

3. VERSION

[....]/(f. 98r.) because of the oppression and the wrongdoings of the sons of Hagar. The East will be laid waste from ravaging and many wars, for nation will stand against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.¹ Their own sword will fall among them, Armenia will be laid waste, and so also many cities of the land of the Romans. Now, while there remain to the sons of Hagar only a week and a half of the years we have mentioned -- which is ten years and a half² -- their oppression will increase, and they will take everything of gold, silver, brass and iron, and (even) their clothes.³

Their whole living area will be near the dead, to the point that the living will pass by the dead and say: "Blessed are you, who are not alive at this time."⁴ And seven women will take/(f. 98v.) a man and speak to him as it is written in the good news of the Gospel.⁵ A man will flee his wife and his sons, and the wife her husband, from oppression, distress and hunger. At that time, the rain-falls will decrease, the waters of the springs come to an end, and the fruits of the trees and all the bounty of the ground fail, from the impiety of the sons of Ishmael.⁶

When those years that we mentioned -- a week and a half -- are gone by, at the end of six hundred and ninety four years,⁷ then the king of the Greeks will come out,

having with him the sign (which is) in the city of Rome, (namely,) the nails which were in the hands of Our Lord and in the hands of the robber. They were mixed together, and it was not known which ones were Our Lord's and which ones were the others. Then, they cast/(f. 99r.) them all together into the fire and they forged with it a bridle-bit (pgūdā), i.e., a bridle, hanging it within the church. And when a horse that has never been ridden nor has ever in his life been equipped with a bridle will come, and by himself put his head into that bridle, the Romans will know that the kingdom of the Christians has arrived.⁸ They will take the kingdom of the whole earth from the sons of Hagar, and so on⁹ Afterwards, [the king]¹⁰ of the Greeks will hand over the kingdom to God, as it is written.¹¹ As for the bridle, it exists until today.

And then, the king of the Greeks will come out from the West, and his son from the South.¹² Then, the sons of Ishmael will flee and gather in Babylon;/(f. 99v.) but the king of the Greeks will tread upon them in Babylon, and they will have to flee from there to the city of Mecca, where their kingdom will come to an end.¹³ The king of the Greeks will rule [over]¹⁴ all the earth. Prosperity will return to the earth: the fruits of the trees will increase, rainfalls and waters will increase, the fish in the seas and in the rivers will increase. There will be peace and tranquility in the whole creation, in every people and

nation. Then, the living will again pass by the dead, and he (the dead) will say: "Blessed are you, who are alive today, in this kingdom."¹⁵

The kingdom of the Greeks will stand for two hundred and eight years.¹⁶ Afterwards, sin and fornication will increase again in the world, openly,/(f. 100r.) like cattle, without need of shelter, in the market-places and in the public gatherings as before, and the earth will be defiled¹⁷ with sin.¹⁸ Then, the mountains of Armenia will be opened, and the house of Gog and Magog will come out. They are twenty-four nations, twenty-four tongues.¹⁹ When Alexander the king saw²⁰ how they were eating the reptiles of the earth and every abomination, even the flesh of humans -- they were eating dead bodies, and everything unclean, and doing incantations and all kinds of evil deeds -- he gathered them, made them enter inside these mountains and enclosed them there. He asked God for these mountains to come together, and so it happened, there remaining between the mountains an entrance of (only) twenty cubits.²¹ He closed the entrance with the stones/(f. 100v.) called magnetis.²² This adheres to iron, quenches fire when it reaches it, and incantations do not work with it.

Now, at the end of time, these gates will be opened [and]²³ they will come out, defiling the earth. They will take a son from the womb of his mother, kill him and give him to his mother that she may boil him; and if she would

not eat him, they will kill her. They eat mice,²⁴ and all kinds of unclean²⁵ reptiles. God's mercy will be removed from the inhabitants of the earth, and men will see in their days all kinds of evil: famine, thirst, cold, frost and much oppression, so that men will bury themselves in the ground while still alive.²⁶ If God were not to shorten/(f. 101r.) these days,²⁷ no flesh would live.²⁸ Some say that they will reign two years and eight months, from the time when they will come out until they perish.²⁹ After they have gone about the whole creation, and ruled [over]³⁰ the whole world, God will have mercy on his servants. He will gather them in that land where the sons of Ishmael perished, i.e., in Mecca.³¹ And then God will give orders to the angels, and they will stone them with stones of hail, so as not to leave one of them, and all of them will perish. Now, in their days there will be neither measure nor scale. They are ugly and whoever has seen them/(f. 101v.) hates and fears them. The stature of each of them is the length of an arm.³²

