**The Testament of Adam**

*(From an unattributed – possibly anonymous –* [*online Translation*](https://couldbeanonymous.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/the-testament-of-adam.pdf)*. Except Ch. 3.)*

**Chapter 1 (‘The Hours of the Night’)**

**1**The first hour of the night is the praise of the demons; and at that hour they do not injure or harm any human being. **2**The second hour is the praise of the doves. **3**The third hour is the praise of the fish and of fire and of all the lower depths. **4**The fourth hour is the “holy, holy, holy” praise of the seraphim. And so I used to hear, before I sinned, the sound of their wings in Paradise when the seraphim would beat them to the sound of their triple praise. But after I transgressed against the law, I no longer heard that sound. **5**The fifth hour is the praise of the waters that are above heaven. And so I, together with the angels, used to hear the sound of mighty waves, a sign which would prompt them to lift a hymn of praise to the Creator. **6**The sixth hour is the construction of clouds and of the great fear the comes in the middle of the night. **7**The seventh hour is the viewing of their powers while the waters are asleep. And at that hour the waters (can be) taken up and the priest of God mixes them with consecrated oil and anoints those who are afflicted and they rest. **8**The eighth hour is the sprouting up of the grass of the earth while the dew descends from heaven. **9**The ninth hour is the praise of the cherubim. **10**The tenth hour is the praise of human beings, and the gate of heaven is opened through which the prayers of all living things enter, and they worship and depart. And at that hour whatever a man will ask of God is given to him when the seraphim and the roosters beat their wings. **11**The eleventh hour there is joy in all the earth when the sun rises from Paradise and shines forth upon creation. **12**The twelfth hour is the waiting for incense, and silence is imposed on all the ranks of fire and wind until all the priests burn incense to his divinity. And at that time all the heavenly powers are dismissed.

The End of the Hours of the Night.

**Chapter 2 (‘The Hours of the Day’)**

**1**The first hour of the day is the petition of the heavenly ones. **2**The second hour is the prayer of the angels. **3**The third hour is the praise of the birds. **4**The fourth hour is the praise of the beasts. **5**The fifth hour is the praise which is above heaven. **6**The sixth hour is the praise of the cherubim who plead against the iniquity of our human nature. **7**The seventh hour is the entry and exit from the presence of God, when the prayers of all living things enter, and they worship and depart. **8**The eighth hour is the praise of fire and of the waters. **9**The ninth hour is the entreaty of those angels who stand before the throne of majesty. **10**The tenth hour is the visitation of the waters when the spirit descends and broods upon the waters and upon the fountains. And if the spirit of the Lord did not descend and brood upon the waters and upon the fountains, human beings would be injured, and everyone the demons saw they would injure. And at that hour the waters (are) taken up and the priest of God mixes them with consecrated oil and anoints those who are afflicted and they are restored and healed. **11**The eleventh hour is the exultation and joy of the righteous. **12**The twelfth hour, the hour of the evening, is the entreaty of human beings, for the gracious will of God, the Lord of all.

**Chapter 3 (‘The Prophecy’)**

*(Translated by John C. Reeves from the edition prepared by M. Kmosko, “Testamentum Patris Nostri Adam,”   
in Patrologia Syriaca; ed. R. Graffin. Vol. 2. Paris: Firmin-Didot, 1907.)*

**1**Adam said to Seth his son: “I have heard, my son, that God will come to the world after a long time. He will be conceived by a virgin and wear a body and be born like a human being and mature like a child. He will perform signs and wonders upon earth – walking upon the waves of the sea, rebuking the winds so that they abate, beckoning the waves that they cease (rolling), opening (the eyes) of the blind, cleansing lepers, causing the deaf to hear, giving speech to the mute, straightening those who are bent, strengthening the paralyzed, finding the lost, expelling devils, casting out demons.

**2**“For, he said to me in Paradise after I had plucked some of the fruit that concealed Death within it: “Adam, Adam, do not fear. You wished to become a god. I shall make you a god, not now, but after a period of many years. I shall deliver you over to Death, and the maggot and worm will consume your body.”

