

A Hebrew Manuscript of the Book of Revelation

British Library, MS Sloane 273

Transcribed and Translated by Nehemia Gordon

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| [1r] 1 | א [1r] |
| [1v] The Holy Revelation of Yochanan | [1v] חֲזוֹן יוֹחָנָן הַקֹּדֶשׁ |
| God speaking the One Who is Sent | הַמְדַבֵּר אֶל ¹ מְשֻׁלָּח |
| and Announcing Good News. | וּמְבַשֵּׂר : |
| Revelation - Chapter 1 | |

¹ The original text may have read, "הַמְדַבֵּר אֶל אֶל מְשֻׁלָּח וּמְבַשֵּׂר" "God speaking to the one who is sent and announcing the good news" (i.e. God speaking to John) or "הַמְדַבֵּר אֶל מְשֻׁלָּח וּמְבַשֵּׂר" "speaking to the one who is sent and announcing the good news" (i.e. John speaking to the angel who is sent). Currently the manuscript has הַמְדַבֵּר אֶל (as one word and with Sheva underneath the Resh), literally: "God-speaking". The word אֶל is missing or misspelled with a Tsere.

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| (1) The vision of Yehoshua Mashiach, that the Elohim gave him | [1] א חֲזוֹן יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מָּשִׁיחַ שֶׁנָּתַנּוּ הָאֱלֹהִים |
| to show his servants that which was necessary to be with wrath, | לְהִרְאוֹת עֲבָדָיו אֲשֶׁר הֵצַרְדָּ ² לְהִיּוֹת בְּשֹׁצֵף |
| and he taught (horah) sending by the hand of his angel to his servant Yochanan. | וְהוֹרָה שׁוֹלְחַ בְּיַד הַמַּלְאָכוּ לְעַבְדּוֹ יוֹחָנָן : |
| (2) That he testified the word of the Elohim and the witness of Yehoshua | [2] ב אֲשֶׁר הֵעִיד הַדְּבַר הָאֱלֹהִים וְהֵעִדַת יְהוֹשֻׁעַ |
| Mashiach, which he saw, and that are here, ³ and that which was necessary to do | מָּשִׁיחַ אֲשֶׁר חָזָה וְשֶׁהֵנָּה וְשֶׁהֵצַרְדָּ לַעֲשׂוֹת |
| after this. 3. Happy is the man who reads | אַחֲרֵי-זֹאת : [3] ג אֲשֶׁרִי הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר-קוֹרָא וְהֵ |
| and the ones who hear the words of the prophecy and guard | וְהַשְׁמָעִים הַדְּבָרִי הַנְּבוּאָה וּמִשְׁמָרִים |
| here, those that are written in it. For the time is near. | הֵנָּה אֲשֶׁר-בָּה כְּתוּבוֹת : כִּי הֵעֵת קָרוֹב : |

² Sheva is missing in the manuscript.

³ The word הֵנָּה "here" appears four times in the text, perhaps having the idiosyncratic meaning of "these".

