



Testament of Yitschaq

Edited by Noel Joshua Hadley

This again is the going forth from the body of our father Ya'aqov the patriarch, who is called Yashar'el, on the twenty-eighth of the month Mesore in the peace of Elohiym. *Amen.*

1 Now it came to pass when the time had come for our beloved father Ya'aqov the patriarch, the son of Yitschaq, the son of Avraham, to go forth from the body (and the Elohiym-loving Ya'aqov was well on in years), YAHAUAHA sent Michael the archangel to him .And he said to

him, Yashar'el, my beloved, you righteous root, write your words of instruction for your sons, and draw up your testament for them, and concern yourself about those of your household, for the time has come for you to go to your fathers and rejoice with them forever. And when the Elohiym-loving Ya'aqov heard this from the angel, he answered and said to him. My Adonai - For it was his daily custom to talk to angels. He said to him. May the will of YAHUAHA be done.

2 And Elohiym blessed our father Ya'aqov. He made for himself a place apart, to which he withdrew and offered his prayers to Elohiym day and night, while the angels visited him and guarded him and kept him safe and gave him strength in everything. Elohiym blessed him; and his people increased greatly in numbers in the land of Mitsrayim. For at the time, he went down to Mitsrayim to his son Yoceph, his sight was failing as a result of continual weeping and worrying over his son Yoceph; but after he arrived in Mitsrayim and had seen his son Yoceph's face, he saw everything clearly again. And Ya'aqov Yashar'el flung on his son Yoceph's neck; he greeted him with tears and said: 'Now let me die, for I have seen your face once more while you are still alive, my beloved'. And Yoceph ruled over the whole of Mitsrayim. Ya'aqov lived in the land of Gashen for seventeen years. He became very old and attained a great age: he kept all the commandments and lived always in the fear of YAHUAHA: and his sight failed so that he could see no one because of extreme old age.

3 He lifted his eyes towards the radiance of the angel who was speaking to him, who was in appearance and in face like his father Yitschaq: he was afraid and troubled. The angel said to him. Do not be afraid, Ya'aqov: I am the angel who has been with you from your youth. I chose you to receive your father Yitschaq's blessing, and your mother Rivqah's. I am with you, Yashar'el, in everything you do and everything you have seen. It was I who delivered you from Lavan when he pursued you; I blessed you, and all your wives, and your sons, and all your cattle. It was I too who rescued you from Esau. It was I too who brought you down into the land of Mitsrayim, Yashar'el; and I have spread you out far and wide. Blessed is your father Avraham, for he became a friend of the Most-High Elohiym because of his hospitality. Blessed is your lather Yitschaq who gave you life, for his sacrifice was perfect and pleasing to Elohiym. Blessed are you too, Ya'aqov, for you saw Elohiym face to face and beheld the

host of the angels of the Most-High Elohiym. You saw the ladder set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven. You also saw YAHUAHA set on the top of it in power too great for words. You cried out saying: 'This is the house of Elohiym, and this is the gate of heaven. Blessed are you, for you have found strength in Elohiym and are strong among men. Now, therefore, do not be troubled, beloved of Elohiym. Blessed are you, Yashar'el, and blessed are all your descendants, for you shall be called patriarchs until the end of this age; for you are my people, and you are the root of the servants of Elohiym. Blessed is every nation which emulates your purity, and your virtues, and your righteousness, and your good works. Blessed is the man who commemorates you on your honored festival. Blessed is he who does a charitable deed in your name, or gives a man a cup of cold water, or brings a perfect offering to your place, or to any place, in your name, or receives a stranger, or visits the sick, or comforts an orphan, or clothes someone who is naked, in your name. He shall lack no good thing in this world; and in the world to come he shall have eternal life. And further, whoever writes an account of your life with its labors, or whoever makes a copy of it with his hands, or whoever reads it attentively, and whoever listens to it with faith and a resolute heart, and whoever emulates your manner of life -they shall be forgiven all their sins, and they shall be freely granted you in the kingdom of the heavens. So, get up now, for you are to exchange trouble and sorrow for eternal rest, and you are to be borne away to a repose that never ceases, to a rest that never ends, and to a light that never sets, and to pleasure and gladness and spiritual joy. So now, give your commands to your sons, and peace be with you; for I am about to go to him who sent me'.

