

THE SACRED BOOKS AND EARLY  
LITERATURE OF THE EAST

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VOLUME XIV

THE GREAT REJECTED BOOKS  
OF THE BIBLICAL APOCRYPHA

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## OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

### THE BOOKS OF ADAM AND EVE

*“And I, Eve, cried with a loud voice: ‘Pity me, O Lord, my creator! For my sake Adam suffereth thus.’”*

—THE BOOK OF EVE.

*“And Michael himself worshiped first; then he called me [the devil] and said: ‘Worship the image of God the Lord.’ And I answered, ‘I have no need to worship Adam.’”*

—THE LIVES OF ADAM AND EVE.



## THE BOOKS OF ADAM AND EVE

### (INTRODUCTION)

THE books of Adam and Eve belong to the third class of apocrypha described in the general introduction. That is, they must originally have been Jewish works, and were told probably with no intention to deceive. Jewish legends about Adam were numerous and very old, and the Jewish literary custom was well established of writing ethical works in the form of a survey of history which was presented as the prophecy of some early patriarch. Then during the Christian ages these old legends and prophecies of Adam were gathered into one book, a Latin "Lives of Adam and Eve." During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries this was translated into almost every European tongue, and was immensely popular. The Jewish originals of this work are no longer known, but the date of their composition must have been somewhere during the very earliest Christian centuries, for the tone of the "Lives" echoes the Jewish religious views of that date, with occasional Christian additions.

Our second book, the Apocalypse of Moses, is a similar medieval work, which in many places parallels the "Lives" so closely, that both must have a common source. The name is, however, a medieval blunder. An apocalypse of Moses would mean Moses's vision of the future of the world, whereas the vision here is only of the past and of the glory of God, and is in no way definitely connected with Moses. These two books, then, are really the final depository of all the oldest legends of Adam and Eve, combined with the visions of some religious enthusiast who rises to a true poetic rapture in his thoughts of God.

It is to be noticed that the Apocalypse of Moses consists



largely of Eve's own narrative of what she had seen and done. This is still further expanded in our third brief book, which is really but a fragment drawn from a Slavonic version of the story. This Slavonic tale touches chiefly on the human and tragic side of the events and brings us keenly into touch with the sorrow of earth's first "mother thoughts" for the protection of men.



## OLD TESTAMENT APOCRYPHA

### THE LIVES OF ADAM AND EVE<sup>1</sup>

#### CHAPTER I

When they were driven out from paradise, they made themselves a booth, and spent seven days mourning and lamenting in great grief.

#### CHAPTER II

But after seven days, they began to be hungry and started to look for victual to eat, and they found it not. Then Eve said to Adam: "My lord, I am hungry. Go, look for something for us to eat. Perchance the Lord God will look back and pity us and recall us to the place in which we were before."

#### CHAPTER III

And Adam arose and walked seven days over all that land, and found no victual such as they used to have in paradise. And Eve said to Adam: "Wilt thou slay me? that I may die, and perchance God the Lord will bring thee into paradise, for on my account hast thou been driven thence." Adam answered: "Forbear, Eve, from such words, that peradventure God bring not some other curse upon us. How is it possible that I should stretch forth my hand against my own flesh? Nay, let us arise and look for something for us to live on, that we fail not."

#### CHAPTER IV

And they walked about and searched for nine days, and they found none such as they were used to have in paradise,

<sup>1</sup> The best and most recent translations of most of the Old Testament apocrypha are those in the great scholarly work of Rev. R. H. Charles, "Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament," published in England by Oxford University. The translations of Old Testament apocrypha in the present volume are largely from the work of Dr. Charles and his fellow laborers, simplified for public use.



but found only animals' food. And Adam said to Eve: "This hath the Lord provided for animals and brutes to eat; but we used to have angels' food. But it is just and right that we lament before the sight of God who made us. Let us repent with a great penitence: perchance the Lord will be gracious to us and will pity us and give us a share of something for our living."

## CHAPTER V

And Eve said to Adam: "What is penitence? Tell me, what sort of penitence am I to do? Let us not put too great a labor on ourselves, which we can not endure, so that the Lord will not harken to our prayers: and will turn away His countenance from us, because we have not fulfilled what we promised. My lord, how much penitence hast thou thought to do, for I have brought trouble and anguish upon thee?"

## CHAPTER VI

And Adam said to Eve: "Thou canst not do so much as I, but do only so much as thou hast strength for. For I will spend forty days fasting, but do thou arise and go to the River Tigris and lift up a stone and stand on it in the water up to thy neck in the deep of the river. And let no speech proceed out of thy mouth, since we are unworthy to address the Lord, for our lips are unclean from the unlawful and forbidden tree. And do thou stand in the water of the river thirty-seven days. But I will spend forty days in the water of Jordan,<sup>2</sup> perchance the Lord God will take pity upon us."

## CHAPTER VII

And Eve walked to the River Tigris and did as Adam had told her. Likewise, Adam walked to the River Jordan and stood on a stone up to his neck in water.

<sup>2</sup> "Jordan." Probably changed by Christian editor from "Gihon," where Jews placed Adam's penitence, for we expect another river of Paradise.



## CHAPTER VIII

And Adam said: "I tell thee, water of Jordan, grieve with me, and assemble to me all swimming creatures, which are in thee, and let them surround me and mourn in company with me. Not for themselves let them lament, but for me; for it is not they that have sinned, but I."

Forthwith, all living things came and surrounded him, and, from that hour the water of the Jordan stood still and its current was stayed."

## CHAPTER IX

And eighteen days passed by; then Satan was wroth and transformed himself into the brightness of angels, and went away to the River Tigris to Eve, and found her weeping, and the devil himself pretended to grieve with her, and he began to weep and said to her: "Come out of the river and lament no more. Cease now from sorrow and moans. Why art thou anxious and thy husband Adam? The Lord God hath heard your groaning and hath accepted your penitence, and all we angels have entreated on your behalf, and made supplication to the Lord; and he hath sent me to bring you out of the water and give you the nourishment which you had in paradise, and for which you are crying out. Now come out of the water and I will conduct you to the place where your victual hath been made ready."

## CHAPTER X

But Eve heard and believed and went out of the water of the river, and her flesh was trembling like grass, from the chill of the water. And when she had gone out, she fell on the earth and the devil raised her up and led her to Adam. But when Adam had seen her and the devil with her, he wept and cried aloud and said: "O Eve, Eve, where is the labor of thy penitence? How hast thou been again ensnared by our adversary, by whose means we have been estranged from our abode in paradise and spiritual joy?"



## CHAPTER XI

And when she heard this, Eve understood that it was the devil who had persuaded her to go out of the river; and she fell on her face on the earth, and her sorrow and groaning and wailing were redoubled. And she cried out and said: "Woe unto thee, thou devil. Why dost thou attack us for no cause? What hast thou to do with us? What have we done to thee? for thou pursuest us with craft. Or why doth thy malice assail us? Have we taken away thy glory and caused thee to be without honor? Why dost thou harry us, thou enemy, and persecute us to the death in wickedness and envy?"

