

²¹If you present a peace offering to the LORD from the herd or the flock, whether it is to fulfill a vow or is a voluntary offering, you must offer a perfect animal. It may have no defect of any kind. ²²You must not offer an animal that is blind, crippled, or injured, or that has a wart, a skin sore, or scabs. Such animals must never be offered on the altar as special gifts to the LORD. ²³If a bull* or lamb has a leg that is too long or too short, it may be offered as a voluntary offering, but it may not be offered to fulfill a vow. ²⁴If an animal has damaged testicles or is castrated, you may not offer it to the LORD. You must never do this in your own land, ²⁵and you must not accept such an animal from foreigners and then offer it as a sacrifice to your God. Such animals will not be accepted on your behalf, for they are mutilated or defective."

²⁶And the LORD said to Moses, ²⁷"When a calf or lamb or goat is born, it must be left with its mother for seven days. From the eighth day on, it will be acceptable as a special gift to the LORD. ²⁸But you must not slaughter a mother animal and her offspring on the same day, whether from the herd or the flock. ²⁹When you bring a thanksgiving offering to the LORD, sacrifice it properly so you will be accepted. ³⁰Eat the entire sacrificial animal on the day it is presented. Do not leave any of it until the next morning. I am the LORD."

³¹You must faithfully keep all my commands by putting them into practice, for I am the LORD. ³²Do not bring shame on my holy name, for I will display my holiness among the people of Israel. I am the LORD who makes you holy. ³³It was I who rescued you from the land of Egypt, that I might be your God. I am the LORD."

The Appointed Festivals

23 The LORD said to Moses, ²"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. These are the LORD's appointed festivals, which you are to proclaim as official days for holy assembly.

³You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of complete rest, an official day for holy assembly. It is the LORD's Sabbath day, and it must be observed wherever you live.

⁴In addition to the Sabbath, these are the LORD's appointed festivals, the official days for holy assembly that are to be celebrated at their proper times each year.

Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

⁵The LORD's Passover begins at sundown on the fourteenth day of the first month.* ⁶On the next day, the fifteenth day of the month, you must begin celebrating the Festival of Unleavened Bread. This festival to the LORD continues for seven days, and during that time the bread you eat must be made without yeast. ⁷On the first day of the festival, all the people must stop their ordinary work and observe an official day for holy assembly. ⁸For seven days you must present special gifts to the LORD. On the seventh day the people must again stop all their ordinary work to observe an official day for holy assembly."

Celebration of First Harvest

⁹Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁰"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. When you enter the land I am giving you and you harvest its first crops, bring the priest a bundle of grain from the first cutting of your grain harvest. ¹¹On the day after the Sabbath, the priest will lift it up before

the LORD so it may be accepted on your behalf. ¹²On the same day you must sacrifice a one-year-old male lamb with no defects as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³With it you must present a grain offering consisting of four quarts* of choice flour moistened with olive oil. It will be a special gift with a pleasing aroma to the LORD. You must also offer one quart* of wine as a liquid offering. ¹⁴Do not eat any bread or roasted grain or fresh kernels on that day until you bring this offering to your God. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation wherever you live."

The Festival of Harvest

¹⁵From the day after the Sabbath—the day you bring the bundle of grain to be lifted up as a special offering—count off seven full weeks. ¹⁶Keep counting until the day after the seventh Sabbath, fifty days later. Then present an offering of new grain to the LORD. ¹⁷From wherever you live, bring two loaves of bread to be lifted up before the LORD as a special offering. Make these loaves from four quarts of choice flour and bake them with yeast. They will be an offering to the LORD from the first of your crops. ¹⁸Along with the bread present seven one-year-old male lambs with no defects, one young bull, and two rams as burnt offerings to the LORD. These burnt offerings, together with the grain offerings and liquid offerings, will be a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁹Then you must offer one male goat as a sin offering and two one-year-old male lambs as a peace offering.

²⁰The priest will lift up the two lambs as a special offering to the LORD, together with the loaves representing the first of your crops. These offerings, which are holy to the LORD, belong to the priests. ²¹That same day will be proclaimed an official day for holy assembly, a day on which you do not ordinary work. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation wherever you live.*

²²When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. Leave it for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God."

The Festival of Trumpets

²³The LORD said to Moses, ²⁴"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. On the first day of the appointed month in early autumn,* you are to observe a day of complete rest. It will be an official day for holy assembly, a day commemorated with loud blasts of a trumpet. ²⁵You must do no ordinary work on that day. Instead, you are to present special gifts to the LORD."

The Day of Atonement

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, ²⁷"Be careful to celebrate the Day of Atonement on the tenth day of that same month, nine days after the Festival of Trumpets.* You must observe it as an official day for holy assembly, a day to deny yourselves* and present special gifts to the LORD. ²⁸Do no work during that entire day because it is the Day of Atonement, when offerings of purification are made for you, making you right with* the LORD your God. ²⁹All who do not deny themselves that day will be cut off from God's people. ³⁰And I will destroy anyone among you who does any work on that day. ³¹You must not do any work at all! This is a permanent law."

^{22:23} Or cow. ^{23:5} This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in late March, April, or early May. ^{23:13a} Hebrew $\frac{1}{10}$ of an ephah [4.4 liters] also in 23:17. ^{23:13b} Hebrew $\frac{1}{4}$ of a hin [1 liter]. ^{23:21} This celebration, called the Festival of Harvest or the Festival of Weeks, was later called the Festival of Pentecost (see Acts 2:1). It is celebrated today as Shavuot (or Shabuoth). ^{23:24} Hebrew *On the first day of the seventh month*. This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in September or October. This festival is celebrated today as Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year. ^{23:27a} Hebrew *on the tenth day of the seventh month*; see 23:24 and the note there. This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in September or October. It is celebrated today as Yom Kippur. ^{23:27b} Or *to fast*; similarly in 23:29, 32. ^{23:28} Or *when atonement is made for you before*.

for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation wherever you live. ³²This will be a Sabbath day of complete rest for you, and on that day you must deny yourselves. This day of rest will begin at sundown on the ninth day of the month and extend until sundown on the tenth day."

The Festival of Shelters

³³And the LORD said to Moses, ³⁴"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. Begin celebrating the Festival of Shelters* on the fifteenth day of the appointed month—five days after the Day of Atonement.* This festival to the LORD will last for seven days. ³⁵On the first day of the festival you must proclaim an official day for holy assembly, when you do no ordinary work. ³⁶For seven days you must present special gifts to the LORD. The eighth day is another holy day on which you present your special gifts to the LORD. This will be a solemn occasion, and no ordinary work may be done that day.

³⁷These are the LORD's appointed festivals. Celebrate them each year as official days for holy assembly by presenting special gifts to the LORD—burnt offerings, grain offerings, sacrifices, and liquid offerings—each on its proper day. ³⁸These festivals must be observed in addition to the LORD's regular Sabbath days, and the offerings are in addition to your personal gifts, the offerings you give to fulfill your vows, and the voluntary offerings you present to the LORD.)

³⁹Remember that this seven-day festival to the LORD—the Festival of Shelters—begins on the fifteenth day of the appointed month,* after you have harvested all the produce of the land. The first day and the eighth day of the festival will be days of complete rest. ⁴⁰On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees*—palm fronds, boughs from leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then celebrate with joy before the LORD your God for seven days. ⁴¹You must observe this festival to the LORD for seven days every year. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed in the appointed month* from generation to generation. ⁴²For seven days you must live outside in little shelters. All native-born Israelites must live in shelters. ⁴³This will remind each new generation of Israelites that I made their ancestors live in shelters when I rescued them from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God."

⁴⁴So Moses gave the Israelites these instructions regarding the annual festivals of the LORD.

Pure Oil and Holy Bread

24 The LORD said to Moses, ²"Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the lampstand that stands in the Tabernacle, in front of the inner curtain that shields the Ark of the Covenant.* Aaron must keep the lamps burning in the LORD's presence all night. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation. ⁴Aaron and the priests must tend the lamps on the pure gold lampstand continually in the LORD's presence.

⁵You must bake twelve loaves of bread from choice flour, using four quarts* of flour for each loaf. ⁶Place the bread before the Lord on the pure gold table, and arrange the loaves in two rows, with six loaves in each row. ⁷Put some frankincense near each row to serve as a representative offering, a special gift presented to the Lord. ⁸Every

^{34:4} Or *Festival of Booths*, or *Festival of Tabernacles*. This was earlier called the Festival of Weeks, but is now called the Festival of Sukkot (or Sukkoth). ^{23:34b} Hebrew *on the fifteenth day of the seventh month*. ^{23:40} Or *gather fruit from majestic trees*. ^{24:5} Hebrew *the*

cepted on your behalf.¹²On that day you must offer a one-year-old male lamb without blemish to the Lord.¹³With it you must offer a grain offering consisting of four quarts* of fine flour mixed with olive oil. It will be a special gift to the Lord. You must also offer one offering.¹⁴Do not eat any bread or grain products on that day until you bring this offering. This is a permanent law for you, from generation to generation.

Sabbath—the day you bring up as a special offering—comes seven days later. Then present an offering. From wherever you live, bring up before the Lord as a special offering four quarts of choice flour. They will be an offering to the Lord for your crops.¹⁸Along with the burnt offerings of two male lambs with no defects, offer as burnt offerings to the Lord together with the grain offerings a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord, a male goat as a sin offering. Offer one male goat as a sin offering and two male lambs as a peace offering. Bring up the two lambs as a special offering with the loaves representing grain offerings, which are holy offerings. ²¹That same day will be a day for holy assembly, a day on which you must not do any work. This is a permanent law for you, from generation to generation.

