

On the Priesthood and Presumption

1. Levi The transcript of Levi's words to his sons, including his commandments and prophecies. He was in good health when he called them to him, for he had been shown that he was going to die. When they were gathered, he said to them:

2. Levi's Dream

I, Levi, was born in Haran. When I was young my father moved with us to Shechem. When I was about twenty, Simeon and I took revenge on Hamor because of our sister Dina. One day we were shepherding our flocks in Abel-Maul, and the spirit of understanding of the Lord came upon me, and I understood that all men corrupted their way, and that justice had withdrawn behind walls and iniquity reigned. I mourned for mankind and I prayed to the Lord that I could be saved. Then I fell asleep, and saw a high mountain. It was the Aspis and Abel-Maul.

The heavens opened and an angel of God said to me, "Levi, come in." I traveled to the first and second heavens. There was a stream of water between them. When I got to the third heaven, it was much brighter than the first two, and its height was limitless. I asked the angel, "Why is the third heaven brighter than the first two? The angel replied, "You will see four heavens brighter than this one, without comparison. For thou shalt stand before the Lord, be his servant, and reveal the savior of Israel, ¹ and his secrets before men. The Lord will appear among men through you and Judah, and will deliver them out of every race among them. Serving the Lord will be part of your life.

¹ Luke 24:21

3. Seven Heavens Explained

"Hear about the seven heavens. ² The lowest is darker because it is near all the iniquities of men. The second has fire, snow, and ice, ready for the day of the Lord, when the righteous judgment of God is poured out in vengeance upon the wicked men. In the third heaven are the many armies appointed for the day of judgment, to take vengeance on the spirits of deceit and on Belial.

The upper four heavens are holy, with the Holy of Holies far above all holiness. In the sixth are the Archangels of the Lord, who serve and make atonement with the Lord for all the sins that the righteous commit in ignorance. And they offer to the Lord a fragrant incense offering and a bloodless offering.

In the fifth heaven are the angels who give the answers to the archangels of the Lord. And in the fourth heaven are thrones and domains, in which eternal praises are offered to God. Therefore, when the Lord looks upon us, we all tremble. The heavens, the earth, and the abysses tremble in the presence of His majesty, but the sons of men who do not perceive these things sin, and provoke the Most High.

² For the Jewish idea of seven heavens, see Clements of Alexandria, and Paul in the third heaven in 2 Cor. 12:2

4. Levi forgiven, and the coming of the Messiah

Understand that the Lord will judge the sons of men, for when rocks rend, ³ the sun is quenched, the waters dry up, the fire trembles, all creatures are troubled, the invisible spirits melt away, and corrupt the grave in the sufferings of the Most High, and the disbelievers continue in their iniquity. Therefore they will be condemned. The Most High has heard your prayer. Your sins are forgiven, and you shall become a son to Him, a servant and a servant of His presence. You shall be the light of knowledge to Jacob, a sun to the seed of Israel. You and all your seed shall be blessed, until the Lord visits all the Gentiles in the tender mercies of his Son, even forever. Nevertheless, your sons will lay hands on Him to crucify Him. Therefore you have been given counsel and understanding to instruct your sons about him, because he that blesses him shall be blessed, but he that cursed him shall perish⁴.

³ Matt. 27:51

⁴ Genesis 12:3

5. The Order to Destroy Shechem

Then the angel opened the gates of heaven, and I saw the holy temple, and the Most High a throne of glory. He said to me, "Levi, I have given you the blessings of the priesthood until I come and dwell in the midst of Israel." Then the angel brought me to the earth, and gave me a shield and a sword, and said: Take vengeance on Shechem for Dinah, and I will be with you, because the Lord has sent me." In the dream I destroyed the sons of Hamor, as the heavenly tables described that I would. I asked the angel to give me his name so that I could call upon him on the day of trial. He said to me: "I am the angel who intercedes for the children of Israel, so that he may not destroy them completely, because every evil spirit attacks them." Then I awoke from the dream and blessed the Most High and the angel who came before the children of Israel and the righteous will intervene.

