**The Testaments of The Twelve Patriarchs**

*(Translation by R.H. Charles, 1913, with minor modernizations.)*

Letters used to represent the source texts, where there are divergent translations given:

**a** = Bodley MS. Baroccio 133;

**b** = University Library, Cambridge, ff. 1:24;

**c** = Vatican Library, Gk. 731;

**d** = Vatican Library, Gk. 1238;

**e** = Mount Athos MS;

**f** = Paris MS 938;

**g** = MS 411 in the Library of the Monastery of St John the Evangelist in Patmos;

**h** = Mount Sinai MS no. 547 in the Library of St Catherine;

**i** = another Mount Sinai MS;

**S** = either of the two Slavonic recensions;

**A** = any/all of the numerous Armenian MSS, mostly held in the Mechitarist Library of St Lazarro;

**α** = the recension represented by MSS ‘c’, ‘h’, and ‘i’;

**β** = the recension represented by MSS ‘a’, ‘b’, ‘d’, ‘e’, ‘f’, and ‘g’.

**The Testament of Reuben, The First-Born Son of Jacob and Leah**

**Chapter 1**

**1**The copy of the Testament of Reuben, even the commands that he gave his sons before he died, in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life. **2**Two years after the death of Joseph his brother, when Reuben fell ill, his sons and his sons’ sons were gathered together to visit him. **3**And he said to them, “My children, behold I am dying, and go the way of my fathers.” **4**And, seeing there Judah, and Gad, and Asher, his brothers, he said to them, “Raise me up, that I may tell to my brothers and to my children what things I have hidden in my heart; for, behold, now at length I am passing away.” **5**And he arose and kissed them, and said to them, “Hear, my brothers, and, my children, give ear to Reuben your father, in the commands that I give to you. **6**And, behold, I call to witness against you this day, the God of heaven, that you do not walk in the sins of youth and fornication, wherein I was poured out, and defiled the bed of my father Jacob. **7**And I tell you that he smote me with a sore plague in my loins for seven months; and, had not my father Jacob prayed for me to the Lord, the Lord would have destroyed me. **8**For, I was thirty years old when I wrought the evil thing before the Lord; and, for seven months, I was sick to death. **9**And, after this, I repented with set purpose of my soul for seven years before the Lord. **10**And wine and strong drink I drank not, and flesh entered not into my mouth, and I eat no pleasant food but I mourned over my sin; for, it was great, such as had not been in Israel.

**Chapter 2**

**1**“And now hear me, my children, what things I saw concerning the seven spirits of deceit, when I repented. **2**Seven spirits, therefore, are appointed against man, and they are the leaders in the works of youth. **3**[And seven other spirits are given to him at his creation, that through them should be done every work of man. **4**The first is the spirit of life, with which the constitution (of man) is created. **5**The second is the sense of sight, with which arises desire. The third is the sense of hearing, with which comes teaching. The fourth is the sense of smell, with which tastes are given to draw air and breath. **6**The fifth is the power of speech, with which comes knowledge. **7**The sixth is the sense of taste, with which comes the eating of meats and drinks; and by it strength is produced, for in food is the foundation of strength. **8**The seventh is the power of procreation and sexual intercourse, with which through love of pleasure sins enter in. **9**Therefore, it is the last in order of creation, and the first in that of youth, because it is filled with ignorance, and leads the youth as a blind man to a pit, and as a beast to a precipice.

**Chapter 3**

**1**“Besides all these, there is an eighth spirit of sleep, with which is brought about the trance of nature and the image of death. **2**With these spirits are mingled the spirits of error.] **3**First, the spirit of fornication is seated in the nature and in the senses; the second, the spirit of insatiableness, in the belly; the third, the spirit of fighting, in the liver and gall. **4**The fourth is the spirit of obsequiousness and chicanery, that through officious attention one may be fair in seeming. **5**The fifth is the spirit of pride, that one may be boastful and arrogant. The sixth is the spirit of lying, †in perdition and jealousy† to practise deceits, and concealments from kindred and friends. **6**The seventh is the spirit of injustice, with which are thefts and acts of rapacity, that a man may fulfil the desire of his heart; for injustice works together with the other spirits by the taking of gifts. **7**[And, with all these, the spirit of sleep is joined, which is (that) of error and fantasy.] **8**And so perishes every young man, darkening his mind from the truth, and not understanding the law of God, nor obeying the admonitions of his fathers, as befell me also in my youth. **9**And now, my children, love the truth, and it will preserve you: hear ye the words of Reuben your father.

**10** “ Pay no heed to the face of a woman,  
Nor associate with another man’s wife,  
Nor meddle with affairs of womankind.

**11**“For, had I not seen Bilhah bathing in a covered place, I had not fallen into this great iniquity. **12**For, my mind taking in the thought of the woman’s nakedness, suffered me not to sleep until I had wrought the abominable thing. **13**For, while Jacob our father had gone to Isaac his father, when we were in Eder, near to Ephrath in Bethlehem, Bilhah became drunk and was asleep uncovered in her chamber. **14**Having, therefore, gone in and beheld her nakedness, I wrought the impiety without her perceiving it, and leaving her sleeping I departed. **15**And, forthwith, an angel of God revealed to my father concerning my impiety, and he came and mourned over me, and touched her no more.

**Chapter 4**

**1**“Pay no heed, therefore, my children, to the beauty of women, nor set your mind on their affairs; but walk in singleness of heart in the fear of the Lord, and expend labour on good works, and on study and on your flocks, until the Lord gives you a wife, whom He will, that you do not suffer as I did. **2**For, until my father’s death I had not boldness to look in his face, or to speak to any of my brothers, because of the reproach. **3**Even until now, my conscience causes me anguish on account of my impiety. **4**And yet, my father comforted me much and prayed for me to the Lord, that the anger of the Lord might pass from me, even as the Lord showed. And, thenceforth until now, I have been on my guard and sinned not. **5**Therefore, my children, I say to you, observe all things whatsoever I command you, and ye shall not sin. **6**For, a pit to the soul is the sin of fornication, separating it from God, and bringing it near to idols, because it deceives the mind and understanding, and leadeth down young men into Hades before their time. **7**For, many has fornication destroyed; because, though a man be old or noble, or rich or poor, he brings reproach upon himself with the sons of men and derision with Beliar. **8**For, you heard regarding Joseph how he guarded himself from a woman, and purged his thoughts from all fornication, and found favour in the sight of God and men. **9**For, the Egyptian woman did many things to him, and summoned magicians, and offered him love potions, but the purpose of his soul admitted no evil desire. **10**Therefore, the God of your fathers delivered him from every evil (and) hidden death. **11**For, if fornication does not overcome your mind, neither can Beliar overcome you.

**Chapter 5**

**1**“For, evil are women, my children; and, since they have no power or strength over man, they use wiles by outward attractions, that they may draw him to themselves. **2**And whom they cannot bewitch by outward attractions, him they overcome by craft. **3**For, moreover, concerning them, the angel of the Lord told me, and taught me, that women are overcome by the spirit of fornication more than men, and in their heart they plot against men; and, by means of their adornment, they deceive first their minds, and by the glance of the eye instil the poison, and then through the accomplished act they take them captive. **4**For, a woman cannot force a man openly, but by a harlot’s bearing she beguiles him. **5**Flee, therefore, fornication, my children, and command your wives and your daughters, that they adorn not their heads and faces to deceive the mind: because every woman who uses these wiles has been reserved for eternal punishment. **6**For, thus they allured the Watchers who were before the flood; for, as these continually beheld them, they lusted after them, and they conceived the act in their mind; for, they changed themselves into the shape of men and appeared to them when they were with their husbands. **7**And the women lusting in their minds after their forms, gave birth to giants; for, the Watchers appeared to them as reaching even unto heaven.

**Chapter 6**

**1**“Beware, therefore, of fornication; and, if you wish to be pure in mind, guard your senses from every woman. **2**And command the women likewise not to associate with men, that they also may be pure in mind. **3**For, constant meetings, even though the ungodly deed is not wrought, are to them an irremediable disease, and to us a destruction of Beliar and an eternal reproach. **4**For, in fornication there is neither understanding nor† godliness, and all jealousy dwelleth in the lust thereof. **5**Therefore, then I say to you, you will be jealous against the sons of Levi, and will seek to be exalted over them; but you shall not be able. **6**For, God will avenge them, and you shall die by an evil death. **7**For, to Levi, God gave the sovereignty [and to Judah with him and to me also, and to Dan and Joseph, that we should be for rulers]. **8**Therefore, I command you to listen to Levi, because he shall know the law of the Lord, and shall give ordinances for judgement and shall sacrifice for all Israel until the consummation of the times, as the anointed High Priest, of whom the Lord spoke. **9**I adjure you by the God of heaven to do truth each one to his neighbour and to entertain love each one for his brother. **10**And draw near to Levi in humbleness of heart, that you may receive a blessing from his mouth. **11**For, he shall bless Israel and Judah, because him has the Lord chosen to be king over all the nation. **12**And bow down before his seed; for, on our behalf, it will die in wars visible and invisible, and will be among you an eternal king.”

**Chapter 7**

**1**And Reuben died, having given these commands to his sons. **2**And they placed him in a coffin until they carried him up from Egypt and buried him in Hebron in the cave where his father was.

**The Testament of Simeon, The Second Son of Jacob and Leah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the words of Simeon, the things that he spoke to his sons before he died, in the hundred and twentieth year of his life, at which time Joseph, his brother, died. **2** For, when Simeon was sick, his sons came to visit him, and he strengthened himself and sat up and kissed them, and said:

**Chapter 2**

**1**  “ Listen, my children, to Simeon your father,  
And I will declare unto you what things I have in my heart.

**2**  I was born of Jacob as my father’s second son;  
And my mother Leah called me Simeon,  
Because the Lord had heard her prayer.

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

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

**5** “Because valour also has been given from the Most High to men in soul and body. **6** For, in the time of my youth, I was jealous in many things of Joseph, because my father loved him beyond all. **7** And I set my mind against him to destroy him, because the prince of deceit sent forth the spirit of jealousy and blinded my mind, so that I regarded him not as a brother, nor did I spare even Jacob my father. **8** But his God and the God of his fathers sent forth His angel and delivered him out of my hands. **9** For, when I went to Shechem to bring ointment for the flocks, and Reuben to Dothan, where were our necessaries and all our stores, Judah my brother sold him to the Ishmaelites. **10** And, when Reuben heard these things, he was grieved; for, he wished to restore him to his father. **11** But, on hearing this, I was exceedingly angry with Judah in that he let him go away alive; and, for five months, I continued to be angry with him. **12** But the Lord restrained me and withheld from me the power of my hands; for, my right hand was half withered for seven days. **13** And I knew, my children, that, because of Joseph, this had befallen me, and I repented and wept; and I besought the Lord God that my hand might be restored, and that I might hold aloof from all pollution and envy and from all folly. **14** For, I knew that I had devised an evil thing before the Lord and Jacob my father, on account of Joseph my brother, in that I envied him.

**Chapter 3**

**1** “And now, my children, listen to me and beware of the spirit of deceit and envy. **2** For, envy rules over the whole mind of a man, and suffers him neither to eat nor to drink, nor to do any good thing. **3** But it ever suggests (to him) to destroy him that he envies; and, so long as he that is envied flourishes, he that envies fades away. **4** Two years, therefore, I afflicted my soul with fasting in the fear of the Lord, and I learnt that deliverance from envy comes by the fear of God. **5** For, if a man flees to the Lord, the evil spirit runs away from him, and his mind is lightened. **6** And henceforward he sympathises with him whom he envied and forgives those who are hostile to him, and so ceases from his envy.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “And my father asked concerning me, because he saw that I was sad; and I said unto him, I am pained in my liver. **2** For I mourned more than they all, because I was guilty of the selling of Joseph. **3** And when we went down into Egypt, and he bound me as a spy, I knew that I was suffering justly, and I grieved not. **4** Now Joseph was a good man, and had the Spirit of God within him: being compassionate and pitiful, he bore no malice against me, but loved me even as the rest of his brothers. **5** Beware, therefore, my children, of all jealousy and envy, and walk in singleness of soul and with good heart, keeping in mind Joseph your father’s brother, that God may give you also grace and glory, and blessing upon your heads, even as ye saw in Joseph’s case**.** 6 All his days he reproached us not concerning this thing, but loved us as his own soul, and beyond his own sons glorified us, and gave us riches, and cattle and fruits. **7** Also, my children, love each one his brother with a good heart, and the spirit of envy will withdraw from you. **8** For, this makes savage the soul and destroys the body; it causes anger and war in the mind, and stirs up unto deeds of blood, and leads the mind into frenzy, and suffers not prudence to act in men; moreover, it takes away sleep, [and causes tumult to the soul and trembling to the body]. **9** For, even in sleep, some malicious jealousy, deluding him, gnaws, and with wicked spirits disturbs his soul, and causes the body to be troubled, and wakes the mind from sleep in confusion; and, as a wicked and poisonous spirit, so it appears to men.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “Therefore, was Joseph comely in appearance, and goodly to look upon, because no wickedness dwelt in him; for, some of the trouble of the spirit the face manifests. **2** And now, my children,

“ Make your hearts good before the Lord,  
And your ways straight before men,  
And ye shall find grace before the Lord and men.

**3**  Beware, therefore, of fornication,  
For, fornication is mother of all evils,  
Separating from God, and bringing near to Beliar.

**4** “For, I have seen it inscribed in the writing of Enoch that your sons shall be corrupted in fornication and shall do harm to the sons of Levi with the sword. **5** But they shall not be able to withstand Levi; for, he shall wage the war of the Lord and shall conquer all your hosts. **6** And they shall be few in number, divided in Levi and Judah, and there shall be none of you for sovereignty, even as also our father prophesied in his blessings.

**Chapter 6**

**1** “Behold I have told you all things, that I may be acquitted of your sin. **2** Now, if you remove from you your envy and all stiff-neckedness,

“ As a rose shall my bones flourish in Israel,  
And as a lily my flesh in Jacob,  
And my odour shall be as the odour of Lebanon;  
And as cedars shall holy ones be multiplied from me for ever,  
And their branches shall stretch afar off.

**3**  Then shall perish the seed of Canaan,  
And a remnant shall not be unto Amalek,  
And all the Cappadocians shall perish,  
And all the Hittites shall be utterly destroyed.

**4**  Then shall fail the land of Ham,  
And all the people shall perish.

Then shall all the earth rest from trouble,  
And all the world under heaven from war.

**5**  Then the Mighty One of Israel shall glorify Shem,  
For, the Lord God shall appear on earth,  
And Himself save men.

**6**  Then shall all the spirits of deceit be given to be trodden under foot,  
And men shall rule over wicked spirits.

**7**  Then shall I arise in joy,  
And will bless the Most High because of his marvellous works,  
[Because God hath taken a body and eaten with men and saved men].

**Chapter 7**

**1** “And now, my children, obey Levi and Judah, and do not be lifted up against these two tribes; for, from them shall arise to you the salvation of God. **2** For, the Lord shall raise up from Levi as it were a High-Priest, and from Judah as it were a King [God and man], He shall save all [the Gentiles and] the race of Israel. **3** Therefore, I give you these commands that ye also may command your children, that they may observe them throughout their generations.”

**Chapter 8**

**1** And, when Simeon had made an end of commanding his sons, he slept with his fathers, being a hundred and twenty years old. **2** And they laid him in a wooden coffin, to take up his bones to Hebron. **3** And they took them up secretly during a war of the Egyptians. For, the bones of Joseph the Egyptians guarded in the tombs of the kings. **4** For, the sorcerers told them that, on the departure of the bones of Joseph, there should be throughout all the land darkness and gloom, and an exceeding great plague to the Egyptians, so that even with a lamp a man should not recognize his brother.

**Chapter 9**

**1** And the sons of Simeon bewailed their father. **2** And they were in Egypt until the day of their departure by the hand of Moses.

**The Testament of Levi, The Third Son of Jacob and Leah**

**Chapter 1**

1 The copy of the words of Levi, the things which he ordained unto his sons, according to all that they should do, and what things should befall them until the day of judgement. 2 He was sound in health when he called them to him; for it had been revealed to him that he should die. And when they were gathered together, he said to them:

**Chapter 2**

**1** “I, Levi, was born in Haran, and I came with my father to Shechem. **2** And I was young, about twenty years of age, when, with Simeon, I took vengeance on Hamor for our sister Dinah. **3** And, when I was feeding the flocks in Abel-Maul, the spirit of understanding of the Lord came upon me, and I saw all men corrupting their way, and that unrighteousness had built for itself walls, and lawlessness sat upon towers. **4** And I was grieving for the race of the sons of men, and I prayed to the Lord that I might be saved. **5** Then there fell upon me a sleep, and I beheld a high mountain, and I was on it. **6** And, behold, the heavens were opened, and an angel of God said to me, “Levi, enter.”