*The Fall of the Devil*

## CHAPTER XII

And with a heavy sigh, the devil spake: "O Adam! all my hostility, envy, and sorrow is for thee, since it is for thee that I have been expelled from my glory, which I possessed in the heavens in the midst of the angels, and for thee was I cast out in the earth." Adam answered, "What dost thou tell me? What have I done to thee or what is my fault against thee? Seeing that thou hast received no harm or injury from us, why dost thou pursue us?"

## CHAPTER XIII

The devil replied, "Adam, what dost thou tell me? It is for thy sake that I have been hurled from that place. When thou wast formed, I was hurled out of the presence of God and banished from the company of the angels. When God blew into thee the breath of life and thy face and likeness was made in the image of God, Michael also brought thee and made us worship thee in the sight of God; and God the Lord spake: Here is Adam. I have made thee in our image and likeness."



## CHAPTER XIV

And Michael went out and called all the angels saying: "Worship the image of God as the Lord God hath commanded."

And Michael himself worshiped first; then he called me and said: "Worship the image of God the Lord." And I answered, "I have no need to worship Adam." And since Michael kept urging me to worship, I said to him, "Why dost thou urge me? I will not worship an inferior and younger being than I. I am his senior in the Creation, before he was made was I already made. It is his duty to worship me."

## CHAPTER XV

When the angels, who were under me, heard this, they refused to worship him. And Michael saith, "Worship the image of God, but if thou wilt not worship him the Lord God will be wroth with thee." And I said, "If He be wroth with me, I will set my seat above the stars of heaven and will be like the Highest."

## CHAPTER XVI

"And God the Lord was wroth with me and banished me and my angels from our glory; and on thy account were we expelled from our abodes into this world and hurled on the earth. And straightway we were overcome with grief, since we had been spoiled of so great glory. And we were grieved when we saw thee in such joy and luxury. And with guile I cheated thy wife and caused thee to be expelled through her doing from thy joy and luxury, as I have been driven out of my glory."

## CHAPTER XVII

When Adam heard the devil say this, he cried out and wept, and spake: "O Lord my God, my life is in thy hands. Banish this Adversary far from me, who seeketh to destroy my soul, and give me his glory which he himself hath lost." And at that moment the devil vanished before him. But



Adam endured in his penance, standing for forty days on end in the water of Jordan.

*Cain and Abel*

CHAPTER XVIII

And Eve said to Adam: "Live thou, my lord, to thee life is granted, since thou hast committed neither the first nor the second error. But I have erred and been led astray, for I have not kept the commandment of God; and now banish me from the light of thy life and I will go to the sunsetting, and there will I be, until I die." And she began to walk toward the western parts and to mourn and to weep bitterly and groan aloud. And she made there a booth, while she had in her womb offspring of three months old.

CHAPTER XIX

And when the time of her bearing approached, she began to be distressed with pains, and she cried aloud to the Lord and said: "Pity me, O Lord; assist me." And she was not heard, and the mercy of God did not encircle her. And she said to herself: "Who shall tell my lord Adam? I implore you, ye luminaries of heaven, what time ye return to the east, bear a message to my lord Adam."

CHAPTER XX

But in that hour Adam said: "The complaint of Eve hath come to me. Perchance, once more hath the serpent fought with her."

And he went and found her in great distress. And Eve said: "From the moment I saw thee, my lord, my grief-laden soul was refreshed. And now entreat the Lord God on my behalf to harken unto thee and look upon me and free me from my awful pains." And Adam entreated the Lord for Eve.

CHAPTER XXI

And behold, there came twelve angels and two "virtues," standing on the right and on the left of Eve; and Michael



was standing on the right; and he stroked her on the face as far as to the breast, and said to Eve: "Blessed art thou, Eve, for Adam's sake. Since his prayers and intercessions are great, I have been sent that thou mayst receive our help. Rise up now, and prepare thee to bear." And she bore a son and he was shining; and at once the babe rose up and ran and bore a blade of grass in his hands, and gave it to his mother, and his name was called Cain.

## CHAPTER XXII

And Adam carried Eve and the boy and led them to the East. And the Lord God sent divers seeds by Michael the archangel and gave to Adam and showed him how to work and till the ground, that they might have fruit by which they and all their generations might live.

For thereafter Eve conceived and bare a son, whose name was Abel; and Cain and Abel used to stay together.

And Eve said to Adam: "My lord, while I slept, I saw a vision, as it were the blood of our son Abel in the hand of Cain, who was gulping it down in his mouth. Therefore I have sorrow."

And Adam said, "Alas if Cain slew Abel. Yet let us separate them from each other mutually, and let us make for each of them separate dwellings."

## CHAPTER XXIII

And they made Cain an husbandman, but Abel they made a shepherd; in order that in this wise they might be mutually separated. And thereafter, Cain slew Abel, but Adam was then one hundred and thirty years old, but Abel was slain when he was one hundred and twenty-two years.

And thereafter Adam knew his wife and he begat a son and called his name Seth.

## CHAPTER XXIV

And Adam said to Eve, "Behold, I have begotten a son, in place of Abel, whom Cain slew." And after Adam had begotten Seth, he lived eight hundred years and begat thirty



sons and thirty daughters; in all sixty-three children. And they were increased over the face of the earth in their nations.

*The Vision of Adam*

CHAPTER XXV

And Adam said to Seth, "Hear, my son, Seth, that I may relate to thee what I heard and saw after your mother and I had been driven out of paradise. When we were at prayer, there came to me Michael the archangel, a messenger of God. And I saw a chariot like the wind, and its wheels were fiery, and I was caught up into the paradise of righteousness, and I saw the Lord sitting and his face was flaming fire that could not be endured. And many thousands of angels were on the right and left of that chariot.

CHAPTER XXVI

When I saw this I was confounded, and terror seized me, and I bowed myself down before God with my face to the earth. And God said to me, "Behold thou diest, since thou hast transgressed the commandment of God, for thou didst harken rather to the voice of thy wife, whom I gave into thy power, that thou mightest hold her to thy will. Yet thou didst listen to her and didst pass by My words."

CHAPTER XXVII

And when I heard these words of God, I fell prone on the earth and worshiped the Lord and said, "My Lord, All powerful and merciful God, Holy and Righteous One, let not the name that is mindful of Thy majesty be blotted out, but convert my soul, for I die and my breath will go out of my mouth. Cast me not out from Thy presence, me whom Thou didst form of the clay of the earth. Do not banish from Thy favor him whom Thou didst nourish."

And lo! a word concerning thee came upon me, and the Lord said to me, "Since thy days were fashioned, thou hast been created with a love of knowledge; therefore there shall not be taken from thy seed forever the right to serve Me."



