READING JUDAS
THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS AND THE SHAPING OF CHRISTIANITY
I. This is the hidden word of the pronouncement, containing the account about when Jesus spoke with Judas Iscariot for eight days, three days before he observed Passover.

3. When he appeared on earth, he performed signs and great wonders for the salvation of humanity. For although some people continued to walk along the path of righteousness, others were walking along the path of their transgression. So twelve disciples were called, (and) he began to speak to them about the mysteries which are beyond the world and about the things which will occur at the end.

8. Frequently, however, he would not reveal himself to his disciples, but you would find him in their midst as a child.

9. And he dwelled in Judaea with his disciples.

2. One day he found them sitting, assembled together (and) training (themselves) in godliness. When he [came upon] his disciples assembled together, sitting and offering thanks over the bread, [he] laughed.

4. The disciples said to him, "Teacher, why do you laugh
at [our] offering thanks? Or what did we do? 5[This] is what is right.

6He replied, telling them, “It is not you I am laughing at—
you are not even doing this by [yo]ur own will—but (I’m
laughing because) in this (offering of thanks), your ‘God’ will
receive praise.”

9“Teacher, you are […] the Son of our God,” they said.

10Jesus said to them, “Do you (really think you) know me—
how? 11Truly I say to you, no race from the people among you
will ever know me.”

12Now when his disciples heard this, [they] began to be dis-
pleased and [become] angry, and to blaspheme against him in
their heart.

13But when Jesus perceived their foolishness, 14[he said] to
them, “Why are you letting anger disturb you? 15Your God who
is within you and [his […] are displeased [together with] your
souls. 16Let whoever is [strong] among you humans bring forth
the perfect human 17and stand up to face me.”

18And they all said, “We are strong!” 19But their spirits did not
have the courage to stand up to face him—except Judas [Is]car-
riot. 20He was able to stand up to face him, 21even though he was
not able to look him in the eyes, bu[t] turned his face aside.

22Judas said to him, “I know who you are and which place you
came from—23you came from the realm of the immortal
Barbelo—24but I am not worthy to proclaim the name of the one
who sent you.”
25. Then Jesus, recognizing that he perceived even more of such exalted matters, said to him, "Separate from them. 26. I will tell you the mysteries of the kingdom. 27. It is possible for you to reach that place, but you will suffer much grief. 28. For another [will] take your place, so that the twelve di[sciples] might again be complete in their 'God.'"

30. And Judas said to him, "When will you tell these things to me, and when will the great [da]y of the light dawn for the [……_] race?"

32. But after he said these things, Jesus left him.

31. When morning came, he [appear]ed to his disciples, [and] they said to him, "Teacher, where did you go? 3 What did you do after you left us?"

4. Jesus said to them, "I went to another great and holy race."

5. His disciples said to him, "Lord, what great race is there that is more exalted and holier than we are, yet is not in these realms?"

6. Now when Jesus heard these things, he laughed. 7. He said to them, "What are you contemplating in your heart about the strong and holy race? 8. [T]ruly [I] say to you that no offspring of [of t]his realm will see that [race], 9 nor will any angelic army of the stars rule over that race, 10 nor will any mortal human offspring be able to belong to it. 11 For [t]hat rac[e] does not come from [this realm] which came into being [but…… 12 The r]ace of humans [who are] among [you (pl.)] is from the [r]ace of
human[ity]. 13[.............] power which [........ some ot'her for[ces ........] since you rule i[n their midst]."

14When [his] disciples heard these things, each one of them was troubled i[n their] spirit, 15and they could not find a word to say.

4'On another day, Jesus came up to [them]. 2They said to [him], “Teacher, we saw you in a [vision]. 3For we saw some great dr[eam]s [at] night [...]

4[He said], “Why have [you ......] hid yourself[es]?”

5For their part, they [aid, “We] sa[w] a great hou[se in which there was a g]reat alta[r and] twelve men, whom we say are priests, and a name. 6But there was a crowd persevering tena­ciously at that altar u[ntil] the priests [finish]ed [receiving] the offerings. 7As for us, we too [were] tenacious[ly per]severing.

