

Chester Cycle 1572/2010**Play 23****The Last Judgment**

Cast: GOD, FIRST ANGEL, SECOND ANGEL, REDEEMED POPE, REDEEMED EMPEROR, REDEEMED KING, REDEEMED QUEEN, DAMNED POPE, DAMNED EMPEROR, DAMNED KING, DAMNED QUEEN, DAMNED JUDGE, DAMNED MERCHANT, JESUS, FIRST DEVIL, SECOND DEVIL, MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN.

GOD	Ego sum alpha et omega, primis et novissimus.	
	I, God, greatest of degree, in whom beginning none may be, that I am unequalled in posty,	<i>power</i>
5	In my Godhead are Persons three; may none truly from other flee. Yet sovereign might that is in me may justly be moved.	<i>depart royal power</i>
10	It is full long ago since I behight to make a reckoning of the right. Now to that judgment I will me dight which the dead shall rightly dread. Therefore my angels fair and bright,	<i>promised tally of righteous prepare</i>
15	look that you wake each worldly wight that I may see all in my sight for whom my blood I bled.	<i>person</i>
20	Show you my cross openly here, crown of thorns, sponge and spear, and nails to them that wanted ne'er to come to this annoy; and what weed for them I wear, upon my body now I bear. The most stoutest this sight shall stear that standeth by street or sty.	<i>distressing occasion garment daunt stile</i>
1 ST ANGEL 26	Lord, that madest through thy might Heaven and earth, day and night, without reserve we be dight your bidding for to done.	<i>ready do</i>
30	And for to awake each worldly wight I shall be ready, and that in height, that they shall show them in thy sight. Thou shalt see, Lord, full soon.	<i>person at once</i>
2 ND ANGEL 35	Take we our trumps and fast blow. All Mankind shall them know. Good account that now can show soon it shall be seen. Those who have done well in their living, they shall have joy without ending.	
40	Those who evil have done without mending shall for ever have sorrow and teen.	<i>reform torment</i>

Then the angels shall take their trumpets and shall blow, and all the dead shall rise from the graves. Of them, the Redeemed Pope shall speak first.

REDEEMED POPE	Ah, Lord, mercy now ask we, that died for us on the rood-tree. It is three hundred years and three since I was put in grave.	
45	Now through thy might and thy posty thy trumps' blast hath rais-ed me in flesh and blood, as I now see, my judgement for to have.	<i>power</i>
50	While that I lived in flesh and blood, thy great Godhead that is so good nor knew I never, but ever was wood honours for to win.	<i>mad</i>
55	The wits, Lord, thou sent to me I spent to come to great degree. The highest office under thee, in Earth thou puttest me in.	<i>high rank</i>
60	Thou grantedst me. Lord, through thy grace, Peter's power and his place. Yet I was blind. Alas, alas! I did not thine assent. But my fleshly desire that wicked was, the body which thou now rais-ed has, I favoured, Lord, before thy face it shall take its judgement.	<i>what you desired</i>
65	When I in Earth was, at my will this world me blinded, both loud and still; but thy commandment to fulfil I was full negligent.	
70	Bur purged it is with pains ill in Purgatory that sore can grill. Yet thy grace I hope to come till after my great torment.	<i>severe torment to</i>
75	And yet, Lord, I must dread thee for my great sin when I thee see, for thou art most in majesty. For mercy now I call.	
80	The pains that I have long in be -- as hard as Hell, save hope of lee -- back to go never suffer me whatever may befall.	<i>been joy</i>
REDEEMED EMPEROR	Ah, Lord and Sovereign Saviour, who when I lived put me to honour and made me king and emperor, highest of kith and kin --	<i>high rank</i>
85	my flesh, that decayed was as the flower, thou hast restored in this stour and with pains of great languor cleansed me of my sin.	<i>all men time distress</i>
90	In Purgatory my soul hath been a thousand years in woe and teen. Now is no sin upon me seen, for purged I am through pain.	<i>torment</i>
95	Though that I to sin were ready and boun and coveted riches and renown, yet at the last contrition has made me one of thine.	<i>prompt</i>

