which he was commanded?

3 Therefore, the multitude of time that he lived did not benefit him, but brought death and cut off the years of those who were born from him.

4 Or wherein did Moshah suffer loss in that he lived only one hundred and twenty years, and, inasmuch as he was subject to Him who formed him, brought the law to the seed of Yaaqob, and lighted a lamp for the nation of Yasharal."

Chapter 18

1 And I answered and said: "He that lighted has taken from the light, and there are but few that have imitated him.

2 But those many whom he has lighted have taken from the darkness of Adam, and have not rejoiced in the light of the lamp."

Chapter 19

1 And He answered and said unto me: "Wherefore at that time he appointed for them a covenant, and said: Behold I have placed before you life and death, and he called shamayim and earth to witness against them.

2 For he knew that his time was short, but that shamayim and earth endure always.

3 For after his death these sinned and transgressed the covenant, though they knew that they had the law reproving them, and the light in which nothing could err, also the spheres, which testify, and Me.

4 Now regarding everything that is it is I that judge, but do not take counsel in your being regarding these things, nor afflict yourself because of those which have been.

5 For now it is the consummation of time that is sought, whether of business, or of prosperity, or of shame, and not the beginning thereof.

6 Because if a man prospered in his beginnings and shamefully entreated in his old age, he forgets all the prosperity that he had.

7 And again, if a man is shamefully entreated in his beginnings, and at his end is prospered, he remembers not again his evil entreatment.

8 And again hearken: though each one prospered all that time from the day on which death was decreed against those who transgress and in his end was destroyed, in vain would have been everything.

9 For each of the inhabitants of the earth knew when he was committing iniquity, and they have not known My law by reason of their pride.

10 For many will then assuredly weep, yea, over the living more than over the dead.

11 Adam, what have you done to all those who are born from you? And what will be said to the first Eve who hearkened to the serpent?

12 For all this multitude are going to corruption, nor is there any numbering of those whom the fire devours.

13 But again I will speak in Your presence.

14 You, אֱלֹהִים, my Master, know what is in Your creature.

15 For You did of old command the dust to produce Adam, and You know the number of those who are born from him, and how far they have sinned before You, who have existed and not confessed You as their Creator.

16 And as regards all these their end will convict them, and Your law which they have transgressed will requite them on Your day.

17 For after his death these sinned and transgressed the covenant, though they knew that they had the law reproving them, and the light in which nothing could err, also the spheres, which testify, and Me. Now regarding everything that is it is I that judge, but do not take counsel in your being regarding these things, nor afflict yourself because of those which have been. For now it is the consummation of time that is sought, whether of business, or of prosperity, or of shame, and not the beginning thereof. Because if a man prospered in his beginnings and shamefully entreated in his old age, he forgets all the prosperity that he had. And again, if a man is shamefully entreated in his beginnings, and at his end is prospered, he remembers not again his evil entreatment. And again hearken: though each one prospered all that time from the day on which death was decreed against those who transgress and in his end was destroyed, in vain would have been everything. For each of the inhabitants of the earth knew when he was committing iniquity, and they have not known My law by reason of their pride. For many will then assuredly weep, yea, over the living more than over the dead. Adam, what have you done to all those who are born from you? And what will be said to the first Eve who hearkened to the serpent? For all this multitude are going to corruption, nor is there any numbering of those whom the fire devours. But again I will speak in Your presence. You, אֱלֹהִים, my Master, know what is in Your creature. For You did of old command the dust to produce Adam, and You know the number of those who are born from him, and how far they have sinned before You, who have existed and not confessed You as their Creator. And as regards all these their end will convict them, and Your law which they have transgressed will requite them on Your day.

Because each of the inhabitants of the earth knew when he was committing iniquity, and they have not known My law by reason of their pride. For many will then assuredly weep, yea, over the living more than over the dead. Adam, what have you done to all those who are born from you? And what will be said to the first Eve who harkened to the serpent? For all this multitude are going to corruption, nor is there any numbering of those whom the fire devours. But again I will speak in Your presence. You, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, my Master, know what is in Your creature. For You did of old command the dust to produce Adam, and You know the number of those who are born from him, and how far they have sinned before You, who have existed and not confessed You as their Creator. And as regards all these their end will convict them, and Your law which they have transgressed will requite them on Your day. Because each of the inhabitants of the earth knew when he was committing iniquity, and they have not known My law by reason of their pride."

Chapter 20

1 "Therefore, behold! the days will come, and the times will hasten more than the former, and the seasons will speed on more than those that are past, and the years will pass more quickly than the present years.

2 Therefore have I now taken away Tsiyon, in order that I may more speedily visit the world in its season.

3 Now therefore hold fast in your heart everything that I command you, and seal it in the recesses of your mind.

4 And then I will show you the judgment of My might, and My ways which are past finding out.

5 Go therefore and consecrate yourself seven days, and eat no bread, nor drink water, nor speak to any one.

6 And afterwards come to that place, and I will reveal Myself to you, and speak true things with you, and I will give you commandment regarding the method of the times; for they will come and will not tarry."

Chapter 21

1 And I went from there and sat in the valley of Cedron in a cave of the earth, and I consecrated my being there, and I ate no bread, yet I was not hungry, and I drank no water, yet I thirsted not, and I was there until the seventh day, as He had commanded me.

2 And afterwards I came to that place where He had spoken with me.

3 And it came to pass at sunset that my being took much thought, and I began to speak in the presence of the Mighty One, and said:

4 "You who have made the earth hear me, who have fixed the firmament in its fulness, and have made firm the height of the shamayim by the breath, who have called from the beginning of the world that which did not yet exist, and they obey You.

5 You who have commanded the air by Your nod, and have seen those things which are to be as those things which You are doing.

6 You who rule with great thought the powers that stand before You: yea, rule with indignation the consecrated living creatures, who are without number, which You did make from the beginning, of flame and fire, which stand around Your throne.

7 To You only does this belong that You should do forthwith whatsoever You do wish.

8 Who causes the drops of rain to rain by number upon the earth, and alone know the consummation of the times before they come: have respect unto my petition.

9 For You alone are able to sustain all who are, and those who pass away, and those who are to be, those who sin, and those who are righteous.

10 For You alone do live immortal and past finding out, and know the number of mankind.

11 And if in time many have sinned, yet others not a few have been righteous.

12 You know where You preserve the end of those who have sinned, or the consummation of those who have been righteous.

13 For if there were this life only, which here belongs to all men, nothing could be more bitter than this.

14 For what profit is strength that turns to weakness, or the food of plenty that turns to famine, or beauty that turns to a hateful thing?

15 For the nature of man is always changeable.

16 For we have by no means been from the beginning what we now are, and what we now are we will not afterwards remain.

17 For if a consummation had not been prepared for all, in vain would have been their beginning.

18 But regarding everything that comes from You, do inform me, and regarding everything about which I ask You, do enlighten me.

19 How long will that which is corruptible remain, and how long will the time of mortals be prospered, and until what time will those who transgress in the world be polluted with much wickedness?

20 Command therefore in mercy, and accomplish all that You said You would bring, that Your might may be made known to those who think that Your long-suffering is weakness.

21 And show to those who know not, and let them see that it has befallen us and our city until now according to the long-suffering of Your power, because on account of Your name You have called us a beloved people.

22 Every nature therefore from this onward is mortal.

23 Reprove therefore the malak of death, and let Your esteem appear, and let the might of Your beauty be known, and let Sheol be sealed so that from this time forward it may not receive the dead, and let the treasuries of beings restore those which are enclosed in them.

24 For there have been many years like those that are desolate from the days of Abraham and Yatschaq and Yaaqob, and of all those who are like them, who sleep in the earth, on whose account You did say that You had created the world.

25 And now quickly show Your esteem, and do not defer what has been promised by You."

26 And it came to pass that when I had completed the words of this petition that I was greatly weakened.

Chapter 22

1 And it came to pass after these things that lo! the shamayim were opened, and I saw, and power was given to me, and a voice was heard from on high, and it said unto me:

2 "Baruk, Baruk, why are you troubled?

3 He who travels by a road but does not complete it, or he who departs by sea but does not arrive at the port, can he be comforted?

4 Or he who promises to give a present to another, but does not fulfill it, is it not robbery?

5 Or he who sows the earth, but does not reap its fruit in its season, does he not lose everything?

6 Or he who plants a plant, unless it grows until the time suitable to it, does he who planted it expect to receive fruit from it?