4 And when he had said this to him, the angel left him in peace and returned to the heavens, while Ya'aqov gazed after him. And those who were in the house heard him giving thanks to YAHUAHA and glorifying him with praises. And all his sons gathered round him, from the youngest to the eldest of them, all in tears and in great distress, saying. He is about to go away and leave us. And they said to him. What shall we do, beloved father, For we are aliens in a foreign land? And Ya'aqov said to them. Do not be afraid, for Elohiym appeared to me in Mesopotamia saying: 'I am the Elohiym of your fathers: do not be afraid: I am with you forever, and with your descendants that shall come after you forever: the land on which you are standing I will give to you and your descendants forever. And again, he said to me, Do not be afraid to go down into Mitsrayim; I will go with you down to Mitsrayim; and I will increase your numbers, and

your descendants shall flourish forever, and Yoceph shall lay his hands upon your eyes. And your people shall increase greatly in Mitsrayim; and then they shall return to me here, and I will do them good because of you. But now you must leave this place.

5 And after this the time drew near for Ya'aqov Yashar'el to go forth from the body. He called Yoceph and spoke to him as follows: 'If I have found favor with you, then put your blessed hand upon my thigh and swear to me on oath before YAHUAHA to lay my body in my father's grave. And Yoceph said to him, I will do as you ask, my Elohiym-loving father. His father said to him. I would have you swear; and Yoceph swore the oath to Ya'aqov his father that he would take his body to his father's grave. And Ya'aqov bowed himself upon his son's neck.

6 Now after this it was reported to Yoceph. Behold, your father is in a sorry state. He took his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh and came to his father Yashar'el. When Yashar'el saw them, he said to Yoceph: 'Who are these, my son?' Yoceph said to his father Ya'aqov Yashar'el: 'These are my sons that Elohiym has given me in the land of my humiliation'. Yashar'el said: 'Bring them near to me'. Now Yashar'el's sight had failed because of his great age, and he could hardly see. And Yoceph' brought them close to him; and he kissed them. When Yashar'el had embraced them, he said, Elohiym will add to your descendants; And Yoceph made his two sons, Ephraim and. Manasseh, do obeisance to him on the ground: Yoceph put Manasseh under his right hand and Ephraim under his left hand. But Yashar'el changed his hands: he laid his right hand on Ephraim's head and his left hand on Manasseh's head. And he blessed them; he gave them their patrimony, saying:

'The Elohiym who approved my fathers Avraham and Yitschaq,
The Elohiym who has looked after me from my childhood till today.

The angel who rescues me from all my tribulations.

Bless these lads who are my sons.

With whom is left my name.

And the name of my holy fathers Avraham and Yitschaq.

They shall multiply; they shall increase;

They shall become a great people on the earth.

Afterwards Yashar'el said to Yoceph: 'I am dying but you will return to the land of your fathers, and Elohiym will be with you. Behold, you have been more favored than your brothers, for I have taken the Amorites with my bow and my sword'.

7 Ya'aqov called all his sons and said to them, Come to me. all of you, so that I can tell you what will happen to you, and also, what will happen to each one of you at the end of time. All Yashar'el's sons gathered round him, from the youngest to the eldest of them. Ya'aqov Yashar'el answered and said to his sons: 'Listen, sons of Ya'aqov, listen to Yashar'el your father, from Re'uven my first-born unto Binyamiyn'. He told his sons what would happen to all twelve of them, name by name and tribe by tribe, with heaven's blessing. Then all kept silence so that he might rest a little.

