

SECOND EZRA

CHAPTER 3¹

In the thirtieth² year after the overthrow³ of the city,⁴ I was in Babel—I, Shealtiel, who am also called Ezra. I was perturbed as I lay on my bed, and my thoughts welled up in my heart, **2** because I saw the desolation of Zion and the abundant wealth of those who lived in Babel.⁵ **3** Hence, my spirit was agitated so greatly that I began to anxiously address the Most High, and said,

4 “O Lord, Lord, at the beginning, when you, and you alone, planted⁶ the heavens and the earth⁷ and everything which is in them,⁸ did you not⁹ speak and command the dust¹⁰ **5** so that it gave¹¹ you Adam, a lifeless body? Yet he was the creation¹² of your hands, and you breathed the spirit of life into him, and he was made alive¹³ in your presence. **6** And you led him into the Garden of Eden¹⁴ which your right hand had planted before the earth appeared.¹⁵ **7** And you laid one commandment¹⁶ upon him that he should know the Lord,¹⁷ but he disregarded it and he was overcome.¹⁸ And immediately you appointed death for him and for his descendants. And nations and tribes sprang from him everywhere,¹⁹ peoples and clans without number. **8** And every nation followed its own inclination;²⁰ they acted impiously²¹ in your sight and rejected your commands;²² however, you did not hinder them.²³ **9** But again, in due time,²⁴ you brought the flood upon the inhabitants of the age²⁵ and destroyed them. **10** And the same fate befell all of them: just as death came upon Adam, so the death of the flood upon them.²⁶ **11** But you spared one of them, Noah with his household—all the righteous who have descended from him.²⁷

12 “When the inhabitants of the earth began to multiply, they produced²⁸ children and peoples and many nations, and again they began to be more impious before you²⁹ than their forefathers were. They persisted in deeds of unrighteousness.³⁰ **13** And it came to pass, when they committed iniquity in your sight, that you chose one of them for yourself, whose name was Abraham. **14** And you loved him, and to him alone you revealed the end of the times,³¹ secretly³² by night. **15** You made an everlasting covenant with him, and promised him that you would never forsake his descendants.³³ And you gave him Isaac, and to Isaac you gave Jacob and Esau.³⁴ **16** Moreover, you set Jacob apart for yourself,³⁵ but Esau you rejected;³⁶ and Jacob became a great multitude as an inheritance.³⁷ **17** And when you led his³⁸ descendants out of Egypt and made an eternal covenant with him,³⁹ you brought them to Mount Sinai.⁴⁰ **18** You bent down the heavens and

shook⁴¹ the earth, and moved the world, and caused the abyss to tremble, and troubled the age.⁴² **19** And your glory passed through the four gates: of fire and earthquake and wind and ice, to give the law to the descendants of Jacob, and your commandment⁴³ to the posterity of Israel.

20 “Yet you did not take away their evil heart from them, so that your law might produce fruit in them. **21** For the first Adam, burdened with an evil heart, transgressed and was overcome, as were also all those who descended from him. **22** Thus the disease became ingrained in them;⁴⁴ though the law was in the hearts of the people, so was the evil root;⁴⁵ but what was good departed, while the evil remained. **23** So after the times passed and the years were completed,⁴⁶ you raised up a servant for yourself, named David. **24** You commanded him to build a city for your name, and to offer oblations to you there from what is yours.⁴⁷ **25** This was done for many years; but the inhabitants of the city transgressed before you⁴⁸ **26** in everything, doing exactly as Adam and all his descendants had done, for they also were burdened with⁴⁹ the evil heart. **27** So you delivered your city into the hands⁵⁰ of your enemies.

28 “Then I said in my heart: Are the deeds of those who inhabit Babel any better? Is that why she has gained dominion over⁵¹ Zion? **29** For when I arrived here I saw ungodly deeds without number, and my soul has seen many sinners during these thirty years.⁵² And behold,⁵³ my heart was utterly perturbed, **30** because I have seen how you endure those who sin, and have spared those who act wickedly, and how you have ruined your people, and protected your enemies; **31** and you have not informed anyone how your way may be comprehended.⁵⁴ Are the deeds of Babel better than those of Zion?⁵⁵ **32** Or has another nation known you⁵⁶ besides Israel? Or what tribes have so believed the⁵⁷ covenants as these tribes of⁵⁸ Jacob? **33** Yet their reward has not appeared, nor has their labor borne fruit. For I have traveled widely among the nations and have seen that they abound in wealth, though they are unmindful of your commandments. **34** Now therefore, weigh our iniquities in the balance against those of the inhabitants of the age; and it will be evident which way the turn of the scale will incline. **35** When have the inhabitants of the earth not sinned in your sight? Or what nation has kept your commandments so well? **36** You may indeed find individuals⁵⁹ who have kept⁶⁰ your commandments, but nations you will not find.”

CHAPTER 4

Then the messenger who had been sent to me, whose name was Uriel, answered **2** and said to me, “Since your understanding has utterly failed regarding this age,⁶¹ do you expect⁶² to comprehend the way⁶³ of the Most High?”

3 Then I said, “Yes, my lord.”

And he replied to me, “I have been sent to show you three ways, and to put before you three problems. **4** If you can solve one of them for me, then I will show you the way you desire to see,⁶⁴ and will teach⁶⁵ you why the heart is evil.”⁶⁶

5 I said, “Speak, my lord.”

And he said to me, “Go, weigh for me the weight⁶⁷ of fire, or measure for me a blast⁶⁸ of wind, or call back for me the day which has passed.”

6 I answered and said, “Who of those who have been born can do this, that you should ask me about such things?”⁶⁹

¹ [1~2] All versions except for the Latin do not include Chapters 1 and 2 (which are judged by most to be original Latin interpolations)

² [3:1] Georg “third”

³ [3:1] Ar2 “building”

⁴ [3:1] Arm(H) “of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah” / Lat(C), Eth, Syr, Ar2 “of our city” / Lat(L) “of Jerusalem and Judah” / Ar1 “of the city of Jerusalem”

⁵ [3:3] Ar2 omits “abundant wealth of those who lived in Babel”

⁶ [3:4] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) “formed”

⁷ [3:4] Syr, Eth / Lat(S,A) “people” / Lat (C,M) “world”

⁸ [3:4] Arm adds “the heavens and” & “and everything that is in them”

⁹ [3:4] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) omits “did you not”

¹⁰ [3:4] Syr, Eth / Lat(S,A) “people” / Lat(C,M) “world”

¹¹ [3:5] Syr, Eth / Arm, Ar2 “you made man with your incorruptible hands”

¹² [3:5] Lat(A) omits “the creation”

¹³ [3:5] Arm omits “alive”

¹⁴ [3:6] Lat(L), Arm adds (lit. ‘of Delight’)

¹⁵ [3:6] Arm omits “before the earth appeared” / Ar2 has “man” instead of “earth”

¹⁶ [3:7] Ar1 / Eth “one righteous commandment” / Syr, Arm “a commandment” / Lat “one of these commandments”

¹⁷ [2Ezr3:7] Arm(H) adds / Arm(V) instead adds “that he should now that he is your work”

¹⁸ [3:7] Arm(H) adds / Arm(V) instead adds “and was deceived”

¹⁹ [3:7] Lat(C) adds

²⁰ [3:8] Lat(C,M), Georg, Ar1 / Lat(S,C) “pleasure” / Syr “works” / Eth, Ar2 “fashion”

²¹ [3:8] Lat(S) “acted in anger” / some C “acted strangely”

²² [3:8] Lat(S,A) / Lat(C,M) omits “your commands”

²³ [3:8] Syr, Ar / Lat(S,A) omit “and you did not hinder them”

²⁴ [3:9] Arm omits “in due time”

²⁵ [3:9] Lat, Syr, Eth / Ar1 “upon the people of that age” / Ar2, Arm “upon them”

²⁶ [3:10] Lat, Eth / Syr adds “the death of” / Arm omits “And the same fate... upon them.”

²⁷ [3:11] Lat (some Lat add “and” between “household” and “all”), Ar1 / Syr, Eth “But you spared one of them, and from him sprang all the righteous” / Arm “You had mercy upon your servant Noah, and on his account upon his sons; and together with all his house he found favor before you because he was pleasing to you.”

²⁸ [3:12] Arm(H) “The earth caused humans to increase from his seed” / Arm(V) “you caused humans to increase from his seed”

²⁹ [3:12] Arm adds

³⁰ [3:12] Arm(H), other Arm add

³¹ [3:14] Ar1 “the time of rest”

³² [3:14] Lat(A) “, secrets” / Syr, Eth, Ar2 “, between you and him” / Arm “, by himself”

³³ [3:15] Arm replaces “and promised...descendants” with something else, while Ar1 replaces “that you would...descendants”

³⁴ [3:15] Arm omits “and Esau” and adds other material here

³⁵ [3:16] Lat(M) omits “for yourself”

³⁶ [3:16] Syr, Ar1, Ar2 / Lat “you set apart”

³⁷ [3:16] Syr adds

³⁸ [3:15~17] Eth, Georg omit “And you gave him...led his” (by scribal error)

³⁹ [3:17] Syr adds

⁴⁰ [3:17] Ar1 “to Sinai Desert”

⁴¹ [3:18] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Georg / Lat “and set fast”

⁴² [3:18] most Lat, Georg, Eth / Lat(A) “heavens” / Syr, Ar1 “ages”

⁴³ [3:19] Lat, Eth / Syr, Ar1 “commandments” / Georg “truth”

⁴⁴ [3:22] Syr, Ar1, Arm add

⁴⁵ [3:24] Arm(V) omits “though the law...evil root”

⁴⁶ [3:23] Lat(M) omits “So the times...completed”

⁴⁷ [3:24] Syr “name, and a house in which to offer oblations...” / Arm “name. After him you raised up his son Solomon, whom, in a night vision, you commanded to build the temple. And you commanded all the people to give prayers and offer sacrifices in it.” / Lat(L) instead adds “And his son Solomon built a house for your name and set up a sacrificial altar in it on which the priests would bring you offerings as you commanded Moses your servant.”

⁴⁸ [3:25] Syr, Ar1, Georg add

⁴⁹ [3:26] Lat “also used” / Georg “also put on”

⁵⁰ [3:27] Lat(A,M,C) “hand”

⁵¹ [3:28] Syr “why you abandoned” / Eth “why Zion is abandoned” / Georg “why Zion is delivered over” / Arm “why Zion is spurned”

⁵² [3:29] Eth, Ar1, Arm / Lat, Syr “sinners in this thirtieth year” / Georg “...this is three years”

⁵³ [3:29] Arm(H), Lat(L) add

⁵⁴ [3:31] Syr / Lat “how this way should be forsaken” / Eth “how this way will turn out” / Georg “how their way will turn out” / Arm omits “and you have not...those of Zion”

⁵⁵ [3:31] Lat(A) “Did the Babelians act any better than Zion?”

⁵⁶ [3:32] Syr “Or have you know another nation”

⁵⁷ [3:32] Lat(S,A,C) / Lat(M), Syr, Eth, Ar “your”

⁵⁸ [3:32] Syr, Eth, Ar2, Arm, Georg / Lat adds / Ar1 instead adds “the house of”

⁵⁹ [3:36] Lat, Georg adds “by name” / Syr adds “with names” / Arm adds “few”

⁶⁰ [3:36] Lat(A,C,M) / Lat(S) “who keep” / Eth omits “You may indeed find...commandments” (by scribal error)

⁶¹ [4:1] Eth, Georg, Ar2 omit “regarding this age”

⁶² [4:2] Lat / others “Your understanding...and do you desire”

⁶³ [4:2] Eth “the plan of glory” / Georg “the glory”

⁶⁴ [4:4] Eth, Arm “know”

⁶⁵ [4:4] Lat “show”

⁶⁶ [4:4] S(a,b) “...you from where the heart may be evil” / Arm omits “and will...evil”

⁶⁷ [4:5] Eth, Georg “me on one balance”

⁶⁸ [4:5] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar, Georg “measure”

⁶⁹ [4:6] Lat(M) “about this”

7 And he said to me, “If I had asked you, ‘How many dwellings¹ are in the heart of the sea, or how many springs² are at the source of the abyss, or how many ways³ are above⁴ the firmament, or where are the portals of the Netherworld, or where are the entrances⁵ to the Garden?’ 8 perhaps you would have said to me, ‘I never went down into the abyss, nor as yet descended⁶ into the Netherworld, neither did I ever ascend into heaven, nor have I entered⁷ into the Garden.’ 9 But now I have asked you only about fire and wind and the day through which you have passed⁸—things which are yours⁹ from which you cannot be separated.¹⁰ Yet you have given me no answer about them.”

I answered and said, “I cannot understand that.”

10 And he said to me,¹¹ “*Since* you cannot understand the very things which belong to you, which have been associated with you; 11 how then can your vessel comprehend the way of the Most High? 12 *Since* the way of the Most High has been formed without measure,¹³ how, then, can one who is already impaired by the corrupt age¹⁴ understand the way of incorruption?”¹⁵

When I heard this, I fell upon my face 12 and said¹⁶ to him, “It would have been better for us never to have been present¹⁷ here than to come¹⁸ here and live in sin and to suffer¹⁹ without understanding why we suffer.”²⁰

13 He answered me and said, “Once upon a time, the forest of trees of the plain went forth,²¹ and they held a consultation 14 and said, ‘Come, let us go and make war against the sea, so that it may recede before us and *so that* we may make more forests²² of trees²³ for ourselves.’ 15 In like manner, the waves of the sea also held a consultation and said,²⁴ ‘Come, let us go up and subdue²⁵ the forest of the plain so that we may also gain more territory there for ourselves.’ 16 But the plan of the forest was in vain, for the fire came and consumed it; 17 likewise the plan of the waves of the sea was also in vain,²⁶ for the sand stood firm and blocked them. 18 If now you were a judge between them, which would you undertake to justify, and which to condemn?”