7 Or a woman who has conceived, if she bring forth untimely, does she not assuredly slay her infant?

8 Or he who builds a house, if he does not roof it and complete it, can it be called a house? Tell me that first."

Chapter 23

1 And I answered and said: "Not so, אֱלֹהִים, my Master."

2 And He answered and said unto me: "Why therefore are you troubled about that which you know not, and why are you ill at ease about things in which you are ignorant?"

3 For as you have not forgotten the people who now are and those who have passed away, so I remember those who are remembered, and those who are to come.

4 Because when Adam sinned and death was decreed against those who should be born, then the multitude of those who should be born was numbered, and for that number a place was prepared where the living might dwell and the dead might be guarded.

5 Unless, therefore, the number aforesaid is fulfilled, the creature will not live again and Sheol will receive the dead.

6 And again it is given to you to hear what things are to come after these times.

7 For truly My redemption has drawn nigh, and is not far distant as aforesaid.

Chapter 24

1 "For behold! The days come and the books will be opened in which are written the sins of all those who have sinned, and again also the treasures in which the righteousness of all those who have been righteous in creation is gathered.

2 For it will come to pass at that time that you will see and many that are with you the long-suffering of the ALmighty, which has been throughout all generations, who has been long-suffering towards all those born that sin and are righteous."

3 And I answered and said: "But, behold! Master, no one knows the number of those things which have passed nor yet of those things which are to come.

4 For I know indeed that which has befallen us, but what will happen to our enemies I know not, and when You will visit Your works."

Chapter 25

1 And He answered and said unto me: "You too will be kept safely until that time until that sign which the ALmighty will work for the inhabitants of the earth in the end of days.

2 This therefore will be the sign.

3 When a stupor will seize the inhabitants of the earth, and they will fall into many tribulations, and again when they will fall into great torments.

4 And it will come to pass when they will say in their thoughts by reason of their much tribulation: The Mighty One does no longer remember the earth; yea, it will come to pass when they abandon hope, that the time will then awake."

Chapter 26

1 And I answered and said: "Will that tribulation which is to be continued a long time, and will that necessity embrace many years?"

Chapter 27

1 And He answered and said unto me: "Into twelve parts is that time divided, and each one of them is reserved for that which is appointed for it.

2 In the first part there will be the beginning of commotions.

3 And in the second part there will be slayings of the great ones.

4 And in the third part there will be the fall of many by death.

5 And in the fourth part the sending of desolation.

6 And in the fifth part famine and the withholding of rain.

7 And in the sixth part earthquakes and terrors.

8

\$\$Wanting.\$\$

9 And in the eighth part a multitude of portents and incursions of the Shedim.

10 And in the ninth part the fall of fire.

11 And in the tenth part rapine and much oppression.

12 And in the eleventh part wickedness and unchastity.

13 And in the twelfth part confusion from the mingling together of all those things aforesaid.

14 For these parts of that time are reserved, and will be mixed one with another and will minister one to another.

15 For some will of themselves be of service, and they will receive from others, and from themselves and others they will be perfected, so that those may not understand who are upon the earth in those days of this consummation of the times."

Chapter 28

1 "Nevertheless, whoever will understand will then be wise.

2 For the measure and reckoning of that time are two parts weeks of seven weeks."

3 And I answered and said: "It is good for a man to come and behold, but it is better that he should not come lest he fall.

4 But I will say this also.

5 Will He who is incorruptible despise those things which are corruptible, and whatever befalls in the case of those things which are corruptible, so that He might look only to those things which are not corruptible?

6 But if, Master, those things will assuredly come to pass which You have foretold to me; if, moreover, I have found favor in Your sight, show this also unto me.

7 Is it in one place or in one of the parts of the earth that those things are to come to pass, or will the whole earth experience them?"

Chapter 29

1 And He answered and said unto me: "Whatever will then befall will belong to the whole earth; therefore all who live will experience them.

2 For at that time I will protect only those who are found in those self-same days in this land.

3 And it will come to pass when all is accomplished that was to come to pass in those parts, that the Anointed will then begin to be revealed.

4 And Behemoth will be revealed from his place, and Leviathan will ascend from the sea, those two great monsters which I created on the fifth day of creation, and I kept them until that time; and then they will be for food for all that are left.

5 The earth also will yield its fruit ten thousand fold, and on one vine there will be a thousand branches, and each branch will produce a thousand clusters, and each cluster will produce a thousand grapes, and each grape will produce a cor of wine.

6 And those who have hungered will rejoice: moreover, also, they will behold marvels every day.

7 For winds will go forth from before Me to bring every morning the fragrance of aromatic fruits, and at the close of the day clouds distilling the dew of health.

8 And it will come to pass at that self-same time that the treasury of manna will again descend from on high, and they will eat of it in those years, because these are they who have come to the consummation of time."

Chapter 30

1 "And it will come to pass after these things, when the time of the presence of the Anointed is fulfilled, and He will return in esteem, then all who have fallen asleep in hope will rise again.

2 And it will come to pass at that time that the treasuries will be opened in which is preserved the number of the beings of the righteous, and they will come forth, and a multitude of beings will be seen together in one assemblage of one thought, and the first will rejoice and the last will not be grieved.

3 For he knows that the time has come of which it is said, that it is the consummation of the times.

4 But the beings of the wicked, when they behold all those things, will then waste away the more.

5 For they will know that their torment has come and their perdition has arrived."

Chapter 31

1 And it came to pass after these things that I went to the people and said unto them:

2 "Assemble unto me all your elders and I will speak words unto them."

3 And they all assembled in the valley of the Cedron.

4 And I answered and said unto them: "Hear, Yasharal, and I will speak to you, and give ear, seed of Yaaqob, and I will instruct you.

5 Forget not Tsiyon, but hold in remembrance the anguish of Yarushalayim.

6 For lo! the days come, when everything that exists will become the prey of corruption and be as though it had not been."

Chapter 32

1 "But you, if you prepare your hearts, so as to sow in them the fruits of the law, it will protect you in that time in which the Mighty One is to shake the whole creation.

2 Because after a little time the building of Tsiyon will be shaken in order that it may again be built.

3 But that building will not remain, but will again after a time be rooted out, and will remain desolate until the time.

4 And afterwards it must be renewed in esteem, and it will be perfected for evermore.

5 Therefore we should not be distressed so much over the evil which has now come as over that which is still to be.

6 For there will be a greater trial than these two tribulations when the Mighty One will renew His creation.

7 And now do not draw near to me for a few days, nor seek me until I come to you."

8 And it came to pass when I had spoken to them all these words, that I, Baruk, went my way, and when the people saw me setting out, they lifted up their voice and lamented and said:

9 "Where do you depart from us, Baruk, and forsake us as a father who forsakes his orphan children, and departs from them?"

Chapter 33

1 "Are these the commands which your companion, YarmiYAHU the messenger, commanded you, and said unto you:

2 Look at these people until I go and confirm the rest of the brothers in Babylon, against whom has gone forth the sentence that they should be led into captivity?

3 And now if you also forsake us, it would be good for us all to die before you, and then you should withdraw from us."

Chapter 34

1 And I answered and said unto the people: "Far be it from me to forsake you or to withdraw from you, but I will only go unto the Consecrated Place to enquire of the Mighty One concerning you and concerning Tsiyon, if in some respect I should receive more illumination: and after these things I will return to you."

Chapter 35

1 And I, Baruk, went to the consecrated place, and sat down upon the ruins and wept, and said:

2 "Become springs, my eyes, and you, my eyelids, a fount of tears.

3 For how will I lament for Tsiyon, and how will I mourn for Yarushalayim?

4 Because in that place where I am now prostrate, the chief leader of old used to offer consecrated sacrifices, and place on it the smoke of the incense of fragrant odours.

5 But now our esteem has been made into dust, and the desire of our being into sand."

Chapter 36

1 And when I had said these things I fell asleep there, and I saw a vision in the night.

2 And lo! a forest of trees planted on the plain, and lofty mountains surrounded it and precipitous rocks, and that forest occupied much space.

3 And lo! over against it arose a vine, and from under it there went forth a fountain of shalum.

4 Now that fountain came to the forest and was stirred into great waves, and those waves submerged that forest, and suddenly they rooted out the multitude of the trees of that forest, and overthrew all the mountains which were round about it.

