and I will turn their heart and make Manasseh, and the princes of Judah, and the people, and all Jerusalem worship you." 15 And Isaiah answered and said, 16 If it is within my power to say, Condemned and cursed be you, and all your hosts, and all the sword thatThai yea "How for there is nothing further that you can take except the skin of my body." 17 And they seized Isaiah the son of Amoz and saw him in half with a wood saw. 18 And Manasseh, and Belkira, and the false prophets, and the princes, and the people, and all stood by looking on. 19 And to the prophets who (were) with him he said before he was sawed in half, "Go to the district of Tyre and Sidon, because for me alone the Lord has mixed the cup." 20 And while Isaiah was being sawed in half, he did not cry out, or weep, but only spoke with the Holy Spirit until he was sawed in two. 21 Beliar did this to Isaiah through Belkira and through Manasseh, for Sammael was very angry with Isaiah from the days of Hezekiah, king of Judah, because of the things which he had seen concerning the Beloved, and because of the destruction of Sammael which he had seen through the Lord, while Hezekiah his father was king. And he did as Satan wished. 22

2. THE VISION WHICH ISAIAH THE SON OF AMOZ SAW

Isaiah visits Hezekiah and has a vision 1 In the twentieth year of the reign of Hezekiah, king of Judah, Isaiah the son of Amoz and Josaph the son of Isaiah came to Hezekiah in Jerusalem from Gilgal. 2 And he sat on the couch of the king, and they brought a seat for him, but he would not sit on it. 3 And when Isaiah began to speak with Hezekiah the king the words of faith and righteousness, all the princes of Israel were sitting (there), and the eunuchs and the king’s counselors. And there were there forty prophets and sons of the prophets; they had come from the neighboring districts, and from the mountains, and from the country, when they had heard that Isaiah was coming from Gilgal to Hezekiah. 4 They came that they might grieve the king, and that they might hear his words, and that he might lay his hand on them, and that they might prophesy, and that he might hear their prophecy; and they were all in the presence of Isaiah. 5 And when Isaiah spoke with Hezekiah the words of righteousness and faith, they all heard a door being opened and the voice of the Spirit. And the king summoned all the prophets and all the people who were to be found there, and they came. And Micah, and the aged Anania, and Joel, and Josaph were sitting on his right. 6 And when they all heard the voice of the Holy Spirit, they all worshiped on their knees, and they praised the God of righteousness, the Most High, the One (who) (dwells) in the upper world and who sits on high, "The Holy One, the One who rests among the holy ones," and they ascribed glory to the One who had thus graciously given a door in an alien world, had graciously given it to a man. 7 And while he was speaking with the Holy Spirit in the hearing of them all, he became silent, and his mind was taken up from him, but he did not see the men who were standing before him. He was indeed open, but his mouth was silent, and the mind in his body was taken up from him. 8 But his breath was still in him, for he was seeing a vision. 9 And the angel who was sent to show him (the vision) was not of this firmament, nor was he from the angels of glory of this world, but he came from the seventh heaven. 10 And the people who were standing by, apart from the circle of prophets, did [not] think that the holy Isaiah had been taken up. 11 And the vision which he saw was not from this world, but from the world which is hidden from the flesh. 12 And after Isaiah had seen this vision he recounted it to Hezekiah, and to Josaph his son, and to the other prophets who had come. 13 But the officials, and the eunuchs, and the people did not hear, apart from Sammas the secretary, and Jehoakiam, and Asaph the recorder, for they (were) doers of righteousness, and the fragrance of the Spirit was in them; but the people did not hear, for Micah and Josaph his son had sent them out when the wisdom of this world was taken from him as if he were dead. 14

Isaiah’s journey through the seven heavens 7 The vision which Isaiah saw he told to Hezekiah, and to Josaph his son, and to Micah, and to the other prophets; it was as follows. When I prophesied in accordance with the message which you have heard, I saw a glorious angel; his glory was not like the glory of the angels which I always used to see, but he had great glory, and an office such that I cannot describe the glory of this angel. And I saw when he took hold of me by the hand, and he said to me, "Who are you? And what is your name? And where are you going?" For strength had been given to me that I might speak with him. 8 And I said to me, "When I have taken you through all the stages and have shown you the vision on account of which I was sent, then you will understand who I am; but my name you will not know, for you have to return into this body. But where I take you up, you will see, for that purpose I was sent." 9 And I rejoiced because...
MARTYRDOM AND ASCENSION OF ISAIAH

166

he spoke to me with kindness. "And he said to me, "Do you rejoice because I have spoken kindly to you?" And he said, "You will see one greater than me,

how he will speak kindly and gently to you; and the Father of the one who is greater you will also see, because for this purpose I was sent from the seventh heaven, that I might make all this clear to you.""

