

and he will come with all his saints<sup>75</sup> to dwell in it and he will reign over them for a thousand years<sup>76</sup> and they will eat of the good things which I shall now show you.

22. And I looked round that land and I saw a river flowing with milk and honey;<sup>77</sup> and at the edge of the river were planted trees full of fruit. And each tree was bearing twelve times<sup>78</sup> twelve fruits in the year, various and different. And I saw the creation of that place and all the work of God. And I saw there palm trees, some of twenty cubits and others of ten cubits. Now that land was seven times brighter than silver. And the trees were full of fruit from root (up) to tree-top. (*L' is incomprehensible here and we replace with C:*) From the root of each tree up to its heart there were ten thousand branches with tens of thousands of clusters [and there were ten thousand clusters on each branch] and there were ten thousand dates in each cluster. And it was the same with the vines. Each vine had ten thousand branches, and each branch had on it ten thousand bunches of grapes, and each bunch had ten thousand grapes.<sup>79</sup> And there were other trees there, myriads of myriads of them, and their fruit was in the same proportion. (*L:*) And I said to the angel: Why does each single tree yield thousands of fruits? And the angel answered and said to me: Because the Lord God of his abundance gives gifts profusely to the worthy, for they, while they were in the world, afflicted themselves of their own will and did everything for his holy name's sake.

And again I said to the angel: Sir, are these the only promises which the Lord God has promised to his saints? And the angel replied and said: No! for there are those which are seven times greater.

I tell you however that when the righteous have come forth from the body and<sup>80</sup> see the promises and good things which God has prepared for them, they will sigh and weep yet again, saying: Why did we utter a word from our mouth to irritate our neighbour even for a single day? I however asked and said again: Are these the only promises of God? And the angel answered and said to me: What you now see is for the married who have kept the purity of their marriages in acting chastely. But to virgins and to those *who hunger and thirst after righteousness*<sup>81</sup> and afflict themselves for the name of the Lord, God will give things seven times greater than what I shall now show you.

And after that he took me up away from that place where I had seen these things and, behold, a river whose waters were very white, whiter than milk. And I said to the angel: What is this? And he said to me: This is Lake Acherusia where the city of Christ is, but not every man is allowed to enter into that city. For this is the way which leads to God; and if there is anyone who is a fornicator and ungodly and who turns and repents and brings forth fruit worthy of repentance, first when he has come forth from the body he is brought and worships God and (he) is handed over from there at the command of God to the angel Michael and he baptizes him in Lake Acherusia. Thus he leads

him into the city of Christ with those who have not sinned. And I marvelled and blessed the Lord God because of all I had seen.

23. And the angel answered and said to me: Follow me and I shall lead you into the city of Christ. And he stood by Lake Acherusia and put me in a golden boat and about three thousand angels were singing a hymn before me until I reached the city of Christ. Now the inhabitants of the city of Christ rejoiced greatly over me as I came to them, and I entered and saw the city of Christ;<sup>82</sup> and it was completely golden and there were twelve walls around it and twelve towers in it (C: a tower on each wall; S: and twelve thousand fortified towers are in its midst), and the individual walls as they encircled were distant from one another a stadium.<sup>83</sup> And I said to the angel: Sir, how much is one stadium? The angel answered and said to me: It is as great as between the Lord God and men on earth, for indeed the city of Christ is uniquely great. And in the circuit of the city there were twelve gates of great beauty, and four rivers which encircled it.<sup>84</sup> Now there was a river of honey and a river of milk and a river of wine and a river of oil. And I said to the angel: What are these rivers which encircle this city? And he said to me: These are the four rivers which flow abundantly for those who are in this land of promise; as for their names: the river of honey is called Phison, and the river of milk Euphrates, and the river of oil Gihon and the river of wine Tigris.<sup>85</sup> As therefore the righteous when they were in the world did not use their power over these things but went hungry without them and afflicted themselves for the name of the Lord God, therefore, when they enter into this city the Lord will give them these above number<sup>86</sup> or measure.

24. And when I entered in through the gate I saw before the doors of the city trees which were big and very high and which had no fruit (but) only leaves. And I saw a few men scattered about among the trees and they wept greatly when they saw anyone enter into the city. And the trees did penance for them by abasing themselves and bowing down and by raising themselves up again. And I saw it and wept with them and asked the angel and said: Sir, who are these who are not allowed to enter into the city of Christ? And he said to me: These are those who fasting day and night have zealously practised renunciation, but they have had a heart proud beyond that of other men in that they have glorified and praised themselves and done nothing for their neighbours. For some they greeted in a friendly way, but to others they did not even say 'Greetings': and to whom they wished they opened the doors of the monastery,<sup>87</sup> and if they did some small good to their neighbour they became puffed up. And I said: What then, sir? Has their pride prevented them from entering into the city of Christ? And the angel answered and said to me: Pride is the root of all wickedness. Are they better than the Son of God who came to the Jews in great humility? And I asked him and said: Why is it then that the trees abase themselves and raise themselves up again? And the angel answered and said to me: All the time these spent on earth serving God they humbled themselves shamefacedly