8Je[sus said], “What ki[nd] of [priests are they]?

9They [said,] “[So]me [abstain for t]wo [w]eeks. 10Yet [oth­ers] sacrifice their own children, others their wives, 11all the while praising and acting humbly toward each other. 12Some are lying with ma[l]es. 13Others work at slaughtering. 14Yet others were committing a [mul]titude of sins and injustices. 15[An]d the men who stand [ove]r the altar are invoking your na[me]! 16And so in all the labors of cutting up their sacrifices, that altar stays full.”

17And when they had said these things, they were silent for they felt deeply disturbed.

18Jesus said to them, “Why are you disturbed? 19Truly I say to
you, all the priests who stand over that altar are invoking my name. And again I say to you that they wrote my name upon the […] of the races of the stars through the races of human beings. And in my name, they shamefully planted fruitless trees.”

5 Jesus said to them, “You are the ones you saw receiving offerings at the altar. That is the ‘God’ you serve. And you are the twelve men whom you saw. And the domestic animals you saw being brought for sacrifice are the multitude you are leading astray upon that altar. The ruler of chaos will establish himself, and this is how he will make use of my name. And the race of the pious will adhere tenaciously to him. After this, another man will take the side of the fornicators, and another one will stand with those who murder children, and yet another with those who lie with men, and those who fast, and all the rest of impurity and lawlessness and error, and those who say, ‘We are equal to angels’—and they are the stars which bring everything to completion. For it has been said to the races of humans, ‘Behold God received your sacrifice from the hands of a priest’—that is to say, from the minister of error. But it is the Lord—the one who is the Lord over the entire universe—who commands that they will be put to shame at the end of days.”

17 Jesus said [to them], “Cease sacrificing ………….[18] It is upon the altar that you ………….[for they are] over your stars and your angels, having already been completed there. Let
them become [...]. again right in front of you, and let them...

6 [about fifteen and a half lines are missing from the manuscript]

to the races [...]. It is not possible for a bak[er] to feed the whole creation under [heaven]. And

[about three and a half lines are untranslatable]

7 Jesus said to them, “Stop struggling against me. Each one of you has his own star and every...

[about eighteen lines are missing from the manuscript or untranslatable]

He came to those who [............spring of the tree of [about one line is untranslatable] [sea]son of this realm [..... after a time [..........]]. Rather he came to water God’s paradise and the [race] that will endure, because [he will] not pollute the way of [life of] that race. But[....] for all eternity.”

8 Judas said to [him, “Rabb]i, What fruit does this race possess?”

2 Jesus said, “The souls of every human race will die. But when those (who belong to the holy race) have completed the time of the kingdom and the spirit separates from them, their bodies will die but their souls will be alive and they will be lifted up.”

5 Judas said, “What, then, will the rest of the race of humans do?”

6 Jesus said, “It is not possible to sow (seeds) upon a [ston[e]
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and have their [fr]uit be harvested. 7 Again [thi]s is the way [............] the race [which is pollut]ed and perishable wis-
dom. 8[.-.] the hand which created mortal humanity so that their 
souls [g]o up to the realms which are on high. 9T[rul]y I say to 
you (pl.) th[at no ruler nor a]ngel [nor p]ower will be able to see 
[the places t]here, 10 which [this great] (and) holy race [will see]."
11 After Jesus said these things, he departed.

9'Judas said, "Teacher, just as you listened to all of them, 
now listen to me also. 2 For I have seen a great vision."

3 But when Jesus heard, he laughed. 4 He said to him, "Why are 
you getting all worked up, thirteenth god? 5 But you too speak, 
and I will hold you up."

6 Judas said to him, "I saw myself in a vision. 7 The twelve dis-
iples were stoning me; 8 they were persecuting [me severe]ly. 
9 And I [ca]me also to the place [............] after you. 10 I saw [a 
house .......] but my eyes were not able [to measure] its extent. 
11 But some elders of great stature were surrounding it, 12 and that 
house was roofed with greenery. 13 In the midst of the house wa[s 
a] cr[owed ..............]. 14 Teacher, let me be taken [in wi]th 
these people."

