



The Ladder of Ya'aqov

Edited by Noel Joshua Hadley

Now Ya'aqov went to his Uncle Lavan, and he found a place and fell asleep there, laying his head on a stone, for the sun was set and there he saw a vision.

And lo! a ladder was set up on the earth, whose top reached unto heaven. And the top of the ladder was a face as of a man, hewn out of fire. Now it had twelve steps up to the top of the ladder, and upon each step up to the top were two human faces on the right and on the left—twenty-four faces seen to their breast, on the ladder. But the middle face was higher than them all, which I saw made of fire, to the shoulder and the arm, very terribly, more than the twenty-four faces. And as I looked, behold, the Angels of Elohiym ascending and descending thereon: but YAHUAHA was set above it, and he called me, saying: Ya'aqov, Ya'aqov. And I said:

Here am I, Adonai; And he said to me: The land whereon you sleep I will give to thee and to thy seed after thee: and I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand of the sea; through thy seed shall all the earth be blessed, and they that dwell thereon, unto the last times, the years of the end. My blessing wherewith I have blessed thee shall pour out from thee unto the last generation. All in the east and the west shall be full of thy seed.

2 And when I heard it from above, fear and trembling fell upon me, and I rose up from my dream. And while the Voice of Elohiym was yet in mine ears, I said: How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of Elohiym, and this is the gate of heaven. And I set up the stone that was under my head for a pillar, and poured oil on the top of it, and I called the name of that place the house of Elohiym. And I prayed to Elohiym and said: Adonai Elohiym of A'dam, of thy creature, and Adonai Elohiym of Avraham and Yitschaq my father, and of all whose ways are right before thee, you that sits mighty upon the Cherubim and upon the throne of the majesty, of fire and full of eyes, as I saw in my dream; that holds the Cherubim with four faces, that bears the Seraphim full of eyes, that bears the whole world under his arm, and is borne of none. Thou hast established the heaven for the glory of thy name. Thou hast spread out upon the clouds of the heaven the heaven that flies under thee, that under it you mayest move the sun and hide it in the night lest it be held for Elohiym: you hast ordained the way for the moon and the stars, and her you makes to wax and wane, but for the stars, you hast commanded them to pass over, lest these also should be supposed elohiym. Before the face of thy majesty the six-winged Seraphim fear and hide their feet and their face with their wings, and with the others they fly, and sing (*two lines gone: no help from Rec. 2, which omits all this invocation*) Highest, with twelve faces, many-named, fiery, lightning-formed, holy one! Holy, Holy, Holy, Yao Yaova, Yaoel, Sabakdos, Chabod, Sabaoth, Omlelech, Elaber, Ame, S'me Barech, eternal king, strong, mighty, very great, long-suffering. Blessed One, that fills heaven and earth and the sea and the abyss and all æons with thy glory. Hear my song wherewith I have praised thee and grant me my petition for which I pray to thee and show me the interpretation of my dream. For you art strong and mighty and glorious, a holy Elohiym, YAHUAHA of me and of my fathers.

3 And while I yet spoke my prayer, there appeared a voice (!) before my face saying: Sarekl, prince of them that rejoice (*or* of the servants), you that art over visions, go make Ya'aqov to understand the interpretation of

the dream which he saw, and show him all things whatsoever he saw: but first bless him. And he archangel Sarekl came to me, and I saw: it was a face (*a line gone*) terrible. But I did not fear before his look, for the face which I had seen in my dream . . . was more than this, and I feared not the face of an angel. And the angel said to me: What is thy name? and I said: Ya'aqov. But I (*read* he said to me) Thy name shall not henceforth be called Ya'aqov, but thy name shall be like my name, Israel. And when I came from Fandana in Syria to meet my brother Esau, he came to me and blessed me, and called my name Israel, and told me not his name until I adjured him, and then he told me: Because you were . . .

4 But this said he to me: The ladder which you saw, which had twelve steps having two human faces which changed their appearance—now this ladder is this age, and the twelve steps are the times of this age, and the twenty-four faces are the kings of the lawless heathen of this age. Under these kings will be tried (thy children's children and the line) of thy sons: they will rise up against the lawlessness of thy descendants and will lay this place waste through four descents (because ?) of the sins of thy descendants, and of the substance of the forefathers will be built this palace in the temple of the name of thy Elohiym and thy fathers (? the palace of the temple in the name of the Elohiym of thy fathers); but through the wrath of thy descendants will it be desolate until (*Rec. 2* in) the fourth descent of this age: for you didst see four visions (*or* faces).

5 The first that stumbles upon the steps . . . angels ascending and descending and faces in the midst of the steps: the Most-High will raise up an heir of the descendants of thy brother Esau, and all YAHUAHAs of the nations of the earth will accept it, who have done evil against thy seed, and will be given into his hand, and he will be hardly borne by them. But he begins to rule them with violence and to reign over them, and they cannot resist him, until the day when his decree goeth forth against them to serve the idols (*line gone*) and to all them that appear in such a cause, and so many . . . of thy race, so many to Thalkonagargael.