8 He was taken up into the heavens to visit the resting-places. And behold, a host of tormentors came out. The appearance of each one was different; and they were ready to torment the sinners - that is the fornicators, and the harlots, and the catamites, and the Cedomites, and the adulterers, and those who have corrupted Elohiym's creation, and the magicians, and the sorcerers, and the unrighteous, and the idol worshippers, and the astrologers, and the slanderers and the double tongued. In short, many are the punishments for all the sins we have mentioned; the unquenchable fire, the outer darkness, the place where there shall be weeping and grinding of teeth, and the worm that does not sleep. And it is a terrible thing for you to be brought before the judge, and it is a terrible thing to come into the hands of the living Elohiym. Woe to all sinful men for whom these tortures and these tormentors are prepared. And again, afterwards he took me and showed me the place where my father's Avraham and Yitschaq were, a place that was all light; and they were glad and rejoiced in the kingdom of the heavens, in the city of the beloved. And he showed me all the resting places and all the good things prepared for the righteous, and the things that eye has not seen nor ear heard and have not come into the heart of men. that Elohiym has prepared for those who love him and do his will on earth (for if they end well, they do his will).

9 After this, Ya'aqov said to his sons: 'Behold I am about to be taken away and laid to rest with my people; lay my body with my people in the double grave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, where Avraham and his wife Sarah were buried, where Yitschaq was buried, in the path of the field and the grave that is in it, which was bought from the sons of Heth'. And when Ya'aqov had finished saying this, he drew his feet up on to his bed; he went forth from the body like; every man. And YAHUAHA came from heaven with Michael and Gabriel accompanying him, and many legions of angels singing before him. They took the soul of Ya'aqov Yashar'el to abodes of light with his holy fathers Avraham and Yitschaq. Such was the life of Ya'aqov Yashar'el the patriarch. Yoceph presented him to Pharaoh when he was a hundred and thirty years old and he spent another seventeen years in Mitsrayim; together this makes a hundred and forty-seven years. He went to his rest in a ripe old age, perfect in every virtue and spiritual grace; and he glorified Elohiym in all his ways, in the peace of Elohiym. Amen.

10 Yoceph threw himself upon his father, kissing him and weeping for him. And Yoceph instructed his servants, the embalmers, saying: 'Embalm my father in accordance with the best Mitsrayim practice'. They spent forty days embalming Yashar'el; and when the forty days of Yashar'el's embalming were over, they spent eight more days mourning for him. And when the days of Pharaoh's mourning were over (for he had been weeping for Ya'aqov because of his love for Yoceph). Yoceph spoke with Pharaoh's great ones and said to them: 'If I may claim this favor from you, speak on my behalf to Pharaoh the king saying: My father made me take an oath when he was about to go forth from the body, saying: Bury my body in my father's grave in the land of Canaan. So now I ask to be allowed to go and bury my father there and come back again'. Pharaoh the king said to Yoceph the wise: 'Go in peace and bury your father as he made you swear to do; take with you chariots and wagons, and all the great ones of my kingdom, and as many of my servants as you need'. Yoceph worshipped Elohiym in Pharaoh's presence and went out from him. And Yoceph set out to bury his father. Many of Pharaoh's servants went with him. and the elders of Mitsrayim as well as all Yoceph's household, and his brothers, and the whole of Yashar'el's household. And there went up with him chariots and horsemen; they were a very great company. And

they stopped at the threshing floor of Gadad. which is on the bank on the other side of Yordan. They mourned for him there with a great and bitter mourning; and they mourned for him for seven days. Those in the lowland heard the mourning at the threshing-floor of Gadad, and they said: 'This great mourning is a mourning of the Mitsrayimians, so that that place is called The Mourning of Mitsrayim to this day'. They took Yashar'el and buried him in the land of Canaan in the double grave that Avraham had bought as a burial-place for silver from Ephron the Hittite, opposite Mamre. And Yoceph returned to Mitsrayim together with his brothers and the party from Pharaoh's household. After his father's death Yoceph lived for many more years and was king over Mitsriym. But Ya'aqov Yashar'el died and was laid with his people.