5 And the height of the forest began to be made low, and the top of the mountains was made low, and that fountain prevailed greatly, so that it left nothing of that great forest save one cedar only.

6 Also when it had cast it down and had destroyed and rooted out the multitude of the trees of that forest, so that nothing was left of it, nor could its place be recognised, then that vine began to come with the fountain in shalum and great tranquillity, and it came to a place which was not far from the cedar, and they brought the cedar which had been cast down to it.

7 And I beheld and lo! that vine opened its mouth and spoke and said to that cedar:

8 "Are you not that cedar which was left of the forest of wickedness, and by whose means wickedness persisted, and was wrought all those years, and goodness never.

9 And you did keep conquering that which was not yours, and to that which was yours you did never show compassion, and you did keep extending your power over those who were far from you, and those who drew nigh you you did hold fast in the toils of your wickedness, and you did uplift yourself always as one that could not be rooted out!

10 But now your time has passed and your hour has come.

11 Do you also therefore depart, cedar, after the forest, which departed before you, and become dust with it, and let your ashes be mingled together.

12 And now recline in anguish and rest in torment until your last time comes, in which you will come again, and be tormented still more."

Chapter 37

1 And after these things I saw that cedar burning, and the vine growing, itself and all around it, the plain full of unfading flowers. And I indeed awoke and arose.

Chapter 38

1 And I petitioned and said: "אֱלֹהִים, my Master, You do always enlighten those who are led by understanding.

2 Your law is life, and Your wisdom is the right guidance.

3 Make known to me, therefore, the interpretation of this vision.

4 For You know that my being has always walked in Your law, and from my earliest days I departed not from Your wisdom."

Chapter 39

1 And He answered and said unto me: "This is the interpretation of the vision which you have seen.

2 As you have seen a great forest with lofty and precipitous mountains surrounded, this is the word.

3 Behold! The days come, and this kingdom will be destroyed which once destroyed Tsiyon, and it will be subjected to that which comes after it.

4 Moreover, that also again after a time will be destroyed, and another, a third, will arise, and that also will have dominion for its time, and will be destroyed.

5 And after these things a fourth kingdom will arise, whose power will be harsh and evil far beyond those which were before it, and it will rule many times as the forests on the plain, and it will hold fast the times, and will exalt itself more than the cedars of Lebanon.

6 And by it the truth will be hidden, and all those who are polluted with iniquity will flee to it, as evil beasts flee and creep into the forest.

7 And it will come to pass when the time of his consummation that he should fall has approached, then the principate of My Anointed will be revealed, which is like the fountain and the vine, and when it is revealed it will root out the multitude of his host.

8 And that which you have seen, the lofty cedar, which was left of that forest, and with regard to this fact, that the vine spoke those words with it which you did hear, this is the word."

Chapter 40

1 "The last leader of that time will be left alive, when the multitude of his hosts will be put to the sword and be bound, and they will take him up to Mount Tsiyon, and My Anointed will convict him of all his impieties, and will gather and place before him all the works of his hosts.

2 And afterwards He will put him to death, and protect the rest of My people which will be found in the place which I have chosen.

3 And His principate will stand for ever, until the world of corruption is at an end, and until the times aforesaid are fulfilled.

4 This is your vision, and this is its interpretation."

Chapter 41

1 And I answered and said: "To whom will these things be, and how many will they be? Or who will be worthy to live at that time?"

2 For I will speak before You everything that I think, and I will petition of You regarding those things which I meditate on.

3 For lo! I see many of Your people who have withdrawn from Your covenant, and cast from them the yoke of Your law.

4 But others again I have seen who have forsaken their vanity, and fled for refuge beneath Your wings.

5 What therefore will be to them? Or how will the last time receive them?"

6 Or perhaps the time of these will assuredly be weighed, and as the beam inclines will they be judged accordingly?"

Chapter 42

1 And He answered and said unto me: "These things also I will show unto you.

2 As for what you did say: To whom will these things be, and how many will they be? To those who have believed there will be the good which was spoken of aforetime, and to those who despise there will be the contrary of these things.

3 And as for what you did say regarding those who have drawn near and those who have withdrawn, this is the word.

4 As for those who were before subjected, and afterwards withdrew and mingled themselves with the seed of mingled peoples, the time of these is the former, and I am meditating on deep things.

5 And as for those who before knew not but afterwards knew life, and mingled only with the seed of the people which had separated itself, the time of these is the former, I am meditating on deep things.

6 And time will succeed from time to time and season to season, and one will receive from another, and then with a view to the consummation will everything be compared according to the measure of the times and the hours of the seasons.

7 For corruption will take those that belong to it, and life those that belong to it.

8 And the dust will be called, and there will be said to it: Give back that which is not yours, and raise up all that you have kept until its time."

Chapter 43

1 "Moreover, do you, Baruk, strengthen your heart for what has been said to you, and understand those things which have been shown to you; for there are many eternal consolations for you.

2 For you will depart from this place, and you will pass from the regions which are now seen by you, and you will forget whatever is corruptible, and will not again recall those things which happen among mortals.

3 Go therefore and command your people, and come to this place, and afterwards fast seven days, and then I will come to you and speak with you."

Chapter 44

1 And I, Baruk, went from there, and came to my people, and I called my first-born ban and the Gedaliahs my friends, and seven of the elders of the people, and I said unto them:

2 "Behold, I go unto my fathers according to the way of all the earth.

3 But withdraw not from the way of the law, but guard and admonish the people which remain, lest they withdraw from the commandments of the Mighty One.

4 For you see that He whom we serve is just, and our Creator is no respecter of persons.

5 And see what has befallen Tsiyon, and what has happened to Yarushalayim.

6 For the judgment of the Mighty One will thereby be made known, and His ways, which, though past finding out, are right.

7 For if you endure and persevere in His fear, and do not forget His law, the times will change over you for good, and you will see the consolation of Tsiyon.

8 Because whatever is now is nothing, but that which will be is very great.

9 For everything that is corruptible will pass away, and everything that dies will depart, and all the present time will be forgotten, nor will there be any remembrance of the present time, which is defiled with evils.

10 For that which runs now runs unto vanity, and that which prospers will quickly fall and be humiliated.

11 For that which is to be will be the object of desire, and on that which will come afterwards do we place our hope; for it is a time that will not pass away.

12 And the hour comes which will abide for ever, and the new world which does not turn to corruption those who depart to its blessedness, and has no mercy on those who depart to torment, and will not lead to perdition those who live in it.

13 For these are they who will inherit that time which has been spoken of, and theirs is the inheritance of the promised time.

14 These are they who have acquired for themselves treasuries of wisdom, and with them are found stores of understanding, and from mercy have they not withdrawn, and the truth of the law have been preserved.

15 For to them will be given the world to come, but the dwelling of the rest who are many will be in the fire."

Chapter 45

1 "Do you therefore so far as you are able instruct the people, for that labour is ours.

2 For if you teach them, you will quicken them."

Chapter 46

1 And my ban and the elders of the people answered and said unto me: "Has the Mighty One humiliated us to such a degree as to take you from us quickly?

2 And truly we will be in darkness, and there will be no light to the people who are left.

3 For where again will we seek the law, or who will distinguish for us between death and life?"

4 And I said unto them: "The throne of the Mighty One I cannot resist: nevertheless, there will not be wanting to Yasharal a wise man nor a ban of the law to the race of Yaaqob.

5 But only prepare your hearts, that you may hear the law, and be subject to those who in fear are wise and understanding; and prepare your being that you may not depart from them.

6 For if you do these things, good tidings will come unto you, which I before told you of; nor will you fall into the torment, of which I testified to you before."

7 But with regard to the word that I was to be taken, I did not make it known to them or to my ban.

Chapter 47

1 And when I had gone forth and dismissed them, I went from there and said unto them:

"Behold! I go to Hebron: for there the Mighty One has sent me."

2 And I came to that place where the word had been spoken to me, and I sat there, and fasted seven days.

Chapter 48

1 And it came to pass after the seventh day, that I petitioned before the Mighty One and said:

2 "O my Master, You summon the advent of the times, and they stand before You; You cause the power of the ages to pass away, and they do not resist You; You arrange the method of the seasons, and they obey You.

3 You alone know the goal of the generations, and You reveal not Your mysteries to many.

4 You make known the multitude of the fire, and You weigh the lightness of the wind.

5 You explore the limit of the heights, and You scrutinize the depths of the darkness.

6 You care for the number which pass away so that they may be preserved, and You prepare an abode for those that are to be.

