

Zion, and to seek mercy on account of the humiliation of our sanctuary. ⁴⁹Now go, every one of you to his house, and after these days I will come to you.⁵⁰ So the people went into the city, as I told them to do. ⁵¹But I sat in the field seven days, as the angel had commanded me; and I ate only of the flowers of the field, and my food was of plants during those days.

13. After seven days I dreamed a dream in the night; ²and behold, a wind arose from the sea and stirred up all its waves. ³And I looked, and behold, this wind made something like the figure of a man come up out of the heart of the sea. And I looked, and behold, that man flew with the clouds of heaven; and wherever he turned his face to look, everything under his gaze trembled, ⁴and whenever his voice issued from his mouth, all who heard his voice melted as wax melts when it feels the fire.

⁵After this I looked, and behold, an innumerable multitude of men were gathered together from the four winds of heaven to make war against the man who came up out of the sea. ⁶And I looked, and behold, he carved out for himself a great mountain, and flew up upon it. ⁷And I tried to see the region or place from which the mountain was carved, but I could not.

⁸After this I looked, and behold, all who had gathered together against him, to wage war with him, were much afraid, yet dared to fight. ⁹And behold, when he saw the onrush of the approaching multitude, he neither lifted his hand nor held a spear or any weapon of war; ¹⁰but I saw only how he sent forth from his mouth as it were a stream of fire, and from his lips a flaming breath, and from his tongue he shot forth a storm of sparks. ¹¹All these were mingled together, the stream of fire and the flaming breath and the great storm, and fell on the onrushing multitude which was prepared to fight, and burned them all up, so that suddenly nothing was seen of the innumerable multitude but only the dust of ashes and the smell of smoke. When I saw it, I was amazed.

¹²After this I saw the same man come down from the mountain and call to him another multitude which was peaceable. ¹³Then many people came to him, some of whom were joyful and some sorrowful; some of them were bound, and some were bringing others as offerings.

Then in great fear I awoke; and I besought the Most High, and said, ¹⁴"From the beginning thou hast shown thy servant these wonders, and hast deemed me worthy to have my prayer heard by thee; ¹⁵now show me also the interpretation of this dream. ¹⁶For as I consider it in my mind, alas for those who will be left in those days! And still more, alas for those who are not left! ¹⁷For those who are not left will be sad, ¹⁸because

they understand what is reserved for the last days, but cannot attain it. ¹⁹But alas for those also who are left, and for that very reason! For they shall see great dangers and much distress, as these dreams show. ²⁰Yet it is better to come into these things, though incurring peril, than to pass from the world like a cloud, and not to see what shall happen in the last days."

He answered me and said, ²¹"I will tell you the interpretation of the vision, and I will also explain to you the things which you have mentioned. ²²As for what you said about those who are left, this is the interpretation: ²³He who brings the peril at that time will himself protect those who fall into peril, who have works and have faith in the Almighty. ²⁴Understand therefore that those who are left are more blessed than those who have died. ²⁵This is the interpretation of the vision: As for your seeing a man come up from the heart of the sea, ²⁶this is he whom the Most High has been keeping for many ages, who will himself deliver his creation; and he will direct those who are left. ²⁷And as for your seeing wind and fire and a storm coming out of his mouth, ²⁸and as for his not holding a spear or weapon of war, yet destroying the onrushing multitude which came to conquer him, this is the interpretation: ²⁹Behold, the days are coming when the Most High will deliver those who are on the earth. ³⁰And bewilderment of mind shall come over those who dwell on the earth. ³¹And they shall plan to make war against one another, city against city, place against place, people against people, and kingdom against kingdom. ³²And when these things come to pass and the signs occur which I showed you before, then my Son will be revealed, whom you saw as a man coming up from the sea. ³³And when all the nations hear his voice, every man shall leave his own land and the warfare that they have against one another; ³⁴and an innumerable multitude shall be gathered together, as you saw, desiring to come and conquer him. ³⁵But he will stand on the top of Mount Zion. ³⁶And Zion will come and be made manifest to all people, prepared and built, as you saw the mountain carved out without hands. ³⁷And he, my Son, will reprove the assembled nations for their ungodliness (this was symbolized by the storm), ³⁸and will reproach them to their face with their evil thoughts and the torments with which they are to be tortured (which were symbolized by the flames), and will destroy them without effort by the law (which was symbolized by the fire). ³⁹And as for your seeing him gather to himself another multitude that was peaceable, ⁴⁰these are the ten tribes which were led away from their own land into captivity in the days of King Hoshea, whom Shalmaneser the king of the

Assyrians led captive; he took them across the river, and they were taken into another land. ⁴¹But they formed this plan for themselves, that they would leave the multitude of the nations and go to a more distant region, where mankind had never lived, ⁴²that there at least they might keep their statutes which they had not kept in their own land. ⁴³And they went in by the narrow passages of the Euphrates river. ⁴⁴For at that time the Most High performed signs for them, and stopped the channels of the river until they had passed over. ⁴⁵Through that region there was a long way to go, a journey of a year and a half; and that country is called Arzareth.

