

THE TESTAMENT OF SHIMEON

CHAPTER 1

1 The copy of the words of Shimeon, the things which he spoke to his sons before he died, in the hundred and twentieth year of his life, at which time Yahusaph, his brother, died.

2 For when Shimeon was sick, his sons came to visit him, and he strengthened himself and sat up and kissed them, and said:

CHAPTER 2

1 Hearken, my children, to Shimeon your father, and I will declare unto you what things I have in my heart.

2 I was born of Ya'aqob as my father's second son; and my mother La'ah called me Shimeon, because אֶלְאָם had heard her petition.

3 Moreover, I became strong exceedingly; I shrank from no achievement, nor was I afraid of anything.

4 For my heart was hard, and my liver was immovable, and my bowels without compassion.

5 Because valour also has been given from the Most High to men in soul and body.

6 For in the time of my youth I was jealous in many things of Yahusaph, because my father loved him beyond all.

7 And I set my mind against him to destroy him, because the prince of deceit sent forth the ruach of jealousy and blinded my mind, so that I regarded him not as a brother, nor did I spare even Ya'aqob my father.

8 But his AL and the AL of his fathers sent forth His malak, and delivered him out of my hands.

9 For when I went to Shekem to bring ointment for the flocks, and Re'uban to Dothan, where were our necessities and all our stores, Yahudah my brother sold him to the Yishma'alites.

10 And when Re'uban heard these things he was grieved, for he wished to restore him to his father,

11 But on hearing this I was exceedingly wroth against Yahudah in that he let him go away alive, and for five months I continued wrathful against him.

12 But אֶלְאָם restrained me, and withheld from me the power of my hands; for my right hand was half withered for seven days.

13 And I knew, my children, that because of Yahusaph this had befallen me, and I repented and wept; and I besought אֶלְאָם that my hand might be restored, and that I might hold aloof from all pollution and envy, and from all folly.

14 For I knew that I had devised an evil thing before אֶלְאָם and Ya'aqob my father, on account of Yahusaph my brother, in that I envied him.

CHAPTER 3

1 And now, my children, hearken unto me and beware of the ruach of deceit and of envy.

2 For envy rules over the whole mind of a man, and suffers him neither to eat nor to drink, nor to do any good thing.

3 But it ever suggests to him to destroy him that he envies; and so long as he that is envied flourishes, he that envies fades away.

4 Two years therefore I afflicted my soul with fasting in the fear of אֱלֹהִים, and I learnt that deliverance from envy comes by the fear of אֱלֹהִים.

5 For if a man flees to אֱלֹהִים, the evil ruach runs away from him, and his mind is lightened.

6 And henceforward he sympathises with him whom he envied and agrees with those who love him, and so ceases from his envy.

CHAPTER 4

1 And my father asked concerning me, because he saw that I was sad; and I said unto him, I am pained in my liver.

2 For I mourned more than they all, because I was guilty of the selling of Yehusaph.

3 And when we went down into Mitsrayim, and he bound me as a spy, I knew that I was suffering justly, and I grieved not.

4 Now Yehusaph was a good man, and had the Ruach ha'Qodash within him: being compassionate and pitiful, he bore no malice against me; but loved me even as the rest of his brethren.

5 Beware, therefore, my children, of all jealousy and envy, and walk in singleness of heart, that אֱלֹהִים may give you also favour and esteem, and barak upon your heads, even as you saw in Yehusaph's case.

6 All his days he reproached us not concerning this thing, but loved us as his own soul, and beyond his own sons esteemed us, and gave us riches, and cattle and fruits.

7 Do you also, my children, love each one his brother with a good heart, and the ruach of envy will withdraw from you.

8 For this makes savage the soul and destroys the body; it causes anger and war in the mind, and stirs up unto deeds of blood, and leads the mind into frenzy, and causes tumult to the soul and trembling to the body.

9 For even in sleep some malicious jealousy, deluding him, gnaws, and with wicked ruachim disturbs his soul, and causes the body to be troubled, and wakes the mind from sleep in confusion; and as a wicked and poisonous ruach, so appears it to men.

CHAPTER 5

1 Therefore was Yehusaph comely in appearance, and goodly to look upon, because no wickedness dwelt in him; for some of the trouble of the ruach the face manifests.

2 And now, my children, make your hearts good before אֱלֹהִים, and your ways straight before men, and you will find favour before אֱלֹהִים and men.

3 Beware, therefore, of fornication, for fornication is mother of all evils, separating from אֱלֹהִים, and bringing near to Beliar (Baal).

4 I have seen it inscribed in the writing of Chanok that your sons will be corrupted in fornication, and will do harm to the sons of Lewi with the sword.

5 But they will not be able to withstand Lewi; for he will wage the war of אֱלֹהִים, and will conquer all your hosts.

6 And they will be few in number, divided in Lewi and Yahudah, and there will be none of you for sovereignty, even as also our father prophesied in his barakoth.

CHAPTER 6

1 Behold I have told you all things, that I may be acquitted of your sin.

2 Now, if you remove from you your envy and all stiff-neckedness, as a rose will my bones flourish in Yashar'al, and as a lily my flesh in Ya'aqob, and my odour will be as the odour of Lebanon; and as cedars will consecrated ones be multiplied from me forever, and their branches will stretch afar off.

3 Then will perish the seed of Kanaan, and a remnant will not be unto Amalek, and all the Cappadocians will perish, and all the Hittites will be utterly destroyed.

4 Then will fail the land of Cham, and all the people will perish. Then will all the earth rest from trouble, and all the world under shamayim from war.

5 Then will a sign be esteemed greatly unto Yashar'al, for אֱלֹהִים appearing on earth will come as man, and saving through Him mankind.

6 Then will all the ruachim of deceit be given to be trodden under foot, and men will rule over wicked ruachim.

7 Then will I arise in joy, and will bless the Most High because of His marvellous works, because אֱלֹהִים has taken a body and eaten with men and saved men.

CHAPTER 7

1 And now, my children, obey Lewi and Yahudah, and be not lifted up against these two tribes, for from them will arise unto you the deliverance of אֱלֹהִים

2 For אֱלֹהִים will raise up from Lewi as it were a High Priest, and from Yahudah as it were a King, AL and man, He will save all the nations and the race of Yashar'al.

3 Therefore I give you these commands that you also may command your children, that they may observe them throughout their generations.

CHAPTER 8

1 And when Shimeon had made an end of commanding his sons, he slept with his fathers, being a hundred and twenty years old.

2 And they laid him in a wooden coffin, to take up his bones to Hebron. And they took them up secretly during a war of the Mitsriym.

3 For the bones of Yhusaph the Mitsriym guarded in the tombs of the kings.

4 For the sorcerers told them, that on the departure of the bones of Yhusaph there should be throughout all the land darkness and gloom, and an exceeding great plague to the Mitsriym, so that even with a lamp a man should not recognise his brother.

CHAPTER 9

1 And the sons of Shimeon bewailed their father.

2 And they were in Mitsrayim until the day of their departure by the hand of Moshah.