7 You remember the beginning which You have made, and the destruction that is to be You forget not.

8 With nods of fear and indignation You give commandment to the flames, and they change into breaths, and with a word You quicken that which was not, and with mighty power You hold that which has not yet come.

9 You instruct created things in the understanding of You, and You make wise the spheres so as to minister in their orders.

10 Armies innumerable stand before You and minister in their orders of shalum at Your nod.

11 Hear Your servant and give ear to my petition.

12 For in a little time are we born; and in a little time do we return.

13 But with You hours are as a time, and days as generations.

14 Be not therefore wroth with man; for he is nothing, and take not account of our works.

15 For what are we? For lo! by Your gift do we come into the world, and we depart not of our own will.

16 For we said not to our parents, Beget us, nor did we send to Sheol and say, Receive us.

17 What therefore is our strength that we should bear Your wrath, or what are we that we should endure Your judgment?

18 Protect us in Your compassions, and in Your mercy help us.

19 Behold the little ones that are subject unto You, and save all that draw nigh unto You, and destroy not the hope of our people, and cut not short the times of our aid.

20 For this is the nation which You have chosen, and these are the people, to whom You find no equal.

21 But I will speak now before You, and I will say as my heart thinks.

22 In You do we trust, for lo! Your law is with us, and we know that we will not fall so far as we keep Your statutes.

23 In this at least we are always Barak that we have not mingled with the nations.

24 For we are all named one people, who have received one law from One, and the law which is amongst us will aid us, and the surpassing wisdom which is in us will help us."

25 And when I had petitioned and said these things, I was greatly weakened.

26 And He answered and said unto me: "You have petitioned simply, Baruk, and all your words have been heard.

27 But My judgment exacts its own and My law exacts its rights.

28 For from your words I will answer you, and from your petition I will speak to you.

29 For this is as follows: he that is corrupted is not at all; he has both wrought iniquity so far as he could do anything, and has not remembered My goodness, nor been grateful for My long-suffering.

30 Therefore you will surely be taken up, as I previously told you: and the time is coming of which I told you.

31 For that time will arise which brings affliction; for it will come and pass by with quick vehemence, and it will be turbulent coming in the heat of indignation.

32 And it will come to pass in those days that all the inhabitants of the earth will be moved one against another, because they know not that My judgment has drawn nigh.

33 For there will not be many wise people found at that time, and the intelligent will be but a few: moreover, even those who know will most of all be silent.

34 And there will be many rumors and tidings not a few, and the works of portents will be shown, and promises not a few will be recounted, some of them proven idle, and some of them will be confirmed.

35 And honor will be turned into shame, and strength humiliated into contempt, and probity destroyed, and beauty will become a scorn.

36 And many will say to many at that time: Where has the multitude of intelligence hidden itself, and where has the multitude of wisdom removed itself?

37 And while they are meditating these things, then zeal will arise in those of whom they thought not, and passion will seize him who have shalom, and many will be roused in anger to injure many, and they will rouse up armies in order to shed blood, and in the end they will perish together with them.

38 And it will come to pass at the self-same time, that a change of times will manifestly appear to every man, by reason of which in all those times they were polluted and practiced oppression, and walked every man in his own works, and remembered not the law of the Mighty One.

39 Therefore a fire will consume their thoughts, and in flame will the meditations of their reins be tried; for the Judge will come and will not tarry.

40 Because each of the inhabitants of the earth knew when he was committing iniquity, and they have not known My law by reason of their pride.

41 For many will then assuredly weep, yea, over the living more than over the dead.

42 Adam, what have you done to all those who are born from you? And what will be said to the first Eve who harkened to the serpent?

43 For all this multitude are going to corruption, nor is there any numbering of those whom the fire devours.

44 But again I will speak in Your presence.

45 You, אֱלֹהֵינוּ, my Master, know what is in Your creature.

46 For You did of old command the dust to produce Adam, and You know the number of those who are born from him, and how far they have sinned before You, who have existed and not confessed You as their Creator.

47 And as regards all these their end will convict them, and Your law which they have transgressed will requite them on Your day.

48 But now let us dismiss the wicked and enquire about the righteous.

49 And I will recount their Barakness and not be silent in celebrating their esteem, which is reserved for them.

50 For assuredly as in a little time in this world which passes away, in which you live, you have endured much labour, so in that world to which there is no end, you will receive great light."

Chapter 49

1 "Nevertheless, I will again petition from You, Mighty One, yea, I will petition mercy from Him who made all things.

2 In what shape will those be, who live in Your day? Or how will the splendour of those who are after that time continue?

3 Will they then resume this form of the present, and put on these entrammeling members, which are now involved in evils, and in which evils are consummated, or will You perchance change these things which have been in the world as also the world?"

Chapter 50

1 And He answered and said unto me: "Hear, Baruk, this word, and write in the remembrance of your heart all that you will learn.

2 For the earth will then assuredly restore the dead, which it now receives, in order to preserve them, making no change in their form, but as it has received, so will it restore them, and as I delivered them unto it, so also will it raise them.

3 For then it will be necessary to show to the living that the dead have come to life again, and that those who had departed have returned again.

4 And it will come to pass, when they have severally recognised those whom they now know, then judgment will grow strong, and those things which before were spoken of will come."

Chapter 51

1 "And it will come to pass, when that appointed day has gone by, that then will the aspect of those who are condemned be afterwards changed, and the esteem of those who are righteous.

2 For the aspect of those who now act wickedly will become worse than is that of such as suffer torment.

3 Also as for the esteem of those who have now been righteous in My law, who have had understanding in their life, and who have planted in their heart the root of wisdom, then their splendour will be esteemed in changes, and the form of their face will be turned into the light of their beauty, that they may be able to acquire and receive the world which does not die, which is then promised to them.

4 For over this above all will those who come then lament, that they rejected My law, and stopped their ears that they might not hear wisdom or receive understanding.

5 When therefore they see those, over whom they are now exalted, but who will then be exalted and esteemed more than they, they will respectively be transformed, the latter into the splendour

of malakiym, and the former will mainly waste away in wonder at the visions and in the beholding of the forms.

6 For they will first behold and afterwards depart to be tormented.

7 But those who have been saved by their works, and to whom the law has been now a hope, and understanding an expectation, and wisdom a confidence, to them wonders will appear in their time.

8 For they will behold the world which is now invisible to them, and they will behold the time which is now hidden from them.

9 And again time will not age them.

10 For in the heights of that world will they dwell, and they will be made like unto the malakiym, and be made equal to the stars, and they will be changed into every form they desire, from beauty into loveliness, and from light into the splendour of esteem.

11 For there will be spread before them the extents of Paradise, and there will be shown to them the beauty of the majesty of the living creatures which are beneath the throne, and all the armies of the malakiym, who are held fast by a command, that they may stand in their places till their advent comes.

12 Moreover, there will then be excellency in the righteous surpassing that in the malakiym.

13 For the first will receive the last, those whom they were expecting, and the last those of whom they used to hear that they had passed away.

14 For they have been delivered from this world of tribulation, and laid down the burthen of anguish.

15 For what then have men lost their life, and for what have those who were on the earth exchanged their being?

16 For then they chose not for themselves that time, which, beyond the reach of anguish, could not pass away, and they chose for themselves that time, whose issues are full of lamentations and evils, and they denied the world which ages not those who come to it, and they have rejected the time and the esteem, so that they will not come to the honour of which I told you before."

Chapter 52

1 And I answered and said: "How do those forget for whom woe is then reserved?

2 And why, therefore, again do we mourn for those who die? Or why do we weep for those who depart to Sheol?

3 Let lamentations be reserved for the beginning of that coming torment, and let tears be laid up for the advent of the destruction of that time.

4 But even in the face of these things I will speak.

5 And as for the righteous, what will they do now?

6 Rejoice in the suffering which you now suffer: for why do you look for the decline of your enemies?

7 Make ready your being for that which is reserved for you, and prepare your beings for the reward which is laid up for you."

Chapter 53

1 And when I had said these things I fell asleep there, and I saw a vision, and lo! a cloud was ascending from a very great sea, and I kept gazing upon it, and lo! it was full of waters white and black, and there were many colours in those self-same waters, and as it were the likeness of great lightning was seen at its summit.