Do not cultivate the edges of your fields, and do not drop a seed. Leave it for the poor. I am the Lord your God.

Trumpets. ²⁴Give the following instructions:

On the first day of the month of Trumpets,²⁵you are to observe a day of rest, an official day for holy assembly.

Sound blasts of a trumpet.

Do not work that day. Instead, you are to

rest.

Be careful to observe the tenth day of that month, the Day of Trumpets.²⁶For a day of holy assembly, a day to offer special gifts to the Lord.

Because it is the Day of Trumpets, atonement is made for you.

All who do not observe your God. ²⁹All who do not cut off from God's people.

Do not work on that day. This is a permanent law for you.

for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation wherever you live.³²This will be a Sabbath day of complete rest for you, and on that day you must deny yourselves. This day of rest will begin at sundown on the ninth day of the month and extend until sundown on the tenth day."

The Festival of Shelters

And the Lord said to Moses, ³⁴"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. Begin celebrating the Festival of Shelters³⁵ on the fifteenth day of the appointed month—five days after the Day of Atonement.³⁶ This festival the Lord will last for seven days.³⁷On the first day of the festival you must proclaim an official day for holy assembly, when you do no ordinary work.³⁸For seven days you must present special gifts to the Lord. The eighth day is another holy day on which you present your special gifts to the Lord. This will be a solemn occasion, and no ordinary work may be done that day.

³⁹These are the Lord's appointed festivals. Celebrate each year as official days for holy assembly by presenting special gifts to the Lord—burnt offerings, grain offerings, sacrifices, and liquid offerings—each on its proper day. ⁴⁰These festivals must be observed in addition to the regular Sabbath days, and the offerings are in addition to your personal gifts, the offerings you give to fulfill your vows, and the voluntary offerings you present to the Lord.

⁴¹Remember that this seven-day festival to the Lord—Festival of Shelters—begins on the fifteenth day of the month, after you have harvested all the produce of the land. The first day and the eighth day of the festival are days of complete rest.⁴²On the first day gather branches from magnificent trees—palm fronds, boughs of leafy trees, and willows that grow by the streams. Then gather with joy before the Lord your God for seven days. ⁴³You must observe this festival to the Lord for seven days a year. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed in the appointed month⁴⁴ from generation to generation. ⁴⁵For seven days you must live outside in little shelters. Native-born Israelites must live in shelters.⁴⁶This command new generation of Israelites that I made for my ancestors live in shelters when I rescued them from the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

Moses gave the Israelites these instructions regarding the annual festivals of the Lord.

The Sabbath and Holy Bread

The Lord said to Moses, ²"Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the lamps burning continually.³This is the lampstand that stands in the Tabernacle, in front of the inner curtain that shields the Ark of the Covenant.⁴Aaron must tend the lamps burning in the Lord's presence all the time. This is a permanent law for you, and it must be observed from generation to generation.⁵Aaron and his sons must tend the lamps on the pure gold lampstand in the Lord's presence.

They must bake twelve loaves of bread from choice flour, four quarts* of flour for each loaf.

Place the bread on the Lord on the pure gold table, and arrange them in two rows, with six loaves in each row.⁷Put some incense near each row to serve as a representation, a special gift presented to the Lord.⁸Every

Sabbath day this bread must be laid out before the Lord. The bread is to be received from the people of Israel as a requirement of the eternal covenant.⁹The loaves of bread will belong to Aaron and his descendants, who must eat them in a sacred place, for they are most holy. It is the permanent right of the priests to claim this portion of the special gifts presented to the Lord."

An Example of Just Punishment

¹⁰One day a man who had an Israelite mother and an Egyptian father came out of his tent and got into a fight with one of the Israelite men.¹¹During the fight, this son of an Israelite woman blasphemed the Name of the Lord* with a curse. So the man was brought to Moses for judgment. His mother was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri of the tribe of Dan.¹²They kept the man in custody until the Lord's will in the matter should become clear to them.

¹³Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹⁴"Take the blasphemer outside the camp, and tell all those who heard the curse to lay their hands on his head. Then let the entire community stone him to death.¹⁵Say to the people of Israel: Those who curse their God will be punished for their sin.¹⁶Anyone who blasphemes the Name of the Lord must be stoned to death by the whole community of Israel. Any native-born Israelite or foreigner among you who blasphemes the Name of the Lord must be put to death.

¹⁷Anyone who takes another person's life must be put to death.

¹⁸Anyone who kills another person's animal must pay for it in full—a live animal for the animal that was killed.

¹⁹Anyone who injures another person must be dealt with according to the injury inflicted—²⁰a fracture for a fracture, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Whatever anyone does to injure another person must be paid back in kind.

²¹Whoever kills an animal must pay for it in full, but whoever kills another person must be put to death.

²²This same standard applies both to native-born Israelites and to the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God."

²³After Moses gave all these instructions to the Israelites, they took the blasphemer outside the camp and stoned him to death. The Israelites did just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

The Sabbath Year

25 While Moses was on Mount Sinai, the Lord said to him, ²"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. When you have entered the land I am giving you, the land itself must observe a Sabbath rest before the Lord every seventh year.³For six years you may plant your fields and prune your vineyards and harvest your crops,⁴but during the seventh year the land must have a Sabbath year of complete rest. It is the Lord's Sabbath. Do not plant your fields or prune your vineyards during that year.⁵And don't store away the crops that grow on their own or gather the grapes from your unpruned vines. The land must have a year of complete rest.⁶But you may eat whatever the land produces on its own during its Sabbath. This applies to you, your male and female servants, your hired workers, and the temporary residents who live with you.⁷Your livestock and the wild animals in your land will also be allowed to eat what the land produces.

^{23:13a} Hebrew *Shavuot*, or Festival of Weeks. This was earlier called the Festival of the Final Harvest or Festival of Ingathering (see Exod 23:16b). ^{23:27a} Hebrew *Yom Teruah*, or Day of Trumpets. This was earlier called the Festival of Booths, or Festival of Tabernacles. ^{23:34b} Hebrew *Yom Kippur*, or Day of Atonement. This was earlier called the Day of Trumpets. ^{23:39} Hebrew *Yom Zikkaron*, or Day of Remembrance. This was earlier called the Day of Trumpets. ^{23:40} Or gather fruit from majestic trees. ^{23:41} Hebrew the seventh month. ^{24:3} Hebrew in the Tent of Meeting. ^{24:11} Hebrew the Name; also in 24:16b.

The Year of Jubilee

⁸“In addition, you must count off seven Sabbath years, seven sets of seven years, adding up to forty-nine years in all. ⁹Then on the Day of Atonement in the fiftieth year,* blow the ram’s horn loud and long throughout the land. ¹⁰Set this year apart as holy, a time to proclaim freedom throughout the land for all who live there. It will be a jubilee year for you, when each of you may return to the land that belonged to your ancestors and return to your own clan. ¹¹This fiftieth year will be a jubilee for you. During that year you must not plant your fields or store away any of the crops that grow on their own, and don’t gather the grapes from your unpruned vines. ¹²It will be a jubilee year for you, and you must keep it holy. But you may eat whatever the land produces on its own. ¹³In the Year of Jubilee each of you may return to the land that belonged to your ancestors.

¹⁴“When you make an agreement with your neighbor to buy or sell property, you must not take advantage of each other. ¹⁵When you buy land from your neighbor, the price you pay must be based on the number of years since the last jubilee. The seller must set the price by taking into account the number of years remaining until the next Year of Jubilee. ¹⁶The more years until the next jubilee, the higher the price; the fewer years, the lower the price. After all, the person selling the land is actually selling you a certain number of harvests. ¹⁷Show your fear of God by not taking advantage of each other. I am the LORD your God.

¹⁸“If you want to live securely in the land, follow my decrees and obey my regulations. ¹⁹Then the land will yield large crops, and you will eat your fill and live securely in it. ²⁰But you might ask, ‘What will we eat during the seventh year, since we are not allowed to plant or harvest crops that year?’ ²¹Be assured that I will send my blessing for you in the sixth year, so the land will produce a crop large enough for three years. ²²When you plant your fields in the eighth year, you will still be eating from the large crop of the sixth year. In fact, you will still be eating from that large crop when the new crop is harvested in the ninth year.

Redemption of Property

²³“The land must never be sold on a permanent basis, for the land belongs to me. You are only foreigners and tenant farmers working for me.

²⁴“With every purchase of land you must grant the seller the right to buy it back. ²⁵If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and is forced to sell some family land, then a close relative should buy it back for him. ²⁶If there is no close relative to buy the land, but the person who sold it gets enough money to buy it back, ²⁷he then has the right to redeem it from the one who bought it. The price of the land will be discounted according to the number of years until the next Year of Jubilee. In this way the original owner can then return to the land. ²⁸But if the original owner cannot afford to buy back the land, it will remain with the new owner until the next Year of Jubilee. In the jubilee year, the land must be returned to the original owners so they can return to their family land.

²⁹“Anyone who sells a house inside a walled town has the right to buy it back for a full year after its sale. During that year, the seller retains the right to buy it back. ³⁰But if it is not bought back within a year, the sale of the house within the walled town cannot be reversed. It will become the permanent property of the buyer. It will not be returned to the original owner in the Year of Jubilee. ³¹But a house in a village—a settlement without fortified walls—will be treated

like property in the countryside. Such a house may be bought back at any time, and it must be returned to the original owner in the Year of Jubilee.