⁴⁶“Then they dwelt there until the last times; and now, when they are about to come again, ⁴⁷the Most High will stop the channels of the river again, so that they may be able to pass over. Therefore you saw the multitude gathered together in peace. ⁴⁸But those who are left of your people, who are found within my holy borders, shall be saved. ⁴⁹Therefore when he destroys the multitude of the nations that are gathered together, he will defend the people who remain. ⁵⁰And then he will show them very many wonders.”

⁵¹I said, “O sovereign Lord, explain this to me: Why did I see the man coming up from the heart of the sea?”

⁵²He said to me, “Just as no one can explore or know what is in the depths of the sea, so no one on earth can see my Son or those who are with him, except in the time of his day. ⁵³This is the interpretation of the dream which you saw. And you alone have been enlightened about this, ⁵⁴because you have forsaken your own ways and have applied yourself to mine, and have searched out my law; ⁵⁵for you have devoted your life to wisdom, and called understanding your mother. ⁵⁶Therefore I have shown you this, for there is a reward laid up with the Most High. And after three more days I will tell you other things, and explain weighty and wondrous matters to you.”

⁵⁷Then I arose and walked in the field, giving great glory and praise to the Most High because of his wonders, which he did from time to time, ⁵⁸and because he governs the times and whatever things come to pass in their seasons. And I stayed there three days.

14. On the third day, while I was sitting under an oak, behold, a voice came out of a bush opposite me and said, “Ezra, Ezra.” ²And I said, “Here I am, Lord,” and I rose to my feet. ³Then he said to me, “I revealed myself in a bush and spoke to Moses, when my people were in bondage in Egypt; ⁴and I sent him and led my people out of Egypt; and I

led him up on Mount Sinai, where I kept him with me many days; ⁵and I told him many wondrous things, and showed him the secrets of the times and declared to him the end of the times. Then I commanded him, saying, ⁶“These words you shall publish openly, and these you shall keep secret.” ⁷And now I say to you: ⁸Lay up in your heart the signs that I have shown you, the dreams that you have seen, and the interpretations that you have heard; ⁹for you shall be taken up from among men, and henceforth you shall live with my Son and with those who are like you, until the times are ended. ¹⁰For the age has lost its youth and the times begin to grow old. ¹¹For the age is divided into twelve parts, and nine of its parts have already passed, ¹²as well as half of the tenth part; so two of its parts remain, besides half of the tenth part. ¹³Now therefore, set your house in order, and reprove your people; comfort the lowly among them, and instruct those that are wise. And now renounce the life that is corruptible, ¹⁴and put away from you mortal thoughts; cast away from you the burdens of man, and divest yourself now of your weak nature, ¹⁵and lay to one side the thoughts that are most grievous to you, and hasten to escape from these times. ¹⁶For evils worse than those which you have now seen happen shall be done hereafter. ¹⁷For the weaker the world becomes through old age, the more shall evils be multiplied among its inhabitants. ¹⁸For truth shall go farther away, and falsehood shall come near. For the eagle which you saw in the vision is already hastening to come.”

¹⁹Then I answered and said, “Let me speak in thy presence, Lord. ²⁰For behold, I will go, as thou hast commanded me, and I will reprove the people who are now living; but who will warn those who will be born hereafter? For the world lies in darkness, and its inhabitants are without light. ²¹For thy law has been burned, and so no one knows the things which have been done or will be done by thee. ²²If then I have found favor before thee, send the Holy Spirit into me, and I will write everything that has happened in the world from the beginning, the things which were written in thy law, that men may be able to find the path, and that those who wish to live in the last days may live.”

²³He answered me and said, “Go and gather the people, and tell them not to seek you for forty days. ²⁴But prepare for yourself many writing tablets, and take with you Sarea, Dabria, Selemia, Ethanus, and Asiel—these five, because they are trained to write rapidly; ²⁵and you shall come here, and I will light in your heart the lamp of understanding, which shall not be put out until what you are about to write is finished. ²⁶And when you have finished, some things you shall make public, and