

Sample Formatted Verse Drama

22. THE HARROWING OF HELL

Jesus
Adam
Eve
Isaiah
Simeon
John the Baptist
Moses
Ribald, a devil
David
Beelzebub, a devil
Satan

fol. 97v

*Incipit extraccio animarum etc.*¹

JESUS	My Fader me from blys has send Till erth for mankynde sake, Adam mys for to amend; My deth nede must I take.	<i>To earth Adam's sin</i>
5	I dwellyd ther thyrty yeres and two And somdele more, the sothe to say; In anger, pyne, and mekyll wo I dyde on cros this day.	<i>somewhat more, truly suffering died</i>
10	Therfor till hell now will I go To chalange that is myne; Adam, Eve, and othere mo, Thay shall no longer dwell in pyne.	<i>lay claim to what many others pain</i>
15	The feynde theym wan with trayn Thugh fraude of erthly fode; I have theym boght agan With shedyng of my blode.	<i>fiend; won; deceit (see note)</i>
20	And now I will that stede restore Which the feynde fell fro for syn. Som tokyn will I send before With myrth to gar thare gammes begyn.	<i>place fiend fell from token make their delight (games)</i>
	A light I will thay have,	

¹ Here begins the deliverance of souls etc.

	To know I will com sone;	<i>soon</i>
	My body shall abyde in grave	
	Till all this dede be done.	<i>deed</i>
ADAM	My brether, herkyn unto me here:	<i>brothers, listen</i>
26	More hope of helth never we had.	<i>health</i>
	Foure thowsand and sex hundreth yere	<i>years</i>
	Have we bene here in darknes stad;	<i>placed</i>
	Now se I tokyns of solace sere,	<i>manifold</i>
30	A glorious gleme to make us glad,	<i>gleam</i>
	Wherthugh I hope that help is nere	
	That sone shall slake oure sorowes sad.	<i>soon; relieve</i>
EVE	Adam, my husband heynd,	<i>gracious</i>
	This menys solace certan;	
35	Sich light can on us leynd	<i>did shine</i>
	In paradyse full playn.	<i>clearly</i>
ISAIAH	Adam, thugh thi syn	<i>sin</i>
	Here were we put to dwell	
	This wykyd place within:	<i>wicked</i>
40	The name of it is hell;	
	Here paynes shall never blyn	<i>pains; cease</i>
	That wykyd ar and fell.	<i>cruel</i>
	Love that Lord with wyn	
	His lyfe for us wold sell. ²	
<i>Et cantent omnes "Salvator mundi," primum versum.³</i>		
45	Adam, thou well understand,	
	I am Isaias, so Crist me kende.	<i>taught</i>
	I spake of folke in darknes walkand;	<i>spoke; walking</i>
	I saide a light shuld on theym lende.	<i>shine</i>
fol. 98r	This light is all from Crist commande	<i>Christ</i>
50	That he till us has hedir sende;	<i>here sent</i>
	Thus is my poynt proved in hand,	
	As I before to-fold it kende.	<i>twice taught</i>

² Lines 43–44: *Love that Lord with joy / who would sell his life for us*

³ *And they should all sing "Savior of the World," verse one* (see note)