2 And I saw that cloud passing swiftly in quick courses, and it covered all the earth.

3 And it came to pass after these things that that cloud began to pour upon the earth the waters that were in it.

4 And I saw that there was not one and the same likeness in the waters which descended from it.

5 For in the first beginning they were black exceedingly for a time, and afterwards I saw that the waters became bright, but they were not many, and after these things again I saw black waters, and after these things again bright, and again black and again bright.

6 Now this was done twelve times, but the black were always more numerous than the bright.

7 And it came to pass at the end of the cloud, that lo! it rained black waters, and they were darker than had been all those waters that were before, and fire was mingled with them, and where those waters descended, they wrought devastation and destruction.

8 And I saw after these things that lightning which I had seen on the summit of the cloud, that it held it fast and made it descend to the earth.

9 Now that lightning shone exceedingly, so as to illuminate the whole earth, and it healed those regions where the last waters had descended and wrought devastation.

10 And it took hold of the whole earth and had dominion over it.

11 And I saw after these things, and lo! twelve rivers were ascending from the sea, and they began to surround that lightning and to become subject to it.

12 And by reason of my fear I awoke.

Chapter 54

1 And I besought the Mighty One, and said: "You alone, אֵלֶיךָ, know of aforetime the deep things of the world, and the things which befall in their times You bring about by Your word, and against the works of the inhabitants of the earth You do hasten the beginnings of the times, and the end of the seasons You alone know.

2 For whom nothing is too hard, but You do everything easily by a nod.

3 To whom the depths as the heights are accessible, and the beginnings of the ages minister to Your word.

4 Who reveals to those who fear Him what is prepared for them, that He may thereby console them.

5 You show great acts to those who know not; You break up the enclosure of those who are ignorant, and light up what is dark, and reveal what is hidden to the pure, who in belief have submitted themselves to You and Your law.

6 You have shown to Your servant this vision; reveal to me also its interpretation.

7 For I know that as regards those things where I besought You, I have received a response, and as regards what I besought, You did reveal to me, and did show me with what voice I should esteem You, or from what members I should cause esteems and hallelujahs to ascend to You.

8 For if my members were mouths, and the hairs of my head voices, even so I could not give You the meed of esteem, or laud You as is befitting, nor could I recount Your esteem, nor tell the esteem of Your beauty.

9 For what am I among men, or why am I reckoned among those who are more excellent than I, that I should have heard all those marvellous things from the ALmighty, and good tidings numberless from Him who created me?

10 Barak be my mother among those that bear, and esteemed among women be she that bore me.

11 For I will not be silent in esteeming the Mighty One, and with the voice of esteem I will recount His marvellous deeds.

12 For who does like unto Your marvellous deeds, אֱלֹהִים, or who comprehends Your deep thought of life?

13 For with Your counsel You do govern all the creatures which Your right hand has created, and You have established every fountain of light beside You, and the treasures of wisdom beneath Your throne have You prepared.

14 And justly do they perish who have not loved Your law, and the torment of judgment will await those who have not submitted themselves to Your power.

15 For though Adam first sinned and brought untimely death upon all, yet of those who were born from him each one of them has prepared for his own being torment to come, and again each one of them has chosen for himself esteems to come.

16 For assuredly he who believes will receive reward.

17 But now, as for you, you wicked that now are, turn to destruction, because you will speedily be visited, in that from time to time you have rejected the understanding of the ALmighty.

18 For His works have not taught you, nor has the skill of His creation which is at all times persuaded you.

19 Adam is therefore not the cause, save only of his own being, but each one of us has been the Adam of his own being.

20 But do You, אֱלֹהִים, expound to me regarding these things which You have revealed to me, and inform me regarding that which I besought You.

21 For at the consummation of the world there will be vengeance taken upon those who have done wickedness according to their wickedness, and You will esteem the loyal according to their loyalty.

22 For those who are among Your own You rule, and those who sin You blot out from among Your own."

Chapter 55

1 And it came to pass when I had finished speaking the words of this petition, that I sat there under a tree, that I might rest in the shade of the branches.

2 And I wondered and was astonished, and pondered in my thoughts regarding the multitude of goodness which sinners who are upon the earth have rejected, and regarding the great torment which they have despised, though they knew that they should be tormented because of the sin they had committed.

3 And when I was pondering on these things and the like, lo! the malak RamiAL who presides over true visions was sent to me, and he said unto me:

4 "Why does your heart trouble you, Baruk, and why does your thought disturb you?"

5 For if by the hearsay which you have only heard of judgment you are so moved, what will you be when you will see it manifestly with your eyes?"

6 And if with the expectation with which you do expect the day of the Mighty One you are so overcome, what will you be when you will come to its advent?"

7 And, if at the word of the announcement of the torment of those who have done foolishly you are so wholly distraught, how much more when the event will reveal marvelous things?"

8 And if you have heard tidings of the good and evil things which are then coming and are grieved, what will you be when you will behold what the Majesty will reveal, which will convict these and cause those to rejoice?"

Chapter 56

1 "Nevertheless, because you have besought the ALmighty to reveal to you the interpretation of the vision which you have seen, I have been sent to say to you.

2 And the Mighty One has assuredly made known to you the methods of the times that have passed, and of those that are destined to pass in His world from the beginning of its creations even unto its consummation, of those things which are deceit and of those which are in truth.

3 For as you did see a great cloud which ascended from the sea, and went and covered the earth, this is the duration of the world which the Mighty One made when He took counsel to make the world.

4 And it came to pass when the word had gone forth from His presence, that the duration of the world had come into being in a small degree, and was established according to the multitude of the intelligence of Him who sent it.

5 And as you did previously see on the summit of the cloud black waters which descended previously on the earth, this is the transgression with which Adam the first man transgressed.

6 For owing to his transgression untimely death came into being, and grief was named and anguish was prepared, and pain was created, and trouble perfected, and boasting began to be established, and Sheol to demand that it should be renewed in blood, and the begetting of baniym was brought about, and the passion of parents produced, and the greatness of humanity was humiliated, and goodness languished.

7 What therefore can be blacker or darker than these things?"

8 This is the beginning of the black waters which you have seen.

9 And from these black waters again were black derived, and the darkness of darkness produced.

10 For he was a danger to his own being: even to the malakiym was he a danger.

11 For, moreover, at that time when he was created, they enjoyed liberty.

12 And some of them descended, and mingled with women.

13 And then those who did so were tormented in chains.

14 But the rest of the multitude of the malakiym, of which there is no number, restrained themselves.

15 And those who dwelt on the earth perished together with them through the waters of the deluge.

16 These are the black first waters."

Chapter 57

1 "And after these waters you did see bright waters: this is the fount of Abraham, also his generations and advent of his ban, and of his ban's ban, and of those like them.

2 Because at that time the unwritten law was named among them, and the works of the commandments were then fulfilled, and belief in the coming judgment was then generated, and hope of the world that was to be renewed was then built up, and the promise of the life that should come hereafter was implanted.

3 These are the bright waters, which you have seen."

Chapter 58

1 "And the black third waters which you have seen, these are the mingling of all sins, which the nations afterwards wrought after the death of those righteous men, and the wickedness of the land of Egypt, wherein they did wickedly in the service with which they made their baniym to serve.

2 Nevertheless, these also perished at last."

Chapter 59

1 "And the bright fourth waters which you have seen are the advent of Moshah and Aaron and Miriam and Yahoshua the ban of Nun and Caleb and of all those like them.

2 For at that time the lamp of the eternal law shone on all those who sat in darkness, which announced to them that they believed the promise of their reward, and to them that deny, the torment of fire which is reserved for them.

3 But also the shamayim at that time were shaken from their place, and those who were under the throne of the Mighty One were perturbed, when He was taking Moshah unto Himself.

4 For He showed him many admonitions together with the principles of the laws and the consummation of time, as also to you, and likewise the pattern of Tsiyon and its measures, which was to be made in the pattern of the sanctuary of the present time.

5 But then also He showed to him the measures of the fire, also the depths of the abyss, and the weight of the winds, and the number of the drops of rain.

6 And the suppression of anger, and the multitude of long-suffering, and the truth of judgment.

7 And the root of wisdom, and the riches of understanding, and the fount of knowledge.

8 And the height of the air, and the greatness of Paradise, and the consummation of the ages, and the beginning of the day of judgment.