100	As hard pains, I dare well say, in Purgatory are night and day as are in Hell, save in one way – that pain shall have an end.	<i>respect</i>
105	Worshipped be thou, High Justice, that has caused me in flesh to rise. Now know I well, those that have been wise shall come into thy weal. Grant me, Lord, amongst moe, that purg-ed am of sin and woe, on thy right hand that I may go to that everlasting heal.	<i>joy others bliss</i>
REDEEMED KING	Ah, Lord of lords and King of kings, and Informer of all things, thy Power, Lord, spreads and springs as truly here is seen. After bale, boot thou brings, and after torment-tide, tidings to all that ever thy name mings and buxom to thee been.	<i>flourishes suffering; remedy good news call to mind are obedient</i>
111		
115		
120	While I was lord of land and lede in purple and in rich weed, methought of thee I had no need, so wrongly the world me wiled. Though thou for me thy blood had shed, yet in my heart more did I heed my flesh to further and to feed, but the soul was ever beguiled.	<i>people garments tricked deceived</i>
125	My foul body through sin blent, that rotten was and all to-rent, through thy might, Lord Omnipotent, raised and whole it is.	<i>blinded</i>
130	My soul that in torments brent to my body thou hast now sent to take before thee judgement for what I have done amiss,	<i>burned</i>
135	But, Lord, though I was sinful ay, contrition yet at my last day and alms-deeds that I did ay hath helped me from Hell, But well I know that same way that Abraham went, go I may, for I am purg-ed to thy pay, with thee evermore to dwell.	<i>always always satisfaction</i>
140		
REDEEMED QUEEN	Peerless prince of most posty that after distress sendeth lee, and now in body has rais-ed me from fire to rest and ro -- my flesh, that as flower can flee, and dust was, through thy pity together you have brought, as I now see, the soul the body to.	<i>power joy repose pass away</i>
145		
150	While I in Earth rich did go in soft linen and silk also,	

	velvet also – that caused me woe, and all such other weeds! – all that might excite lechery – pearls and precious perry –	<i>misery garments gems</i>
155	against thy bidding us-ed I, and other wicked deeds;	
	neither prayed I nor did fast, save alms-deeds, if any in need passed, and great repentance at the last has gained me thy grace, so that saved I hope fully to be for purg-ed sins that were in me. Thy last judgement may I not flee: to come before thy face.	<i>came by avoid</i>
160		
165	After Purgatory-pains from me thy protection do not thou lains. To reject thy judgment it nothing me gains, though my sins were never so great.	<i>hide</i>
	Since I have suffered woe and teen in Purgatory for long to been, let never my sin be on me seen, but, Lord, please it forget!	<i>torment being</i>
170		
	<i>Then the Damned shall come.</i>	
DAMNED POPE	Alas, alas, alas, alas! Now am I worse than ever I was. My body again the soul has that long has been in Hell. Together they be – now there is no grace – defiled to be before thy face and after my death here in this place in pain ever to dwell.	
175		
	Now useless is to ask mercy, for, living, highest in Earth was I, and, cunning, chosen in clergy; but covetousness caused me care.	<i>sorrow</i>
180		
185	Also, silver and simony made me Pope unworthy. That burns me now, full certainly, for to bliss I will not fare.	
	Alas, why waste so my wit in covetousness my heart to knit? Hard and hot now feel I it; Hell holds me even here. My body burns every bit. Of sorrow must I never be shut.	<i>rid</i>
190		
195	Me to save from Hell-pit now avails no prayer.	
	Of all the souls in Christianity that damned were while I had posty now give account must I, through my laws forlorn. Also damned now must I be. Reckoning comes, or else to flee. Make me deaf, I beseech thee, as if I had never been born.	<i>Christendom power</i>
200		

