SECOND BARUCH

CHAPTER 1–5

And it came to pass in the twenty-fifth year of Jechoniah, the king of Judah, that the word of the Lord came to Baruch son of Neriah, and said to him:

“Have you seen everything which this people is doing to me? The evils done by the remaining tribes are greater than those done by the ten tribes which were carried away into exile. For the former tribes were forced by their kings to sin, but these two themselves have been forcing and compelling their kings to sin. Therefore, behold, I shall bring evil upon this city and upon its inhabitants. And it will be taken away from before my presence for a time. And I shall scatter this people among the nations, so that they may do good to the nations. And my people will be chastened, but the time will come when they will search for what is able to make their times prosperous.

2 Therefore, I have told you these things so that you may tell Jeremiah, along with all those who are like you, to retire from this city. For your works are like a firm pillar to this city, and your prayers like a strong wall.”

3 And I said:

“O Lord, my Lord, have I come into the world in order to see the evils1 of my mother?2 No, I have found favor in your eyes, first take away my spirit so that I may go to my fathers and not witness the destruction of my mother.

4 For I am hard pressed from two sides: for I cannot resist you, but my soul also cannot witness the evil of my mother.

5 ‘But one thing I shall say in your presence, O Lord: What then will happen after these things? For if you destroy your city and deliver up your country to those who hate us, how will the name of Israel be remembered again? Or will the world speak about your glories? Or to whom will the content of your law be explained?7 Or will the world7 return to its natural state, and the earth open its mouth and swallow them up?8 And will the multitude of the souls be taken away? For if you destroy your city and deliver up your country to your haters, who was not captured when the city was seized.9 And they will depart again to the land of their idols, and will boast before them.

6 And what will you do for great name?”

7 And I answered and said:

“So therefore I shall be guilty in Zion, for your haters will come to this place and pollute your holy-place, and will carry off your inheritance into exile, and will make themselves masters over those whom you love. And they will depart again to the land of their idols, and will boast before them. And what will you do for great name?”

8 And the Lord said to me:

“This city will be delivered up for a time, and the people will be chastened for a time, and the world will not be forgotten.

9 ‘Or do you think that this is the city of which I spoke about when I said, ‘I have engraven you on the palms of my hands’? It is not this present building which has been constructed in your midst; it is that which will be revealed with the Garden. And I showed it to Adam before he sinned. But when he transgressed the commandment, it was taken away from him—as well as the Garden. And after these things, I showed it to my servant Abraham in the night between the portions of the victims. And again, I also showed it to Moses on Mount Sinai when I showed to him the pattern of the Dwelling and all its vessels. And now, behold, it is preserved with me—as well as the Garden. Now go, and do as I command you.”

5.1 And I answered and said:

“My name and my glory shall last unto eternity, however, my judgment shall assert its rights in its own time.

3 And you shall see with your eyes that the enemy shall not demolish Zion, nor shall they burn Jerusalem, but they shall serve the Judge for a time.

4 But you, go, and do everything which I have said to you.”

CHAPTER 6–9

Now it happened on the following day that, behold, a Chaldean army surrounded the city. And in the evening, I, Baruch, left the people. And I went outside, and stood by the oak.2 And I was grieving over Zion, and lamented over the exile which had come upon the people. And I beheld, suddenly a strong spirit lifted me up and carried me above the wall of Jerusalem. And as I watched, I saw that four messengers were standing at the four corners of the city. Each of them held a burning torch in his hands.

5 And another messenger began to descend from the heavens, and said to them, “Hold your lamps and do not light them until I tell you. Because I was sent, first to speak a word to the earth, and then to deposit in it what the Lord, the Most High, has commanded me.”

7 And I saw him descend into the Holy of Holies. And from there, he took the veil, and the holy ephod, and the mercy seat, and the two tablets, and the holy raiment of the priests, and the altar of incense, and the forty-eight precious stones which adorned the priests, and all the holy vessels of the Dwelling.

8 And he said to the earth with a loud voice:

“Earth, earth, earth hear the word of the Mighty God, and receive the things which I commit to you, and guard them until the last times, so that when you are ordered, you may restore them, so that strangers may not take possession of them.

9 For the time has arrived when Jerusalem will also be delivered up for a time, until the moment when it is said, that it will be restored forever.”

And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up.7.1 And after these things, I heard this messenger saying to the messengers who held the lamps: “Now destroy the walls and demolish them to their foundations, lest the enemies boast and say, ‘We have demolished the wall of Zion, and we have burned down the place of the Mighty God.’”

And they restored me to the place where I once stood. 8.1 Now the messengers did as he had commanded them; and after they had broken up the corners of the wall and the wall had fallen, a voice was heard from within the temple, saying:

2 “Enter, enemies, and come, adversaries! For he who preserved the house has forsaken it.”

3 Then I, Baruch, departed.

4 And it happened after these things, that the Chaldean army entered. And they seized the house and everything which was around it. And as I watched, I saw that four messengers were standing at the four corners of the city. Each of them held a burning torch in his hands.

9.1 And I, Baruch, came with Jeremiah, whose heart was found to be pure from sins, and who was not captured when the city was seized.2 And we rent our garments, and wept and mourned, and fasted for seven days.

CHAPTER 10–12

And it happened after seven days, that the word of God came to me and said to me, 2 “Tell Jeremiah to depart, in order to support the exiles to Babel.3 You, however, remain here amid the desolation of Zion, and I shall show you, after these days, what will happen at the end of days.”

4 And I spoke to Jeremiah as the Lord commanded me. 5 Then he went away with the people, but I, Baruch, came back and sat in front of the gates of the Temple, and I raised the following lamentation over Zion and said:

6 “Blessed is he who has not been born, or he, who, after he was born, has died.

7 But as for we who are alive, woe to us, because we see the afflictions of Zion, and what has befallen Jerusalem.

8 I shall call the stinens from the sea, and you, lill in come from the desert, and you, demons and dragons, from the forests. Awake and gird up your loins to mourn, and take up the dirges with me,

1 Syr “eivd”
2 Syr “ornament”
Now I, Baruch, say this to you, O Babel:

"If you had prospered and if Zion had lived in her glory, it would have been a great sorrow to us that you had been equal to Zion. But now, behold, the grief is unending and the lamentation is immeasurable, for, behold, you are prosperous and Zion desolate. 3 Who will be judge over these things? Or to whom shall we complain about what has befallen us?"

"O Lord, how have you borne it? Our fathers went to rest without grief, and, behold, the righteous sleep peacefully in the earth. For they did not know this anguish, nor did they hear about what has befallen us. If only you had ears, O earth, and if only you had a heart, O dust, so that both of you could go and make an announcement in the Netherworld, and say to the dead, ‘Guard your house yourself, for, behold, we have been found to be false stewards.’"

And you, virgins, who twist fine linen, and silk with gold of Ophir, quickly take all these things, and cast them into the fire, so that it may carry them to him who made them. And the flame sends them to him who created them, so that the enemies may not take possession of them.

Il.1 And I answered and spoke:

"You are rightly astonished about man’s departure, but your judgment regarding the evils which befell those who sin is incorrect. And with regard to what you have said about the righteous who are taken away and the wicked who are prosperous; and with regard to what you have said, that man does not know judgment if he had not received the law, and if I had not instructed him in understanding. But now, because he has transgressed, having understood, he will indeed be punished because of this understanding. And with regard to the righteous, on whose account you said that the world has come: indeed, what is coming is also on their account. For what is the advantage of this, or what evil worse than what we have already seen befell us can we expect to see?"