15 Jesus] replied. He said, "Your star is leading you astray, 
Judas, 16 since no mortal human offspring is worthy to enter the 
house that you saw. 17 For that is the place which is preserved for 
the holy ones, 18 the place where neither the sun nor the moon 
will rule them nor the day, 19 but they will stand firm for all time
in the realm with the holy angels. 20 Behold, I have told you the mysteries of the kingdom 21 and I have taught you [about the error of the stars and [about one and a half lines are untranslatable] upon the twelve realms."

22 Judas said, "Teacher, surely the rulers are not subject to my seed?"

23 Jesus answered. He said to him, "Come ... [about two lines are untranslatable] but because you will groan deeply when you see the kingdom and its entire race."

26 When Judas heard these things, he said to him, "What benefit have I received because you separated me for that race?"

27 Jesus answered. He said, "You will become the thirteenth and you will be cursed by the rest of the races— but you will rule over them. 30 In the last days, they will and you will go up to the holy race."

10 Jesus said, "Come and I will teach you about the things ... that] no human will see. 2 For there exists a great realm and a boundlessness whose measure no angelic race has comprehended. 3 [In] it is the great invisible Spirit—the one whom no angelic eye has seen nor any inner thought of heart contained nor has anyone called it by any name. 5 And a luminous cloud appeared in that place.

6 "And he said, 'Let an angel come into being to attend me.' 7 And a great angel—the luminous divine Autogenes—came forth from the cloud. 8 And another four angels came forth
because of him from another cloud, 9 and they came into being to attend the angelic Autogenes.

10"And [A]uto[genes] said, 'Let [Adamas] come into be[ing],'; and [..........] came into being. 11 And he c[reated] the first luminary so that [it] might rule over it. 12 Next he said, 'Let angels come into being to worship it,' 13 and immeasurable myriads came into being. 14 And he said, '[Le]t [a] luminous [re]alm come into being,' 15 and it came into being. 16 He established the second luminary to rule over it, 17 along with innumerable angelic myriads to worship (it). 18 And in this way, he created the rest of the realms of ligh, 19 he established (luminaries) to rule over them, 20 and he created for them innumerable angelic myriads for their service.

11"Adamas dwelled in the first cloud of the light, 2 (yet) none among the angels—who are all called 'divine'—has seen that (cloud). 3 And he [about two lines are untranslatable] 4 the image [..........] and according to the likeness of t[hat an]gel. 5 He made the imperishable [race] of Seth appear [.......] the twelve [.......] the twenty [fo]ur [.......]. 6 By the will of the Spirit, he made seventy-two luminaries appear in the imperishable race. 7 Then by the will of the Spirit, the seventy-two luminaries themselves made three hundred sixty luminaries appear in the imperishable race in order that their number might become five for each.

8"And their father is the twelve realms of the twelve luminaries, 9 with six heavens for every realm so that the seventy-two
heavens might come into being for the seventy-two luminaries, with [five firmaments for each one of them so that] three hundred sixty [firmaments might come into being ...]. They were given [an] authority with a [great, innumerable] angelic army for glory and worship, then [in addition] virginal spirits for glory and worship of all the realms and the heavens and their firmaments.

12“Now it is that crowd of deathless ones who are called ‘cosmos,’ that is, ‘what perishes.’ It was by the Father and the seventy-two luminaries who are with Autogenes and his seventy-two realms that the first Human appeared in the place (the perishable cosmos) with his imperishable powers. For this realm, along with its race which appeared, is the one that has within it the cloud of knowledge and the angel who is called ‘El.’”

5“[After these things, he] said, ‘Let the twelve angels come into being so they might rule over the chaos and the oblivion.’ And behold an angel appeared from the cloud whose face was pouring forth fire, while his likeness was defiled with blood. And he had one name, ‘Nebro,’ which is interpreted as ‘apostate,’ but some others call him ‘I[al]dabaoth.’ And again another angel came forth from the cloud (called) ‘Saklas.’ Nebro then created six angels along with Saklas to attend (him). And these produced twelve angels in the heavens, and each of them received an allotted portion in the heavens.
the twelve rulers, along with the twelve angels said, ‘Let each one of you . . . ’ [15 about three lines untranslatable] [five] angels.