³²“The Levites always have the right to buy back a house they have sold within the towns allotted to them. ³³And any property that is sold by the Levites—all houses within the Levitical towns—must be returned in the Year of Jubilee. After all, the houses in the towns reserved for the Levites are the only property they own in all Israel. ³⁴The open pastureland around the Levitical towns may never be sold. It is their permanent possession.

Redemption of the Poor and Enslaved

³⁵“If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and cannot support himself, support him as you would a foreigner or a temporary resident and allow him to live with you. ³⁶Do not charge interest or make a profit at his expense. Instead show your fear of God by letting him live with you as your relative. ³⁷Remember, do not charge interest on money you lend him or make a profit on food you sell him. ³⁸I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.

³⁹“If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and is forced to sell himself to you, do not treat him as a slave. ⁴⁰Treat him instead as a hired worker or as a temporary resident who lives with you, and he will serve you only until the Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹At that time he and his children will no longer be obligated to you, and they will return to their clans and go back to the land originally allotted to their ancestors. ⁴²The people of Israel are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt, so they must never be sold as slaves. ⁴³Show your fear of God by not treating them harshly.

⁴⁴“However, you may purchase male and female slaves from among the nations around you. ⁴⁵You may also purchase the children of temporary residents who live among you, including those who have been born in your land. You may treat them as your property, ⁴⁶passing them on to your children as a permanent inheritance. You may treat them as slaves, but you must never treat your fellow Israelites this way.

⁴⁷“Suppose a foreigner or temporary resident becomes rich while living among you. If any of your fellow Israelites fall into poverty and are forced to sell themselves to such a foreigner or to a member of his family, ⁴⁸they still retain the right to be bought back, even after they have been purchased. They may be bought back by a brother, ⁴⁹an uncle or a cousin. In fact, anyone from the extended family may buy them back. They may also redeem themselves if they have prospered. ⁵⁰They will negotiate the price of their freedom with the person who bought them. The price will be based on the number of years from the time they were sold until the next Year of Jubilee—whatever it would cost to hire a worker for that period of time. ⁵¹If many years still remain until the jubilee, they will repay the proper proportion of what they received when they sold themselves. ⁵²If only a few years remain until the Year of Jubilee, they will repay a small amount for their redemption. ⁵³The foreigner must treat them as workers hired on a yearly basis. You must not allow a foreigner to treat any of your fellow Israelites harshly. ⁵⁴If any Israelites have not been bought back by the time the Year of Jubilee arrives, they and their children must be set free at that time. ⁵⁵For the people of Israel belong to me. They are my servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

^{25:9} Hebrew on the tenth day of the seventh month, on the Day of Atonement; see 23:27a and the note there.

Blessings for Obedience

26 “Do not make idols or set up carved images, or sacred pillars, or sculptured stones in your land so you may worship them. I am the LORD your God. ²You must keep my Sabbath days of rest and show reverence for my sanctuaries. I am the LORD.

³If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ⁴I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. ⁵Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land.

⁶I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to sleep with no cause for fear. I will rid the land of wild animals and keep your enemies out of your land. ⁷In fact, you will chase down your enemies and slaughter them with your swords. ⁸Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall before your sword.

⁹I will look favorably upon you, making you fertile and multiplying your people. And I will fulfill my covenant with you. ¹⁰You will have such a surplus of crops that you will need to clear out the old grain to make room for the new harvest! ¹¹I will live among you, and I will not despise you. ¹²I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. ¹³I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high.

Punishments for Disobedience

¹⁴“However, if you do not listen to me or obey all these commands, ¹⁵and if you break my covenant by rejecting my decrees, treating my regulations with contempt, and refusing to obey my commands, ¹⁶I will punish you. I will bring sudden terrors upon you—wasting diseases and burning fevers that will cause your eyes to fail and your life to ebb away. ¹⁷You will plant your crops in vain because your enemies will eat them. ¹⁸I will turn against you, and you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will run even when no one is chasing you!

¹⁹“And if, in spite of all this, you still disobey me, I will punish you seven times over for your sins. ²⁰I will break your spirit by making the skies as unyielding as iron and the earth as hard as bronze. ²¹All your work will be for nothing, for your land will yield no crops, and your trees will bear no fruit.

²²“If even then you remain hostile toward me and refuse to obey me, I will inflict disaster on you seven times over for your sins. ²³I will send wild animals that will rob you of your children and destroy your livestock. Your numbers will dwindle, and your roads will be deserted. ²⁴And if you fail to learn the lesson and continue your hostility toward me, ²⁵then I myself will be hostile toward you. I will personally strike you with calamity seven times for your sins. ²⁶I will send armies against you to carry the curse of the covenant you have broken. When you run to your towns for safety, I will send a plague to destroy you there, and you will be handed over to your enemies. ²⁷I will destroy your food supply, so that ten women will need one oven to bake bread for their families. They will ration your food by weight, and though you have food to eat, you will not be satisfied.

²⁸“If in spite of all this you still refuse to listen and still re-

²⁰ The Hebrew term (literally round things) probably alludes to dung.

^{27:3} Or 20 or 8 ounces (228 grams) of silver; a girl . . . 4 ounces (114 grams).

^{27:6} Or a boy.

countryside. Such a house may be, and it must be returned to the original owner after the Year of Jubilee. ³²Levites have the right to buy back a house in the towns allotted to them. ³³And any towns reserved for the Levites may never be sold. It is their

Poor and Enslaved

an Israelites falls into poverty and cannot support him as you would a foreigner and allow him to live with you. ³⁰Do not make a profit at his expense. Instead, let him live with you as your slave, do not charge interest on money you profit on food you sell him. ³¹I am the God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to Canaan and to be your God.

an Israelites falls into poverty and cannot support himself, do not treat him as a slave, as a hired worker or as a temporary resident with you, and he will serve you only until the Year of Jubilee. ³²At that time he and his children will be free to you, and they will return to the land originally allotted to their ancestors. ³³Levites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, so they must never be sold. ³⁴Do not fear of God by not treating

them as your slaves. ³⁵Do not purchase male and female slaves around you. ³⁶You may also purchase temporary residents who live among you, who have been born in your land. ³⁷Do not treat them as your property, ³⁸passing them on to your inheritance. You may treat them as slaves, but never treat your fellow Israelites

as slaves. ³⁹Even if a foreigner or temporary resident becomes poor among you. If any of your fellow Israelites are forced to sell themselves to a member of his family, ⁴⁰they still remain his slaves, even after they have been bought back by a brother, ⁴¹or anyone from the extended family. They may also redeem themselves. ⁴²They will negotiate the price of their freedom with the one who bought them. The price is to be determined by the number of years from the time they were sold until the Year of Jubilee—whatever it would cost for that period of time. ⁴³If many years still remain, they will repay the proper proportion when they sold themselves. ⁴⁴Until the Year of Jubilee, they will remain their redemption. ⁴⁵The foreigner workers hired on a yearly basis will not be treated any of your fellow Israelites have not been bought back. ⁴⁶When the Jubilee arrives, they and their children will be free. ⁴⁷For the people of Israel are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt to be your God.

the term (literally round things) probably alludes to dung.

Blessings for Obedience ²⁶Do not make idols or set up carved images, or sacred pillars, or sculptured stones in your land so you may worship them. I am the Lord your God. ²⁷You must keep the Sabbath days of rest and show reverence for my sanctuaries. I am the Lord.

²⁸If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ²⁹I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. ³⁰Your threshing season will overlap with the harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land.

³¹I will give you peace in the land, and you will be able to live with no cause for fear. I will rid the land of wild animals and keep your enemies out of your land. ³²In fact, you will chase down your enemies and slaughter them with your bows. ³³Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall before your sword.

³⁴I will look favorably upon you, making you fertile and increasing your people. And I will fulfill my covenant with you. ³⁵You will have such a surplus of crops that you will clear out the old grain to make room for the new. ³⁶I will live among you, and I will not despise you. ³⁷I will walk among you; I will be your God, and you will be my people. ³⁸I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so you would no longer be their slaves. I will yoke of slavery from your neck so you can walk with your heads held high.

Punishments for Disobedience

³⁹However, if you do not listen to me or obey all these commands, and if you break my covenant by rejecting my decrees, treating my regulations with contempt, and refusing to obey my commands, ⁴⁰I will punish you. I will bring sudden disasters upon you—wasting diseases and burning fevers that will cause your eyes to fail and your life to ebb away. ⁴¹I will plant your crops in vain because your enemies will steal them. ⁴²I will turn against you, and you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will even when no one is chasing you!

⁴³And if, in spite of all this, you still disobey me, I will inflict seven times over for your sins. ⁴⁴I will break your spirit by making the skies as unyielding as iron and as hard as bronze. ⁴⁵All your work will be for nothing, for your land will yield no crops, and your trees will bear

⁴⁶Even then you remain hostile toward me and refuse to listen to me. I will inflict disaster on you seven times over for your sins. ⁴⁷I will send wild animals that will rob you of your food and destroy your livestock. Your numbers will decrease, and your roads will be deserted.

