

JANUARY 30

Examples from the Pseudepigrapha

The following are examples of the imagery mentioned in the article for this session. Most of the quotes below are taken from the *Pseudepigrapha*, a collection of extra-biblical writings that expand on the revelation God has given to us in the Scriptures. These books are not considered inspired; many were written centuries after the events took place that they purport to tell. However, they do shed light on the content of our article for this session.

1. For biblical examples of the imagery of darkness associated with death, see, Job 7:9-10; 10:20-22; Pss. 39:13; 86:13; 88:4-6, 10-12; Prov. 2:18; Eccles. 9:10; Isa. 14:9-15; 26:14; 38:18-19.

For non-canonical examples, see:

1 Enoch 103:1-8—"Woe unto you sinners who are dead! . . . You yourselves know that they will bring your souls down to Sheol; and they shall experience evil and great tribulation—in darkness, nets, and burning flame. Your souls shall enter into the great judgment; it shall be a great judgment in all the generations of the world. Woe unto you, for there is no peace for you!" (Translation

from the Ethiopic by E. Isaac in *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, 1, ed. James H. Charlesworth, Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library [New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983]).

1 Enoch 108:14-15—"Then they shall see those who were born in darkness being taken into darkness, while the righteous ones shall be resplendent. (The sinners) shall cry aloud, and they shall see the righteous ones being resplendent; they shall go to the place which was prescribed for them concerning the days and the seasons" (Translation by E. Isaac).

Psalms of Solomon 14:6-10—"Sinners and transgressors . . . love (the brief) day (spent) in companionship with their sin; Their delight is in fleeting corruption, And they remember not God. . . . Therefore their inheritance is Sheol and darkness and destruction, And they shall not be found in the day when the righteous obtain mercy; But the pious of the Lord shall inherit life in gladness" (R. H. Charles, *Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*).

Psalms of Solomon 15:10-12—"The inheritance of sinners is destruction and darkness, And their iniquities shall pursue them unto Sheol beneath. . . . And sinners shall perish forever in the day of the Lord's judgment" (R. H. Charles).

2. On the return of Jewish Exiles to Jerusalem, see Deut. 30:4; Ps. 107:3; Isa. 43:5-6; 45:5-6; 49:12; 65:13-14; Baruch 4:37 ("Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God" [NRSV]).

On the future salvation of Gentile believers, see Isa. 2:2-4; 25:6-9; 45:6; 59:19; 60:3-4; Mic. 4:1-4; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 2:11-12; 8:20-23; Mal. 1:11.

3. See the descriptions of the torments of hell in the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha:

1 Enoch 108:3, 5—"The names of (the sinners) shall be blotted out from the Book of Life . . . and their spirits shall perish and die; they shall cry and lament in a place that is an invisible wilderness and burn in the fire. . . . I also saw there something like an invisible cloud; (and) though I could see that it was completely dark yet I could not see the flame of its fire because it was burning brightly; and there were some things like bright mountains which formed a ring (around it) and which were tossing it to and fro. Then I asked . . . , 'What is this . . . voice of weeping, crying, and lamenting as well as strong pain?'" (Translation by E. Isaac).

2 Enoch 40:12—"I measured all the earth, and its mountains and hills and fields and woods and stones and rivers, and everything that exists. I wrote down the height from the earth to the seventh heaven, and the depth to the lowermost hell, and the place of condemnation, and the supremely large hell, open and weeping. And I saw how the prisoners were in pain, looking forward to endless punishment; and I recorded all those who have been condemned by the judge, and all their sentences and all their corresponding deeds" (Translation from the Slavonic by F. I. Andersen, in Charlesworth, *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, 1).

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