9 And the number of the offerings, and the earths which have not yet come.

10 And the mouth of Gehenna, and the station of vengeance, and the place of belief, and the region of hope.

11 And the likeness of future torment, and the multitude of innumerable malakiym, and the powers of the flames, and the splendour of the lightnings, and the voice of the thunders, and the orders of the chiefs of the malakiym, and the treasures of light, and the changes of the times, and the investigations of the law.

12 These are the bright fourth waters which you have seen."

Chapter 60

1 "And the black fifth waters which you have seen raining are the works which the Amorites wrought, and the spells of their incantations which they wrought, and the wickedness of their mysteries, and the mingling of their pollution.

2 But even Yasharal was then polluted by sins in the days of the judges, though they saw many signs which were from Him who made them."

Chapter 61

1 "And the bright sixth waters which you did see, this is the time in which Dawid and Sholomoh were born.

2 And there was at that time the building of Tsiyon, and the dedication of the sanctuary, and the shedding of much blood of the nations that sinned then, and many offerings which were offered then in the dedication of the sanctuary.

3 And shalum and tranquillity existed at that time.

4 And wisdom was heard in the assembly, and the riches of understanding were magnified in the congregations.

5 And the Consecrated Festivals were fulfilled in goodness and in much joy.

6 And the judgment of the rulers was then seen to be without guile, and the righteousness of the precepts of the Mighty One was accomplished with truth.

7 And because the land was then beloved at that time, and because its inhabitants sinned not, it was esteemed beyond all lands, and the city Tsiyon ruled then over all lands and regions.

8 These are the bright waters which you have seen."

Chapter 62

1 "And the black seventh waters which you have seen, this is the perversion brought about by the counsel of Yaroboam, who took counsel to make two calves of gold.

2 And all the iniquities which the kings who were after him iniquitously wrought.

3 And the curse of Izebel and the worship of idols which Yasharal practiced at that time.

4 And the withholding of rain, and the famines which occurred until women eat the fruit of their wombs.

5 And the time of their captivity came upon the nine tribes and a half, because they were in many sins.

6 And, Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, came and led them away captive.

7 But regarding the nations it will be tedious to tell how they always wrought impiety and wickedness, and never wrought righteousness.

8 These are the black seventh waters which you have seen."

Chapter 63

1 "And the bright eighth waters which you have seen, this is the rectitude and uprightness of Hezekiah king of Yahudah and his benignity which came upon him.

2 For when Sennacherib was stirred up in order that he might perish, and his wrath troubled him in order that he might thereby perish, for the multitude also of the nations which were with him.

3 When, moreover, Hezekiah the king heard those things which the king of Assyria was devising, to come and seize him and destroy his people, the two and a half tribes which remained: nay, more he wished to overthrow Tsiyon also: then Hezekiah trusted in his works, and had hope in his righteousness, and spoke with the Mighty One and said:

4 Behold, for lo! Sennacherib is prepared to destroy us, and he will be boastful and uplifted when he has destroyed Tsiyon.

5 And the Mighty One heard him, for Hezekiah was wise, and He had respect unto his petition, because he was righteous.

6 And thereupon the Mighty One commanded RamiAL His malak who speaks with you.

7 And I went forth and destroyed their multitude, the number of whose chiefs only was a hundred and eighty-five thousand, and each one of them had an equal number at his command.

8 And at that time I burned their bodies within, but their raiment and arms I preserved outwardly, in order that the still more wonderful deeds of the Mighty One might appear, and that thereby His name might be spoken of throughout the whole earth.

9 Moreover, Tsiyon was saved and Yarushalayim delivered: Yasharal also was freed from tribulation.

10 And all those who were in the consecrated land rejoiced, and the name of the Mighty One was esteemed so that it was spoken of.

11 These are the bright waters which you have seen."

Chapter 64

1 "And the black ninth waters which you have seen, this is all the wickedness which was in the days of Manasseh the ban of Hezekiah.

2 For he wrought much impiety, and he slew the righteous, and he wrested judgment, and he shed the blood of the innocent, and wedded women he violently polluted, and he overturned the altars, and destroyed their offerings, and drove forth the leaders lest they should minister in the sanctuary.

3 And he made an image with five faces: four of them looked to the four winds, and the fifth on the summit of the image as an adversary of the zeal of the Mighty One.

4 And then wrath went forth from the presence of the Mighty One to the intent that Tsiyon should be rooted out, as also it befell in your days.

5 But also against the two tribes and a half went forth a decree that they should also be led away captive, as you have now seen.

6 And to such a degree did the impiety of Manasseh increase, that it removed the esteem of the ALmighty from the sanctuary.

7 On this account Manasseh was at that time named the impious, and finally his abode was in the fire.

8 For though his petition was heard with the ALmighty, finally, when he was cast into the brazen horse and the brazen horse was melted, it served as a sign unto him at the time.

9 For he did not live perfectly, for he was not worthy but that thenceforward he might know by whom finally he will be tormented.

10 For He who is able to benefit is also able to torment."

Chapter 65

1 "Thus, moreover, did Manasseh act impiously, and thought that in his time the Mighty One will not inquire into these things.

2 These are the black ninth waters which you have seen."

Chapter 66

1 "And the bright tenth waters which you have seen: this is the purity of the generations of Josiah king of Yahudah, who was the only one at that time who submitted himself to the Mighty One with all his heart and with all his being.

2 And he cleansed the land from idols, and hallowed all the vessels which had been polluted, and restored the offerings to the altar, and raised the horn of the consecrated, and exalted the righteous, and esteemed all that were wise in understanding, and brought back the leaders to their ministry, and destroyed and removed the magicians and enchanters and fortune-tellers from the land.

3 And not only did he slay the impious that were living, but they also took from the sepulchres the bones of the dead and burned them with fire.

4 And the festivals and the sabbaths he established in their consecration, and their polluted ones he burnt in the fire, and the lying messengers which deceived the people, these also he burnt in the fire, and the people who listened to them when they were living, he cast them into the brook Cedron, and heaped stones upon them.

5 And he was zealous with the zeal of the Mighty One with all his being, and he alone was firm in the law at that time, so that he left none that was uncircumcised, or that wrought impiety in all the land, all the days of his life.

6 This, moreover, is he that will receive an eternal reward, and he will be esteemed with the Mighty One beyond many at a later time.

7 For on his account and on account of those who are like him were the inestimable esteems, of which you were told before, created and prepared.

8 These are the bright waters which you have seen."

Chapter 67

1 "And the black eleventh waters which you have seen: this is the calamity which is now befalling Tsiyon.

2 Do you think that there is no anguish to the malakiym in the presence of the Mighty One, that Tsiyon was so delivered up, and that lo! the nations boast in their hearts, and assemble before their idols and say: She is trodden down who oftentimes trod down, and she has been reduced to servitude who reduced others?

3 Do you think that in these things the ALmighty rejoices, or that His name is esteemed?

4 But how will it serve towards His righteous judgment?

5 Yet after these things will those that are dispersed among the nations be taken hold of by tribulation, and in shame, will they dwell in every place.

6 Because so far as Tsiyon is delivered up and Yarushalayim laid waste, and idols prosper in the cities of the nations, and the vapour of the smoke of the incense of righteousness which is by the law is extinguished in Tsiyon and in the region of Tsiyon, lo! in every place there is the smoke of impiety.

7 But the king of Babylon will arise who has now destroyed Tsiyon, and he will boast over the people, and he will speak great things in his heart in the presence of the ALmighty.

8 But he also will fall at last.

9 These are the black waters."

Chapter 68

1 "And the bright twelfth waters which you have seen: this is the word.

2 For after these things a time will come when your people will fall into distress, so that they will all run the risk of perishing together.

3 Nevertheless, they will be saved, and their enemies will fall in their presence.

4 And they will have in due time much joy.

5 And at that time after a little interval Tsiyon will again be builded, and its offerings will again be restored, and the leaders will return to their ministry, and again the nations will come to esteem it.

6 Nevertheless, not fully as in the beginning.

7 But it will come to pass after these things that there will be the fall of many nations.

8 These are the bright waters which you have seen."

Chapter 69

1 "For the last waters which you have seen which were darker than all that were before them, those which were after the twelfth number, which were collected together, belong to the whole world.

2 For the ALmighty made division from the beginning, because He alone knows what will befall.

3 For as to the enormities of the impieties which should be wrought before Him, He foresaw six kinds of them.

4 And of the good works of the righteous which should be accomplished before Him, He foresaw six kinds of them, beyond those which He will work at the consummation of the age.