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| **α** | **Aa** | **β Ab S1** |
| **7** And I entered from the first heaven, and I saw there a great sea hanging. **8** And, further, I saw a third heaven far brighter and more brilliant than these two; for, there was also a boundless †height† therein.  **9** And I said to the angel, “Why is it so?” And the angel said to me, “Do not marvel at these; for, you shall see four other heavens more brilliant and incom­parable. **10** And, when you have ascended thither, you shall stand near the Lord, and shall be His minister, and shall declare His mysteries to men, and shall proclaim †concerning Him that shall redeem† Israel. | **7** “And, when I had entered into the first heaven, †and he escorted raised me† to the second. And I saw there a great sea hanging.  **9** And I said to him, “What is this, Lord?” And he said to me, **10** “When you have ascended thither, you shall stand before the Lord, and shalt be His minister, and his coming mysteries you shall declare to men. | **7** And I entered from the first heaven into the second, and I saw there a sea hanging between the one and the other. **8** And, further, I saw a third heaven far brighter and more brilliant than these two; for, there was also a boundless †height therein.  **9** And I said to the angel, “Why is it so?” And the angel said to me, “Do not marvel at these; for, you shall see four other heavens more brilliant and incomparable, **10** when you have ascended thither, because you shall stand near the Lord, and shall be His minister, and His mysteries you shall declare to men, and shall proclaim concerning the redemption of Israel. |

**11**  “ And by thee and Judah shall the Lord appear among men,  
Saving every race of men.

**12**  And from the Lord’s portion shall be thy life,  
And He shall be thy field and vineyard,  
And fruits, gold, and silver.

**Chapter 3**

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| **α** | **Aa** | **β Ab S1** |
| **1** “Hear, therefore, regarding the heavens that have been shown to you. The lowest is for this cause gloomy to you, in that it beholds all the unrighteous deeds of men. **2** And it has fire, snow, and ice made ready for the day of judgement, in the righteous judgement of God; for, in it are all the spirits of the retributions for vengeance on †men. **3** And in the second are the hosts of the armies that are ordained for the day of judgement, to work vengeance on the spirits of deceit and of Beliar. And above them are the holy ones. **4**And in the highest of all dwelleth the Great Glory, far above all holiness. **5** In [the heaven next to] it are the archangels, who minister and make propitiation to the Lord for all the sins of ignorance of the righteous, **6** offering to the Lord a sweet-smelling savour, a reasonable and a bloodless offering. **7** And [in the heaven below this] are the angels who bear †answers to the angels of the presence of the Lord. **8** An †in the heaven next to this† are thrones and dominions, in which always they offer praise to God. | **1** “Hear, therefore, regarding the heavens that were shown to thee. The first heaven is for this cause gloomy to you, since it beholds the unrighteous deeds of men. **2** And the second has fire and snow and ice made ready for the day of the ordinances.  **4** And †the Holy One of the holy ones† is above all holiness. **5** And the hosts of the angels are ministering, **6** and praising the Lord, **7** who also are messengers the Godhead. | **1** “Hear, then, regarding the seven heavens. The lowest is for this cause gloomier, since it beholds all the unrighteous deeds of men. **2**The second has fire, snow, ice ready for the day of the ordinance of the Lord in the right­eous judgement of God. In it are all the spirits of the retributions for vengeance on the lawless. 3 In the third are the hosts of the armies that are ordained for the day of judgement, to work vengeance on the spirits of deceit and of Beliar. †And those in the fourth† who are above these are holy. **4** For, in the Highest of all dwelleth the Great Glory, in the holy of holies, far above all holiness. **5** And in [the heaven next to] it are the angels of the presence of the Lord, who minister and make propitiation to the Lord for all the sins of ignorance of the righteous. **6** And they offer to the Lord a sweet-smelling savour, a reason­able and bloodless offering. **7** And in [the heaven below] are the angels who bear the answers to the angels of the presence of the Lord. **8** And in the heaven next to this are thrones and dominions in which always praises are offered to God. |

**9** “When, therefore, the Lord looks upon us, all of us are shaken; yea, the heavens, and the earth, and the abysses are shaken at the presence of His majesty. **10** But the sons of men, having no perception of these things, sin and provoke the Most High.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “Now, therefore, know that the Lord shall execute judgement upon the sons of men.

“ Because, when the rocks are being rent,  
And the sun quenched,  
And the waters dried up,  
And the fire cowering,  
And all creation troubled,  
And the invisible spirits melting away;  
And Hades takes spoils through the visitations of the Most High,  
Men will be unbelieving and persist in their iniquity.  
On this account, with punishment shall they be judged.

**2**  Therefore, the Most High has heard your prayer,  
To separate you from iniquity, and that you should become to Him a son,  
And a servant, and a minister of His presence.

**3**  The light of knowledge shall you light up in Jacob,  
And as the sun shall you be to all the seed of Israel.

**4**  And there shall be given to you a blessing, and to all your seed,  
Until the Lord shall visit all the Gentiles in His tender mercies for ever.

**5**  And, therefore, there have been given to you counsel and understanding,  
That you might instruct thy sons concerning this;

**6**  Because they that bless †Him shall be blessed,  
And they that curse Him shall perish.”

**Chapter 5**

**1** And, thereupon, the angel opened to me the gates of heaven, and I saw the holy temple, and upon a throne of glory the Most High. **2** And He said to me, “Levi, I have given you the blessings of the priesthood until I come and sojourn in the midst of Israel.” **3** Then the angel brought me down to the earth, and gave me a shield and a sword, and said to me, “Execute vengeance on Shechem because of Dinah, your sister, and I will be with you because the Lord has sent me.” **4** And I destroyed at that time the sons of Hamor, as it is written in the heavenly tables. **5** And I said to him, “I pray you, O Lord, tell me Your name, that I may call upon You in a day of tribulation.” **6** And he said, “I am the angel who intercedes for the nation of Israel that they may not be smitten utterly; for, every evil spirit attacks it.” **7** And after these things I awakened, and blessed the Most High, and the angel who intercedes for the nation of Israel and for all the righteous.

**Chapter 6**

**1** And, when I was going to my father, I found a brazen shield; therefore, also the name of the mountain is Aspis, which is near Gebal, to the south of Abila. **2** And I kept these words in my heart. **3** And, after this, I counselled my father, and Reuben my brother, to bid the sons of Hamor not to be circumcised; for, I was zealous because of the abomination that they had wrought on my sister. **4** And I slew Shechem first, and Simeon slew Hamor. **5** And, after this, my brothers came and smote that city with the edge of the sword. **6** And my father heard these things and was angry, and he was grieved in that they had received the circumcision, and after that had been put to death, and in his blessings he †looked amiss on us. **7** For, we sinned because we had done this thing against his will, and he was sick on that day. **8** But I saw that the sentence of God was for evil upon Shechem; for, they sought to do to Sarah and Rebecca as they had done to Dinah our sister, but the Lord prevented them. **9** And they persecuted Abraham our father when he was a stranger, and they vexed his flocks when they were big with young; and Eblaen, who was born in his house, they most shamefully handled. **10** And thus they did to all strangers, taking away their wives by force, and they †banished them. **11** But the wrath of the Lord came upon them to the uttermost.

**Chapter 7**

**1** And I said to my father Jacob, “By you will the Lord **despoil** the Canaanites, and will give their land to you and to your seed after you. **2** For, from this day forward, shall Shechem be called a city of imbeciles; for, as a man mocks a fool, so did we mock them. **3** Because also they had wrought folly in Israel by defiling my sister. **4** And we departed and came to Bethel.

**Chapter 8**

**1** And there again I saw a vision as the former, after we had spent there seventy days. **2** And I saw seven men in white raiment saying to me, “Arise, put on the robe of the priesthood, and the crown of righteousness, and the breastplate of understanding, and the garment of truth, and the plate of faith, and the turban of the †head, and the ephod of prophecy.” **3** And they severally carried (these things) and put (them) on me, and said to me: “Henceforth, become a priest of the Lord, you and your seed for ever.” **4** And the first anointed me with holy oil and gave to me the staff of judgement. **5** The second washed me with pure water and fed me with bread and wine, (even) the most holy things, and clad me with a holy and glorious robe. **6** The third clothed me with a linen vestment like an ephod. **7** The fourth put round me a girdle like unto purple. **8** The fifth gave me a branch of rich olive. **9** The sixth placed a crown on my head. **10** The seventh placed on my head a diadem of priesthood, and filled my hands with incense, that I might serve as priest to the Lord God. **11** And they said to me, “Levi, your seed shall be divided into three offices, for a sign of the glory of the Lord who is to come. **12** And the first portion shall be great; yea, greater than it shall none be. **13** The second shall be in the priesthood. **14** And the third shall be called by a new name, because a king shall arise in Judah, and shall establish a new priesthood, after the †fashion of the Gentiles [to all the Gentiles]. **15** And His presence is beloved, as a prophet of the Most High, of the seed of Abraham our father.

**16**  “ Therefore, every desirable thing in Israel shall be for you and for your seed,  
And you shall eat everything fair to look upon,  
And the table of the Lord shall your seed apportion.

**17**  And some of them shall be high priests, and judges, and scribes;  
For, by their mouth shall the holy place be guarded.

**18** And when I awoke, I understood that this (dream) was like the first dream. 19 And I hid this also in my heart and told it not to any man upon the earth.

**Chapter 9**

**1** And, after two days, I and Judah went up with our father Jacob to Isaac our father’s father. **2** And my father’s father blessed me according to all the words of the visions that I had seen. And he would not come with us to Bethel. **3** And, when we came to Bethel, my father saw a vision concerning me, that I should be their priest unto God. **4** And he rose up early in the morning, and paid tithes of all to the Lord through me. **5** And so we came to Hebron to dwell there. **6** And Isaac called me continually to put me in remembrance of the law of the Lord, even as the angel of the Lord showed to me. **7** And he taught me the law of the priesthood, of sacrifices, whole burnt-offerings, first-fruits, freewill-offerings, peace-offerings. **8** And each day he was instructing me, and was busied on my behalf before the Lord, and said to me, **9** “Beware of the spirit of fornication; for, this shall continue and shall by your seed pollute the holy place. **10** Take, therefore, to yourself a wife without blemish or pollution, while yet you are young, and not of the race of strange nations. **11** And, before entering into the holy place, bathe; and, when you offer the sacrifice, wash; and again, when you finish the sacrifice, wash. **12** Of twelve trees having leaves offer to the Lord, as Abraham taught me also. **13** And of every clean beast and bird offer a sacrifice to the Lord. **14** And of all your first fruits and of wine offer the first, as a sacrifice to the Lord God; and every sacrifice you shall salt with salt.

**Chapter 10**

**1** Now, therefore, observe whatever I command you, children; for, whatever things I have heard from my fathers, I have declared to you. **2** And, behold, I am clear from your ungodliness and transgression, which you shall commit in the end of the ages [against the Saviour of the world, Christ, acting godlessly], deceiving Israel, and stirring up against it great evils from the Lord. **3** And you shall deal lawlessly together with Israel, so He shall not bear with Jerusalem because of your wickedness; but the veil of the temple shall be rent, so as not to cover your shame. **4** And you shall be scattered as captives among the Gentiles and shall be for a reproach and for a curse there. **5** For, the house that the Lord shall choose shall be called Jerusalem, as is contained in the book of Enoch the righteous.

**Chapter 11**

**1** Therefore, when I took a wife, I was twenty-eight years old, and her name was Melcha. **2** And she conceived and bore a son, and I called his name Gersam; for, we were sojourners in our land. **3** And I saw concerning him, that he would not be in the first rank. **4** And Kohath was born in the thirty-fifth year of my life, towards sunrise. **5** And I saw in a vision that he was standing on high in the midst of all the congregation. **6** Therefore, I called his name Kohath [which is, beginning of majesty and instruction]. **7** And she bore me a third son, in the fortieth year of my life; and, since his mother bare him with difficulty, I called him Merari, that is, ‘my bitterness,’ because he also was likely to die. **8** And Jochebed was born in Egypt, in my sixty-fourth year; for, I was renowned then in the midst of my brothers.

**Chapter 12**

**1** And Gersam took a wife, and she bore to him Lomni and Semei. **2** And the sons of Kohath, Ambram, Issachar, Hebron, and Ozeel. **3** And the sons of Merari, Mooli, and Mouses. **4** And, in the ninety-fourth year, Ambram took Jochebed my daughter to him to wife; for, they were born in one day, he and my daughter. **5** Eight years old was I when I went into the land of Canaan, and eighteen years when I slew Shechem, and at nineteen years I became priest, and at twenty-eight years I took a wife, and at forty-eight I went into Egypt. **6** And behold, my children, you are a third generation. **7** In my hundred and eighteenth year, Joseph died.

**Chapter 13**

**1**  And now, my children, I command you:  
“Fear the Lord your God with your whole heart,  
And walk in simplicity according to all His law.

**2**  And also teach your children letters,  
That they may have understanding all their life,  
Reading unceasingly the law of God.

**3**  For, everyone that knows the law of the Lord shall be honoured,  
And shall not be a stranger whithersoever he goes.

**4**  Yea, many friends shall he gain more than his parents,  
And many men shall desire to serve him,  
And to hear the law from his mouth.

**5**  Work righteousness, therefore, my children, upon the earth,  
That you may have (it) as a treasure in heaven.

**6**  And sow good things in your souls,  
That you may find them in your life.  
But if you sow evil things,  
You shall reap every trouble and affliction.

**7**  Get wisdom in the fear of God with diligence;  
For, though there be a leading into captivity,  
And cities and lands be destroyed,  
And gold and silver and every possession perish,  
The wisdom of the wise nought can take away,  
Save the blindness of ungodliness, and the callousness (that comes) of sin.

**8** For, if one keeps oneself from these evil things,  
Then even among his enemies shall Wisdom be a glory to him,  
And in a strange country a fatherland,  
And in the midst of foes shall prove a friend.

**9** Whoever teaches noble things and does them,  
Shall be enthroned with kings,  
As was also Joseph my brother.”

**Chapter 14**

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| **α Aa** | **β Ab S1** |
| **1** Therefore, my children, I have learnt that, at the end of the ages, you will transgress against the Lord, stretching out hands to wickedness [against Him]; and to all the Gentiles shall you become a scorn. | **1** And now, my children, I have learnt from the writing of Enoch that, in the end, you will transgress against the Lord, stretching out hands to all wickedness; and your brothers shall be put to shame because of you, and to all the Gentiles shall you become a scorn. |

**2** For, our father Israel is pure from the transgressions of the chief priests [who shall lay their hands upon the Saviour of the world].

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **α Aa** | **β S1** | **Ab** |
| 3 For, as the **heaven** is purer in the Lord’s sight **than the** earth, so also be you, the lights of Israel, (purer) than all the Gentiles. 4 But, if you are darkened through transgressions, what, therefore, will all the Gentiles do living in blindness? Yea, you shall bring a curse upon our race, because the light of the law that was given to lighten every man this you desire to destroy by teaching commandments contrary to the ordinances of God. | **3** The heaven is purer than the earth, and you, the lights of Israel, are †as sun and moon.  **4** What will all the Gentiles do, if you are darkened through transgressions? Yea, you shall bring a curse upon our race, because the light of the law that was given to lighten every man, this you shall desire to destroy by teaching commandments contrary to the ordinances of God. | **3** My children, be pure as the heaven is (purer) than the earth; and you who are the lights of Israel, shall be as the sun and moon. **4** What will all the Gentiles do, if you are darkened through transgression? Yea, curses will come upon your race, and the light that was given through the law to lighten you and every man you shall desire to destroy and teach your commandments contrary to the ordinances of God. |

**5** The offerings of the Lord you shall rob and, from His portion, shall you steal choice portions, eating (them) contemptuously with harlots. **6** And, out of covetousness, you shall teach the commandments of the Lord, wedded women shall you pollute, and the virgins of Jerusalem shall you defile; and with harlots and adulteresses shall you be joined, and the daughters of the Gentiles shall you take to wife, purifying them with an unlawful purification; and your union shall be like unto Sodom and Gomorrah. **7** And you shall be puffed up because of your priesthood, lifting yourselves up against men, and not only so, but also against the commands of God. **8** For, you shall contempt the holy things with jests and laughter.

**Chapter 15**

**1** Therefore, the temple, which the Lord shall choose, shall be laid waste through your uncleanness, and you shall be captives throughout all nations. **2** And you shall be an abomination to them, and you shall receive reproach and everlasting shame from the righteous judgement of God. **3** And all who hate you shall rejoice at your destruction. **4** And if you were not to receive mercy through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, our fathers, not one of our seed should be left upon the earth.

**Chapter 16**

1 And now I have learnt that, for seventy weeks, you shall go astray, and profane the priesthood, and pollute the sacrifices. 2 And you shall make void the law and set at nought the words of the prophets by evil perverseness. And you shall persecute righteous men, and hate the godly; the words of the faithful shall you abhor. 3 [And a man who renews the law in the power of the Most High, you shall call a deceiver; and, at last, you shall rush (upon him) to slay him, not knowing his dignity, taking innocent blood through wickedness upon your heads.] 4 And your holy places shall be laid waste even to the ground because of †him. 5 And you shall have no place that is clean; but you shall be among the Gentiles a curse and a dispersion until He shall again visit you and in pity shall receive you [through faith and water].

**Chapter 17**

**1** And, whereas you have heard concerning the seventy weeks, hear also concerning the priesthood. **2** For, in each jubilee, there shall be a priesthood. And, in the first jubilee, the first who is anointed to the priesthood shall be great and shall speak to God as to a father. And his priesthood shall be perfect with the Lord, [and in the day of his gladness shall he arise for the salvation of the world]. **3** In the second jubilee, he that is anointed shall be conceived in the sorrow of beloved ones; and his priesthood shall be honoured and shall be glorified by all. **4** And the third priest shall be taken hold of by sorrow. **5** And the fourth shall be in pain, because unrighteousness **shall gather itself** against him exceedingly, and all Israel shall hate each one his neighbour. **6** The fifth shall be taken hold of by darkness. **7** Likewise, also the sixth and the seventh. And, in the seventh, shall be such pollution as I cannot express before men; for, they shall know it who do these things. **8** Therefore, shall they be taken captive and become a prey, **9** and their land and their substance shall be destroyed.

