

[Vita]

do you assault us for nothing? What have you to do with us? What have we done to you, that you should pursue us with deceit? Why does your malice fall on us?
 3 Have we stolen your glory and made you to be without honor? Why do you treacherously and enviously pursue us, O enemy, all the way to death?"

Satan's account of his expulsion from heaven

1 **12** And the devil^a sighed and said, "O Adam, all my enmity and envy and sorrow concern you, since because of you I am expelled and deprived of my glory which I had in the heavens in the midst of angels, and because of you I was cast
 2 out onto the earth." •Adam answered, "What have I done to you, and what is my blame with you? Since you are neither harmed nor hurt by us, why do you pursue us?"

Isa 14:12-15
 Zeph 3:2
 Ps 82:6-7
 Lk 10:18
 Jn 12:31
 2En 29:4-5
 Rev 12:9
 2Pet 2:4
 Gen 2:7
 Gen 1:27

1 **13** The devil replied, "Adam, what are you telling me? It is because of you that
 2 I have been thrown out of there. •When you were created, I was cast out from
 3 the presence of God and was sent out from the fellowship of the angels. •When God blew into you the *breath of life* and your countenance and likeness were made *in the image of God*, Michael^a brought you and made (us) worship you in the sight of God, and the LORD God said, 'Behold Adam! I have made you in our image and likeness.'

1 **14** And Michael went out and called all the angels, saying, 'Worship the image
 2 of the LORD God, as the LORD God has instructed.'^a •And Michael himself worshiped first, and called me and said, 'Worship the image of God, Yahweh.'^b
 3 And I answered, 'I do not worship Adam.'^c And when Michael kept forcing me to worship, I said to him, 'Why do you compel me? I will not worship one inferior and subsequent to me. I am prior to him in creation; before he was made, I was already made. He ought to worship me.'

Gen 1:26
 Rev 12:7-12

1 **15** When they heard this, other angels who were under me refused to worship
 2 him. •And Michael asserted, 'Worship the image of God. But if now you will
 3 not worship, the LORD God will be wrathful with you.' •And I said, 'If he be wrathful with me, I will set my throne above the stars of heaven and will be like the Most High.'

Isa 14:13
 Dan 8:10
 Obad 4
 Job 22:12
 Jude 9

1 **16** And the LORD God was angry with me and sent me with my angels out from
 2 our glory; and because of you, we were expelled into this world from our dwellings
 3 and have been cast onto the earth. •And immediately we were made to grieve, since we had been deprived of so great glory. And we were pained to see you in such bliss of delights.^a •So with deceit I assailed your wife and made you to be expelled through her from the joys of your bliss, as I have been expelled from my glory."

Gen 3:1-7

12 a. Satan's fall is a widely known legend (see marginal references here and at 15:3) which may have arisen as a Midrash on Isa 14:12-15. It is reflected in 2En 29:4f.; 31:3; GBart 4.51-55, vol. 1, p. 500; numerous rabbinic writings; the NT (marginal references above); Tertullian, *de Patientia* 5; Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, IV.40.3; Augustine, *de Genesi ad Literam* XI.18; and the Koran, suras 2, 7, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 38. The account in the *Vita* could well be among the earliest witnesses to this legend.

13 a. Michael is the chief angel in *Vita* and ApMos, as also in the Dead Sea Scrolls (see *Vita* 9, n. a); cf. M. Hengel, *Judaism and Hellenism* (Philadelphia, 1974) vol. 1, pp. 188, 231.

14 a. Heb 1:6 may be an allusion to an early form of this legend; cf. Heb 1:14.
 b. MSS in group I; *IHU*, "Yahweh"; those in groups II and III omit this name.
 c. Lat. *Non habeo ego adorare*, "I do not have to worship."

16 a. Lat. *laetitia deliciarum*, "bliss of delights."

LIFE OF ADAM AND EVE

[*Apocalypse*]

[Vita]

1 **17** Hearing this from the devil, Adam cried out with great weeping and said,
 "O LORD, my God, my life is in your hands. Remove far from me this my
 opponent, who seeks to destroy my soul, and give me his glory which he himself
 2,3 has forfeited." •And immediately the devil disappeared from him. •But Adam Lk 4:13
 persisted forty days standing in repentance in the water of the Jordan.

II. THE CHILDREN OF ADAM AND EVE

The birth of Cain

1 **18** And Eve said to Adam, "You live on, my lord. Life is granted to you, since
 you have done neither the first nor the second error, but I have been cheated and
 2 deceived, for I have not kept the command of God. •And now separate me from
 3 the light of such life, and I will go to the sunset^a and stay there until I die." •And
 she began to walk toward the West and to mourn and to weep bitterly with loud
 4 sighing. •And she made there a shelter while she was three months pregnant.

1 **19** And when the time of her giving birth drew near, she began to be distressed
 with pains and cried out to the LORD, saying, "Have mercy on me, LORD, help
 2,3 me." •But neither was she heard, nor was the mercy of God around her. •And
 she said to herself, "Who will give the news to my lord Adam? I beg you, O
 lights of heaven, when you return to the East,^a tell my lord Adam."

1 **20** However, at that very moment, Adam said, "Eve's complaint has come to
 2 me; perhaps again the serpent^a has contended with her." •And he went forth and
 came upon her in great distress. And Eve said, "The moment I saw you, my lord,
 my pained soul was refreshed.^b And now implore the LORD God for me to hear
 3 you and to have regard for me and free me from my most awful pains." •And
 Adam prayed to the LORD for Eve.

1 **21** And behold, twelve angels and two excellencies^a came and stood to the right
 2 and to the left of Eve. •And Michael stood to the right and touched her from her
 face to the breast and said to Eve, "Blessed are you, Eve, because of Adam.
 Since his prayers and utterances are many, I am sent to you that you might receive
 3 our help. Now rise and make ready to give birth." •And she bore a son, and he
 was lustrous.^b And at once the infant rose, ran, and brought in his hands a reed^c
 and gave it to his mother. And his name was called Cain. Gen 4:1

18 a. A Hebraism.

19 a. The East is the location of Paradise in Gen 2:8 and 1En 32:2.

20 a. Cf. *Vita* 37:1 and the role of the serpent in ApMos 15–30.

b. Lat. *refrigeravit*, "he was refreshed"; lit. "cooled"; other MSS read *infrigeravit*, "he was cooled," or *inrefrigeravit*, "he was cooled."

21 a. "Excellencies" (*virtutes*) may be a translation of the Heb. for "partakers of the divine *Kabod* ('glory')" in b.Ber 60b; see b.Ḥag 16a and cf. the "principalities and powers" of Rom 8:38; Eph 6:12, etc.

b. Lat. *lucidus*, "lustrous," "full of light," probably related to ApMos 1:3 (see n.).

c. Lat. *herbam*, "reed"; probably from the similarity of the Heb. words *Qāyin*, "Cain," and *qāneh*, "reed." According to GenR 22:8, Cain killed Abel with a reed.