6. Destruction of Shechem.

When I arrived at my father's house, I found a copper shield. Therefore the name of the mountain becomes called aspis. It is near Gebal, on the right side of Abila, and I hid these things in my heart. I suggested to my father and my brother Reuben to circumcise the sons of Hamor. I was indignant at the abomination they had wrought in Israel. First I killed Shechem and then Simeon killed Hamor. Then our brothers came to attack the city with the edge of the sword. Our father heard it and was very angry, and he was sad that she were brought to death after being circumcised. He still blessed us, but it was a shame because we did this without notifying him, and he was sick all day. But I knew that this was the proper sentence that God pronounced upon Shechem; for they tried to do the same to Sarah do as they did to Dinah our sister, but the Lord then stopped them. Not only that, but they also persecuted Abraham our father when he dwelt there by scandalously his flocks, shepherds and Jebel his servant, who was born in his house. This is what they did with all strangers, take their wives by force and drive out the men. But the wrath of the Lord touched them suddenly and completely.

7. Jacob's Anger Appeased

I said to my father, "Sir, please don't be angry. The Lord will destroy all the Canaanites." destroy and give all the land to your descendants. From this day Shechem will be a city be called of those who are without understanding, for as men mock a fool, so We mocked them, because they wrought folly in Israel by defiling our sister." We took our sister and went back to Bethel.

8. Second Vision - The Three Priesthoods

After seventy days, while I was in Bethel, I dreamed again, just like the previous dream. I saw seven men in white, who said to me, "Get up,⁵ take the robes of the priesthood, the crown of righteousness, the breastplate of understanding, the robe of truth, the diadem of faith, the crown of wonders, and the ephod of prophecy." Each of them gave me one of these things, I put them on and then they said, "From now on you are the Lord's priest, you and your seed forever."

The first anointed me with holy oil and gave me the rod of judgment. The second washed me with pure water, and fed me with bread and wine, the most holy things, and clothed me with a holy glorious robe. The third clothed me with a linen garment like an ephod. The fourth turned around a purple girdle around me. The fifth gave me a branch of a full olive. The sixth placed a crown on my head. The seventh placed on my head the diadem of the priesthood and filled my hands with frankincense, that I may serve as a priest before the Lord. They said to me, "Levi, your seed shall be divided into three parts,⁶ as a sign of the glory of the Lord who shall come."

- The first shall be he who hath been faithful: no part shall be greater than his own.
- The second will be in the priesthood.
- The third - a new name will be proclaimed over Him, because He emerges as King Judah shall arise, and set up a new priesthood after the manner of the Gentiles, before all non-Jews. ⁷ His appearing will be unspeakable, as an exalted prophet of the seed of Abraham our father.

All desirable things in Israel shall be for you and for your seed, and all that is beautiful you shall eat, and the table of the Lord will divide your seed, and some of them will be high priests, judges, and are scribes; for by their mouth shall the holy place be guarded." When I awoke became, I understood that this dream was like the previous dream. I also hid these in my heart and

didn't tell anyone.

⁵ Underlined text from 4Q213b

⁶ Moses (Law), Aaron (Priesthood), and Jesus (Melchizedek)

⁷ Noahide Commandment with a Noahide/Melchizedek Priesthood ephod = Priestly garment

9. Levi teaches the priesthood

After two days Judah and I went to Isaac to our father, and my grandfather blessed me according to the words of the visions which I had seen. He didn't want to come with us to Bethel come. When we went to Bethel, my father Jacob had a vision of me, that I was a priest would become before the Lord; and he rose early in the morning, and paid tithes to the Lord everything because of me. We came to Hebron to dwell there, and Isaac taught me constantly the law of the Lord, even the angel of God showed it to me. ⁸ He taught me the law of priesthood, of the sacrifices, whole burnt offerings, firstfruits, freewill offerings, and thanksgiving. Every day he gave me instructions and prayed for me before the Lord. He told me: "Hold account, my child, with the spirit of fornication,⁹ for this will continue, and then your seed will defile holy things. Therefore, while you are still young, take a wife without blemish, not yet defiled, neither of the race of the Philistines or of the Gentiles. Before entering the holy place, bathe you; and when you offer the offering, you wash, and again, when you are done with the offering, were you. Offer the fruits of the twelve evergreen trees to the Lord as Abraham taught me. Offer an offering of every clean animal and bird to the Lord. And offering of every firstfruits and of the wine the first fruits. You shall salt every offering with salt."¹⁰