⁴⁸If you fail to learn the lesson and continue your hostility toward me, ⁴⁹then I myself will be hostile toward you personally. I will strike you with calamity seven times over for your sins. ⁵⁰I will send armies against you to carry out the curse of the covenant you have broken. When you flee to your towns for safety, I will send a plague to destroy you, and you will be handed over to your enemies. ⁵¹I will deprive your food supply, so that ten women will need to be given to bake bread for their families. They will ration food by weight, and though you have food to eat, you will not be satisfied.

⁵²Even though all this you still refuse to listen and still re-

main hostile toward me, ⁵³then I will give full vent to my hostility. I myself will punish you seven times over for your sins. ⁵⁴Then you will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters. ⁵⁵I will destroy your pagan shrines and knock down your places of worship. I will leave your lifeless corpses piled on top of your lifeless idols,* and I will despise you. ⁵⁶I will make your cities desolate and destroy your places of pagan worship. I will take no pleasure in your offerings that should be a pleasing aroma to me. ⁵⁷Yes, I myself will devastate your land, and your enemies who come to occupy it will be appalled at what they see. ⁵⁸I will scatter you among the nations and bring out my sword against you. Your land will become desolate, and your cities will lie in ruins. ⁵⁹Then at last the land will enjoy its neglected Sabbath years as it lies desolate while you are in exile in the land of your enemies. Then the land will finally rest and enjoy the Sabbath it missed. ⁶⁰As long as the land lies in ruins, it will enjoy the rest you never allowed it to take every seventh year while you lived in it.

⁶¹And for those of you who survive, I will demoralize you in the land of your enemies. You will live in such fear that the sound of a leaf driven by the wind will send you fleeing. You will run as though fleeing from a sword, and you will fall even when no one pursues you. ⁶²Though no one is chasing you, you will stumble over each other as though fleeing from a sword. You will have no power to stand up against your enemies. ⁶³You will die among the foreign nations and be devoured in the land of your enemies. ⁶⁴Those of you who survive will waste away in your enemies' lands because of their sins and the sins of their ancestors.

⁶⁵But at last my people will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors for betraying me and being hostile toward me. ⁶⁶When I have turned their hostility back on them and brought them to the land of their enemies, then at last their stubborn hearts will be humbled, and they will pay for their sins. ⁶⁷Then I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. ⁶⁸For the land must be abandoned to enjoy its years of Sabbath rest as it lies deserted. At last the people will pay for their sins, for they have continually rejected my regulations and despised my decrees.

⁶⁹But despite all this, I will not utterly reject or despise them while they are in exile in the land of their enemies. I will not cancel my covenant with them by wiping them out, for I am the Lord their God. ⁷⁰For their sakes I will remember my ancient covenant with their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of all the nations, that I might be their God. I am the Lord.”

⁷¹These are the decrees, regulations, and instructions that the Lord gave through Moses on Mount Sinai as evidence of the relationship between himself and the Israelites.

Redemption of Gifts Offered to the Lord

27 The Lord said to Moses, “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. If anyone makes a special vow to dedicate someone to the Lord by paying the value of that person, ²here is the scale of values to be used. A man between the ages of twenty and sixty is valued at fifty shekels* of silver, as measured by the sanctuary shekel. ³A woman of that age is valued at thirty shekels* of silver. ⁴A boy between the ages of five and twenty is valued at twenty shekels of silver; a girl of that age is valued at ten shekels* of silver. ⁵A boy between the ages of one month and five years is valued at five shekels of silver; a girl of that age is valued at three shekels* of silver. ⁶A man older than sixty is valued at fifteen shekels of silver; a woman of that age is valued at ten

^{27:3} Or 20 ounces [570 grams]. ^{27:4} Or 12 ounces [342 grams]. ^{27:5} Or 228 grams of silver; a girl . . . 4 ounces [114 grams]. ^{27:6} Or A boy . . . 2 ounces [57 grams] of silver; a girl . . . 1.2 ounces [34 grams].

shekels* of silver. ⁸If you desire to make such a vow but cannot afford to pay the required amount, take the person to the priest. He will determine the amount for you to pay based on what you can afford.

⁹If your vow involves giving an animal that is acceptable as an offering to the **Lord**, any gift to the **Lord** will be considered holy. ¹⁰You may not exchange or substitute it for another animal—neither a good animal for a bad one nor a bad animal for a good one. But if you do exchange one animal for another, then both the original animal and its substitute will be considered holy. ¹¹If your vow involves an unclean animal—one that is not acceptable as an offering to the **Lord**—then you must bring the animal to the priest. ¹²He will assess its value, and his assessment will be final, whether high or low. ¹³If you want to buy back the animal, you must pay the value set by the priest, plus 20 percent.

¹⁴If someone dedicates a house to the LORD, the priest will come to assess its value. The priest's assessment will be final, whether high or low. ¹⁵If the person who dedicated the house wants to buy it back, he must pay the value set by the priest, plus 20 percent. Then the house will again be his.

¹⁶If someone dedicates to the LORD a piece of his family property, its value will be assessed according to the amount of seed required to plant it—fifty shekels of silver for a field planted with five bushels of barley seed.* ¹⁷If the field is dedicated to the LORD in the Year of Jubilee, then the entire assessment will apply. ¹⁸But if the field is dedicated after the Year of Jubilee, the priest will assess the land's value in proportion to the number of years left until the next Year of Jubilee. Its assessed value is reduced each year. ¹⁹If the person who dedicated the field wants to buy it back, he must pay the value set by the priest, plus 20 percent. Then the field will again be legally his. ²⁰But if he does not want to buy it back, and it is sold to someone else, the field can no longer be bought back. ²¹When the field is released in the Year of Jubilee, it will be holy, a field

27:7 Or *A man . . . 6 ounces* [171 grams] *of silver; a woman . . . 4 ounces* [114 grams]. **27:16** Hebrew *50 shekels* [20 ounces, or 570 grams] *of silver for a homer* [182 liters] *of barley seed.* **27:21** The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration of things or people to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in 27:28, 29. **27:25** Each shekel was about 0.4 ounces [11 grams] in weight.

specially set apart* for the LORD. It will become the property of the priests.

²²If someone dedicates to the LORD a field he has purchased but which is not part of his family property, ²³the priest will assess its value based on the number of years left until the next Year of Jubilee. On that day he must give the assessed value of the land as a sacred donation to the LORD. ²⁴In the Year of Jubilee the field must be returned to the person from whom he purchased it, the one who inherited it as family property. ²⁵All the payments must be measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel,* which equals twenty gerahs.)

²⁶"You may not dedicate a firstborn animal to the Lord for the firstborn of your cattle, sheep, and goats already belong to him. ²⁷However, you may buy back the firstborn of a ceremonially unclean animal by paying the priest's assessment of its worth, plus 20 percent. If you do not buy it back, the priest will sell it at its assessed value.

²⁸However, anything specially set apart for the LORD—whether a person, an animal, or family property—must never be sold or bought back. Anything devoted in this way has been set apart as holy, and it belongs to the LORD. ²⁹No person specially set apart for destruction may be bought back. Such a person must be put to death.

³⁰One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy. ³¹If you want to buy back the Lord's tenth of the grain or fruit, you must pay its value, plus 20 percent. ³²Count off every tenth animal from your herds and flocks and set them apart for the Lord as holy. ³³You may not pick and choose between good and bad animals, and you may not substitute one for another. But if you do exchange one animal for another, then both the original animal and its substitute will be considered holy and cannot be bought back."

³⁴These are the commands that the LORD gave through Moses on Mount Sinai for the Israelites.

NUMBERS

Author Moses, according to tradition
Date Written 1450–1410 B.C.

Content The discontented whining of a young child whining of the Israelites in the wilderness closed up where Exodus leaves off—with the Israelites journeyed to the wilderness of to explore the Promised Land and give a report camp, their report was not favorable. The people their inheritance, and they complained again to wander in the wilderness until the general took their place. Forty years later they slowly to obey God's commands. After winning some Israelites prepared to enter the heart of the Promised Land.

Registration of Israel's Troops

A year after Israel's departure from Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in the Tabernacle* in the wilderness of Sinai. On the first day of the second month* of that year he said, "From the whole community of Israel, record the names of all the warriors by their clans and families. List all the men twenty years old or older who are able to go to war. And Aaron must register the troops, ⁴and you will be assisted by one family leader from each tribe. These are the tribes and the names of the leaders who

assist you: <http://www.ams.org/ams/amsinfo/amsinfo.html>

<i>Tribe</i>	<i>Leader</i>
Reuben	Elizur son of Shedeur
Simeon	Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai
Tudah	Nahshon son of Amminadab
Issachar	Nethanel son of Zuar
Zebulun	Eliaab son of Helon
Ephraim son of Joseph	Elishama son of Ammihud
Manasseh son of Joseph	Gamaliel son of Pedahzur
Benjamin	Abidan son of Gideon
Dan	Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai
Asher	Pagiel son of Ocran
Sad	Eliasaph son of Deuel
Naphtali	Ahirah son of Enan

These are the chosen leaders of the community, the leaders of their ancestral tribes, the heads of the clans of Israel."

So Moses and Aaron called together these chosen leaders and they assembled the whole community of Israel on every day.* All the people were registered according to ancestry by their clans and families. The men of Israel were twenty years old or older were listed one by one, as the Lord had commanded Moses. So Moses recorded their names in the wilderness of Sinai.

