

THE TESTAMENT OF GAD

CHAPTER 1

1 The copy of the testament of Gad, what things he spoke unto his sons, in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life, saying unto them:

2 Hearken, my children, I was the ninth son born to Ya'aqob, and I was valiant in keeping the flocks.

3 Accordingly I guarded at night the flock; and whenever the lion came, or the wolf, or any wild beast against the fold, I pursued it, and overtaking it I seized its foot with my hand and hurled it about a stone's throw, and so killed it.

4 Now Yabusaph my brother was feeding the flock with us for upwards of thirty days, and being young, he fell sick by reason of the heat.

5 And he returned to Hebron to our father, who made him lie down near him, because he loved him greatly.

6 And Yabusaph told our father that the sons of Zilpah and Bilhah were slaying the best of the flock and eating them against the judgment of Re'uben and Yahudah.

7 For he saw that I had delivered a lamb out of the mouth of the bear, and put the bear to death; but had slain the lamb, being grieved concerning it that it could not live, and that we had eaten it.

8 And regarding this matter I was wroth with Yabusaph until the day that he was sold.

9 And the ruach of hatred was in me, and I wished not either to hear of Yabusaph with the ears, or to see him with the eyes, because he rebuked us to our faces saying that we were eating of the flock without Yahudah. For whatsoever things he told our father, he believed him.

CHAPTER 2

1 I confess now my sin, my children, that oftentimes I wished to kill him, because I hated him from my heart.

2 Moreover, I hated him yet more for his dreams; and I wished to lick him out of the land of the living, even as an ox licks up the grass of the field.

3 And Yahudah sold him secretly to the Yishma'alites.

4 And thus through covetousness we were bent on slaying him.

5 Thus אֲנִי of our fathers delivered him from our hands, that we would not work great lawlessness in Yashar'al.

CHAPTER 3

1 And now, my children, hearken to the words of amat to work righteousness, and all the Torah of the Most High, and go not astray through the ruach of hatred, for it is evil in all the doings of men.

2 Whatsoever a man does the hater abominates him: and though a man works the Torah of אֲנִי, he praises him not; though a man fears אֲנִי, and takes pleasure in that which is righteous, he loves him not.

3 He dispraises amat, he envies him that prospers, he welcomes evil-speaking, he loves arrogance, for hatred blinds his soul; as I also then looked on Yahasaph.

CHAPTER 4

1 Beware, therefore, my children, of hatred; for it works lawlessness even against אֱלֹהִים Himself.

2 For it will not hear the words of His commandments concerning the loving of one's neighbour, and it sins against אֱלֹהִים.

3 For if a brother stumbles, it delights immediately to proclaim it to all men, and is urgent that he should be judged for it, and be punished and be put to death.

4 And if it be a servant it stirs him up against his master, and with every affliction it devises against him, if possibly he can be put to death.

5 For hatred works with envy also against them that prosper: so long as it hears of or sees their success, it always languishes.

6 For as ahaba would quicken even the dead, and would call back them that are condemned to die, so hatred would slay the living, and those that had sinned lightly it would not suffer to live.

7 For the ruach of hatred works together with ha'satan, through hastiness of ruach, in all things unto men's death; but Ruach ha'Qodash works together with the Torah of אֱלֹהִים in long-suffering unto the deliverance of men.

CHAPTER 5

1 Hatred, therefore, is evil, for it constantly mates with lying, speaking against amat; and it makes small things to be great, and causes the aur to be darkness, and calls the sweet bitter, and teaches slander, and kindles wrath, and stirs up war, and violence, and all covetousness; it fills the heart with evils and poison of ha'satan.

2 These things, therefore, I say to you from experience, my children, that you may drive forth hatred, which is of ha'satan, and cleave to ahaba of אֱלֹהִים.

3 Righteousness casts out hatred, humility destroys envy. For he that is just and humble is ashamed to do what is unjust, being reproved not of another, but of his own heart, because אֱלֹהִים looks on his inclination.

4 He speaks not against a qodash man, because the fear of אֱלֹהִים overcomes hatred.

5 For fearing lest he should offend אֱלֹהִים, he will not do wrong to any man, even in thought.

6 These things I learnt at last, after I had repented concerning Yahasaph.

7 For true repentance after a qodash sort destroys ignorance, and drives away darkness, and enlightens the eyes, and gives knowledge to the soul, and leads the mind to deliverance.

8 And those things which it has not learnt from man, it knows through repentance.

9 For אֱלֹהִים brought upon me a disease of the liver; and had not the petitions of Ya'aqob my father helped me, it had hardly failed but my ruach had departed.

10 For by what things a man transgresses, by the same also is he punished.

11 Since, therefore, my liver was set mercilessly against Yahasaph, in my liver too I suffered mercilessly, and was judged for eleven months, for so long a time as I had been angry against Yahasaph.

CHAPTER 6

1 And now, my children, I exhort you, love each one his brother, and put away hatred from your hearts, love one another in deed, and in word, and in the inclination of the soul.

2 For in the presence of my father I spoke peaceably to Yahusaph; and when I had gone out, the ruach of hatred darkened my mind, and stirred up my soul to slay him.

3 Love one another from the heart; and if a man sins against you, speak peaceably to him, and in your soul hold not guile; and if he repents and confesses, forgive him.

4 But if he denies it, do not get into a passion with him, lest catching poison from you he take to swearing and so you sin doubly.

5 Let not another man hear your secrets when engaged in legal strife, lest he come to hate you and become your enemy, and commit a great sin against you; for oftentimes he addresses you guilefully or busies himself about you with wicked intent.

6 And though he denies it and yet has a sense of shame when reproved, give over reproving him. For he who denies may repent so as not to wrong you again; yes, he may also honour you, and fear and be at shalum with you.

7 But if he be shameless and persists in his wrongdoing, even so forgive him from the heart, and leave to אֱלֹהִים the avenging.

CHAPTER 7

1 If a man prospers more than you, do not be vexed, but petition also for him, that he may have perfect prosperity. For so it is expedient for you.

2 And if he be further exalted, be not envious of him, remembering that all flesh will die; and offer esteem to אֱלֹהִים, who gives things good and profitable to all men.

3 Seek out the judgments of אֱלֹהִים, and your mind will rest and be at shalum.

4 And though a man becomes rich by evil means, even as Esau, the brother of my father, be not jealous; but wait for the end of אֱלֹהִים.

5 For if He takes away from a man wealth gotten by evil means He forgives him if he repents, but the unrepentant is reserved for eternal punishment.

6 For the poor man, if free from envy he pleases אֱלֹהִים in all things, is barak beyond all men, because he has not the travail of vain men.

7 Put away, therefore, jealousy from your souls, and love one another with uprightness of heart.

CHAPTER 8

1 Do you also, therefore, tell these things to your children, that they honour Yahudah and Lewi, for from them will אֱלֹהִים raise up deliverance to Yashar'al.

2 For I know that at the last your children will depart from Him, and will walk in all wickedness, and affliction, and corruption before אֱלֹהִים.

3 And when he had rested for a little while, he said again: My children, obey your father, and bury me near to my fathers.

4 And he drew up his feet, and fell asleep in shalum.

5 And after five years they carried him up to Hebron, and laid him with his fathers.