DAMNED EMPEROR 207	Alas, now anguished I am in this hour! Alas, now faded is my flower! Alas, for sin now ceases succour! No silver may me save. Alas, that ever I was emperor!	<i>joy</i> <i>help</i>
210	Alas that I ever had town or tower! Alas hard buy I my honour! Hell-pains for it I have.	
215	Alas, in world why was I ware? Alas that ever mother me bare! Alas, there is no gainchare! Escape I may not this chance. Alas do evil who is that dare? To injure no longer us dare, for to pain we ordained are forever, without deliverance.	<i>conscious</i> <i>escape</i> <i>misfortune</i>
220		
225	Now is manslaughter upon me seen. Now covetousness makes my sorrow keen. Now wrong-working, withouten ween, that I in world have wrought, now traitorous acts do me teen, and false judgements all bedene. In gluttony I have in been – that shall now dear be bought.	<i>assuredly</i> <i>torment</i> <i>immediately</i>
230	Now know I what I did was wrong and also my evil living long. Falsehood to Hell makes me to fong, in fire ever foul to fare. Ill-gotten money ever I mixed among.	<i>proceed</i>
235	Now is repaid me into Hell yong. Why were I not dead as the dung? For sorrow I sink and fear.	<i>going</i>
DAMNED KING 240	Alas, misery is my lot! My joy is gone, of woe I wot. My sin is seen I was in set. Of sorrow now may I sing. To Hell-pain that is so hot for my misdeeds wend I mot. Alas, if only I had been sheep or goat when I was crown-ed king.	<i>know</i> <i>go; must</i>
245	When I was in my majesty, sovereign of shire and of city, Never did I good. In no degree through me was any grace. For the poor had I never pity.	<i>by no means</i>
250	Sore nor sick would I never see Now have I sorrow and they have lee. Alas, alas, alas!	<i>joy</i>
255	Wrong ever I did with each wight For pennies, poor in pain I pight. Religion I plundered against the right. That sadly now I know. Lechery? I held it light. In covetousness my heart was clight. One good deed in God his sight.	<i>person</i> <i>put</i> <i>of little importance</i> <i>fixed firm</i>

260	Now have I not to show.	
DAMNED QUEEN	Alas, alas, now am I lorn! Alas, with teen now am I torn! Alas, that I was of woman born, this bitter torment to bide.	<i>lost agony</i>
265	I made my complaint both e'en and morn for fear to come Jesus befor that crown-ed for me was with thorn and pierced into the side.	<i>endure</i>
270	Alas, that I was woman wrought! Alas, why did God make me of nought and with his precious blood me bought to work against his will? About lechery I never rought, but ever to that sin I sought,	<i>created redeemed worried</i>
275	and of that filth in deed and thought yet had I never my fill.	
280	Fie on pearls! Fie on pride! Fie on gowns! Fie on guide! Fie on hue! Fie on hide! These drag me off to Hell. Against this mischance I may not chide. This bitter torment I must abide. Yea, woe and agony I suffer this tide, no living tongue may tell.	<i>possessions complexion; skin protest torment; time</i>
285	I, that so seemly was in sight, where is my complexion that is bright? Where is baron, where is knight to mitigate for me the law? Where in world is any wight	<i>beautiful to see fair person</i>
290	who for my beauty now will fight, or from this death I am to dight who dares me hence draw?	<i>suffer</i>
DAMNED JUDGE	Alas, of sorrow now is my saw! Alas, for Hell I am in awe! To my flesh, like a flower that is all to-flaw, now falls a terrifying fit. Alas, that ever I learned law, for suffer I must many a hard thraw; for the Devil will me draw	<i>speech falling apart moment</i>
295	right even into his pit.	
300	Alas! While that I lived on lond, working wrong I would not wond but falsely cases took in hand and much woe caused als.	<i>earth shrink from</i>
305	When I sought silver or a rich sond from baron, burgess, or from bond his suit to further ever I would fond were it never so false.	<i>also bribe bondsmen try</i>
310	Now is the Devil ready, I see, his suit to prosecute against me before the Judge of such posty – that me will not avail;	<i>power help</i>