This is the number of men twenty years old or older who were able to go to war, as their names were listed in the heads of their clans and families*:

Tribe	Number
Reuben (Jacob's* oldest son)	46,500
Simeon	59,300
Gad	45,650

1:1b This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar month; see 1:1. **1:20-21a** In the Hebrew text, this sentence (*This is the number*) is listed in the records of their clans and families) is repeated in 1:22, 24, 26, 28, and 'Israel' are often interchanged throughout the Old Testament, referring sometimes to the Tent of Meeting. **1:53** **2:2** Hebrew, *the Tent of the Tabernacle of the Testimony*; also in 1:53.

the LORD. It will become the property of the LORD for twenty years, based on the number of years left to the tithe. On that day he must give the field as a sacred donation to the LORD. The field must be returned to the person who purchased it, the one who inherited it. The payments must be measured in a regular shekel,* which equals twenty-five grams. You may sacrifice a firstborn animal to the LORD: cattle, sheep, and goats already marked, you may buy back the firstborn animal by paying the priest's assessment of 20 percent. If you do not buy it back, it will be assessed value.

Any animal specially set apart for the LORD—cattle, sheep, or goats—must not be sold back. Anything devoted in this way, and it belongs to the LORD, must not be put to death.

Any produce of the land, whether from the trees, belongs to the LORD. If you offer him as holy,³¹ if you want to offer grain or fruit, you must sacrifice it to the LORD.

Count off every tenth animal from the herd and set them apart for the LORD. Then choose between good and bad, and substitute one for another. If you substitute one for another, then both the animals will be considered holy.

Commandments that the LORD gave to Moses for the Israelites.

(20 ounces, or 570 grams) of silver for things or people to the LORD, either in (11 grams) in weight.

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NUMBERS

Author Moses, according to tradition
Written 1450–1410 B.C.

Content The discontented whining of a young child can be difficult to ignore. Likewise, the childlike whining of the Israelites in the wilderness characterizes the book of Numbers. This book picks up where Exodus leaves off—with the Israelites camped at the base of Mount Sinai. From here the Israelites journeyed to the wilderness of Paran, south of the Promised Land. Scouts were sent to explore the Promised Land and give a report on its inhabitants. When they returned to the camp, their report was not favorable. The people began to doubt God's ability to give them their inheritance, and they complained against him. Because of their sin, God condemned them to wander in the wilderness until the generation of complainers died off and a new generation took their place. Forty years later they slowly made their way back to Canaan—this time ready to obey God's commands. After winning some important battles east of the Jordan River, the Israelites prepared to enter the heart of the Promised Land they had waited so long to see.

Organization of Israel's Troops

26-27	Judah	74,600
28-29	Issachar	54,400
30-31	Zebulun	57,400
32-33	Ephraim son of Joseph	40,500
34-35	Manasseh son of Joseph	32,200
36-37	Benjamin	35,400
38-39	Dan	62,700
40-41	Asher	41,500
42-43	Naphtali	53,400

⁴⁴These were the men registered by Moses and Aaron and the twelve leaders of Israel, all listed according to their ancestral descent. ⁴⁵They were registered by families—all the men of Israel who were twenty years old or older and able to go to war. ⁴⁶The total number was 603,550.

⁴⁷But this total did not include the Levites. ⁴⁸For the LORD had said to Moses, ⁴⁹"Do not include the tribe of Levi in the registration; do not count them with the rest of the Israelites. ⁵⁰Put the Levites in charge of the Tabernacle of the Covenant* along with all its furnishings and equipment. They must carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings as you travel, and they must take care of it and camp around it. ⁵¹Whenever it is time for the Tabernacle to move, the Levites will take it down. And when it is time to stop, they will set it up again. But any unauthorized person who goes too near the Tabernacle must be put to death. ⁵²Each tribe of Israel will camp in a designated area with its own family banner. ⁵³But the Levites will camp around the Tabernacle of the Covenant to protect the community of Israel from the LORD's anger. The Levites are responsible to stand guard around the Tabernacle."

⁵⁴So the Israelites did everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Organization for Israel's Camp

2 Then the LORD gave these instructions to Moses and Aaron: ²"When the Israelites set up camp, each tribe will be assigned its own area. The tribal divisions will camp beneath their family banners on all four sides of the Tabernacle,* but at some distance from it.

³⁻⁴The divisions of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun are to camp toward the sunrise on the east side of the Tabernacle.

^{1:18} Hebrew *on the first day of the Tent of Meeting*. ^{1:1b} This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in April or May. ^{1:18} Hebrew *on the first day of the month in the first year of the Tent of Meeting*. ^{1:20-21a} In the Hebrew text, this sentence (*This is the number of men twenty years old or older who were able to go to war, as their names are recorded in the records of their clans and families*) is repeated in 1:22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42. ^{1:20-21b} Hebrew *Israel's*. The names of the twelve tribes of the nation are often interchanged throughout the Old Testament, referring sometimes to the individual patriarch and sometimes to the nation.

^{2:2} Hebrew *the Tent of Meeting*; also in 2:17.

beneath their family banners. These are the names of the tribes, their leaders, and the numbers of their registered troops:

Tribe	Leader	Number
Judah	Nahshon son of Amminadab	74,600
5-6 Issachar	Nethanel son of Zuar	54,400
7-8 Zebulun	Eliab son of Helon	57,400

⁹So the total of all the troops on Judah's side of the camp is 186,400. These three tribes are to lead the way whenever the Israelites travel to a new campsite.

¹⁰⁻¹¹The divisions of Reuben, Simeon, and Gad are to camp on the south side of the Tabernacle, beneath their family banners. These are the names of the tribes, their leaders, and the numbers of their registered troops:

Tribe	Leader	Number
Reuben	Elizur son of Shedeur	46,500
12-13 Simeon	Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai	59,300
14-15 Gad	Eliasaph son of Deuel*	45,650

¹⁶So the total of all the troops on Reuben's side of the camp is 151,450. These three tribes will be second in line whenever the Israelites travel.

¹⁷Then the Tabernacle, carried by the Levites, will set out from the middle of the camp. All the tribes are to travel in the same order that they camp, each in position under the appropriate family banner.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹The divisions of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin are to camp on the west side of the Tabernacle, beneath their family banners. These are the names of the tribes, their leaders, and the numbers of their registered troops:

Tribe	Leader	Number
Ephraim	Eliashama son of Ammihud	40,500
20-21 Manasseh	Gamaliel son of Pedahzur	32,200
22-23 Benjamin	Abidan son of Gideoni	35,400

²⁴So the total of all the troops on Ephraim's side of the camp is 108,100. These three tribes will be third in line whenever the Israelites travel.

²⁵⁻²⁶The divisions of Dan, Asher, and Naphtali are to camp on the north side of the Tabernacle, beneath their family banners. These are the names of the tribes, their leaders, and the numbers of their registered troops:

Tribe	Leader	Number
Dan	Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai	62,700
27-28 Asher	Pagiel son of Ocran	41,500
29-30 Naphtali	Ahira son of Enan	53,400

³¹So the total of all the troops on Dan's side of the camp is 157,600. These three tribes will be last, marching under their banners whenever the Israelites travel."

³²In summary, the troops of Israel listed by their families totaled 603,550. ³³But as the LORD had commanded, the Levites were not included in this registration. ³⁴So the people of Israel did everything as the LORD had commanded Moses. Each clan and family set up camp and marched under their banners exactly as the LORD had instructed them.

Levites Appointed for Service

3 This is the family line of Aaron and Moses as it was recorded when the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai: ²The names of Aaron's sons were Nadab (the oldest), Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ³These sons of Aaron were anointed and ordained to minister as priests. ⁴But Nadab and Abihu

^{2:14-15} As in many Hebrew manuscripts, Samaritan Pentateuch, and Latin Vulgate (see also 1:14); most Hebrew manuscripts read son of Reuel. ^{3:7} Hebrew the Tent of Meeting; also in 3:25. ^{3:28} Some Greek manuscripts read & son total in 3:39.

died in the LORD's presence in the wilderness of Sinai when they burned before the Lord the wrong kind of fire, different than he had commanded. Since they had no sons, this left only Eleazar and Ithamar to serve as priests with their father, Aaron.

⁵Then the Lord said to Moses, ⁶"Call forward the tribe of Levi, and present them to Aaron the priest to serve as his assistants. ⁷They will serve Aaron and the whole community performing their sacred duties in and around the Tabernacle.* ⁸They will also maintain all the furnishings of the sacred tent,* serving in the Tabernacle on behalf of all the Israelites. ⁹Assign the Levites to Aaron and his sons. They have been given from among all the people of Israel to serve as their assistants. ¹⁰Appoint Aaron and his sons to carry out the duties of the priesthood. But any unauthorized person who goes too near the sanctuary must be put to death."

¹¹And the Lord said to Moses, ¹²"Look, I have chosen the Levites from among the Israelites to serve as substitutes for all the firstborn sons of the people of Israel. The Levites belong to me, ¹³for all the firstborn males are mine. On the day I struck down all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians, I set apart for myself all the firstborn in Israel, both of people and of animals. They are mine; I am the Lord."

Registration of the Levites

¹⁴The Lord spoke again to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai. He said, ¹⁵"Record the names of the members of the tribe of Levi by their families and clans. List every male who is one month old or older." ¹⁶So Moses listed them, just as the Lord had commanded.

¹⁷Levi had three sons, whose names were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁸The clans descended from Gershon were named after two of his descendants, Libni and Shimei.

¹⁹The clans descended from Kohath were named after four of his descendants, Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

²⁰The clans descended from Merari were named after two of his descendants, Mahli and Mushi.