## CHAPTER XXVIII

And when I heard these words, I threw myself on the earth and adored the Lord God, and said, "Thou art the eternal and supreme God; and all creatures give Thee honor and praise.

"Thou art the true Light gleaming above all lights, the Living Life, infinite mighty Power. To Thee, the spiritual powers give honor and praise. Thou workest on the race of men the abundance of Thy mercy."

After I had worshiped the Lord, straightway Michael, God's archangel, seized my hand and cast me out of the paradise of "vision" and of God's command. And Michael held a rod in his hand, and he touched the waters, which were round about paradise, and they froze hard.

## CHAPTER XXIX

And I went across, and Michael the archangel went across with me, and he led me back to the place whence he had caught me up. Harken, my son Seth, even to the rest of the secrets and sacraments that shall be, which were revealed to me, when I had eaten of the tree of knowledge, and knew and perceived what will come to pass in this age; what God intends to do to His creation of the race of men. The Lord will appear in a flame of fire, and from the mouth of His majesty He will give commandments and statutes; from His mouth will proceed a two-edged sword; and they will sanctify Him in the house of the habitation of His majesty. And He will show them the marvelous place of His majesty. And then they will build a house to the Lord their God in the land which He shall prepare for them, and there they will transgress His statutes and their sanctuary will be burnt up, and their land will be deserted, and they themselves will be dispersed; because they have kindled the wrath of God. And once more he will cause them to come back from their dispersion; and again they will build the house of God; and in the last time the house of God will be exalted greater than of old. And once more iniquity will exceed righteousness. And



thereafter God will dwell with men on earth in visible form; and then righteousness will begin to shine. And the house of God will be honored in the age, and their enemies will no more be able to hurt the men, who are believing in God; and God will stir up for Himself a faithful people, whom He shall save for eternity, and the impious shall be punished by God their king, the men who refused to love His law. Heaven and earth, nights and days, and all creatures shall obey Him, and not overstep His commandment. Men shall not change their works, but they shall be changed from forsaking the law of the Lord. Therefore the Lord shall repel from Himself the wicked, and the just shall shine like the sun, in the sight of God. And in that time shall men be purified by water from their sins. But those who are unwilling to be purified by water shall be condemned. And happy shall the man be who hath ruled his soul, when the Judgment shall come to pass and the greatness of God be seen among men and their deeds be inquired into by God, the just judge.

### *The Death of Adam*

#### CHAPTER XXX

After Adam was nine hundred and thirty years old, since he knew that his days were coming to an end, he said: "Let all my sons assemble themselves to me, that I may bless them before I die, and speak with them."

And they were assembled in three parts, before his sight, in the house of prayer, where they used to worship the Lord God. And they asked him, saying: "What concerns thee, father, that thou shouldst assemble us, and why dost thou lie on thy bed?" Then Adam answered and said: "My sons, I am sick and in pain." And all his sons said to him: "What does it mean, father, this illness and pain?"

#### CHAPTER XXXI

Then said Seth, his son: "O my lord, perchance thou hast longed after the fruit of paradise, which thou wast wont to eat, and therefore thou liest in sadness? Tell me and I



will go to the nearest gates of paradise and put dust on my head and throw myself down on the earth before the gates of paradise and lament and make entreaty to God with loud lamentation; perchance he will harken to me and send his angel to bring me the fruit, for which thou hast longed."

Adam answered and said: "No, my son, I do not long for this, but I feel weakness and great pain in my body." Seth answered, "What is pain, my lord father? I am ignorant; but hide it not from us, but tell us about it."

## CHAPTER XXXII

And Adam answered and said: "Hear me, my sons. When God made us, me and your mother, and placed us in paradise and gave us every tree bearing fruit to eat, he laid a prohibition on us concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which is in the midst of paradise; saying, 'Do not eat of it.' But God gave a part of paradise to me and a part to your mother: the trees of the eastern part and north, which is over against Aquilo, he gave to me, and to your mother he gave the part of the south and the western part.

## CHAPTER XXXIII

Moreover God the Lord gave us two angels to guard us. The hour came when the angels had ascended to worship in the sight of God; forthwith the adversary (the devil) found an opportunity while the angels were absent and the devil led your mother astray to eat of the unlawful and forbidden tree. And she did eat and gave to me.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

And immediately, the Lord God was wroth with us, and the Lord said to me: "In that thou hast left behind my commandment and hast not kept my word, which I confirmed to thee; behold, I will bring upon thy body seventy blows; with divers griefs shalt thou be tormented, beginning at thy head and thine eyes and thine ears down to thy nails on thy toes, and in every separate limb." These hath God appointed for chastisement. All these things hath the Lord sent to me and to all our race.



## CHAPTER XXXV

Thus spake Adam to his sons, and he was seized with violent pains, and he cried out with a loud voice, "What shall I do? I am in distress. So cruel are the pains with which I am beset." And when Eve had seen him weeping, she also began to weep herself, and said: "O Lord my God, hand over to me his pain, for it is I who sinned."

And Eve said to Adam: "My lord, give me a part of thy pains, for this hath come to thee from fault of mine."

## CHAPTER XXXVI

And Adam said to Eve: "Rise up and go with my son Seth to the neighborhood of paradise, and put dust on your heads and throw yourselves on the ground and lament in the sight of God. Perchance He will have pity upon you and send His angel across to the tree of His mercy, whence floweth the oil of life, and will give you a drop of it, to anoint me with it, that I may have rest from these pains, by which I am being consumed."

## CHAPTER XXXVII

Then Seth and his mother went off toward the gates of paradise. And while they were walking, lo! suddenly there came a beast (a serpent)<sup>3</sup> and attacked and bit Seth. And as soon as Eve saw it, she wept and said: "Alas, wretched woman that I am. I am accursed since I have not kept the commandment of God." And Eve said to the serpent in a loud voice: "Accursed beast! how is it that thou hast not feared to let thyself loose against the image of God, but hast dared to fight with it?"

## CHAPTER XXXVIII

The beast answered in the language of men: "Is it not against you, Eve, that our malice is directed? Are not ye

<sup>3</sup> The "serpent" is clearly a later interpolation to connect with the tale of the Fall. Originally this passage was to explain the beasts' revolt.



the objects of our rage? Tell me, Eve, how was thy mouth opened to eat of the fruit? But now if I shall begin to reprove thee thou canst not bear it."

## CHAPTER XXXIX

Then said Seth to the beast: "God the Lord revile thee. Be silent, be dumb, shut thy mouth, accursed enemy of Truth, confounder and destroyer. Avaunt from the image of God till the day when the Lord God shall order thee to be brought to the ordeal." And the beast said to Seth: "See, I leave the presence of the image of God, as thou hast said." Forthwith he left Seth, wounded by his teeth.