The firmament

9 And we went up into the firmament, I and he, and there I saw Sammael and his hosts; and there was a great struggle in it, and the words of Satan, and they were envying one another. 10 And as above, so also on earth, for the likeness of what is in the firmament is here on earth. "And I said to the angel, "What is this envying?" 11 And he said to me, "So it has been ever since this world existed until now, and this struggle (will last) until the one comes whom you are to see, and he will destroy him.

The first heaven

13 And after this he took me up above the firmament; this is the [first] heaven. 14 There I saw a throne in the middle, and on the right of it there were angels. "And [the angels on the left] were not like the angels on the right; but those who stood on the right had more glory, and they all sang praises with one voice. And the throne was in the middle, and it they praised, and all on the left, but their voice was not like the voice of those, and on the left they praised the praise of those (on the right). 16 And I asked on the right, nor did the praise fit the praise of those on the right."

The angel who led me and said to him, "To whom is this praise directed?"" 17 And he said to me, "To the praise of [the One who sits] in the seventh heaven, the One who rests in the holy world, and to his Beloved, from where I was sent to you. To there it is directed."

The second heaven

18 And again, he took me up into the second heaven, and the height of that heaven is like that from heaven to earth and to the firmament. 19 And [I saw there, as] in the first heaven, angels on the right and on the left, and a throne in the middle, and the praise of the angels who (were) in the second heaven; and the one who sat on the throne in the second heaven had more glory than all (the rest). 20

f. Lxx 1 and 2 One more eminent than the greater one himself; Lat2, Slav differ.
g. "the firmament": the vault of the sky (cf. Gen 1:6–8), here thought of as separating the earth from the seven heavens.
h. Lat2, Slav, and Greek Legend 2.9 "Satan.", i. So Eth, but corrupt; read with Lat2 "and the angels of Satan were envying one another"; Lat2, Slav differ.
j. Lat3 "What is this heaven?" k. So . . . now; so Eth, Lat1, Lat2, Slav "That war is of the devil.

i. Supplied from Lat2, Slav. In Ascends heaven is thought of as being divided into seven layers, each one more glorious than the one below. For the idea of gradations within heaven, and particularly for the idea of seven heavens, cf. Tlevi 2.7–3.10; cf. also Bxer 2Cor 12.2; Eph 4.10; Heb 4.14; 7.26.

m. Lat2, Slav. add "and on it there sat an angel in great glory." A comparable statement occurs in the Eth. version of vs. 19, 24, 27, 29, 31 (also in Lat2, Slav), 33, 35, 37. In Col 1:16 Tlevi 3.8 the word "thrones" is used absolutely as the name of a class of angels, and a similar usage is to be found in Ascends in 7.21, and in the Eth. version of 7:12, 27. 8:8, 11:25 (cf. Greek Legend 2.40).

n. Supplied from Lat1. o. "And the throne was in the middle": so Eth, Lat1; Lat2, Slav omit, cf. n. m. on vs. 14.
p. "and it they praised, and those on the left after them:" so Eth; Lat2, Slav add, but elsewhere the angel is specifically said to come from the seventh heaven (cf. 6:13; 7:8); Lat2 "for this purpose"; Slav "because this purpose.

q. Lit. "sent.

r. Supplied from Lat1, Lat2, Slav "of God who is above the seventh heaven." s. "the One who rests in the holy world [among the holy ones of the world]"; so Eth (cf. 6:8), but the text appears corrupt. Lat2; "who belongs to the everlasting age." Lat2, Slav omit.

t. A. "from earth to heaven and to the firmament." Lat2, Slav from the firmament to earth.

u. Supplied from Lat2, Slav.

v. Lat2, Slav omit the rest of the vs.

there was great glory in the second heaven, and their praise was not like the praise of those who (were) in the first heaven. "And I fell on my face to worship him, and the angel who led me would not let me; but said to me, "Withstand neither throne," nor angel from the six heavens, from where I was sent to lead you, before I tell you in the seventh heaven. 22 "For above all the heavens and their angels is placed your throne, and also your robes and your crown which you are to see."