**3**“I answered, saying to him, “Why, my Lord?” He said to me, “Because you hearkened to the words of the serpent, you and your descendants shall serve as food for the serpent. But, after a brief time, mercy shall be shown to you; for, you were created in my image and I will not abandon you to waste away in Sheol. For your sake, I shall be born from the virgin Miriam; and, for your sake, I shall experience Death and enter the realm of Death. For your sake, I shall fashion new heavens and I shall set your descendants in (positions of) authority among them. **4**After three days in the grave, I shall resuscitate the body that I wore on your account and I shall set you at the right hand of my divine station, and I shall make you divine like you wished. I accept (this) freely, and shall restore you and your descendants; for, this is the justice of heaven.”

**5**“I (also) learned, my son Seth, that a Flood will come and purge the entire earth on account of the descendants of Cain your brother. Because of (his) jealousy for Lebuda your sister, he murdered your brother Abel. Similarly, due to your mother Eve, sins came into existence. And, after the Flood, the years for the (continued) appearance of the world will be 6,00**0**years. And then its end will come.”

**6**And I Seth wrote down this testament. My father died and was buried east of Paradise, opposite the first city to be built on earth, which was named Enoch. Adam was accompanied (to the grave) by angels and heavenly powers because he was created in the image of God. The sun and moon grew dark, and there was thick darkness for seven days. We sealed the testament and placed it in the Cave of Treasures with the offerings that Adam had brought out from Paradise – gold, myrrh, and incense. And the Magi, the sons of kings, came and removed them, and brought them to the Son of God in the cave at Bethlehem of Judaea.

Finished is the testament of our ancestor Adam.

**Chapter 4 (‘The Hierarchy’)**

**1**The heavenly powers: what they are like and how each of their orders is occupied in the service and the plan of this world. Listen, my beloved, as they are set in order one after another from the bottom, until we reach those who carry our Lord Jesus the Messiah and bear him up. The lowest order is the angels. And the plan has been revealed to it by God concerning every human being whom they watch over, because one angel from this lowest order accompanies every single human being in the world for his protection. And this is its service.

**2**The second order is the archangels. This is the service: directing everything in this creation according to the plan of God, whether powers or animals, birds, or creeping things, or fish, and to speak briefly and in short, whatever exists in this creation, besides human beings, they care for it and guide it.

**3**The third order, which is the archons. This is its service: moving the air so that a cloud rises from the ends of the earth, according to the words of David the prophet, and rain falls upon the earth. And this (order) makes all the variations in the atmosphere, sometimes rain and sometimes snow and sometimes hail and sometimes dust and sometimes blood. And it varies them. These also belong to this (order): thunder and the fire of lightning.

**4**The fourth order, which is authorities. This is its service: the administration of the lights, of the sun and the moon and the stars.

**5**The fifth order, which is the powers. This is its service: they keep the demons from destroying the creation of God out of their jealousy toward human beings; for if the cursed nature of the demons were allowed to accomplish the lust of its will, in an hour and a moment they would overthrow the whole creation. But the divine power stops them, for a watch is set over them lest they succeed in achieving the lust of their will.

**6**The sixth order, which is the dominions. This is its service: they rule over kingdoms, and in their hands are victory and defeat in battle. And this is shown (to be) so by (the example of) the Assyrian king. For when he went up against Jerusalem, an angel descended and ravaged the camp of the wicked, and one hundred eighty-five thousand died in one moment. And also the blessed Zechariah saw the angel in the form of a man riding on a red horse standing among the trees of the tabernacle, and following him (were others on) white and red horses with lances in their hands. And Judah the Maccabee also saw the angel riding on a red horse all decked out with gold trappings. When they saw him, the camp of Antiochus the wicked fled before him. And wherever there is victory or defeat, these bestow it at the prompting of the living God, who commands them in the hour of battle.

**8**These other orders, thrones and seraphim and cherubim, stand before the majesty of our Lord Jesus the Messiah and serve the throne of his magnificence, glorifying him hourly with their "holy, holy, holy." The cherubim bear up and reverence his throne and keep the seals; the seraphim serve the inner chamber of our Lord; the thrones guard the gate of the holy of holies. This is truly the explanation of the services according to the plan of the angels in this world.

By the Power of Our Lord's Help the End of the Writing, the Testament of Our Father Adam.