**10** And, in the fifth week, they shall return to their desolate country and shall renew the house of the Lord. **11** And, in the seventh week, shall become priests, (who are) idolaters, adulterers, lovers of money, proud, lawless, lascivious, abusers of children and beasts.

**Chapter 18**

1  And after their punishment shall have come from the Lord, the priesthood shall fail.

2  Then shall the Lord raise up a new priest.  
And to him all the words of the Lord shall be revealed;  
And he shall execute a righteous judgement upon the earth for a multitude of days.

3  And his star shall arise in heaven as of a king,  
Lighting up the light of knowledge as the sun the day,   
And he shall be magnified in the world.

**4**  He shall shine forth as the sun on the earth,  
And shall remove all darkness from under heaven,  
And there shall be peace in all the earth.

**5** The heavens shall exult in his days,  
And the earth shall be glad,  
And the †clouds shall rejoice;  
[And the knowledge of the Lord shall be poured forth upon the earth, as the water of the seas;]  
And the angels of the glory of the presence of the Lord shall be glad in him.

**6**  The heavens shall be opened,  
And, from the temple of glory, shall come upon him sanctification,  
With the Father’s voice as from Abraham to Isaac.

**7**  And the glory of the Most High shall be uttered over him,  
And the spirit of understanding and sanctification shall rest upon him [in the water].

**8**  For, he shall give the majesty of the Lord to His sons in truth for evermore;  
And there shall none succeed him for all generations for ever.

**9**  And, in his priesthood, the Gentiles shall be multiplied in knowledge upon the earth,  
And enlightened through the grace of the Lord:  
In his priesthood shall sin come to an end,  
And the lawless shall cease to do evil.  
[And the just shall rest in him.]

**10**  And he shall open the gates of paradise,  
And shall remove the threatening sword against Adam.

**11**  And he shall give to the saints to eat from the tree of life,  
And the spirit of holiness shall be on them.

**12**  And Beliar shall be bound by him,  
And he shall give power to His children to tread upon the evil spirits.

**13**  And the Lord shall rejoice in His children,  
And be well pleased in His beloved ones for ever.

**14**  Then shall Abraham and Isaac and Jacob exult,  
And I will be glad,  
And all the saints shall clothe themselves with joy.

**Chapter 19**

**1** And now, my children, you have heard all; choose, therefore, for yourselves, either the light or the darkness, either the law of the Lord or the works of Beliar. **2** And his sons answered him, saying, “Before the Lord, we will walk according to His law.” **3** And their father said to them, “The Lord is witness, and His angels are witnesses, and you are witnesses, and I am witness, concerning the word of your mouth”. **4** And his sons said to him, “We are witnesses.” And, thus, Levi ceased commanding his sons; and he stretched out his feet on the bed, and was gathered to his fathers, after he had lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. **5** And they laid him in a coffin, and afterwards they buried him in Hebron, with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**The Testament of Judah, The Fourth Son of Jacob and Leah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the words of Judah, what things he spoke to his sons before he died. **2** They gathered themselves together, therefore, and came to him, and he said to them, **3** “Listen, my children, to Judah your father. I was the fourth son born to my father Jacob; and Leah my mother named me Judah, saying, I give thanks to the Lord, because He has given me a fourth son also. **4** I was swift in my youth, and obedient to my father in everything. **5** And I honoured my mother and my mother’s sister. **6** And it came to pass, when I became a man, that my father blessed me, saying, “You shall be a king, prospering in all things.”

**Chapter 2**

**1** “And the Lord showed me favour in all my works, both in the field and in the house. **2** I know that I raced a hind, and caught it, and prepared the meat for my father, and he ate. **3** And the roes I used to master in the chase and overtake all that was in the plains. A wild mare I overtook and caught it and tamed it. **4** I slew a lion and plucked a kid out of its mouth. I took a bear by its paw and hurled it down the cliff, and it was crushed. **5** I outran the wild boar and, seizing it as I ran, I tore it asunder. **6** A leopard in Hebron leaped upon my dog, and I caught it by the tail, and hurled it on the rocks, and it was broken in two. **7** I found a wild ox feeding in the fields and seizing it by the horns; and, whirling it round and stunning it, I cast it from me and slew it.

**Chapter 3**

**1** “And, when the two kings of the Canaanites came sheathed in armour against our flocks, and many people with them, single-handed I rushed upon the king of Hazor, and smote him on the greaves and dragged him down, and so I slew him. **2** And the other, the king of Tappuah, as he sat upon his horse, **3** [I slew, and so I scattered all his people. Achor the king] a man of giant stature I found, hurling javelins before and behind as he sat on horseback, and I took up a stone of sixty pounds weight, and hurled it and smote his horse, and killed it. **4** And I fought with (this) other for two hours; and I cleaved his shield in twain, and I chopped off his feet, and killed him. **5** And, as I was stripping off his breastplate, behold, nine men his companions began to fight with me. **6** And I wound my garment on my hand; and I slung stones at them, and killed four of them, and the rest fled. **7** And Jacob my father slew †Beelesath, king of all the kings, a giant in strength, twelve cubits high. **8** And fear fell upon them, and they ceased warring against us. **9** Therefore, my father was free from anxiety in the wars when I was with my brothers. **10** For, he saw in a vision concerning me that an angel of might followed me everywhere, that I should not be overcome.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “And, in the south, there came upon us a greater war than that in Shechem; and I joined in battle array with my brothers, and pursued a thousand men, and slew of them two hundred men and four kings. **2** And I went up upon the wall, and I slew four mighty men. **3** And so we captured Hazor and took all the spoil.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “On the next day, we departed to Aretan, a city strong and walled and inaccessible, threatening us with death. **2** But I and Gad approached on the east side of the city, and Reuben and Levi on the west. **3** And they that were upon the wall, thinking that we were alone, †were drawn down† against us. **4** And so, my brothers secretly climbed up the wall on both sides by stakes, and entered the city, while the men knew it not. **5** And we took it with the edge of the sword. And, as for those who had taken refuge in the tower, we set fire to the tower and took both it and them.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **6** “And, as we were departing, the men of Tappuah seized our spoil; and, seeing (this), we fought with them. **7** And we slew them all and recovered our spoil. | **6** “And, as we were departing, the men of Tappuah set upon our spoil; and, delivering it up to our sons, we fought with them as far as Tappuah. **7** And we slew them, and burnt their city, and took as spoil all that was in it. |

**Chapter 6**

**1** “And, when I was at the waters of Kozeba, the men of †Jobel came against us to battle. **2** And we fought with them and routed them; and their allies from Shiloh we slew, and we did not leave them power to come in against us. **3** And the men of †Makir came upon us the fifth day, to seize our spoil; and we attacked them and overcame them in fierce battle: for, there was a host of mighty men amongst them, and we slew them before they had gone up the ascent. **4** And, when we came to their city, their women rolled upon us stones from the brow of the hill on which the city stood. **5** And I and Simeon hid ourselves behind the town, and seized upon the heights, and destroyed this city also.

**Chapter 7**

**1** “And, the next day, it was told us that the king of the city of Gaash with a mighty host was coming against us. **2** I, therefore, and Dan feigned ourselves to be Amorites and, as allies, went into their city. **3** And, in the depth of night, our brothers came and we opened to them the gates; and we destroyed all the men and their substance, and we took for a prey all that was theirs, and their three walls we cast down. **4** And we drew near to Thamna, where was all the substance of the hostile kings. **5** Then, being insulted by them, I was angry and rushed against them to the summit; and they kept slinging against me stones and darts. **6** And had not Dan my brother aided me, they would have slain me. **7** We came upon them, therefore, with anger, and they all fled; and, passing by another way, they besought my father, and he made peace with them. **8** And we did to them no harm, and they became tributary to us, and we restored to them their spoil. **9** And I built Thamna, and my father built Pabael. **10** I was twenty years old when this war befell. And the Canaanites feared me and my brothers.

**Chapter 8**

**1** “And I had many cattle, and I had for chief herdsman Iram the Adullamite. **2** And, when I went to him, I saw Parsaba, king of Adullam; and he spoke to us, and he made us a feast; and, when I was heated, he gave me his daughter Bathshua to wife. **3** She bore me Er, and Onan and Shelah; and two of them the Lord smote: for, Shelah lived, and his children are you.

**Chapter 9**

**1** “And eighteen years my father abode in peace with his brother Esau, and his sons with us; after that, we came from Mesopotamia, from Laban. **2** And, when eighteen years were fulfilled, in the fortieth year of my life, Esau, the brother of my father, came upon us with a mighty and strong people. **3** And Jacob smote Esau with an arrow, and he was taken up wounded on Mount Seir, and as he went he died at Anoniram. **4** And we pursued the sons of Esau. Now, they had a city with walls of iron and gates of brass; and we could not enter into it, and we encamped around, and besieged it. **5** And, when they opened not to us in twenty days, I set up a ladder in the sight of all and with my shield upon my head I went up, sustaining the assault of stones, upwards of three talents weight; and I slew four of their mighty men. **6** And Reuben and Gad slew six others. **7** Then they asked from us terms of peace; and, having taken counsel with our father, we received them as tributaries. **8** And they gave us five hundred cors of wheat, five hundred baths of oil, five hundred measures of wine, until the famine, when we went down into Egypt.

**Chapter 10**

**1** “And, after these things, my son Er took to wife Tamar, from Mesopotamia, a daughter of Aram. **2** Now, Er was wicked, and he †was in need concerning Tamar, because she was not of the land of Canaan. **3** And, on the third night, an angel of the Lord smote him. And he had not known her according to the evil craftiness of his mother; for, he did not wish to have children by her. **4** In the days of the wedding-feast, I gave Onan to her in marriage; and he also in wickedness knew her not, though he spent a year with her. **5** And, when I threatened him, he went into her, but he spilled the seed on the ground, according to the command of his mother, and he also died through wickedness. **6** And I wished to give Shelah also to her, but his mother did not permit it; for, she wrought evil against Tamar, because she was not of the daughters of Canaan, as she also herself was.

**Chapter 11**

**1** “And I knew that the race of the Canaanites was wicked, but the impulse of youth blinded my mind. **2** And, when I saw her pouring out wine, owing to the intoxication of wine I was deceived, and took her although my father had not counselled (it). **3** And, while I was away, she went and took for Shelah a wife from Canaan. **4** And, when I knew what she had done, I cursed her in the anguish of my soul. **5** And she also died through her wickedness together with her sons.

**Chapter 12**

**1** “And, after these things, while Tamar was a widow, she heard after two years that I was going up to shear my sheep, and adorned herself in bridal array, and sat in the city Enaim by the gate. **2** For, it was a law of the Amorites that she who was about to marry should sit in fornication seven days by the gate. **3** Therefore, being drunk with wine, I did not recognize her; and her beauty deceived me, through the fashion of her adorning. **4** And I turned aside to her and said, “Let me go into you.” And she said, “What will you give me?” And I gave her my staff, and my girdle, and the diadem of my kingdom in pledge. **5** And I went into her, and she conceived. And, not knowing what I had done, I wished to slay her; but she privately sent my pledges, and put me to shame. **6** And, when I called her, I heard also the secret words that I spoke when lying with her in my drunkenness; and I could not slay her, because it was from the Lord. **7** For, I said, “Lest haply she did it in subtlety, having received the pledge from another woman.” **8** But I came not again near her while I lived, because I had done this abomination in all Israel. **9** Moreover, they who were in the city said there was no harlot in the gate, because she came from another place, and sat for a while in the gate. **10** And I thought that no one knew that I had gone into her. **11** And, after this, we came into Egypt to Joseph, because of the famine. **12** And I was forty and six years old, and seventy and three years I lived in Egypt.

**Chapter 13**

**1** “And now I command you, my children, listen to Judah your father, and keep my sayings to perform all the ordinances of the Lord, and to obey the commands of God. **2** And do not walk after your lusts, nor in the imaginations of your thoughts in haughtiness of heart; and do not glory in the deeds and strength of your youth; for, this also is evil in the eyes of the Lord. **3** Since I also gloried that in wars no comely woman’s face ever enticed me, and reproved Reuben my brother concerning Bilhah, the wife of my father, the spirits of jealousy and of fornication arrayed themselves against me, until I lay with Bathshua the Canaanite, and Tamar, who was espoused to my sons. **4** For, I said to my father-in-law, “I will take counsel with my father, and so will I take your daughter.” And he was unwilling, but he showed me a boundless store of gold in his daughter’s behalf; for, he was a king. **5** And he adorned her with gold and pearls, and caused her to pour out wine for us at the feast †with the beauty of women.† **6** And the wine turned aside my eyes, and pleasure blinded my heart. **7** And I became enamoured of and I lay with her, and transgressed the commandment of the Lord and the commandment of my fathers, and I took her to wife. **8** And the Lord rewarded me according to the imagination of my heart, inasmuch as I had no joy in her children.

**Chapter 14**

**1** “And now, my children, I say unto you, be not drunk with wine; for, wine turns the mind away from the truth, and inspires the passion of lust, and leads the eyes into error. **2** For, the spirit of fornication has wine as a minister to give pleasure to the mind; for, these two also take away the mind of man. **3** For, if a man drinks wine to drunkenness, it disturbs the mind with filthy thoughts leading to fornication and heats the body to carnal union; and, if the occasion of the lust be present, he works the sin and is not ashamed. **4** Such is the inebriated man, my children; for, he who is drunk reverences no man. **5** For, lo, it made me also to err, so that I was not ashamed of the multitude in the city, in that before the eyes of all I turned aside unto Tamar, and I wrought a great sin, and I uncovered the covering of my sons’ shame. **6** After I had drunk wine, I reverenced not the commandment of God, and I took a woman of Canaan to wife. **7** For, much discretion needs the man who drinks wine, my children; and herein is discretion in drinking wine: a man may drink so long as he preserves modesty. **8** But, if he goes beyond this limit, the spirit of deceit attacks his mind, and it makes the drunkard to talk filthily, and to transgress and not to be ashamed, but even to glory in his shame, and to account himself honourable.

**Chapter 15**

**1** “He that commits fornication is not aware when he suffers loss and is not ashamed when put to dishonour. **2** For, even though a man be a king and commits fornication, he is stripped of his kingship by becoming the slave of fornication, as I myself also suffered. **3** For, I gave my staff, that is, the stay of my tribe; and my girdle, that is, my power; and my diadem, that is, the glory of my kingdom. **4** And, indeed, I repented of these things; wine and flesh I did not eat until my old age, nor did I behold any joy. **5** And the angel of God showed me that for ever do women bear rule over king and beggar alike. **6** And, from the king, they take away his glory; and, from the valiant man, his might; and, from the beggar, even that little which is the stay of his poverty.

**Chapter 16**

**1** “Observe, therefore, my children, the (right) limit in wine; for, there are in it four evil spirits – of lust, of hot desire, of profligacy, of filthy lucre. **2** If you drink wine in gladness, be modest in the fear of God. For, if in (your) gladness the fear of God departs, then drunkenness arises and shamelessness steals in. **3** But, if you would live soberly, do not touch wine at all, lest you sin in words of outrage, and in rumours and slanders, and transgressions of the commandments of God, and you perish before your time. **4** Moreover, wine reveals the mysteries of God and men, even as I also revealed the commandments of God and the mysteries of Jacob my father to the Canaanite woman Bathshua, which God bade me not to reveal. **5** And wine is a cause both of war and confusion.

**Chapter 17**

**1** “And now, I command you, my children, not to love money, nor to gaze upon the beauty of women; because, for the sake of money and beauty, I was led astray to Bathshua the Canaanite. **2** [For, I know that because of these two things shall my race fall into wickedness. **3** For, even wise men among my sons shall they mar, and shall cause the kingdom of Judah to be diminished, which the Lord gave me because of my obedience to my father. **4** For, I never caused grief to Jacob, my father; for, all things whatsoever he commanded I did. **5** And Isaac, the father of my father, blessed me to be king in Israel, and Jacob further blessed me in like manner. **6** And I know that from me shall the kingdom be established.

**Chapter 18**

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| 1 “And I know what evils you will do in the last days.] | **1** “For, I have also read in the books of Enoch the righteous what evils you will do in the last days.] |

**2** “Beware, therefore, my children, of fornication, and the love of money, and listen to Judah your father.

**3**  “ For, these things withdraw you from the law of God,  
And blind the inclination of the soul,  
And teach arrogance,  
And suffer not a man to have compassion upon his neighbour.

**4**  They rob his soul of all goodness,  
And oppress him with toils and troubles,  
And drive away sleep from him,  
And devour his flesh.

**5**  And he hinders the sacrifices of God;  
And he remembers not the blessing of God,  
He listens not to a prophet when he speaks,  
And resents the words of godliness.

**6**  For, he is a slave to two contrary passions,  
And cannot obey God,  
Because they have blinded his soul,  
And he walketh in the day as in the night.

**Chapter 19**

**1** “My children, the love of money leads to idolatry; because, when led astray through money, men name as gods those who are not gods, and it causes him who has it to fall into madness. **2** For the sake of money, I lost my children, and had not my repentance, and my humiliation, and the prayers of my father been accepted, I should have died childless. **3** But the God of my fathers had mercy on me, because I did it in ignorance. **4** And the prince of deceit blinded me, and I sinned as a man and as flesh, being corrupted through sins; and I learnt my own weakness while thinking myself invincible.

**Chapter 20**

**1** “Know, therefore, my children, that two spirits wait upon man – the spirit of truth and the spirit of deceit. **2** And, in the midst, is the spirit of understanding of the mind, to which it belongs to turn wherever it will. **3** And the works of truth and the works of deceit are written upon the hearts of men, and each one of them the Lord knows. **4** And there is no time at which the works of men can be hidden; for, on the heart itself have they been written down before the Lord. **5** And the spirit of truth testifies all things and accuses all; and the sinner is burnt up by his own heart, and cannot raise his face to the judge.

