

and resembles partly the style of the 'rewritten Bible' such as the Genesis Apocryphon, and partly the 'plain', or *peshat*, interpretation of the rabbis.

The subject of the second excerpt is the blessing of Judah, i.e. the tribe in which David originated. The sectarian commentator (see the mention of the 'men of the Community' in line 5) emphasizes that the royal power will belong for ever to the descendants of David, thereby implying that all non-Davidic rulers, such as the contemporary Hasmonaean priest-kings, unlawfully occupy the throne. If so, the composition best fits to the first half of the first century BCE. Only four tiny fragments of 4Q253 are extant. Fr. I mentions the ark. Fr. 3, col. I contains a citation from Mal. iii, 16—18. This is the only translatable excerpt. Fifteen mostly insignificant scraps of 4Q254 correspond partly to the Noah story and partly to the blessings of the Patriarchs. Only frs. I and 5 can be translated. Fr. I, lines 2—4 overlap with 4Q252 ii, 1.6.

For the *editio princeps*, see G. J. Brooke, *DJD*, XXII, 185—212, 217—36.

### 4Q252, fr. I (Gen. vi, 3—XV, 17)

I [In the] four hundred and eightieth year of the life of Noah came their end (that of antediluvian mankind). And God said, My spirit shall not abide *in* man for ever and their days *sball* be determined to be one hundred and twenty years (Gen. vi, 3) - until the end of the Flood. And the waters of the *Flood arrived on the earth in the six hundredth year of the life of Noah, in the second month—* on the first day of the week *—on the seventeenth* (of the month). *On that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights* (vii, 11—12) until the twenty-sixth day of the third month, the fifth day of the week. *And the waters prevailed upon the [ea]rth a hundred and fifty days* (vii, 24)—until the fourteenth day of the seventh month, the third day of the week. *And at the end of a hundred and fifty days, the waters had abated—* two days, the fourth and the fifth day, and on the sixth day - *the ark came to rest on the mountains of Hurarat* (or: Turarat),

on the seventeenth day of the seventh month (viii, 3—4). And the waters [con]tinued to abate until the [ten]th month, the first day of (the month) - the fourth day of the week—and the tops of the mountains appeared (viii, 5). At the end of forty days — after the tops of the mountains had been seen — Noah [op]ened the window of the ark (viii, 6) - on the tenth day of the ele[venth] month. And he sent forth the dove to see if the waters had subsided (viii, 8), but she did not find a resting-place and returned to him to the ark (viii, 9). He waited an[other] seven days and again sent her forth (viii, 10). She came back to him with a plucked olive leaf in her beak (viii, 10—11)—[this is the twenty-]fourth [day] of the eleventh month, the first day of the wee[k. And Noah knew that the waters had subsided] from the earth (viii, 11). At the end of another [seven days, he sent forth the dove and it did not] return again (viii, 12)—this is the f[irst] day [of the twelfth] month, [the first day] of the week. At the end of three [weeks after Noah had sent forth the dov]e which did not return to him any more, the wa[ters] dried up [from the earth and] Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry (viii, 13). This was the first day of the first month. [And it happened] 11 in the six hundred and first year of the life of Noah, on the seventeenth day of the second month that the earth was dry (viii, 14) - on the first day of the week. On that day Noah went forth from the ark (viii, 18) at the end of a full year of three hundred and sixty-four days, on the first day of the week, on the seven[teenth] of the second month vacat on and six vacat Noah from the ark at the appointed time of a full year vacat And Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to [his] bro[thers] (ix, 24—5). But he did not curse Ham but only his son, for God had blessed the sons of Noah. And let him dwell in the tents of Shem (ix, 27). He gave the land to Abram, his beloved. [Terah] was one hundred and for[t]y-five years old when he went forth from Ur of the Chaldees and came to Haran (xi, 31). Now Ab[ram was se]venty years old and for five years Abram dwelt in Haran. And afterwards Abram went forth to the land of Canaan. Six[ty-five years] ... the heifer and the ram and the go[at] (xv, 9) ... [the torch of] ] fire when it pass[ed over] (xv, 17) ...