

Apocalypse of Peter

[This is an excerpt from the "Fragment" called the *Apocalypse of Peter*, we think is referred to in the Muratorian Canon. Thus it was well-known in Christian circles prior to the year 200AD. This is different from the Gnostic document by the same name found in the Nag Hammadi texts. This is the Roberts-Donaldson Translation]

21. And there were certain there hanging by the tongue: and these were the blasphemers of the way of righteousness; and under them lay fire, burning and punishing them.

22. And there was a great lake, full of flaming mire, in which were certain men that pervert righteousness, and tormenting angels afflicted them.

23. And there were also others, women, hanged by their hair over that mire that bubbled up: and these were they who adorned themselves for adultery; and the men who mingled with them in the defilement of adultery, were hanging by the feet and their heads in that mire. And I said: I did not believe that I should come into this place.

24. And I saw the murderers and those who conspired with them, cast into a certain strait place, full of evil snakes, and smitten by those beasts, and thus turning to and fro in that punishment; and worms, as it were clouds of darkness, afflicted them. And the souls of the murdered stood and looked upon the punishment of those murderers and said: O God, thy judgment is just.

.....

26. And other men and women were burning up to the middle and were cast into a dark place and were beaten by evil spirits, and their inwards were eaten by restless worms: and these were they who persecuted the righteous and delivered them up.

27. And near those there were again women and men gnawing their own lips, and being punished and receiving a red-hot iron in their eyes: and these were they who blasphemed and slandered the way of righteousness.

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29. And in a certain other place there were pebbles sharper than swords or any spit, red-hot, and women and men in tattered and filthy raiment rolled about on them in punishment: and these were the rich who trusted in their

riches and had no pity for orphans and widows,
and despised the commandment of God.

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31. And other men and women were being
hurled down from a great cliff and reached the
bottom, and again were driven by those who
were set over them to climb up upon the cliff,
and thence were hurled down again, and had no
rest from this punishment: and these were they
who defiled their bodies acting as women; and
the women who were with them were those who
lay with one another as a man with a woman.

[<https://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/apocalypsepet-er-roberts.html>]

1 Enoch

[This document we think was written initially in Hebrew around 300-200BC, but then translated by a Hellenized Jew sometime during the second century BC. There are several documents in the Enochian genre (1,2,3 Enoch and then other fragments). At least 1 Enoch was found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. NT Jude quotes from 1 Enoch and many scholars believe both John the Baptist and Jesus were aware of it's content.]

[Chapter 48]

1 And in that place I saw the fountain of
righteousness

Which was inexhaustible:

And around it were many fountains of wisdom:
And all the thirsty drank of them,
And were filled with wisdom,

And their dwellings were with the righteous and holy and elect.

2 And at that hour that Son of Man was named
In the presence of the Lord of Spirits,
And his name before the Head of Days.

3 Yea, before the sun and the signs were
created,
Before the stars of the heaven were made,
His name was named before the Lord of Spirits.

4 He shall be a staff to the righteous whereon to
stay themselves and not fall,
And he shall be the light of the Gentiles,
And the hope of those who are troubled of
heart.

5 All who dwell on earth shall fall down and
worship before him,

And will praise and bless and celebrate with
song the Lord of Spirits.

.....

CH 52

6 And these mountains which thine eyes have
seen,

The mountain of iron, and the mountain of
copper, and the mountain of silver,

And the mountain of gold, and the mountain of
soft metal, and the mountain of lead,

All these shall be in the presence of the Elect
One

As wax: before the fire,

And like the water which streams down from
above [upon those mountains],

And they shall become powerless before his
feet.

7 And it shall come to pass in those days that
none shall be saved,
Either by gold or by silver,
And none be able to escape.

Ch 56

1 And I saw there the hosts of the angels of
punishment going, and they held scourges and
chains

2 of iron and bronze. And I asked the angel of
peace who went with me, saying: ' To whom are

3 these who hold the scourges going ? ' And he
said unto me: ' To their elect and beloved ones,
that they may be cast into the chasm of the
abyss of the valley.

4 And then that valley shall be filled with their
elect and beloved,

And the days of their lives shall be at an end,
And the days of their leading astray shall not
thenceforward be reckoned.

[https://www.ccel.org/c/charles/otpseudepig/enoch/ENOCH_2.HTM]

Shepherd of Hermas

[This document was written by a Christian leader in Rome around 117-125AD. The main character is a man named Hermas. He sees several visions and is always given some messenger to interpret for him. He has a vision of a strong, beautiful tower being built. He asks his guide to explain (kind of like an angel or a messenger, it is an older woman.)

VISION 3

Ch 4

In reply I said to her, "This is magnificent and marvellous. But who are the six young men who are engaged in building?" And she said, "These are the holy angels of God, who were first created, and to whom the Lord handed over His whole creation, that they might increase and build up and rule over the whole creation. By these will the building of the tower be finished." "But who are the other persons who are engaged in carrying the stones?" These also are holy angels of the Lord, but the former six are more excellent than these. The building of the tower will be finished,(3) and all will rejoice together around the tower, and they will glorify God, because the tower is finished."

.....

Ch 5

"Hear now with regard to the stones which are in the building. Those square white stones which fitted exactly into each other, are apostles, bishops, teachers, and deacons, who have lived in godly purity, and have acted as bishops and teachers and deacons chastely and reverently to the elect of God. Some of them have fallen asleep, and some still remain alive.(5) And they have always agreed with each other, and been at peace among themselves,(6) and listened to each other. On account of this, they join exactly into the building of the tower."

"But who are the stones that were dragged from the depths, and which were laid into the building and fitted in with the rest of the stones previously placed in the tower?" "They are those(7) who suffered for the Lord's sake." "But I wish to know, O Lady, who are the other

stones which were carried from the land."

"Those," she said, "which go into the building without being polished, are those whom God has approved of, for they walked in the straight ways of the Lord and practised His commandments."

Ch 6

"As to those who were cut down and thrown far away from the tower, do you wish to know who they are? They are the sons of iniquity, and they believed in hypocrisy, and wickedness did not depart from them. For this reason they are not saved, since they cannot be used in the building on account of their iniquities.

Wherefore they have been cut off and cast far away on account of the anger of the Lord, for they have roused Him to anger.