⁸ Underlined text from 4Q213b

⁹ Idolatry

¹⁰ Underlined text from 4Q214, 4Q214b

10. Levi to his children

My children, keep my commandments. I have explained to you what I learned from my fathers. I know clearly from all your wickedness and transgressions what you will do against the savior of the world, acting indecency, deceiving Israel and in great wrath standing up against the Lord. Thou shalt deal wickedly with Israel, so that Jerusalem thy wickedness won't endure anymore. But the veil of the temple shall be rent for your shame no longer cover. You will be scattered as captives among the Gentiles, and it will be for a reproach, for a curse, and for a trampling under the foot. For the house that the Lord shall choose shall be called Jerusalem, as is recorded in the book of Enoch the righteous.

11. Levi's Children

That's why I took Melcha as a wife when I was twenty-eight years old. She called our firstborn son Gerson, because we stayed in our country. Gerson means "stay". But I saw that he was not to inherit the firstborn's blessing. Kahath was born in my thirty-fifth year, in the East. Later I saw him in a vision standing high above the whole community, hence I called his name Kohath, meaning, beginning of majesty and instruction. Third, she gave birth to Merari, in the fortieth year of my life¹¹; and since his mother bore him with difficulty, she called him Merari, which means "my bitterness", because he too dies. Jochebed became born in my sixty-fourth year,¹² in Egypt, for I was then renowned in the midst of my brothers.

11 Underlined 4Q214a fragments 2-3

12 Underlined 4Q214a fragments 4-6

12. Levi's Grandchildren

Gerson took a wife and she gave birth to Lomni and Semei. The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. Merari's sons were Mahli and Musi. In my ninety-fourth year Amram Jochebed took my daughter for him as a wife, for they were both born on the same day. I was eight years old when I entered the land of Canaan and eighteen when I killed Shechem.

When I was nineteen I became a priest and when I was twenty-eight I took a wife. After fourteen years I entered Egypt. Behold, you are my children and grandchildren. In my one hundred and eighteen years Joseph died.

13. Simplicity

Now my children, I command you that you shall fear our Lord with all your heart, and walk in simplicity according to all His law. Teach your children so that they will understand all their lives by to read the law of God incessantly; for whosoever shall know the law of God shall become honored, and shall be no stranger anywhere. He will have more friends than his ancestors. Many will want to serve him and hear the law from him. work justice, my children, on the earth, that you may find treasure in heaven and good things in your souls sow, that you may find them in your life. For if you sow evil things, you shall picking troubles and afflictions. Get wisdom in the fear of God with diligence; because though there shall be captivity, cities shall be desolate, and land, gold, silver, and every possession shall be disappear, no one can take your wisdom from you! Wickedness leads to blindness and sin. The sages will make friends of their enemies, even in a foreign land. If a man these things teaches and practices, he will reign with kings, as Joseph did our brother.

14. The Destruction of the Levitical Priesthood

Now my children, I have learned from the writings of Enoch that you will eventually become wicked act, and you shall lay your hands upon the Lord in all wickedness. Your brothers will stand before you be ashamed and all the non-Jews will mock you. Our father, Israel, will be clean from wickedness of the priests, who will lay their hands upon the Savior of the world. Pure is the sky above the earth, and you are the lights of heaven as the sun and the moon. What will the non-Jews do if you are darkened in wickedness? You will bring a curse on our race for which the light of the world came, which was given among you for the enlightenment of every man. You will want Him kill by teaching commandments contrary to the ordinances of God. The sacrifices of the Lord shall rob you, and of His portion you shall take the best parts, and despise them in desperate contempt eating with whores. In the midst of excesses you will teach the commandments of the Lord. The women you shall defile them that have husbands, and you shall defile the virgins of Jerusalem. Of harlots and adulteresses you shall go together. The daughters of the Gentiles you shall as wives take, purge them with an illegitimate purge; and your union shall be like Sodom and Gomorah in wickedness. Thou shalt be proud of the priesthood, and exalt thyself against the people. Not only so, but also being bloated against the commandments of God, thou shalt mock at the holy things, mock in malice.