"But I will continue to speak in your presence. What advantage do the knowledgeable have before you, those who have not walked in vanity like the rest of the nations, and who have not said to the dead, ‘Give life to us,’ but have always feared you and have not left your ways? And behold, they have been diligent, and, nevertheless, even on their account, you had no mercy on Zion. And if there are others who did evil, Zion should have been forgiven on account of the works of those who did good works, and she should not have been overwhelmed because of the works of those who acted unrighteously.

"But, O Lord, my Lord, will you comprehend your judgment? Who will explore the depth of your way? 9 Or who is able to discern the majesty of your path? Who is able to discern your incomprehensible counsel? Or who of those born has ever discovered the beginning or the end of your wisdom? For all of us have been made like breath. For just as breath ascends involuntarily and vanishes, so it is with the nature of men. They do not depart according to their own will, and they are ignorant of what will befall them in the end.

"But the righteous have good hope for the end; and, without fear, they leave this habitation because they possess a store of good works with you, which is preserved in storehouses. Therefore, they leave this world without fear; and with confidence and complete joy, they expect to receive the world which you have promised to them. But as for us: woe to us who are now also being shamefully treated, and who await evils at that time. But you know precisely what you have made of your servants, for we are not able to understand what is good like you, our Creator.

"But I shall continue to speak in your presence, O Lord, my Lord. In the beginning, when the world along with its inhabitants did not yet exist, you devised and spoke with a word, and simultaneously the works of creation stood before you. And you said, that you would make a man for this world as a guardian over your works, so that it might be known that he was not created for the world, but the world for him. And now, I see that the world which was made for us, behold, it remains; but we, for whom it was made, depart.

Il.1 And the Lord answered and said to me:

"You are rightly astonished about man’s departure, but your judgment regarding the evils which befell those who sin is incorrect. And with regard to what you have said about the righteous who are taken away and the wicked who are prosperous; and with regard to what you have said, that man does not know judgment if he had not received the law, and if I had not instructed him in understanding. But now, because he has transgressed, having understood, he will indeed be punished because of this understanding. And with regard to the righteous, on whose account you said that the world has come: indeed, what is coming is also on their account. For to them, this world is a struggle and an effort with much trouble.

"And this they may expect. 7 And if they say in that time, ‘When?’, you will say to them: ‘This is so that the nations’ will be thoroughly punished.’ And this they may expect.

8 ‘All of you who have drunk the strained wine, now also drink its dregs, for the judgment of the Eminent One is without partiality.

9 Therefore, he previously did not spare his own sons; but because they sinned, he afflicted them as his enemies.

10 Therefore, they were once punished, so that they might be forgiven.

11 But now, you peoples and nations, if you are guilty, because you have trodden down the earth all this time, and misused the things which were created in it.

12 For all of you have always been benefited, but you have always been ungrateful for the beneficence.”"
“O Lord, my Lord, behold, the present years are few and evil; and who, in this short time, is able to inherit what is immeasurable?”

II.1 And the Lord answered and said to me:
2 “With the Most High no account is taken of much time, nor of a few years. For what did it profit Adam that he lived 930 years and transgressed what he was commanded? 3 Therefore, the great amount of time that he lived did not profit him, but it brought on him the death of his ancestors. 4 Or what did it harm Moses that he lived only 120 years, and, because he subjected himself to Him who created him, brought the law to the descendants of Jacob and lit a lamp for the nation of Israel?”

II.1 And he answered and said:
"The man who lit the seasons has taken from the light, and there are few who imitated him. But many whom he has lit, have taken from the darkness of Adam and have not rejoiced in the light of the lamp.”

II.1 And he answered and said to me:
“Because of this, he appointed a covenant for them at that time and said, ‘Behold, I have set before you life and death,’ and he called the heavens and the earth to witness against them. 2 For he knew that his time was short, but that the heavens and the earth will endure forever. 3 Yet, after this death, they sinned and transgressed, although they knew that they had the law to reprove them, as well as that light in which nothing could err, and also the witnessing spheres, and me. And now, with regard to everything which exists: it is I who judge. 4 “But you, do not think about these things in your soul, and do not be afflicted because of past things. 5 For now it is the end of time that should be considered: whether it be business, prosperity, or shame; and not its beginning. 6 For if a man is prosperous in his youth, yet is prosperous, he will not prosper in old age, but he forgets all the prosperity he once possessed. 7 And further, if a man is created shamefully in his youth, yet is prosperous toward his end, he no longer remembers his shame. 8 And listen further: Even if everyone had prospered continually since the day death was decreed against the transgressors, and it was destroyed in the end, everything would have been in vain. 9 “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, and the times will hasten more than the former, and the seasons will hasten more than those who have passed, and the years will pass more quickly than the present ones. 10 Therefore, I have now taken Zion away, so that I might more speedily visit the world in its own season. 11 “Now therefore, hold fast to your heart everything which I have commanded you, and seal it in the recesses of your mind. 12 And then I shall show to you my mighty judgment and my unsearchable ways. 13 Therefore, go and sanctify yourself for seven days, and do not eat bread and do not drink water, and do not speak to anyone. 14 And after this time, come to this place, and I shall reveal myself to you. And I shall speak truths to you, and I shall command you with regard to the course of times, for they are coming and will not delay.”

CHAPTER 21
Then I went from there and sat in the Kidron Valley in an earthen cave. And there, I sanctified my soul. And I ate no bread, but I was not hungry. And I drank no water, but I was not thirsty. And I stayed there until the seventh day as he had commanded me. 2 And afterward, I came to the place where he had previously spoken with me. 3 And it happened at sunset, that my soul received many thoughts, and I began to speak in the presence of the Mighty One, and said:
4 “O hear me, you who created the earth; the one who fixed the firmament by the word, and fastened the height of the heavens by the spirit; the one who in the beginning of the world called what did not yet exist, and they obey you. 5 You who, with your own sign, gave commandments to the air, and have seen the things which are yet to come as well as those which have passed. 6 You who, with great thoughts, rule over the hosts standing before you; and who, with indignation, rule the countless holy ones, who are flame and fire, whom you created from the beginning, those who stand around your throne. 7 For all this exists for you alone so that you may create at once everything which you want. 8 “You are the one who causes the raindrops to fall by number upon the earth. And you alone know the consummation of times before it has arrived. Honor my prayer. 9 For you alone are able to sustain all those who exist and those who have passed away and those who are to yet come, those who sin and those who are righteous, since you are the Living One, the Incrutable One. 10 For you are the only Living One, the Immortal One and the Incrutable One, and you know the number of men. 11 And although in the course of time many have sinned, many others have been righteous.

12 “You know where you have preserved the end of those who have sinned, or the consummation of those who have been righteous. 13 For if this present life, which all men possess, is the only one which exists, nothing could be more bitter than this. 14 For of what profit is strength which changes into weakness, of food in abundance which changes into famine, or beauty which changes into ugliness? 15 For the nature of man is always changeable. 16 For what we once were, we are no longer; and what we are now, we shall not always remain. 17 For if an end of all things had not been prepared, their beginning would have been in vain. 18 "But tell me about everything which comes from you, and enlighten me regarding what I ask you: 19 How long will the corruptible remain? And how long will the time of mortals be prosperous? And when will those who pass away in this world no longer be polluted by the great wickedness? 20 Therefore, mercifully command and accomplish all which you have said that you would do, so that your power will be recognized by those who believe that your longsuffering is weakness. 21 And now, to those who do not know, but who have seen what has befallen us and our city until now, show to them that these things are in agreement with the longsuffering of your power; for on account of your name, you have called us a beloved people. 22 "Therefore, from now on, everything is in a state of mortality. 23 Therefore, reprove the messenger of death, and let your glory appear, and let the greatness of your beauty be known, and let the Netherworld be sealed, so that from this time forward it may not receive the dead, and let the storehouses of the souls restore those who are enclosed in them. 24 For many years of desolation have passed since the days of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all those who were like them, who sleep in the earth—those on whose account you have said you have created the world. 25 And now, show your glory quickly and do not postpone what was promised by you.”