...And I rejoiced very much that those who love the Most High and his Beloved will at their end go up there through the angel of the Holy Spirit.

The third heaven

23 And he took me up into the third heaven, and in the same way I saw those who (were) on the right and on the left, and there was (there was) a throne in the middle and one who sat on it, but no mention of this world was made there. 24 And I said to the angel (who was) with me, for the glory of my face was being transformed as I went up from heaven to heaven, "Nothing of the vanity of that world is named here." And he answered me, saying, "Nothing is named because of its weakness, but nothing is hidden which is done there." 25 And I wished to find out how it is known; and he answered me, saying, "When I have taken you up into the seventh heaven, from where I was sent, to the One which (is) above these, then you will know that nothing is hidden from the throne who dwells in the heavens, nor from the angels." And the praises which they sang and the glory of the one who sat on the throne were great, and the angels who (were) on the right and on the left on the right had more glory than (those in) the heaven which (was) below them.

The fourth heaven

26 And again he took me up into the fourth heaven, and the height from the third to the fourth heaven was greater than from (earth) to the firmament. 26 And there I again saw those who (were) on the right and those who (were) on the left, and the one who sat on the throne was in the middle, and there also they were singing praises. 27 And the praise and glory of the angels on the right was greater than that of those on the left. 28 And again the glory of the one who sat on the throne was greater than that of the angels who (were) on the right, but their glory was greater than that of those below.

The fifth heaven

29 And he took me up into the fifth heaven. 30 And again I saw those who (were) on the right and the left, and the one who sat on the throne had more glory than all those of the fourth heaven. 31 And the glory of those who (were) on the right was greater than that of those who (were) on the left. 32 ...The glory of the one on whom I shall tell you.

w. i.e. the one sitting on the throne, vs. 19.

x. See n. m. on vs. 14.

y. Lat2 "of that heaven"; Slav "from heaven."

z. Lat2 "in this heaven," so Eth, but elsewhere the angel is specifically said to come from the seventh heaven (cf. 6:13; 7:8); Lat2 "for this purpose"; Slav "because this purpose.

A. Lat2, Slav do not make any better sense, but may go back to the same 6.13 original as Eth. Possibly the whole clause was deleted from the end of the vs. at an early stage in the transmission of the text.

a. Lat2 (similarly Slav) "but only the one whom I shall tell you.

b. Traditional Christian symbols of the glorious and transformed state of the righteous in heaven, see n. on 7:15 and notes a-b on 9:9.

c. "and one who sat (on it)"); so Eth (B defective); Lat2, Slav omit.

d. Lit. "named." e. Lat2, Slav "spirit."

f. So (C) D and similarly; Slav; B (and similarly Lat2) "there which is done"; A "which is done here."

g. Cf. n. m. on vs. 14. h. Lat2, Slav have a much shorter text in vs. 27.

i. "than (from earth) . . . firmament": Lat2, Slav omit.

j. ...the one . . . middle": Lat2, Slav omit. Lat2 also omits the rest of vs. 29 and vs. 30.

k. All Eth, Mss add "from the third to the fourth." These words make no sense in their context, but are perhaps a fragment of a sentence comparable to vs. 28.
The air of the sixth heaven

7 And again, he took me up into the air of the sixth heaven, and I saw a splendid
8 great glory, and the appearance of the throne was unlike anything I had seen before.
9 And I said to the angel who had come to me, "What is this?"
10 "I am not your lord, but your companion," he replied.
11 Then I said to him, "Why are there not corresponding groups of angels?"
12 "From the sixth heaven and upwards there are no longer those on the left, but
13 are there some in the middle, and they are directed by the power of the
14 seventh heaven, where the One who is not named dwells, and his Chosen
15 One, whose name is unknown, and no heaven can learn his name," for he is alone,
16 (he) whose voice all the heavens and thrones answer. 17 Therefore, have
18 been empowered and sent to bring you up here that you may see this glory, and
19 that you may see the LORD of all the heavens and of these thrones.
20 transformation, he resembles your appearance and your likeness. 21 But I say to
22 you, Isaiah, that no man who has to return to a body of that world (has come
23 up, or seen), or understood what you have seen, so that what you are seeing is the
24 power of the seventh heaven and of the air. And I proclaimed the greatness of my LORD with praise, that through his Lord, I could come here.
25 And I said to him, "Hear then this also from your companion: when from the
26 body by the will of God you have come up here, then you will receive the robes
27 which you will see, and also numbered robes placed (there) you will see.
28 and then you will be equal to the angels who (are) in the seventh heaven."
29

