

CLEMENT TO THE CORINTHIANS Lesson Seven (1 Clement 35-41)

Clement had seen the blessed apostles and conversed with them, their teaching was still ringing in his ears. (Irenaeus)

1 Clement 35: Those Who Patiently Wait

The Gifts of God. Eternal life; righteousness, truth, faith, and holy living.

Those who patiently wait for him? See 34:8 regarding the world to come. Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9, Isaiah 64:4.

Why do you recite my statutes... Psalm 50:16-23.

1 Clement 36: The Exalted Son

High priest of our offerings. Cf. Hebrews 7-10.

As in a Mirror. Hebraism for "in a vision." Cf. Numbers 12; 1 Cor. 15.

Radiance of His Majesty. Cf. Hebrews 1:3-4;

Angels winds of fire. Psalm 104:4; Hebrews 1:7.

You are my Son, today I have begotten you. Ps 2:7-8; Heb 1:5.

Sit at my right hand. Psalm 110; Hebrews 1:13.

1 Clement 37: The Roman Army

Serve as soldiers. Clement compares the body of Messiah to the Roman legions serving under commanders and the emperor.

Let us take our own body for example. Cf. Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12ff; Ephesians 5:30

1 Clement 38: Various Gifts

The degree determined by his spiritual gift. Clement provides examples of spiritual gifts: strength, wealth, wisdom, purity.

Leave it to someone else to testify about him. Cf. Proverbs 27:2.

Someone else grants this self-control. Ascetic purity is a gift from God not allotted to everyone.

From what matter we were made. "Consider three things, and thou wilt not fall into transgression: know whence thou comest, whither thou art going, and before whom thou art about to give account and reckoning; know whence thou comest--from a fetid drop, and whither thou art going--to worm and maggot; and before whom thou art about to give account and reckoning: before the King of the kings of kings, the Holy One, blessed be He." (Avot 3:1)

To whom be the glory. Third doxology.

1 Clement 39: The Folly of Human Pride

Men jeer at us and mock us. Roman anti-Semitism and persecution of the Christian superstition.

What can mortal man do? Clement reminds his readers not to fear men but to fear God. Cf. Matthew 10:28.

There was no form before my eyes. Job 4:16-5:5.

1 Clement 40: The Sacrificial System

Everything the Master has commanded us to perform at the appointed times. Clement refers to time-bound commandments, such as Sabbaths and festivals. Appointed times = *mo'edim*. Cf. Numbers 28-29.

Designated times and seasons. The levitical calendar and the sacrificial services.

Both where and by whom he wants them performed.

At the holy Temple in Jerusalem by the Jewish people through the Aaronic priesthood.

Acceptable and blessed. Those who perform the prescribed sacrifices at the prescribed times receive God's blessing.

The instructions of the Master. I.e. the Torah.

To the high priest the proper service has been given:

Clement distinguishes between four categories of liturgical obligation: high priest; priest; Levite; layman to illustrate the principle of various roles and responsibilities in Torah.

1 Clement 41: Maintaining Boundaries

Not overstepping the designated rule ... Clement warns against "one law" theology and homogenization of roles as part of his argument for respect for congregational leadership.

Not just anywhere ... but only in Jerusalem. Cf. Leviticus 17; Deuteronomy 12.

Death as a penalty. Cf. Numbers 3:10: "So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons that they may keep their priesthood, but the layman who comes near shall be put to death."

Exposed to danger. With revelation comes responsibility: "But the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more. (Luke 12:48)