**Chapter 21**

**1** “And now, my children, I command you, love Levi, that you may abide, and exalt not yourselves against him, lest you be utterly destroyed. **2** For, to me the Lord gave the kingdom, and to him the priesthood, and He set the kingdom beneath the priesthood. **3** To me He gave the things upon the earth; to him the things in the heavens. **4** As the heaven is higher than the earth, so is the priesthood of God higher than the earthly kingdom, unless it falls away through sin from the Lord and is dominated by the earthly kingdom. **5** For, the angel of the Lord said unto me: The Lord chose him rather than thee, to draw near to Him, and to eat of His table and to offer Him the first fruits of the choice things of the sons of Israel; but thou shalt be king of Jacob.

**6** “And you shall be amongst them as the sea. For, as on the sea, just and unjust are tossed about, some taken into captivity while some are enriched, so also shall every race of men be in thee: some shall be **impoverished**, being taken captive, and others grow rich by plundering the possessions of others.

**7**  For, the kings shall be as sea-monsters.  
They shall swallow men like fishes;  
The sons and daughters of freemen shall they enslave;  
Houses, lands, flocks, money shall they plunder:

**8**  And, with the flesh of many shall they wrongfully feed the ravens and the cranes;  
And they shall †advance in evil, in covetousness uplifted,†⌉

**9**  And there shall be false prophets like tempests,  
And they shall persecute all righteous men.

**Chapter 22**

**1**  “ And the Lord shall bring upon them divisions one against another.  
And there shall be continual wars in Israel;

**2**  And among men of another race shall my kingdom be brought to an end,  
Until the salvation of Israel shall come,  
Until the appearing of the God of righteousness,  
That Jacob [and all the Gentiles] may rest in peace.

**3**  And He shall guard the might of my kingdom for ever;

“For, the Lord swore to me with an oath that He would not destroy the kingdom from my seed for ever.

**Chapter 23**

**1** “Now I have much grief, my children, because of your lewdness and witchcrafts, and idolatries which you shall practise against the kingdom, following them that have familiar spirits, diviners, and demons of error. **2** You shall make your daughters singing girls and harlots, and you shall mingle in the abominations of the Gentiles. **3** For which things’ sake, the Lord shall bring upon you famine and pestilence, death and the sword, beleaguering by enemies, and reviling of friends, the slaughter of children, the rape of wives, the plundering of possessions, [the burning of the temple of God,] the laying waste of the land, the enslavement of yourselves among the Gentiles. **4** And they shall make some of you eunuchs for their wives.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **5** “Until the Lord visits you, when with perfect heart you repent and walk in all His commandments, and He brings you up from captivity among the Gentiles. | **5** “Until you turn unto the Lord with perfect heart repenting and walking in all the commandments of God, and the Lord visits you with mercy and brings you up from captivity among the Gentiles. |

**Chapter 24**

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| **α β S1** | **A** |
| **1**  “And, after these things,    shall a star arise to you from Jacob in peace, And a man shall arise [from my seed],    like the sun of righteousness, Walking with the sons of men in meekness and righteousness; And no sin shall be found in him.  **2**  And the heavens shall be opened unto him, To pour out the spirit, (even) the blessing of the Holy Father;  **3**  And He shall pour out the spirit of grace upon you; And you shall be to Him sons in truth, And you shall walk in His commandments first and last.  **4**  [This Branch of God Most High, And this Fountain giving life to all.]  **5**  Then shall the sceptre of my kingdom shine forth; And, from your root, shall arise a stem;  **6**  And, from it, shall grow a rod of righteousness to the Gentiles, To judge and to save all that call upon the Lord. | **1** “And, after these things,    shall arise the star of peace, And he shall walk with men in    meekness and righteousness.  **2** And the heavens shall be opened unto him, And the blessings of the Holy Father    shall be poured down upon him.  **3** And He will pour down upon us the spirit of grace. And you shall be His true children by adoption, And you shall walk in His commandments first and last.  **4** [Then a branch shall go forth from me.]  **5** And the sceptre of my kingdom shall shine forth; And, from your root, shall arise a stem;  **6** And, from it, shall grow up the rod of righteousness    unto the Gentiles, To judge and to save all that call upon the Lord. |

**Chapter 25**

**1** “And, after these things, shall Abraham and Isaac and Jacob arise unto life, and I and my brothers shall be chiefs of the tribes of Israel: Levi first, I the second, Joseph third, Benjamin fourth, Simeon fifth, Issachar sixth, and so all in order. **2** And the Lord blessed Levi, and the Angel of the Presence, me; the powers of glory, Simeon; the heaven, Reuben; the earth, Issachar; the sea, Zebulun; the mountains, Joseph; the tabernacle, Benjamin; the luminaries, Dan; Eden, Naphtali; the sun, Gad; the moon, Asher.

**3**  And you shall be the people of the Lord and have one tongue;  
And there shall be there no spirit of deceit of Beliar,  
For, he shall be cast into the fire for ever.

**4**  And they who have died in grief shall arise in joy,  
And they who were poor for the Lord’s sake shall be made rich,  
And they who are put to death for the Lord’s sake shall awake to life.

**5**  And the stags of Jacob shall run in joyfulness,  
And the eagles of Israel shall fly in gladness;  
And all the people shall glorify the Lord for ever.

**Chapter 26**

**1** “Observe, therefore, my children, all the law of the Lord; for, there is hope for all those who hold fast to His ways.” **2** And he said to them, “Behold, I die before your eyes this day, a hundred and nineteen years old. **3** Let no one bury me in costly apparel, nor tear open my bowels; for, this shall they who are kings do; and carry me up to Hebron with you.” **4** And Judah, when he had said these things, fell asleep; and his sons did according to all that he commanded them, and they buried him in Hebron, with his fathers.

**The Testament of Issachar, The Fifth Son of Jacob and Leah**

**Chapter 1**

**1**  The copy of the words of Issachar. For, he called his sons and said to them:  
“Listen, my children, to Issachar your father;  
Give ear to the words of him who is beloved of the Lord.

**2** “I was born the fifth son to Jacob, by way of hire for the mandrakes. **3** For, Reuben my brother brought in mandrakes from the field, and Rachel met him and took them. **4** And Reuben wept, and at his voice Leah my mother came forth. **5** Now these (mandrakes) were sweet-smelling apples that were produced in the land of Haran below a ravine of water. **6** And Rachel said, “I will not give them to you, but they shall be to me instead of children. For, the Lord has despised me, and I have not borne children to Jacob.” **7** Now, there were two apples and Leah said to Rachel, “Let it suffice you that you have taken my husband: will you take these also?” **8** And Rachel said to her, “You shall have Jacob this night for the mandrakes of your son.” **9** And Leah said to her, “Jacob is mine; for, I am the wife of his youth.” **10** But Rachel said, “Boast not, and vaunt not yourself; for, he espoused me before you, and, for my sake, he served our father fourteen years.”

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| **α** | **β A S** |
| **11** “And, had not craft increased on the earth and the wickedness of men prospered, you would not now see the face of Jacob. | **11** “What shall I do to You? For, the craft and the subtlety of men are increased, and craft prospers on the earth – if it were not so, you would not now see the face of Jacob. |

**12** “For, you are not his wife but in craft were taken to him in my stead. **13** And my father deceived me, and removed me on that night, and did not suffer Jacob to see me; for, had I been there, this would not have happened to him. **14** Nevertheless, for the mandrakes, I am hiring Jacob to you for one night.” **15** And Jacob knew Leah, and she conceived and bore me; and, on account of the hire, I was called Issachar.

**Chapter 2**

**1** “Then appeared to Jacob an angel of the Lord, saying, “Two children shall Rachel bear, inasmuch as she has refused company with her husband, and has chosen continency. **2** And, had not Leah my mother paid the two apples for the sake of his company, she would have borne eight sons; for, this reason she bore six, and Rachel bore the two: for, on account of the mandrakes, the Lord visited her. **3** For, He knew that, for the sake of children, she wished to company with Jacob, and not for lust of pleasure. **4** For, on the morrow also, she again gave up Jacob. Because of the mandrakes, therefore, the Lord listened to Rachel. **5** For, though she desired them, she ate them not, but offered them in the house of the Lord, presenting them to the priest of the Most High who was at that time.

**Chapter 3**

1 “When, therefore, I grew up, my children, I walked in uprightness of heart, and I became a husbandman for my father and my brothers, and I brought in fruits from the field according to their season. 2 And my father blessed me; for, he saw that I walked in rectitude before him. 3 And I was not a busybody in my doings, nor envious and malicious against my neighbour. 4 I never slandered anyone, nor did I censure the life of any man, walking as I did in singleness of eye. 5 Therefore, when I was thirty-five years old, I took to myself a wife; for, my labour wore away my strength, and I never thought upon pleasure with women; but, owing to my toil, sleep overcame me. 6 And my father always rejoiced in my rectitude, because I offered through the priest to the Lord all first fruits; then to my father also. 7 And the Lord increased ten thousandfold His benefits in my hands; also, Jacob, my father, knew that God aided my singleness. 8 For, on all the poor and oppressed I bestowed the good things of the earth in the singleness of my heart.

**Chapter 4**

**1**  “ And now, listen to me, my children,  
And walk in singleness of your heart;  
For, I have seen in it all that is well-pleasing to the Lord.

**2**  The single-(minded) man covets not gold,  
He overreaches not his neighbour,  
He longs not after manifold dainties,  
He delights not in varied apparel.

**3**  He does not desire to live a long life,  
But only waits for the will of God.

**4**  And the spirits of deceit have no power against him;  
For, he looks not on the beauty of women,  
Lest he should pollute his mind with corruption.

**5**  There is no envy in his thoughts,  
[No malicious person makes his soul to pine away,]  
Nor **worry** with insatiable desire **in his mind**.

**6**  For, he walks in singleness of soul,  
And beholds all things in uprightness of heart,  
Shunning eyes (made) evil through the error of the world,  
Lest he should see the perversion of any of the commandments of the Lord.

**Chapter 5**

**1**  “ Keep, therefore, my children, the law of God,  
And get singleness,  
And walk in guilelessness,  
Not playing the busybody with the business of your neighbour,

**2**  But love the Lord and your neighbour,  
Have compassion on the poor and weak.

**3**  Bow down your back to husbandry,  
And toil in labours in all manner of husbandry,  
Offering gifts to the Lord with thanksgiving.

**4** “For with the first fruits of the earth will the Lord bless you, even as He blessed all the saints from Abel even until now. **5** For, no other portion is given to you than of the fatness of the earth, whose fruits are raised by toil. **6** For, our father Jacob blessed me with blessings of the earth and of first fruits. **7** And Levi and Judah were glorified by the Lord even among the sons of Jacob; for, the Lord gave them an inheritance, and to Levi He gave the priesthood, and to Judah the kingdom. **8** And, therefore, obey them, and walk in the singleness of your father; [for, to Gad has it been given to destroy the troops that are coming upon Israel].

**Chapter 6**

**1**  “ Know therefore, my children that, in the last times,  
Your sons will forsake singleness,  
And will cleave to insatiable desire;  
And, leaving guilelessness, will draw near to malice;  
And, forsaking the commandments of the Lord,  
They will cleave to Beliar.

**2**  And, leaving husbandry,  
They will follow after their own wicked devices,  
And they shall be dispersed among the Gentiles,  
And shall serve their enemies.

**3** “And, therefore, give these commands to your children, that, if they sin, they may the more quickly return to the Lord; **4** For, He is merciful, and will deliver them, even to bring them back into their land.

**Chapter 7**

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **1** “Behold, therefore, as you see, I am a hundred and twenty-six years old and am not conscious of committing any sin. | **1** “I am a hundred and twenty-two years old and I am not conscious of having committed any sin to death. |

**2** “Except my wife, I have not known any woman. I never committed fornication by the uplifting of my eyes.

**3**  I drank not wine, to be led astray thereby;  
I coveted not any desirable thing that was my neighbour’s.

**4**  Guile arose not in my heart;  
A lie passed not through my lips.

**5**  If any man were in distress, I joined my sighs with his,  
And I shared my bread with the poor.  
I wrought godliness, all my days I kept truth.

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| **α** | **β S1** |
| **6**  “I loved the Lord; Likewise also every man with all my heart. | **6**  “The Lord I loved with all my strength: Likewise, also every man I loved more than my own children, |

**7**  “ So do also these things, my children,  
And every spirit of Beliar shall flee from you,  
And no deed of wicked men shall rule over you;  
And every wild beast shall you subdue,  
Since you have with you the God of heaven and earth  
(And) walk with men in singleness of heart.”

**8** And, having said these things, he commanded his sons that they should carry him up to Hebron, and bury him there in the cave with his fathers. **9** And he stretched out his feet and died, at a good old age; with every limb sound, and with strength unabated, he slept the eternal sleep.

**The Testament of Zebulun, the Sixth Son of Jacob and Leah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the words of Zebulun, which he enjoined on his sons before he died in the hundred and fourteenth year of his life, two years after the death of Joseph. **2** And he said to them, “Listen to me, you sons of Zebulun, attend to the words of your father. **3** I, Zebulun, was born a good gift to my parents. For, when I was born my father was increased very exceedingly, both in flocks and herds, when with the streaked rods he had his portion. **4** I am not conscious that I have sinned all my days, save in thought. **5** Nor yet do I remember that I have done any iniquity, except the sin of ignorance that I committed against Joseph; for, I covenanted with my brothers not to tell my father what had been done. **6** But I wept in secret for many days on account of Joseph; for, I feared my brothers, because they had all agreed that if anyone should declare the secret, he should be slain. **7** But, when they wished to kill him, I adjured them with many tears not to be guilty of this sin.

**Chapter 2**

**1** “For, Simeon and Gad came against Joseph to kill him, and he said to them with tears, **2** “Pity me, my brothers, have mercy upon the bowels of Jacob our father: lay not upon me your hands to shed innocent blood; for, I have not sinned against you. **3** And if indeed I have sinned, with chastening chastise me, my brothers, but do not lay your hand on me, for the sake of Jacob our father.” **4** And, as he spoke these words, wailing as he did so, I was unable to bear his lamentations, and began to weep, and my liver was poured out, and all the substance of my bowels was †loosened. **5** And I wept with Joseph, and my heart sounded, and the joints of my body trembled, and I was not able to stand. **6** And, when Joseph saw me weeping with him, and them coming against him to slay him, he fled behind me, beseeching them. **7** But, meanwhile, Reuben arose and said, “Come, my brothers, let us not slay him, but let us cast him into one of these dry pits, which our fathers dug and found no water. **8** For, for this cause the Lord forbade that water should rise up in them, in order that Joseph should be preserved. And they did so, until they sold him to the Ishmaelites.

**Chapter 3**

**1** “For, in his price I had no share, my children. **2** But Simeon and Gad and six other of our brothers took the price of Joseph, and bought sandals for themselves, and their wives, and their children, saying, **3** “We will not eat of it; for, it is the price of our brother’s blood, but we will assuredly tread it under foot, because he said that he would be king over us, and so let us see what will become of his dreams. **4** Therefore, it is written in the writing of the law of Moses, that whoever will not raise up seed to his brother, his sandal should be unloosed, and they should spit in his face. **5** And the brothers of Joseph wished not that their brother should live, and the Lord loosed from them the sandal which they wore against Joseph their brother. **6** For, when they came into Egypt, they were unloosed by the servants of Joseph outside the gate, and so they made obeisance to Joseph after the fashion of King Pharaoh. **7** And, not only did they make obeisance to him, but were spat upon also, falling down before him forthwith, and so they were put to shame before the Egyptians. **8** For, after this, the Egyptians heard all the evils that they had done to Joseph.

**Chapter 4**

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **1** “And, after he was †sold, my brothers sat down to eat and drink. **2** But I, through pity for Joseph, did not eat, but watched the pit, since Judah feared lest Simeon, Dan, and Gad should rush off and slay him. **3** But, when they saw that I did not eat, they set me to watch him, until he was sold to the Ishmaelites.  **5** And, when Reuben came and heard that while he was away (Joseph) had been sold, he tore his garments, (and) mourning, said, “How shall I look on the face of my father Jacob?” **6** And he took the money and ran after the merchants, but as he failed to find them, he returned grieving. But the merchants had left the broad road and marched through the Troglodytes by a short cut. | **1** “And, after they had cast him into the pit, my brothers sat down to eat. **2** For I, through two days and two nights, ate nothing, through pity for Joseph. And Judah did not eat with them, but watched the pit; for, he feared lest Simeon and Gad should run off and slay him. **3** And, when they saw that I also eat not, they set me to watch him until he was sold. **4** And he spent in the pit three days and three nights and so was sold famishing. **5** And, when Reuben heard that while he was away (Joseph) had been sold, he tore his clothes, and mourned, saying, “How shall I look in the face of Jacob my father?” **6** And he took the money and ran after the merchants and found no one; for, they had left the main road, and journeyed through the Troglodytes by a short cut. |

**7** “But Reuben was grieved and ate no food that day. Dan, therefore, came to him and said, **8** “Weep not, neither grieve; for, we have found what we can say to our father Jacob. **9** Let us slay a kid of the goats, and dip in it the coat of Joseph; and let us send it to Jacob, saying, **10** “Know, is this the coat of thy son?”” And they did so. **11** For, they stripped off from Joseph his coat when they were selling him, and put upon him the garment of a slave. Now, Simeon took the coat and would not give it up; for, he wished to tear it with his sword, as he was angry that Joseph lived and that he had not slain him. **12** Then we all rose up and said to him, “If you do not give up the coat, we will say to our father that you alone did this evil thing in Israel.” **13** And so he gave it to them, and they did even as Dan had said.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “And now, my children, I bid you to keep the commands of the Lord, and to show mercy to your neighbours, and to have compassion towards all, not towards men only, but also towards beasts. **2** For all this thing’s sake the Lord blessed me; and, when all my brothers were sick, I escaped without sickness; for, the Lord knows the purposes of each. **3** Have, therefore, compassion in your hearts, my children, because even as a man does to his neighbour, even so also will the Lord do to him. **4** For, the sons of my brothers were sickening and were dying on account of Joseph, because they did not show mercy in their hearts; but my sons were preserved without sickness, as you know. **5** And, when I was in the land of Canaan, by the seacoast, I made a catch of fish for Jacob my father; and, when many were choked in the sea, I continued unhurt.