26 And it happened, when I had finished the words of this prayer, that I became very weak.

CHAPTER 22–30
And afterward it happened that, behold, the heavens were opened, and I saw, and strength was given to me. Then a voice was heard from on high, and it said to me:
2 “Baruch, Baruch, why are you troubled? 3 Who starts on a journey and does not complete it? Or who will be comforted making a voyage by sea unless he can reach port? 4 Or is he who promises to give a present to someone—is it not a theft, unless it is fulfilled? 5 Or he who sows the earth—does he not lose everything unless he reaps its fruit in its season? 6 Or he who plants a plant—does the planter expect to receive fruit from it, unless it grows until its appointed time? 7 Or a woman who has conceived—does she not surely kill her infant when she bears untimely? 8 Or he who builds a house—can it be called a house, unless it is provided with a roof and is finished? Tell me this first.”

II.1 And I answered and said:
“No, Lord, my Lord.”

2 And he answered and said to me:
“Then why are you troubled about what you do not know? And why are you restless about things you possess no knowledge of? 3 For as for you have not forgotten men who now exist and those who have passed away, so I remember you forever. 4 For when Adam sinned and death was decreed against those who were to be born, the great number of those who would be born was set; and for that number, a place was prepared where the living might dwell and where the dead might be preserved. 5 Therefore, no creature will live again unless the previously declared number is reached. For my spirit is the creator of life, and the Netherworld receives the dead. 6 And further, it has been granted to you to hear about the things which follow these times. 7 For truly, my redemption has drawn near and is not as far away as before. 8 For behold, the days are coming, and the books will be opened in which are written the sins of all those who have sinned; and moreover, the storehouses will also be opened in which the righteousness of all those who have been righteous in creation is brought together. 2 For it will happen at that time, that you shall see, and many with you, the longsuffering of the Most High, which lasts throughout all generations, who has been longsuffering toward all who are born, both those who sinned and those who are righteous.”

3 And I answered and said:
“But, behold, O Lord, no man knows the number of things which have passed away, nor of those which are yet to come. 4 For behold, I indeed know what has befallen me; but I do not know what will happen to our enemies, or when you will visit your works.”

II.1 And he answered and said to me:

[16:1] Syr omits “time”
[20:3] Syr omits "which"
[21:4] Emendation / Syr "firmament in its fullness"
[21:9] Arab “exist, what is gone”

"You also will be preserved until that time, until that sign which the Most High will bring about for the inhabitants of the earth at the end of days. 2 Therefore, this will be the sign: 3 when horror seizes the inhabitants of earth, and they fall into many tribulations; and moreover, when they fall into great torments. 4 And because of their great tribulations, it will happen that they will say in their thoughts, 'The Mighty One no longer remembers the earth.' And when they lose hope, it will happen, that then the time will awake."

3:1 And I answered and said:
"That coming tribulation, will it last a long time? And that distress, will its embrace many years?"

7:1 And he answered and said to me:
"That time is divided into twelve parts, and each part is reserved for its appointed task:
1 In the first part, there shall be the beginning of commotions.
2 In the second part: the slaughtering of the great.
3 In the third part: the fall of many into death.
4 In the fourth part: the sending of the sword.
5 In the fifth part: famine and the withholding of rain.
6 In the sixth part: earthquakes and terrors. 1
7 In the seventh part: a multitude of phantoms and the attacks of demons.
8 In the eighth part: a multitude of phantoms and the attacks of demons.
9 In the ninth part: the fall of many into death.
10 In the tenth part: the fall of fire.
11 In the eleventh part: injustice and unchastity.
12 In the twelfth part: disorder arising from a conglomeration of nations, which has been previously mentioned, and said:
13 "For these parts of that time are reserved, and will be mixed, one with another, and they will minister to each other. 15 For some of these parts will withhold a portion of themselves while taking from others, and some will accomplish their own portion as well as that of others; hence, those who live on earth in those days will not understand that this is the end of times. 28:1 But at that time, whoever understands will be wise. 2 For the measure and the calculation of that time is two parts a week of seven weeks."

3 And I answered and said:
"It is good for a man to come and see those times, but it is better for him not to come to those times, lest he fall. 4 But I shall also say this: 5 Will he who is incorruptible despise those who are corruptible? And will he despise whatever befals those who are corruptible, so that he might look only to those who are not corruptible? 6 But, O Lord, if these things which you have spoken to me beforehand do indeed come to pass, then let me know this as well, if indeed I have found favor in your eyes: 7 Is it in only one place or in only one part of the earth where these things will come to pass, or will they be experienced by the whole earth?"

3:1 And he answered and said to me:
"Whatever happens at that time will befal the whole earth. Therefore, all who are alive will experience it. 2 For at that time, I shall only protect those found in this land in those very days. 3 And it will happen, when everything which should come to pass in those parts has been accomplished, that the Anointed-One will begin to be revealed.
4 "And Behemoth will be revealed from its place, and Leviathan will arise from the sea—those two great monsters which I created on the fifth day of creation, and which I shall have kept until that time. And then they will be nourishment for all who remain. 5 The earth also will yield its fruits ten thousandfold. And on each vine there will be a thousand branches, and each branch will produce a thousand clusters, and each cluster will produce a thousand grapes, and each grape will produce a cask of wine. 6 And those who hungered will rejoice; and moreover, they will see marvels every day. 7 For winds will go out from before me every morning to bring the fragrance of aromatic fruits, and clouds at the end of the day to distill the dew of health. 8 And it will happen at that time, that the storehouse of manna will again descend from on high, and they will eat of it in those years because these are the ones who will have arrived at the consummation of time.

3:1 "And it will happen after these things, when the time of the Anointed-One's appearance has been fulfilled, that he will return with glory. Then all who have fallen asleep in hope of him will rise. 2 And it will happen at that time, that those storehouses preserving the number of the souls of the righteous will be opened, and they will come out, and the multitudes of the souls will appear together, in one assembly, of one mind. And the first will rejoice, and the last will not be grieved. 3 For they know 1 that the time has come of which it is said that it is the end of times. 4 But when the souls of the wicked see all these things, they will waste away even more. 5 For they will know that their torment has come, and that their perditions have arrived."

CHAPTER 31–34
And it happened after these things, that I went to the people and said to them, "Assemble all of your elders to me, and I shall speak words to them."

2 And they all assembled in the Kidron Valley. 3 And I answered and said to them:
"Hear, O Israel, and I shall speak to you; and give ear, O seed of Jacob, and I shall instruct you. 4 Do not forget Zion, but remember Jerusalem's anguish. 5 For behold, the days are coming, when everything which is will become the prey of corruption, and it will be as though it had never been.

3:1 "But as for you, if all of you prepare your hearts to sow into them the fruits of the law, it shall protect you in the time in which the Mighty One shall shake the entire creation. 2 For after a short time, the building of Zion will be shaken in order that it might be rebuilt. 3 But that building will not remain; but after a time, it will again be uprooted and will remain desolate for a time. 4 And afterwards, it is necessary for it to be renewed in glory and be perfected into eternity. 5 Therefore, we should not be so distressed about the evil which has now come, but much more distressed about what is yet to be. 6 For when the Mighty One renews his creation, there will be a trial greater than these two tribulations. 7 "And now, do not draw near to me for a few days, and do not seek me until I come to you."