	heart and thought both knoweth he. Though I would lie, no avail will be.	
315	Alas, this cruel fate to flee sadly I must fail	
	All my life ever I was boun to trouble the poor in tower and town, limit Holy Church's possession and cruelly them to shend.	<i>ready</i>
320	To plunder and rob religion, that was all my devotion! Therefore to me falls damnation and pain without an end.	<i>destroy religious orders</i>
DAMNED MERCHANT	Alas, alas, now woe is me! My foul body, that rotten hath be, and soul together now I see.	
327	All stinketh, full of sin. Alas, Merchandise maketh me – and purchasing of land and fee –	
330	in Hell-pain evermore to be, and torment that never shall blin.	<i>rentals cease</i>
	Alas! in the world eager was I to purchase lands falsely. to poor men I caused such annoy, made them their lands to sell.	
335	But when I died, truly, all that I had, my Enemy both body and soul damned thereby	<i>misery</i>
340	ever to the pain of Hell.	
	Yet might not false purchase suffice, but oft I dealt with merchandise, for there methought profits would rise. I used it many a year.	
345	Oft I sat upon false assize, robbing the poor with laining miss. Falsely, by God and saints his a thousand times I swore.	<i>false concealment</i>
	Usury I used wilfully. Won I never so much thereby to Holy Church never tithed I, for methought that was lorn,	
350	Why madest thou me, Lord, of nought? Why? To work in world so wickedly and now burn in the Devil's belly?	<i>wasted</i>
355	Alas, that ever I was born!	
	<i>When the laments of the dead have ended, Jesus shall come down as if in a cloud, if it can be contrived, because, according to the opinions of scholars, the son of God shall give judgement in the air close to the Earth. The angels shall stand with the cross, the crown of thorns, the lance, and the other instruments; they shall display them.</i>	
JESUS	You good and evil that are here present, here you come to your judgement, if you only knew how it would appent and in what manner!	<i>turn out</i>
360	But all my own, as I have meant – prophets, patriarchs here present – must know my judgement with good intent.	<i>intended properly</i>

Therefore I am now here.

- 365 But you shall hear and see express *clearly*
 I do to you all righteousness.
 Charitable deeds more and less
 I will declare now here.
- 370 Of earth through me made, Man, thou was
 and put in place of great cleanness,
 from which thou was, through wickedness,
 away then banished clear.
- 375 When thou had committed this trespass,
 yet perceived I which way was best
 thee to restore in this case *plight*
 into my company.
 How might I do thee more grace
 than that same nature that thou has
 take here, now as in this place
- 380 appeareth openly?
- 385 After, I died on the rood-tree
 and my blood shed, as thou may see,
 to deprive the Devil of his posty
 and win back that was away; *power*
 the same blood, behold ye, *lost*
 kept fresh-flowing till now I willed should be
 for reasons that pleas-ed me,
 of which I will now say.
- 390 One cause was this, certainly –
 that to my Father Almighty
 at my Ascension offer might I
 this blood, praying a boon: *asking a favour*
 that he on you should have mercy
 and more gracious be thereby,
 395 when you had sinned horribly
 not taking vengeance too soon.
- 400 Also, I desired, withouten were,
 this blood should now be show-ed here
 that those men who killed me in this manner
 might know openly *assuredly*
 how unnaturally they did there.
 Behold on me and you may lere
 whether I be God in full power
 or else Man only. *learn*
- 405 Also, my blood now show-ed is
 that the good through it may have bliss
 who avoided wickedness, iwiss, *truly*
 and ever good works wrought.
- 410 And the evil, also, that did amiss,
 must have great sorrow in sight of this
 who forfeited that joy that was his
 that for him on rood-tree was bought.
- 415 Yet, for all this great torment
 that I suffered here while I was lent,
 I suffered the more through your intent. *alive*
 I do not appear the way I feel. *intention*
 For my body is all to-rent
 with oaths false, always fervent;

