

saw in the course of time, the "other wings" on the "right side" set themselves up to take the leadership¹⁰; some of them held sway but disappeared at once, ²¹ while others of them set themselves up but did not achieve leadership. ²² Later¹¹ I looked and saw that the twelve wings and "the two winglets" had disappeared, ²³ so that nothing was left of the eagle's body except the three dormant heads and ¹²the six little wings¹³. ²⁴ As I kept looking I saw that two of the six winglets¹⁴ disengaged themselves [from the rest], and remained under the head that was on the right side while the four remained in their place. ²⁵ Then I observed that these sub-wings¹⁵ plotted to set themselves up to achieve leadership. ²⁶ As I kept on looking, one set itself up but disappeared at once; ²⁷ then a second, and it disappeared more rapidly than the preceding one. ²⁸ While I continued to look the two remaining ones themselves plotted to assume rule. ²⁹ At the time they were plotting¹⁶, one of the dormant heads—the one in the middle and larger than the other two—awoke. ³⁰ Then I observed how "the two [other] heads were conjoined with it ³¹ and [how] the head with its conjoiners" turned and devoured the two sub-wings that plotted to rule. ³² This head subdued the whole earth, "held ruthless sway" over all its inhabitants and exercised more power over the world than all the wings that preceded it. ³³ After this I looked again and saw the head in the middle disappear suddenly, just as the wings had done. ³⁴ However, the two heads that held sway over the earth and those who inhabited it remained. ³⁵ While I was looking I saw the head on the right side devour the one on the left. ³⁶ Then I heard a voice saying to me: Look in front of you¹⁷ and contemplate what you see¹⁸. ³⁷ When I looked I saw what appeared like a raging lion [coming] roaring.

¹⁰⁻¹⁰ Latin *sequentes pennae*, "the following wings" i.e. the others that were left.

Syriac *gp' z'wr'*, "little wings."

¹¹⁻¹¹ Five Ethiopic MSS have "left side"; Ar.^{1,2} omit.

¹² Syriac *l'r'*, "of the earth." ¹³ *post hoc*, "after this."

¹⁴⁻¹⁴ Ethiopic "two heads"; Ar.² omits. ¹⁵⁻¹⁵ Ethiopic "its six heads."

¹⁶ Ar.¹ adds "which came out and arose above the twelve wings and were exalted."

¹⁷ Ethiopic="six heads"; Syriac omits the number six; Ar.¹ "these elegant [ones]"; Ar.² "seven"; so there is considerable difficulty with the numerical notation.

¹⁸ Ethiopic "heads." Syriac *gp' z'wr'*, "little wings" and adds *'rb'*, "four"; so also Ethiopic and Armenian. The Latin term *subalares* occurs four times: 11:25, 31; 12:19, 29.

¹⁹ Syriac adds *dnštl'wn l'r'*, "to rule over the earth."

²⁰⁻²⁰ Syriac unintelligible. Other versions, in substance, like Latin.

²¹⁻²¹ Syriac *mkk*, "humiliated." Ar.¹ "tormented," *dhb*.

²² Syriac adds *'zr'*, "Ezra." ²³ Syriac adds *šwlm'*, "the end."

out of the forest and I heard it talk ⁱⁿ human language to the eagle^e. It spoke as follows: ³⁸ Now you listen and I will speak to you! The Most High declares to you: ³⁹ Are you not the only one of the four beasts left that I appointed to hold sway over my world so that through them the end of my^m times might come? ⁴⁰ You are the fourth that has come and "you have subdued" all the preceding beasts,

Holding sway over the world with ^ogreat terror,
And over the entire earth with the utmost oppression;
You lived for so long in the world with duplicity;

⁴¹ You have not judged the earth with truth.

⁴² You have oppressed the meek,

^e You have injured the peaceful,

You have hated those who speak the truth,

You have loved liars,

You have destroyed the homes of the thrifty,

You have razed the walls of those who did you no harm.

⁴³ Your arrogance has reached the Most High,

And ^oyour haughtiness^o the Almighty.

⁴⁴ The Most High has considered his times;

Now they have come to an end;

His ages have attained completion.

⁴⁵ Therefore, you eagle, you will vanish,

With your horrible^o wings,

With your evil winglets,

With your malicious heads,

With your ghastly talons,

With your whole sinister body.

⁴⁶ Thus the whole earth will be relieved and delivered from your power; then it can hope for justice and the compassion of him who made it.