8 And it happened after having said all these words to them that I, Baruch, went my way. And when the people saw me leaving, they raised their voices and lamented, saying:
9 "Where are you going from us, Baruch? And are you going to abandon us as a father who forsakes his children as orphans and leaves them? 3:1 Are these the commands given to you by your friend, Jeremiah the prophet, when he said to you, 2 'Look after this people during the time of my absence, while I prepare the rest of our brothers in Babel, against whom the sentence has been declared that they should be carried away into exile.' 3:1 And now, if you abandon us, it would have been better for all of us to die before you, and then, that you should leave us."

3:1 And I answered and said to the people:
"Far be it from me to forsake you or to withdraw from you. But on your behalf, and on behalf of Zion, I shall go to the Holy of Holies to inquire of the Mighty One, so that I may receive some further illumination. And after these things, I shall return to you."

CHAPTER 35–43
And I, Baruch, went to the holy place and sat on its ruins and wept, and said:
2 " O that my eyes were springs,
and my eyelids a fountain of tears.
3 For how shall I lament over Zion,
how shall I mourn over Jerusalem?
4 For at the place where I am now
I am prostrate,
and I am weeping;
the chief priests used to offer holy sacrifices,
and placed on it incense of fragrant aromas.
5 But now, our glorying has become dust,
and the desire of our soul is ashes."

3:1 And after I had said these things, I fell asleep at that place, and I saw a vision in the night. 2 And behold there was a forest of trees planted on the plain, and it was surrounded by high mountains and rugged rocks. And the forest occupied much space. 3 And behold, a vine arose in front of it; and from under it, a fountain ran peacefully. 4 And now, that fountain came to the forest and churned into great waves, and those waves submerged the forest and suddenly uprooted the entire forest and overthrew all the mountains which surrounded it. 5 And the height of the forest became low, and the apex of the mountains became low. And that fountain became so strong that it left nothing of the great forest except one ceder. 6 When it had also cast that one down, it destroyed the entire forest and uprooted it so that nothing was left of it, nor could its place be recognized anymore. Then that vine arrived with the fountain in peace and in great tranquility, and it arrived at a place which was not far from the ceder which had been cast down; and they brought that ceder to it. 7 And as I was watching, I saw that the vine opened its mouth and spoke, and said to the ceder, 'Are you not the remaining ceder from the forest of wickedness? Because of you, wickedness remained and has been performed during all these years, but never goodness. 8 And you kept conquering what did
called, and told, ‘Give back what does not belong to you, and raise up all which you have kept until its own time.’

6.1 “But you, Baruch, direct your heart toward what has been spoken to you, and understand what has been revealed to you, because you have many consolations which will last forever. 2 For you will depart from this place and leave the regions which are now before your eyes. And you shall forget what is corruptible and shall never again remember what is among mortals. 3 Therefore, go, and command your people. Then come to this place, and afterward, fast seven days. And then I shall come to you and speak with you.”

CHAPTER 44–47
And I, Baruch, went from there and came to my people. And I called my firstborn son, and my friend Gedaliah, and seven of the elders of the people, and said to them:

2 “Behold, I go to my fathers in accordance with the way of the whole earth. 3 But you, do not withdraw from the way of the law, but guard and admonish the remaining people, lest they withdraw from the Mighty One’s commandments. 4 For you see that he whom we serve is righteous, and that our Creator is impartial. 5 And, all of you, look at what has befallen Zion and what has happened to Jerusalem. 6 For the Mighty One’s judgment will be made known, as well as his ways which are inscrutable and right.

7 “For if you endure and persevere in his fear and do not forget his law, the times will again change into good for you. And they will participate in the consolation of Zion. 8 For whatever is now, is nothing. But whatever is in the future will be very great. 9 For everything which is corruptible will pass away, and everything which is mortal will depart. And everything which is present will be forgotten, and no remembrance will remain of the present time which is polluted by evils. 10 For he who runs now runs in vain, and he who is prosperous will soon fall and be humiliated. 11 For what will be in the future, that will be our object of desire; and what comes later, that is what we shall hope for. For it is a time which does not pass away.

12 “And the hour which will remain forever is coming. And the new world is coming; those who enter into its beginning are not carried back to corruption by it, but it has no mercy upon those who depart into torment; and those who are living in it are not carried to perdition by it. 13 For those are the ones who will inherit this time which has been spoken of, and the inheritance of the promised time belongs to them. 14 These are the ones who have acquired for themselves treasures of wisdom, and stores of insight are found with them, and they have not withdrawn from mercy, and they have preserved the truth of the law. 15 For the coming world will be given to them, but the habitation of the remainder, who are many, will be in the fire.

8.1 “Therefore, admonish the people as much as you can. For this is our task. 2 For if you instruct them, you will make them alive.”

6.1 And my son, along with the elders of the people, answered, and said to me:

“Has the Mighty One humiliated us to such an extent as to take you away from us so quickly? 2 And shall we truly be in darkness? And will there no longer be light for that people who remain? 3 For where shall we again investigate the law, or who will distinguish between death and life for us?”

4 And I said to them: “I cannot resist the throne of the Mighty One. Nevertheless, Israel will not lack a wise man, nor the tribe of Jacob, a son of the law. 5 But only prepare your hearts, so that all of you may obey the law, and be subject to those who, in fear, are wise and understanding. And prepare your souls, so that none of you shall depart from them. 6 For if you do these things, good tidings, about which I previously told you, will come to you, and you will not fall into the torment which I previously testified to you about.”

But with regard to the word, that I was to be taken, I did not make it known to them, not even to my son. 1 And after I had left, having dismissed them, I returned from there and said to them, “Behold, I go to Hebron, for the Mighty One has sent me there.”

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

CHAPTER 48
And it happened after the seventh day, that I prayed before the Mighty One and said:

2 “O Lord, you summon the coming of the times, and they stand before you.

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You cause the display of power of the ages to pass away and they do not resist you.
You arrange the course of the seasons, and they obey you.

3 You alone know the length of the generations, and you do not reveal your secrets to many.
4 You make known the multitude of the fire, and you weigh the lightness of the wind.
5 You explore the extent of the heights, and you scrutinize the depths of the darkness.
6 You care for the number of those who will pass away, and they are preserved;
7 and you prepare a house for those who are yet to be.
8 You remember the beginning which you created, and you do not forget that destruction which is yet to come.
9 With signs of fear and indignation you command the flames, and they change into spirits.
10 And with the word you bring to life what does not exist, and with mighty power you hold what has not yet come.

11 You instruct the creation with your understanding, and you give wisdom to the spheres so that they minister according to their positions.
12 Innumerable armies stand before you,
13 and at your sign, peacefully minister according to their positions.
14 Hear your servant, and give ear to my petition.
15 For we are born in a short time, and in a short time we return.
16 But with you, hours are like times, and days like generations.
17 Therefore, do not be angry with man, for he is nothing; and do not take account of our works, for what are we?
18 For behold, by your gift we come into the world, and we do not leave of our own will.
19 For we did not say to our parents, ‘Beget us,’ nor have we sent to the Netherworld, and said, ‘Receive us.’
20 Therefore, what is our strength that we should bear your wrath?
21 Or what are we that we should endure your judgment?
22 Protect us in your compassion, and help us in your mercy.
23 Look upon the small ones who submit to you, and save all those who draw near to you. And do not destroy the hope of our people, and do not cut short the times of our help.
24 For this is the nation which you have elected, and these are the people with whom you found no equal.
25 But now I shall speak before you, and I shall talk as my heart thinks.
26 In you we have put our trust, for, behold, your law is with us, and we know that we shall not fall as long as we keep your statutes.
27 For we shall always be blessed; at least, we have not mingled with the nations.
28 For we are all one celebrated people;
29 we, who received one law from the One. And that law which is among us will help us, and that excellent wisdom which is in us will support us.”
30 And when I had prayed these things, I grew very weak. 26 And he answered and said to me: “You have prayed sincerely, Baruch, and all your words have been heard.

