

1 **16** "Now I have come to know that for seventy weeks you shall wander astray
 2 and profane the priesthood and defile the sacrificial altars. •You shall set aside the
 Law and nullify the words of the prophets by your wicked perversity. You persecute CD 1:15
 just men: and you hate the pious; the word of the faithful you regard with revulsion.
 3 A man who by the power of the Most High renews the Law you name 'Deceiver,' Mk 11:18; 14:1
 and finally you shall plot to kill him,^a not discerning his eminence; by your Mt 27:24f.
 4 wickedness you take innocent blood on your heads. •I tell you, on account of him
 5 your holy places shall be razed to the ground. •You shall have no place that is
 clean, but you will be as a curse and a dispersion among the nations until he will
 again have regard for you, and will take you back in compassion.

1 **17** "Because you have heard about the seventy weeks, listen also concerning the
 2 priesthood. •In each jubilee there shall be a priesthood:^a In the first jubilee the first
 person to be anointed to the priesthood will be great, and he shall speak to God
 as father; and his priesthood shall be fully satisfactory to the Lord, and in the days
 3 of his joy, he shall rise up for the salvation of the world. •In the second jubilee the
 Anointed One shall be conceived in sorrow of the beloved one, and his priesthood
 4 shall be prized and shall be glorified by all. •The third priest shall be overtaken
 5 by grief, and •the fourth priesthood shall be with sufferings, because injustice shall
 be imposed upon him in a high degree, and all Israel shall hate each one his
 6 neighbor. •The fifth shall be overcome by darkness; •likewise the sixth and the
 8 seventh. •In the seventh there shall be pollution such as I am unable to declare in
 the presence of human beings, because only the ones who do these things understand
 9 such matters. •Therefore they shall be in captivity and will be preyed upon; both
 10 their land and their possessions shall be stolen. •And in the fifth week they shall
 return to the land of their desolation, and shall restore anew the house of the Lord.
 11 In the seventh week there will come priests: idolators, adulterers, money lovers,
 arrogant, lawless, voluptuaries, pederasts, those who practice bestiality.

1 **18** "When vengeance will have come upon them from the Lord, the priesthood
 will lapse.
 2 And then the Lord will raise up a new priest^a
 to whom all the words of the Lord will be revealed.
 He shall effect the judgment of truth over the earth for many days.
 3 And his star^b shall rise in heaven like a king;
 kindling the light of knowledge as day is illumined by the sun.
 And he shall be extolled by the whole inhabited world.
 4 This one will shine forth like the sun in the earth;
 he shall take away all darkness from under heaven, (evil)?
 and there shall be peace in all the earth.
 5 The heavens shall greatly rejoice in his days Isa 44:23
 and the earth shall be glad;
 the clouds will be filled with joy
 and the knowledge of the Lord will be poured out on the earth like the Isa 11:9
 water of the seas.
 And the angels of glory of the Lord's presence will be made glad by him. IEEn 51:4

16 a. As in TLevi 10, ch. 16 gives evidence, not of interpolation, but of reworking by a Christian editor in light of the gospel tradition about the complicity of Jewish priests in the death of Jesus.

17 a. The progressive debasement of the priesthood is depicted as occurring in seven stages.

18 a. The glorious epoch of the eschatological priest. Cf. Ps 110: his priesthood endures forever. Much of what is predicted concerning him appears in the prophetic tradition in relation to the king.

Some scholars see here allusions to one or another of the Maccabean priest-kings.

b. The image of the star builds on Num 24:17; the motif also appears in CD 7.18, where there is a differentiation between the Star, who is the interpreter of the Law, and the Scepter, who is the Messiah of Israel and a kingly figure (CD 7.19-20). In 1QPs J 9-13 the Star is an eschatological figure—presumably the king—and is distinguished from Levi (1QPs J 14-18). The Num 24 passage is also referred to in 1QM 9.6; 4QPNum 5.27. Cf. TJud 24:1.

6 The heavens will be opened,
 and from the temple of glory sanctification will come upon him,
 with a fatherly voice, as from Abraham to Isaac.
 7 And the glory of the Most High shall burst forth upon him.
 And the spirit of understanding and sanctification Isa 11:2
 shall rest upon him [in the water].^c *interpol.*
 8 For he shall give the majesty of the Lord to those who are his sons in truth
 forever.
 And there shall be no successor for him from generation to generation
 forever.
 9 And in his priesthood the nations shall be multiplied in knowledge on the
 earth,
 and they shall be illumined by the grace of the Lord,
 but Israel shall be diminished by her ignorance
 and darkened by her grief.
 In his priesthood sin shall cease
 and lawless men shall rest from their evil deeds,
 and righteous men shall find rest in him.
 10 And he shall open the gates of paradise;^d
 he shall remove the sword that has threatened since Adam,
 and he will grant to the saints to eat of the tree of life.
 The spirit of holiness shall be upon them. Gen 2:9 Rev 22:2,4,19
 12 And Beliar shall be bound^e by him.
 And he shall grant to his children the authority to trample on wicked spirits.
 13 And the Lord will rejoice in his children; *Is 53, Ps 22*
 he will be well pleased by his beloved ones forever.
 14 Then Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will rejoice,^f
 and I shall be glad, and all the saints shall be clothed in righteousness.

1 **19** "And now, my children, you have heard everything. Choose for yourselves
 2 light or darkness, the Law of the Lord or the works of Beliar." •And his sons Deut 30:15-20
 3 replied, "Before the Lord we will live according to his Law." •And their father
 said to them, "The Lord is my witness and his angels are witnesses, and you are
 4 witnesses, and I am witness concerning the word from your mouth." •And his
 sons said, "(We are) witnesses." Then Levi finished giving instructions to his
 sons. He stretched out his feet on his bed and was gathered to his fathers, having
 5 lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. •And they put him in a coffin and later
 buried him in Hebron with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Judah, the fourth son of Jacob and Leah

1 **1** A copy of the words of Judah which he spoke to his sons before he died. When
 2 they gathered together and came to him, he said to them, "•Listen, my children,
 3 to Judah, your father. I was the fourth son born to my father, Jacob, and Leah. Gen 29:35
 4 my mother, named me Judah, saying, 'I give thanks to the Lord, because he has
 5 given me a fourth son.' •In my youth I was keen; I obeyed my father •in accord
 6 with his every word, and I honored my mother and her sister. •And it happened

c. "[In the water]" is apparently an interpolation based on Jesus' having received the spirit at baptism (Mk 1:9-11), which also linked with a heavenly voice.

d. The primordial paradise is restored, its entrance guarded by a sword (Gen 3:24).

e. The binding of Beliar, as in Isa 24:22-23,

where the wicked angels are rendered powerless; cf. Mk 3:27; Lk 11:14-22. The motif of trampling on the evil spirits appears also in Lk 10:19; cf. TSim 6:6; TZeb 9:8.

f. Cf. Jn 8:56; Mt 8:11, where the patriarchs share in the eschatological blessings.

Charlton R., Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, vol. I (1983)