12 1 While the lion was speaking these words to the eagle, I looked
2 and saw that the remaining head had vanished^r. Then the two wings

^{b-b} Omitted by Ar.^s. ⁱ Syriac adds *nšr*, "O eagle." ^m Only in Latin; Ar.^s "all."
ⁿ⁻ⁿ Latin *devicit*, "he has subdued," probably a mistake for *devicisti*, "you have subdued"; other versions have second person.

^{o-o} Syriac *b'ml' sgy'*, "with great pains."

^{p-p} Missing in Syriac text, but present in all other versions.

^a Syriac *mrym'*, "highest."

^r Syriac adds *mn šly'*, "suddenly."

which had gone over to it arose and set themselves up to rule but their reign was weak^o and tumultuous. ³ When I looked again they had vanished, the entire body of the eagle went up in flames and the earth was aghast.

Request for and interpretation of the vision

a. *Weakened by his dream-vision ordeal, Ezra pleads for strength*

Then I awoke because of 'intense excitement' "and great fear, and said "to myself": ⁴ See here, you are responsible for this experience of mine because you are prying into the ways of the Most High.

⁵ Besides, I am "mentally exhausted,

And I am greatly impoverished in spirit^o;

there is not left in me the slightest strength by virtue of the great fear^o I encountered this night. ⁶ Now, therefore, I will pray to the Most High to uphold me to the end.

b. *Ezra's prayer*

⁷ So I said, O Lord, Lord, "if you please", "if I am accounted by you more just than the many", and if my prayer has assuredly come up "before you", ⁸ uphold me and disclose to me, your servant, the interpretation and meaning of this awful^o vision so as to put "my mind^o completely at ease. ⁹ "You have already regarded me worthy to be shown the end of days and the conclusion of times.

c. *Interpretation of the vision*

¹⁰ "Then he answered me: This is the interpretation of this vision 'that you saw'^o. ¹¹ The eagle you observed coming up out of the sea is the fourth^o kingdom that appeared in a vision to Daniel, your

^o Syriac *šwlm'*, "end." t-t Lit. "great mental aberration."

^u Ar.¹ adds *w'lrjfh*, "and trembling."

^{o-o} *spiritui meo*; Heb. *npšy*, "my soul."

^{o-o} Latin *animo . . . spiritu*; Syriac *npšy . . . rwhy*; one is omitted by Ar.² but it is difficult to tell which.

^o With S, A; C, M have *terrore*, "terror"; Syriac follows the former with *dhlt'*.

^{o-o} Latin *si inveni gratiam ante oculos tuos*, "if I have found favor before your eyes" — a Hebraism.

^{o-o} Ethiopic "if I am greatly blessed with you." Ar.¹ adds *wrf'tny z'yd' 'n qdry*, "and you exalted me beyond my worth." Ar.² has greatly simplified the verse.

^{o-o} *ante faciem tuam*, "before your face"; Heb. *lpnyk*.

^b Syriac *dhz't* "which I have seen," perhaps a mistake for *dhyp'*, "fearful."

^{o-o} So Latin; Syriac *npšy*, Ethiopic, Ar.¹ "my spirit"; Ar.² adds *qlby*, "my heart."

^d Syriac is a rhetorical question.

^{o-o} Omitted by Ar.². t-t With C, M and Syriac *dhzyt*; S, A omit.

^o Omitted by S.

brother. ¹² But it was not interpreted to him in the same way that I now interpret [it] to you or ^has I have interpreted [it]^h. ¹³ Indeed, days are coming when a kingdom will rise on earth that will be more dreadful than all the ^kkingdoms that existed before itⁱ. ¹⁴ Twelve kings will hold sway over it, ^jone after another^j. ¹⁵ The second to assume power will hold [it] longer than [any other one of] the twelve. ¹⁶ This is the interpretation of the twelve wings^k you saw. ¹⁷ About the voice 'you heard' speaking^m, which did not come from its heads but^m from the middle of its body, ¹⁸ this is the interpretation: "Following the period of that king's reign" no inconsiderable struggles^o will arise so that it will be threatened with falling, yet it will not fall then but again recover its earlier [power]. ¹⁹ About the eight^p sub-wings you saw springing^q from its wings, ²⁰ this is the interpretation: (eight) kings will arise in it 'whose times will be short and whose years will pass quickly', two of them falling ²¹ close to the middle of its time, while four will be reserved for the time when its end-time draws near; two, however, will be preserved for the end. ²² About the three dormant heads you saw, ²³ this is the interpretation: in its final days the Most High will raise up three kings^s who will restore^t many things in it and exercise dominion over the earth ²⁴ and its inhabitants with greater harshness^u than all who were before them. For this reason they have been called eagle's heads, ²⁵ because they are the ones who will bring his [the eagle's] ungodliness to a head and bring about his end. ²⁶ About the larger head you saw disappearing—one of them will die on his bed ^vbut nevertheless in anguish^v. ²⁷ As for the two remaining ones, "the sword will consume them"^w. ²⁸ For the sword of the one will consume his

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^{h-h} Omitted by Ethiopic and Ar.¹.