27 But my judgment demands its own, and my law demands its rights.
28 For I shall answer you from your own words, and I shall speak to you from your own prayer.
29 “For it is as follows: Nothing will be corrupted, unless it acted wickedly, allowing itself to forget my goodness and to refuse my longsuffering. 30 For this reason, you will surely be taken up, as I told you before.
31 “And that time which brings affliction will arise. For it will come and pass away with enormous force, and it will be turbulent, arriving in the heat of indignation. 32 And it will be in those days, that all the inhabitants of the earth will live with each other in peace, because they do not know that my judgment has drawn near. 33 For at that time, there will not be many wise men to be found; and also, the intelligent will be but a few; furthermore, even those who know will be silent more and more. 34 And there will be many rumors and not a few tidings, and the works of the phantoms will be visible, and not a few promises will be recounted: some idle and others affirmed. 35 And honor will be changed into shame, and strength will be humiliated to contempt, and confidence will be broken down, and beauty will become contemptible. 36 And many will say to many at that time, ‘Where has the multitude of intelligence hidden itself, and to where has the multitude of wisdom departed?’”
37 “And while someone is meditating on these things, envy will arise within those who did not think much of themselves; and passion will take hold of those who were peaceful; and many will be stirred up by wrath to injure many; and they will raise armies to shed blood; but in the end, they will perish together with their pride, for they did not know my law. 41 But many will surely weep at that time—yes, over the living more than over the dead.”

42 And I answered and said: “O Adam, what have you done to all those who were born from you? And what will be said of the first Eva who obeyed the serpent? 43 For this entire mankind is falling to corruption. And countless are those whom the fire devours.

44 “But once more I shall speak in your presence: 45 You, O Lord, my Lord, know what is within your creature, for long ago you commanded the dust to produce Adam; and you know the number of those who are born from him and how they sinned before you, those who existed and who did not confess you as their Creator. 47 And concerning all of these, their end will put them to shame; and your law, which they transgressed, will repay them on your day.

48 But now, let us cease discussing the wicked and inquire about the righteous. 49 And I will recount their blessedness, and I shall not be silent in celebrating their glory which is kept for them. 50 For surely, as all of you have endured much labor in the short time in which you live in this transitory world, so you will receive great light in that world which has no end.

CHAPTER 49—52

8:1 “Nevertheless, I again ask of you, O Mighty One; yes, I shall ask for favor from him who created all things. 2 In what form will the living live in your day? Or how will their splendor remain after that time? 3 Will they, perhaps, retain this present form, and put on these chained members, which are presently involved in evils, and by which evils are accomplished? Or will you perhaps change these things which have been in the world, as well as the world itself?”

8:1 And he answered and said to me: “Baruch, listen to this word; and write down in the memory of your heart everything which you shall learn. 2 For the earth will surely give back the dead at that time; currently, it receives them in order to preserve them, not making any change in their form. But as it has received them, so it will give them back. And as I have delivered them to it, so it will also raise them. 3 For at that time, it will be necessary to show to the living that the dead have come to life again, and that the departed have returned. 4 Then, when those who currently know each other at this present time will, at that time, recognize each other, it will happen that my judgment will be strong, and those things which have previously been spoken of will come.

8:1 “And it will happen after this, when that appointed day has gone by, that both the appearance of those who are found to be guilty, as well as the glory of those who are righteous, will be changed. 2 For those who are presently acting wickedly shall suffer torment at that time; and as they suffer, their appearance will be made worse than it is at present.
3 “Furthermore, the glory of those who have presently been made righteous by my law, those who possessed understanding in their life, and those who planted the root of wisdom in their heart: at that time, their splendor will be glorified by transformations, and the appearance of their face will be changed into the light of their beauty so that they may be able to acquire and receive the undying world which is promised to them.

4 Therefore, above all these things, those who come will lament at that time, because their law and the seer of their souls rises up in their midst and teaches them. 5 Therefore, when they see that those whom they are presently exalting themselves over, will, at that time, be more exalted and glorified than themselves, then both these and those will be transformed: the latter into the splendor of messengers; and the former into startling visions and horrible shapes, and they will waste away even more. 6 For first, they will see, and then, they will depart to be tormented.

7 However, those who have been saved because of their works, and to whom the law has been a present hope, and understanding an expectation, and wisdom a trust, they will see marvels displayed at their proper time. 8 For they shall see that world which, currently, is invisible to them; and they will see a time which, currently, is hidden from them. 9 And time will no longer age them. 10 For they will dwell in the heights of that world, and they will be made as the messengers and be made equal to the stars. And they will be changed into any form they desire, from beauty into loveliness, and from light into the splendor of glory. 11 For the extents of the Garden will be spread out before them; and the beautiful majesty of the living creatures beneath the throne will be shown to them, as well as all the hosts of the messengers—those who, presently, are held fast by my word, lest they show themselves; and who are restrained by my command, so that they may stand firm at their places until the time of their arrival has come.

12 “And then, the excellence of the righteous will surpass that of the messenger. 13 For the first will receive the last, those whom they were expecting; and the last will receive those whom they used to hear had passed away. 14 For they have been delivered from this world of tribulation, and have set down the burden of anguish.

15 “Therefore, for what have men lost their life? And for what have those who were on the earth exchanged their soul? 16 For previously, they chose for themselves this present time that cannot pass away without anguish. And they chose them because they were unwise and rejected the issues of full of lamentations and evils. And they have denied the world which does not age those who come to this world. 17 And they have rejected the time of glory so that they are not coming to the honor of which I have previously told you.”

5.1 And I answered and said:

2 “How can we forget those for whom, at that time, woe is reserved? And why they are mourning once again for those who die? Or why do we weep for those who depart to the Netherworld? 3 Let the lamentations be reserved for the beginning of that coming torment; and let the tears be stored up for the arrival of that future destruction. 4 But even in the face of these things, I will speak. 5 And concerning the righteous, what will they do now? 6 Rejoice in the suffering that all of you now suffer. For why do any of you look for the decline of your enemies? 7 Prepare your souls for what is reserved for you, and prepare your souls for the reward which is laid up for you.”

And after I had said this, I fell asleep there.

CHAPTER 53–54

And I saw a vision. And behold, a cloud was coming up from the great sea. And after these, I saw how the lightning, which I had seen at the top of the cloud, seized it and pressed it down to the earth. 9 Now that lightning shone so exceedingly, that it lit up the whole earth, and it healed the regions where the final waters had been. 10 And it happened at the end of the cloud, that, behold, it poured down black waters which were much darker than all the waters which had been before. And fire was mingled with them. And at the regions where those waters descended, they wrought devastation and destruction.

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11 And after this, as I was watching, I saw that twelve rivers were ascending from the sea, and they began to surround the lightning and to become subject to it. 12 And because of my fear, I awoke.

