

# Jewish Texts Illustrating New Testament Texts

## 1. From the synagogue liturgy (the morning service):

Blessed are You—the Lord our God, king of the Universe, who has given the cock intelligence to distinguish between day and night.

Blessed are You—the Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has not made me a heathen.

Blessed are You—the Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has not made me a slave.

*Men Say*

Blessed are You—the Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has not made me a woman

*Women Say*

Blessed are You—the Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has made me according to his will.

## 2. 2 Enoch (1<sup>st</sup> cent. A.D.? Jewish text)

A section of a text (2 Enoch) in which Enoch (of Gen 5:24) is taken up to the seventh heaven to meet God:

And the LORD said to Michael, ‘Go, and extract Enoch from his earthly clothing. And anoint him with my delightful oil, and put him into the clothes of Glory.’ And so Michael did, just as the LORD had said to him. ... And the appearance of that oil is greater than the greatest light, and its ointment is like sweet dew, and its fragrance like myrrh; and it is like the rays of the glittering sun. And I looked at myself, and I had become like one of his glorious ones, and there was no observable difference.

## 3. Testament of Job (1st cent. A.D.? Jewish text)

46:7 And he (i.e. Job) opened them (i.e. three golden boxes) and brought up the three cords, shimmering, as no human was able to speak concerning their appearance, 8 since they are not from the earth, but are from heaven, shining with sparks of fire, as rays of the sun. 9 And he gave one cord to the daughters, saying: “Place them around your breast, in order that it should be well for you all the days of your life.”

48:1 Thus, the one called Hemera, arising, wrapped herself just as her father said. 2 And she received another heart, no longer thinking the thoughts of the earth. 3 She spoke in an angelic dialect, sending up a hymn to God, according the hymnody of the angels. And the hymns that she uttered she permitted ‘The Spirit’ to be inscribed on her garment.

49:1 And then Kassia girded herself and she had her heart altered so that she no long regarding worldly things. 2 And her mouth received the dialect of the rulers, and she praised the creation of the highest place. 3 Therefore, if someone wishes to know the Creation of the Heavens, he will be able to find it in the Hymns of Kassia.

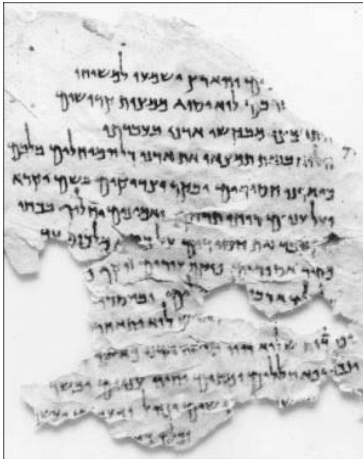
50:1 And then the other one also, called Amatheias-keras girded herself. And her mouth chanted verses in the dialect of those who dwell in heights, 2 since also her heart was changed, withdrawing from the worldly things. For she spoke in the dialect of the cherubim, praising the master of virtues, displaying their glory. 3 And the one who wishes, finally, to grasp the poetic rhythm of the paternal splendor will find it recorded in the Prayers of Amaltheias-keras.

## 4. A recently published Dead Sea Scroll text (4Q521 fragment 2, column 2):

1 [the hea]vens and the earth will listen to His Messiah,

2 and none therein will stray from the commandments of the holy ones.

- 3 Seekers of the Lord, strengthen yourselves in His service!
  - 4 All you hopeful in (your) heart, will you not find the Lord in this
  - 5 For the Lord will consider the pious and call the righteous by name.
  - 6 Over the poor His spirit will hover and will renew the faithful with His power.
  - 7 And He will glorify the pious on the throne of the eternal Kingdom.
  - 8 He who liberates the captives, **restores sight to the blind, straightens the b[ent]**
  - 9 And f[or] ever I will clea[ve to the h]opeful and in His mercy . . .
  - 10 And the fr[uit . . .] will not be delayed for anyone.
  - 11 And the Lord will accomplish glorious things which have never been as [He . . .]
  - 12 For He will heal the wounded, and **revive the dead and bring good news to the poor..**
  - 13 He will lead the uprooted and knowledge . . . and smoke (?)
- (Michael O. Wise, translation)



### 5. An excerpt from a (probably 2<sup>nd</sup> Cent B.C.) Jewish Text: *Joseph and Aseneth*

In this text Joseph (of Gen 37-50) has just met Aseneth (see Gen 41:45), daughter of the Egyptian priest Potiphera.

‘And Joseph lifted up his right hand and put it upon her had and said:

Lord God of my father Israel,  
the Most High, the Powerful One of Jacob,  
who gave life to all  
and called (them) from darkness to the light  
and from error to truth  
and from death to life  
you, Lord, bless this virgin.  
And renew her by your Spirit  
And form her anew by your hidden hand,  
And make her alive again by your life,  
And let her eat your bread of life  
And drink your cup of blessing,  
And number her among your people  
That you have chosen before all (things) came into being,  
And let her enter your rest  
Which you have prepared for your chosen ones,

And live in your eternal life for ever (and) ever. (*Joseph and Aseneth* 8:9).

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<http://marpleparish.co.uk/Resources/theology2.htm>