In that time the Son of perdition, who is (also) called the false Messiah, will come out and seize the world with fraud and falsehood, without sword. His sin is greater than that of Satan. This is what Jacob-Israel told his sons: "Gather, and I will show you what will happen to you at the end of days."³³ He was pointing at [this]³⁴ time. And what Our Lord indicated will be fulfilled, that Satan

will unite himself with this false Messiah, and will perform signs, revelations and things of no profit, as the divinity was united/(f. 102r.) with the humanity, and performed signs and wonders.³⁵ He will speak strange and false tidings. He will raise up the dead with falsehood and with magic. And (the same with) the paralytic and the blind.³⁶

His birth will be in Tyr and in Sidon,³⁷ and he will live³⁸ in Capernaum. For this reason Our Lord (said): "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! And you, Capernaum, for how long will you be exalted? You will come down to Sheol!".³⁹ He will reign over the whole world without battle, and he will say that He is the Messiah. He will move from one place to another together with his company,/(f. 102v.) and there will be with him many thousands of devils, myriads without number. He will abolish the offerings and sacrifices.⁴⁰ The first ones to follow him and go astray will be the crowds of the Jews, who will say: "This is the Messiah." The wives will leave their husbands and go after him. He will reign over all the earth. He will not enter, however, into the city of Edessa, for God has blessed it and kept it, nor into those four monasteries [which]⁴¹ were the first in the world.⁴² Finally, he will enter Jerusalem and the Temple, as it is said in the Gospel: "When/(f. 103r.) you will see in the Holy Place the impure sign..., "⁴³ i.e., of iniquity, sin and forni

cation -- the impure sign is the false Messiah. And when he will enter Jerusalem, then Henoch and Elijah will come out from the land of the living, and they will strive with him and curse him.⁴⁴ When he will see them he will melt as salt before water. He will be the first of men to be judged, and the demons who had entered into him.

Then, the king of the Greeks will enter Jerusalem, and go up to Golgotha, where Our Saviour was crucified, having in his hand the Cross of the Lord/(f. 103v.).⁴⁵ This Greek king will be from the offspring of Kūshyat, daughter of a certain Kūshyat, king of Kūsh.⁴⁶ They are (also) called Nubians. When he (i.e., the king of the Greeks) will go up with the Cross in his hand, the crown which had come down from heaven over the head of Jovinian, the first king, will pass on top of the Cross, and he will lift up the Cross and the crown toward heaven.⁴⁷ And the archangel Gabriel will come down and take the Cross and the crown, and bring them up to heaven. Then the king will die, and (also) every man on earth, and all wild animals and cattle.⁴⁸ Nothing alive/(f. 104v.) will remain, (not even) that light that God had created for the sons of Adam, the sinner, for His glory does not need light or anything else. And the stars will fall off like leaves, and the earth will turn back as it had been, chaos and emptiness.⁴⁹

Once all these creatures will have ceased to be, in that same hour, like the twinkling of an eye, they will

shout with the sound of the horn and the trumpet,⁵⁰ and the good ones and the evil ones will gather, for there is and there will be only one resurrection for all mankind and for everyone. Pangs will strike the earth as with a woman whose time of labor has come.⁵¹ Adam/(f. 104v.) and all his sons will come out and not a single man will remain who will not rise in an hour. Then, a light will shine forth from the East, greater than the light of the sun. And Our Lord Jesus Christ will come as lightning,⁵² fulfilling all that the prophet David had said, that "a strong voice will come out from the East, and will be heard in heaven."⁵³ And when the light will come across between the good and the evil, they will see a light, the like of which has never been, nor have they ever seen. For, there is one single resurrection/(f. 105r.) for all, but the reward will not be the same, and there will be no greater torment for the sinners than the fact that they will not see this light. Then, the hour of the reckoning of the judgement will come. The judgement is the separation of the good ones⁵⁴ from the evil ones. Languages and speeches will cease. Good and evil alike will go up to the judgement. But the good ones will go up to heaven, while the evil ones will remain on the earth, and this is the Gehenna of the evil ones. That is what Mar Ephraem, the Doctor, said, "Fire will be inside man;/(f. 105v.) it will come from himself, as a hot fever: the Gehenna is within them."⁵⁵ So,

the good ones will go up to heaven, to the kingdom. There will not be for them the same reward, but at that time everyone will be recompensed according to what he did.