420	no limb on me but it is rent from head right to the heel.	<i>torn</i>
	Now that you shall plainly see – fresh blood I bleed, Man, for thee – good to joy and full great lee, the evil to damnation.	<i>happiness</i>
425	Behold now, all men! Look on me and see my blood fresh out flee that I bled on rood-tree for your salvation.	<i>flow</i>
	<i>Then he shall send forth blood out of his side.</i>	
430	How durst you ever do amiss when you considered you of this, that I bled to bring you to bliss and suffered such woe? Me you must not blame, iwiss, though I do now what just is.	
435	Therefore each man reckon his, for justice must be done.	<i>assess himself</i>
REDEEMED POPE	Ah, Lord, though I lived in sin, In Purgatory I have been in. Suffer my torment for to blin and bring me to this bliss.	<i>cease</i>
440		
REDEEMED EMPEROR	Yea, Lord, and I have therein been more than three hundred years and three. Now I am clean, forsake not me, although I did amiss.	
REDEEMED KING	Lord, admit me to thy grace, that pain hath suffered in this place. Although I foul and wicked was washed it is away.	
447		
REDEEMED QUEEN	And I, Lord, to thee cry and call, thine own Christian and thy thrall, that of my sins am purg-ed all. For thy joy I thee pray.	<i>servant</i>
451		
JESUS	Come hither to me, my darlings dear, that blessed in world always were.	<i>dearly beloved</i>
455	Take my realm, all together, that for you ordained is. For while I was on Earth here you gave me meat in good manner; therefore in Heaven-bliss clear	<i>graciously</i>
460	you shall ever dwell, iwiss.	
	In great thirst you gave me drink; when I was naked, also clothing; and when I needed lodging, you lodged me in cold.	<i>harsh weather delight</i>
465	And other deeds to my liking when you did on Earth there living. Therefore you shall be rewarded for that thing in Heaven an hundredfold.	
REDEEMED	Lord, on this I can not min:	<i>recall</i>

POPE 471	Earth when I was dwelling in, thee in mischief or any unwin to show such a will.	<i>misery desire</i>
REDEEMED EMPEROR 475	No, certainly! I can have no mind that ever to thee I was so kind, for there I might thee never find, such kindness to fulfill.	<i>recollection perform</i>
JESUS 480	Yes, forsooth, my friends dear, such as poor and naked were, you clad and fed them both in fere and harboured them also. Such as were also in great danger, in hard prison in Earth here, you visited them in meek manner, all men in such woe.	<i>at the same time gave them shelter in humility</i>
485	Therefore, as I you before told, you shall be repaid an hundredfold. In my bliss, be ye bold, evermore you shall be.	<i>sure</i>
490	There neither hunger is nor cold but all things as yourselves would – everlasting joy to young and old that in Earth pleased me.	<i>might desire</i>
495	Therefore, my angels, go you anon and separate my chosen every one from them that have been my fone and bring them unto bliss. On my right hand they shall be set, for so long ago I them behet when they did withouten let my bidding not amiss.	<i>at once foes promised without ceasing</i>
500		
1 ST ANGEL	Lord, we shall never blin till we have brought them bliss within, those souls that be without sin full soon, as you shall see.	<i>cease</i>
2 ND ANGEL 506	And I know them well afine which bodies, Lord, that are thine, They shall have joy without pine that never shall ended be.	<i>completely grief</i>
<i>Then the angels shall go, and as they come and go they shall sing “Laetamini in Domino,” “Salvator mundi, domine.” And all the redeemed shall follow them. Then the devils shall come, and the first of them shall speak.</i>		
1 ST DEVIL 510	Ah, righteous Judge, and most of might, that there art set to judge the right, mercy thou was, now is right, to save these men from pain. Do as thou hast long ago behight.	<i>righteous promised</i>
515	Those that be sinful in thy sight, to reckon their deeds I am dight to prove these men as mine.	<i>ready</i>
	I judge this pope mine in this place that worthy is for his trespass – and ought to be thine through grace –	

