

A READING FROM THE TESTAMENT OF LEVI

I, Levi...When I was feeding the flocks, the spirit of understanding of the Lord came upon me,

And I saw all men corrupting the way, and that unrighteousness had built of itself walls, and lawlessness sat upon towers.

And I was grieving for the race of the sons of men, and I prayed to the Lord that I might be saved.

Then there fell upon me a sleep, and I beheld a high mountain, and I was upon it.

And behold the heavens opened and an angel of God said to me,

“Levi enter.”

And I entered from the first heaven and I saw there a great sea hanging.

And further I saw a second heaven far brighter and more brilliant, for there was boundless light also therein.

And I said to the angel

“Why is this so?”

And the angel said to me, “Marvel not at this, for you shall see another heaven even more brilliant and incomparable.

And when you have ascended there, you shall stand near the Lord, and be his Minister,



And shall declare his mysteries to the men, and proclaim concerning him Who shall redeem Israel.

And through you and Judah shall the Lord appear among men, saving every race of men.

And from the Lord's portion shall be your life and He shall be thy field and vineyard, and fruits, gold and silver.

Testament of Levi 2: 1-12