**Chapter 6**

**1** “I was the first to make a boat to sail on the sea; for, the Lord gave me understanding and wisdom therein. **2** And I let down a rudder behind it, and I stretched a sail upon another upright piece of wood in the midst. **3** And I sailed therein along the shores, catching fish for the house of my father until we came to Egypt.

**[Verses 4–6 are found only in b d g]**

**4** [“And through compassion I shared my catch with every stranger. **5** And, if a man were a stranger, or sick, or aged, I boiled the fish, and dressed them well, and offered them to all men, as every man had need, grieving with and having compassion upon them. **6** And, therefore, the Lord satisfied me with abundance of fish when catching fish; for, he that shares with his neighbour receives manifold more from the Lord.]

**7** “For five years, I caught fish [and gave thereof to every man whom I saw, and sufficed for all the house of my father]. **8** And, in the summer, I caught fish; and, in the winter, I kept sheep with my brothers.

**Chapter 7**

**[Verses 7:1–8:3 are found only in b d g]**

**1** [“Now I will declare to you what I did. I saw a man in distress through nakedness in wintertime, and had compassion on him, and stole away a garment secretly from my father’s house and gave it to him who was in distress. **2** Do, therefore, my children, from that which God bestows on you, show compassion and mercy without hesitation to all men, and give to every man with a good heart. **3** And, if you do not have the wherewithal to give to him that needs, have compassion for him in bowels of mercy. **4** I know that my hand did not find the wherewithal to give to him that needed, and I walked with him weeping for seven furlongs, and my bowels yearned towards him in compassion.

**Chapter 8**

**1** “Have, therefore, yourselves also, my children, compassion towards every man with mercy, so that the Lord also may have compassion and mercy on you. **2** Because also, in the last days, God will send His compassion on the earth, and wherever He finds bowels of mercy, He dwells in him. **3** For, in the degree in which a man has compassion upon his neighbours, in the same degree has the Lord also upon him.]

**4** “And, when we went down into Egypt, Joseph bore no malice against us. **5** To whom taking heed, also, my children, approve yourselves without malice, and love one another; and do not set down in account, each one of you, evil against his brother. **6** For, this breaks unity and divides all kindred, and troubles the soul, and wears away the countenance.

**Chapter 9**

**1** “Observe, therefore, the waters, and know when they flow together, they sweep along stones, trees, sand, and other things. **2** But, if they are divided into many streams, the earth swallows them up, and they **vanish away**. **3** So shall you also be if you are divided. **4** Be not, therefore, divided into two heads; for, everything that the Lord made has but one head, and two shoulders, two hands, two feet, and all the remaining members. **5** For, I have learnt in the writing of my fathers, that:

You shall be divided in Israel,  
And you shall follow two kings,  
And shall work every abomination.

**6**  And your enemies shall lead you captive,  
And you shall be evil entreated among the Gentiles,  
With many infirmities and tribulations.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **7**  And, after these things, you shall remember the Lord and repent, And He shall have mercy upon you,  for, He is merciful and compassionate. And does not set down in account evil against the sons of men, Because they are flesh,    and are deceived through their own wicked deeds. | **7**  And, after these things, you shall remember the Lord, and repent, [And He shall cause you to return];  for, He is merciful and compassionate. And He does not set down in account evil    to the sons of men, because they are flesh, And the spirits of deceit deceive them in all their deeds. |
| **α a e f A S1** | **b d g** |
| **8**  And, after these things, shall there arise to you    the Lord Himself, the light of righteousness,  And you shall return unto your land. And you shall see Him in Jerusalem, for His name’s sake. | **8**  And, after these things, there shall arise to you    the Lord Himself, the light of righteousness, [And healing and compassion shall be in His wings. He shall redeem all the captivity of the sons of men from Beliar; And every spirit of deceit shall be trodden down]; And he shall bring back all the Gentiles into zeal for Him. And you shall see [God in the fashion of a man] (the place) that   the Lord shall choose, Jerusalem is its name. |

**9**  And again, through the wickedness of your works, you shall provoke Him to anger,  
And you shall be cast away by Him to the time of consummation.

**Chapter 10**

**1** “And now, my children, do not grieve that I am dying, nor be cast down in that I am coming to my end. **2** For, I shall rise again in the midst of you, as a ruler in the midst of his sons; and I shall rejoice in the midst of my tribe, as many as shall keep the law of the Lord, and the commandments of Zebulun their father. **3** But, on the ungodly shall the Lord bring eternal fire, and destroy them throughout all generations. **4** But I am now hastening away to my rest, as did also my fathers. **5** But fear the Lord our God with all your strength all the days of your life.” **6** And, when he had said these things, he fell asleep, at a good **old age**. **7** And his sons laid him in a wooden coffin. And, afterwards, they carried him up and buried him in Hebron, with his fathers.

**The Testament of Dan, the Seventh Son of Jacob and Bilhah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the words of Dan, which he spoke to his sons in his last days, in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life. **2** For, he called together his family, and said, “Listen to my words, you sons of Dan; and give heed to the words of your father. **3** I have proved, in my heart and in my whole life, that truth with just dealing is good and well pleasing to God, and that lying and anger are evil, because they teach man all wickedness. **4** I confess, therefore, this day to you, my children, that in my heart I resolved on the death of Joseph my brother, the true and good man. **5** [And I rejoiced that he was sold, because his father loved him more than us.] **6** For, the spirit of jealousy and vainglory said to me, “You yourself also are his son.” **7** And one of the spirits of Beliar stirred me up, saying, “Take this sword, and with it slay Joseph: so shall your father love you when he is dead.” **8** Now this is the spirit of anger that persuaded me to crush Joseph as a leopard crushes a kid.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **9** “But the God of my fathers did not suffer him to fall into my hands, so that I should find him alone and slay him and cause a second tribe to be destroyed in Israel. | **9** “But the God of Jacob our father did not deliver him into my hands that I should find him alone, nor suffer me to work this iniquity, lest two tribes should be destroyed in Israel. |

**Chapter 2**

**1** “And now, my children, behold I am dying, and I tell you of a truth, that unless you keep yourselves from the spirit of lying and of anger, and love truth and longsuffering, you shall perish.

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| **c** | **β A S1** |
| **2** “For, anger is blindness and does not suffer one to see the face of any man with truth. | **2** “There is blindness in anger, my children, and no angry man sees the face with truth. |

**3** “For, though it be a father or a mother, he behaves towards them as enemies; though it be a brother, he knows him not; though it be a prophet of the Lord, he disobeys him; though a righteous man, he regards him not; though a friend, he does not acknowledge him. **4** For, the spirit of anger encompasses him with the net of deceit, and blinds his eyes, and through lying darkens his mind, and gives him its own peculiar vision. **5** And how does it encompass his eyes? With hatred of heart, so as to be envious of his brother.

**Chapter 3**

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| **α** | **β-a A S1** |
| **1** “For, anger is an evil thing, my children; for, it troubles even the soul itself. | **1** “For, anger is an evil thing, my children; for, it becomes a soul to the soul itself. |

**2** “And the body of the angry man it makes its own, and over his soul it gets the mastery, and it bestows on the body power that it may work all iniquity. **3** And, when the body does all these things, the soul justifies what is done, since it sees not aright. **4** Therefore, he that is wrathful, if he is a mighty man, has a threefold power in his anger: one by the help of his servants; and a second by his wealth, whereby he persuades and overcomes wrongfully; and thirdly, having his own natural power he works thereby the evil. **5** And, though the wrathful man be weak, yet has he a power twofold of that which is by nature; for, wrath ever aids such in lawlessness. **6** This spirit goes always with lying at the right hand of Satan, that with cruelty and lying his works may be wrought.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “Understand, therefore, the power of wrath, that it is †vain. **2** For, it first of all gives provocation by word; then by deeds it †strengthens him who is angry, and with sharp losses disturbs his mind, and so stirs up with great wrath his soul. **3** Therefore, when anyone speaks against you, do not be moved to anger, [and if any man praises you as holy men, do not be uplifted: do not be moved either to delight or to disgust]. **4** For, first †it pleases the hearing†, and so makes the mind keen to perceive the grounds for provocation; and then being enraged, he thinks that he is justly angry. **5** If you fall into any loss or ruin, my children, do not be afflicted; for, this very spirit makes (a man) desire that which is perishable, in order that he may be enraged through the affliction. **6** And, if you suffer loss voluntarily, or involuntarily, do not be vexed; for, from vexation arises wrath with lying. **7** Moreover, a twofold mischief is wrath with lying; and they assist one another in order to disturb the heart; and, when the soul is continually disturbed, the Lord departs from it and Beliar rules over it.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “Observe, therefore, my children, the commandments of the Lord,

“ And keep His law;  
Depart from wrath,  
And hate lying,  
That the Lord may dwell among you,  
And Beliar may flee from you.

**2**  Speak truth, each one with his neighbour.  
So shall you not fall into wrath and confusion;  
But you shall be in peace, having the God of peace,  
So shall no war prevail over you.

**3**  Love the Lord through all your life,  
And one another with a true heart.

**4**  I know that, in the last days, you shall depart from the Lord,  
And you shall provoke Levi to anger,  
And fight against Judah;  
But you shall not prevail against them.  
For, an angel of the Lord shall guide them both;  
For, by them, shall Israel stand.

**5** “And, whenever you depart from the Lord, you shall walk in all evil and work the abominations of the Gentiles, going a-whoring after women of the lawless ones, while with all wickedness the spirits of wickedness work in you. **6** [For, I have read in the book of Enoch, the righteous, that your prince is Satan, and that all the spirits of wickedness and pride will conspire to attend constantly on the sons of Levi, to cause them to sin before the Lord.

**7**  “ And my sons will draw near to Levi,  
And sin with them in all things;  
And the sons of Judah will be covetous,  
Plundering other men’s goods like lions.]

**8**  Therefore shall you be led away [with them] into captivity,  
And there shall you receive all the plagues of Egypt,  
And all the evils of the Gentiles.

**9**  And so when you return to the Lord you shall obtain mercy,  
And He shall bring you into His sanctuary,  
And He shall give you peace.

**10**  And there shall arise unto you from the tribe of [Judah and of] Levi the salvation of the Lord;  
And he shall make war against Beliar.  
And execute an everlasting vengeance on our enemies;

**11**  And the captivity shall he take from Beliar [the souls of the saints],  
And turn disobedient hearts unto the Lord,  
And give to them that call upon him eternal peace.

**12**  And the saints shall rest in Eden,  
And in the New Jerusalem shall the righteous rejoice,  
And it shall be unto the glory of God for ever.

**13**  And no longer shall Jerusalem endure desolation,  
Nor Israel be led captive;  
For the Lord shall be in the midst of it [living amongst men],

“And the Holy One of Israel shall reign over it [in humility and in poverty; and he who believeth on Him shall reign amongst men in truth].

**Chapter 6**

**1** “And now, fear the Lord, my children, and beware of Satan and his spirits. **2** Draw near to God and to the angel that intercedes for you; for, he is a mediator between God and man and, for the peace of Israel, he shall stand up against the kingdom of the enemy. **3** Therefore, is the enemy eager to destroy all that call upon the Lord. **4** For, he knows that, on the day on which Israel shall repent, the kingdom of the enemy shall be brought to an end. **5** For, the very angel of peace shall strengthen Israel, that it falls not into the extremity of evil. **6** And it shall be in the time of the lawlessness of Israel, that the Lord will not depart from them, but **will transform them into** a nation that does His will; for, none of the angels will be equal to him. **7** And His name shall be in every place in Israel, and among the Gentiles.

**8**  “ Keep, therefore, yourselves, my children, from every evil work,  
And cast away wrath and all lying,  
And love truth and long-suffering.

**9** “And the things that you have heard from your father, also impart to your children [that the Saviour of the Gentiles may receive you; for, he is true and long-suffering, meek and lowly, and teaches by his works the law of God]. **10** Depart, therefore, from all unrighteousness, and cleave unto the righteousness of God, and your race will be saved for ever. And bury me near my fathers.”

**Chapter 7**

**1** And, when he had said these things, he kissed them and fell asleep at a good old age. **2** And his sons buried him; and, after that, they carried up his bones, and placed them near Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. **3** [Nevertheless, Dan prophesied unto them that they should forget their God and should be alienated from the land of their inheritance and from the race of Israel, and from the family of †their seed.†⌉]

**The Testament of Naphtali, the Eighth Son of Jacob and Bilhah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the testament of Naphtali, which he ordained at the time of his death in the hundred and thirtieth year of his life. **2** When his sons were gathered together in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, while still in good health, he made them a feast of food and wine. **3** And, after he was awake in the morning, he said to them, “I am dying;” and they did not believe him. **4** And, as he glorified the Lord, he grew strong and said that after yesterday’s feast he should die. **5** And he began then to say, “Hear, my children, you sons of Naphtali, hear the words of your father. **6** I was born from Bilhah and, because Rachel dealt craftily, and gave Bilhah in place of herself to Jacob, and she conceived and bore me on Rachel’s knees, therefore she called my name Naphtali. **7** For, Rachel loved me very much because I was born on her lap; and, when I was still young, she was wont to kiss me, and say, “May I have a brother of yours from my own womb, like you.” **8** Whence also Joseph was like me in all things, according to the prayers of Rachel. **9** Now, my mother was Bilhah, daughter of Rotheus the brother of Deborah, Rebecca’s nurse, who was born on one and the self-same day with Rachel. **10** And Rotheus was of the family of Abraham, a Chaldaean, God-fearing, free-born, and noble. **11** And he was taken captive and was bought by Laban; and he gave him Euna his handmaid to wife, and she bore a daughter, and called her name Zilpah, after the name of the village in which he had been taken captive. **12** And next she bore Bilhah, saying, “My daughter hastens after what is new, for immediately that she was born she seized the breast and hastened to suck it.”

**Chapter 2**

**1** “And I was swift on my feet like the deer, and my father Jacob appointed me for all messages, and as a deer he gave me his blessing. **2** For, as the potter knows the vessel, how much it is to contain, and brings clay accordingly, so also does the Lord make the body after the likeness of the spirit, and according to the capacity of the body does He implant the spirit. **3** And the one does not fall short of the other by a third part of a hair; for, by weight, and measure, and rule was all the creation made. **4** And, as the potter knows the use of each vessel, what it is meant for, so also does the Lord know the body, how far it will persist in goodness, and when it begins in evil. **5** For, there is no inclination or thought that the Lord does not know; for, He created every man after His own image.

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| **α** | **β-ag A** |
| **6** “For, as a man’s strength, so also is his work; as his †eye, so also is his sleep; as his soul, so also is his word either in the law of the Lord or in the law of Beliar. | **6** “As a man’s strength, so also is his work; and as his mind, so also is his skill; and as his purpose, so also is his achievement; and as his heart, so also is his mouth; as his †eye, so also is his sleep; as his soul, so also is his word, either in the law of the Lord or in the works of Beliar. |

**7** “And, as there is a division between light and darkness, between seeing and hearing, so also is there a division between man and man, and between woman and woman; and it is not to be said that the one is like the other either in face or in mind. **8** For, God made all things good in their order, the five senses in the head, and He joined on the neck to the head, adding to it the hair also for comeliness and glory, then the heart for understanding, the belly for excrement, and the stomach for <grinding>, the windpipe for taking in (the breath), the liver for wrath, the gall for bitterness, the spleen for laughter, the reins for prudence, the muscles of the loins for power, the lungs for drawing in, the loins for strength, and so forth. **9** So then, my children, let all your works be done in order to with good intent in the fear of God, and do nothing disorderly in scorn or out of its due season. **10** For, if you bid the eye to hear, it cannot; so, neither while you are in darkness can you do the works of light.