The sixth heaven

And he took me up into the sixth heaven, and there were none on the left, but
30 throne in the middle, but all (were) of one appearance, and their praise (was)
31 equal. 32 And (strength) was given to me, and I also sang praises with them,
33 and that angel also, and our praise was like theirs. 34 And then, when I was in the sixth heaven, I thought that light
35 that I had seen in the fifth heaven was darkness. 36 And I rejoiced and praised the
37 One who has graciously given such light to those who await his promise. 38 I
39 and I entreated the angel who led me from then on I should not return to the
40 the world of flesh. Indeed I say to you, Hezekiah and Josab, my son, and Micah,
41 that there is much darkness here. 42 And the angel who led me knew what I thought and
43 If you rejoice over this light, how much more (will you rejoice) in the seventh heaven when you see the light where the LORD is and his Beloved—
44 from where I sent— who is to be in the world the Son! 45 He who is to be in the corporeal world has not (yet) been revealed, nor the robes, nor the thrones, nor the crowns which are placed (there) for the righteous, for those who believe in that LORD who will descend in your form. For the light which (is) there
46 is great and wonderful. 47 But as regards your not returning into the body, your
48 days are not yet complete for coming here. 49 And when I heard this, I was sad;
50 and he said to me, "Do not be sad."
51

The air of the seventh heaven

And he led me into the air of the seventh heaven, and moreover I heard a voice
52 saying, "How far is he who dwells among aliens' to go?" And I was afraid
53 and trembling. 54 And he said to me when I was trembling, "Behold! From
55 another voice which was sent out has come, and it says, "The holy One is permitted to come up here, for his robe is here."
56 And I asked the angel who (was) with me and said, "Who is the one who prevented me, and who is this one
57 who turned me to that (that I might go up)?" 58 And he said to me, "The one who prevented you, this is the one [who is in charge of] the praise of the sixth heaven. 59 And the one who turned you to this, this is your LORD, the LORD, the LORD.
Christ, who is to be called in the world Jesus, but you cannot hear his names until you have come up from this body."

The seventh heaven
6 And he took me up into the seventh heaven, and there I saw a wonderful light, and also angels without number. And there I saw all the righteous from the time of Adam onwards. And there I saw the holy (Abel) and all the righteous. And there I saw Roscabeal and all who were with him, strippen (of their) robes of the flesh; and I saw them in their robes of above, and they were like the angels who stand there in great glory. But they were not sitting on their thrones, but were their crowns of glory on them. And I asked the angel who was with me, "How is it that they have received these robes, but are not on their thrones nor (in their) crowns?" And he said to me, "They do not receive the crowns and thrones of glory—nevertheless, they see and know whose whose and whose the crowns are until the Beloved descends in the form in which you will see him descend. The Lord will indeed descend into the world in the last days, (he) who is to be called Christ and becomes after like you in form, and they will think that he is flesh and a man. And the god of that world will stretch out [his hand against the Son], and they will lay their hands upon him and hang him upon a tree, not knowing who he is. And thus his descent, as you will see will be concealed even from the heavens so that it will not be known who he is. And when he has plundered the angels of death, he will rise on the third day and will remain for the world in five hundred and forty-five days. And then many of the righteous will ascend with him, whose spirits do not receive (their) robes until the Lord Christ ascends and they ascend with him.
7 Then indeed they will receive their robes and their thrones and their crowns, when he has ascended into the seventh heaven."