19 I answered and said, “Each devised a foolish plan, for the land has been assigned to the forest, and the locale of the sea has been assigned²⁷ to carry its waves.”

20 He answered me and said, “You have judged rightly, but why have you not judged so in your own case? 21 For as the land has been assigned to the forest and the sea to²⁸ its waves, so also those who inhabit the earth can understand only what is on the earth, and he who is²⁹ above the heavens *can understand* what is above the height of the heavens.”

22 Then I answered and said, “I implore you, my lord, why have I been endowed with the power of understanding? 23 For I did not desire to inquire about the ways above, but about those things which we daily experience: Why has Israel been given over to the nations in disgrace?³⁰ Why have the people whom you loved been given over to impious tribes?³¹ And why has the law of our ancestors been brought to destruction,³² and the written covenants³³ no longer exist? 24 For we pass³⁴ from the age like locusts, and our life is like a mist,³⁵ and

we are not worthy to obtain mercy. 25 But what will he do for his holy³⁶ name which is invoked over us? It is about these things which I have inquired of you.”³⁷

26 He answered me and said, “If you are alive, you will see, and if you live long,³⁸ you will often marvel, because the³⁹ age is hurrying swiftly to its end. 27 For *this age* is not able to bring forth the things which have been promised to the righteous in *these times*,⁴⁰ because this age is full of sadness and infirmities. 28 For the evil⁴¹ which you ask me about has been sown, but its harvest-time⁴² has not yet come. 29 Therefore, if what has been sown is not reaped, and if the place where the evil has been sown does not pass away,⁴³ the field where the good has been sown will not come. 30 For from the beginning, a small grain⁴⁴ of evil seed was sown in Adam’s heart, and how much fruit of⁴⁵ wickedness it has produced until now—and will produce until the time of threshing comes!⁴⁶ 31 Calculate now for yourself how much fruit of wickedness a single⁴⁷ grain of evil seed which has been sown⁴⁸ has produced. 32 When heads of good grain⁴⁹ without number are sown, how great a threshing floor they will fill!”

33 Then I answered and said, “How long? When will these things come to pass? For⁵⁰ our years are few and evil.”

34 He answered me and said, “Your haste is unable to exceed that of the Most High. You, indeed, are in haste for yourself, but the Highest is *in haste* on behalf of many. 35 Did not the souls of the righteous in their storehouses⁵¹ ask about these matters, saying, ‘How long must we remain here?⁵² And when will the harvest of our reward come?’ 36 And the chief-messenger Remiel⁵³ answered and said, ‘When the number of those like yourselves is completed;⁵⁴ for he has weighed the age in the balance, 37 and measured the times by measure, and numbered the times⁵⁵ by number; and he will not move or arouse them until that measure is fulfilled.’ ”

38 Then I answered and said, “But, O Lord, Lord, behold,⁵⁶ all of us also are full of ungodliness. 39 It is perhaps on our account, on account of the sins of the inhabitants of the earth, that the time of threshing is delayed for the righteous?”

40 He answered me and said, “Go and ask a pregnant woman whether, when her nine months have been completed, if her womb can constrain the fetus within her any longer.”

41 And I said, “No, lord, it cannot.”

And he said to me, “In the Netherworld and⁵⁷ the storehouses of the souls are like the womb. 42 For just as a woman who is in labor makes haste to escape the pangs of birth, so also do these places⁵⁸ hasten to give back those things which were committed to them from the beginning. 43 Then the things which you desire to see⁵⁹ will be disclosed to you.”⁶⁰

44 I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, and if it is possible, and if I am worthy,⁶¹ 45 show me this also: whether more time is to come than has passed, or whether the greater part has gone by for us. 46 For I know what has gone by, but I do not know what is to come.”⁶²

47 And he said to me, “Stand at *my right side*, and I will show you the interpretation by a parable.”⁶³

48 So I stood and looked, and saw a flaming furnace pass by before me. And it came to pass,⁶⁴ when the flame had gone by, I looked, and saw that the smoke remained. 49 And after this, a cloud full of water passed before me and discharged a heavy and furious downpour of rain, and when the furious rainstorm had passed, drops⁶⁵ still remained in the cloud.⁶⁶

¹ [4:7] Syr, Arm, Georg “storehouses”

² [4:7] Ar1, Eth / Lat “streams”

³ [4:7] most / Lat “streams”

⁴ [4:7] Lat(M) “under”

⁵ [4:7] Arm, Georg, Ar2 / Syr, Eth, Ar1 “paths” / Lat omits “of the Netherworld, or which are the entrances” (by scribal error)

⁶ [4:8] Syr / others “entered” / Lat omits altogether

⁷ [4:8] Lat(L), two Eth, Arm / Ar2, Georg “looked” / most Lat, Syr omit “nor...Garden”

⁸ [4:9] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm / Eth, Ar1 “the day which has past” / Georg has both readings

⁹ [4:9] Lat adds

¹⁰ [4:9] some Lat / others “cannot exist”

¹¹ [4:10] Ar2, Arm omit “And he said to me” / Georg adds “I answered...that.”

¹² [4:11] Eth “you. The way of the Most High was created from eternity.”

¹³ [4:11] Syr, Eth (cf. Ar, Arm) / Lat omits “*Since* the way of the Most High has been formed without measure” (scribal error?)

¹⁴ [4:11] Lat (Lat(S) has “outside world” instead of “corrupt worldage Ar2 / most others “who is corrupt in the corrupt age” / Eth, Georg “who is corrupt”

¹⁵ [4:11] Lat / Syr, Eth “the way of the incorruptible?” / Ar1, Arm “the ways of the incorruptible”

¹⁶ [4:11–12] Ar2 omits “When...face” thus reading “And I said”

¹⁷ [4:12] Lat(M) / Eth “created”

¹⁸ [4:12] Georg “be”

¹⁹ [4:12] Lat(S,A,M) / Lat(C) “and to have sinned”

²⁰ [4:12] Lat / others add / Ar2 omits “When I heard...why.”

²¹ [4:13] Syr, Eth, Georg, Arm / Lat “said, ‘I went into a forest of trees of the plain’

²² [4:14] Eth, most Arm, Georg “forest”

²³ [4:14] Eth adds

²⁴ [4:15] Lat(C,M) “plan, saying”

²⁵ [4:15] Lat(S,C) / Lat(A,M) “consummate” / Georg “rule over”

²⁶ [4:17] Lat omits “was” & “in vain”

²⁷ [4:19] some Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar2 “and the sea” / Georg “and the sea has been assigned a place” / others “and the sea a place”

²⁸ [4:21] Lat(M) “with”

²⁹ [4:21] Ar2, Arm, Georg “and they who are”

³⁰ [4:23] some Lat(A) “experience, sin”

³¹ [4:23] Lat(S,C, some A) “to an impious tribe”

³² [4:23] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) “been rendered ineffective”

³³ [4:23] Syr “and covenant”

³⁴ [4:24] Lat(S,A) “We have passed”

³⁵ [4:24] some Lat, Syr, Ar1 / Eth, Georg “smoke” / Lat(S,A,M) “terror” (in error)

³⁶ [4:25] Eth adds

³⁷ [4:25] Ar1, Ar2, Arm omit “It is about...inquired.” / Lat(L), Eth, Georg add “of you”

³⁸ [4:26] Syr / Lat omits “long”

³⁹ [4:26] Ar1, Ar2, Arm “this”

⁴⁰ [4:27] Lat, Arm / Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit “in these times”

⁴¹ [4:26–28] Ar1 “the evil seed” / Ar2 “unbelief” / Georg omits “because the age...the evil”

⁴² [4:28] Lat(C) “its uncovering” / Lat(M) “overthrowing”

⁴³ [4:29] Lat(M) omits “and if the place...pass away”

⁴⁴ [4:30] Syr “a small grain”

⁴⁵ [4:30] Lat / others adds / Ar2 instead adds “seed of”

⁴⁶ [4:30] Syr “until the threshing-floor”

⁴⁷ [4:31] Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 / Lat adds

⁴⁸ [4:31] Syr adds

⁴⁹ [4:32] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar2, Georg “When a head of the good” (Ar2 omits “good”)

⁵⁰ [4:33] Lat “Why are”

⁵¹ [4:35] Ar2, Arm omit “in their storehouses”

⁵² [4:35] Syr, Eth, Ar2, Georg / Lat “How long shall I hope in this way?”

⁵³ [4:36] Syr / Georg “Uriel” / others “Jeremiel”

⁵⁴ [4:36] Syr, Eth, Ar2 / Lat “number of seeds is completed for you”

⁵⁵ [4:37] Syr “hours” (or “moments”) / Eth, Georg omit “and numbered...by number”

⁵⁶ [4:38] Syr, Eth, Georg / Lat “and” / Ar2, Arm omit one “Lord”

⁵⁷ [4:41] Lat / Syr adds

⁵⁸ [4:42] Eth, Georg “also does the earth” / Arm “also do the storehouses of the earth”

⁵⁹ [4:43] Eth, Arm “know”

⁶⁰ [4:43] some Eth, Georg “I will show to you” / Ar2 “you will see” / Arm “you will see and know”

⁶¹ [4:44] Lat, Syr, Ar2 similar / Eth, Georg “sight, and if you reckon it, that it is possible for me”

⁶² [4:46] Lat(M) omits “but I do not...come” / some Arm omits “For I know what...come”

⁶³ [4:47] Lat(A) omits “by a parable” / Arm “the form of a parable”

⁶⁴ [2Erz4:48] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit “it came to pass”

⁶⁵ [4:49] Arm, Georg “dew”

⁶⁶ [4:49] Eth, Arm omit “in the cloud”

50 And he said to me, "Consider it for yourself; for just as the rain is more than the drops, and the fire is greater than the smoke, so the quantity¹ that has passed was far greater; but drops and smoke remain."

51 Then I prayed and said, "Do you think that I will live until those days? Or who will be alive in those days?"²

52 He answered me and said, "Concerning the signs³ about which you ask me,⁴ I can tell you in part; but I was not sent to tell you concerning your life, for even⁵ I do not know."

CHAPTER 5

"Now concerning the signs: behold, the days are coming when the inhabitants of the earth will be seized with great confusion,⁶ and the way⁷ of truth will be hidden, and the land will be barren of faith.⁸ 2 Unrighteousness will increase *and become* greater than anything you yourself now⁹ see, and become incomparably greater than anything you have ever heard of. 3 And the region¹⁰ which you now see ruling will be a trackless waste,¹¹ and they will see the land¹² deserted. 4 But if the Most High permits you to live, you will see it¹³ thrown into confusion after the third *period*.¹⁴

"And the sun will suddenly shine at night,
and the moon during the day.

- 5 Blood will drip from wood,
and the stone will cry out;
the peoples will be troubled,
and the courses will be altered.¹⁵
- 6 And one in whom the inhabitants of the earth do not anticipate will
wield sovereignty,
and the birds will fly away together;
and the Sea of Sodom¹⁶ will cast up fish;
and one whom the many¹⁷ do not know will cry out by night,
and all will hear his voice.¹⁸
- 7 Chasms¹⁹ shall appear in many places,
and fire shall often break out,
and the beasts shall roam beyond their haunts,
and menstuous women shall bring forth monsters.²⁰
- 8 And salt waters shall be found in the sweet,
and all friends shall suddenly assault²¹ one another.
Sons with fathers, and fathers with sons,
mothers and daughters opposed to one another;
brothers with brothers, friends with acquaintances,
nations with nations, peoples with peoples,
priests with priests, and ministers with ministers.²²
Then reason shall hide itself,
and wisdom shall withdraw into its storehouse,
and it shall be sought by many but shall not be found.
And unrighteousness and unrestraint shall be multiplied upon earth.
- 9 And one country shall ask its neighbor,
'Has righteousness, or anyone who does right,²³ passed through
you?'
And it will answer, 'No.'
- 10 And at that time, humans shall hope but not obtain;
they shall marry and not be happy.²⁴
they shall labor, but their ways shall not prosper.

¹ [4:50] Georg "times" / Arm "part of time" / Ar2 "time"

² [4:51] Lat(emend), Syr / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 "Or what will take place in those days?" / Georg "Or whatever will be alive in those days?" / Arm "Or especially which of us may be alive, and particularly which of us may exist."

³ [4:52] Eth, Georg "sign"

⁴ [4:52] Syr(Lat ver) "Concerning the predictions of those who you ask me."

