

1375 and wide, [let] the dark ocean-streams burst forth in
 tumult: the seas rose up over the boundaries of the
 shore. Strong and stern was He who ruled the waters,
 for he covered and shrouded with wan waters the accursed
 1380 wickedness of the sons of the earth and devastated the
 land and homes of men: the Lord wreaked [his fury]
 upon men for their offences. The sea cruelly gripped
 the wretched folk for forty days, and nights as many:
 bitter was the suffering then, cruelly fateful to men.
 1385 The waves of the King of Glory drove the souls of the
 vicious ones forth from their bodies. The flood covered
 everything; turbid under the sky [it covered] the high
 mountains over the broad earth, and on its crest raised
 the Ark aloft from the ground, and its noble crew with it,
 1390 [the Ark] which the Lord Himself, our Creator, blessed,
 when he locked the ship. Thereafter this best of ships
 rode widely under the skies over the circle of the sea,
 1395 fared [forth] with its freight: the terrors of the flood
 would have seized them with violence in the sea-travers-
 ing vessel, but the Holy God led and preserved them.
 Fifteen ells deep, by man's measure, stood the deluge
 1400 over the hills. That is a memorable occurrence: there
 was nothing at hand for [the Ark] but destruction,
 except that it was raised aloft into the upper air when
 the inundation killed all creatures upon earth other than
 those whom the Lord of Heaven saved on board the Ark,
 1405 when the Holy God everlasting, the steadfast King, let
 [the flood] rise up with ever-increasing¹⁶ stream.

XVII.

Then God, Wielder of Victory, was mindful of those
 1410 floating on the deep, the son of Lamech and all his
 family, whom the Source of Light and Life had locked
 up against the water in the bosom of the ship. The