16“[The first is [Se]th, who is called ‘Christ.’ 17The [secon]d is Harmathoth, whom [.............]. 18The [thir]d is Falila. 19The fo[u]rth is Iobel. 20The fifth is Adonaios. 21These are the five who ruled over oblivion and are first over chaos.

13“Then Saklas said to his angels, ‘Let us create a human being [ac]cording to the likeness and according to the image.’ 2Then they formed Adam and his wife, Eve. 3But in the cloud, she was called ‘Zoe’ (‘Life’). 4For in this name all the races shall seek after it (life), 5and each one of them calls her by their names.

6“But [Sa]klas did not com[mand .......] exce[pt .........] the ra[ce]s [..........] this one [.............]. 7And the [ruler] said to him, ‘Your life and that of your children will last (only) for a season.’”

8Judas said to Jesus, “[What] is the longest that a human being might live?”

9Jesus said, “Why are you surprised that the lifespan of Adam and his race is numbered in this place? 10It is in this place that he received his kingdom, with its ruler, for a (limited) number.”

11Judas said to Jesus, “Does the human spirit die?”

12Jesus said, “This is the way it is: God commanded Michael to loan the spirits of human beings to them so they might worship (him). 13Then the Great One commanded Gabriel to give the spirit with the soul to the spirits of the great undominated
Because of this, the remaining souls will ... [about one and a half lines are untranslatable] ... light ... [about one and a half lines are untranslatable] ... to seek [after the] spirit within you (pl.) [which you make to dwell in this flesh among the races of the angels]. Then God required knowledge [to be given] to Adam and those with him in order that the rulers of chaos and oblivion should not lord it over them."

Then Judas said to Jesus, "What, then, will those races do?"

Jesus said, "Truly I say to you (pl.), it is the stars that bring completion upon all things. For when Saklas has completed his times which are fixed for him, their first star will be about to come along with the races, and those things which were spoken will be completed. Then they will fornicate in my name, and they will kill their children, ..."

... in my name, and your star will rule over the thirteenth realm."

But afterward, Jesus laughed.

Judas said, "Teacher, why are you laughing at us?"

Jesus replied. [He said,] "It is not you (pl.) I am laughing at, but at the error of the stars, because these six stars go astray with these five warriors, and all of them will be destroyed along with their creations."
Then Judas said to Jesus, “What will those who are baptized in your name do?”

Jesus said, “Truly I say [to you], This baptism [............] my name .

[about eight lines are untranslatable]

... die [........] to me.”

15“Truly [I say] to you, Judas, those [who offer] up sacrifice to Sakla[s ......g]od ...[2about three lines are untranslatable] ... everything [for they are w]icked. 3As for you, you will surpass them all. 4For you will sacrifice the human being who bears me. 5Already your horn is raised up, 6your anger is full, 7your star has passed by, 8and your heart has [prevailed].

9“Truly I say to you, ‘Your end...’

[10-11about five and a half lines are untranslatable]

... the ru[ler] who is destroyed. 12[And then the pl[a]ce of the great race of Adam will be exalted, 13because prior to heaven and earth and the angels, through the realms that race exists.

14“Behold, everything has been told to you. 15Lift up your eyes and see the cloud and the light which is in it and the stars which surround it. 16And the star that leads the way, that is your star.”

Then Judas lifted up his eyes. 18He saw the luminous cloud 19and he entered into it. 20Those standing upon the ground heard
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a voice coming from the cloud, saying, "[........................] great race..."

[about six and a half lines are untranslatable]

16[Then] their chief priests murmured because [he (Jesus)] entered [in] to the guest room for his prayer. 2And some scribes were there watching closely in order to catch him at prayer, 3for they were afraid of the people because he was held to be a prophet by them all.

4And they approached Judas. 5They said to him, "What are you doing in this place? 6You are the disciple of Jesus."

7But as for him, he answered them according to their will.

8Then Judas received some copper coins. 9He handed him over to them.

10The Gospel of Judas