[*Rec. 2*: The first that stumbles upon the steps will be a king of thy neighbors and will do evil against thy seed; he will be unwillingly borne by them. But then begins he to rule over them, and with violence to reign over them, and they cannot resist him, and his decree grows against them that they should worship idols and sacrifice to the dead (*the deified Emperor*): and he speaks to use force to all that are in his kingdom, which appear in

such an accusation, so many to the Most High out of thy race, and so many to Thalkonagargael]

6 And know you, Ya'aqov, that thy seed shall be strangers in a strange land, and men will ill-treat them with bondage and lay blows on them daily: but the people whom they serve will YAHUAHA judge. When a king arises and fights, then will there be to that place (*al.* when the Most-High giveth his judgment to that place, he will lead forth) then will thy seed, even Israel, go forth out of the bondage of the heathen who ruled over them with violence, and will be set free from all reproach of their enemies. For this king is the head of every revenge and retribution of them that make attacks on thee, Israel. And the (at the?) end of the age (*sic*). For the miserable will rise and cry, and YAHUAHA heareth them, and will be softened, and the mighty lets himself pity their sufferings, because the angels and archangels pour out their prayers for the saving of thy race. Then will their women bear much fruit, and then will YAHUAHA fight for thy race. *Here the oldest MS. ends.*

Rec. 2: And know you, Ya'aqov, *etc. to* will YAHUAHA judge, For the Most High will let himself pity, *etc. to* the saving of thy race, that the Most High may have compassion; then will their women bear much fruit, and then fights YAHUAHA for thy race with terrible and great signs, for the bondage inflicted on them. Their full storehouses will be found empty of wine and of every fruit: their land will boil over with creeping things and every deadly thing. Earthquakes and much destruction will there be. Then will the Most High accomplish his judgment on that place and will lead forth thy seed out of the bondage of the heathen which rule over them with violence, and they will be saved from the reproaches of their enemies. But the head of the king will be for (an object of) revenge: bitterly stands he up against them, but they cry, and YAHUAHA heareth them and pours out his wrath upon the Leviathan the sea serpent, and smites the lawless Thalkon with the sword: for against the Elohiym of elohiym raises he up his pride. But then, Ya'aqov, appears thy righteousness and that of thy fathers, and of them that shall be after thee, walking in thy righteousness: and then shall thy seed blow with the trumpet, and the whole kingdom of Edom shall perish, with all the kings and peoples of the Moabites.

7 But whereas you saw angels descending and ascending upon the ladder, in the last times there will be a man from the Most-High, and he shall desire to join the upper with the lower. Of him before his coming shall your sons and your daughters prophesy, and your young men shall see visions of him. For there shall be such signs *as these* at the time of his coming: a tree felled by the axe shall drop blood; boys of three months old shall speak rationally; a child in its mother's womb shall proclaim his way; a young man shall be as an old man. And then cometh the expected one, whose path will be perceived by no man. Then will the earth rejoice, because it hath received the glory of heaven. That which was above shall be below. And of thy seed shall grow up a royal root (*or* the root of a king); and he (it) shall increase and destroy the power of the Evil *one*, but he himself shall be a savior of the heathen, and the rest of them that are weary, and a cloud which shades the whole world from the heat, for otherwise that which is disordered could not be put in order, if he came not: otherwise that which is below could not be joined to that which is above.

8 Now at his coming will images of brass (*al.* calves of brass) and stone and all graven things utter their voice for three days long. And they announce to the wise men and let them know what will befall (*or* is befalling) on earth, and by the star will they know the way to him, when they see him upon earth whom the angels see not above. Then will the Almighty be found in a body on the earth, and encompassed by the arms of a mortal, and he renews the state of man and quickens A'dam and Eve that died through the fruit of the tree. Then will the deceit of the godless one be overcome, and all idols fall on their faces, for they will be put to shame by one who is adorned with honor, because they made lying inventions. Thenceforth they will not have power to rule or to give prophecies, for their honor will be taken from them, and they will remain without glory. For he (the child) that is come taketh the power and might from them and recompenses to Avraham the truth (righteousness) which he promised him. Then he (*or* For this child) rounds off all that is sharp, and every rough thing maketh he smooth, and he casts all unrighteousness into the depths of the sea: and he doeth wonders in heaven and on the earth. And he will be wounded in the midst of the house of the beloved (*or* the beloved house: *evidently* "the house of his friends,"). But when he is wounded, then also the saving and the end of all corruption draweth near. For they that have wounded him shall themselves receive a wound

which shall not be healed for them forever. But the wounded one shall all creatures worship, and upon him shall many hope, and everywhere, and among all the Gentiles, shall he be known. But they that have known his name shall not be put to shame. And his own might and his years shall not fail forever.