⁵ [4:52] Lat(A), Syr, Eth, Georg add

⁶ [5:1] Syr, Georg, Eth / Lat(M) "tumult" / Arm "wonder"

⁷ [5:1] Lat, Ar1 / Syr, Eth, Georg "portion"

⁸ [5:1] Syr "and the land of faith will be barren"

⁹ [5:2] Syr, Ar1 add

¹⁰ [5:3] Lat, Eth / Georg, Ar1 "regions"

¹¹ [5:3] others "be a waste and trackless" / Syr "be a waste without stability and without a track-trodden place"

¹² [5:3] Syr, Eth, Georg / Ar1 "earth"

¹³ [5:4] Syr / Eth, Georg, Ar1, Arm omit "it"

¹⁴ [5:4] Lat(C), Syr / Lat(A,S) "after the third trumpet" / Eth "after three months" / Arm "after the third vision" / Georg "after the third day" / Ar1 "after three signs"

¹⁵ [5:5] Lat(S) "and the goings out will be altered" / Syr, Georg, Ar1, Ar2, Arm "and the atmosphere will be altered" / Eth "and the stars will fall"

¹⁶ [5:7] Georg omits "of Sodom"

¹⁷ [5:7] Lat, Ar1, Ar2 / Syr "whom many" / Georg "whom and many" (in error)

¹⁸ [5:7] Emendation / others "fish, and the voice which many do not understand, and all will hear its voice."

¹⁹ [5:8] Syr, Arm, Ar2 / Lat "Chaos"

²⁰ [5:8] Ar2, Eth "wonders" / others "signs"

²¹ [5:9] Lat "conquer" / Syr, Eth add "suddenly"

²² [5:9] Arm adds

²³ [5:11] Lat "righteousness that does right"

²⁴ [5:12] Lat, Ar1, Ar2 / Eth, Georg adds / Syr, Arm (similar) instead adds "they shall toil and not find"

13 "These are the signs which I am permitted to tell you. And if you pray again, and weep as you are now doing, and fast for seven days, you will hear yet greater things than these."

14 Then I woke up, and my body shuddered violently, and my soul was so troubled that it fainted. 15 But the messenger who had come to speak with me took hold of me, and supported me, and set me²⁵ on my feet.

16 And it came to pass on the second night Paltiel,²⁶ a chief of the people, came to me and said, "Where have you been? And why is your countenance sad? 17 Or do you not know²⁷ that Israel, in the land of their exile, has been entrusted to you? 18 Therefore, rise and eat some bread, and do not forsake us, like a shepherd *who leaves* the flock in the clutches of savage wolves."

19 Then I said to him, "Go away from me and do not come near me for seven days; and then you may come to me and I will tell you the matter."²⁸

When he heard what I said, he left me. 20 So I fasted seven days, mourning and weeping, as the messenger Uriel²⁹ had commanded me.

21 But it came to pass³⁰ after seven days, that the thoughts of my heart began once more to trouble me intensely. 22 Then my soul received³¹ the spirit of understanding, and I began once more to speak words³² in the presence of the Most High. 23 And I said, "O Lord, you are he who, by the will of the Most High, made and prepared everything; and by your wisdom you conduct everything, and you requite each according to his ways. You, O³³ Lord, from every forest of the earth and from all³⁴ its trees, you have chosen one vine for yourself;³⁵ 24 and from all the lands of the world, you have chosen one region³⁶ for yourself; and from all the flowers of the world, you have chosen one lily for yourself;³⁷ 25 and from all the abysses of the sea, you have filled³⁸ one river Jordan³⁹ for yourself; and from all the cities which have been built, you have consecrated Zion for yourself; 26 and from all the birds⁴⁰ which have been created, you have named one dove for yourself; and from all the created flocks, you have provided⁴¹ one sheep for yourself; 27 and from all the multitude of peoples, you have acquired⁴² one people for yourself (and you shall guide things with your strength, and guide them with your wisdom);⁴³ and to this people, whom you have loved, you have given the law which is approved by all.⁴⁴ 28 And now, O Lord, *why* have you handed the one over to the many, and dishonored⁴⁵ the one shoot above the others,⁴⁶ and scattered your only one among the many? 29 And those who opposed your commands⁴⁷ have trampled on those who believed your covenant.⁴⁸ 30 If you really hate your people, they⁴⁹ ought to be punished at your *own* hands."

31 It came to pass⁵⁰ when⁵¹ I had spoken these words, the messenger who had come to me⁵² on a previous night was sent to me. 32 And he said to me, "Listen to me Ezra,⁵³ and I will instruct you; pay attention to me, and I will tell⁵⁴ you more."

33 Then I said, "Speak, my⁵⁵ lord."

And he said to me, "Are you greatly disturbed in mind⁵⁶ over Israel? Or do you love him more than his Maker does?"

34 And I said, "No, my lord, but because of my grief I have spoken;⁵⁷ for every hour my heart torments me, while I strive to comprehend the way⁵⁸ of the Most High and to examine the direction of his judgment."

35 And he said to me, "You cannot."

²⁵ [5:15] Lat(C) omits "and set me"

²⁶ [5:16] Ar "Phaldiel" / Arm "Phanuel" / Lat(C) "Salatiel"

²⁷ [5:17] Lat(A) omits "do you not know"

²⁸ [5:19] Syr "days; and then I will speak to him" / Lat omits "and I will tell you the matter" / Arm omits "and then...matter"

²⁹ [5:20] Syr "Remiel" / Ar2 "Sariel" / Ar1, Arm omit altogether

³⁰ [5:21] Lat, Syr, Georg, Arm / others omit "it came to pass"

³¹ [5:22] Syr, Eth(emend), Georg, Arm / Lat "recovered"

³² [5:22] Lat, Arm, Syr / Eth, Georg, Ar2 omit "words"

³³ [5:23] Arm adds / Arm also changes the order of the following subjects to: trees, flowers, birds, animals, rivers, city, land

³⁴ [5:23] Lat / others omit "all"

³⁵ [5:23] Lat(S,M,A) omit "for yourself"

³⁶ [5:24] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm, Lat(S,M,A) "pit" / Lat(C) "leaf" / Georg "floor"

³⁷ [5:24] Lat, Georg / Syr, Ar1 "flower" / Arm "lily flower" / Eth, Ar2 omit "and from all the flowers...yourself"

³⁸ [5:25] Lat, Eth, Ar1 / Syr "increased" / Georg "honored" / Ar2 omits the entire phrase

³⁹ [5:25] Arm, Georg add

⁴⁰ [5:26] Syr "all the birds" / others "all the winged creatures"

⁴¹ [5:26] Lat / Syr, Ar1, Georg "accepted" / Eth, Ar2 "chosen"

⁴² [5:27] Eth, Ar1 "chosen"

⁴³ [5:27] Arm adds

⁴⁴ [5:27] Lat, Syr, Georg / Eth "the law that you approved of all"

⁴⁵ [5:28] Syr, Eth, Ar / Lat "prepared"

⁴⁶ [5:28] Eth, Georg "the other roots"

⁴⁷ [5:29] Syr / Eth, Georg "law" / Lat "promises"

⁴⁸ [5:29] Lat "covenants" / Georg "law"

⁴⁹ [5:30] Lat(C,M) "you"

⁵⁰ [5:31] Lat, Arm, Georg / Syr, Eth, Ar1 omit "It came to pass"

⁵¹ [5:31] Syr "after"

⁵² [5:31] Lat(C,M) omit "to me"

⁵³ [5:32] Syr adds

⁵⁴ [5:32] Lat(L), Eth, Arm / others omit "tell" / two omit "more"

⁵⁵ [5:33] Lat, Syr, Arm / others omit "my"

⁵⁶ [5:33] most / Lat adds / Arm instead adds "in your heart"

⁵⁷ [5:34] Syr "but suffering it is that I suffered and I spoke"

⁵⁸ [5:34] Ar, Arm, Georg "the ways" / Syr "the decree of judgment"

And I said to him.¹ “For what reason,² my³ lord? Why then was I born?⁴ Or why did my mother’s womb not become my grave, so that I would not see Jacob’s travail and the exhaustion of the people of Israel?”

36 He said to me, “Count up for me those⁵ who have not yet come,⁶ and gather for me the scattered grains,⁷ and relate to me the breadth of the sea and the multitude of the fish, or the heights of the heavens, or the hosts of stars, or the circuits of the sun, or the orbits of the stars, or the forms of the firmament, or the breadth of the earth, or the weight of dust. Count up for me the number of the hairs of your body, or the blinking of your eye, or the power of hearing, or the multitude of sight, or the preparation of smell, or the touches of hands, or the running of veins. Or will you find the imprints of feet, or the appearance and measure of breath, or the wisdom of birds, or the variety of creeping things which are on dry land and which are in the waters, which are hostile to one another, the runnings with feet; or the blowing of the winds? and collect for me the dispersed and spattered raindrops, and make the withered flowers bloom again for me;⁸ 37 open the closed storehouses for me, and bring out for me the spirits which are shut up in them; or show me the image of him whom you have never seen;⁹ or show me the picture of a voice; and then I will explain to you the travail that you ask to understand.”

38 And I said, “O Lord, Lord, who is able to know these things¹⁰ except him whose dwelling is not among humans? 39 As for me, I am without wisdom and miserable,¹¹ so how can I speak concerning¹² the things which you have asked me?”

40 He said to me, “Just as you cannot do one of the things which were mentioned, so you cannot discover my judgment, or the goal of the love which I have promised to¹³ my people.”

41 And I said, “Yet¹⁴ behold, O Lord, you have promised¹⁵ those who are alive at the end,¹⁶ but what will our predecessors do, or we, ourselves, or those who come after us?”

42 He said to me, “I shall liken¹⁷ my judgment to a crown;¹⁸ just as there is no disadvantage to the slow, so there is no advantage to the fast.”

43 Then I answered and said,¹⁹ “Could you not have created *them all*²⁰ at the same time—those who have been, those who *now* exist, and those who will be—so that you might display your judgment²¹ more quickly?”

44 He replied to me and said, “The creation cannot proceed more rapidly²² than the Creator, nor can the age simultaneously hold *all* those who have been created in it.”

45 And I answered and said to him,²³ “How can you say to your servant, that you will certainly give life to *every one* of your creatures at the same time? If therefore all creatures will be alive at the same time²⁴ and the creation will sustain them, how²⁵ might it even now be able to support *all of* those present at the same time?”

46 And he said to me, “Ask a woman’s womb, and say to it,²⁶ ‘If you bear ten children,²⁷ why *one* after another?’ Therefore, request it to produce ten at the same time.”

47 And I said,²⁸ “Of course it cannot, but only each in its own time.”

48 And he said to me, “Even so I have made the earth a womb for²⁹ those who, in their particular time, come forth upon it.³⁰ I provide for and exert myself for the world I created, since I have made things by degrees in their time and

according to their measure.³¹ 49 For as an infant does not bring forth, and a woman who has become old does not bring forth any longer, so in the same way I have regulated the age which I created by defined periods of time.”³²

50 Then I inquired and said to him,³³ “Lord,³⁴ Since you have now³⁵ given me the opportunity, let me speak³⁶ before you and inquire of you, my Lord.³⁷ Is our mother Zion³⁸ of whom you have told me, still young? Or is she now approaching old age?”

51 He replied to me, “Ask a woman who bears children, and she will tell you.³⁹ 52 Say to her, ‘Why are those whom you have borne recently not like those whom you have borne previously, but smaller in stature?’⁴⁰ 53 And she herself will answer you, ‘Those born in the vigor of youth are different from those born during the time of⁴¹ old age, when the womb is failing.’⁴² 54 Therefore⁴³ you also should consider that each of you are smaller in stature than those who were before you, 55 and those who come after you will be smaller⁴⁴ than you, as born of a creation which already is aging and passing the strength of youth.”

56 Then I said, “I implore you, O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight,⁴⁵ show your servant through whom⁴⁶ you have willed to visit⁴⁷ your creation.”

CHAPTER 6

And he said to me:

“The beginning is through⁴⁸ the son of⁴⁹ a human, and the end is through myself.⁵⁰

For before the circle of the earth existed,⁵¹

before⁵² the portals of the age were established,⁵³

and before the assembled winds blew,

2 and before the rumbings of thunder⁵⁴ resounded,⁵⁵

and before the flares of lightning⁵⁶ flashed,

and before the foundations of the Garden⁵⁷ were laid,

3 and before the beauty of the flowers⁵⁸ were seen,

and before the forces⁵⁹ of motion⁶⁰ were established,

and before the innumerable hosts of messengers were mustered,

4 and before the heights of the air were lifted up,

and before the measures of the firmaments were named,⁶¹

and before the footstool⁶² of Zion was established,

5 and before the present years were reckoned,

and before the imaginations⁶³ of those who now sin were estranged,⁶⁴

and before the accumulators of treasures of⁶⁵ faith were sealed—

6 then I planned these things,

and they all came into being⁶⁶ through me alone and not through⁶⁷ another;

exactly as the end will come through me alone and not through another.”⁶⁸

¹ [5:35] Syr, Eth, Ar1 add

² [5:35] Syr(emend), Georg “Can I not,”

³ [5:35] most / some add

⁴ [5:35] Ar1 “become”

⁵ [5:50] Lat adds

⁶ [5:50] Arm “inquire”

⁷ [5:50] Lat(L) adds

⁸ [5:50] Syr adds

⁹ [5:51] Georg, Arm omits “and she will tell you”

¹⁰ [5:52] some Lat(S,C,M), Syr, Ar1, Georg / Lat(A) “rank” / Eth, Ar2 “strength” / Arm “stature and strength”

¹¹ [5:53] Lat, Ambrose adds

¹² [5:53] Lat, Syr / Ar2 omits “Those born in...failing.”