These were the Levite clans, listed according to their family groups.

²¹The descendants of Gershon were composed of the clans descended from Libni and Shimei. ²²There were 7,500 males one month old or older among these Gershonite clans. ²³They were assigned the area to the west of the Tabernacle for their camp. ²⁴The leader of the Gershonite clans was Eliasaph son of Lael. ²⁵These two clans were responsible to care for the Tabernacle, including the sanctuary with its layers of coverings, the curtain at its entrance, and the curtains of the courtyard that surrounded the Tabernacle and altar, the curtain at the courtyard entrance, and all the equipment related to their use.

²⁶The descendants of Kohath were composed of the clans descended from Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

²⁷There were 8,600* males one month old or older among these Kohathite clans. They were responsible for the sanctuary, ²⁸and they were assigned the area south of the Tabernacle for their camp. ²⁹The leader of the Kohathite clans was Elizaphan son of Uzziel. ³⁰These four clans were responsible for the care of the Ark, the table, the stand, the altars, the various articles used in the sanctuary, the inner curtain, and all the equipment related to them.

³¹Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

³²Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

³³Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

³⁴Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

³⁵Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

³⁶Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

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³⁸Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

³⁹Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

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⁴¹Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

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⁴⁷Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

⁴⁸Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

⁴⁹Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

⁵⁰Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, was the chief administrator of the Tabernacle.

over all the Levites, with special responsibility for the oversight of the sanctuary.

⁵¹The descendants of Merari were composed of the clans descended from Mahli and Mushi. ⁵²There were 6,200 males one month old or older among these Merarite clans.

⁵³They were assigned the area north of the Tabernacle for their camp. The leader of the Merarite clans was Zuriel son of Abihail.

⁵⁴These two clans were responsible for the care of the frames supporting the Tabernacle, the crossbars, the pillars, the bases, and all the equipment related to their use. ⁵⁵They were also responsible for the posts of the courtyard and all their bases, pegs, and ropes.

⁵⁶The area in front of the Tabernacle, in the east toward the sunrise,* was reserved for the tents of Moses and of Aaron and his sons, who had the final responsibility for the care of the Tabernacle on behalf of the people of Israel. Anyone other than a priest or Levite who went too near the sanctuary was to be put to death.

⁵⁷When Moses and Aaron counted the Levite clans at the Lord's command, the total number was 22,000 males one month old or older.

Redeeming the Firstborn Sons

⁵⁸Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now count all the firstborn sons in Israel who are one month old or older, and make a list of their names. ⁵⁹The Levites must be reserved for me as substitutes for the firstborn sons of Israel; I am the Lord. And the Levites' livestock must be reserved for me as substitutes for the firstborn livestock of the whole nation of Israel."

⁶⁰So Moses counted the firstborn sons of the people of Israel, just as the Lord had commanded. ⁶¹The number of firstborn sons who were one month old or older was 273.

⁶²Then the Lord said to Moses, ⁶³"Take the Levites as substitutes for the firstborn sons of the people of Israel. And the livestock of the Levites as substitutes for the firstborn livestock of the people of Israel. The Levites belong to me, I am the Lord." ⁶⁴There are 273 more firstborn sons of Israel than there are Levites. To redeem these extra firstborn sons, collect five pieces of silver* for each of them (each weighing the same as the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs). ⁶⁵Give the silver to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for the extra firstborn sons."

⁶⁶Moses collected the silver for redeeming the firstborn sons of Israel who exceeded the number of Levites. He collected 1,365 pieces of silver* on behalf of these firstborn sons of Israel (each piece weighing the same as the sanctuary shekel). ⁶⁷And Moses gave the silver for the redemption to Aaron and his sons, just as the Lord had commanded.

Levites of the Kohathite Clan

⁶⁸Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ⁶⁹"Record the names of the members of the clans and families of the Kohathite division of the tribe of Levi. ⁷⁰List all the men between the ages of thirty and fifty who are eligible to serve in the Tabernacle."

⁷¹The duties of the Kohathites at the Tabernacle will relate to the most sacred objects. ⁷²When the camp moves, Aaron and his sons must enter the Tabernacle first to take down the inner curtain and cover the Ark of the Covenant* with it. ⁷³They must cover the inner curtain with fine goatskin and spread over that a single piece of blue cloth. ⁷⁴They must put the carrying poles of the Ark in place.

⁷⁵They must then carry the Ark toward the sunrise, in front of the Tent of Meeting. ⁷⁶And when the camp moves, the Levites must carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁷⁷They must also carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁷⁸They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁷⁹They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸⁰They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸¹They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸²They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸³They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸⁴They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸⁵They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸⁶They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸⁷They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸⁸They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁸⁹They must then carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings. ⁹⁰They 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the wilderness of Sinai where the wrong kind of fire, different from the fire used in the Tabernacle, was to be used. Since they had no sons, they were to serve as priests with the tribe of Levi.

6 "Call forward the tribe of Levi and the priest to serve as his assistant and the whole community in and around the Tabernacle on behalf of all the people of Israel to serve Aaron and his sons. The entire people of Israel are to serve Aaron and his sons to carry out all the unauthorized persons who may be put to death."

7 "Look, I have chosen the Levites to serve as substitutes for the people of Israel. The Levites are mine. On the day when I bring them into Israel, both of them I am the LORD."

8 In the wilderness of Sinai, the members of the tribe of Levi listed them, just as the

names were Gershon, Kohath,

Gershon were named after

Ibn and Shimei.

Kohath were named after

Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and

Merari were named after

Mushi.

10 All the Levites listed according to their

11 Gershon were composed of

Ibn and Shimei. 12 There

13 or older among these Gershonites were assigned the area to the west of the Tabernacle, including the

14 leader of the Gershonites, Uzziel. 15 These two clans were responsible for

16 the Tabernacle, including the

17 curtains at its entrance, the

18 courtyard entrance, and

19 the Tabernacle entrance related to their

20 Kohathites were composed of

Ibn, Izhar, Hebron, and

21 one month old or older.

22 They were responsible for

23 the Tabernacle, including the

24 curtains at its entrance,

25 the courtyard entrance,

26 and the Tabernacle entrance.

27 These two clans were assigned the area to the west of the Tabernacle, including the

28 Tabernacle, including the

29 curtains at its entrance,

30 the courtyard entrance,

31 and the Tabernacle entrance.

32 These two clans were assigned the area to the west of the Tabernacle, including the

33 Tabernacle, including the

34 curtains at its entrance,

35 the courtyard entrance,

36 and the Tabernacle entrance.

37 These two clans were assigned the area to the west of the Tabernacle, including the

38 Tabernacle, including the

39 curtains at its entrance,

40 the courtyard entrance,

41 and the Tabernacle entrance.

42 These two clans were assigned the area to the west of the Tabernacle, including the

43 Tabernacle, including the

44 curtains at its entrance,

45 the courtyard entrance,

46 and the Tabernacle entrance.

47 These two clans were assigned the area to the west of the Tabernacle, including the

48 Tabernacle, including the

49 curtains at its entrance,

50 the courtyard entrance,

51 and the Tabernacle entrance.

52 over all the Levites, with special responsibility for the oversight of the sanctuary.

53 The descendants of Merari were composed of the clans descended from Mahli and Mushi. 54 There were 6,200 males one month old or older among these Merarite clans. 55 They were assigned the area north of the Tabernacle for their camp. The leader of the Merarite clans was Zuriel son of Abihail. 56 These two clans were responsible for the care of the frames supporting the Tabernacle, the crossbars, the pillars, the bases, and all the equipment related to their use. 57 They were also responsible for the posts of the courtyard and all their bases, pegs, and ropes.

58 The area in front of the Tabernacle, in the east toward the sunrise,* was reserved for the tents of Moses and of Aaron and his sons, who had the final responsibility for the sanctuary on behalf of the people of Israel. Anyone other than a priest or Levite who went too near the sanctuary was to be put to death.

59 When Moses and Aaron counted the Levite clans at the command, the total number was 22,000 males one month old or older.

Redeeming the Firstborn Sons

60 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now count all the firstborn sons in Israel who are one month old or older, and make a list of their names. 61 The Levites must be reserved as substitutes for the firstborn sons of Israel; I am the LORD. And the Levites' livestock must be reserved as substitutes for the firstborn livestock of the whole nation of Israel."

62 So Moses counted the firstborn sons of the people of Israel just as the LORD had commanded. 63 The number of firstborn sons who were one month old or older was 22,300.

64 Then the LORD said to Moses, 65 "Take the Levites as substitutes for the firstborn sons of the people of Israel. And the livestock of the Levites as substitutes for the firstborn livestock of the people of Israel. The Levites belong to me, the LORD. 66 There are 273 more firstborn sons of Israel than there are Levites. To redeem these extra firstborn sons, collect five pieces of silver* for each of them (each weighing the same as the sanctuary shekel, which is twenty gerahs). 67 Give the silver to Aaron and his sons as a redemption price for the extra firstborn sons."

68 Moses collected the silver for redeeming the firstborn sons of Israel who exceeded the number of Levites. He collected 1,365 pieces of silver* on behalf of these extra sons of Israel (each piece weighing the same as the sanctuary shekel). 69 And Moses gave the silver for the redemption to Aaron and his sons, just as the LORD had commanded.

of the Kohathite Clan

70 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 71 "Record the names of the members of the clans and families of the Kohathite division of the tribe of Levi. 72 List all the men between the ages of thirty and fifty who are eligible to serve in the Tabernacle."