- 520 through sin has become mine.
A Christian man I know he was,
knew good from evil in each case,
but my commandment done he has,
and ever forsaken thine.
- 525 Through mercy he should be thine,
but mine through wickedness and sin;
thine through Passion thou was in,
and mine through temptation.
- 530 To me obedient he was ay, *always*
and thy commandment put away. *set aside*
Thou righteous Judge therefore I pray,
condemn him to my prison.
- 535 This emperor also that standeth by,
I hold him mine full certainly,
that held him ever in heresy
and believed not on thy lore. *teaching*
Therefore I tell thee verament *truly*
mine he is without judgement.
Thou said, when thou on Earth went,
540 whoever believed not, damn-ed were.
"Qui non credit jam iudicatus est."
[*"He that believeth not is condemned already"*]
- 545 This king and queen would never know
poor men, them alms to show.
Therefore, put them all from you
that stand before thy face, *flame*
and I shall lead them to a low;
there fire shall burn, though no man blow.
I have them tied upon a row;
they shall never pass.
- 2ND DEVIL
550 Nay, I will dispute with him this
that sitteth as High Justice,
and if I may see he be righteous,
soon I shall assay. *test (him)*
And either he shall, forsooth iwiss,
forsake what of him written is
555 or these men that have done amiss,
will give them us today.
- 560 These words, God, thou said express, *openly*
as Matthew thereof beareth witness:
that just as Man's deeds was
rewarded he should be.
And lest thou forget, good man,
I shall mind thee it upon, *remind you of it*
for speak Latin well I can,
and that thou shall soon see.
- 565 Therefore, righteous if thou be,
these men are mine, as mot I thee,
for one good deed here before thee
have they not to show. *may I thrive*
- "Filius hominis venturus est in gloria Patris sui, cum angelis suis; et tunc reddit unicuique secundum opera sua." [*"The Son of Man shall come in the glory of his father with his angels and then he shall reward everyone according to his works"*]

- 570 If there be any, say on! Let's see!
If there be none, give them to me!
Or else thou art as false as we –
all men shall full know.
- 1ST DEVIL
575 Yea, this thou said, verament,
that when thou came to judgement
thy angels from thee should be sent
to part the evil from the good
and put them into great torment,
there wailing and gnashing of teeth fervent;
which words to clerks here present
580 I will repeat, by the rood;
- “Sic erit in consummatione seculi : exibunt angeli, et separabunt malos de medio justorum, et mittent eos in caminum ignis: ibi erit fletus et stridor dentium.” [*So it shall be at the end of the time: the angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from among the just and shall cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth*”]
- 585 Therefore, deliver me these men henne
and, as I my break my pen,
I shall make them to gren
and ruefully to reem. *hence
head
gnash their teeth
weep*
And in as hot a chimney
as is ordained for me
bathed they all shall be
in bitter torment, and shall bren. *burn*
- 590 This hypocrite pope here present
with covetousness was always fully bent.
This emperor also, verament,
to all sin did incline. *truly*
This king also all righteous men shent,
damned them through false judgement
595 and died so without amendment;
therefore I hold him mine. *destroyed*
- 600 This queen, while she was living here,
spared never sin, in no manner,
and all that might, by Satan so dear,
excite her lechery *by no means*
she used, man's heart to stere
and therefore fully ordained her. *stimulate
committed herself
desired goal*
Therefore she hath lost her lere,
Heaven-bliss, right as did I.
- JESUS
606 Lo, you men that wicked have been,
what Satan sayeth you hear and seen,
Righteous judgement may you not flee,
for grace is put away. *see
escape*
610 When time of grace was enduring,
to seek it you had no liking.
Therefore must I, for anything,
do righteousness today. *operative
desire
whatever the case*
- 615 And though my sweet mother dear
and all the saints that ever were
prayed for you right now here,
it all were too late.
No grace may grow through their prayer –
then righteousness would have no power.

