

The Apocalypse of Baruch

The Black and White Waters



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*And when I had said these things, I fell asleep there and I saw a vision and lo! a cloud was ascending from a very great sea, and I kept gazing upon it, and lo! **it was full of waters white and black**, and there were many colors in those selfsame waters, and as it were, the likeness of great lightning was seen at its summit. 2 And I saw the cloud passing swiftly in quick courses, and **it covered all the earth.***

Baruch Shenyi (2 Baruch) 53:1-2

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*3 And it came to pass after these things that cloud began to pour upon the earth the waters that were in it. 4 And I saw that there was not one and the same likeness in the waters which descended from it. 5 For in the first beginning they were black and many for a time, and afterwards I saw that the waters became bright, but they were not many, and after these things again I saw black waters, and after these things again bright, and again black and again bright how **this was done twelve times**, but the black were always more numerous than the bright.*

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 53:3-5

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6 And it came to pass at the end of the cloud, that lo! It rained black waters, and they were darker than had been all those waters that were before, and fire was mingled with them, and where those waters descended, they wrought devastation and destruction.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 53:6

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Nevertheless, because you have besought El Elyon to reveal to you the interpretation of the vision which you have seen, I have been sent to tell you. 2 And El Elohiym has assuredly made known to you the methods of the times that have passed, and of those that are destined to pass in his world from the beginning of its creation even unto its consummation, of those things which are deceit and of those which are in truth. 3 For as you did see a great cloud which ascended from the sea and went and covered the earth; this is the duration of the world which El Elohiym made when he took counsel to make the world.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 56:1-3

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And it came to pass when the word had gone forth from his presence that the duration of the world had come into being in a small degree and was established according to the multitude of the intelligence of him who sent it. 5 And as you did previously see on the summit of the cloud black waters which descended previously on the earth, this is the transgression wherewith A'dam the first man transgressed. 6 For since when he transgressed untimely death came into being, grief was named and anguish was prepared, and pain was created, and trouble consummated, and disease began to be established, and She'ol kept demanding that it should be renewed in blood, and the begetting of children was brought about, and the passion of parents produced, and the greatness of man was humiliated, and goodness languished. 7 What therefore can be blacker or darker than these things?

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8 This is the beginning of the black waters which you have seen. 9 And from these black waters again were black derived, and the darkness of darkness was produced. 10 For he became a danger to his own soul: even to the angels he became a danger. 11 For, moreover, at that time when he was created, they enjoyed liberty. 12 And some of them descended and mingled with the women. 13 And then those who did so were tormented in chains.⁶⁴⁴ 14 But the rest of the multitude of the angels, of which there is no number, restrained themselves. 15 And those who dwelt on the earth perished together with them through the waters of the deluge. 16 These are the black first waters.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 56:8-15

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And after these waters you did see bright waters: this is the fount of Avraham, also his generations and advent of his son, and of his son's son, and of those like them. 2 Because at that time the unwritten Torah was named amongst them; and the works of the commandments were then fulfilled; and belief in the coming judgment was then generated and hope of the world that was to be renewed was then built up; and the promise of the life that should come hereafter was implanted. 3 These are the bright waters which you have seen..

Baruch Sheny (2 Baruch) 57:1-3

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And the black third waters which you have seen, these are the mingling of all sins, which the nations afterwards wrought after the death of those righteous men, and the wickedness of the land of Mitsrayim, wherein they did wickedly in the service wherewith they made their sons to serve. 2 Nevertheless, these also perished at last.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 58:1-2

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And the bright fourth waters which you have seen are the advent of Mosheh and Aharon and Miryam and Yahusha the son of Nun and Kalev and of all those like them. 2 For at that time the lamp of the eternal Torah shone on all those who sat in darkness, which announced to them that believe the promise of their reward, and to them that deny, the torment of fire which is reserved for them. 3 But also the heavens at that time were shaken from their place, and those who were under the throne of El Elohiym were perturbed, when he was taking Mosheh unto himself. 4 For he showed him many admonitions together with the principles of the Torah and the consummation of the times, as also to you, and likewise the pattern of Tsiyon and its measures, in the pattern of which the sanctuary of the present time was to be made.

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And the black fifth waters which you have seen raining are the works which the Emoriym wrought, and the spells of their incantations which they wrought, and the wickedness of their mysteries, and the mingling of their pollution. 2 But even Yashar'el was then polluted by sins in the days of the judges, though they saw many signs which were from him who made them.

Baruch Sheny (2 Baruch) 60:1-2

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And the bright sixth waters which you did see, this is the time in which David and Shalomah were born. 2 And there was at that time the building of Tsiyon, and the dedication of the sanctuary, and the shedding of much blood of the nations that sinned then, and many offerings which were offered then in the dedication of the sanctuary. 3 And peace and tranquility existed at that time, and wisdom was heard in the assembly: 4 And the riches of understanding were magnified in the assemblies, 5 And the holy feasts were fulfilled in blessedness and in much joy. 6 And the judgment of the rulers was then seen to be without guile, and the righteousness of the precepts of El Elohiym was accomplished with truth.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 61:1-6