The record of men’s deeds
8 And I said to him what I had asked him in the third heaven, "(1) Show me how everything, which is done in this world is known by you. (2) And while I was still speaking to him, behold one of the angels who were standing by, more glorious than that angel who had brought me up from the grave, (3) showed me (several) books, but not like the books of this world, (4) and he opened them, and the books had writing in them, not like the books of this world. And they were given to me, and I read them, and beheld the deeds of the children of Israel were written there, their deeds which you know, my son Josab. (5) And I said, " Truly, nothing which is done in this world is hidden in the seventh heaven,

The robes and thrones and crowns
9 And I saw many robes placed there, and many thrones and many crowns, and I said to the angel who led me, "Whose (are) these robes and thrones and crowns?" And he said to me, "As for these robes, there are many from that world who will receive (them) through believing in the words of that one who will be named (by) me and they will keep them, and believe in them, and believe in his crosses; for (them are these) placed (here)."

The worship of the Lord
10 And I saw one standing (there) whose glory surpassed that of all, and his glory was great and wonderful. And when they saw him, all the righteous whom I had seen and the angels came to him. And Adam and Abel and Seth and all the righteous approached first and worshiped him, and they all praised him with one voice, and I also was singing praises with them, and my praise was like theirs.
11 And then all the angels approached, and worshiped, and sang praises. And he was transformed and became like an angel. (6) And then the angel who led me said to me, "Worship this one," and I worshiped and sang praises. And the angel said to me, "This is the Lord of all the praise which you have seen."
The worship of the angel of the Holy Spirit

And while I was still speaking, 2 I saw another glorious (person) who was like him, and the righteous approached him, and worshipped, and sang praises, and I also sang praises to him. And his glory was not transferred to any of them, nor was his glory transferred to any of them. And then the angels approached and worshipped him. 3 And I saw the Lord and the second angel, and they were standing, and the second one whom I saw (was) on the left of my Lord. And I asked the angel who led me and I said to him, 4 "Who is this one?" And he said to me, "Worship him, for this is the angel of the Holy Spirit who has spoken in you and in also the other righteous." 5

The worship of God

And I saw the Great Glory while the eyes of my spirit were open, but I could not thereafter see, nor the angel who (was) with me, nor any of the angels whom I had seen worship my Lord. 6 But I saw the righteous as they beheld with great power 7 the glory of that one. And my Lord approached me, and the angel of the Spirit, and said, 8 "See how it has been given to you to see the Lord, 9 and (how) because of your power has been given to the angel who (is) with you." 10 And I saw how my Lord and the angel of the Holy Spirit worshipped and both together praised the Lord. 11 And then all the righteous approached and worshipped, 12 and the angels 12 approached and worshipped, and all the angels sang praises.

The worship of the Father by the six lower heavens

And then I heard the voices and the hymns of praise which I had heard in each of the six heavens—which I had heard as ascended there; 13 and all (the voices and hymns of praise) were directed to that Glorious One 14 whose glory I could not see. 15 And I also heard and saw the praise (which was directed to him), 16 and the Lord and the angel of the Spirit heard everything and saw everything. 17 And all the praise which was sent (up) from the six heavens was not only heard, but seen. 18 And I heard the angel who led me, and he said to me, 19 "This is the Most High of the high ones, who dwells in the holy world, who rests among the holy ones, who will be called by the Holy Spirit in the mouth of the righteous the Father of the Lord."

The Lord Christ is commissioned by the Father

And I heard the voice of the Most High, the Father of my Lord, as he said to my Lord Christ, who will be called Jesus, 20 "Go out and descend through all the heavens. You shall descend through the firmament and through that world as far as the angel who (is) in Sheol, 21 but you shall not go as far as Perdition. 22 And you shall make your likeness like that of all who (are) in the five heavens, 23 and you shall make your likeness like that of the angels of the firmament and also (like) that of all the angels who (are) in Sheol. 24 And none of the angels of that world shall know that you (are) Lord with me of the seven heavens and of their angels. And they shall not know that you (are) with me 25 when the voice of the heavens I summon you, and their angels and their lights, 26 and when I lift up my voice 27 to the sixth heaven, that you may judge and destroy the princes and the angels and the gods of that world, and the world which is ruled by them, 28 for they have denied me and said, 'We are alone, and there is no one besides us.' 29 And afterwards you shall ascend from the gods of death to your place, 30 and you shall not be transformed in each of the heavens, but in glory you shall ascend and sit at my right hand, 31 and then the princes and the powers of that world will worship you." 32 This command I heard the Great Glory giving to my Lord.

