

that the trials of this world are nothing in comparison to the consolation that comes afterwards.¹⁶⁴ Therefore, Paul, you are blessed, and blessed is the race which has believed through your agency.

50. While he was still speaking another man came from a distance crying and saying: You are blessed, Paul, and I am blessed because I have seen you, the beloved of the Lord. And I asked the angel: Who is this, sir? And he answered and said to me: This is Noah from the time of the flood. And immediately we greeted one another.¹⁶⁵ And with great joy he said to me: You are Paul, the dearly beloved of God. And I asked him: Who are you? And he said: I am Noah who lived in the time of the flood. And I tell you, Paul, that I spent a hundred years making the ark¹⁶⁶ when I did not take off the shirt I wore nor cut the hair of my head. Moreover I strove after continence, not coming near my wife; and in those hundred years the hair of my head did not grow in length nor were my clothes dirty. And I implored the men of that time, saying: Repent, for a flood of water will come upon you. But they ridiculed me and mocked at my words. And again they said to me: This time is rather for those who can play and would sin as they please,¹⁶⁷ for him to whom it is possible to commit fornication not a little; for God does not see a rd does not know what is done by us all, and a flood of water will certainly not come on this world. And they did not cease from their sins until God destroyed all flesh which had the spirit of life in itself. But know, God cares more for one righteous man than for a whole generation of the ungodly. Therefore you, Paul, are blessed, and blessed is the people who believed through your agency.

51. And I turned and saw other righteous men coming from a distance and I asked the angel: Who are these, sir? And he answered me: They are Elijah and Elisha. And they greeted me. And I said to them: Who are you? And one of them answered me and said: I am Elijah, the prophet of God. I am Elijah who prayed and because of my word heaven did not rain for three years and six months on account of the unrighteousness of men.¹⁶⁸ God who does the will of his servants is righteous and true. For often the angels prayed the Lord for rain, and he said: Be patient until my servant Elijah prays and begs for this, and I will send rain on the earth. . . .¹⁶⁹

The suffering which each endures for God's sake, God will repay him twofold. Blessed are you, Paul, and blessed is the people who will believe through you. And as he was speaking another, Enoch, came and greeted me and said to me: The sufferings which a man endures for the sake of God, God does not afflict him when he leaves the world.

As he was speaking to me, behold, two others came up together and another was coming after them crying out to them: Wait for me, that I may come to see Paul the beloved of God; there will be deliverance for us (?) if we see him while he is still in the body. I said to the angel: My lord, who are these? He said to

me: This is Zacharias and John his son.¹⁷⁰ I said to the angel: And the other who runs after them? He said: This is Abel whom Cain killed.¹⁷¹ They greeted me and said to me: Blessed are you, Paul, you who are righteous in all your works. John said: I am he whose head they took off in prison for the sake of a woman who danced at a feast.¹⁷² Zacharias said: I am he whom they killed while I was presenting the offering to God; and when the angels came for the offering, they carried up my body to God, and no man found where my body was taken.¹⁷³ Abel said: I am he whom Cain killed while I was presenting a sacrifice to God.¹⁷⁴ The sufferings which we endured for the sake of God are nothing; what we have done for the sake of God we have forgotten. And the righteous and all the angels surrounded me, and they rejoiced with me [because] they had seen me in the flesh.

And I looked and saw another who surpassed them all, very beautiful. And I said to the angel: Who is this, my lord? He said to me: This is Adam, the father of you all. When he came up to me, he greeted me with joy. He said to me: Courage, Paul, beloved of God, you who have brought a multitude to faith in God and to repentance, as I myself have repented and received my praise from the Compassionate and Merciful One.

James considers it possible that the Apocalypse ended here. On the other hand a real conclusion is lacking. When C continues now with a fresh visit to the third heaven with many doublets, this is secondary. However perhaps the conclusion of C with the apostle's return to the circle of fellow-apostles on the Mount of Olives contains the original conclusion and would lead us to assume that the rapture also took place on the Mount of Olives. In what follows we give an abstract of C, with the conclusion, however, in a full translation.

Paul is caught up in a cloud into the third heaven. There he receives the command to reveal to no one the things which he will see. Nevertheless he tells about a seal and an altar with seven angels to its right and left. Many thousands of angels sing to the Father. When Paul falls prostrate the angel who accompanies him raises him up and promises to show him his place. He is now brought into Paradise with its shining inhabitants and its glorious thrones. At his request he is shown his own throne in a tabernacle of light; before it there are two singing angels who are presented as Uriel and Suriel. He is greeted by the inhabitants; the angel explains that these are the plants which Paul planted in the world. After further information from the angel he sees Paradise. Three concentric walls surround it, two of silver and in the middle between them one of gold. In the description of Paradise a remarkable feature is its trees which praise God three times daily, morning, noon and evening. The angel argues Paul out of the idea that he might not be worthy to dwell in Paradise: he will win the victory over the Accuser in the underworld (Amente). Moreover he will have great honour on his return to the world. And whenever the whole human race hears the words of this apocalypse then it will repent and live. Paul then gets a sight of the clothes and crowns of his fellow-apostles on thrones, and yet once more meets David who is singing with his harp. After that he sees the place of the martyrs.