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| (4) Yochanan to the seven congregations, that are in Asia. | [4] ד יוֹחָנָן לְשִׁבְעָה הַמְּקֵהָלִים הֵם-בְּאַשְׁיָאָה |
| Grace to you and Shalom from him who is, and who will be, | חַן-לָכֶם וְשָׁלוֹם מִמֶּנּוּ הוּיָהּ וַיְהִיָּה |
| and who will come and from the seven souls that are opposite his throne. | וְשִׁיבּוּא וּמִשְׁבַּע הַנְּשָׁמוֹת שֶׁנֶּגֶד הַכִּסֵּאֵו |
| (5) And from Yehoshua Mashiach who is <i>the</i> witness of faithfulness. | [5] [2r] ה וּמִיְהוֹשֻׁעַ מָּשִׁיחַ שֶׁעַד הַנְּאֻמָּן |
| the firstborn of the men and the prince of the kings | הַבְּכֹר-מִן-הַמְּתִימִים ⁴ וְהַשֵּׁר- הַמְּלָכִים |
| of the Earth, who loved us and baptized us from our sins | הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אָהַבְנוּ וַיְטַבֵּלְנוּ מִחַטָּאֵינוּ |
| with his blood. (6) And he made us a kingdom and priests | בְּדָמוֹ : [6] וַיַּעֲשֵׂנוּ אֶת-מַלְכוּת וְכֹהֲנִים |
| to Elohim and his Father. To him is glory | לְאֱלֹהִים וְאָבִיהוּ : לוֹ-כְבוֹד |
| and dominion, forever. Amen. | וְהַשְׁלֵטוֹן עַד-עוֹלָמֵי עַד : אָמֵן : |
| (7) Behold, he has come with the cloud and every eye saw him | [7] ז הִנֵּה בָּא עִם הָעָנָן וְחָזָהוּ כָּל- |

⁴ Literally, "men" based on the vowels in the manuscript. "Firstborn of the dead" would be הַמְּתִימִים.

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| and these that stabbed him. And they will mourn | עֵין וְהָאֵלֶּא ⁵ שְׁבִתְקוּהוּ : וְסָפְדוּ ע |
| him, all the tribes of the Earth. Also, Amen. | עָלְיוּ כָּל-הַשְּׁבֵטִי הָאָרֶץ : גַּם אָמֵן : |
| (8) I am the Aleph and the Tav, says Yehovah the Elohim. | [8] ח אֲנִי הָאֵלֶף וְהַתָּו אָמַר יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים |
| He that is, and he was will be, and he that will come, the Shaddai. | הוּיָה וְיִהְיֶה וְשָׁיבֹא הַשֵּׁדִי : |
| (9) I am Yochanan your brother and a participant in the suffering, | [9] ד אָנִי-יוֹחָנָן אַחִיכֶם וְחֵבֵר בְּצָרָה |
| and in the kingdom, and in the hope in Mashiach Yehoshua. | וּבַמְּלָכוֹת וּבַתּוֹחֶלֶת בְּמָשִׁיחַ יְהוֹשֻׁעַ |
| I was on the island that is called Patmos for | הָיִיתִי בְּאֵי שְׁנִקְרָא פַּטְמוֹס בְּעֵבוֹר |
| the word of the Elohim and for the testimony of | [2v] הַדְּבַר הָאֱלֹהִים וּבְעֵבוֹר- הָעֵדוּת |
| Yehoshua Mashiach. (10) I was in the spirit on the lordly ⁶ day | יְהוֹשֻׁעַ מָשִׁיחַ : [10] י הָיִיתִי בְּרוּחַ בַּיּוֹם |
| and I heard a great voice behind me like | אֲדַנְיִי וְשָׁמַעְתִּי קוֹל-גָּדוֹל אַחֲרַי כְּמוֹ- |

⁵ Should be וְאֵלֶּה.

⁶ The unique form אֲדַנְיִי is apparently an adjective derived from אֲדַנְיִ or אֲדַנְיִ.