The descent of the Lord through the seven heavens

And thus 3 when my Lord went out from the seventh heaven into the sixth heaven. 35 And the angel who had led me from this world was with me, and he said to me, "Understand, Israel, and look, that you may see the transformation..."
and descent of the Lord." • And I looked, and when the angels who (were) in the sixth heaven saw him, they praised him and glorified him, for he had not been transformed into the form of the angels there; and they praised him, and he also sang praises with them. • And I saw when he descended into the fifth heaven, that in the fifth heaven he made his form like that of the angels there, and they did not praise him, for his form was like theirs. • And then he descended into the fourth heaven and made his form like that of the angels there; and when they saw him, they did not praise him or glorify him, for his form (was) like their form. And again I saw when he descended into the third heaven, that he made his form like that of the angels who (were) in the third heaven. • And those who kept the gate of the third heaven demanded the password, and the Lord gave (it) to them in order that he should not be recognized; and when they saw him, they did not praise him or glorify him, for his form (was) like their form. • And again I saw when he descended into the second heaven, that there again he gave the password, for those who kept the gate demanded (it), and the Lord gave (it). • And I saw when he made his form like that of the angels who (were) in the second heaven, that they saw him, but did not praise him, for his form (was) like their form. • And again when he descended into the first heaven, that there he gave the password to those who kept the gate. And he made his form like that of the angels who (were) on the left of that throne, and they did not praise him or glorify him, for his form (was) like their form. • And as for me, no one questioned me because of the angel who led me. • And again he descended into the firmament where the prince of this world dwells, and he gave the password to those who (were) on the left, and his form (was) like theirs, and they did not praise him there; but in envy they were fighting one another, and there is for there a power of envy and envying about trifles. • And I saw when he descended and made himself like the angels of the air, that he was like one of them. And he did not give the password, for they were plundering and doing violence to one another.

The miraculous birth of the Lord

11 And after this I looked, and the angel who spoke to me and led me said to me, 'Understand, Israel son of Amoz, because for this purpose I sent from the Lord.' • And I saw a woman of the family of David the prophet whose name (was) Mary, and she (was) a virgin and was betrothed to a man whose name (was) Joseph, a carpenter, and also he (was) of the seed and family of the righteous David of Bethlehem in Judah. • And he came into his lot. • And when she was betrothed, she was found to be pregnant, and Joseph the carpenter wished to divorce her. • But the angel of the Spirit appeared in this world, and after this Joseph did not divorce Mary, but he did not reveal this matter to anyone. • And he did not approach Mary, but kept her as a holy virgin, although she was pregnant. • And he did not live with her for two months. • And two months after, while Joseph was in his house, and Mary his wife, but both alone, it came about, when they were alone, that Mary then looked with her eyes and saw a small infant, and she was astounded. • And after her astonishment had worn

The infancy and life of the Lord

17 And I saw (that) in Nazareth he sucked the breast like an infant, as was customary, that he might not be recognized. • And when he had grown up, he performed great signs and miracles in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem.

The crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord

And after this the adversary envied him and roused the children of Israel, who did not know who he was, against him. And they handed him to the ruler, and crucified him, and he descended to the angel who (is) in Sheol in Jerusalem, and I saw how they crucified him on a tree, and likewise (how) after the third day he rose and remained (many) days.

The ascension of the Lord through the seven heavens

And the angel who led me said to me, 'Understand, Israel.' • And I saw when she sent out the twelve disciples and ascended. • And I saw him, and he was in the firmament, but was not transformed into their form. And all the angels of the seven heavens said, 'How did our Lord descend upon us, and we did not notice the heavens?' • And he ascended into the second heaven, and he was not transformed, but all the angels who (were) on the right and on the left, and the throne in the middle, worshiped him, and praised him, and said, 'How did our Lord remain hidden from us as he descended, and we did not notice?' • And in the same way