8.1 And I sought the Mighty One and said:

“You alone, O Lord, from of old, know the depths of the world, and what will happen in the times that you bring about by your word. And against the works of the inhabitants of the earth, you hasten the beginnings of the times. And you alone rule and you are the one for whom nothing is hard; but you are, however, the one who easily accomplishes everything by a single sign. 3 You are the one to whom both the depths and the heights come together, and whose word the beginnings of the ages serve. 4 You are the one who reveals to those who fear you what is prepared for them, so that from now on, they may be comforted by you. 5 You show your mighty works to the unknowing. You tear down the enclose around the ignorant. And you enlighten the darkened. And you reveal the secrets to the spotless, who, in faith, have subjected themselves to you and your law.

6 “Since you have shown this vision to your servant, also reveal its interpretation to me. 7 For I know that I have received answers to the subjects which I asked you about. And you gave me a revelation about what I asked, revealing to me with what voice I should praise you and from which members I should cause praises and glorification to go up to you. 8 For if my members were mouths and the hairs of my head voices, even then, I would not be able to properly praise you, nor fittingly honor you; nor would I be able to recount your praise, nor to express the excellence of your beauty.

9 “For what am I among men, or what is my significance among those who are more excellent than I, that I have heard all these marvelous things from the Most High, and innumerable promises from him who created me? 10 Blessed is my mother among those who bear, and praised among women is she who bore me. 11 For those who know not the voice of the Mighty One, but with a praising voice I shall recount his marvelous works. 12 For who is able to imitate your marvelous deeds, O God, or who understands your deep thought of life?

13 “For with your counsel, you govern all the creatures created by your right hand, and you have established every fountain of light at your side, and you have prepared the treasures of wisdom beneath your throne. 14 And those who do not love your law are justly perishing. And the torment of judgment is awaiting those who created damnation for themselves instead of their own salvation. For that first and has brought until death upon all men, yet each of those men who has been born from him has prepared for his own soul the coming torment. And each of those men has also chosen for himself the coming glories. 16 For truly, the man who believes will receive reward.

17 “But now, as for you, all you wicked who are now living, turn yourselves to destruction, for you will be visited suddenly, since you have previously rejected the understanding of the Most High. 18 For his works have not taught you, nor have you been persuaded by the artifice of his creation which has always existed. 19 Therefore, Adam is not the cause, with an exception of his own soul, but each of us has been the Adam of his own soul.

20 “But explain to me, O Lord, what you have revealed to me. And inform me about what I asked you. 21 For at the end of the world, vengeance will be demanded upon those who have done wickedness in accordance with their wickedness, and you will glorify the faithful in accordance with their faithfulness. 22 For those who are among your own, you rule; and those who sin, you blot out from among your own.”

CHAPTER 55–68

And it happened when I had finished the words of this prayer, that I sat down there under a tree to rest in the shade of its branches. 2 And I was surprised and was astonished, and in my thoughts, I pondered about the multitude of the goodness which the sinners, who are on earth, have rejected from themselves, and about the great torment which they have despised, even though they knew that they should be tormented because of the sin which they had committed. 3 And while I was pondering these and similar things, behold, Remiel, the messenger who is set among your own, turned to me and said:

4 “Why does your heart trouble you, Baruch, and why does your thought disturb you? 5 For if you are already this perturbed, merely hearing about the judgment, what will happen when you see it with your eyes openly? 6 And if you are already this overwhelmed at your mere anticipation of the day of the Mighty One, what will happen when you arrive at its coming? 7 And if you are this fully distraught at the mere words of the announcement of the torment of the foolish, how much more when this event itself reveals marvelous things? 8 And if you are grieved merely upon hearing the names of the good and evil things which will come at that time, what will happen when you see what the Majesty will reveal, when it convicts some and wrought devastation.

8.5 1 “Nevertheless, since you have sought for the Most High to reveal to you the interpretation of the vision which you have seen, I have been sent to tell you
this: 2 that the Mighty One has certainly made known to you the course of the times which have passed, as well as those which are yet to pass, in his world, from the beginning of its creation\(^1\) until its consummation, the times which are known by decretal and those by truth.

3 For as you saw a great cloud which came up from the sea and went and covered the earth: this is the duration of the age created by the Mighty One when he took counsel in order to create the age. 4 And it happened, when the word had gone forth, and a foundation was laid, and the Netherworld began incessantly demanding to be renewed with blood, and the conception of children came about,\(^2\) and the passion of parents was produced, and the loftiness of men was humiliated, and goodness vanished. 5 Therefore, what could be blacker and darker than these things? 8 This is the beginning of the black waters which you have seen.

9 And from these black waters, black were again born, and darkest darkness was produced. 10 For he who became a danger to his own soul, even became a danger to the messengers. 11 For at the time when he was created, they enjoyed freedom. 12 And some of them came down and mingled themselves with women. 13 And therefore, those who did so were tormented in chains. 14 But the rest of the innumerable multitude of messengers restrained themselves. 15 And those living on the earth perished together through the waters of the flood. 16 Those are the first black waters.

17 For at that time, the law, even without being written, was in force among them; and at that time, the works of the commandments were accomplished, and the belief in the coming judgment was brought about; and at that time, the hope of the world which will be renewed was built, and the promise of the future life to come was planted. 3 These are the bright waters which you have seen.

8 And therefore Hezekiah was wise, the Mighty One he heard; and because he was righteous, he paid attention to his prayer. 6 And then the Mighty One commanded Remiel, his messenger who speaks with you. 7 And I went forth and destroyed their multitude, whose chiefs alone numbered 185,000, and each of them had an equal number. 8 And at that time, I burned their bodies within, but I preserved their clothes and their arms on the outside so that even more of the nations might be mentioned hereafter. 9 And so, Zion was saved, and Jerusalem was delivered; Israel was also freed from tribulations. 10 And all those who were in the holy land rejoiced, and the name of the Mighty One was glorified in the place.

46 And at that time, the land received the eating of the nations which sinned at that time. And at that time, many offerings were offered at the dedication of the holy-place. 3 And at that time, peace and tranquility reigned, and wisdom was heard in the assembly, and the riches of the kings who succeeded him, and the number of the offering 74 was increased.

3 And at that time, the judgment of the rulers was seen without deceit, and the righteousness of the commandments of the Mighty One was accomplished in truth. 7 For at that time, the land received mercy. And since its inhabitants did not sin, it was being praised above every land; and at that time, the city of Zion ruled over every land and region. 8 These are the bright waters you have seen.

3 And the seventh waters which you have seen, which are black: these are the perversions conceived by the counsel of Jeroboam, who took counsel to make two golden calves; and these are also all the iniquities which were iniquitously accomplished by the kings who succeeded him, and the curse of Jezebel, and the idolatry practiced by Israel at that time, and the withholding of rain, and the famines which occurred until women ate the fruits of their womb, and the time of their exile which befell the nine and a half tribes because they lived in many sins. 6 And Shalmaneser, the king of the Assyrians, came and carried them away into exile. 7 But concerning the nations much could be said: how they always acted unrighteously and wickedly, and how they never proved themselves to be righteous. 8 These are the seventh black waters you have seen.

64 And because Hezekiah was wise, the Mighty One he heard; and because he was righteous, he paid attention to his prayer. 6 And then the Mighty One commanded Remiel, his messenger who speaks with you. 7 And I went forth and destroyed their multitude, whose chiefs alone numbered 185,000, and each of them had an equal number. 8 And at that time, I burned their bodies within, but I preserved their clothes and their arms on the outside so that even more of the nations might be mentioned hereafter. 9 And so, Zion was saved, and Jerusalem was delivered; Israel was also freed from tribulations. 10 And all those who were in the holy land rejoiced, and the name of the Mighty One was glorified so that it was spoken of. 11 These are the bright waters you have seen.