**Chapter 3**

**1** “Be, therefore, not eager to corrupt your doings through covetousness or with vain words to beguile your souls; because, if you keep silence in purity of heart, you shall understand how to hold fast the will of God, and to cast away the will of Beliar. **2** Sun and moon and stars do not change their order; so you also must not change the law of God in the disorderliness of your doings. **3** The Gentiles went astray, and forsook the Lord, and changed their order, and obeyed stocks and stones, spirits of deceit. **4** But you shall not be so, my children, recognizing in the firmament, in the earth, and in the sea, and in all created things, the Lord who made all things, that you do not become as Sodom, which changed the order of nature. **5** In like manner, the Watchers also changed the order of their nature, whom the Lord cursed at the flood, on whose account He made the earth without inhabitants and fruitless.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “These things I say to you, my children; for, I have read in the writing of Enoch that you yourselves also shall depart from the Lord, walking according to all the lawlessness of the Gentiles, and you shall do according to all the wickedness of Sodom. **2** And the Lord shall bring captivity upon you, and there shall you serve your enemies, and you shall be bowed down with every affliction and tribulation, until the Lord has consumed you all. **3** And, after you have become diminished and made few, you shall return and acknowledge the Lord your God; and He shall bring you back into your land, according to His abundant mercy. **4** And it shall be, that after that they come into the land of their fathers, they shall again forget the Lord and become ungodly. **5** And the Lord shall scatter them upon the face of all the earth, until the compassion of the Lord shall come, a man working righteousness and working mercy unto all those who are far off, and to those who are near.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “For, in the fortieth year of my life, I saw a vision on the Mount of Olives, on the east of Jerusalem, that the sun and the moon were standing still. **2** And behold Isaac, the father of my father, said to us, “Run and lay hold of them, each one according to his strength; and to him that seizes them will the sun and moon belong.” **3** And we all of us ran together, and Levi laid hold of the sun, and Judah outstripped the others and seized the moon, and they were both of them lifted up with them. **4** And, when Levi became as a sun, lo, a certain young man gave to him twelve branches of palm; and Judah was bright as the moon, and under their feet were twelve rays. **5** [And the two, Levi and Judah, ran, and laid hold of them.] **6** And lo, a bull upon the earth, with two great horns, and an eagle’s wings upon its back; and we wished to seize him, but could not. **7** But Joseph came, and seized him, and ascended up with him on high. **8** And I saw, for I was there, and behold a holy writing appeared to us, saying: Assyrians, Medes, Persians, [Chaldeans,] Syrians, shall possess in captivity the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Chapter 6**

**1** “And again, after seven days, I saw our father Jacob standing by the sea of Jamnia, and we were with him. **2** And behold, there came a ship sailing by, without sailors or pilot; and there was written on the ship, ‘The Ship of Jacob’. **3** And our father said to us, “Come, let us embark on our ship.” **4** And, when he had gone on board, there arose a vehement storm, and a mighty tempest of wind; and our father, who was holding the helm, departed from us. **5** And we, being tossed with the tempest, were borne along over the sea; and the ship was filled with water, (and was) pounded by mighty waves, until it was broken up. **6** And Joseph fled away upon a little boat, and we were all divided upon nine planks, and Levi and Judah were together. **7** And we were all scattered unto the ends of the earth. **8** Then Levi, girt about with sackcloth, prayed for us all to the Lord. **9** And, when the storm ceased, the ship reached the land as it were in peace. And, lo, our father came, and we all rejoiced with one accord.

**Chapter 7**

**1** “These two dreams I told to my father; and he said to me, “These things must be fulfilled in their season, after that Israel has endured many things.”

**2** “Then my father saith to me, “I believe God that Joseph lives; for, I see always that the Lord numbers him with you.” **3** “And he said, weeping, “Ah me, my son Joseph, you live, though I behold you not, and you see not Jacob that fathered you.” **4** “He caused me also, therefore, to weep by these words, and I burned in my heart to declare that Joseph had been sold, but I feared my brothers.

**Chapter 8**

**1** “And lo! my children, I have shown unto you the last times, how everything shall come to pass in Israel. **2** You must also, therefore, charge your children that they be united to Levi and to Judah;

“ For, through **them** shall salvation arise unto Israel,  
And in **them** shall Jacob be blessed.

**3**  For, through their tribes shall God appear [dwelling among men] on earth,  
To save the race of Israel,  
And to gather together the righteous from amongst the Gentiles.

**4**  If you work that which is good, my children,  
Both men and angels shall bless you;  
And God shall be glorified among the Gentiles through you,  
And the devil shall flee from you,  
And the wild beasts shall fear you,  
And the Lord shall love you,  
[And the angels shall cleave to you].

**5**  As a man who has trained a child well is kept in kindly remembrance;  
So also for a good work there is a good remembrance before God.

**6**  But him that does not that which is good,  
Both angels and men shall curse,  
And God shall be dishonoured among the Gentiles through him,  
And the devil shall make him as his own peculiar instrument,  
And every wild beast shall master him,  
And the Lord shall hate him.

**7**  For, the commandments of the law are twofold,  
And through prudence must they be fulfilled.

**8**  For, there is a season for a man to embrace his wife,  
And a season to abstain therefrom for his prayer.

9 “So, then, there are two commandments; and, unless they are done in due order, they bring very great sin upon men. 10 So also is it with the other commandments. Be, therefore, wise in God, my children, and prudent, understanding the order of His commandments, and the laws of every word, that the Lord may love you.”

**Chapter 9**

**1** And, when he had charged them with many such words, he exhorted them that they should remove his bones to Hebron, and that they should bury him with his fathers. **2** And, when he had eaten and drunken with a merry heart, he covered his face and died. 3 And his sons did according to all that Naphtali their father had commanded them.

**The Testament of Gad, the Ninth Son of Jacob and Zilpah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the testament of Gad, what things he spoke to his sons, in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life, saying to them, **2** “Listen, my children, I was the ninth son born to Jacob, and I was valiant in keeping the flocks. **3** Accordingly, I guarded at night the flock; and, whenever the lion came, or the wolf, or any wild beast against the fold, I pursued it; and, overtaking (it), I seized its foot with my hand and hurled it about a stone’s throw, and so killed it. **4** Now, Joseph my brother was feeding the flock with us for upwards of thirty days; and, being young, he fell sick by reason of the heat. **5** And he returned to Hebron to our father, who made him lie down near him, because he loved him greatly. **6** And Joseph told our father that the sons of Zilpah and Bilhah were slaying the best of the flock and eating them against the judgement of Reuben and Judah. **7** For, he saw that I had delivered a lamb out of the mouth of a bear and put the bear to death; but had slain the lamb, being grieved concerning it that it could not live, and that we had eaten it. **8** And, regarding this matter, I was angry with Joseph until the day that he was sold. **9** And the spirit of hatred was in me, and I wished not either to hear of Joseph with the ears, or see him with the eyes, because he rebuked us to our faces saying that we were eating of the flock without Judah. For whatsoever things he told our father, he believed him.

**Chapter 2**

**1** “I confess now my sin, my children, that oftentimes I wished to kill him, because I hated him from my heart. **2** Moreover, I hated him yet more for his dreams; and I wished to lick him out of the land of the living, even as an ox licks up the grass of the field.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **3** “And Judah sold him secretly to the Ishmaelites.  **5** “Thus, the God of our fathers delivered him from our hands, that we should not work great lawlessness in Israel | **3** “Therefore, I and Simeon sold him to the Ishmaelites [for thirty pieces of gold, and ten of them we hid, and showed the twenty to our brothers]. **4** And thus, through covetousness, we were bent on slaying him. **5** And the God of my fathers delivered him from my hands, that I should not work lawlessness in Israel. |

**Chapter 3**

**1** “And now, my children, listen to the words of truth to work righteousness, and all the law of the Most High, and do not go astray through the spirit of hatred; for, it is evil in all the doings of men. **2** Whatever a man does, the hater abominates him; and, though a man works the law of the Lord, he praises him not; though a man fears the Lord, and takes pleasure in that which is righteous, he loves him not. **3** He dispraises the truth, he envies him that prospers, he welcomes evil speaking, he loves arrogance; for, hatred blinds his soul; as I †also then looked† on Joseph.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “Beware, therefore, my children of hatred; for, it works lawlessness even against the Lord Himself. **2** For, it will not hear the words of His commandments concerning the loving of one’s neighbour, and it sins against God. **3** For, if a brother stumbles, it delights immediately to proclaim it to all men and is urgent that he should be judged for it and be punished and be put to death. **4** And, if it is a servant, it stirs him up against his master, and with every affliction it devises against him, if possibly he can be put to death. **5** For, hatred works with envy also against them that prosper: so long as it hears of or sees their success, it always languishes.

**6** “For, as love would quicken even the dead, and would call back them that are condemned to die, so hatred would slay the living, and those that had sinned venially it would not suffer to live. **7** For, the spirit of hatred works together with Satan, through hastiness of spirit, in all things to men’s death; but the spirit of love works together with the law of God in long-suffering unto the salvation of men.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “Hatred, therefore, is evil, for it constantly mates with lying, speaking against the truth; and it makes small things to be great, and causes the light to be darkness, and calls the sweet bitter, and teaches slander, and kindles wrath, and stirs up war, and violence and all covetousness; it fills the heart with evils and devilish poison. **2** These things, therefore, I say to you from experience, my children, that you may drive forth hatred, which is of the devil, and cleave to the love of God. **3** Righteousness casts out hatred, humility destroys envy. For, he that is just and humble is ashamed to do what is unjust, being reproved not of another, but of his own heart, because the Lord looks on his inclination. **4** He speaks not against a holy man, because the fear of God overcomes hatred. **5** For, fearing lest he should offend the Lord, he will not do wrong to any man, even in thought. **6** These things I learnt at last, after I had repented concerning Joseph. **7** For, true repentance after a godly sort [destroys ignorance, and] drives away the darkness, and enlightens the eyes, and gives knowledge to the soul, and leads the mind to salvation. **8** And those things that it has not learnt from man, it knows through repentance. **9** For, God brought upon me a disease of the liver; and had not the prayers of Jacob my father succoured me, it had hardly failed but my spirit had departed. **10** For, by what things a man transgresses, by the same also is he punished. **11** Since, therefore, my liver was set mercilessly against Joseph, in my liver too I suffered mercilessly, and was judged for eleven months, for so long a time as I had been angry against Joseph.

**Chapter 6**

1 “And now, my children, I exhort you, love each one his brother, and put away hatred from your hearts, love one another in deed, and in word, and in the inclination of the soul. 2 For, in the presence of my father I spoke peaceably to Joseph; and, when I had gone out, the spirit of hatred darkened my mind, and stirred up my soul to slay him.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **3** “Love one another from the heart; and, if a man sins against you, speak peaceably to him, and in your soul hold not guile; and, if he repents and confesses, forgive him. | **3** “Love, therefore, one another from the heart; and, if a man sins against you, cast forth the poison of hate and speak peaceably to him, and in your soul hold not guile; and if he confesses and repents, forgive him. |

**4** “But if he denies it, do not get into a passion with him, lest catching the poison from you he takes to swearing and so thou sin doubly. **5** [Let not another man hear your secrets when engaged in legal strife, lest he comes to hate you and becomes your enemy, and commits a great sin against you; for, ofttimes, he addresses you guilefully or busies himself about you with wicked intent.] **6** And. though he denies it and yet has a sense of shame when reproved, give over reproving him. For, he who denies may repent so as not again to wrong you; yea, he may also honour you, and [fear and] be at peace with you. **7** And, if he is shameless and persists in his wrongdoing, even so forgive him from the heart, and leave to God the avenging.

**Chapter 7**

**1** “If a man prospers more than you, do not be vexed, but pray also for him, that he may have perfect prosperity. **2** For, so it is expedient for you. And, if he is further exalted, do not be envious of him, remembering that all flesh shall die; and offer praise to God, who gives things good and profitable to all men. **3** Seek out the judgements of the Lord, and your mind will rest and be at peace. **4** And, though a man becomes rich by evil means, even as Esau, the brother of my father, do not be jealous; but wait for the end of the Lord. **5** For, if he takes away (from a man) wealth gotten by evil means, He forgives him if he repents, but the unrepentant is reserved for eternal punishment. **6** For, the poor man if, free from envy, he pleases the Lord in all things, is blessed beyond all men, because he has not the travail of vain men. **7** Put away, therefore, jealousy from your souls, and love one another with uprightness of heart.

**Chapter 8**

**1** “Therefore, tell these things to your children, that they honour †Judah and Levi†; for, from them shall the Lord raise up salvation to Israel. **2** [For I know that at the last your children shall depart from Him, and shall walk in all wickedness, and affliction and corruption before the Lord.]” **3** And, when he had rested for a little while, he said again, “My children, obey your father, and bury me near to my fathers.” **4** And he drew up his feet and fell asleep in peace. **5** And, after five years they carried him up to Hebron, and laid him with his fathers.

**The Testament of Asher, the Tenth Son of Jacob and Zilpah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the Testament of Asher, what things he spoke to his sons in the hundred and twenty-fifth year of his life. **2** For, while he was still in health, he said to them, “Listen, you children of Asher, to your father, and I will declare to you all that is upright in the sight of the Lord. **3** Two ways has God given to the sons of men, and two inclinations, and two kinds of action, and two modes (of action), and two issues. **4** Therefore, all things are by twos, one over against the other. **5** For, there are two ways of good and evil, and †with these are the two inclinations in our breasts discriminating them†. **6** Therefore, if the soul takes pleasure in the good (inclination), all its actions are in righteousness; and, if it sins, it straight away repents. **7** For, having its thoughts set upon righteousness, and casting away wickedness, it straight away overthrows the evil, and uproots the sin. **8** But **if it inclines to the evil inclination**, all its actions are in wickedness, and it drives away the good, and cleaves to the evil, and is ruled by Beliar; even though it works what is good, he perverts it to evil. **9** For, whenever it begins to do good, he forces the issue of the action into evil for him, seeing that the treasure of the inclination is filled with an evil spirit.

**Chapter 2**

**1** “A person then may with words **help** the good for the sake of the evil, yet the issue of the action leadeth to mischief. **2** There is a man who shows no compassion on him who serves his turn in evil; and this thing has two aspects, but the whole is evil. **3** And there is a man that loves him that works evil, because he would prefer even to die in evil for his sake; and concerning this it is clear that it hath two aspects, but the whole is an evil work.

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| **α** | **β S1** |
| **4** “†Though indeed he has love, yet he is wicked who conceals what is evil for the sake of the good name†, but the end of the action tends to evil. | **4** “Though indeed there is love, yet it is wicked as it conceals what is evil; now this thing seems good in name, but the end of the action tends to evil. |

**5** “Another steals, does unjustly, plunders, defrauds, and withal pities the poor: this too has a twofold aspect, but the whole is evil. **6** He who defrauds his neighbour provokes God, and swears falsely against the Most High, and yet pities the poor: the Lord who commands the law he sets at nought and provokes, and yet he refreshes the poor. **7** He defiles the soul and makes gay the body; he kills many, and pities a few: this, too, has a twofold aspect, but the whole is evil. **8** Another commits adultery and fornication, and abstains from meats and, when he fasts, he does evil, and by the power of his wealth overwhelms many; and, **notwithstanding** his excessive wickedness, he does the commandments: this, too, has a twofold aspect, but the whole is evil. **9** Such men are hares; clean, like **those that divide the hoof**, but in very deed are unclean. **10** For, God in the tables of the commandments has thus declared.

**Chapter 3**

**1** “But do not, my children, wear two faces like them, of goodness and of wickedness; but cleave to goodness only; for, God has his habitation therein, and men desire it. **2** But from wickedness flee away, destroying the (evil) inclination by your good works; for, they that are double-faced serve not God, but their own lusts, so that they may please Beliar and men like themselves.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “For, good men, even they that are of single face, though they be thought by them that are double-faced to sin, are just before God. **2** For, many, in killing the wicked, do two works, of good and evil; but the whole is good, because he has uprooted and destroyed that which is evil. **3** One man hates the merciful and unjust man, and the man who commits adultery and fasts: this, too, has a two-fold aspect, but the whole work is good, because he follows the Lord’s example, in that he accepts not the seeming good **as** the genuine good. **4** Another desires not to see a good day with them that riot, lest he defile his body and pollute his soul: this, too, is double-faced, but the whole is good. **5** For, such men are like to stags and to hinds, because in the manner of wild animals they seem to be unclean, but they are altogether clean; because they walk in zeal for the Lord and abstain from what God also hates and forbids by His commandments, warding off the evil from the good.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “You see, my children, how that there are two in all things, one against the other, and the one is hidden by the other: in wealth (is hidden) covetousness, in conviviality drunkenness, in laughter grief, in wedlock profligacy. **2** Death succeeds to life, dishonour to glory, night to day, and darkness to light; [and all things are under the day, just things under life, unjust things under death;] therefore, also eternal life †awaits death. **3** Nor may it be said that truth is a lie, nor right wrong; for, all truth is under the light, even as all things are under God. **4** All these things, therefore, I proved in my life, and I wandered not from the truth of the Lord, and I searched out the commandments of the Most High, walking according to all my strength with singleness of face to that which is good.

**Chapter 6**

**1** “Take heed, therefore, also, my children, to the commandments of the Lord, following the truth with singleness of face. **2** For, they that are double-faced are guilty of a twofold sin; for, they both do the evil thing and they have pleasure in them that do it, following the example of the spirits of deceit, and striving against mankind. **3** Therefore, my children, keep the law of the Lord, and give not heed to evil as to good; but look to the thing that is really good, and keep it in all commandments of the Lord, having your conversation therein, and resting therein. **4** For, the latter ends of men do show their righteousness (or unrighteousness), when they meet the angels of the Lord and of Satan. **5** For, when the soul departs troubled, it is tormented by the evil spirit which also it served in lusts and evil works.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **6** “But, if he is peaceful with joy, he **meets** the angel of peace, and he leads him into eternal life. | **6** “But, if peacefully with joy, he **has met** the angel of peace, he †comforts him with life. |

**Chapter 7**

**1** “Become not, my children, as Sodom, which sinned against the angels of the Lord, and perished for ever. **2** For, I know that you shall sin and be delivered into the hands of your enemies; and your land shall be made desolate, and your holy places destroyed, and you shall be scattered to the four corners of the earth. **3** And you shall be set at nought in the dispersion vanishing away as water, until the Most High shall visit the earth, coming Himself [as man, with men eating and drinking], and breaking the head of the dragon in the water. He shall save Israel and all the Gentiles [God speaking in the person of man]. **4** [Therefore, also, my children, tell these things to your children, that they do not disobey Him. **5** For, I have known that you shall assuredly be disobedient, and assuredly act ungodly, not giving heed to the law of God, but to the commandments of men, being corrupted through wickedness. **6** And, therefore, shall you be scattered as Gad and Dan my brothers, and you shall know not your lands, tribe, and tongue. **7** But the Lord will gather you together in faith through His tender mercy, and for the sake of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.]”