73 The duties of the Kohathites at the Tabernacle will relate to the most sacred objects. 74 When the camp moves, Aaron and his sons must enter the Tabernacle first to take down the curtain and cover the Ark of the Covenant* with it. 75 They must cover the inner curtain with fine goatskin leather and spread over that a single piece of blue cloth. 76 They must put the carrying poles of the Ark in place.

77 Toward the sunrise, in front of the Tent of Meeting.

78 3:47 Hebrew 5 shekels (2 ounces or 57 grams).

79 4:3 Hebrew the Tent of Meeting; also in 4:4, 15, 23, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 47.

80 Next they must spread a blue cloth over the table where the Bread of the Presence is displayed, and on the cloth they will place the bowls, pans, jars, pitchers, and the special bread. 81 They must spread a scarlet cloth over all of this, and finally a covering of fine goatskin leather on top of the scarlet cloth. Then they must insert the carrying poles into the table.

82 Next they must cover the lampstand with a blue cloth, along with its lamps, lamp snuffers, trays, and special jars of olive oil. 83 Then they must cover the lampstand and its accessories with fine goatskin leather and place the bundle on a carrying frame.

84 Next they must spread a blue cloth over the gold incense altar and cover this cloth with fine goatskin leather. Then they must attach the carrying poles to the altar. 85 They must take all the remaining furnishings of the sanctuary and wrap them in a blue cloth, cover them with fine goatskin leather, and place them on the carrying frame.

86 They must remove the ashes from the altar for sacrifices and cover the altar with a purple cloth. 87 All the altar utensils—the firepans, meat forks, shovels, basins, and all the containers—must be placed on the cloth, and a covering of fine goatskin leather must be spread over them. Finally, they must put the carrying poles in place. 88 The camp will be ready to move when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the sacred articles. The Kohathites will come and carry these things to the next destination. But they must not touch the sacred objects, or they will die. So these are the things from the Tabernacle that the Kohathites must carry.

89 Eleazar son of Aaron the priest will be responsible for the oil of the lampstand, the fragrant incense, the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil. In fact, Eleazar will be responsible for the entire Tabernacle and everything in it, including the sanctuary and its furnishings."

90 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 91 "Do not let the Kohathite clans be destroyed from among the Levites! 92 This is what you must do so they will live and not die when they approach the most sacred objects. Aaron and his sons must always go in with them and assign a specific duty or load to each person. 93 The Kohathites must never enter the sanctuary to look at the sacred objects for even a moment, or they will die."

Duties of the Gershonite Clan

94 Then the LORD said to Moses, 95 "Record the names of the members of the clans and families of the Gershonite division of the tribe of Levi. 96 List all the men between the ages of thirty and fifty who are eligible to serve in the Tabernacle.

97 These Gershonite clans will be responsible for general service and carrying loads. 98 They must carry the curtains of the Tabernacle, the Tabernacle itself with its coverings, the outer covering of fine goatskin leather, and the curtain for the Tabernacle entrance. 99 They are also to carry the curtains for the courtyard walls that surround the Tabernacle and altar, the curtain across the courtyard entrance, the ropes, and all the equipment related to their use. The Gershonites are responsible for all these items. 100 Aaron and his sons will direct the Gershonites regarding all their duties, whether it involves moving the equipment or doing other work. They must assign the Gershonites responsibility for the loads they are to carry. 101 So these are the duties assigned to the Gershonite clans at the Tabernacle. They will be directly responsible to Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

102 Toward the sunrise, in front of the Tent of Meeting.

103 3:50 Hebrew 1,365 shekels (34 pounds).

104 4:5 Or Ark of the Testimony.

Duties of the Merarite Clan

²⁹Now record the names of the members of the clans and families of the Merarite division of the tribe of Levi. ³⁰List all the men between the ages of thirty and fifty who are eligible to serve in the Tabernacle.

³¹Their only duty at the Tabernacle will be to carry loads. They will carry the frames of the Tabernacle, the crossbars, the posts, and the bases; ³²also the posts for the courtyard walls with their bases, pegs, and ropes; and all the accessories and everything else related to their use. Assign the various loads to each man by name. ³³So these are the duties of the Merarite clans at the Tabernacle. They are directly responsible to Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

Summary of the Registration

³⁴So Moses, Aaron, and the other leaders of the community listed the members of the Kohathite division by their clans and families. ³⁵The list included all the men between thirty and fifty years of age who were eligible for service in the Tabernacle, ³⁶and the total number came to 2,750. ³⁷So this was the total of all those from the Kohathite clans who were eligible to serve at the Tabernacle. Moses and Aaron listed them, just as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

³⁸The Gershonite division was also listed by its clans and families. ³⁹The list included all the men between thirty and fifty years of age who were eligible for service in the Tabernacle, ⁴⁰and the total number came to 2,630. ⁴¹So this was the total of all those from the Gershonite clans who were eligible to serve at the Tabernacle. Moses and Aaron listed them, just as the Lord had commanded.

⁴²The Merarite division was also listed by its clans and families. ⁴³The list included all the men between thirty and fifty years of age who were eligible for service in the Tabernacle, ⁴⁴and the total number came to 3,200. ⁴⁵So this was the total of all those from the Merarite clans who were eligible for service. Moses and Aaron listed them, just as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

⁴⁶So Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel listed all the Levites by their clans and families. ⁴⁷All the men between thirty and fifty years of age who were eligible for service in the Tabernacle and for its transportation ⁴⁸numbered 8,580. ⁴⁹When their names were recorded, as the Lord had commanded through Moses, each man was assigned his task and told what to carry.

And so the registration was completed, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Purity in Israel's Camp

5 The Lord gave these instructions to Moses: ²Command the people of Israel to remove from the camp anyone who has a skin disease* or a discharge, or who has become ceremonially unclean by touching a dead person. ³This command applies to men and women alike. Remove them so they will not defile the camp in which I live among them." ⁴So the Israelites did as the Lord had commanded Moses and removed such people from the camp.

⁵Then the Lord said to Moses, ⁶"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If any of the people—men or women—betray the Lord by doing wrong to another person, they are guilty. ⁷They must confess their sin and make full restitution for what they have done, adding an additional 20 percent and returning it to the person who was wronged. ⁸But if the person who was wronged is dead, and there are no near relatives to whom restitution can be made,

^{5:2} Traditionally rendered leprosy. The Hebrew word used here describes various skin diseases. ^{5:8} Or bring a ram for atonement, which will make atonement for them. ^{5:15} Hebrew $\frac{1}{10}$ of an ephah (2.2 liters). ^{5:21} Hebrew when he causes your thigh to waste away. ^{5:22} Hebrew and your thigh to waste away. ^{5:27} Hebrew and her thigh will waste away.

the payment belongs to the Lord and must be given to the priest. Those who are guilty must also bring a ram as a sacrifice, and they will be purified and made right with the Lord.* ⁹All the sacred offerings that the Israelites bring to a priest will belong to him. ¹⁰Each priest may keep all the sacred donations that he receives."

Protecting Marital Faithfulness

¹¹And the Lord said to Moses, ¹²"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel.

"Suppose a man's wife goes astray, and she is unfaithful to her husband ¹³and has sex with another man, but neither her husband nor anyone else knows about it. She has defiled herself, even though there was no witness and she was not caught in the act. ¹⁴If her husband becomes jealous and is suspicious of his wife and needs to know whether or not she has defiled herself, ¹⁵the husband must bring his wife to the priest. He must also bring an offering of two quarts* of barley flour to be presented on her behalf. Do not mix it with olive oil or frankincense, for it is a jealousy offering—an offering to prove whether or not she is guilty.

¹⁶The priest will then present her to stand trial before the Lord. ¹⁷He must take some holy water in a clay jar and pour into it dust he has taken from the Tabernacle floor. ¹⁸When the priest has presented the woman before the Lord, he must unbind her hair and place in her hands the offering of proof—the jealousy offering to determine whether her husband's suspicions are justified. The priest will stand before her, holding the jar of bitter water that brings a curse to those who are guilty. ¹⁹The priest will then put the woman under oath and say to her, 'If no other man has had sex with you, and you have not gone astray and defiled yourself while under your husband's authority, may you be immune from the effects of this bitter water that brings on the curse. ²⁰But if you have gone astray by being unfaithful to your husband, and have defiled yourself by having sex with another man—'

²¹At this point the priest must put the woman under oath by saying, 'May the people know that the Lord's curse is upon you when he makes you infertile, causing your womb to shrivel* and your abdomen to swell. ²²Now may this water that brings the curse enter your body and cause your abdomen to swell and your womb to shrink.* And the woman will be required to say, 'Yes, let it be so.' ²³And the priest will write these curses on a piece of leather and wash them off into the bitter water. ²⁴He will make the woman drink the bitter water that brings on the curse. When the water enters her body, it will cause bitter suffering if she is guilty.

²⁵The priest will take the jealousy offering from the woman's hand, lift it up before the Lord, and carry it to the altar. ²⁶He will take a handful of the flour as a token portion and burn it on the altar, and he will require the woman to drink the water. ²⁷If she has defiled herself by being unfaithful to her husband, the water that brings on the curse will cause bitter suffering. Her abdomen will swell and her womb will shrink,* and her name will become a curse among her people. ²⁸But if she has not defiled herself and is pure, then she will be unharmed and will still be able to have children.