5 On this account there were not black waters with black, nor bright with bright; for it is the consummation."

Chapter 70

1 "Hear therefore the interpretation of the last black waters which are to come: this is the word.

2 Behold! The days come, and it will be when the time of the age has ripened, and the harvest of its evil and good seeds has come, that the Mighty One will bring upon the earth and its inhabitants and upon its rulers perturbation of breath and stupor of heart.

3 And they will hate one another, and provoke one another to fight, and the mean will rule over the honourable, and those of low degree will be extolled above the famous.

4 And the many will be delivered into the hands of the few, and those who are nothing will rule over the strong, and the poor will have abundance beyond the rich, and the impious will exalt themselves above the heroic.

Chapter 73

1 "And it will come to pass, when He has brought low everything that is in the world, and has sat down in shalom for the age on the throne of His kingdom, that joy will then be revealed, and rest appear.

2 And then healing will descend in dew, and disease will withdraw, and anxiety and anguish and lamentation will pass from among men, and gladness will proceed through the whole earth.

3 And no one will again die untimely, nor will any adversity suddenly befall.

4 And judgments, and revilings, and contentions, and revenges, and blood, and passions, and envy, and hatred, and whatsoever things are like these will go into condemnation when they are removed.

5 For it is these very things which have filled this world with evils, and on account of these the life of man has been greatly troubled.

6 And wild beasts will come from the forest and minister unto men, and asps and dragons will come forth from their holes to submit themselves to a little child.

7 And women will no longer have pain when they bear, nor will they suffer torment when they yield the fruit of the womb."

Chapter 74

1 "And it will come to pass in those days that the reapers will not grow weary, nor those that build be toilworn; for the works will of themselves speedily advance with those who do them in much tranquillity.

2 For that time is the consummation of that which is corruptible, and the beginning of that which is not corruptible.

3 Therefore those things which were predicted will belong to it: therefore it is far away from evils, and near to those things which die not.

4 This is the bright lightning which came after the last dark waters."

Chapter 75

1 And I answered and said: "Who can understand, Master, Your goodness? For it is incomprehensible.

2 Or who can search into Your compassions, which are infinite?

3 Or who can comprehend Your intelligence?

4 Or who is able to recount the thoughts of Your mind?

5 Or who of those that are born can hope to come to those things, unless he is one to whom You are merciful and favorable?

6 Because, if assuredly You did not have compassion on man, those who are under Your right hand, they could not come to those things, but those who are in the numbers named can be called.

7 But if, indeed, we who exist know why we have come, and submit ourselves to Him who brought us out of Egypt, we will come again and remember those things which have passed, and will rejoice regarding that which has been.

8 But if now we know not why we have come, and recognize not the principate of Him who brought us up out of Egypt, we will come again and seek after those things which were now, and be grieved with pain because of those things which have befallen.

9 For the ALmighty also is long-suffering towards us here, and He has shown to us that which is to be, and has not concealed from us what will befall in the end."

Chapter 76

1 Hear the word of the ALmighty that you may know what is to befall you after these things.

2 For you will surely depart from this earth, nevertheless not unto death but you will be preserved unto the consummation of the times.

3 Go up therefore to the top of that mountain, and there will pass before you all the regions of that land, and the figure of the inhabited world, and the top of the mountains, and the depth of the valleys, and the depths of the seas, and the number of the rivers, that you may see what you are leaving, and where you are going.

4 Now this will befall after forty days.

5 Go now therefore during these days and instruct the people so far as you are able, that they may learn so as not to die at the last time, but may learn in order that they may live at the last times."

Chapter 77

1 And I, Baruk, went from there and came to the people, and assembled them together from the greatest to the least, and said unto them:

2 "Hear, you baniym of Yasharal, behold how many you are who remain of the twelve tribes of Yasharal.

3 For to you and to your fathers אלהים gave a law beyond all peoples.

4 And because your brothers transgressed the commandments of the ALmighty, He brought vengeance upon you and upon them, and He spared not the former, and the latter also He gave into captivity, and left not a residue of them.

5 And behold! you are here with me.

6 If therefore you direct your ways right, you also will not depart as your brothers departed, but they will come to you.

7 For He is merciful whom you worship, and He is favorable in whom you hope, and He is true, so that He will do you good and not evil.

8 Lo! have you not seen what has befallen Tsiyon?

9 Or do you perchance think that the place had sinned, and that on this account it was overthrown, or that the land had wrought foolishness, and that therefore it was delivered up?

10 And know you not that on account of you who did sin, that which sinned not was overthrown, and, on account of those who wrought wickedly, that which wrought not foolishness was delivered up to its enemies."

11 And the whole people answered and said unto me: "So far as we can recall the good things which the Mighty One has done unto us, we do recall them; and those things which we do not remember He in His mercy knows.

12 Nevertheless, do this for us, your people: write also to our brothers in Babylon an epistle of doctrine and a scroll of good tidings, that you may confirm them also, before you depart from us.

13 For the shepherds of Yasharal have perished, and the lamps which gave light are extinguished, and the fountains have withheld their stream from which we used to drink.

14 And we are left in the darkness, and among the briers of the forest, and the thirst of the wilderness."

15 And I answered and said unto them: "Shepherds and lamps and fountains came to us from the law: and though we depart, yet the law abides.

16 If therefore you have respect for the law, and are intent upon wisdom, a lamp will not be wanted, and a shepherd will not fail, and a fountain will not dry up.

17 Nevertheless, as you said unto me, I will write also unto your brothers in Babylon, and I will send by means of men, and I will write in like manner to the nine tribes and a half, and send by means of a bird."

18 And it came to pass on the twenty-first day in the eighth month that I, Baruk, came and sat down under the oak under the shadow of the branches, and no man was with me, but I was alone.

19 And I wrote these two epistles: one I sent by an eagle to the nine and a half tribes; and the other I sent to those that were at Babylon by means of three men.

20 And I called the eagle, and spoke these words unto it:

21 "The ALmighty has made you that you should be higher than all birds.

22 And now go and tarry not in any place, nor enter a nest, nor settle upon any tree, until you have passed over the breadth of the many waters of the river Euphrates, and have gone to the people that dwell there, and cast down to them this epistle.

23 Remember, moreover, that, at the time of the deluge, Noach received from a dove the fruit of the olive, when he sent it forth from the ark.

24 Yea, also the ravens ministered to AliYAHU, bearing him food, as they had been commanded.

25 Sholomoh also, in the time of his kingdom, wheresoever he wished to send or seek for anything, commanded a bird to go there, and it obeyed him as he commanded it.

26 And now let it not weary you, and turn not to the right hand nor to the left, but fly and go by a direct way, that you may preserve the command of the Mighty One, according as I said unto you."

Chapter 78

1 These are the words of that epistle which Baruk the ban of Neriah sent to the nine and a half tribes, which were across the river Euphrates, in which these things were written.

2 Thus says Baruk the ban of Neriah to the brothers carried into captivity: "Mercy and shalum."

3 I bear in mind, my brothers, the love of Him who created us, who loved us from of old, and never hated us, but above all educated us.

4 And truly I know that behold all we the twelve tribes are bound by one chain, inasmuch as we are born from one father.

5 Wherefore I have been the more careful to leave you the words of this epistle before I die, that you may be comforted regarding the evils which have come upon you, and that you may be grieved also regarding the evil that has befallen your brothers: and again, also, that you may justify His judgment which He has decreed against you that you should be carried away captive for what you have suffered is disproportioned to what you have done in order that, at the last times, you may be found worthy of your fathers.

6 Therefore if you consider those things which you have now suffered for your good, that you may not finally be condemned and tormented, then you will receive eternal hope; if above all you destroy from your heart vain error, on account of which you departed from here.

7 For if you do these things, He will continually remember you, He who always promised on our behalf to those who were more excellent than we, that He will never forget or forsake us, but with much mercy will gather together again those who were dispersed.

Chapter 79

1 Now, my brothers, learn first what befell Tsiyon: how Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon came up against us.

2 For we have sinned against Him who made us, and we have not kept the commandments which He commanded us, yet He has not chastened us as we deserved.

3 For what befell you we also suffered to a pre-eminent degree, for it befell us also.

Chapter 80

1 And now, my brothers, I make known unto you that when the enemy had surrounded the city, the malakiym of the ALmighty were sent, and they overthrew the fortifications of the strong wall, and they destroyed the firm iron corners, which could not be rooted out.