## CHAPTER XL

But Seth and his mother walked to the regions of paradise for the oil of mercy to anoint the sick Adam: and they arrived at the gates of paradise, and they took dust from the earth and placed it on their heads, and bowed themselves with their faces to the earth, and began to lament and make loud moaning, imploring the Lord God to pity Adam in his pains and to send His angel to give them the oil from the "tree of His mercy."

## CHAPTER XLI

But when they had been praying and imploring for many hours, behold, the angel Michael appeared to them and said: "I have been sent to you from the Lord — I am set by God over the bodies of men — I tell thee, Seth, thou man of God, weep not nor pray and entreat on account of the oil of the tree of mercy to anoint thy father Adam for the pains of his body.

## CHAPTER XLII

"For I tell thee that in no wise wilt thou be able to receive thereof save in the last days."

[When five thousand five hundred years have been fulfilled, then will come upon earth the most beloved king Christ, the son of God, to revive the body of Adam and with him to revive the bodies of the dead. He Himself, the Son of God,



when He comes will be baptized in the river of Jordan, and when He hath come out of the water of Jordan, then He will anoint from the oil of mercy all that believe in Him. And the oil of mercy shall be for generation to generation for those who are ready to be born again of water and the Holy Spirit to life eternal. Then the most beloved Son of God, Christ, descending on earth, shall lead thy father Adam to Paradise to the tree of mercy.]<sup>4</sup>

## CHAPTER XLIII

"But do thou, Seth, go to thy father Adam, since the time of his life is fulfilled. Six days hence his soul shall go off his body, and when it shall have gone out thou shalt see great marvels in the heaven and in the earth and the luminaries of heaven." With these words, straightway Michael departed from Seth.

And Eve and Seth returned bearing with them herbs of fragrance, *i.e.*, nard and crocus and calamus and cinnamon.

## CHAPTER XLIV

And when Seth and his mother had reached Adam, they told him, how the beast (the serpent) bit Seth. And Adam said to Eve: "What hast thou done? A great plague hast thou brought upon us, transgression and sin for all our generations: and this which thou hast done, tell thy children after my death, for those who arise from us shall toil and fail but they shall be wanting and curse us and say, All evils have our parents brought upon us, who were at the beginning." When Eve heard these words, she began to weep and moan.

## CHAPTER XLV

And just as Michael the archangel had foretold, after six days came Adam's death. When Adam perceived that the hour of his death was at hand, he said to all his sons: "Behold, I am nine hundred and thirty years old, and if I die,

<sup>4</sup> This whole passage in brackets is a Christian interpolation from the Gospel of Nicodemus.



bury me toward the sunrising in the field of yonder dwelling." And it came to pass that when he had finished all his discourse, he gave up the ghost.

## CHAPTER XLVI

Then was the sun darkened and the moon and the stars for seven days, and Seth in his mourning embraced from above the body of his father, and Eve was looking on the ground with hands folded over her head, and all her children wept most bitterly. And behold, there appeared Michael the angel and stood at the head of Adam, and said to Seth: "Rise up from the body of thy father and come to me and see what is the doom of the Lord God concerning him. His creature is he, and God hath pitied him."

## CHAPTER XLVII

And all the angels blew their trumpets, and cried: "Blessed art thou, O Lord, for thou hast had pity on Thy creature."

## CHAPTER XLVIII

Then Seth saw the hand of God stretched out holding Adam, and he handed him over to Michael, saying: "Let him be in thy charge till the day of Judgment in punishment, till the last years when I will convert his sorrow into joy. Then shall he sit on the throne of him who hath been his supplanter."

And the Lord said again to the angels Michael and Uriel: "Bring me three linen clothes of byssus, and spread them out over Adam, and other linen clothes over Abel his son, and bury Adam and Abel his son."

And all the "powers" of angels marched before Adam, and the sleep of the dead was consecrated. And the angels Michael and Uriel buried Adam and Abel in the parts of paradise, before the eyes of Seth and his mother and no one else, and Michael and Uriel said: "Just as ye have seen, in like manner, bury your dead."



## CHAPTER XLIX

Six days after, Adam died; and Eve perceived that she would die, so she assembled all her sons and daughters, Seth with thirty brothers and thirty sisters, and Eve said to all: "Hear me, my children, and I will tell you what the archangel Michael said to us when I and your father transgressed the command of God.

"On account of your transgression, our Lord will bring upon your race the anger of his judgment, first by water, the second time by fire; by these two, will the Lord judge the whole human race.

## CHAPTER L

"But harken unto me, my children. Make ye then tables of stone and others of clay, and write on them all my life and your father's, all that ye have heard and seen from us. If by water the Lord judge our race, the tables of clay will be dissolved and the tables of stone will remain; but if by fire, the tables of stone will be broken up and the tables of clay will be baked hard."<sup>5</sup>

When Eve had said all this to her children, she spread out her hands to heaven in prayer, and bent her knees to the earth, and while she worshiped the Lord and gave him thanks, she gave up the ghost. Thereafter, all her children buried her with loud lamentation.

## CHAPTER LI

When they had been mourning four days, then Michael the archangel appeared and said to Seth: "Man of God, mourn not for thy dead more than six days, for on the seventh day is the sign of the resurrection and the rest of the age to come; on the seventh day the Lord rested from all His works."

Thereupon Seth made the tables.

<sup>5</sup> In some MSS. is added the story of Solomon finding "the tables," with a conclusion announcing the coming of Christ to judge the world.



THE APOCALYPSE OF MOSES<sup>1</sup>

## CHAPTER I

This is the story of Adam and Eve after they had gone out of paradise. And Adam knew his wife Eve, and went upward to the sunrising and abode there eighteen years and two months. And Eve conceived and bare two sons; Adiaphotos, who is called Cain, and Amilabes, who is called Abel.<sup>2</sup>

## CHAPTER II

And after this, Adam and Eve were with one another, and while they were sleeping Eve said to Adam, her lord: "My lord, Adam, behold, I have seen in a dream this night the blood of my son Amilabes, who is styled Abel, being poured into the mouth of Cain, his brother, and he went on drinking it without pity. But he begged him to leave him a little of it. Yet he harkened not to him, but gulped down the whole; nor did it stay in his stomach, but came out of his mouth." And Adam said, "Let us arise and go and see what has happened to them. I fear lest the adversary may be assailing them somewhere."

## CHAPTER III

And they both went and found Abel murdered by the hand of Cain his brother. And God saith to Michael the archangel: "Say to Adam: 'Reveal not the secret that thou knowest to Cain thy son, for he is a son of wrath. But grieve not, for I will give thee another son in his stead; he shall show to thee all that thou shalt do. Do thou tell him noth-

<sup>1</sup> All MSS. give preface describing book as taught to Moses by Michael the archangel. Like the title, this is a later addition.