65 And the ninth waters which you have seen, which are black: these are all the wickedness which existed in the days of Manasseh son of Hezekiah. 2 For he acted very wickedly, and killed the righteous, and perverted judgment, and shed blood with violence, and cursed his brother, and made pinions for his neck. 3 And then he decreed that he would destroy; and his wrath roused him, as well as the multitude of the nations allied with him, in order to destroy. 4 Moreover, when Hezekiah the king heard that that Assyrian king was devising to come and seize him and destroy his people—the remaining two and a half tribes—and that he also wanted to destroy Zion, then Hezekiah trusted in his works, and hoped in his righteousness, and spoke with the Mighty One and said, 4 Pay attention, behold, Sennacherib is ready to destroy us, and he will destroy and blaspheme what is yours.

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36 And the impiety of Manasseh increased to such a degree that the glory of the Most High removed itself from the holy-place. 7 Therefore, at that time, Manasseh was called the impious one; and finally, his abode was in the fire.

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He purified the land from the idols, and made holy all the vessels which had been polluted, and restored the offerings to the altar, and raised the horn of the holy, and exalted the righteous, and honored all those who were wise with understanding. And he brought the priests back to their ministry; and destroyed and removed the magicians, and enchanters, and necromancers from the land. 3 And he not only killed the impious who were living, but they also removed the bones of the dead from the tombs and had them burned with fire. 4 And he established the festival and the sabbaths with their holy practices, and he burned the polluted with fire. And as for the lying prophets who deceived the people, these he also burned with fire. The people who obeyed them while they lived, were cast by him into the Kidron Valley, and he heaped stones upon them.

5 “And he was zealous with the zeal of the Mighty One with all his soul, and he alone was strong in the law at that time so that he left no one uncircumcised or anyone who acted wickedly in the whole country all the days of his life. 6 Now he shall receive an eternal reward. And in the last time, he shall be honored with the Mighty One more than many. 7 For on his account and on account of those who are like him, the precious glories (which were spoken to you earlier) have been created and prepared. 8 These are the bright waters which you have seen.

9,1 “And the eleventh waters which you have seen, which are black: these are the disaster which has now befallen Zion. 2 Do you think that, in the Mighty One’s presence, there is no mourning among the messengers because Zion is delivered up in this way? And behold, the nations rejoice in their hearts, and the crowds are before their idols and say, ‘She who has often trodden down others, has herself been trodden down; and she who has subjugated, has herself been subjugated.’ 3 Do you think that the Most High rejoices in these things, or that his name is glorified? 4 But how will it be with his righteous judgment? 5 But after these things, those scattered among the nations will be taken hold of by tribulations and live in shame in every place. 6 For as far as Zion is delivered up and Jerusalem is laid waste, the idols in the cities of the nations will prosper, and the nations will also come to honor it, but not as fully as before.

6,1 “And it will happen, that after he has brought low everything which is in the world, and has sat down in eternal peace on the throne of the kingdom, then joy will be revealed and rest will appear. 2 And then healing will descend in dew, and disease will vanish, and anxiety and anguish and lamentation will pass away from among men, and joy will encompass the entire earth. 3 And no one will ever again die untimely, nor will any adversity take place suddenly. 4 And judgment, and condemnations, and contentions, and revenges, and blood, and passions, and envy, and hatred, and all such things will go into condemnation at the time when they are uprooted. 5 For these are the things which have filled this world with evils; and because of them, the life of man has been greatly troubled. 6 And the beasts will come from the forest and serve men, and the asps and dragons will come out of their holes to subject themselves to a child. 7 And women will no longer have pain when they give birth, nor will they suffer torment when yielding the fruits of their womb.

8,1 “And it will happen in those days, that the reapers will not grow weary, nor will the builders be worn-out from work, because the products will shoot out speedily on their own, together with those who work on them, in full tranquility. 2 For that time is the consummation of what is corruptible, and the beginning of what is incorruptible. 3 Therefore, everything which was previously said will happen in it. Therefore, it is far away from the evil things, and near to what is undying. 4 This is the bright lightning which followed the final dark waters.”

5,1 “And I answered and said:

“Who can equal your goodness, O Lord? for it is incomprehensible.

Or who can fathom your mercies which are without end?

Or who can comprehend your intelligence?

Or who can narrate the thoughts of your spirit?

Or who can hope to arrive at these things, unless he is one to whom you are merciful and gracious?

For, assuredly, if you were not merciful to men—those who are under your right hand— they would be unable to come to those things. For only those who are named among the numbered can be called.

But if we who exist certainly know the reason why we have come, and if we subject ourselves to him who brought us out of Egypt, then we shall come again and remember the things which have passed away, and we shall rejoice with regard to what has occurred.

But if we do not presently know the reason why we have come, and do not recognize the sovereignty of him who brought us up from Egypt, then we shall come again and seek after the things which have occurred at present, and shall be painfully grieved because of the things which have happened.”

9,1 “And he answered and said to me:

“Since the revelation of this vision has been explained to you as you requested, hear the word of the Most High so that you may know what will...”

happen to you after these things. 2 For you will surely depart from this world, nevertheless not to death but to be preserved unto the consummation of the times. 3 Therefore, go up to the top of that mountain, and all the regions of this land will pass before you, as well as the likeness of the inhabited world, and the summit of the mountains, and the depth of the valleys, and the depths of the seas, and the number of rivers, so that you may see what you are leaving and to where you are going. 4 Now this will happen after forty days. 5 Therefore, go now during these days and instruct the people as much as you are able, so that they may learn so as not to die in the last time, but may learn so that they might live in the last times.”

CHAPTER 77
And I, Baruch, went away from there and came to the people, and assembled them together from the greatest to the least. And I said to them:

2 “Hear, all of you sons of Israel, look how many you are who remain of the twelve tribes of Israel. 3 For to you and to your fathers the Lord gave the law above all nations. 4 And because your brothers have transgressed the commandments of the Most High, he brought vengeance upon you and upon them; and he did not spare the first only, but he also gave the latter into exile and did not leave a remnant of them. 5 And, look, you are here with me. 6 Therefore, if you make your ways straight, you will also not go away as your brothers went away, but they will come to you. 7 For he whom you honor is merciful, and he in whom you hope is gracious and true, so that he will do good to you and not evil.

8 “Have you not seen what has befallen Zion? 9 Or do you perhaps think that the place itself has sinned, and, for this reason, that it has been destroyed? Or that the country itself has done some crime, and, for this reason, that it has been delivered up? 10 And are all of you unaware, that because of you who did sin, the one who did not sin was destroyed? And that because of those who acted wickedly, the one who has not gone astray has been delivered up to enemies?”

11 And the whole people answered and they said to me:

“Everything which we can remember of the good things the Mighty One has done to us, we shall remember. And what we do not remember, he, in his mercy, knows. 12 Yet do this for us, your people: Also write a letter of teaching and a scroll of hope to our brothers in Babel, and if you do these things, he shall continually remember he is the one who, on our behalf, always promised to those who were more excellent than ourselves, that he will never forget or forsake our seed; but with much mercy, he will reassemble all those who were dispersed.

13 Therefore, my brothers, learn first what befell Zion, that is, how Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babel, came up against us. 14 For we have sinned against him who created us, and have not observed the commandments which he commanded us to keep. 15 And yet, he has not chastised us as we deserved. 16 For what befell you, we also suffer, even more, for it befell us as well. 17

18 And now, my brothers, I make known to you that when the enemies had surrounded the city, messengers were sent from the Most High. And they demolished the fortification of the strong wall, and he destroyed the solid iron corner which could not be dislodged. 19 Nevertheless, they hid some vessels of the holy vessels, lest they be polluted by the enemies. 20 And when they had done these things, they immediately left the following to the enemies: the demolished wall, and the plundered house, and the burned temple, and the people who were overcome because they were delivered up, lest the enemies should boast and say, “With power we have overcome to such an extent that we have even destroyed the house of the Most High.”