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And the black seventh waters which you have seen, this is the perversion brought about by the counsel of Yarov`am, who took counsel to make two calves of gold: 2 And all the iniquities which kings who were after him iniquitously wrought. 3 And the curse of Iyzebel and the worship of idols which Yashar`el practiced at that time. 4 And the withholding of rain, and the famines which occurred until women ate the fruit of their wombs. 5 And the time of their captivity which came upon the nine tribes and a half, because they were in many sins. 6 And Shalman`ecer king of Ashshur came and led them away captive.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 62:1-6

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And the bright eighth waters which you have seen, this is the rectitude and uprightness of Yechizqiyahu king of Yahudah and the grace of Elohiym which came upon him. 2 For when Cancheriyv was stirred up in order that he might perish, and his wrath troubled him in order that he might thereby perish, for the multitude also of the nations which were with him. 3 When, moreover, Yechizqiyahu the king heard those things which the king of Ashshur was devising, that he was coming to seize him and destroy his people, the two and a half tribes which remained: nay, more he wished to overthrow Tsiyon also: then Yechizqiyahu trusted in his works, and had hope in his righteousness, and spoke with El Elohiym.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 63:1-3

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9 And Tsiyon was saved and Yerushalayim delivered: 10 Yashar'el also was freed from tribulation. And all those who were in the holy land rejoiced, and the name of El Elohiym was glorified so that it was spoken of. 11 These are the bright waters which you have seen.

Baruch Sheny (2 Baruch) 63:9-11

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And the black ninth waters which you have seen, this is all the wickedness which was in the days of Menashsheh the son of Yechizqiyahu. 2 For he wrought much impiety; and he slew the righteous, and he perverted judgment. 3 And he shed the blood of the innocent and wedded women he violently polluted, and he overturned the altars, and destroyed their offerings, and drove forth their priests lest they should minister in the sanctuary. 4 And he made an image with five faces: four of them looked to the four winds, and the fifth on the summit of the image as an adversary of the zeal of El Elohiym. 5 And then wrath went forth from the presence of El Elohiym to the intent that Tsiyon should be rooted out, as also it befell in your days.

6 But also against the two tribes and a half went forth a decree that they should also be led away captive, as you have now seen. And to such a degree did the impiety of Menashsheh increase, that it removed the praise of El Elyon from the sanctuary. 7 On this account Menashsheh was at that time named: The Impious, and finally his abode was in the fire.

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8 For though his prayer was heard with El Elyon, finally, when he was cast into the brasen horse and the brasen horse was melted, it served as a sign unto him for the hour. 9 For he had not lived perfectly, for he was not worthy but that thenceforward he might know by whom finally he should be tormented. 10 For he who is able to benefit is also able to torment.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 64:8-10

Thus, moreover, did Menashsheh act impiously, and thought that in his time El Elohiym would not inquire into things. 2 These are the black ninth waters which you have seen.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 65:1-2

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And the bright tenth waters which you have seen: this is the purity of the generations of Yo'shiyahu king of Yahudah, who was the only one at the time who submitted himself to El Elohiym with all his heart and with all his soul. 2 And he cleansed the land from idols, and sanctified all the vessels which had been polluted, and restored the offerings to the altar, and raised the horn of the holy, and exalted the righteous, and honored all that were wise in understanding, and brought back the priests to their ministry, and destroyed and removed the magicians and enchanterers and necromancers from the land. 3 And not only did he slay the impious that were living, but they also took from the sepulchres the bones of the dead and burned them with fire. 4 And the feasts and the Shabbaths he established in their sanctity, and their polluted ones he burnt in the fire, and the lying prophets which deceived the people, these also he burnt in the fire, and the people who listened to them when they were living, he cast them into the brook Qidron, and heaped stones upon them.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 66:1-5

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And the black eleventh waters which you have seen: this is the calamity which is now befalling Tsiyon. 2 Do you think that there is no anguish to the angels in the presence of El Elohiym, that Tsiyon was so delivered up, and that lo! the other nations boast in their hearts, and assemble before their idols and say: She is trodden down who oft times trod down, and she has been reduced to servitude that reduced others? 3 Do you think that in these things El Elyon rejoices, or that his name is glorified? 4 But how will it serve towards his righteous judgment? 5 Yet after these things shall the dispersed among the other nations be taken hold of by tribulation, and in shame shall they dwell in every place. 6 Because so far as Tsiyon is delivered up and Yerushalayim laid waste, shall idols prosper in the cities of the other nations, and the vapor of the smoke of the incense of the righteousness which is by the Torah is extinguished in Tsiyon, and in the region of Tsiyon in every place lo! there is the smoke of impiety. 7 But the king of Babel will arise who has now destroyed Tsiyon, and he will boast over the people, and he will speak great things in his heart in the presence of El Elyon. 8 But he also shall fall at last. These are the black waters.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 67:1-5

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And the bright twelfth waters which you have seen: this is the word. 2 For after these things a time will come when your people shall fall into distress, so that they shall all run the risk and perish together. 3 Nevertheless, they will be saved, and their enemies will fall in their presence. 4 And they will have in due time much joy. 5 And at that time after a little interval Tsiyon will again be built, and its offerings will again be restored, and the priests will return to their ministry, and also the other nations will come to glorify it. 6

Nevertheless, not fully as in the beginning.

7 But it will come to pass after these things that there will be the fall of many nations. 8

These are the bright waters which you have seen.

Baruch Sheniy (2 Baruch) 68:1-7