²⁹This is the ritual law for dealing with suspicion. If a woman goes astray and defiles herself while under her husband's authority, ³⁰or if a man becomes jealous and is suspicious that his wife has been unfaithful, the husband must present his wife before the Lord, and the priest will apply

this entire ritual law to her. ³¹The husband will be innocent if any guilt in this matter, but his wife will be held accountable for her sin."

Nazirite Laws

6 Then the Lord said to Moses, ²"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel.

"If any of the people, either men or women, take the special vow of a Nazirite, setting themselves apart to the Lord in a special way, ³they must give up wine and other alcoholic drinks. They must not use vinegar made from wine or from other alcoholic drinks, they must not drink fresh grape juice, and they must not eat grapes or raisins. ⁴As long as they are bound by their Nazirite vow, they are not allowed to eat or drink anything that comes from a grapevine—not even the grape seeds or skins.

⁵They must never cut their hair throughout the time of their vow, for they are holy and set apart to the Lord. Until the time of their vow has been fulfilled, they must let their hair grow long. ⁶And they must not go near a dead body during the entire period of their vow to the Lord. ⁷Even if the dead person is their own father, mother, brother, or sister, they must not defile themselves, for the hair on their head is the symbol of their separation to God. ⁸This requirement applies as long as they are set apart to the Lord.

⁹If someone falls dead beside them, the hair they have dedicated will be defiled. They must wait for seven days and then shave their heads. Then they will be cleansed from their defilement. ¹⁰On the eighth day they must bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest at the entrance of the Tabernacle.* ¹¹The priest will offer one of the birds for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. In this way, he will purify them* from the guilt they incurred through contact with the dead body. Then they must reaffirm their commitment and let their hair begin to grow again. ¹²The days of their vow that were completed before their defilement no longer count. They must rededicate themselves to the Lord as a Nazirite for the full term of their vow and each must bring a one-year-old male lamb for a guilt offering.

¹³This is the ritual law for Nazirites. At the conclusion of their time of separation as Nazirites, they must each go to the entrance of the Tabernacle ¹⁴and offer their sacrifices to the Lord: a one-year-old male lamb without defect for a sin offering, a one-year-old female lamb without defect for a burnt offering, a ram without defect for a peace offering, a basket of bread made without yeast—cakes of choice flour mixed with olive oil and wafers spread with olive oil—along with their prescribed grain offerings and liquid offerings. ¹⁵The priest will present these offerings before the Lord: first the sin offering and the burnt offering; ¹⁶then the ram for a peace offering, along with the basket of bread made without yeast. The priest must also present the peace offering and liquid offering to the Lord.

¹⁷Then the Nazirites will shave their heads at the entrance of the Tabernacle. They will take the hair that had been dedicated and place it on the fire beneath the peace offering sacrifice. ¹⁸After the Nazirite's head has been shaved, the priest will take for each of them the boiled shoulder of the ram, and he will take from the basket a cake made with yeast and a wafer made without yeast. He will put them all into the Nazirite's hands. ¹⁹Then the priest will lift them up as a special offering before the Lord. These are holy portions for the priest, along with the breast of the special offering and

^{5:1} Hebrew the Tent of Meeting; also in 6:13, 18. ^{6:11} Or make atonement for them by a bull weighing 130 shekels (1.5 kilograms) and a silver basin weighing 70 shekels (0.75 kilograms). ^{5:21} Hebrew 10 shekels (114 grams); also in 7:20, 26, 32, 38, 44, 50, 56, 62, 68, 74, 80.

the LORD and must be given to the LORD. She must also bring a ram as a sacrifice, purified and made right with the offerings that the Israelites bring to the LORD. ¹⁰Each priest may keep all the sacrifices.

Faithfulness

tooses, ¹²“Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. ¹³If a wife goes astray, and she is unfaithful to her husband by having sex with another man, but neither she nor her husband know about it. She has defiled herself. There was no witness and she was not aware that her husband becomes jealous and she needs to know whether or not she has defiled herself. The priest must bring his wife to the priest, who will bring an offering of two quarts* of bitter water on her behalf. Do not mix it with any other water, for it is a jealousy offering—an offering for her if she is guilty.

en present her to stand trial before the priest. He will take some holy water in a clay jar and water is taken from the Tabernacle floor. He will present the woman before the priest, shave her hair and place in her hands the jealousy offering to determine if her suspicions are justified. The priest will hold the jar of bitter water for those who are guilty. ¹⁹The priest will then bathe and say to her, ‘If no other man has defiled you, and you have not gone astray and defiled yourself under your husband’s authority, then the effects of this bitter water will not affect you. But if you have gone astray by being unfaithful to your husband, and have defiled yourself under your husband’s authority, then the effects of this bitter water will affect you and your womb will swell. ²²Now may this water enter your body and cause your womb to shrivel.’ And the woman will say, ‘Yes, let it be so.’ ²³And the priest will take a piece of leather and wash the woman’s hair, and he will make the woman drink the water of the curse. When the water enters her, she will experience bitter suffering if she is guilty.

take the jealousy offering before the LORD, and carry a handful of the flour as a token offering, and he will require the woman to shave her head. She has defiled herself by being unfaithful to her husband, the water that brings on the curse. Her abdomen will swell and her name will become a curse, but if she has not defiled herself she will be unharmed and will still be able to bear children. ²⁷For the law for dealing with suspicion of unfaithfulness defiles herself while under suspicion. If a man becomes jealous and his wife has been unfaithful, the husband must bring the offering before the LORD, and the priest will take a ram for atonement, which will waste away. ²⁸Hebrew *and you*

thus entire ritual law to her. ³¹The husband will be innocent of any guilt in this matter, but his wife will be held accountable for her sin.”

Nazirite Laws

6 Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Give the following instructions to the people of Israel.

“If any of the people, either men or women, take the special vow of a Nazirite, setting themselves apart to the LORD in a special way, ³they must give up wine and other alcoholic drinks. They must not use vinegar made from wine or from other alcoholic drinks, they must not drink fresh grape juice, and they must not eat grapes or raisins. ⁴As long as they are bound by their Nazirite vow, they are not allowed to drink anything that comes from a grapevine—not even the grape seeds or skins.

“They must never cut their hair throughout the time of their vow, for they are holy and set apart to the LORD. Until the time of their vow has been fulfilled, they must let their hair grow long. ⁶And they must not go near a dead body during the entire period of their vow to the LORD. ⁷Even if the person is their own father, mother, brother, or sister, they must not defile themselves, for the hair on their head is a symbol of their separation to God. ⁸This requirement applies as long as they are set apart to the LORD.

“If someone falls dead beside them, the hair they have dedicated will be defiled. They must wait for seven days and shave their heads. Then they will be cleansed from defilement. ¹⁰On the eighth day they must bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest at the entrance of the Tabernacle.* ¹¹The priest will offer one of the birds for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. In this way he will purify them* from the guilt they incurred by contact with the dead body. Then they must reaffirm their commitment and let their hair begin to grow again. ¹³The days of their vow that were completed before defilement no longer count. They must rededicate themselves to the LORD as a Nazirite for the full term of their vow, and each must bring a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering.

This is the ritual law for Nazirites. At the conclusion of their time of separation as Nazirites, they must each go to the entrance of the Tabernacle ¹⁴and offer their sacrifices to the LORD: a one-year-old male lamb without defect for a sin offering, a one-year-old female lamb without defect for a burnt offering, a ram without defect for a peace offering, a basket of bread made without yeast—cakes of choice flour mixed with olive oil and wafers spread with olive oil—along with their prescribed grain offerings and liquid offerings. The priest will present these offerings before the LORD: the sin offering and the burnt offering; ¹⁷then for a peace offering, along with the basket of bread without yeast. The priest must also present the prescribed grain offering and liquid offering to the LORD.

Then the Nazirites will shave their heads at the entrance of the Tabernacle. They will take the hair that had been dedicated and place it on the fire beneath the peace offering sacrifice. ¹⁹After the Nazirite’s head has been shaved, the priest will take for each of them the boiled meat of the ram, and he will take from the basket a cake made without yeast. He will put them all into the hands. ²⁰Then the priest will lift them up as a special offering before the LORD. These are holy portions for the priest, along with the breast of the special offering and

the thigh of the sacred offering that are lifted up before the LORD. After this ceremony the Nazirites may again drink wine.

²¹This is the ritual law of the Nazirites, who vow to bring these offerings to the LORD. They may also bring additional offerings if they can afford it. And they must be careful to do whatever they vowed when they set themselves apart as Nazirites.”

The Priestly Blessing

22Then the LORD said to Moses, ²³“Tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people of Israel with this special blessing:

²⁴ ‘May the LORD bless you and protect you.

²⁵ May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

²⁶ May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.’

²⁷Whenever Aaron and his sons bless the people of Israel in my name, I myself will bless them.”

Offerings of Dedication

7 On the day Moses set up the Tabernacle, he anointed it and set it apart as holy. He also anointed and set apart all its furnishings and the altar with its utensils. ²Then the leaders of Israel—the tribal leaders who had registered the troops—came and brought their offerings. ³Together they brought six large wagons and twelve oxen. There was a wagon for every two leaders and an ox for each leader. They presented these to the LORD in front of the Tabernacle.

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, ⁵“Receive their gifts, and use these oxen and wagons for transporting the Tabernacle.* Distribute them among the Levites according to the work they have to do.” ⁶So Moses took the wagons and oxen and presented them to the Levites. ