



The Appendix of the Testament of Levi

Bodleian Aramaic Fragments

4.....peace, and all the desirableness of the first-fruits of the earth, all of it for food and for dominion; the sword, fighting and battle and slaughter and trouble and rage and murder and famine. 5. Sometimes thou shalt eat, and sometimes thou shalt be hungry; sometimes thou shalt labour, and sometimes thou shalt rest; sometimes thou shalt sleep, and sometimes the sleep of the eye shall depart. 6. Now behold how he has made the greater than all, and how I give the greatness of everlasting peace. 7. And two weeks passed from me, and I awoke from my sleep. Then I said: The one vision is even as the other. I wondered that all the vision should be given to him. And I hid this also in my heart and revealed it to no man. 8 And I went to my father Isaac, and he also in like manner blessed me. 9. Then when Jacob saw in regard to the twelve all that should happen to him according to his vow and how that I was first at the head of the priesthood, and to me of all his sons he had granted the offering he gave thanks to Alahayim, and clothed me with the garment of the priesthood, and filled my hands, and I became a priest to Alahayim....., and I offered all his offerings, and blessed my father in my life, and blessed my brethren. 10. Then they all blessed me, and father also blessed me, and I finished offering his offerings in Bethel. 11. And we went from Bethel and lodged in the castle of Abraham our father, with Isaac our father. 12. And Isaac our father saw us all, and he blessed us and rejoiced. 13. And when he knew that I was priest of the Most High Ala, the Lord of heaven, he began to charge me and teach me the rights of the priesthood, and said to me, 14. "Levi, take heed to thyself, my son, my son, against all defilement and all sin. Thy rights are greater than those of all flesh. 15. And now, my son, I will show thee the rule of the truth, and will not hide from thee any matter to inform thee in the rights of the priesthood. 16. First, take heed to thyself, my son, against all lust and uncleanness, and against all fornication. 17. And do thou take to thyself a wife of my family, and defile not thy seed with harlots; for thou art a holy seed, and holy is thy seed like the holy place, for a holy priest art thou called among all the seed of Abraham. 18. Thou art nigh to Alahayim and nigh to all His holy ones. Now be thou pure in thy flesh from every defilement of all men. 19 and when thou risest up to enter the house of Alahayim, wash thyself with water, and then clothe thyself with the



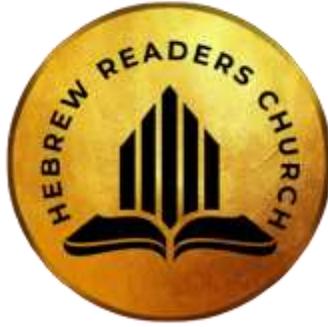
garment of the priesthood. 20. And when thou art clothed, again wash thy hand and thy feet, before thou offer anything on the altar. 21. And when thou takest to offer all that is fitting to offer on the altar, again wash thy hands and thy feet. 22. And offer the split logs, and prove them first free from worms, and then offer them; for thus I saw Abraham my father taking heed. 23. Of all the twelve kinds of wood, he told me that those of them are fitting to burn on the altar whose smoke goes up with a sweet savour. 24. And these are their names: --cedar, and bay, and almond, and fir, and pine, and mountain ash, and cypress, and fig, and olive, and laurel, and myrtle, and aspalathus. These are they which he told me it was right to offer under the sacrifice on the altar. And when thou hast placed of the wood of these trees on the altar, and the fire begins to kind them, then begin to sprinkle the blood on the sides of the altar. 26. And again wash thy hands and thy feet from the blood, and begin to offer up the limbs, salted. 27. Offer the head first and upon it spread the fat, and let there not be seen on it the blood of the offering of the bull. 28. And after it the neck, and after the neck its fore-legs, and after its fore-legs the breast with the side, and after the legs the thigh with the spine of the loin, and after the thigh the hind-legs washed together with the entrails. 29. And let all be salted with salt as is fitting for them according to their need. 30. And after the meal mingled with oil, and, after it all, wine of the drink offering; and burn on them frankincense; and let all thy works be in order, and all thy offerings be pleasing, for a sweet savour before the Most High Ala. 31. And whatsoever thou doest, do it in order by measure and weight; add nothing which is not fitting, and fall not short of the account of what is fitting concerning the logs that are fitting to offer for all that goes up upon the altar. 3. For the great bullock a talent of wood by weight; and if the fat alone is offered, six minas; and if it is a bull-calf which is offered.....

Verse 32-66 (found only in the Greek)

And for the second bull fifty minas; and for the fat alone five minas. 33. And for the great bullock forty minas. 34. And if it be a ram or a he-goat that is offered, for such thirty minas, and for the fat two minas. 36. And if it be a lamb without blemish of the first year, or a kid of the goats, fifteen minas; and for the fat half a minas. 37. And sprinkle salt upon the great bull to salt its flesh, and offer it on the altar. One measure is fitting for the bull. And where there is a superfluity of salt, salt therewith the hide. 38. And for the second bull five-sixths of the measure. And for the bullock the half of the measure. 39. And for the ram half a measure, and for the he-goat the like measure. 40. And for the lamb and the kid the third of the measure. And of the meal that is fitting for them. 41. For the great bull and for the second bull and the bullock a measure of meal.



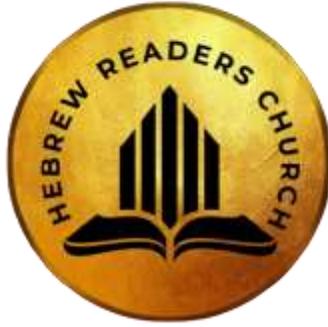
42. And for the ram and the he-goat two-thirds of a measure, and for the lamb and for the kid a third part of a measure, and the oil. 43. And the fourth of the measure for the bull mingled with this meal. 44. And for the ram the sixth of the measure, and for the lamb the eighth of the measure and of the lamb. And for the wine, pour a libation according to the measure of the oil on the bull and the ram and the kid. 45. Of frankincense six shekels for the bull, and the half thereof for the ram, and the third thereof for the kid, and let all the meal be mingled. 46. If you offer this not upon the fat, let there be offered upon it a weight of two shekels of frankincense. And the third of the measure is the third of the ephah. 47. And the two pars of the bath and of the weight of the mina are of fifty shekels. And of the shekel the fourth part is a weight. The shekel comes to be about sixteen thermoi and of one and the same weight. 48. And now, my son, hear my words and give ear to my commands, and let not these my words depart from your heart throughout all thy days, because thou art a holy priest of The Lord. 49. And all thy seed shall be priests. And to thy sons so give commandment that they do according to this use as I have shown thee. 50. For so my father Abraham commanded me to do and to give commandment to my sons. 51. And now, my son, I rejoice that thou hast been chosen to the holy priesthood, and to offer sacrifice to The Lord Most High, as it is befitting to do according to that which is ordained for Him. 52. When thou takest a sacrifice to offer before The Lord of any flesh, according to the reckoning of the wood so receive it as I command thee, and the salt and the meal and the wine and the frankincense receive at their hands for all the animals. 53. And always wash thy hand and thy feet when thou goest to the altar, and when thou goest forth from the sanctuary let no blood touch thy garments. Thou shalt not kindle it the same day. 54. And thy hands and thy feet wash continually from all flesh. 55. And let no blood be seen upon thee, and every soul, for the blood is the life (soul) of the flesh. 56. And if thou prepares for thyself any flesh at home to eat, cover its blood first in the earth before thou eatest of the flesh, and thou shalt not eat of the blood. 57. For so my father Abraham commanded me; for so he found it in the writing of the Book of Noah concerning the blood. 58. And now, as I tell thee, my beloved son, thou art beloved of thy father and holy unto The Lord Most High, and thou shalt be loved beyond all thy brethren. 59. By thy seed shall they be blessed in the earth, and thy seed shall be enrolled in the book of the memorial of life unto all ages. 60. And thy name and all the name of thy seed shall not be blotted out unto all the ages. 61. And now, my son Levi, thy seed shall be blessed upon the earth unto all the generations of the ages.' 62. And when three weeks were fulfilled in the years of my life, i.e. in my twenty-second year, I took unto myself a wife of the lineage of my father, even Adinah, the daughter of Jobab, the son of Joktan, the son of Eber. 63.



And she conceived and bare me a first son, and I called his name Gershom; for I said that my seed would be sojourners in the land where I was born. We are sojourners as...in the land. 64. And in the case of the lad I saw in my vision that he would be cast out, he and his seed from the chief priesthood....65. Twenty-two years old was I in my life when he was born, and in the 10th month he was born towards the sunset. 66. And again she conceived and bare me about the time that is fitting with women, and I called his name Kohath.

Cambridge Aramaic Fragment

66. and it happened about the time of women that I was with her, and she conceived again and bare me another son, and I called his name Kohath. 67. And I saw that to him would be the gathering of all the people, for his would be the high-priesthood over all Israel. 68. In the nine and twentieth year of my life was he born, in the first month, on the first day of the month at sunrise. 69. And again I was with her, and she bare me a third son and I called his name Merari, for it was bitter to me concerning him exceedingly, for as soon as he was born he died; and it was very bitter to me concerning him, because he was like to die; and I besought and prayed for him, and it was in all bitterness. 70. In the thirty fourth year of my life she bare, in the third month. 71. And again I was with her, and she conceived and bare me a daughter, and I made her name Jochebed, for I said, as she hath borne to me honour, she hath borne for me glory to Israel. 72. In the fifty eighth year of my life she bare, in the first day of the seventh month, after we entered into Egypt. 73. In the forty-fourth year we entered the land of Egypt, and to my sons were given the daughters of my brothers at the time... to them sons. 74. The names of the sons of Gershom Libnai and Shimei; and the names of the sons of Kohath, Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel; and the name of the sons of Merari, Mahli and Mushai. 75. And Amram took to him as wife Jochebed my daughter, while I was yet living in the 84th year of my life. 76. And I called the name of Amram, when he was born, Amram, for I said when he was born, this child shall bring out the people from the land of Egypt. 77. Therefore his name was called the exalted people. On one day were they born he and Jochebed my daughter. 78. Twelve years old was I when I went into the land of Canaan, and thirteen years old when I slew Shechem and destroyed the workers of violence. 79. And I was thirteen years old when I became priest, and twenty-two years old when I took to me a wife. 80. And four and forty years old was I when we entered into the land of Egypt, and ninety and three years I lived in Egypt.



81. And all the days of my life were 137 years, and I saw my sons of the third generation before I died. 82. And in the hundred and fifteenth year of my life, that is the year in which Joseph my brother died, I called my sons and their sons, and began to charge them all that was in my heart. 83. I answered and said to my sons:

Hear the word of Levi your father

And hearken to the commands of Alahayim's beloved;

84. I give you a charge, my sons,

And I show you the truth, my beloved.

85. Let the sum of your works be truth,

And let righteousness abide with you forever.

86. And the truth shall bud forth,

And to them the harvest is blessed.

87. He that soweth good, reapeth good;

And he that soweth evil, his seed returneth upon him.

88. And now, my sons, a book of instruction in wisdom teach your sons, And let wisdom be with you an everlasting honour.

89. He that learneth wisdom, she is an honor to him, and whoso despiseth wisdom is given over to contempt.

90. My sons, behold Joseph my brother, Who gave instruction in the writings and discipline of wisdom.

91. Wisdom enlightenth a man..and increased his honour to every country and city. All men are to him brothers, though no kin was in it, he is not like a stranger in it, and not like to a stranger in it, and not like an alien in it; for they all give him honour in it, for all desire to learn of his wisdom.

92. his friends are many, and they that salute him are great ones.

93. and on a seat of honour they place him, to hear the words of his wisdom.

94. Great wealth of honour is wisdom. And goodly treasure to all that get her.



95. If there come mighty kings and much people, and an host and many horsemen and chariots with them. And take ..country and city, and spoil all that is in them, the treasures of wisdom they shall not spoil nor find out her hidden things Nor...