15. Roman Expulsion

Therefore the temple which the Lord shall choose shall be desolate with uncleanness, and you shall be captives are among all nations. Thou shalt be an abomination among them, and thou shalt reproach and everlasting shame receiving the righteous judgment of God. All who see you will flee from you. Was it not for the promises of God to our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, none of my seed shall rise remain on earth.

16. Enoch's prophecy

I have also learned in the book of Enoch that you will go astray for seventy weeks, to profane the priesthood, to defile the sacrifices, to corrupt the law and the words of the prophets ignore. In perversity you will persecute the righteous, hate the godly and the abhor the words of the believers. The Man Who Renews the Law in the Power of the Most High, thou shalt call a deceiver.¹³ In the end, as thou supposeest, thou shalt kill Him, not understand his resurrection, take the innocent blood on your own head in a wicked way.¹⁴ Because of Him your holy places will be desolate, polluted even to the ground, and you will no longer have a place that is clean; but thou shalt be among the Gentiles as a curse and scattering, until He will again look upon you, and with compassion bring you to Himself through faith and water bring.¹⁵

¹³ Matt. 27:63

¹⁴ Matt. 27:25

¹⁵ The Return of the Levitical Priesthood?

17. Jubilees

Because you have heard of the seventy weeks, hear also of the priesthood. In every Jubilee period there is a priesthood. In the first Jubilee period, the first to be anointed in the priesthood will be great and speak to God as to a Father. His priesthood will be filled with the fear of the Lord, and in the day of his joy he will rise for the salvation of the world. In the second jubilee, he who is anointed will be accepted in the sorrow of the loved ones. His priesthood will be honored and will be glorified among all. The third priest will be held in suffering; and the fourth shall be in agony, because iniquity shall be exceedingly grievous upon him, and all Israel shall hate every man's neighbor. The fifth will be held in darkness, as will the sixth and seventh. In the seventh there will be such a defilement that I will not be able to pronounce it before the Lord and the people, for they will be in captivity and as prey, and their land and their wealth will be destroyed. In the fifth week of the year they will return to their desolate land and renew the house of the Lord. In the seventh week the priest will come, worshipers of idols, quarrels, lovers of money, proud, disenfranchised, cruel, abusers of children and animals. ¹⁶

¹⁶ Priesthood becomes more and more corrupt, until there is virtually no real priesthood in the Jubilees 8-10, when the Messiah comes.

18. Messiah's Priesthood

After the Lord has punished them, He will raise up a new Priest to the priesthood, to whom all the words of the Lord will be revealed. He will execute judgment of truth upon the earth in the fullness of the days. His star will rise in heaven like a king who sheds the light of knowledge like the sunshine of the day, and He will be glorified in the world until His ascension. He will shine like the sun on the earth and dispel all darkness from the earth. The heavens will rejoice in His days, the earth will rejoice and the clouds will rejoice. The knowledge of the Lord will be poured out on the earth like the waters of the seas; and the angels of the glory of the Lord shall rejoice in Him. The heavens will be opened, and from the temple of glory sanctification will come upon Him with the voice of the Father, as to Abraham the father of Isaac. The glory of the Most High shall be pronounced upon Him, and the Spirit of understanding and sanctification shall rest upon Him in the water. He will give the majesty of the Lord forever to His sons in truth; [and nine shall succeed him for all generations](#), forever. In his priesthood the Gentiles will be multiplied in knowledge on earth and enlightened by the grace of the Lord. In his priesthood all sin will come to an end, the lawless will rest from evil, and the righteous will rest in him. He will open the gates of paradise and remove the menacing sword against Adam. He will give His saints to eat of the tree of life, and the Spirit of holiness will be upon them. Belial will be bound by Him, and He will give His children power to tread on the demons. The Lord will delight in His children and will be happy in His loved ones forever. Then Abraham, Isaac, Jacob will be happy, and I will be happy, and all the saints will be happy.

19. Levi's Death

My children, you have heard everything. Choose for yourself darkness or light; either the law of the Lord or the works of Belial. We swore to our father that we will walk before the Lord according to his law. Our father said, "The Lord and His angels are witnesses, as I am, and you also, concerning your oath." We said, "We are witnesses." Levi stopped giving his directions, lay down and died, having lived one hundred and thirty-seven years. Then they put him in a coffin, and then buried him in Hebron next to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.