

Searching for the Ritual Techniques behind the *Horarium* of the “Testament of Adam”

Teresa Berger, Yale

The *Horarium* of the “Testament of Adam”

In Syriac I, this list of hourly worshippers is as follows (in abbreviated form):

1st hour of the night: praise of the demons (who in that hour do not harm humans)

2nd hour: praise of the doves

3rd hour: praise of the fish, of fire, and of all the depths below

4th hour: the Trishagion of the Seraphim (which Adam claims to have heard in paradise)

5th hour: praise of the waters above heaven

6th hour: the construction of clouds, and the great fear which occurs at midnight

7th hour: the viewing of their powers when the waters are sleeping

8th hour: spring up of grass while dew descends from heaven

9th hour: praise of the cherubim

10th hour: the praise of human beings; opening of the gates of heaven where the prayers of all living things enter, worship, and depart. Seraphim and roosters beat their wings.

11th hour: joy in all the earth while the sun is rising

12th hour: the awaiting of incense and silence...

1st hour of day: petition of the heavenly beings

2nd hour: prayer of the angels

3rd hour: praise of flying creatures

4th hour: praise of the beasts

5th hour: the praise which is above heaven

6th hour: praise of the cherubim, and petition against human iniquity

7th hour: “the prayers of all that lives enter and worship and depart”

8th hour: praise of fire and of the waters

9th hour: supplication of those angels standing before the throne

10th hour: visitation of the waters, when the spirit is descending on waters and fountains

11th hour: exultation and joy of the righteous

12th hour (evening): supplication of human beings