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| a trumpet, (11) that says, That which you see, write | חֲצֹצְרָה [11] יֵאָמֵר שְׁחִזָּה אֶתָּה כְּתוּב בַּ |
| in a book, and send to the seven congregations, | בְּסֵפֶר וּשְׁלַח אֶל-שִׁבְעָה הַמִּקְהָלִים |
| to Ephesus, and to Smyrna, and to | אֶל אֶפְסוֹס וְאֶל-סַמְרָנָה וְאֶל |
| Pergamus, and to Thyatira, and to Sardis, | פֶּרְגָמוֹשׁ וְאֶל-תִּיַּאֲטִירָה וְאֶל סַרְדִּישׁ וְ |
| and to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea. | וְאֶל-פִּילַדֶּלְפִּיָּאָה וְאֶל- לַאֲוֹדִיקִיָּאָה |
| (12) And there I turned to look at the voice that spoke | [12] יָב וְשָׁם פָּנִיתִי לְהִבִּיט הַקּוֹל אֲשֶׁר דָּבַר- |
| with me. And I was turning and saw seven golden lamps. | אֵתִי : וּפְנָה אֲנִי רָאִיתִי אֶת- מְנוֹרוֹת הַ |
| (13) And in the middle of the seven lamps | הַזֶּהָב שִׁבְעַ [13] יָג וּבִקְרֵב הַשִּׁבְעַ מְנוֹרוֹת מַ |
| dominion for the Son of Man, dressed with a tunic | מִמְשָׁל לְבֶן הָאָדָם לְבוּשׁ עִים- כְּתָנִת |
| to the legs and girded to the chest with | עַד-רִגְלָיִם וְאַפּוּד אֶל-הַשְּׂדִים עִם |
| a golden belt. | חֲגֹרֶת הַזֶּהָב : |

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| (14) And his head and the hairs are white like bright wool, | [3r] [14] וְהָרְאִישׁוֹ וְהַשְּׁעָרוֹת לְבָנוֹת כְּצֶמֶר צָחָר |
| like snow, and his eyes like a flame of fire. (15) And his feet | כְּמוֹ-שָׁלֵג וְעֵינָיו כְּלֶהָב אֵשׁ : [15] יָד וּרְגָלָיו מ |
| are likened to polished copper, when | מִמְשָׁלִים לְנִחְשֶׁת ⁷ -קָלָל כְּאַשֶׁר ל |
| glowing in the furnace. And his voice is like the sound of the deep-sea. | לְהִטִּים בְּכוֹר וְקוֹלוֹ כְּקוֹל הַצּוֹלָה |
| (16) And he is holding in his right hand seven stars. | [16] טו וְאוֹחִז בְּיַד-יְמִינֹו כּוֹכָבִים שִׁבְעָה |
| And from his mouth goes forth a double-edged sword. And his face is like the light of the sun | וּמִן-הַפִּי הוֹלֵךְ חֶרֶב פְּיֹוֹת וּפָנָיו כְּשֶׁמֶשׁ |
| in its strength. (17) And when I saw him, | אוֹרִים בְּעָזוֹ : [17] יו וְכִאַשֶׁר רָאִיתִי אוֹתוֹ נ |
| I fell to his feet like a dead person. And he put | נִפְלַתִּי אֶל-רְגָלָיו כְּמֵת וְשָׁם |
| his right hand on me and he said, Do not be afraid. | הִיד-יְמִינֹו עָלַי וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל תִּירָא |
| I am the first and the last. (18) And the one who lives, and I was dead, | אֲנִי הָרְאִישׁוֹן וְהָאַחֲרוֹן [18] יח וְהָחַי וְהָיִיתִי מֵת |

⁷ The Shin-dot is missing in the manuscript.

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| and behold I live forever and ever. | וְהִנֵּה חַי-אֲנִי לְעֹלָמִי-עֹלָמִים |
| Amen. And I have the nails | אָמֵן וַיֵּשׁ-לִי אֶת-הַמַּסְמָרִים |
| of death and She'ol. (19) Therefore, write that which you saw, and that are here, | הַמּוֹת וְהַשְּׂאוֹל : [19] יט לָכֵן כָּתֹב שְׂרָאִיתָ וְשֶׁהִנֵּה |
| and that which is necessary to do after this. | וְשֶׁהֲצָרָךְ לַעֲשׂוֹת אַחֲרֵי-זֹאת |
| (20) The secret of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand | [3v] [20] כ הַסּוֹד הַשְּׁבַעָה- כּוֹכָבִים שְׂרָאִיתָ בְּיַד- |
| and the seven golden lamps, the seven | יְמִינִי וְהַשְּׁבַע-מְנוֹרוֹת הַזֶּהָב הַשְּׁבַעָה- |
| stars are angels of the seven | כּוֹכָבִים מַלְאָכִים הַשְּׁבַעָה |
| congregations and the seven lamps | מִקְהָלִים הֵמָּה וְהַשְּׁבַע-מְנוֹרוֹת |
| that you saw, are the seven congregations. | שְׂרָאִיתָ שְׁבַעָה-מִקְהָלִים |
| [they are] | הִנֵּה ⁸ |
| Revelation - Chapter 2 | |
| The Second Gate | הַשַּׁעַר שְׁנִי |