2 Nevertheless, they hid all the consecrated vessels of the sanctuary, lest the enemy should get possession of them.

3 And when they had done these things, they delivered thereupon to the enemy the overthrown wall, and the plundered house, and the burnt temple, and the people who were overcome because they were delivered up, lest the enemy should boast and say: "Thus by force have we been able to lay waste even the house of the ALmighty in war."

4 Your brothers also, have they bound and led away to Babylon, and have caused them to dwell there.

5 But we have been left here, being very few.

6 This is the tribulation about which I wrote to you.

7 For assuredly I know that the habitation of Tsiyon gave you consolation: so far as you knew that it prospered, your consolation was greater than the tribulation which you endured in having departed from it.

Chapter 81

1 But regarding consolation, hear the word.

2 For I was mourning regarding Tsiyon, and I petitioned for mercy from the ALmighty, and I said:

3 "How long will these things endure for us? And will these evils always come upon us?"

4 And the Mighty One did according to the multitude of His mercies, and the ALmighty according to the greatness of His compassion, and He revealed unto me the word, that I might receive consolation, and He showed me visions that I should not again endure anguish, and He made known to me the mystery of the times, and the advent of the hours He showed me.

Chapter 82

1 Therefore, my brothers, I have written to you, that you may comfort yourselves regarding the multitude of your tribulations.

2 For know that our Maker will assuredly avenge us on all our enemies, according to all that they have done to us, also that the consummation which the ALmighty will make is very nigh, and His mercy that is coming, and the consummation of His judgment, is by no means far off.

3 For lo! We see now the multitude of the prosperity of the nations, though they act impiously, but they will be like a vapor.

4 And we behold the multitude of their power, though they do wickedly, but they will be made like unto a drop.

5 And we see the firmness of their might, though they resist the Mighty One every hour, but they will be accounted as spittle.

6 And we consider the esteem of their greatness, though they do not keep the statutes of the ALmighty, but as smoke, will they pass away.

7 And we meditate on the beauty of their favorfulness, though they have to do with pollution, but as grass that withers, will they fade away.

8 And we consider the strength of their cruelty, though they remember not the end thereof, but as a wave that passes will they be broken.

9 And we remark the boastfulness of their might, though they deny the beneficence of אֱלֹהִים, who gave it to them, but they will pass away as a passing cloud.

Chapter 83

1 For the ALmighty will assuredly hasten His times, and He will assuredly bring on His hours.

2 And He will assuredly judge those who are in His world, and will visit in truth all things by means of all their hidden works.

3 And He will assuredly examine the secret thoughts, and that which is laid up in the secret chambers of all the members of man, and will make them manifest in the presence of all with reproof.

4 Let none, therefore, of these present things ascend into your hearts, but above all let us be expectant, because that which is promised to us will come.

5 And let us not now look unto the delights of the nations in the present, but let us remember what has been promised to us in the end.

6 For the ends of the times and of the seasons and whatsoever is together with them will assuredly pass by.

7 The consummation, moreover, of the age will then show the great might of its ruler, when all things come to judgment.

8 Do therefore prepare your hearts for that which before you believed, lest you come to be in bondage in both worlds, so that you be led away captive here and be tormented there.

9 For that which exists now or which has passed away, or which is to come in all these things, neither is the evil fully evil, nor again the good fully good.

10 For all healthinesses of this time are turning into diseases.

11 And all might of this time is turning into weakness, and all force of this time is turning into misery.

12 And every energy of youth is turning into old age and consummation, and every beauty of favorfulness of this time is turning faded and hateful.

13 And every proud dominion of the present is turning into humiliation and shame.

14 And every esteem of the esteem of this time is turning into the shame of silence, and every splendour and insolence of this time is turning into voiceless ruin.

15 And every delight and joy of this time is turning to worms and corruption.

16 And every clamour of the pride of this time is turning into dust and stillness.

17 And every possession of riches of this time is being turned into Sheol alone.

18 And all the rapine of passion of this time is turning into involuntary death, and every passion of the lusts of this time is turning into a judgment of torment.

19 And every artifice and craftiness of this time is turning into a proof of the truth.

20 And every sweetness of unguents of this time is turning into judgment and condemnation.

21 And every love of lying is turned to shame through truth.

22 Since, therefore, all these things are done now, does any one think that they will not be avenged?

23 But the consummation of all things will come to the truth.

Chapter 84

1 Behold! I have therefore made known unto you these things while I live: for I said that you should above all things learn the commandments of the Mighty One, where I will instruct you: and I will place before you some of the commandments of His judgment before I die.

2 Remember that formerly Moshah assuredly called shamayim and earth to witness against you, and said: If you transgress the law you will be dispersed, but if you keep it you will be kept.

3 And other things also he used to say unto you when you the twelve tribes were together in the desert.

4 And after his death you cast them away from you: on this account there came upon you what had been predicted.

5 And now Moshah used to tell you before they befell you, and lo! they have befallen you: for you have forsaken the law.

6 Lo! I also say unto you after you have suffered, that if you obey those things which have been said unto you, you will receive from the Mighty One whatever has been laid up and reserved for you.

7 Moreover, let this epistle be for a testimony between me and you, that you may remember the commandments of the Mighty One, and that also there may be to me a defence in the presence of Him who sent me.

8 And remember the law and Tsiyon, and the Consecrated Land and your brothers, and the covenant of your fathers, and forget not the festivals and the sabbaths.

9 And deliver this epistle and the traditions of the law to your baniym after you, as also your fathers delivered them to you.

10 And at all times make petition perseveringly and petition diligently with your whole heart that the Mighty One may be reconciled to you, and that He may not reckon the multitude of your sins, but remember the rectitude of your fathers.

11 For if He judge us not according to the multitude of His mercies, woe unto all us who are born.

Chapter 85

1 Know, moreover, that in former times and in the generations of old those our fathers had helpers, righteous men and consecrated messengers.

2 Nay more, we were in our own land, and they helped us when we sinned, and they petitioned for us to Him who made us, because they trusted in their works, and the Mighty One heard their petition and was favorable unto us.

3 But now the righteous have been gathered and the messengers have fallen asleep, and we also have gone forth from the land, and Tsiyon has been taken from us, and we have nothing now save the Mighty One and His law.

4 If therefore we direct and dispose our hearts, we will receive everything that we lost, and much better things than we lost, yea, better by many times.

5 For what we have lost was subject to corruption, and what we will receive will not be corruptible.

6 Moreover, also, I have written thus to our brothers to Babylon, that to them also I may attest these very things.

7 And let all those things aforesaid be always before your eyes, because we are still in the breath and the power of our liberty.

8 Again, moreover, the ALmighty also is long-suffering towards us here, and He has shown to us that which is to be, and has not concealed from us what will befall in the end.

9 Before therefore judgment exact its own, and truth that which is its due, let us prepare our being that we may enter into possession of, and not be taken possession of, and that we may hope and not be put to shame, and that we may rest with our fathers and not be tormented with our enemies.

10 For the youth of the world is past, and the strength of the creation is already exhausted, and the advent of the times is very short, yea, they have passed by; and the pitcher is near to the cistern, and the ship to the port, and the course of the journey to the city, and life to consummation.

11 And again prepare your beings, so that when you sail and ascend from the ship you may have rest and not be condemned when you depart.

12 For lo! when the ALmighty will bring to pass all these things, there will not there be again an opportunity for returning, nor a limit to the times, nor adjournment to the hours, nor change of ways, nor place for petition, nor sending of petitions, nor receiving of knowledge, nor giving of love, nor place of repentance, nor supplication for offences, nor intercession of the fathers, nor petition of the messengers, nor help of the righteous.

13 There is the sentence of corruption, the way of fire, and the path which brings to Gehenna.

14 On this account there is one law by one, one age and an end for all who are in it.

15 Then He will preserve those to whom He finds He may be favorable, and at the same time destroy those who are polluted with sins.

Chapter 86

1 When therefore you receive this my epistle, read it in your congregations with care.

2 And meditate on it, above all on the days of your fasts.

3 And bear me in mind by means of this epistle, as I also bear you in mind in it, and always fare shalum.

Chapter 87

1 And it came to pass when I had ended all the words of this epistle, and had written it sedulously to its close, that I folded it, and sealed it carefully, and bound it to the neck of the eagle, and dismissed and sent it.