11 Behold now, we have told you these things as best we could in order to instruct you about the going forth from the body of our father the patriarch Ya'aqov Yashar'el. 'It is written in the divinely inspired scriptures and the ancient books of our fathers the apostles, even I, Athanasius your father. If you want confirmation of this testament of the patriarch Ya'aqov, take the book Genesis of the prophet Moshe, the lawgiver, and read what is in it: your mind will be enlightened: you will find this, and more, written about it. And again, you will find mention of Elohiym and his angels, for Elohiym was a friend to the patriarchs while they were yet in the body and spoke with them many times in many passages of scripture. And you will find that he spoke too in many passages in scripture with the patriarch Ya'aqov, saying, I will bless your descendants and make them as many as the stars of heaven. And again, Ya'aqov spoke with his son Yoceph saying, My Elohiym appeared to me in the land of Canaan at Luz: he blessed me saying: 'I will bless you and make you too many to be counted, and peoples and nations shall spring from you; I will give this land to your descendants after you as a possession for all time'.

12 See then, my beloved, we have heard these things about our fathers the patriarchs. Let us therefore emulate their deeds and their virtues, and their love of Elohiym and their love of men, and their hospitality, that we may be worthy to become their sons in the kingdom of the heavens, and that they may pray for us to Elohiym that he may save us from punishments in hell which the holy patriarch Ya'aqov spoke about in his words full of

all sweetness, when he taught his sons about the punishments and called them the sword of YAHUAHA Elohiym. These are the river of fire that is prepared, and which engulfs sinners in its waves and those that have defiled themselves. These are the things the patriarch Ya'aqov revealed when he taught the rest of his sons, that those that love instruction should listen to him and do what is good at all times, and love one another, and strive after love and pity. For pity triumphs over judgement and love covers a multitude of sins; and again. He who has pity on a poor man lends on usury to Elohiym.

13 So now, my sons, let neither prayer nor fasting be lacking, and persist in them continually; for they drive away the demons. My sons, keep yourselves from fornication, and anger, and adultery, and every evil thing, and especially from violence, and blasphemy, and theft. For no man of violence will inherit the kingdom of the heavens, neither will any fornicator, nor catamite, nor Cedomite, nor blasphemer, nor covetous man. nor curser, nor anyone who is defiled. In short, these and the others we have mentioned will not inherit the kingdom of Elohiym. My sons, honor the saints, for it is they who pray for you, that your descendants may prosper and that the land may be yours as an inheritance forever. My sons, be hospitable, that you may share the lot of our father Avraham, the great patriarch. My sons, love the poor, that as you do to the poor man here, so Elohiym may give you the bread of eternal life in the heavens unto the end. He who feeds a poor man with bread here, Elohiym will feed him from the tree of life. Clothe the poor man who is naked here on earth, that Elohiym may put on you a robe of glory in the heavens, and so you may become a true son of our holy fathers the patriarchs. Avraham and Yitschaq and Ya'aqov, in the heavens forever. Call to mind the word of Elohiym here and remember the saints, and take care that copies of their memoirs and their hymns are made for the encouragement of those who hear them, so that your name also may be written in the book of life in the heavens, and you too may be numbered with the number of Elohiym's saints who have pleased him in their generation, and take part in the chorus with the angels in the land of the living. We commemorate the saints, our fathers the patriarchs, at this very time every year; our father Avraham the patriarch on the twenty-eighth of Mesore, also our father Yitschaq the patriarch on the twenty eighth of Mesore, and again our father Ya'aqov on the twenty-eighth of this same month Mesore, as we have found it written in the ancient books of our holy fathers who were

pleasing unto Elohiym. Through their supplication and their prayers may all of us together be granted to share their lot in the kingdom of our Adonai and our Elohiym and our Savior Yahusha HaMashiach, through whom is the glory of the Father with him and the Holy life-giving Spirit now and always and forever. Amen. Remember me, that Elohiym may forgive me all my sins and give me understanding and give me stability without sin. *Amen.*