2. "And those . . . recognized": B omits.
3. "in an evil power there." "but . . . trifles": La2, Slav omit.
6. "for they . . . other": La2 "and they did not sing praises": Slav "and they did not question him.
11. a. La2, Slav add "to show you all things. For no one before you has seen, nor after you will be able to see, what you have seen and heard. And I saw one like a son of man, and he dwelt with men in the world, and they did not recognize him.
2. b. the fate decreed him by God: it was God's will that Joseph should marry Mary, cf. vs. 10 and Proverbs 9:5. "The angel said to Joseph, 'It has pleased your father to receive the virgin of the Lord.' " Cf. Proverbs 19:22.
3. c. "in this world": B "to him." d. "B C D: C (did not divorce her, but kept Mary); after divorce" in A D a word has been erased. e. B C "in the house, and Mary:" D "in the house of Mary:" f. "his wife:" so C; B "his betrothed wife: A D have an emendation.
4. g. "her husband:" so C; omitted by B, erased (apparently) E; "his lot:" cf. a. b. vs. 3. h. "she has been married:" so C; O (over an erased "she has been betrothed"); in A B the word has been erased. i. "C (all believed in him, but) B D "no one believed in him, and," Vs. 14 is apparently misunderstood. j. "a word normally translated "king": is presumably Painless who is means (cf. Mt 24:23).
5. a. B C D and caused him to descend. b. "B C angels." c. "who (is) in Sheol:" so C; D "Greek Legend of the angel of Hades:" A B C omit. a. A B D have only "days," with the sense "days." C forty-five days (cf. Acts 1:10). It has been suggested that certain passages read "five hundred and forty-five days," as in 9:16. 6. "the Lord."
He ascended into the third (heaven), and in the same way they praised him and spoke. And in the fourth heaven and also in the fifth they spoke in exactly the same way. But there was one glory, and from it he was not transformed. And I saw when he ascended into the sixth heaven, that they worshipped him and praised him; but in all the heavens the praise grew louder. And I saw how he ascended into the seventh heaven, and all the righteous and all the angels praised him. And then I saw that he sat down at the right hand of that Great Glory, whose glory I told you I could not behold. And also I saw that the angel of the Holy Spirit sat on the left.

The conclusion of the vision

This angel said to me, "Isaiah, son of Amoz, [it is enough for you], for these (are) great things, for you have observed what no one born of flesh has observed. And you shall return into your robe until your days are complete; then you shall come here." These things I saw.

Isaiah's instructions to Hezekiah

And Isaiah told (them) to all those who were standing before him, and they sang praises. And he spoke to Hezekiah the king and said, "These things I have spoken.

And the end of this world and all vision will be brought about in the last generation. And Isaiah made him swear that he would not tell this to the people of Israel, and that he would not allow any man to copy these words. And those who would read them. But as for you, be in the Holy Spirit that you may receive your robes, and the thrones and crowns of glory, which are placed in the seventh heaven. Because of these visions and prophecies. Sammael Satin saw Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet, in half by the hand of Manasseh.

And Isaiah goes to all these things to Manasseh in the twenty-sixth year of his reign. But Manasseh did not remember these things, nor place them in his heart, but he became the servant of Satan and was destroyed.

Here ends the book of Isaiah the prophet with his ascension.

JOSEPH AND ASENEITH

(First Century B.C.-Second Century A.D.)

A NEW TRANSLATION AND INTRODUCTION

BY C. BURCHARD

The Old Testament records that Pharaoh gave to Joseph Aseneth, the daughter of Potipherah, his wife. For his wife (Gen 41:45). How could Joseph—the model of chastity, piety, and uprightness—marry a foreign Hamitic girl, daughter of an idolatrous priest? Jewish tradition and lore found many answers to this intriguing question and expanded some into narratives. Joseph and Aseneth, the longest of these stories, is an allegorical romance by an anonymous author; it is nearly twice as long as Esther, and a little longer than the Gospel of John.

Aseneth is a beautiful virgin of eighteen years and the daughter of Pentepheles, priest of the goddess, and Pharaoh's chief counselor. Many princes, including Pharaoh's firstborn son, falls in love with her. Pharaoh orders her marriage, but the bridegroom must first dowry the daughter by leaving in his stead the waiting daughter of his father. Pharaoh is not satisfied with the dowry that is offered to his daughter. She deserts the bridegroom and marries the man who offered to dowry her. Pharaoh is not satisfied with the dowry that is offered to his daughter.

She fails to give her to Joseph in marriage. She refuses to marry, but Joseph marries her. She engages in a week of feasting and drinking, and rejoices. She marries Joseph and becomes queen of Egypt.