	620	Therefore, go to the fire together. There avails no other grace.	
	625	When I was hungry and thirsty both, and naked was, you would not me clothe; also, sick and in great woe, you would not visit me; nor yet in prison to me come, nor of your meat to give me some, nor me to your lodging nome never yet in will were ye.	<i>did you desire</i>
DAMNED POPE	631	When was thou naked or homeless, hungry, thirsty, or in sickness; or in any prison was? We saw thee never a-cold.	
DAMNED EMPEROR	635	Had we thee hungry or thirsty seen, naked, sick, or in prison been, homeless, or in any teen, have harboured thee we would.	<i>distress</i>
JESUS	640	Nay! When you saw the least of mine that on Earth suffered pine, with your riches you would not rine nor fulfill my desire. And since you would in no way incline for to help my poor line, to me your love it was not fine. Therefore, go to the fire!	<i>distress bother about offspring true</i>
1 ST DEVIL	646	Ah, Sir Judge, this goeth aright. By Satan much of might, you be mine, every wight, ever to live in woe.	<i>person</i>
	650	A doleful death to you is dight, for such recompense I you behight when you served me day and night, to be rewarded so.	<i>ordained promised</i>
	655	Go we forth to Hell in hie. Without end there shall you lie, for you have lost, right as did I, the bliss that lasteth ever. Judged you be to my belly there endless sorrow is, and noy.	<i>in haste suffering</i>
	660	One thing I tell you, truly – delivered may you be never.	
2 ND DEVIL	665	Nay. Master, forget not these thieves two, for, by the Devil, they shall not go! Their deeds, Lord, amongst moe, soon I can them spy. This justice, Lord, was ever thy foe, but falsehood to further he was ever throw. Therefore condemn him to sorrow and woe, for he is full well worthy.	<i>escape many others detect them eager</i>
	670	This merchant also that standeth here, he is mine, without were. As oft-times he him forsware as seeds be in my sack.	<i>certainly perjured himself</i>

675 And usury also us-ed he
 that my pouch is so heavy,
 I swear by the Devil so free,
 it well-nigh breaks my neck. *noble*

Then the devils shall carry them off, and the four evangelists shall come.

MATTHEW I, Matthew, of this bear witness,
 for in my Gospel I wrote express *plainly*
 this that my Lord of his goodness
 680 hath repeated here.
 And by me all were warned before *in advance*
 to save their souls evermore *for eternity*
 that now through their desires they been lore *lost*
 and damned to fire together.

MARK I, Mark, now openly say
 686 that warned they were by many a way *many means*
 their lives how they should array, *order*
 Heaven-bliss to recover;
 so to excuse them they not may
 690 so they been worthy, truly,
 to suffer the judgement given today,
 and damned to be forever.

LUKE And I, Luke, on Earth living,
 my Lord's works in everything
 695 I wrote and taught through my cunning *knowledge*
 that all men know might.
 And therefore I say, forsooth iwiss,
 excuse none there is.
 Against my word they did amiss. *offended*
 700 This judgement, it goeth aright. *proceeds justly*

JOHN And I, John the Evangelist,
 bear witness of things that I wist *know*
 in which they might full well have trist *trusted*
 and not have done amiss.
 705 And all that ever my Lord saith here,
 I wrote it in my manner. *my own way*
 Therefore, excuse you, without were, *truly*
 I may not well, iwiss. *indeed*