¹³ [5:54] Lat / Syr, Arm “Also” / Eth “However” / Ar1 “In this manner” / Ar2 omits altogether

¹⁴ [5:55] Lat omits “will be smaller”

¹⁵ [5:56] Ar1 “you on account of the Lord to”

¹⁶ [5:56] Georg, Ar “servant for whose sake”

¹⁷ [5:56] Eth, Georg, Ar / Lat, Syr “whom you visit”

¹⁸ [6:1] Georg, Ar “is for the sake of”

¹⁹ [6:1] Eth, Arm (similar) adds

²⁰ [6:1] Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2, Arm (Eth, Georg “is for my sake”) / Lat omits “The beginning...myself.”

²¹ [6:1] Lat “For at the beginning of the circle of the earth” / Eth, Georg, Ar2 “Before...earth was created”

²² [6:1] Syr “The beginning by the hand of man, but the end by my own hands. For as before the land of the world existed there, and before” / Eth “At first by the Son of Man, and afterwards I myself. For before the earth and the lands were created, and before”

²³ [6:1] Lat(M) / Lat(S,A,C) “age stood”

²⁴ [6:2] Ar1 “before the cherubs”

²⁵ [6:2] Lat(A) omits “resounded”

²⁶ [6:2] Georg, Ar1, Arm “before the stars”

²⁷ [6:2] Syr, Ar1 “the pillars of the earth” / Ar2 omits “and before the foundations...laid”

²⁸ [6:3] Syr / Lat “before the beautiful flowers”

²⁹ [6:3] Syr, Eth, Ar2, Arm “force”

³⁰ [6:3] Syr “earthquakes”

³¹ [6:4] Lat(S), Syr / Lat(A,C,M) “numbered”

³² [6:4] Georg, Ar1 “foundation” / Eth, Arm omits “and before the footstool...established”

³³ [6:5] Lat / Syr “follies” / Ar1 “works” / Georg “ways”

³⁴ [6:5] Lat / Syr “conceived” / Ar1 “differentiated” / Georg “created” / Eth, Arm omits “and before the imaginations...estranged”

³⁵ [6:5] Lat(C,M) / others omit “treasures of”

³⁶ [6:6] Ar1, Ar2 / Syr “and they all came into being” / Lat “and they were made” / Eth omits altogether

³⁷ [6:6] Georg “for my sake and not for the sake of”

³⁸ [6:6] Syr, Eth, Ar, Georg omit “just as the end...another”

¹ [5:35] Syr, Eth, Ar1 add

² [5:35] Syr(emend), Georg “Can I not,”

³ [5:35] most / some add

⁴ [5:35] Ar1 “become”

⁵ [5:50] Eth “me the days” / Georg “me the hours”

⁶ [5:36] Arm “Tell me the number of those who are going to be born and going to die, and of those who are and of those who are going to be and who are going to die”

⁷ [5:36] Ar1 adds

⁸ [5:36] Arm adds “and relate...winds, and collect for me the dispersed and scattered raindrops, and make green the flowers which have withered”

⁹ [5:37] Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1 (Georg has “which” instead of “whom”) / Lat, Ar2 omit “or show me...never seen”

¹⁰ [5:38] Lat(S) “know this”

¹¹ [5:39] Lat / most others add / Arm omits “As for me...asked me”

¹² [5:39] Lat, Syr, Ar2 / Eth, Georg omit “concerning”

¹³ [5:41] Eth, Georg “have preserved”

¹⁴ [5:41] Syr, Lat / others omit “Yet”

¹⁵ [5:41] Lat(emend), Syr, Arm, Ar1, Ar2 / Eth, Georg “preserved”

¹⁶ [5:41] Eth, Georg omit “at the end”

¹⁷ [5:42] Syr, Eth “I have likened”

¹⁸ [5:42] Lat, Syr, Ar1, Arm / Eth, Ar2 “circle”

¹⁹ [5:43] Lat(M) omits “and said”

²⁰ [5:43] Georg omits “not have created them all”

²¹ [5:43] Arm “display what has been prepared”

²² [5:44] Lat, Arm, Georg / Syr, Eth “creation does not grow rapid”

²³ [5:45] Lat / Syr, Georg “And I answered and said” / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “And I said to him” / Arm “And I answered”

²⁴ [5:45] Syr / Lat(S,C,A,M) omits “If therefore...same time.” (by scribal error)

²⁵ [5:45] Ar1, Arm add

²⁶ [5:46] Syr omits “and say to it” / Georg omits “to it”

²⁷ [5:46] most omit “children”

²⁸ [5:47] Eth, Georg, Ar1 omit “And I said”

²⁹ [5:48] Syr, Georg / Lat “I have given the womb of the earth to”

³⁰ [5:48] Syr, Georg / Lat, Ar1 “are sown upon it” / Eth omits “And he said to me...in it.” / Georg omits “And he said to me.”

45 “On the fourth day you commanded the brightness of the sun, the light of the moon, and the arrangement of the stars to come into being; **46** and you commanded them to serve a human, who was about to be formed by you.¹

47 “But² on the fifth day you commanded the seventh part, where the water had been gathered together,³ to bring forth living creatures, birds, and fishes; and so it was done. **48** The mute and lifeless water produced living creatures, as it was commanded,⁴ so that the nations⁵ may extol your wonderful works.

49 “Then you preserved two living creatures⁶ which you made;⁷ the one you called Behemoth,⁸ and the other you named Leviathan. **50** And later you separated them,⁹ one from the other, for the watery¹⁰ seventh part, where the water had been gathered together, was unable to hold them both. **51** And the one part which had been dried up on the third day, where there are a thousand¹¹ mountains, you gave to Behemoth¹² to live in it; **52** but to Leviathan you gave the seventh part, the watery part,¹³ and you have kept them to be eaten¹⁴ by whomever you wish, and when you wish.¹⁵

53 “On the sixth day you commanded the earth to bring forth before you¹⁶ cattle, beasts of the field,¹⁷ and creeping things;¹⁸ **54** and over these you placed Adam, as ruler over all the works which you had previously¹⁹ made; and from him, all of us whom you chose as a people have descended.

55 “O Lord, Lord,²⁰ I have spoken all these things before you, because you have said, that it was for our sakes that you created this age.²¹ **56** As for the other nations which have descended from Adam, you declared them to be as nothing,²² like spittle, and you have compared their profusion to a drop from a bucket. **57** And now, O Lord, these nations, which are reputed to be as nothing, domineer over us and devour us.²³ **58** But we, your people whom you have called your firstborn, only begotten, kin,²⁴ and dearly beloved, have been given into their hands. **59** If the age has indeed been created²⁵ for us, why do we not enjoy possession of the heritage of our age? How long will this continue?”

CHAPTER 7

And it came to pass²⁶ when I had finished speaking²⁷ these words, the²⁸ messenger who had been sent to me on the previous nights²⁹ was sent to me again. **2** He said to me, “Rise, Ezra, and listen to the words which I have come to speak to you.”

3 And I got up and stood.³⁰ And I said to him,³¹ “Speak, my lord.”

And he said to me, “There is a sea³² set in a wide expanse, and³³ deep³⁴ and vast, **4** but its entrance³⁵ is confined to a narrow space, like a river. **5** If one earnestly desires to reach the sea, to look at it or to rule over it,³⁶ how can he reach the broad part except by passing through the narrow part?

6 “Again, hear Another example:³⁷ There is a built city set on an open plain, and it is full of all good things,³⁸ **7** but its entrance way³⁹ is narrow and set in a

¹ [6:46] Syr, Ar1, Ar2 add “by you” / Arm omits “about to be formed by you”

² [6:47] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “And”

³ [6:47] Syr “water was” / Georg “the water, which they call the south, was”

⁴ [6:48] Lat / all others omit “as it was commanded”

⁵ [6:48] Syr, Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “generations”

⁶ [6:49] Syr, Eth / Lat “two souls”

⁷ [6:49] Lat / Syr, Eth adds

⁸ [6:49] other Lat “Enoch”

⁹ [6:50] Syr adds

¹⁰ [6:50] Syr adds / Georg instead adds “southern”

¹¹ [6:51] Eth, Georg “four”

¹² [6:51] other Lat “Enoch”

¹³ [6:52] Lat / Syr, Eth “you gave one of the seven watery parts” / Georg “you gave the seventh part of the sea”

¹⁴ [6:52] Syr “food”

¹⁵ [6:48–53] Eth, Georg omit “and when you wish” / Arm omits “as it was commanded, so that the... Behemoth to live in it” / Ar1 omits “Then you preserved... by whomever you wish, and when you wish.”

¹⁶ [6:53] Ar1, Ar2 omit “before you”

¹⁷ [6:53] Eth adds

¹⁸ [6:53] Eth, Georg “and birds of the heaven” / Ar1 omits altogether / Arm reads here “before you, the quadrupeds, the reptiles, and the birds”

¹⁹ [6:54] Lat, Ar1 / other add / Ar1 omits “and from him... have descended.” / Ar2 omits “and over these... have descended”

²⁰ [6:55] Syr adds

²¹ [6:55] Syr, Ar2, Georg / Lat “the firstborn age” / Ar1 “first age” / Eth “the age” / Arm omits “that it was... this age” (by scribal error)

²² [6:56] Georg “declared that they are reckoned”

²³ [6:57] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar1 “and trample us” / Georg omits altogether

²⁴ [6:58] Syr / Lat “zealous”

²⁵ [6:59] Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 “You created the age”

²⁶ [7:1] Eth, Ar2, Ar2 omit “it came to pass”

²⁷ [7:1] Lat, Syr, Ar1 / Eth, Georg, Arm “had finished” / Ar2 “had spoken”

²⁸ [7:1] Eth, Georg, Arm “that”

²⁹ [7:1] Eth “who... me first on that night” / Georg, Ar1 “who... on the first night” / Arm “who had previously spoke with me” / Ar1 omits altogether

³⁰ [7:3] Arm adds

³¹ [7:3] Syr, Eth add

³² [7:3] Syr, Arm, Georg “If a sea”

³³ [7:3] (lit. “so that” – omitted in this translation) / Eth, Georg instead have “and”

³⁴ [7:3] most Lat / Syr “broad”

³⁵ [7:4] Eth “way”

³⁶ [7:5] Ar2 omits “to look at it or to rule over it”

³⁷ [7:6] Syr “Again, hear another example”

³⁸ [Ezra7:6] Ar1, Eth “located in a garden and a plain with fruitful, green fields, and its streets are filled with good things”

³⁹ [7:7] Ar1 adds

precipitous place,⁴⁰ so that⁴¹ there is fire on the right side and deep water on the left. **8** And there is but a single narrow path lying between both of⁴² them, that is, between the fire and the water, so that only one human can walk on the path at a time. **9** If now the city is given to a human as an inheritance, how will the heir claim the inheritance if he does not traverse the dangerous path set before him?⁴³

10 I said to him,⁴⁴ “That is right, lord.”

And he answered and⁴⁵ said to me, “So also is Israel’s portion.⁴⁶ **11** For I made the ge for their⁴⁷ sakes, and when Adam transgressed my statutes, what had been made was judged.⁴⁸ **12** And so the entrances⁴⁹ of this age were made narrow and sorrowful and toilsome; they are few and evil,⁵⁰ full of dangers and involved in great hardships. **13** But the entrances⁵¹ of that coming⁵² age are broad and safe, and yield the fruit of immortality. **14** Therefore unless the living enter through the difficult and vain⁵³ experiences, they will be unable to receive those things which have been reserved for them. **15** Now why do you agitate yourself, seeing that⁵⁴ you are perishable? And why do you torment yourself, seeing that you are mortal? **16** And why have you not considered⁵⁵ in your mind what is to come, rather than what is now present?”

17 Then I answered and said, “O Lord, Lord, behold, you have ordained⁵⁶ in your law that the righteous shall inherit these things, but that the ungodly shall perish. **18** Therefore, the righteous can well⁵⁷ endure narrow circumstances because they have hope for the spacious circumstances; but those who have behaved wickedly have not⁵⁸ suffered⁵⁹ the narrow circumstances and will never see the spacious ones.”

19 And he said to me, “You are not a judge⁶⁰ superior to God,⁶¹ or wiser than the Most High! **20** Let the many who now exist⁶² perish, rather than that the law of God, that is set before them, be disregarded!⁶³ **21** For the Lord⁶⁴ strictly commanded those coming into the age, when they came,⁶⁵ what they should do to live, and what they should observe to avoid punishment.

22 “Nevertheless they were disobedient, and spoke against him; they devised vain⁶⁶ thoughts for themselves,

23 and proposed devious frauds for themselves; they even denied the existence of the Most High, and they ignored his ways.

24 They scorned his law, and disavowed his covenants;⁶⁷ they have been unfaithful to his statutes, and have not performed his works.

25 Therefore, Ezra,⁶⁸ emptiness to the empty, and fullness to the full.

26 “For⁶⁹ behold, the time will come⁷⁰ and will be,⁷¹ when the signs⁷² which I have foretold to you will come to pass,⁷³ that the invisible city shall appear,⁷⁴ and the land⁷⁵ that now is hidden⁷⁶ shall be disclosed. **27** And everyone who has been

⁴⁰ [7:7] Syr “and set in a high place” / Eth, Georg “and is precipitous” / Ar1 “difficult and dangerous” / Arm “thin and rough”

⁴¹ [7:7] Eth, Georg “and”

⁴² [7:8] Syr, Georg add

⁴³ [7:9] Lat, Syr / some Eth “the rough path.” / some Eth “the narrowness.” / Georg “the narrow and terrible path.” / Ar1 “the narrow way.” / Arm “the narrow place.”