<sup>2</sup> The translator in the Ante-Nicene Christian Library, xvi, 1870, suggests "a planter," for Adiaphotos, and "a keeper of sheep" for Amilabes.



ing.' " Thus spake the archangel to Adam. But he kept the word in his heart, and with him also Eve, though they grieved concerning Abel and their son.

## CHAPTER IV

And after this, Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bare Seth.

And Adam said to Eve: "See! we have begotten a son in place of Abel, whom Cain slew, let us give glory and sacrifice to God."

## CHAPTER V

And Adam begat thirty sons and thirty daughters, and Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years; and he fell sick, and cried with a loud voice and said: "Let all my sons come to me that I may see them before I die."

And all assembled, for the earth was divided into three parts. And Seth, his son, said to him: "Father Adam, what is thy complaint?"

And he saith, "My children, I am crushed by the burden of trouble." And they say to him, "What is trouble?"

## CHAPTER VI

And Seth answered and said to him: "Hast thou called to mind, father, the fruit of paradise of which thou usedst to eat, and hast been grieved in yearning for it?"

"If this be so, tell me, and I will go and bring thee fruit from paradise. For I will set dung upon my head and will weep and pray that the Lord will harken to me and send his angel and bring me a plant from paradise, and I will bring it thee that thy trouble may cease from thee."

Adam saith to him: "Nay, my son Seth, but I have much sickness and trouble!" Seth saith to him: "And how hath this come upon thee?"

## CHAPTER VII

And Adam said to him: "When God made us, me and your mother, through whom also I die, He gave us power to eat of every tree which is in paradise, but, concerning that



one only, he charged us not to eat of it, and through this one we are to die. And the hour drew nigh for the angels who were guarding your mother to go up and worship the Lord, and I was far from her, and the enemy knew that she was alone and gave to her, and she ate of the tree of which she had been told not to eat. Then she gave also to me to eat.

## CHAPTER VIII

"And God was wroth with us, and the Lord came into paradise and called me in a terrible voice and said: 'Adam, where art thou? And why hidest thou from my face? Shall the house be able to hide itself from its builder?' And he saith to me: 'Since thou hast abandoned my covenant, I have brought upon thy body seventy-two strokes; the trouble of the first stroke is a pain of the eyes, the second stroke an affection of the hearing, and likewise in turn all the strokes shall befall thee.'"

## CHAPTER IX

As he said this to his sons, Adam groaned sore and said: "What shall I do? I am in great distress."

And Eve wept and said: "My lord Adam, rise up and give me half of thy trouble and I will endure it; for it is on my account that this hath happened to thee, on my account thou art beset with toils and troubles." But Adam said to Eve, "Arise and go with my son Seth near to paradise, and put earth upon your heads and weep and pray God to have mercy upon me and send his angel to paradise, and give me of the tree out of which the oil floweth, and bring it me, and I shall anoint myself and shall have rest from my complaint."

## CHAPTER X

Then Seth and Eve went toward paradise, and Eve saw her son, and a wild beast assailing him, and Eve wept and said: "Woe is me; if I come to the day of the Resurrection, all those who have sinned will curse me, saying: Eve hath not kept the commandment of God." And she spake to the beast: "Thou wicked beast, fearest thou not to fight with



the image of God? How was thy mouth opened? How were thy teeth made strong? How didst thou not call to mind thy subjection? For long ago wast thou made subject to the image of God." Then the beast cried out and said:

## CHAPTER XI

"It is not our concern, Eve, thy greed and thy wailing, but thine own; for it is from thee that the rule of the beasts hath arisen. How was thy mouth opened to eat of the tree concerning which God enjoined thee not to eat of it? On this account, our nature also hath been transformed. Now therefore thou canst not endure it, if I begin to reprove thee."

## CHAPTER XII

Then Seth speaketh to the beast, "Close thy mouth and be silent, and stand off from the image of God until the day of Judgment." Then saith the beast to Seth: "Behold, I stand off from the image of God." And he went to his lair.

## CHAPTER XIII

And Seth went with Eve near paradise, and they wept there, and prayed God to send his angel and give them the oil of mercy.

And God sent the archangel Michael and he spoke to Seth: "Seth, man of God, weary not thyself with prayers and entreaties concerning the tree which floweth with oil to anoint thy father Adam. For it shall not be thine now, but in the end of the times. Then shall all flesh be raised up from Adam till that great day — all that shall be of the holy people. Then shall the delights of paradise be given to them, and God shall be in their midst. And they shall no longer sin before his face, for the evil heart shall be taken from them, and there shall be given them a heart understanding the good and to serve God only.

But do thou go back to thy father. For the term of his life hath been fulfilled, and he will live three days from to-day and will die. But when his soul is departing, thou shalt behold the awful scene of his passing."



## CHAPTER XIV

Thus spake the angel and departed from them. And Seth and Eve came to the hut where Adam was laid. And Adam saith to Eve: "Eve, what hast thou wrought in us? Thou hast brought upon us great wrath which is death, lording it over all our race." And he saith to her, "Call all our children and our children's children and tell them the manner of our transgression."

*Eve's Account of her Fall*

## CHAPTER XV

Then saith Eve to them: "Hear, all my children and children's children, and I will relate to you how the enemy deceived us. It befell that we were guarding paradise, each of us the portion allotted to us from God. Now I guarded in my lot the west and the south. But the devil went to Adam's lot, where the male creatures were. For God divided the creatures; all the males he gave to your father, and all the females he gave to me.

## CHAPTER XVI

"And the devil spake to the serpent, saying, 'Rise up, come to me and I will tell thee a word whereby thou mayst have profit.' And he rose and came to him. And the devil saith to him: 'I hear that thou art wiser than all the beasts, and I have come to counsel thee. Why dost thou eat of Adam's tares and not of paradise? Rise up and we will cause him to be cast out of paradise, even as we were cast out through him.' The serpent saith to him, 'I fear lest the Lord be wroth with me.' The devil saith to him: 'Fear not, only be my vessel and I will speak through thy mouth words to deceive him.'

## CHAPTER XVII

"And instantly he hung himself from the wall of paradise, and when the angels ascended to worship God, then Satan



appeared in the form of an angel and sang hymns like the angels. And I bent over the wall and saw him, like an angel. But he saith to me: 'Art thou Eve?' And I said to him, 'I am.' 'What art thou doing in paradise?' And I said to him, 'God set us to guard and to eat of it.' The devil answered through the mouth of the serpent: 'Ye do well but ye do not eat of every plant.' And I said: 'Yea, we eat of all, save one only, which is in the midst of paradise, concerning which, God charged us not to eat of it: for, He said to us, on the day on which ye eat of it, ye shall die the death.'