ⁱ⁻ⁱ Ar.² *mlwk 'lrd*, "kings of the earth." ^{j-j} Omitted by Ethiopic.

^k Ar.¹ adds *lnsr*, "of the eagle."

^{l-l} Syriac *dhzyt*, "which you saw"; so also Ethiopic and Ar.¹. ^{m-m} Omitted by Ar.².

ⁿ⁻ⁿ Syriac *dbynt zbnh dmlkw*, "in the middle of the time of the kingdom"; supported by Ethiopic and Armenian.

^o Syriac *plgw*, "divisions."

^p Omitted by Ethiopic; Armenian "many."

^q Latin *coherentes*, "adhering"; reading here with Ethiopic, Syriac, Ar.^{1,2}.

^{r-r} Ethiopic "whose years [will be] evil and their days short."

^s Latin *regna* "kingships"; reading follows Syriac *mlkyn* and other oriental versions. The Latin reads Greek *basileias*, "kingdoms," for *basileis*, "kings."

^t Reading plural with Syriac *wnhdtwn*, Ethiopic, Ar.², and Armenian. Ar.¹ "and in their days will be much turmoil and many changes."

^u Latin *labore*, "distress," "trouble"; Ar.² *šdydh* "violence."

^{v-v} Omitted by Ar.².

^{w-w} Ar.² "shall go down [fall] in war."

companion but in the end he too will fall by the sword. ²⁹ About the two sub-wings you saw "going over" to the head on the right side, ³⁰ this is the interpretation: these are the ones the Most High has reserved for its end; this rule "will be" short and full of turbulence, ³¹ as you saw. The raging lion which you saw [coming] "roaring out of the forest, speaking to the eagle, taking it to task for its injustice, and all its words which you heard", ³² he is the anointed one whom the Most High has reserved till the end "of days, who will arise from the seed of David, come and speak^a with them,

Upbraid them for their wickedness,

Condemn^b them for their injustices,

And confront them directly with "their insults^c."

³³ First he will present them alive for judgment, and then, after upbraiding them, he will destroy them. ³⁴ But the "remnant of my people^d who are left^e in 'my land' he will set free with compassion and grant them joy until the end, the day of judgment about which I spoke to you at the beginning. ³⁵ This is the dream you saw and this is its interpretation.

Command to write down the vision, and the seven-day interval

³⁶ However, you alone have been deemed worthy to know this secret of the Most High. ³⁷ Therefore record everything you saw in a book, put them in a safe hiding place, ³⁸ and teach them to the prudent ones "of your people^b whose minds^f you know are capable of grasping and preserving these secrets. ³⁹ But as for you, stay here

^{a-a} So with S, A**; C, M have *crescentes*, "springing up"; Syriac, Ethiopic, Ar.^{1,2} with S, A**.

^{b-b} So with M, A**, Syriac and Ethiopic. Other MSS have *erat*, "was."

^{c-c} Omitted by Ar.².

^{d-d} Omitted in Latin and supplied here from Syriac *dywmt' hw ddnh mn z'h ddwyd wn't wnmll 'mhwn*; this is also substantially present in all other oriental versions.

^{e-e} So with Syriac and other oriental versions; omitted by Latin.

^{f-f} Ar.¹ *jhlhm*, "their folly."

^{g-g} Latin *residuam populum meum*, "my remaining people."

^{h-h} Latin *salvati sunt*, "have been saved"; Syriac *l'my dyn d'sthr*, "but my people who is left" — our rendering follows this as do Ethiopic and Ar.¹.

ⁱ⁻ⁱ Syriac *btwmy*, "border," "territory"; Ar.¹ *twr gdsy*, "my holy mountain" — reading Greek 'oros for 'oros, "boundary." Latin has *fines meos*, lit. "my land," "borders."

^{j-j} Ar.¹ adds *wflfhm'*, "and intelligent ones."

^{k-k} Armenian adds "of God."

^{l-l} Latin *corda*, "hearts" which stands for Heb. *lbwt* as seen from Syriac *lbwthwn*, "their hearts."