**Chapter 8**

**1** And, when he had said these things to them, he commanded them, saying, “Bury me in Hebron.” **2** And he fell asleep and died at a good old age. And his sons did as he had commanded them, and they carried him up to Hebron, and buried him with his fathers.

**The Testament of Joseph, the Eleventh Son of Jacob and Rachel**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the Testament of Joseph. When he was about to die, he called his sons and his brothers together, and said to them:

**2**  “ My brothers and my children,  
Listen to Joseph the beloved of Israel;  
Give ear, my sons, to your father.

**3**  I have seen in my life envy and death,  
Yet I went not astray, but persevered in the truth of the Lord.

**4**  These, my brothers, hated me, but the Lord loved me;  
They wished to slay me, but the God of my fathers guarded me;  
They let me down into a pit, and the Most High brought me up again.

**5**  I was sold into slavery, and the Lord of all made me free:  
I was taken into captivity, and His strong hand succoured me.  
I was beset with hunger, and the Lord Himself nourished me.

**6**  I was alone, and God comforted me:  
I was sick, and the Lord visited me:  
I was in prison, and my God showed favour unto me;  
In bonds, and He released me;

**7**  Slandered, and He pleaded my cause;  
Bitterly spoken against by the Egyptians, and He delivered me;  
Envied by my fellow-slaves, and He exalted me.

**Chapter 2**

**1** “And this chief captain of Pharaoh entrusted to me his house. **2** And I struggled against a shameless woman, urging me to transgress with her; but the God of Israel my father delivered me from the burning flame. **3** I was cast into prison, I was beaten, I was mocked; but the Lord granted me to find mercy in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

**4**  “ For, the Lord does not forsake them that fear Him,  
Neither in darkness, nor in bonds, nor in tribulations, nor in necessities.

**5**  For, God is not put to shame as a man,  
Nor as the son of man is he afraid,  
Nor as one that is earth-born is He [weak or] affrighted.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **6**  “But, in all those things, does He give protection, And in divers ways does He comfort, (Though) for a little space He departs    to try the inclination of the soul. | **6**  “But, in all places, He is at hand. |

**7**  “ In ten temptations He showed me approved,  
And in all of them I endured;  
For, endurance is a mighty charm,  
And patience giveth many good things.

**Chapter 3**

**1** “How often did the Egyptian woman threaten me with death! How often did she give me over to punishment, and then call me back and threaten me; and, when I was unwilling to company with her, she said to me, **2** “You shall be lord of me, and all that is in my house, if you will give yourself to me, and you shall be as our master.” **3** But I remembered the words of my father and, going into my chamber, I wept and prayed to the Lord. **4** And I fasted in those seven years, and I appeared to the Egyptians as one living delicately; for, they that fast for God’s sake receive beauty of face. **5** And, if my lord were away from home, I drank no wine; nor for three days did I take my food, but I gave it to the poor and sick. **6** And I sought the Lord early, and I wept for the Egyptian woman of Memphis; for, very unceasingly did she trouble me; for, also at night she came to me under pretence of visiting me.

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **7** “And, because she had no male child, she pretended to regard me as a son. | **7** “And, because she had no male child, she pretended to regard me as a son, and so I prayed to the Lord, and she bore a male child. |

**8** “And, for a time she embraced me as a son, and I knew it not; †but later, she sought to draw me into fornication. **9** And, when I perceived it, I sorrowed to death; and, when she had gone out, I came to myself, and lamented for her many days, because I recognized her guile and her deceit. **10** And I declared to her the words of the Most High, if haply she would turn from her evil lust.

**Chapter 4**

**1** “Often, therefore, did she flatter me with words as a holy man, and guilefully in her talk praise my chastity before her husband, while desiring to ensnare me when we were alone. **2** For, she lauded me openly as chaste, and in secret she said to me, “Fear not my husband; for, he is persuaded concerning your chastity: for, even should one tell him concerning us, he would not believe.” **3** Owing to all these things, I lay upon the ground, and besought God that the Lord would deliver me from her deceit. **4** And, when she had prevailed nothing thereby, she came again to me under the plea of instruction, that she might learn the word of God. **5** And she said to me, “If you wish that I should leave my idols, lie with me, and I will persuade my husband to depart from his idols, and we will walk in the law of thy Lord.” **6** And I said to her, “The Lord does not wish that those who reverence Him should be in uncleanness, nor does He take pleasure in them that commit adultery, but in those that approach Him with a pure heart and undefiled lips.” **7** But she held her peace, longing to accomplish her evil desire. **8** And I gave myself yet more to fasting and prayer, that the Lord might deliver me from her.

**Chapter 5**

**1** “And again, at another time she said to me, “If you will not commit adultery, I will kill my husband by poison; and take you to be my husband.” **2** I, therefore, when I heard this, tore my garments, and said to her, “Woman, reverence God, and do not this evil deed, lest you be destroyed; for, know indeed that I will declare this you device to all men.” **3** She, therefore, being afraid, besought that I would not declare this device. **4** And she departed soothing me with gifts and sending to me every delight of the sons of men.

**Chapter 6**

**1** “And, afterwards, she sent me food mingled with enchantments. **2** And, when the eunuch who brought it came, I looked up and beheld a terrible man giving me with the dish a sword, and I perceived that (her) scheme was to beguile me. **3** And, when he had gone out, I wept, nor did I taste that or any other of her food. **4** So then, after one day, she came to me and observed the food, and said to me, “Why is it that you have not eaten of the food?” **5** And I said to her, “It is because you have filled it with deadly enchantments; and how did you say, “I come not near to idols, but to the Lord alone.” **6** Now, therefore, know that the God of my father has revealed to me by His angel your wickedness, and I have kept it to convict you, if haply you may see and repent.”

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **7** “But that you may learn that the wickedness of the ungodly has no power over them that worship God with chastity, behold I will take of it and eat before you. And having so said, I prayed thus, “The God of my fathers and the angel of Abraham, be with me;” and ate. | **7** “But that you may learn that the wickedness of the ungodly has no power over them that worship God in chastity, I took of it and ate before her, saying, “The God of my fathers and the angel of Abraham shall be with me.” |

**8** “And, when she saw this, she fell upon her face at my feet, weeping; and I raised her up and admonished her. And she promised to do this iniquity no more.

**Chapter 7**

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| **α** | **β A S1** |
| **1** “But her heart was still set upon evil, and she looked around how to ensnare me, and sighing **deeply** she became downcast, though she was not sick. | **1** “But (**d A** ‘nevertheless’) her heart was still set upon me with a view to lewdness; and, sighing, she became downcast. |

**2** “And, when her husband saw her, he said to her, “Why is your countenance fallen?” And she said to him, “I have a pain at my heart, and the groanings of my spirit oppress me;” and so he comforted her who was not sick. **3** Then, accordingly seizing an opportunity, she rushed to me while her husband was yet without, and said to me, “I will hang myself, or cast myself over a cliff, if you will not lie with me.” **4** And, when I saw the spirit of Beliar was troubling her, I prayed to the Lord, and said to her, **5** “Why, wretched woman, are you troubled and disturbed, blinded through sins? Remember that, if you kill yourself, Asteho, the concubine of your husband, your rival, will beat your children, and you will destroy your memorial from off the earth.” **6** And she said to me, “Lo, then, you love me; let this suffice me: only strive for my life and my children, and I expect that I shall enjoy my desire also.” **7** But she knew not that, because of my lord, I spoke thus, and not because of her. **8** For, if a man has fallen before the passion of a wicked desire and become enslaved by it, even as she, whatever good thing he may hear with regard to that passion, he receives it with a view to his wicked desire.

**Chapter 8**

**1** “I declare, therefore, to you, my children, that it was about the sixth hour when she departed from me; and I knelt before the Lord all day, and all the night; and, about dawn, I rose up, weeping the while and praying for a release from her. **2** At last, then, she laid hold of my garments, forcibly dragging me to have connexion with her.

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| **α A** | **β S** |
| **3** “When, therefore, I saw that in her madness she was holding fast to my garment, I left it behind and fled away naked. | **3** “When, therefore, I saw that in her madness she was holding fast by force to my garment, I fled away naked. |
| **α** | **β-d A S1** |
| **4** “And, holding fast to the garment she falsely accused me; and, when her husband came, he cast me into prison in his house; and, on the morrow, he scourged me and sent me into Pharaoh’s prison. **5** And, when I was in bonds, the Egyptian woman was oppressed with grief, and she came and heard how I gave thanks unto the Lord and sang praises in the abode of darkness, and with glad voice rejoiced, glorifying my God that I was delivered **from the lustful desire** of the Egyptian woman. | **4** “And she falsely accused me to her husband, and the Egyptian cast me into prison in his house; and, on the morrow, he scourged me and sent me into Pharaoh’s prison. **5** And, when I was in fetters, the Egyptian was sick with grief, and she heard how I sang praises unto the Lord in the house of darkness, and with glad voice rejoicing, glorified God only that I was delivered from the lustful desire of the Egyptian woman. |

**Chapter 9**

**1** “And often has she sent to me saying, “Consent to fulfil my desire, and I will release you from your bonds, and I will free you from the darkness.” **2** And not even in thought did I incline to her. For, God loves him who, in a den of wickedness, combines fasting with chastity, rather than the man who, in kings’ chambers, combines luxury with licence. **3** And, if a man lives in chastity and desires also glory, and the Most High knows that it is expedient for him, He bestows this also upon me. **4** How often, though she were sick, did she come down to me at unlooked for times, and listened to my voice as I prayed! And, when I heard her groanings, I held my peace. **5** For, when I was in her house, she was wont to bare her arms, and breasts, and legs, that I might lie with her; for, she was very beautiful, splendidly adorned in order to beguile me. And the Lord guarded me from her devices.

**Chapter 10**

**1** “You see, therefore, my children, how great things patience works, and prayer with fasting. **2** So you too, if you follow after chastity and purity with patience and prayer, with fasting in humility of heart, the Lord will dwell among you, because He loves chastity. **3** And, wherever the Most High dwells, even though envy, or slavery, or slander befalls (a man), the Lord who dwells in him, for the sake of his chastity, not only delivers him from evil, but also exalts him even as me. **4** For, in every way the man is lifted up, whether in deed, or in word, or in thought. **5** My brothers knew how my father loved me, and yet I did not exalt myself in my mind: although I was a child, I had the fear of God in my heart; for, I knew that all things would pass away. **6** And I did not raise myself (against them) with evil intent, but I honoured my brothers; and, out of respect for them, even when I was being sold, I refrained from telling the Ishmaelites that I was a son of Jacob, a great man and a mighty.

**Chapter 11**

**1** “So also, my children, have the fear of God in all your works before your eyes, and honour your brothers. **2** For, everyone who does the law of the Lord shall be loved by Him. And, when I came to the Indocolpitae with the Ishmaelites, they asked me, saying, “Are you a slave?” And I said that I was a home-born slave, that I might not put my brothers to shame. **3** And the eldest of them said to me, “You are not a slave; for, even your appearance makes it manifest.” But I said that I was their slave. **4** Now, when we came into Egypt, they strove concerning me, which of them should buy me and take me. **5** Therefore, it seemed good to all that I should remain in Egypt with the merchant of their trade, until they should return bringing merchandise. **6** And the Lord gave me favour in the eyes of the merchant, and he entrusted unto me his house. **7** And God blessed him by my means and increased him in gold and silver and in **household servants**. **8** And I was with him three months and five days.

**Chapter 12**

**1** “And, about that time, the Memphian woman, the wife of Pentephris, came down in a chariot, with great pomp, because she had heard from her eunuchs concerning me. **2** And she told her husband that the merchant had become rich by means of a young Hebrew, and they say that he had assuredly been stolen out of the land of Canaan. **3** Now, therefore, render justice unto him, and take away the youth to your house; so shall the God of the Hebrews bless you; for, grace from heaven is upon him.

**Chapter 13**

**1** “And Pentephris was persuaded by her words, and commanded the merchant to be brought, and said to him, “What is this that I hear concerning you, that you steal persons out of the land of Canaan, and sell them for slaves?” **2** But the merchant fell at his feet, and besought him, saying, “I beseech you, my lord, I know not what you say.” **3** And Pentephris said to him, “Whence, then, is the Hebrew slave?” And he said, “The Ishmaelites entrusted him to me until they should return.” **4** But he did not believe him, but commanded him to be stripped and beaten. And, when he persisted in this statement, Pentephris said, “Let the youth be brought.” **5** And, when I was brought in, I did obeisance to Pentephris (for, he was third in rank of the officers of Pharaoh). **6** And he took me apart from him, and said to me, “Are you a slave or free?” And I said, “A slave.” **7** And he said, “Whose?” And I said, “The Ishmaelites’.” **8** And he said, “How did you become their slave?” And I said, “They bought me out of the land of Canaan.” 9 And he said to me, “Truly, you lie;” and straight away he commanded me to be stripped and beaten.

**Chapter 14**

**1** “Now the Memphian woman was looking through a window at me while I was being beaten; for, her house was near, and she sent to him saying, “Your judgement is unjust; for, you punish a free man who has been stolen, as though he were a transgressor.” **2** And, when I made no change in my statement, though I was beaten, he ordered me to be imprisoned, until, he said, the owners of the boy should come. **3** And the woman said to her husband, “Why do you detain the captive and well-born lad in bonds, who ought rather to be set at liberty, and be waited on?” **4** For, she wished to see me out of a desire of sin, but I was ignorant concerning all these things. **5** And he said to her, “It is not the custom of the Egyptians to take that which belongs to others before proof is given.” **6** This, therefore, he said concerning the merchant; but, as for the lad, he must be imprisoned.

**Chapter 15**

**1** “Now, after twenty-four days, came the Ishmaelites; for, they had heard that Jacob my father was mourning much concerning me. **2** And they came and said to me, “How is it that you said that you were a slave? And lo, we have learnt that you are the son of a mighty man in the land of Canaan, and your father still mourns for you in sackcloth and ashes.” **3** When I heard this, my bowels were dissolved and my heart melted, and I desired greatly to weep, but I restrained myself, that I should not put my brothers to shame. And I said to them, “I know not, I am a slave.” **4** Then, therefore, they took counsel to sell me, that I should not be found in their hands. **5** For, they feared my father, lest he [should come and] execute upon them a grievous vengeance. For, they had heard that he was mighty with God and with men. **6** Then said the merchant to them, “Release me from the judgement of Pentephris.” **7** And they came and requested me, saying, “Say that you were bought by us with money, and he will set us free.”

**Chapter 16**

**1** “Now the Memphian woman said to her husband, “Buy the youth; for, I hear,” said she, “that they are selling him.”

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| **c** | **β A S1** |
| **2** “And, straight away she sent a eunuch to the Ishmaelites and asked them to sell me. **3** But, since the eunuch would not agree to buy me (at their price), he returned, having made trial of them, and he made known to his mistress that they asked a large price for their slave. | **2** “And she sent a eunuch to the Ishmaelites and asked them to sell me. The chief captain, therefore, called the Ishmaelites and asked them to sell me. **3** And, since he did not agree (to their price), he departed. But the eunuch, when he had made trial of them, made known to his mistress that they asked a large price for their slave. |

4 “And she sent another eunuch, saying, “Even though they demand two minas, give them, do not spare the gold; only buy the boy, and bring him to me.”

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| **c** | **β-d A S1** |
| **5** “The eunuch therefore went and gave them eighty pieces of gold, and† he received me†; but to the Egyptian woman he said, “I have given a hundred.” | **5** “And he gave them eighty pieces of gold for me and told the Egyptian woman that a hundred pieces had been given. |

**6** “And, although I knew (this), I held my peace, lest the eunuch should be put to shame.

**Chapter 17**

**1** “You see, therefore, my children, what great things I endured that I should not put my brothers to shame. **2** You must also, therefore, love one another and, with long-suffering, hide one another’s faults. **3** For, God delights in the unity of brothers, and in the purpose of a heart that takes pleasure in love. **4** And, when my brothers came into Egypt, they learnt that I had returned their money to them, and upbraided them not, and comforted them. **5** And, after the death of Jacob my father, I loved them more abundantly, and all things whatsoever he commanded I did very abundantly for them. **6** And I suffered them not to be afflicted in the smallest matter; and all that was in my hand I gave to them. **7** And their children were my children, and my children as their servants; and their life was my life, and all their suffering was my suffering, and all their sickness was my infirmity. **8** My land was their land, and their counsel my counsel. And I did not exalt myself among them in arrogance because of my worldly glory, but I was among them as one of the least.

**Chapter 18**

1 “If you also, therefore, walk in the commandments of the Lord, my children, He will exalt you there, and will bless you with good things for ever and ever. 2 And, if anyone seeks to do evil to you, do well to him, and pray for him, and you shall be redeemed of the Lord from all evil. 3 [For], behold, you see that, out of my humility and long-suffering, I took to wife the daughter of the priest of Heliopolis. And a hundred talents of gold were given me with her, and the Lord made them to serve me. 4 And He gave me also beauty as a flower beyond the beautiful ones of Israel; and He preserved me to old age in strength and in beauty, because I was like in all things to Jacob.