## CHAPTER XVIII

"Then the serpent saith to me, 'May God live! but I am grieved on your account, for I would not have you ignorant. But arise, come hither, harken to me and eat and mind the value of that tree.' But I said to him, 'I fear lest God be wroth with me as he told us.' And he saith to me: 'Fear not, for as soon as thou eatest of it ye too shall be as God, in that ye shall know good and evil. But God perceived this that ye would be like Him, so he envied you and said, Ye shall not eat of it. Nay, do thou give heed to the plant and thou wilt see its great glory.' Yet I feared to take of the fruit. And he saith to me: 'Come hither, and I will give it thee. Follow me.'

## CHAPTER XIX

"And I opened to him and he walked a little way, then turned and said to me: 'I have changed my mind, and I will not give thee to eat until thou swear to me to give also to thy husband.' And I said, 'What sort of oath shall I swear to thee? Yet what I know, I say to thee: By the throne of the Master, and by the Cherubim and the Tree of Life, I will give also to my husband to eat.' And when he had received the oath from me, he went and poured upon the fruit the poison of his wickedness, which is lust, the root and beginning of every sin, and he bent the branch on the earth and I took of the fruit and I ate.



## CHAPTER XX

“And in that very hour my eyes were opened, and forthwith I knew that I was bare of the righteousness with which I had been clothed upon, and I wept and said to him: ‘Why hast thou done this to me in that thou hast deprived me of the glory with which I was clothed?’ But I wept also about the oath, which I had sworn. But he descended from the tree and vanished. And I began to seek, in my nakedness, in my part for leaves to hide my shame, but I found none, for as soon as I had eaten, the leaves showered down from all the trees in my part, except the fig-tree only. But I took leaves from it and made for myself a girdle and it was from the very same plant of which I had eaten.

## CHAPTER XXI

“And I cried out in that very hour, ‘Adam, Adam, where art thou? Rise up, come to me and I will show thee a great secret.’ But when your father came, I spake to him words of transgression which have brought us down from our great glory. For, when he came, I opened my mouth and the devil was speaking, and I began to exhort him and said, ‘Come hither, my lord Adam, harken to me and eat of the fruit of the tree of which God told us not to eat of it, and thou shalt be as a God.’ And your father answered and said, ‘I fear lest God be wroth with me.’ And I said to him, ‘Fear not, for as soon as thou hast eaten thou shalt know good and evil.’ And speedily I persuaded him, and he ate, and straightway his eyes were opened and he, too, knew his nakedness. And to me he saith, ‘O wicked woman! what have I done to thee that thou hast deprived me of the glory of God?’

## CHAPTER XXII

“And in that same hour, we heard the archangel Michael blowing his trumpet and calling to the angels and saying: ‘Thus saith the Lord, Come with me to paradise and hear the judgment with which I shall judge Adam.’

“And when God appeared in paradise, mounted on the



chariot of his cherubim with the angels proceeding before him and singing hymns of praises, all the plants of paradise, both of your father's lot and mine, broke out into flowers. And the throne of God was fixed where the Tree of Life was.

## CHAPTER XXIII

"And God called Adam saying, 'Adam, where art thou? Can the house be hidden from the presence of its builder?' Then your father answered: 'It is not because we think not to be found by thee, Lord, that we hide, but I was afraid, because I am naked, and I was ashamed before thy might, my Master.' God saith to him, 'who showed thee that thou art naked, unless thou hast forsaken my commandment, which I delivered thee to keep it?' Then Adam called to mind the word which I spake to him, saying, 'I will make thee secure before God'; and he turned and said to me: 'Why hast thou done this?' And I said, 'The serpent deceived me.'

## CHAPTER XXIV

"God saith to Adam: 'Since thou hast disregarded my commandment and hast harkened to thy wife, cursed is the earth in thy labors.

"'Thou shalt work it and it shall not give its strength: thorns and thistles shall spring up for thee, and in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat thy bread. Thou shalt be in manifold toils; thou shalt be crushed by bitterness, but of sweetness shalt thou not taste.

"'Weary shalt thou be and shalt not rest; by heat shalt thou be tired, by cold shalt thou be straitened: abundantly shalt thou busy thyself, but thou shalt not be rich; and thou shalt grow fat, but come to no end.

"'The beasts, over whom thou didst rule, shall rise up in rebellion against thee, for thou hast not kept my commandment.'

## CHAPTER XXV

"And the Lord turned to me and said: 'Since thou hast harkened to the serpent, and turned a deaf ear to my com-



mandment, thou shalt be in throes of travail and intolerable agonies; thou shalt bear children in much trembling, and in one hour thou shalt come to the birth, and lose thy life, from thy sore trouble and anguish. But thou shalt confess and say: "Lord, Lord, save me, and I will turn no more to the sin of the flesh." And on this account, from thine own words I will judge thee, by reason of the enmity which the enemy has planted in thee.'

## CHAPTER XXVI

"But he turned to the serpent in great wrath and said: 'Since thou hast done this, and become a thankless vessel until thou hast deceived the innocent hearts, accursed art thou among all beasts. Thou shalt be deprived of the victual of which thou didst eat, and shalt feed on dust all the days of thy life; on thy breast and thy belly shalt thou walk, and be robbed of hands and feet. There shall not be left thee ear nor wing, nor one limb of all that which thou didst ensnare them in thy malice and causedst them to be cast out of paradise; and I will put enmity between thee and his seed; he shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel until the day of Judgment.'

## CHAPTER XXVII

"Thus he spake and bade the angels have us cast out of paradise: and as we were being driven out amid our loud lamentations, your Father Adam besought the angels and said: 'Leave me a little space that I may entreat the Lord that he have compassion on me and pity me, for I only have sinned.' And they left off driving him, and Adam cried aloud and wept, saying: 'Pardon me, O Lord, my deed.' Then the Lord saith to the angels, 'Why have ye ceased from driving Adam from paradise? Why do ye not cast him out? Is it I who have done wrong? Or is my judgment badly judged?' Then the angels fell down on the ground and worshiped the Lord, saying, 'Thou art just, O Lord, and thou judgest righteous judgment.'



## CHAPTER XXVIII

"But the Lord turned to Adam and said: 'I will not suffer thee henceforward to be in paradise.' And Adam answered and said, 'Grant me, O Lord, of the Tree of Life that I may eat of it, before I be cast out.' Then the Lord spake to Adam, 'Thou shalt not take of it now, for I have commanded the cherubim with the flaming sword that turneth every way to guard it from thee that thou taste not of it; but thou hast the war which the adversary hath put into thee; yet when thou art gone out of paradise, if thou shouldst keep thyself from all evil, as one about to die, when again the Resurrection hath come to pass, I will raise thee up and then there shall be given to thee the Tree of Life.'