⁴⁴ [7:10] Syr, Eth, Ar1 add

⁴⁵ [7:10] Syr, Arm add

⁴⁶ [7:10] Ar1 “So it has fallen to Israel.” / Arm “For this reason the portion of inheritance was given to Israel.” / Ar2 omits “I said...portion.”

⁴⁷ [7:11] Arm “mankind’s”

⁴⁸ [7:11] Ar1, Georg “split” / Eth omits

⁴⁹ [7:12] Eth, Ar1 “ways”

⁵⁰ [7:12] Lat / Syr “they are full of pain and hardships”

⁵¹ [7:13] Eth, Ar1 “ways”

⁵² [7:13] Syr, Georg / Eth “of that” / Ar1 “of the coming” / Lat “of the greater”

⁵³ [7:14] Lat / others “bad”

⁵⁴ [7:15] Arm “because” instead of “seeing that” (also in next sentence)

⁵⁵ [7:16] Arm “attained”

⁵⁶ [7:17] Eth, Georg “said”

⁵⁷ [7:18] Syr, Eth adds

⁵⁸ [7:18] Ar, Georg add

⁵⁹ [7:18] Eth “believed”

⁶⁰ [7:19] Syr omits “a judge”

⁶¹ [7:19] Lat, Arm “to God” / Eth, Georg “to the One”

⁶² [7:20] Lat, Arm / Georg “many of this world” / Syr “many who came” / Eth has only “many”

⁶³ [7:20] Lat, (Arm similar) / Syr, Eth “was disregarded in them” / Georg “since they have disregarded”

⁶⁴ [7:21] others “For God”

⁶⁵ [7:21] Georg “those fathers before him” / Eth, Arm omit “when they came”

⁶⁶ [7:22] Eth, Georg “bad”

⁶⁷ [7:24] most Lat, Syr, Eth / Georg “commands” / Lat(M) omits “They scorned...covenants”

⁶⁸ [7:25] Eth, Georg omit “Ezra”

⁶⁹ [7:26] Georg “And” / Ar, Arm omit altogether

⁷⁰ [7:26] Lat(S,A), most / Lat(C,M), Georg “time is coming” / Syr, Eth “the days will come”

⁷¹ [7:26] Lat adds

⁷² [Ezra7:26] Georg, Arm “sign”

⁷³ [7:26] Lat, Syr, Ar1, Arm / Eth, Georg “will be seen” / Ar1 “you will see”

⁷⁴ [7:26] Ar1, Arm / Lat, Syr “that the bride will appear, even the city appearing” / Eth “and the city which now appears will be hidden” / Georg “and reveal himself to this city which now appears”

⁷⁵ [7:26] Lat, Eth, Ar / Georg “pit” / Ar2 “the abysses” / Syr omits / Arm has for his phrase “and every knee will crawl upon the earth”

⁷⁶ [7:26] Lat(A) “is put under” / Lat(M) “is spoken about” / Syr omits “land”

but let the quadrupeds and the flocks¹ rejoice. **66** For they are far better off than us, for they do not expect a judgment, and they are unaware of any torment² or salvation promised to them after death.³ **67** For what does it profit us to be preserved alive⁴ only to be cruelly tormented?⁵ **68** For all who have been born are entangled in⁶ iniquities, and are full of sins and burdened with transgressions. **69** And if after death we were not to come into judgment, perhaps it would have been better for us.⁷

70 He answered me and said, "When the Most High made the age and Adam and all his descendants,⁸ he first ordained the judgment and the matters pertaining to the judgment.⁹ **71** But now, understand¹⁰ from your own words—for you have said that the mind grows with us. **72** Therefore, for this reason, those who live on earth shall be tormented, because, though they had understanding, they committed iniquity; and though they received the commandments, they did not keep them; and though they obtained the law, they dealt unfaithfully with what they received.¹¹ **73** What, then, will they have to say at¹² the judgment, or how will they answer in the last times? **74** How long the Most High has been patient with those who inhabit *this* age!—and not for their sake, but because of the times which he has foreordained."¹³

75 I answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, **Lord**¹⁴ also show the following to your servant: whether after death, as soon as each of us surrenders his soul, will we really be kept in rest¹⁵ until those times come¹⁶ when you will renew the creation,¹⁷ or will we be tormented at once?"¹⁸

76 He answered me and said, "I will also show you this, but do not entangle yourself with scorners, nor number yourself among those who are tormented. **77** For you have a treasure of good¹⁹ works stored up with the Most High, but it will not be revealed to you until the last times. **78** For the conception of death²⁰ is this: When the decisive decree has gone out from the Most High that a person shall die, as the soul²¹ leaves the body to return²² again to him who gave it, first of all it adores the glory of the Most High.

79 "And if it is one of those who have scorned and have not adhered to the ways²³ of the Most High, who have despised his law and hated²⁴ those who fear God— **80** such souls²⁵ will not enter into habitations,²⁶ but will immediately roam about in torments,²⁷ ever grieving and sad, in seven ways.

81 "The first way: because they have scorned the law of²⁸ the Most High.

82 "The second way: because now they are unable to change their minds and do good²⁹ so that they may live while they were in this age.³⁰

83 "The third way: that³¹ they shall see the reward deposited for those who were faithful to the covenants of³² the Most High.

84 "The fourth way: that they shall contemplate³³ the torment deposited for themselves in the end³⁴, whereby the souls of the wicked are reminded, that while

they had time for salvation, they did not submit to the commandments of the Most High.³⁵

85 "The fifth way: that they shall see how the storehouses of the others³⁶ are guarded by messengers in profound quietness.

86 "The sixth way: that they shall see how *some* of them will immediately cross over into torments.³⁷

87 "The seventh way (which is worse than all the ways which have been mentioned):³⁸ because they shall utterly waste away in confusion and be consumed with shame,³⁹ and will wither away⁴⁰ in fears when they see⁴¹ the glory of the Most High before whom they sinned now⁴² while they were alive, and in whose presence they are to be judged in the last times.⁴³

88 "Now this is the order of⁴⁴ those who have kept the ways of the Most High, when the day comes that⁴⁵ they shall be separated from *their* corruptible vessel.⁴⁶ **89** During the time that they lived in it,⁴⁷ they diligently served the Most High, and withstood danger every hour so that they might perfectly keep the law of the Lawgiver. **90** Therefore this is the teaching concerning them:⁴⁸ **91** First of all, they shall with great joy see the glory of him who receives⁴⁹ them, for they will have rest in seven orders.⁵⁰

92 "The first order:⁵¹ because they have striven with great diligence to overcome the evil thought which was molded with them, so that it might not lead them astray from life into death.

93 "The second order: because they see the perplexity⁵² in which the souls of the wicked wander⁵³ and the punishment which awaits⁵⁴ them.

94 "The third order: that⁵⁵ they see⁵⁶ the witness which He who formed them⁵⁷ bears concerning them, that throughout their life they kept the law which was given to them in faith.⁵⁸

95 "The fourth order: that they see and understand⁵⁹ the rest which they now enjoy, being gathered into their storehouses and guarded by messengers in profound quietness, and the glory waiting for them in the last days.

96 "The fifth order: that they rejoice that they have now escaped what is corruptible and shall inherit what is to come;⁶⁰ but in addition, they shall see the straits and toils⁶¹ from which they have been delivered, and the spacious liberty which they are to receive and enjoy in immortality.

97 "The sixth order: when it is revealed to them how⁶² their face is to shine like the sun, and how⁶³ they are to be made like the light of the stars, no longer corruptible.

98 "The seventh order (which is greater than all which have been mentioned):⁶⁴ because⁶⁵ they shall rejoice with boldness, and shall be confident without confusion, and shall be glad without fear,⁶⁶ for they press forward to see the face of Him whom they served in life and from whom they are to receive their reward when glorified.

99 "This is the order⁶⁷ of the souls of the righteous which have been mentioned above, and of the previously mentioned ways of torment, which those who failed to observe will suffer from now on. These souls will not rise into the storehouses, but from now on, will writhe in torment and groan and lament in seven ways.⁶⁸

¹ [7:65] most, Ar2, Arm / Eth "let the herds of cattle"

² [7:66] Syr "vexation" / Eth "judgment"

³ [7:66] Syr "or life after death" / Ar2 "after death they expect neither reward nor punishment, and do not know what the rising is."

⁴ [7:67] "living we live"

⁵ [7:67] Eth omits "only to be cruelly tormented"

⁶ [7:68] Syr "defiled with" // Arm omits "For all who have been born...with transgressions."

⁷ [7:69] Syr / Lat "it might possibly go better with us." / Eth "we would be better off if we did not come to judgment after death." / Ar2 "it might be better for us not to have been created since our way after death leads to punishment."

⁸ [7:70] Lat, Ar1, (Arm similar) / Syr, Eth "the judgment for Adam..."

⁹ [7:70] Eth "prepared the judgment and its damnation." / Ar2 "prepared the judgment on account of the wickedness of their works."

¹⁰ [7:71-72] Arm omits "from your..." to middle of 7:72

¹¹ [7:72] Lat / Syr "they rejected it."

¹² [7:74] Ar1, Ar2, Arm "the day of"

¹³ [7:74] Syr "because of the foreordained times"

¹⁴ [7:75] Eth, Ar1 omit "O...Lord" / Syr adds a second "Lord"

¹⁵ [7:75] Ar2 "be without bliss"

¹⁶ [7:75] Eth, Ar1 "until that time comes"

¹⁷ [7:75] Eth "when he will carry out his judgment" / Arm "to the day of judgment"

¹⁸ [7:75] Lat(A,M) / Lat(C,V) "and in what manner we shall be tormented?" / Eth "or will we be judged at once?"

¹⁹ [7:77] Lat(L), Ar1, Arm adds

²⁰ [7:78] Ar2 "of what you asked me concerning death" / Arm "For concerning the conception of what you asked me"

²¹ [7:78] Eth, Georg, Ar1, Ar2 "soul" / Lat, Syr "spirit"

²² [7:78] Eth, Ar1 / Lat "to send down" / Syr "sent" / Ar2 omits altogether

²³ [7:79] Syr, Eth, Ar1 "ways" / Lat "way" / Ar2, Arm omit

²⁴ [7:79] Georg, Eth, (Ar1 similar) "and not accounted"

²⁵ [7:80] Georg "a soul" / Lat "a spirit" / Ar2, Arm omit

²⁶ [7:80] Ar2 "—those souls will come to Gehenna and to torment, and a place has been set apart from them and their kind"

²⁷ [7:80] Lat, Eth / Syr, Georg "but they are already in torment"

²⁸ [7:81] Ar2 "have rebelled against" / Syr "have resisted" / Arm "have scorned the law through the law and the faith"

²⁹ [7:82] Syr, Georg (Arm similar) / Lat "to truly change their minds" / Eth "to change their minds"

³⁰ [7:82] Arm adds

³¹ [7:83] Lat omits "that" (and also after ways "third" to "sixth")

³² [7:83] Lat / Eth, Ar1 "the injunctions of" / Georg "the promise of" / Syr, Ar2 omits altogether / Arm has

"the righteous" for the entire phrase

³³ [7:84] Eth, Georg, Ar1 "see"

³⁴ [7:84] Syr, Ar1 / Lat "in the last times" / Eth "in the last time" / Arm, Georg "eternally" / Ar2 "in the other world"

³⁵ [7:84] Syr adds

³⁶ [7:85] Lat / Syr "the storehouses of the other souls" / Eth "the souls of the righteous in their storehouses" / Georg "the souls of the others"

³⁷ [7:86] others "see the torments coming upon them from now on" / Syr "see the torments prepared for them from now on"

³⁸ [7:87] Eth, Georg "predicted"

³⁹ [7:87] Syr, Eth / Lat "honors" / Lat(A**) "in terrors" [Eth, Georg (Arm?) transpose "confusion" and "shame"]

⁴⁰ [7:87] Syr "will burn up"

⁴¹ [7:87] Lat "fears at seeing"

⁴² [7:87] Lat, Ar1, Arm / others add

⁴³ [7:87] Lat / Georg "in the last time" / Eth omits

⁴⁴ [7:88] Syr, Eth "the way of" / Georg "the renewal of" / Ar1, Ar2 omit

⁴⁵ [7:88] Syr adds

⁴⁶ [7:88] Lat, Syr, Georg / Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm "body"

⁴⁷ [7:89] Georg "they stood in a world"

⁴⁸ [7:90] Ar, Arm omits "Therefore this is...them."