**Chapter 19**

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| **c β S1** | **A** |
| **1** “And hear, my children, also the vision that I saw. **2** There were twelve harts feeding; and the nine were (first) dispersed over all the earth, and likewise also the three. | **1** “Hear, therefore, the vision that I saw: I saw twelve stags feeding. **2** And nine of them were dispersed. Now, the three were preserved but, on the following day, they also were dispersed. **3** And I saw that the three stags became three lambs, and they cried to the Lord, and He brought them forth into a flourishing and well-watered place, yea He brought them out of darkness into light. |
|  | **4** “And there they cried to the Lord until there gathered together to them the nine stags, and they became as twelve sheep; and, after a little time, they increased and became many flocks. **5** And, after these things I saw and behold, twelve bulls were sucking one cow, which produced a sea of milk, and there drank thereof the twelve flocks and innumerable herds. **6** And the horns of the †fourth bull went up unto heaven and became as a wall for the flocks; and, in the midst of the two horns, there grew another horn. **7** And I saw a bull calf that surrounded them twelve times, and it became a help to the bulls wholly. |
| **8** “And I saw that [from Judah was born] a †virgin [wearing a linen garment, and from her] was born a lamb, [without spot]; and on his left hand there was as it were a lion; and all the beasts rushed against him, and the lamb overcame them, and destroyed them and trod them under foot. **9** And, because of him, the angels and men rejoiced, and all the land. **10** And these things shall come to pass in their season, in the last days. **11** Therefore, my children, observe the commandments of the Lord, and honour Levi and Judah; for, from them shall arise unto you [the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world] one who sayeth [all the Gentiles and] Israel.  **12** “For, His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, which shall not pass away; but my kingdom among you shall come to an end as a watcher’s hammock, which after the summer disappears. | **8** “And I saw in the midst of the horns a †virgin [wearing a many-coloured garment, and from her] went forth a lamb; and on his right (was as it were a lion; and) all the beasts and all the reptiles rushed (against him), and the lamb overcame them and destroyed them. **9** And the bulls rejoiced because of him, and the cow [and the stags] exulted together with them. **10** And these things must come to pass in their season. **11** And, my children, honour Levi and Judah; for, from them shall arise the salvation of Israel.  **12** “For, my kingdom that is among you shall come to an end as a watcher’s hammock, which will not appear after the summer. |

**Chapter 20**

**1** “For I know that, after my death, the Egyptians will afflict you, but God will avenge you, and will bring you into that which He promised to your fathers. **2** But you shall carry up my bones with you; for, when my bones are being taken up thither, the Lord shall be with you in light, and Beliar shall be in darkness with the Egyptians.

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| **A b c\* d g** | **β S1** |
| **3** “And carry up Asenath your mother to the Hippodrome and, near Rachel your mother, bury her. | **3** “And carry up Zilpah your mother and, near to Bilhah by the Hippodrome, lay her near Rachel.” |

**4** And, when he had said these things, he stretched out his feet and died at a good **old age**. **5** And all Israel mourned for him, and all Egypt, with a great mourning.

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| **c** | **β S1** |
| **6** And, when the children of Israel went out of Egypt, they took with them the bones of Joseph, and they buried him in Hebron with his fathers, and the years of his life were one hundred and ten years. | **6** For, he felt even for the Egyptians as though a member (of their nation), and showed them kindness, aiding them in every work, and counsel, and matter. |

**The Testament of Benjamin the Twelfth Son of Jacob and Zilpah**

**Chapter 1**

**1** The copy of the words of Benjamin, which he commanded his sons to observe, after he had lived a hundred and twenty-five years. **2** And he kissed them and said, “As Isaac was born to Abraham in his old age, so also was I to Jacob. **3** And, since Rachel my mother died in giving me birth, I had no milk; therefore, I was suckled by Bilhah her handmaid. **4** For, Rachel remained barren for twelve years after she had borne Joseph; and she prayed to the Lord with fasting for twelve days, and she conceived and bore me. **5** For, my father loved Rachel dearly, and prayed that he might see two sons born from her. **6** Therefore, was I called Benjamin, that is, a son of days.

**Chapter 2**

**1** “And, when I went into Egypt, to †Joseph, and my brother recognized me, he said† to me, “What did they tell my father when they sold me?” **2** And I said to him, “They dabbled your coat with blood and sent it, and said, “Know whether this is your son’s coat.”

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| **c** | **β S1** | **A** |
| **3** And he said to me, “Even so, brother;” when they had stripped me of my coat, they gave me to the Ishmaelites, and they gave me a loin cloth, and scourged me, and bade me run. **4** And as for one of them that had beaten me with a rod, a lion met him and slew him. **5** And so his associates were afraid. | **3** And he said to me, “Even so, brother;” for, when the Ishmaelites took me, one of them stripped off my coat, and gave me a loin cloth, and scourged me, and bade me run. **4** And, as he went away to hide my garment, a lion met him and slew him. **5** And so his associates were afraid and sold me to their companions. | **3** “And Joseph said to me, “Even so, brother, the Canaanite merchants stole me by force.” **4** And it came to pass that, as they went on their way, they concealed my garment, as though a wild beast had met me and slain me. **5** And so his associates sold me to the Ishmaelites. **6** And they did not lie in saying this. For, he wished to conceal from me the deeds of my brothers. And he called to him his brothers and said, **7** “Do not tell my father what you have done to me but tell him as I have told Benjamin. **8** And let the thoughts among you be such and do not let these things come to the heart of my father.” |

**Chapter 3**

**1** “Also, therefore, my children, love the Lord God of heaven and earth, and keep His commandments, following the example of the good and holy man Joseph.

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| **c β S** | **A** |
| **2** “And let your mind be for good, even as you know me; for, he that has his mind right sees all things rightly. **3** Fear the Lord and love your neighbour; and, even though the spirits of Beliar claim you to afflict you with every evil, yet shall they not have dominion over you, even as they had not over Joseph my brother. **4** How many men wished to slay him, and God shielded him! For, he that fears God and loves his neighbour cannot be smitten by the spirit of Beliar, being shielded by the fear of God. **5** Nor can he be ruled over by the device of men or beasts; for, he is helped by the Lord through the love which he has towards his neighbour. | **2–5**“For, until his death, he was not willing to tell regarding himself; but Jacob, having learnt it from the Lord, told it to him. Nevertheless, he kept denying it. And then with difficulty he was persuaded by the adjurations of Israel. |

**6** “For, Joseph also besought our father that he would pray for his brothers, that the Lord would not impute to them as sin whatever evil they had done unto him. **7** And thus Jacob cried out, “My good child, you have prevailed over the bowels of your father Jacob.” And he embraced him, and kissed him for two hours, saying:

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| **c β S1** | **A** |
| **8** “In you shall be fulfilled the prophecy of heaven [concerning the Lamb of God, and Saviour of the world], and that a blameless one shall be delivered up for lawless men, and a sinless one shall die for ungodly men [in the blood of the covenant, for the salvation of the Gentiles and of Israel, and shall destroy. Beliar and his servants]. | **8** “In you shall be fulfilled the prophecy of heaven, which says that the blameless one shall be defiled for lawless men, the sinless one shall die for ungodly men. |

**Chapter 4**

**1** “See, therefore, my children, the end of the good man? Be followers of his compassion, therefore, with a good mind, that you also may wear crowns of glory. **2** For, the good man has not a †dark eye; for, he shows mercy to all men, even though they are sinners. **3** And, though they devise with evil intent concerning him, by doing good he overcomes evil, being shielded by God; and he loves the righteous as his own soul. **4** If anyone is glorified, he envies him not; if anyone is enriched, he is not jealous; if anyone is valiant, he praises him; the virtuous man he lauds; on the poor man he has mercy; on the weak he has compassion; unto God he sings praises.

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| **c A** | **β-a S1** |
| **5** “And him that has the grace of a good spirit he loves as his own soul. | **5** “As for him who has the fear of God, he protects him as with a shield; him that loves God he helps; him that rejects the Most High he admonishes and turns back; and him that has the grace of a good spirit he loves as his own soul. |

**Chapter 5**

**1** “If, therefore, you also have a good mind, then will both wicked men be at peace with you, and the profligate will reverence you and turn to good; and the covetous will not only cease from their inordinate desire, but even give the objects of their covetousness to them that are afflicted. **2** If you do well, even the unclean spirits will flee from you; and the beasts will dread you. **3** For, where there is reverence for good works and light in the mind, even darkness flees away from him. **4** For, if anyone does violence to a holy man, he repents; for, the holy man is merciful to his insulter and holds his peace.

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| **c** | **β-a S1** |
| **5** “And, if anyone betrays a righteous man, the righteous man prays; though for a little he be humbled, yet not long after he appears far more glorious, as was Joseph my brother. | **5** “And, if anyone betrays a righteous soul, and the righteous man, though he prays, be humbled for a little, yet not long after he appears more glorious, even as was Joseph my brother. |

**Chapter 6**

**1** “The inclination of the good man is not in the power of the deceit of the spirit of Beliar; for, the angel of peace guides his soul. **2** And he gazes not passionately on corruptible things, nor gathers together riches through a desire of pleasure. **3** He delights not in pleasure, [he grieves not his neighbour], he sates not himself with luxuries, he errs not in the uplifting of the eyes; for, the Lord is his portion. **4** The good inclination receives not glory nor dishonour from men, and it knows not any guile, or lie, or fighting or reviling; for the Lord dwelleth in him and lights up his soul, and he rejoices towards all men always. **5** The good mind has not two tongues, of blessing and of cursing, of contumely and of honour, of sorrow and of joy, of quietness and of confusion, of hypocrisy and of truth, [of poverty and of wealth]; but it has one disposition, incorrupt and pure, concerning all men. **6** It has no double sight, nor double hearing; for, in everything which he does, or speaks, or sees, he knows that the Lord looks on his soul. **7** And he cleanses his mind that he may not be condemned by men as well as by God. And, in like manner, the works of Beliar are twofold, and there is no singleness in them.

**Chapter 7**

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| **c β S1** | | **A** | |
| **1** “Therefore, my children, I tell you, flee the malice of Beliar; for, he gives a sword to those who obey him. | | **1** “Flee, my children, malice [and fornication]; for, it gives a sword to those who obey it. | |
| **c b g** | **β-(b g) S1** | | **A** | |
| **2** “And the sword is the mother of seven evils. First the mind conceives through Beliar† and first there is **bloodshed**; secondly ruin; thirdly, tribulation; fourthly, exile; fifthly, dearth; sixthly, panic; seventhly, **destruction**. | **2** “And the sword is the mother of seven evils. First the mind conceives through Beliar; and sometimes it brings forth first, **bloodshed**; secondly, ruin; thirdly, tribulation; fourthly, captivity; fifthly, dearth; sixthly, panic; seventhly, **destruction**. | | **2** “And the sword is the mother of seven evils, and it receives (them) through Beliar. And first there is **bloodshed** secondly, ruin; thirdly, tribulation; fourthly, captivity; fifthly, dearth; sixthly, panic; seventhly, **destruction**. | |

**3** “Therefore, was Cain also delivered over to seven vengeances by God; for, in every hundred years the Lord brought one plague on him.

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| **c** | **β A1** |
| **4** “And, when he was two hundred years old, he began to suffer; and, in the nine-hundredth year, he was destroyed. For, on account of Abel, his brother, with all the evils was he judged, but Lamech with seventy times seven. | **4** “When he was two hundred years old, he began to suffer; and, in his nine-hundredth year, he was destroyed [at the Flood], on account of Abel, his righteous brother. With the seven evils, therefore, was Cain judged, but Lamech with seventy times seven. |

**5** “Because for ever those who are like Cain in envy and hatred of brothers shall be punished with the same judgement.

**Chapter 8**

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| **c β S1** | **A** |
| **1** “And, my children, flee evildoing, envy, and hatred of brothers, and cleave to goodness and love. 2 He that has a pure mind in love looks not after a woman with a view to fornication; for, he has no defilement in his heart, because the Spirit of God rests on him. | **1** “Therefore, my children, flee evildoing and cleave to goodness. **2** For, he that has it looks not on a woman with a view to fornication, and he beholds no defilement; for, there rests upon him a holy spirit. |

**3** “For, as the sun is not defiled by shining on dung and mire but rather dries up both and drives away the evil smell, so also the pure mind, though encompassed by the defilements of earth, rather **cleanses** (them) and is not itself defiled.

**Chapter 9**

**1** “And I believe that there will be also evildoings among you, from the words of Enoch the righteous: that you shall commit fornication with the fornication of Sodom, and shall perish, all save a few, and shall renew wanton deeds with women; and the kingdom of the Lord shall not be among you; for, straight away, He shall take it away.

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| **c β S1** | **A** |
| **2** “Nevertheless, the temple of God shall be in your portion, and the last (temple) shall be more glorious than the first. And the twelve tribes shall be gathered together there, and all the Gentiles, until the Most High shall send forth His salvation in the visitation of an †only begotten prophet. **3** [And He shall enter into the [first] temple, and there shall the Lord be treated with outrage, and He shall be lifted up upon a tree. **4** And the veil of the temple shall be torn, and the Spirit of God shall pass on to the Gentiles as fire poured forth.  **5** “And He shall ascend from Hades and shall pass from earth into heaven. And I know how lowly He shall be upon earth, and how glorious in heaven.] | **2** “But, in your portion, shall be His inheritance. And, on account of the temple of the Lord, Jacob exalted me that I should be glorified through it. And the twelve tribes shall be gathered there and all the Gentiles. **3** [And the Lord shall be treated with outrage and set at nought.  **5** “And He will depart from earth to heaven: for, I knew how He is on earth and how in heaven, or what is His measure and place and way.] |

**Chapter 10**

**1** “Now, when Joseph was in Egypt, I longed to see his figure and the form of his countenance; and, through the prayers of Jacob my father, I saw him, while awake in the daytime, even his entire figure exactly as he was. **2** And, when he had said these things, he said to them, “Know, therefore, my children, that I am dying.”

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| **c β S1** | **A** |
| **3** “Do therefore, truth each one to his neighbour, and keep the law of the Lord and His commandments. | **3** “Do, therefore, truth and righteousness each one to his neighbour, and judgement unto confirmation, and keep the law of the Lord and his commandments. |

**4** “For, these things do I leave you instead of inheritance. Also, therefore, give them to your children for an everlasting possession; for, so did both Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. **5** For, all these things they gave us for an inheritance, saying, “Keep the commandments of God, until the Lord shall reveal His salvation to all Gentiles. **6** And then shall you see Enoch, Noah, and Shem, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, rising on the right hand in gladness.

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| **c β S1** | **A** |
| **7** “Then shall we also rise, each one over our tribe, worshipping the King of heaven, [who appeared upon earth in the form of a man in humility. And as many as believe on Him on the earth shall rejoice with Him]. **8** Then also all men shall rise, some unto glory and some unto shame.  “And the Lord shall judge Israel first, for their unrighteousness; [for, when He appeared as God in the flesh to deliver them they believed Him not]. **9** And then shall He judge all the Gentiles, [as many as believed Him not when He appeared upon earth]. **10** And He shall convict Israel through the chosen ones of the Gentiles, even as He reproved Esau through the Midianites, who †deceived their brothers, [so that they fell into fornication, and idolatry; and they were alienated from God], becoming therefore children in the portion of them that fear the Lord. | **7** “Then shall we also rise, each over our own tribe, and we shall worship the heavenly King. **8** Then shall we all be changed, some into glory and some into shame; for, the Lord judges Israel first for the unrighteousness which they have committed.  **9** “And then so (shall He judge) all the Gentiles.  **10** “And He shall convict Israel through the chosen Gentiles, as He convicted Esau through the Midianites who loved their brethren. Therefore, my children, be in the portion of them that fear the Lord. |

**Chapter 11**

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| **c** | **β S1** | **A** |
| **1** “And I shall no longer be called a ravening wolf on account of your ravages, but [a worker of the Lord distributing food to them that work what is good. **2** And there shall arise in the latter days] one beloved of the Lord, [of the tribe of Judah and Levi], a doer of His good pleasure in his mouth, [with new knowledge enlightening the Gentiles]. | **1** “And I shall no longer be called a ravening wolf on account of your ravages, but [a worker of the Lord, distributing food to them that work what is good. **2** And there shall rise up from my seed in the latter times] one beloved of the Lord, [hearing upon the earth His voice] and a doer of the good pleasure of His will, [enlight­ening with new knowledge all the Gentiles, even the light of knowledge, bursting in upon Israel for salvation and tearing away from them like a wolf, and giving to the synagogue of the Gentiles. | **1** “And I shall no longer be called a †captain of robbers, and a† wolf, on account of your ravages. **2** But one beloved of the Lord, and a doer of the good pleasure of His mouth. |

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**3** “Until the consummation of the age shall he be in the synagogues of the Gentiles, and among their rulers, as a strain of music in the mouth of all. **4** And he shall be inscribed in the holy books, both his work and his word, and he shall be a chosen one of God for ever. **5** And through them he shall go to and fro as Jacob my father, saying, “He shall fill up that which lacks of your tribe].”

**Chapter 12**

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| **c** | **β A S1** |
| **1** And when he had said these things he stretched out his feet. **2** And he died †in [a beautiful] and good sleep†. **3** And his sons did as he had enjoined them, and they took up his body and buried it in Hebron with his fathers. **4** And the number (of the days) of his life were a hundred and twenty-five years. | **1** And, when he finished his words, he said, “I command you, my children, carry up my bones out of Egypt, and bury me at Hebron, near my fathers.” **2** So Benjamin died a hundred and twenty-five years old, at a good old age, and they placed him in a coffin. **3** And, in the ninety-first year from the entrance of the children of Israel into Egypt, they and their brothers brought up the bones of their fathers secretly during the Canaanite war; and they buried them in Hebron, by the feet of their fathers. **4** And they returned from the land of Canaan and dwelt in Egypt until the day of their departure from the land of Egypt. |