## CHAPTER XXIX

"Thus spake the Lord, and ordered us to be cast out of paradise. But your father Adam wept before the angels opposite paradise and the angels said to him: 'What wouldst thou have us to do, Adam?' And your father saith to them, 'Behold, ye cast me out. I pray you, allow me to take away fragrant herbs from paradise, so that I may offer an offering to God after I have gone out of paradise that he hear me.' And the angels approached God and said: 'Jael, Eternal King, command, my Lord, that there be given to Adam incense of sweet odor from paradise and seeds for his food.' And God bade Adam go in and take sweet spices and fragrant herbs from paradise and seeds for his food. And the angels let him go in, and he took four kinds: crocus and nard and calamus and cinnamon and the other seeds for his food: and, after taking these, he went out of paradise. And we were on the earth.

## CHAPTER XXX

"Now then, my children, I have shown you the way in which we were deceived; and do ye guard yourselves from transgressing against the good."



## CHAPTER XXXI

And when Eve had said this in the midst of her sons, while Adam was lying ill and bound to die after a single day from the sickness which had fastened upon him, she saith to him: "How is it that thou diest and I live, or how long have I to live after thou art dead? Tell me." And Adam saith to her: "Reck not of this, for thou tarriest not after me, but even both of us are to die together. And she shall lie in my place. But when I die, anoint me and let no man touch me till the angel of the Lord shall speak somewhat concerning me. For God will not forget me, but will seek His own creature; and now arise rather and pray to God till I give up my spirit into His hands who gave it to me. For we know not how we are to meet our Maker, whether He be wroth with us, or be merciful and intend to pity and receive us."

*The Vision of Eve*

## CHAPTER XXXII

And Eve rose up and went outside and fell on the ground, and began to say: "I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, O God of All, I have sinned against Thee. I have sinned against the elect angels. I have sinned against the Cherubim. I have sinned against Thy fearful and unshakable Throne. I have sinned before Thee, and all sin hath begun through my doing in the creation." Even thus prayed Eve on her knees; and behold, the angel of humanity came to her, and raised her up and said: "Rise up, Eve, from thy penitence, for behold, Adam thy husband hath gone out of his body. Rise up and behold his spirit borne aloft to his Maker."

## CHAPTER XXXIII

And Eve rose up and wiped off her tears with her hand, and the angel saith to her, "Lift up thyself from the earth." And she gazed steadfastly into heaven, and beheld a chariot of light, borne by four bright eagles, and it were impossible



for any man born of woman to tell the glory of them or behold their face — and angels going before the chariot — and when they came to the place where your father Adam was, the chariot halted and the Seraphim. And I beheld golden censers, between your father and the chariot, and all the angels with censers and frankincense came in haste to the incense-offering and blew upon it and the smoke of the incense veiled the firmaments. And the angels fell down and worshiped God, crying aloud and saying, "Jael, Holy One, have pardon, for he is Thy image, and the work of Thy holy hands."

## CHAPTER XXXIV

"And I, Eve, beheld two great and fearful wonders standing in the presence of God and I wept for fear, and I cried aloud to my son Seth and said, 'Rise up, Seth, from the body of thy father Adam, and come to me, and thou shalt see a spectacle which no man's eye hath yet beheld.'"

## CHAPTER XXXV

Then Seth arose and came to his mother and to her he saith: "What is thy trouble? Why weepest thou?" And she saith to him: "Look up and see with thine eyes the seven heavens opened, and see how the soul of thy father lies on its face and all the holy angels are praying on his behalf and saying: 'Pardon him, Father of All, for he is Thine image.' Pray, my child Seth, what shall this mean? And will he one day be delivered into the hands of the Invisible Father, even our God? But who are the two negroes who stand by at the prayers for thy father Adam?"

## CHAPTER XXXVI

And Seth telleth his mother, that they are the sun and moon and themselves fall down and pray on behalf of my father Adam. Eve saith to him: "And where is their light and why have they taken on such a black appearance?" And Seth answereth her, "The light hath not left them, but they can not shine before the Light of the Universe, the



Father of Light; and on this account their light hath been hidden from them."

*The Burial Services*

CHAPTER XXXVII

Now while Seth was saying this to his mother, lo, an angel blew the trumpet, and there stood up all the angels and they were lying on their faces, and they cried aloud in an awful voice and said: "Blessed be the glory of the Lord from the works of His making, for He hath pitied Adam the creature of His hands." But when the angels had said these words, lo, there came one of the seraphim with six wings and snatched up Adam and carried him off to the Acherusian lake, and washed him thrice, in the presence of God.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

And God saith to him: "Adam, what hast thou done? If thou hadst kept my commandment, there would now be no rejoicing among those who are bringing thee down to this place. Yet, I tell thee that I will turn their joy to grief and thy grief will I turn to joy, and I will transform thee to thy former glory, and set thee on the throne of thy deceiver. But he shall be cast into this place to see thee sitting above him, then he shall be condemned and they that heard him, and he shall be grieved sore when he seeth thee sitting on his honorable throne."

CHAPTER XXXIX

And he stayed there three hours, lying down, and thereafter the Father of all, sitting on his holy throne, stretched out his hand, and took Adam and handed him over to the archangel Michael, saying: "Lift him up into paradise unto the third Heaven, and leave him there until that fearful day of my reckoning, which I will make in the world." Then Michael took Adam and left him where God told him.



## CHAPTER XL

But after all this, the archangel asked concerning the laying out of the remains. And God commanded that all the angels should assemble in His presence, each in his order, and all the angels assembled, some having censers in their hands, and others trumpets. And lo! the "Lord of Hosts" came on, and four winds drew Him, and cherubim mounted on the winds and the angels from heaven escorting Him, and they came on the earth, where was the body of Adam. And they came to paradise, and all the leaves of paradise were stirred so that all men begotten of Adam slept from the fragrance save Seth alone, because he was born "according to the appointment of God." Then Adam's body lay there in paradise on the earth, and Seth grieved exceedingly over him.

## CHAPTER XLI

Then God spake to the archangels Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael: "Go away to paradise in the third heaven, and strew linen clothes, and cover the body of Adam, and bring oil of the 'oil of fragrance' and pour it over him." And they acted thus, did the three great angels, and they prepared him for burial. And God said: "Let the body of Abel also be brought." And they brought other linen clothes and prepared his body also. For he was unburied since the day when Cain his brother slew him; for wicked Cain took great pains to conceal him, but could not, for the earth would not receive him, for the body sprang up from the earth, and a voice went out of the earth, saying: "I will not receive a companion body till the earth which was taken and fashioned in me cometh to me." At that time the angels took it and placed it on a rock till Adam his father was buried. And both were buried, according to the commandment of God, in the spot where God found the dust, and He caused the place to be dug for two. And God sent seven angels to paradise and they brought many fragrant spices and placed them in the earth, and they took the two



bodies and placed them in the spot which they had digged and builded.

## CHAPTER XLII

And God called and said, "Adam, Adam." And the body answered from the earth and said: "Here am I, Lord." And God saith to him: "I told thee that earth thou art and to earth shalt thou return. Again I promise to thee the Resurrection; I will raise thee up in the Resurrection with every man, who is of thy seed."