21 And the Mighty One acted according to the multitude of his graces, and the Most High acted according to the magnitude of his mercy: And he revealed a word to me, so that I might be comforted; and he showed to me visions, so that I might never again be gnashed; and he made known to me the mysteries of the times, and showed to me the coming of the seasons.

CHAPTER 82–84
Therefore, my brothers, I have written to you so that you may find comfort with regard to the multitude of your tribulations. 2 For all of you know that our
Creator will surely avenge us on all our enemies, according to everything which they have done against us and among us; and also, that the consummation prepared by the Most High is near, and that his grace is coming, and that the fulfillment of his judgment is not far off.

3 For behold, at the present, we see the multitude of all the nations’ prosperity, while they have acted wickedly; but they will be like a vapor. 

4 And we behold the multitude of their power, while they act impiously; but they will be made like a drop. 

5 And we see the strength of their power, while they resist the Mighty One every hour; but they will be counted like spittle. 

6 And we ponder about the glory of their majesty, while they do not keep the statutes of the Most High; but they will pass away like smoke. 

7 And we think about the beauty of their gracefulness, while they are soaked in pollutions; but they will fade away like withering grass. 

8 And we ponder about the strength of their cruelty, while they do not remember the end; but they will be broken like a passing wave. 

9 And we note the pride of their power, while they deny the goodness of God by whom it was given to them; but they will vanish like a passing cloud.

B.I For the Most High will certainly hasten his times, and he will certainly bring about his seasons. And he will certainly judge those who are in his world. And he will truly inquire into everything with regard to all their sinful works. And he will certainly investigate the secret thoughts and what is stored up in the inner chambers of each one of man’s members; and he will make those things manifest in the presence of everyone with blame. Therefore, let none of these present things enter into your heart, but on the contrary, let us be expectant, since what was promised to us will come. And we should not look upon the delight of the present nations, but let us remember what has been promised to us in the end. For the ends of the times and of the seasons will bring about his seasons.

10 And every power which now exists is changing into diseases. And every might which now exists is changing into impotencies. And every kind of health which now exists is changing into involuntary death.

11 And every lying which now exists is changing into weakness. And every power which now exists is changing into impotencies.

12 And every youthful energy is changing into old age and consummation.

13 And every graceful beauty which now exists is changing into withering and ugliness.

14 And every infantile pride which now exists is changing into humiliation and shame. And every haughty glory which now exists is changing into silent shame.

15 And every joy and delight which now exists is changing into rejection and ruin. And every prideful clamor which now exists is changing into still dust.

16 And every rich possession which now exists is changing into the Netherworld alone. And every seizing desire which now exists is changing into involuntarily death.

17 And every lustful desire which now exists is changing into tormenting judgment. And every deceitful pretense which now exists is changing into silent defamations.

18 And every ointment’s sweetness which now exists is changing into judgment and condemnation.

19 And every lying friendship is changing into silent defamations.

20 Therefore, since all these things are now happening, do you think that they will not be avenged? But the consummation of everything will come to truth.

K.1 Now, behold, while I still live, I gave you knowledge. For I have said, that all of you should, above all, learn the commandments of the Mighty One, in which I shall instruct you. And before I die, I shall set before you some of the commandments of his judgment. Remember, that in the past, Moses called the heavens and the earth to witness against you and said, “If you transgress the law, you shall be dispersed. But if you keep it, you shall be planted.”

3 And he also spoke other things to you when all of you were twelve tribes together in the desert. And after his death, you cast them away from you, and therefore, what has been predicted has come upon you. And now, Moses spoke to you before these things befell you and, behold, they have befallen you, for you have forsaken the law. Behold, I also say to you after you have suffered: that if you obey the things which I have said to you, you shall receive from the Mighty One everything which has been stored up and preserved for you.

7 Therefore, let this letter be a witness between me and you so that you may remember the commandments of the Mighty One, and that it also may serve as my defense in the presence of him who has sent me. And remember Zion and the law, and the holy land and your brothers, and the covenant and your fathers; and do not forget the festivals and the sabbaths. And pass on this letter and the traditions of the law to your children after you as your fathers also handed them down to you. And always ask diligently with all your soul that the Mighty One may be reconciled with you and that he may not count up the multitude of your sins, but remember the integrity of your
fathers. 11 For if he does not judge us according to the multitude of his mercy, woe to all of us who are born!

CHAPTER 85–87

Further, know that, in former times and in former generations, our fathers had helpers, righteous prophets and holy ones. 2 Moreover, 3 we were in our own land, and they helped us when we sinned, and they intervened for us with him who has created us, since they trusted in their works. And the Mighty One heard them and purged us from our sins. 3 But now, the righteous have been assembled, and the prophets are sleeping. And 4 we too have left the 5 land, and Zion has been taken away from us, and now we have nothing, except for the Mighty One and his law. 4 Therefore, if we direct and dispose our hearts, we shall receive everything which we lost, along with much more than we lost, tremendously multiplied. 5 For whatever we lost was subjected to corruption, and whatever we receive will not be corruptible.

6 Therefore, I have also written to our brothers in Babel, so that 7 I may attest these things to them as well. 7 And everything which I have previously told you should be before your eyes always, since we are still in the spirit 8 of the power of our liberty.

8 And 9 further, the Most High is also 10 longsuffering toward us here, and he has shown to us what is to come, and has not concealed from us what will happen at the end. 9 Therefore, before the judgment 11 exacts its own and truth of what 12 is rightfully hers, let us prepare our soul, so that we may possess and not be possessed, and so that we may hope and not be put to shame, and so that we may rest with our fathers and not be tormented with those who hate us.

10 For the youth of this 13 world has passed away, and the vigor of creation is already exhausted. And the advent 14 of the times is very near; indeed, they will have passed by. And the pitch is near to the cistern, and the ship to the port, and the journey’s consummation. 11 And further, prepare your souls, so that, after you have sailed and disembarked from the ship, you may find rest and not be condemned, 14 once you have arrived.

12 For behold, 15 the Most High will bring all these things to pass. There will 16 never again be an opportunity for a change of mind, nor a limit to the times, nor a duration of the seasons, nor a change of ways; 17 nor an opportunity for prayer, nor sending up petitions, nor acquiring knowledge, 18 nor giving love; 19 nor opportunity for a soul to change its mind, nor supplications 20 for offenses, nor prayers 21 of the fathers, nor intercession of the prophets, nor help of the righteous.

13 For there is the sentence of judgment to 22 corruption, regarding 23 the way to the fire and the path which leads to glowing coals. 24 14 That is why there is one law through One, one world, and an end for all those who dwell in it. 15 And 25 Then he will preserve those whom he is able to forgive, and 26 he will purge them from sins; and at the same time, he will destroy those who are polluted with sins.

6.1 Therefore, when you receive my letter, 27 read it carefully in your assemblies. And meditate upon it, in particular however 28 on the days of your fasts. And remember me by this letter, as I also, in the same way, remember you by it, and it may fare you well 29 always.

6.1 And it happened, after I had finished all the words of this letter, composing it carefully until the end, that I folded it, and sealed it carefully, and bound it to the neck of the eagle. And I let it go and sent it away.

31 [87:1] c / bgh (a similar) "Here ends the first letter of Baruch the scribe." / dei "Here ends the first letter." / wp "Here ends the letter of Baruch." / omits altogether