⁴⁹ [7:91] Syr "led"

⁵⁰ [7:91] Lat, Eth, Ar1 / Syr, Ar2, Arm "ways" and so throughout this discourse

⁵¹ [7:92] for each of the seven occurrences of "order" Syr, Arm read "way" / Ar2 omits altogether

⁵² [7:93] Lat / Syr "turning" / Georg "judgment" / Eth omits

⁵³ [7:93] Georg omits "in which the souls of the wicked wander"

⁵⁴ [7:93] Ar2, Arm "prepared"

⁵⁵ [7:94] Lat omits "that" (and also after order "third" to "fifth")

⁵⁶ [7:94] Georg "they hear" / Eth omits

⁵⁷ [7:94] Ar1 "which the Most High" / Ar2 "which the Lord" / Arm "which God"

⁵⁸ [7:94] Georg, Ar1 / others "trust"

⁵⁹ [7:95] Syr "see and understand" / Eth "see" / Arm "are revealed"

⁶⁰ [7:96] Ar1 includes a phrase from the same apocryphal statement as found in 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

⁶¹ [7:96] Syr, Eth / Lat(A,C,M,V) "fullness"

⁶² [7:97] Syr, Eth, Ar1 "that"

⁶³ [7:97] Syr, Eth "that" / Georg omits / Ar2, Arm omit "and how they are to be made...stars"

⁶⁴ [7:98] Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm omit "that have been mentioned"

⁶⁵ [7:98] Lat, Georg, Arm "for" / others "that"

⁶⁶ [7:98] Ar2 omits "and shall be confident without confusion" / Syr omits "and shall be glad without fear" / Arm omits "without fear"

⁶⁷ [7:99] Syr, Georg, Ar1, Arm, (Ar2 similar) "These are the orders"

⁶⁸ [7:99] Syr adds / Arm omits "that have been mentioned...from now on."

100 Then I answered and said, "Therefore, after the souls have been separated from the bodies, will time and opportunity¹ be given to them to see what you have described to me?"

101 He answered and² said to me, "They shall have freedom for seven days, so that during these seven days they may see the things of which have been predicted,³ and afterwards, they shall be gathered in their storehouses."⁴

102 I answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, also make clear to me, your servant, whether, on the day of judgment, the righteous will be able to intercede for the wicked or to entreat the Most High on their behalf⁵— 103 fathers for sons, or sons for fathers,⁶ brothers for brothers, relatives for their kindred, or friends for *their* dearest ones."⁷

104 He answered me and said, "Since you have found favor in my sight, I will make it clear to you. The day of judgment is decisive⁸ and displays the seal of truth to all.⁹ Just as now a father cannot commission his son, or a son his father, or a master his servant,¹⁰ or a friend his dearest one,¹¹ to be ill¹² or sleep or eat or be healed in his place, 105 so no one will ever pray for another on that day, neither will anyone lay a burden on another;¹³ for then all will bear their own righteousness or unrighteousness."¹⁴

106 I answered and said, "Then why do we find that first Abraham interceded for the Sodomites, and Moses for our fathers¹⁴ who sinned in the desert, 107 and Joshua son of Nun¹⁵ after him for Israel in the days of Achan,¹⁶ 108 and Samuel in the days of Saul,¹⁷ and David on account of the plague¹⁸ of the people,¹⁹ and Solomon on behalf of those at the dedication of the house,²⁰ 109 and Elijah for those who received²¹ the rain, and for the one who was dead, that he might live, 110 and Hezekiah for the people in the days of the siege of Sennacherib, the King of Babel,²² and many others prayed²³ for many? 111 So if now, when corruption has increased and unrighteousness has multiplied, the righteous have prayed for the wicked, why will it not be so then *as well*?"

112 He answered me and said, "This present age is not the end;²⁴ the full glory of God²⁵ does not²⁶ remain in it; therefore those who were strong prayed for the weak.²⁷ 113 But the day of judgment will be the end of this age and the beginning²⁸ of the immortal age to come, in which corruption has passed away, 114 sinful indulgence²⁹ has been abolished, faithlessness has been cut off, and righteousness has increased and truth has arisen. 115 Therefore no one will then be able to have mercy upon the one who has been condemned in the judgment, or to harm³⁰ the one who is victorious in the judgment."³¹

116 I answered and said, "This is my first and last comment:³² it would have been better for us³³ if the earth had not produced Adam, or else, when it had produced him, had restrained him from sinning.³⁴ 117 For what good is it for any of us³⁵ to live in sorrow now, with the expectation of punishment after death? 118 O Adam, what have you done? For though it was you who sinned, the fall³⁶ was not yours alone, but all of³⁷ ours too who descended from you. 119 For what good

¹ [7:100] Syr adds

² [7:101] Lat, Ar1, Ar2, Arm / Syr, some Eth, Georg add

³ [7:101] Eth "which I told you" / Ar1 "which I foretold to you"

⁴ [7:101] Lat "habitations"

⁵ [7:102] Lat, Syr, Arm / Eth, Georg "whether the righteous will be able to entreat the Most High on behalf of the sinners"

⁶ [7:103] most, Lat(L) / most Lat, Georg(O) "parents"

⁷ [7:103] Lat, Georg / Syr, most others "or friends for their friends"

⁸ [7:104] Syr / Eth "sudden" / Lat "is violently-bold"

⁹ [7:104] Eth, Georg omit "to all"

¹⁰ [7:104] Lat(A) omits "He answered him and said, "Since...his servant" (scribal error)

¹¹ [7:104] Eth, Ar1 "his friend"

¹² [7:104] Syr, Eth, Arm / Lat "to understand"

¹³ [7:105] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat omits "on that day...on another"

¹⁴ [7:106] Lat(-L), Syr "for the fathers" / Georg "for the people"

¹⁵ [7:107] Syr, Georg, Ar2 adds

¹⁶ [7:107] Joshua7(MT), 1Chron2:7(some MT) "Achan" / Syr, Lat, Ar1, Joshua7(LXX(B), Syr),

1Chron2:7(most MT, LXX, Syr) "Achar" / Eth "Ahas" / Ar2 omits the name / Arm omits the whole reference to Joshua

¹⁷ [7:108] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat, Ar2, Arm omit "in the days of Saul"

¹⁸ [7:108] Lat, Syr "breach"

¹⁹ [7:108] Lat, Eth / others add

²⁰ [7:108] most Lat / Ar adds "of the house" / Lat(A), Syr, "Solomon on behalf of those who were in the holy-place" / Eth, Georg "Solomon on behalf of the holy-place"

²¹ [7:109] Eth, Georg (Ar1?) omit "those who received"

²² [7:110] Ar2 adds

²³ [7:110] Lat, Syr omit "others prayed"

²⁴ [7:112] (Lat(L) adds "*adhuc non erat*") / Syr "This age has an end" / Eth, Georg "The end of this age has not yet come to pass" /

²⁵ [7:112] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg add

²⁶ [7:112] Syr, others / Lat omits "not"

²⁷ [7:112] Syr "prayed, in whom there is no strength"

²⁸ [7:113] Syr, Eth / Lat(S,A,C) omits "the beginning"

²⁹ [7:114] Eth "away, weakness"

³⁰ [7:115] Syr, Eth / Lat "overwhelm"

³¹ [7:115] Syr adds

³² [7:116] Ar2, Arm omit "last comment"

³³ [7:116] Eth adds

³⁴ [7:116] Lat / Syr, Eth (Ar1 similar) "had instructed him not to sin" / Ar2 omits "or else, when...from sinning"

³⁵ [7:117] Lat, Syr (lit. "for everyone") / Lat(S,A*,M,C) "for every man" / Eth "for us" / Ar2 "for man"

³⁶ [7:118] Syr, Eth "evil" / Ar1, Arm "misfortune"

³⁷ [7:118] Ar1, Arm adds

is it for us, if an immortal time³⁸ has been promised to us, when, in fact, we have done deeds which bring death? 120 *And what good is it* that an everlasting³⁹ hope has been promised to us, when, in fact, we have miserably failed? 121 Or that safe and healthful habitations⁴⁰ have been reserved for us,⁴¹ when, in fact, we have lived wickedly? 122 Or that the glory of the Most High will defend those who have led a pure life, but we have walked in the most wicked ways? 123 Or that a garden shall be revealed, whose fruit remains unspoiled⁴² and in which are abundance and healing, *when*, in fact, we cannot enter it 124 because we have lived in perverse ways?⁴³ 125 Or that the faces of those who exercised self-restraint⁴⁴ shall shine more *brilliantly* than the stars,⁴⁵ though, in fact, our faces *shall be* blacker than darkness? 126 For while we lived and committed iniquity we did not realize⁴⁶ what we were to endure after our death."⁴⁷

127 He answered and said to me,⁴⁸ "This is the significance of the contest⁴⁹ which must be waged by those born on earth: 128 if he is defeated, he shall suffer what you⁵⁰ have said; but if he is victorious, he shall receive what I have said.⁵¹ 129 For this is the way⁵² of which Moses, while he was alive, spoke to the people, saying, 'Behold, today I have set before you life and death, good and evil; therefore⁵³ Choose life for yourself,⁵⁴ so that you and your descendants⁵⁵ may live!'⁵⁶ 130 But they resisted and did not believe him⁵⁶ or the prophets after him, or even myself who have spoken to them. 131 Therefore there will not be⁵⁷ grief at their destruction, as there will be joy over those who have believed."⁵⁸

132 I answered and said, "I know, O Lord, that the Most High is now called the Merciful, because he has mercy on those who have not yet come into the age; 133 and the Gracious *One*, because he is gracious to⁵⁹ those who change their mind⁶⁰ to his law; 134 and the Longsuffering,⁶¹ because he manifests longsuffering toward those who have sinned, since they are his own creatures;⁶² 135 and the Bountiful,⁶³ because he would rather give than take away,⁶⁴ 136 and Abundant in Compassion, because he makes his compassions abound more and more⁶⁵ to those now living and to those who are gone⁶⁶ and to those yet to come⁶⁷— 137 for if he did not make his compassions⁶⁸ abound, the age along with its inhabitants would not have life; 138 and he is called the Giver, because if he did not give out of his goodness so that those who have committed iniquities might be relieved of them, not one ten-thousandth of mankind⁶⁹ would be able to have life; 139 and the Judge, because if he did not pardon those who were created by his word and blot out⁷⁰ the multitude of *their* sins,⁷¹ 140 there would doubtless⁷² be left only very few of the innumerable multitude."

CHAPTER 8

He answered me and said, "The Most High made this age for the sake of many, but the world to come for the sake of only a few. 2 But let me tell you a parable,⁷³ Ezra. Just as, when you inquire of the earth, it will tell you that it provides a large amount of clay from which earthenware is made, but only a little dust from which gold comes, so too is the course⁷⁴ of the present age. 3 Many have been created, but only a few shall be saved."⁷⁵

³⁸ [7:119] Lat, Syr / Ar1 "life" / Arm "rising"

³⁹ [7:120] Eth "good"

⁴⁰ [7:121] Syr, (Eth similar) "that storehouses without care and without malady"

⁴¹ [7:121] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) omits "for us"

⁴² [7:123] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar2 "whose fruits do not spoil"

⁴³ [7:124] Lat "because...in perverse places" / Eth "as we were not promised"

⁴⁴ [7:125] Lat, Eth / Syr "of the holy ones" / Arm "of the righteous"

⁴⁵ [7:125] Lat, Syr / Ar1 "shine like the luminaries of heaven" / Ar2 "shine like lightning" / Arm "shine like the sun" / Eth "shine"

⁴⁶ [7:127] Eth "And behold, we live" / Georg "And what good is our life"

⁴⁷ [7:126] Lat, Arm / others add "our" / Eth omits "after our death"

⁴⁸ [7:127] Lat, Arm omit "to me"

⁴⁹ [7:127] Ar2 "battlefield" / Eth, Georg, Ar1 "this world"

⁵⁰ [7:128] Lat, Eth, Ar1 / Syr could be "I" or "you" / Eth, Georg, Arm "I" / Ar2 omits

⁵¹ [7:128] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Lat "what I say"

⁵² [7:129] Lat(M) "life"

⁵³ [7:129] Syr adds

⁵⁴ [7:129] Syr "yourselves"

⁵⁵ [7:129] Syr adds

⁵⁶ [7:130] Syr "And they resisted and were not convinced *by* him."

⁵⁷ [7:131] Syr / Lat "there was not"

⁵⁸ [7:131] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg "joy to whom salvation is assured"

⁵⁹ [7:132-133] Lat(M) omits "those who have not yet come into the world...gracious to" (by scribal error)

⁶⁰ [7:133] Syr / Lat "who have made a change in relation"

⁶¹ [7:134] Syr "and long of spirit"

⁶² [7:134] Syr "since we are his works" / Eth "as on his children"

⁶³ [7:135] Lat(S,A,C,M) / Syr, Eth, Arm "Giver"

⁶⁴ [7:135] most Lat, Syr / Lat(M) omits "than take away" / Eth "give to those who are worthy on account of their works" / Georg "give their first works"

⁶⁵ [7:136] Lat(M) omits "more and more"

⁶⁶ [7:136] Lat, Syr, Ar2 / Eth, Georg "disobedient"

⁶⁷ [7:136] Eth, Georg "to give praise"

⁶⁸ [7:137] Syr / Lat omits "compassions"

⁶⁹ [7:138] Syr "not one out of ten-thousand"

⁷⁰ [7:139] Syr "and forget"

⁷¹ [7:139] Syr / Lat "contempts"

⁷² [7:140] Lat adds

⁷³ [8:2] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1 "But let me explain a parable to you" / Arm "I shall tell you one parable and you *shall* respond to me"

⁷⁴ [8:2] Syr, Eth, Georg "work" / Ar2 "people"

⁷⁵ [8:2] Syr, Eth "few are alive"

4 I answered and said, “Then drink your fill of¹ understanding, O my soul; and drink wisdom, O my heart.”² 5 For you entered *the age* involuntarily,³ and will depart without consent,⁴ for you have been allotted only a brief span⁵ of time to live. 6 O Lord above us,⁶ if you will, grant permission to your servant that we may pray⁷ before you, and plant a seed in our heart and cultivate our understanding⁸ so that fruit may be produced, so that every corruptible *thing* which bears the likeness⁹ of a human may be able to live.

7 “For you are the only one,¹⁰ and we are one formation, we are the work¹¹ of your hands, as you have declared. 8 Now when you give life to the body which is fashioned in the womb, and furnish *it* with members,¹² what you have created subsists¹³ amid fire and water; and for nine months your handiwork bears your creature¹⁴ which has been created in it.¹⁵ 9 But that which shelters and that which is sheltered are both sheltered by your shelter.¹⁶ And when the womb discharges what has been created in it,¹⁷ 10 you have commanded that out of the members themselves (that is, out of the breasts)¹⁸ milk, the fruit of the full¹⁹ breasts, should be supplied, 11 so that what has been fashioned²⁰ may be nourished for a brief²¹ time. And afterwards you *will* guide²² it in your mercy, 12 nurture it in your righteousness, and instruct it in your law, and reprove²³ it in your wisdom. 13 Then you kill it (it is your own creation), and restore it to life (it is your own handiwork). 14 If therefore, by your command, you will suddenly and quickly²⁴ destroy what was fashioned with many labors,²⁵ for what purpose was it made?²⁶

15 “And now I will speak out: you know best about every human of those which I command;²⁷ but about your people, I am dejected. 16 And I lament over your heritage. And I sorrow because of Israel.²⁸ And I am perturbed on account of the seed of Jacob. 17 Therefore I desire to pray before you for myself and for them, for I see the²⁹ failings of us who inhabit the earth; 18 and now, I have also³⁰ heard of the swiftness of³¹ the coming judgment.³² 19 Therefore, hear my voice and understand my words of prayer,³³ and I will speak before you, Lord, my God.³⁴

The beginning of the words of Ezra's prayer, before he was taken. He said:³⁵

- 20 “O Lord, you who inhabit the age,³⁶
whose eyes are lifted up,³⁷
and whose chambers are in the air,
21 whose throne is beyond measure,³⁸
and whose glory is beyond comprehension,
before whom the hosts of messengers stand trembling,
22 and at whose command³⁹ they are changed to wind and fire,⁴⁰
whose word is trustworthy,⁴¹

¹ [8:4] Georg / Syr, Eth “Then take delight in” / Lat “Then release”

² [8:4] Syr / Eth, Georg, Ar1 “O my ears” / Lat omits altogether

³ [8:5] Syr / Lat “For you...world to obey” / Eth “For the ear has come to hear” / Georg “For my mind is a stranger to hear”

⁴ [8:5] Syr / Lat “and will end it unwillingly”

⁵ [8:5] Syr “power”

⁶ [8:6] Lat / Syr “O Lord Lord” / Arm “O Lord Most High” / others “O Lord”

⁷ [8:6] Syr, Ar2 “I may pray” / Eth, Georg omits

⁸ [8:6] Eth “give us understanding and thought”

⁹ [8:6] Syr / Lat “place” / Eth “world” / Georg “life”

¹⁰ [8:7] Lat / Syr, Ar2 “For you are one” / Eth “For we are all like” / Georg, Ar1 “one in which one”

¹¹ [8:7] Syr adds

¹² [8:8] Syr, Georg / Lat “and its members”

¹³ [8:8] Eth, Georg “, you preserved it”

¹⁴ [8:7] Lat, Syr / others “months the womb bears your creature” / Georg, (Ar2 similar) “your creation is born” / Eth “yours is born”

¹⁵ [8:8] Lat / Syr, Eth, Georg, Ar1 “that you created”

¹⁶ [8:9] most Lat, Syr / Lat(C,M) omits “by your shelter” / Eth “and it will be sheltered through your own word” / Ar1 “and these created things were preserved with you” / Ar2 “and you are he who preserved them” / Arm “and it preserves them”

¹⁷ [8:9] Lat, (Eth, Arm similar) / Syr, Ar1 “what was in it”

¹⁸ [8:10] Lat / Ar1 “(what is necessary for the need)” / Syr, Eth omit altogether

¹⁹ [8:10] Syr adds

²⁰ [8:11] Eth “so that your work” / Georg “so that your creation”

²¹ [8:11] Syr adds

²² [8:11] Lat / Syr “govern”

²³ [8:12] Lat / Syr “instruct”

²⁴ [8:14] Syr, Arm / Lat “will with a light command” / Eth, Ar omit

²⁵ [8:14] Syr / Lat “with such pains” / Eth “in so many days” / Arm “for so long a time are caused to be born with labor and pains”

²⁶ [8:14] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 “, why then was it made?”

²⁷ [8:15] Georg adds

²⁸ [8:16] Eth, Georg omit “And I sorrow because of Israel”

²⁹ [8:17] Syr “our”

³⁰ [8:18] Syr / Lat “but”

³¹ [8:18] most / Lat adds / Syr instead adds “the decree of”

³² [8:18] Eth “the law of the future world” / Georg “the law of the future creation” / Ar1 “the judgment of your creation”

³³ [8:19] Georg, Ar1 “voice...word of my mouth” / Syr “voice and pay attention to my words of prayer”

³⁴ [8:19] Syr adds

³⁵ [8:19] Syr, Eth, Georg / Lat “The beginning of Ezra's words...taken” / Arm “The prayer of the prophet Ezra.” / Ar1 “I answered saying” / Ar2 “I, el-Uzzir, pray to you and implore you.”

³⁶ [8:20] Lat / Syr, Eth, Ar2 “who lives forever” / Ar2 “who lives in the age of ages”

³⁷ [8:20] Lat, Arm / Syr “whose heights are exalted” / one Lat, Eth, Georg, Ar2 “whose are the highest heavens”

³⁸ [8:21] Lat, Syr / Ar1 “is beyond description” / Eth, Georg “is invincible”

³⁹ [8:22] Syr, Eth, Arm, some Lat / Lat(S,A) “observance”

⁴⁰ [8:22] Syr / Latin “they those service takes the form of wind and fire”

and whose utterances are steadfast,

whose command is mighty,

and whose ordinance is fearsome,

- 23 whose look dries up the abysses,
and whose indignation makes the mountains melt away,
and whose truth is established⁴² forever.

- 24 O Lord,⁴³ listen to the prayer⁴⁴ of your servant,
and give ear to the petition of your creature;
and⁴⁵ attend to my words!

- 25 For as long as I live I will speak,
and as long as I have discernment, I must respond.

- 26 Do not gaze upon the sins of your people,
but upon those who serve you in truth.

- 27 Do not take note of the endeavors of the impious,⁴⁶
but of the endeavors of those who have kept your covenants amid afflictions.

- 28 Do not think of⁴⁷ those who have conducted themselves wickedly in your sight,
but remember those who have voluntarily acknowledged that you are to be feared.

- 29 Do not decree the destruction of those who have lived like⁴⁸ cattle,
but be mindful of those who have gloriously taught your law.⁴⁹

- 30 Do not be angry with those who have been deemed worse than beasts,
but love those who have always put their trust⁵⁰ in your glory.

31 “For we and our fathers⁵¹ have pursued⁵² the ways of death; yet, it is because of us sinners that you are called the Merciful. 32 For if you have desired to have mercy upon us, we who are without works of righteousness,⁵³ then you will be called the Merciful. 33 For the righteous, whose many⁵⁴ works are laid up with you, shall receive their reward⁵⁵ by virtue of their own deeds. 34 But what is a human that you should be angry with him in truth,⁵⁶ or the corruptible race that you should be so embittered against it? 35 For in truth, there is not one born who is without sin; nor is there one who exists who is without fault.⁵⁷ 36 For in this, O Lord my Lord,⁵⁸ your righteousness and your goodness⁵⁹ will be declared, when you are merciful to those who have no storehouse of⁶⁰ good⁶¹ works.”

37 He answered me and said, “On some matters⁶² you have spoken correctly, and it will turn out according to your words. 38 For indeed I will not concern myself about the fashioning⁶³ of those who have sinned, or about their death, or their judgment, or their destruction; 39 but I will rejoice over the creation of the righteous, over their pilgrimage as well,⁶⁴ and their salvation,⁶⁵ and the reception of their reward. 40 As I⁶⁶ have spoken, therefore, so it shall be.

41 “For just as the farmer sows an abundance of seeds in the ground⁶⁷ and plants a multitude of seedlings, and yet not all which have been sown will come up⁶⁸ in due season, and not all which were planted will take root; so also not all who have been sown in the age will live.”⁶⁹

42 I answered and said, “If I have found favor in your sight, let me speak to you.⁷⁰ 43 If the farmer's⁷¹ seed does not come up because it has not received⁷² your⁷³ rain in due season, or if it has been ruined by too much rain,⁷⁴ it perishes.⁷⁵

44 But a human—who has been formed by your hands and is called your own

⁴¹ [8:22] Lat(S,A) / Lat(C), Syr “firm”

⁴² [8:23] ApostConst, Ar2 / others “truth bears witness”

⁴³ [8:24] Lat(M), Syr, Eth, Ar, Arm omit “O Lord”

⁴⁴ [8:24] Lat, Ar2 / other Lat, Syr, Eth, Ar1, Arm “voice”

⁴⁵ [8:24] some Lat omit “and”

⁴⁶ [8:27] Eth, Georg, Ar1, Arm / Syr “of the follies of the tricks of the impious”

⁴⁷ [8:28] Eth, Ar1 “Be angry with”

⁴⁸ [8:29] Syr, Eth, Ar2 / Lat, Arm “have the ways of”

⁴⁹ [8:29] Syr “have received the brightness of your law” / some have “clearly” instead of “gloriously”

⁵⁰ [8:30] other Lat “hope”

⁵¹ [8:31] Lat / Syr “and those before us”

⁵² [8:31] some Lat / Syr, Eth, Arm “have done deeds in” / some Lat “have been corrupted by”

⁵³ [8:32] some Lat / some Lat, Eth, Ar1, Ar2, Arm “without good works” / Syr, Georg “without works”

⁵⁴ [8:33] Eth “good” / Syr, Georg, Ar1 omit altogether

⁵⁵ [8:33] most Lat, Georg, Arm / some Lat, Syr omit “their reward”

⁵⁶ [8:34] Ar1, Arm add “in truth” or “righteousness”

⁵⁷ [8:35] Eth, Georg, Arm omits “For in truth...without fault.”

⁵⁸ [8:36] Syr adds

⁵⁹ [8:36] some Lat “your righteousness and your goodness” / Ar2 “your mercy and righteousness”

⁶⁰ [8:36] Syr, Georg “power of” / Eth omits altogether

⁶¹ [8:36] Syr omits “good”

⁶² [8:37] Lat, Syr / Georg “On all matters” / Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omits

⁶³ [8:38] Syr, Georg “works”

⁶⁴ [8:39] Syr “rejoice over the coming of the forms of the righteous” / Eth omits “the creation of...well, and” / Georg omits “over pilgrimage as well”

⁶⁵ [8:39] Lat / Syr, Eth “and how they live” / Georg “and their rising”

⁶⁶ [8:40] Lat, Syr / Eth, Georg “you”

⁶⁷ [8:41] Lat, Ar1, Ar2 / Syr, Eth omits “in the ground”

⁶⁸ [8:41] Syr, Eth, Ar1 “will live” / Lat “will be saved” / Georg “will increase”

⁶⁹ [8:41] Lat, Georg “will be saved”

⁷⁰ [8:42] Syr, Eth add

⁷¹ [8:43] Lat(M) omits “farmer's”

⁷² [8:43] Syr “it is not receiving”

⁷³ [8:43] Lat, Syr / others omit “your”

⁷⁴ [8:43] Lat, Syr / Eth, Ar2, Arm omit “or if it has been ruined by too much rain, it perishes”

⁷⁵ [8:43] Lat(M) / Lat(S,A,C) “, this is father and son”

image because he is made like *you*, and for whose sake you have formed all things—would you compare¹ him to the farmer's seed? **45** Surely not, O Lord above!² But spare your people and have mercy upon your inheritance, for you have mercy upon your own creation.³

46³ He answered me and said, "The present⁴ is for those present;⁵ the future⁶ is for those to come.⁷ **47** For you come far short of being able to love my creation more than I *love it*. But you have often reckoned your soul among⁸ the unrighteous, though you are no sinner.⁹ Never do so!¹⁰ **48** But even¹¹ in this respect you will be praiseworthy before the Most High, **49** because you have humbled your soul, as is proper for you, and have not reckoned your soul to be among the righteous. You will receive the greatest glory,¹² **50** for many miseries will afflict the world's inhabitants in the end,¹³ because they have walked in great pride.¹⁴

51 "But think of your own case, and inquire concerning the glory of those who are like yourself, **52** because it is for all of you¹⁵ that the true¹⁶ Garden is opened, the tree of life is planted, the age¹⁷ to come is prepared, delight¹⁸ is provided, a city¹⁹ is built, rest is appointed,²⁰ goodness is achieved, and wisdom pre-established.²¹ **53** The root of evil²² is sealed up from you, infirmity is banished from you, and death²³ is hidden; the Netherworld has fled, and corruption into oblivion;²⁴ **54** afflictions have passed away; and in the end,²⁵ the treasure of immortality²⁶ is made manifest.