## CHAPTER XLIII

After these words, God made a seal and sealed the tomb, that no one might do anything to him for six days till his rib should return to him. Then the Lord and his angels went to their place. And Eve also, when the six days were fulfilled, fell asleep. But while she was living, she wept bitterly about Adam's falling on sleep, for she knew not where he was laid. For when the Lord came to paradise to bury Adam she was asleep, and her sons too, except Seth, till He bade Adam be prepared for burial; and no man knew on earth, except her son Seth. And Eve prayed (in the hour of her death) that she might be buried in the place where her husband Adam was. And after she had finished her prayer, she saith: "Lord, Master, God of all rule, estrange not me thy handmaid from the body of Adam, for from his members didst thou make me. But deem me worthy, even me unworthy that I am and a sinner, to enter into his tabernacle, even as I was with him in paradise, both without separation from each other; just as in our transgressions we were both led astray and transgressed thy command, but were not separated. Even so, Lord, do not separate us now."

But after she had prayed she gazed heavenward and groaned aloud and smote her breast and said: "God of All, receive my spirit," and straightway she delivered up her spirit to God.



## CHAPTER XLIV

And Michael came and taught Seth how to prepare Eve for burial. And there came three angels and they buried her body where Adam's body was and Abel's. And thereafter Michael spake to Seth and saith: "Lay out in this wise every man that dieth till the day of Resurrection." And after giving him this rule; he saith to him: "Mourn not beyond six days, but on the seventh day rest and rejoice on it, because on that very day God rejoiceth, yea, and we angels too with the righteous soul, who hath passed away from the earth." Even thus spake the angel, and ascended into heaven, glorifying God and saying: "Allelujah."

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, in the glory of God the Father, for to Him it is meet to give glory, honor, and worship, with the eternal life-giving spirit now and always and forever. Amen.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts. To whom be glory and power forever and forever. Amen.

Then the archangel Joel glorified God; saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, heaven and earth are full of thy glory."



## THE SLAVONIC BOOK OF EVE

[The opening is like the opening of the Apocalypse of Moses, so is omitted here.]

And we sat together before the gate of paradise, Adam weeping with his face bent down to the earth, lay on the ground lamenting. And seven days passed by and we had nothing to eat and were consumed with great hunger, and I, Eve, cried with a loud voice: "Pity me, O Lord, my Creator! For my sake Adam suffereth thus!"

And I said to Adam: "Rise up! my lord, that we may seek us food; for now my spirit faileth me and my heart within me is brought low." Then Adam spake to me: "I have thoughts of killing thee, but I fear since God created thine image and thou showest penitence and criest to God; hence my heart hath not departed from thee."

And Adam arose and we roamed through all lands and found nothing to eat save nettles and grass of the field. And we returned again to the gates of paradise and cried aloud and entreated: "Have compassion on thy creature. O Lord Creator, allow us food."

And for fifteen days continuously we entreated. Then we heard Michael the archangel and Joel<sup>1</sup> praying for us, and Joel the archangel was commanded by the Lord, and he took a seventh part of paradise and gave it to us. Then the Lord said: "Thorns and thistles shall spring up from under thy hands; and from thy sweat shalt thou eat bread, and thy wife shall tremble when she looketh upon thee."

The archangel Joel said to Adam: "Thus saith the Lord; I did not create thy wife to command thee, but to obey; why art thou obedient to thy wife?" Again Joel the archangel bade Adam separate the cattle and all kinds of flying and creeping things and animals, both wild and tame;

<sup>1</sup> "Joel." Confusion with Jah-El.



and to give names to all things. Then indeed he took the oxen and began to plow.<sup>2</sup>

Then the devil approached and stood before the oxen, and hindered Adam in tilling the field, and said to Adam: "Mine are the things of earth, the things of Heaven are God's; but if thou wilt be mine, thou shalt labor on the earth; but if thou wilt be God's, pray go away to paradise." Adam said: "The things of Heaven are the Lord's, and the things of earth and paradise<sup>3</sup> and the whole universe."

The devil said: "I do not suffer thee to till the field, except thou write the bond that thou art mine." Adam replied: "Whosoever is lord of the earth, to the same do I belong and my children." Then the devil was overcome with joy. But Adam was not ignorant that the Lord would descend on earth and tread the devil under foot. The devil said: "Write me thy bond." And Adam wrote: "Who is lord of the earth, to the same do I belong and my children."

Eve said to Adam, "Rise up, my lord, let us pray to God in this cause that He set us free from that devil, for thou art in this strait on my account."

But Adam said: "Eve, since thou repentest of thy misdeed, my heart will harken to thee, for the Lord created thee out of my ribs. Let us fast forty days; perchance the Lord will have pity on us and will leave us understanding and life." I, for my part, said: "Do thou, my lord, fast forty days, but I will fast forty-four."

And Adam said to me: "Haste thee to the river named Tigris, and take a great stone and place it under thy feet, and enter into the stream and clothe thyself with water, as with a cloak, up to the neck, and pray to God in thy heart and let no word proceed out of thy mouth." And I said:

<sup>2</sup> "Plow." No extreme asceticism — corn regarded as a blessing — just as there is no disparagement of marriage.

<sup>3</sup> Heretical interpolation by Bogomilian dualist (Jagic). "Paradise" here is the *heavenly* one, widely separated from the earth. For this whole section compare Pauline phrase "bond servants of sin." It occurs in all Slavonic MSS. of "Solfenus" and Polish and Bohemian Adam tales.



"O my lord, with my whole heart will I call upon God." And Adam said to me: "Take great care of thyself. Except thou seest me and all my tokens, depart not out of the water, nor trust in the words, which are said to thee, lest thou fall again into the snare." And Adam came to Jordan and he entered into the water and he plunged himself altogether into the flood, even to the hairs of his head, while he made supplication to God and sent up prayers to Him.

And there, the angels came together and all living creatures, wild and tame, and all birds that fly, and they surrounded Adam, like a wall, praying to God for Adam.

The devil came to me, wearing the form and brightness of an angel, and shedding big tear-drops, and said to me: "Come out of the water, Eve; God hath heard thy prayers and heard us angels. God hath fulfilled the prayers of those who intercede on thy behalf. God hath sent me to thee, that thou mayst come out of the water."

But I perceived that he was the devil and answered him nothing. But Adam, when he returned from Jordan, saw the devil's footprints, and feared lest perchance he had deceived me; but when he had remarked me standing in the water he was overcome with joy and he took me and led me out of the water.

Then Adam cried out with a loud voice: "Be silent, Eve, for already is my spirit straitened in my body; arise, go forth, utter prayers to God, till I deliver up my spirit to God."

[From here the book parallels the Apocalypse of Moses, chapter xxxii, and is like it almost to the end.]