⁸ Should be הֵמָּה.

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| (1) To the angel of the congregation of Ephesus, write here: | [1] א לְמַלְאָךְ הַמַּקֵּהֶל בְּאַפְשׁוּס כְּתוּב הֵנָּה |
| The one who is holding the seven stars | אָמַר שְׁאוּחֵז הַשְּׁבַעָה-כּוֹכָבִים |
| in his right hand and that walks in the middle of the seven | בַּיַּד-יְמִינוֹ שֶׁהוֹלֵךְ בְּתוֹךְ הַשְּׁבַע- |
| golden lamps says. (2) I know your labors, | מְנֻרוֹת הַזָּהָב : [2] ב יוֹדַע אָנִי הַמְּלֹאכּוֹתֶיךָ |
| and toil, and abundant patience, and that you are not | וְהִיָּגִיעַ וְהֶאֱרָךְ אַפְךָ וְכִי-לֹא- |
| able to bear evil ones. And you tested it, | תּוֹכֵל לְשֹׂאת רָעִים וּבְחִנְתָּהּ ⁹ |
| those who say that they are sent | אוֹמְרִים לְהִיוֹתָם מְשַׁלְּחִים ¹⁰ |
| and they are not and you found them to be liars. (3) And you took | [4r] וְלֹא הֵמָּה וּמִצַּתָּם ¹¹ כְּזָבִים [3] ג וְנִטַּלְתָּ |
| and you have abundant patience for my name's sake and you have not | וְלֹךְ אֶרְךָ-אַפִּים בְּעִבּוֹר שְׁמִי וְלֹא- |

⁹ The extraneous Kamatz is in the manuscript.

¹⁰ The Shin-dot is missing in the manuscript.

¹¹ Should be: וּמִצַּתָּם.

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| perished. (4) But I have something against you for you left | כְּלִיתָ : [4] דְּכִי-אִם לִי-מָאוּם עָלֶיךָ כִּי עָזַבְתָּ |
| your first love. (5) And remember from where you were thrown down | הָאֶהְבֵּךְ הָרֵאשׁוֹן : [5] הַ וְיִזְכּוֹר מֵאֵין נִלְבַּטְתָּ וְ |
| and repent and do the first deeds. And if | וְהִנְחֵם וְעֲשֵׂה ¹² הָרֵאשְׁנִים- מַעֲשִׂים : וְאִם |
| not, I will come to you as a sudden surprise. And I will shake your lamp | לֹא אָבוֹא-לָךְ פְּתָאִם-פְּתַע וְאֶזַע הַמְנוֹרָה |
| from its place, if you do not repent. (6) But you have this, | מִמְקוֹמוֹ לוֹלִי תִנְחֵם : [6] וּ כִי- אִם לָךְ זֹאת |
| that you hate the deed of the Nicolaitans | כִּי שׂוֹטִם אַתָּה הַמַּעֲשָׂה- נִיקוֹלָאִטַיִים |
| that I also hate. (7) He who has an ear | שְׁשׂוֹטִם גַּם-אֲנִי : [7] זֶ לְאֲשֶׁר אָזן |
| will hear what the spirit says to congregations. | יִשְׁמַע מֶה-הַרוּחַ אוֹמְרָת לְמִקְהָלִים |
| I will let the victorious eat of the tree of life, | ח לִמְנַצֵּחַ אֶתֵּן לְאֹכַל מִן-הָעֵץ הַחַיִּים |

¹² This Sin-dot is missing in the manuscript.