55 "Therefore, ask no further questions about the great number of those who perish. **56** For when they had opportunity to *choose*, they despised the Most High, and were contemptuous of his law, and abandoned²⁷ his ways. **57** Moreover, they have even trampled on his righteous²⁸ ones, **58** and said in their hearts that there is no God—though they knew well that they must die.²⁹ **59** For just as the good³⁰ things which have been predicted³¹ await³² you, so the thirst and torment already prepared *await them*. For the Most High did not intend for a human to be destroyed;³³ **60** but those who were created have themselves defiled the name of him who made them, and have been ungrateful to him and they did not acknowledge me³⁴ who now³⁵ prepared this³⁶ life³⁷ for them. **61** Therefore my judgment is now drawing near.³⁸

I answered, I spoke with the Lord and I said, "I beseech you, speak with this wretched people, that they may hear from you and believe, that they may fear and change their mind and not perish, but be saved. For if someone else should speak, perhaps they would not have faith and this is a human."

And the Lord answered and said, "I myself always revealed myself to my servants and were pleasing to me. I spoke with those who were worthy of me; but to the others, I made myself known through humans. I am the Lord who tests the heart and the reins, and I know a human and what is in him before he comes from

¹ [8:44] Eth, Georg "why have you compared"

² [8:45] Syr "No, I beseech you, Lord, my Lord!" / Lat(M) "Do not, O Lord, be angry over us." / Eth "Be this far from you, O Lord" / Georg "Do not destroy, Lord" / Ar1 "No, O Lord" / Ar2 "Lord" / Arm "Therefore, Lord"

³ [8:46-8:49 & ~63] Arm omits "He answered me and said, "The present... You will receive the greatest glory." / Ar1 omits "He answered me and said... when you will do them." / Ar2 omits "because it is for... that the Garden is opened... when you will do them."

⁴ [8:46] Eth, Georg "This world"

⁵ [8:46] Eth, Ar1 "those in this world"

⁶ [8:46] Eth " "; that world" / Georg omits "is for those present... future"

⁷ [8:46] Eth, Georg "for that world" / Ar1 "for the coming world"

⁸ [8:47] Syr, Eth / Lat "often brought your soul near"

⁹ [8:47] Eth, Ar1 adds

¹⁰ [8:47] Syr, Georg "Let it not be so." / Eth, Ar1 "although you are no sinner" / Ar2 "do not set yourself in such a place" / Lat(C,M) omit altogether

¹¹ [8:48] Eth, Ar1, Ar2 omit "even"

¹² [8:46-49] Lat(C,M) / Lat(S,A) "that you greatly glory" / Arm omits "He answered him and said, "Things... greatest glory."

¹³ [8:50] Lat, Syr / Eth "in the last days" / Arm "in the future time"

¹⁴ [8:50] Syr "because of the many arrogances of arrogance."

¹⁵ [8:52] Arm "for you"

¹⁶ [8:52] Arm adds

¹⁷ [8:52] Syr, Eth / Lat "time" / Georg "coming kingdom" / Ar1 "that life"

¹⁸ [8:52] Syr, Eth, Arm / Georg "happiness" / Lat "abundance"

¹⁹ [8:52] Eth, Georg omit "a city"

²⁰ [8:52] Syr, Eth / Lat "allowed"

²¹ [8:52] Lat / Syr "and wisdom perfected beforehand" / Eth "and the root of wisdom plucked off"

²² [8:53] Lat omits "of evil"

²³ [8:53] Syr, Eth, Arm / Lat omits "death"

²⁴ [8:53] Lat / Syr "the Netherworld has fled and corruption has been forgotten"

²⁵ [8:54] Lat, Syr / Georg "and complete" / Eth, Arm omit

²⁶ [8:54] Syr "the treasures of life"

²⁷ [8:56] Syr "destroyed"

²⁸ [8:57] Syr "holy"

²⁹ [8:56-58] Georg "God on account of this, and they know their own death." / Arm omits "For when they had opportunity... they must die."

³⁰ [8:59] Eth, Georg add

³¹ [8:59] Arm "thing that I stated before"

³² [8:59] Syr / Lat "will receive"

³³ [8:59] Eth "things thus now that destruction for them" / Arm "them. And I made man to keep my commands and to avoid eternal death"

³⁴ [8:60] Syr adds

³⁵ [8:60] Lat adds

³⁶ [8:60] Lat(M) adds

³⁷ [8:60] Lat, Syr / Georg "good" / Eth omits

³⁸ [8:61] Eth "Therefore their judgment will overcome them"

the womb. I know *that* if I should speak with them face to face, they will not obey, but will be even more strongly disobedient."

I answered the Lord and I said, "I ask of you, Most High, why did you not give us a heart to only know the good, and that we should do it alone, and that we should desire it alone, and that it alone should be sweet for us to know? Accordingly, since we received the knowledge of evil, why do we desire what you hate? Why indeed did you create it at all, that we should have it, and through it, we might sin?"

The Lord answered me and said, "I made a human, not that he might perish, but that he might live this life with honor and inherit that *future* life. And, exactly like my messengers, I gave him wisdom to know what is good and what is evil. And I honored him and gave him the authority to do whatever he desired, and I subjected to him all things which are under the heavens that he might rule over them. And I gave the law the commandment how he might be able to live and how he might obtain immortal goods. And he received these great goods and authority from me. What was created well, he did not use well and he sinned. Not that I created anything evil, but everything which I created was very good: each thing which existed, existed for its own purpose, just as iron existed, not that it might kill, but that it might work the ground and fulfill the needs of all humans. But humans did not remain in that same state in which they were created, but they undertook what was not made for good. This was how, in other things as well, what had come into being for good, they changed to evil. Therefore, the cause was not he who creates things well, but he who did not use them well; he offended their Creator. Therefore torments await them. For all should be guided by those things which have come into being through me so that they might know me. He too, who does not enjoy them, has known me. Therefore, cease, and care nothing about them."³⁹ **62** I have not shown this to⁴⁰ all people, but only to you and a few like you."

63 Then I answered and said, "O Lord, who do not bear resentment, my soul does not have temerity to question you. Listen to your servant concerning what⁴¹ you have already shown me a great number of the signs which you will perform in the last times, but you have not shown me when it will be that⁴² you will do them."

CHAPTER 9

He answered me and said, "Measure carefully in your mind; and it shall be⁴³ when you see that some of the predicted⁴⁴ signs have occurred, **2** then you will know that it is indeed the time when the Most High is about to visit the age which he has made. **3** So when *the following* appear in the age: earthquakes⁴⁵ in places, tumult of peoples, intrigues of nations, wavering of leaders, confusion of princes, **4** then you will know that these are the things which the Most High spoke about from the days which were of old, from the beginning.⁴⁶ **5** For⁴⁷ just as with everything which has taken place in⁴⁸ the age, its beginning is evident, and its end manifest;⁴⁹ **6** so also are the times⁵⁰ of the Most High: the beginnings are attested⁵¹ by wonders and signs and mighty works,⁵² and the end by penalties⁵³ and in signs.⁵⁴

7 "It shall be that everyone who will be saved⁵⁵ and who will be able to escape by virtue of his works, or *by the faith* in which he trusted, **8** he will survive⁵⁶ the dangers which have been predicted, and will see my salvation in my land and within the borders,⁵⁷ which I have set apart for myself from the beginning.⁵⁸ **9** Then those who have abandoned⁵⁹ my ways shall be amazed,⁶⁰ and those who have contemptuously rejected them⁶¹ shall live in torments. **10** For everyone who failed to acknowledge me in their lifetime, though they received my benefits;⁶² **11** and everyone who scorned my law, while they still had freedom, and, while the

³⁹ [8:61] Arm adds

⁴⁰ [8:62] Georg "for"

⁴¹ [8:63] Arm adds

⁴² [8:63] Georg, Arm add

⁴³ [9:1] Lat, Arm adds

⁴⁴ [9:1] Lat(S,A), Syr / Eth "past"

⁴⁵ [9:3] Lat(S,C,M), others / Lat(A) "defense"

⁴⁶ [9:4] Lat, Ar2 / Syr "spoke from the beginning" / Eth "spoke before their time" / Georg, Ar1 "spoke about in the days that were of old"

⁴⁷ [9:5] Eth, Georg, Lat(A) omit "For"

⁴⁸ [9:5] Syr "that is in"

⁴⁹ [9:5] Syr / Lat "world, beginning to end as well as the end, has been made know"

⁵⁰ [9:6] Eth "world"

⁵¹ [9:6] Eth "in the word"

⁵² [9:6] Syr "the beginnings...wonders and signs and mighty works" / Eth "the beginnings...in words, and signs, and mighty works" / Ar1 "the obscure beginning will be revealed in mighty works and miracles"

⁵³ [9:6] Syr / Lat, Eth, Ar1 "deeds"

⁵⁴ [9:6] Syr / Lat, Eth "in effects"

⁵⁵ [9:7] Syr "who will survive"

⁵⁶ [9:8] Syr "he will be spared from"

⁵⁷ [9:9] Ar1 "mountain"

⁵⁸ [9:8] Eth, Georg "from this world"

⁵⁹ [9:9] Lat "abused"

⁶⁰ [9:9] Eth "purified"

⁶¹ [9:9] Syr "have held in contempt and rejected them" / Eth "have scorned my commands and held me in contempt" / other Eth "who have rejected them with fear" / Ar1 "who have rejected them with my fear"

⁶² [9:10] Syr "though I was good to them"

the day and was not silent at night.¹ **44** So during the forty days, ninety-four² books were written.

45 And when the forty days were ended, the Most High spoke to me, saying to me,³ “Publish the twenty-four⁴ books which you wrote first, and let the worthy and the unworthy of the people⁵ read them; **46** but keep the seventy which were written last,⁶ in order to give them to the wise among your⁷ people. **47** For in them are the springs⁸ of understanding, the fountains⁹ of wisdom, and the river¹⁰ of knowledge.”¹¹ **48** And I did so. in the 7th¹² year of the 6th week, 5000¹³ years and three months and 22¹⁴ days after creation.¹⁵

At that time Ezra was caught up, and taken to the place of those¹⁶ who are like him, after he had written all these things. And he was called the scribe of the knowledge¹⁷ of the Most High¹⁸ forever and ever. Let it be.¹⁹

The first discourse of Ezra is finished.^{20 21}

¹ [14:43] Arm “and ceased at night” / Ar2 omits altogether, instead reading “And they wrote what I dictated.”

² [14:44] Syr, Eth, Ar1 / Berlin, Arm, Lat(S,M) “904” / Lat(A) “974” / Lat(C) “970”

³ [14:45] Syr, Syro-Arab, Eth add

⁴ [14:45] Syr, Ar1 / Lat, Eth, Arm omit “twenty-four”

⁵ [14:45] Syr adds

⁶ [14:46] Syr, Syro-Arab, Eth, Georg omit “that were written last” / Eth omits “seventy...last”

⁷ [14:46] Syr, Arm omit “your”s

⁸ [14:47] Syr, Syro-Arab / Lat “spring” / Eth, Georg “lamp”, “fire” / Ar1 “leaven” / Arm “proverbs”

⁹ [14:47] Lat, Georg, Arm “fountain” / Ar2 omits

¹⁰ [14:47] Syr, Syro-Arab “and the light” / Ar1 “and a wide sea”

¹¹ [14:47] Eth “is the light of lights” / Ar2 “is the leaven of wisdom” / Berlin “is the vein of piety”

¹² [14:48] Syr, Syro-Arab, Georg / Eth, Arm “4th”

¹³ [14:48] Georg “5020” / Ar1 “5025”

¹⁴ [14:48] Eth, Ar1, Syro-Arab / Syr “12”

¹⁵ [14:48] Syr (in general) / Eth “in the 4th year of the weeks of the year after the year of creation in the 5000th year, in the 10th of the darkness, in the 3rd month and in its 22nd day.” / Ar1 “and I lived 76 years after the 5,025 years of the work of creation, in the 3rd month, and its 22nd day.” / Syro-Arab “in the 7th year of the 6th week and after 5,000 years, 3 months, and 22 days, Ezra was removed...” / Arm “in the 4th year of a week of years after 5,000 years of the creation of the world, and two months of days.” / Georg has something about “...in my 5th month”

¹⁶ [14:48] Georg “kingdom with those” / Ar1 “lands of the living” / Arm “company of those”

¹⁷ [14:48] Ar1 “called the author of the law and the understanding and the knowledge”

¹⁸ [14:48] Ar1 adds here “to whom is the fame and the power” / Arm(Y) adds “to whom is the glory” / Arm(H) ends here

¹⁹ [14:48] Ar2 omits “And when the forty days were ended...and ever.” / Ar1, Arm, some Eth add “Let it be” / Georg omits “after he had written...” to end.

²⁰ [14:48] Syr adds / Arm(W) instead adds “This book of Ezra is finished.” / Georg instead adds “glory to God” / Ar1 instead adds “End of the first writing of the books of Ezra, scribe of the law; and the second follows it.”

²¹ [15-16] All versions except for the Latin do not include Chapters 15 and 16 (which are judged by most to be original Latin interpolations)