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| which is in the divine orchard (pardes). | אֲשֶׁר-בְּתוֹךְ הַפְּרִדִּס הָאֱלֹהִי ¹³ : |
| (8) And write for the angel of the congregation of Smyrna | [8] ט וּכְתוֹב לְמַלְאָךְ הַמַּקְהֵל- בְּסַמְרְנָה |
| and here, say, the first and the last that was dead | וְהִנֵּה אֹמֵר הָרִאשׁוֹן-וְהָאַחֲרוֹן שֶׁהָיָה מֵת |
| and lives. (9) I know your deeds and the suffering | [4v] וְחָיָה : [9] יוֹדַעְ-אֲנִי הַמַּעֲשִׂיךְ וְהַצָּרָה |
| and the poverty, but you are rich. | וְהוֹדַלְתָּה כִּי-אִם כְּבֹד-אָתָּה |
| and the despising of those who speak to be Judaic ¹⁴ | וְהִנְאָצְתָּ הַמְדַבְּרִים יְהוּדִיִּים |
| and they are not, but rather the council of the satan. | לִהְיוֹת וְלֹא הֵמָּה כִּי-אִם כְּנֶסֶת הַשָּׂטָן. |
| (10) Do not be afraid for suffering was necessary. And behold | [10] אַל תִּירָא שֶׁהַצָּרָךְ עֲנוֹת וְהִנֵּה |
| destruction (Avadon) will give some of you to the prison | הָאֲבֵדוֹן יִתֵּן מִכֶּם אֶל-בַּיִת הַסֵּהַר |

¹³ Cholam is missing in the manuscript.

¹⁴ Yehudiyim is an adjective meaning "Judaic" and distinct from Yehudim, the normal word for "Jews". Yehudiyim was understood as referring to the Ten Lost Tribes who labeled themselves "Judaic", but not "Jewish". This is referred to in *Genesis Rabbah*, Vayechi, Section 97, "also in this world you will be honored that all the tribes will call themselves Yehudiyim, just as you are called Yehudah" אף "בעולם הזה תזכה שיקראו כל השבטים על שמך יהודיים, כשם שנקראת אתה יהודה"

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| to test you. And you will have suffering for ten days. | לְנִסּוֹתְכֶם : וְלָכֶם צָרָה עֲשׂוֹר יָמִים : |
| Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown | הָיֵה נֶאֱמָן עַד מוֹת וְנָתַתִּי לָךְ עֲטָרַת |
| of life. (11) He who has an ear will hear what | הַחַיִּים : [11] יֵא לְאֲשֶׁר-אֲזַן יִשְׁמַע מָה ה |
| the spirit says to the congregations. The one who overcomes will not | הַרוּחַ אֲמַרְת לְמִקְהֵלִים יב הַגִּבֹּר לֹא |
| be smitten by the Second Death. (12) And to the angel of the congregation | יִגַּע מִן-הַמּוֹת-הַשֵּׁנִי : [12] וּלְמַלְאָךְ הַמִּקְהֵל |
| in Pergamus write here saying, To he who has the double-edged Cherub ¹⁵ | בְּפֶרְגָמוֹשׁ כָּתֹב הִנֵּה-אֲמַר לְאֲשֶׁר הַכְּרָב |
| (13) I know your deeds and where | פָּפִיּוֹת [13] יוֹדַע-אֲנִי הַמַּעֲשִׂיךְ וְאֵיפֹה |
| he is sitting, where the seat of Satan is | יֹשֵׁב אֵי-הַמוֹשֵׁב-הַשָּׁטָן |

¹⁵ Presumably הַכְּרָב "the Cherub" is a scribal error for הַחֶרֶב "the sword".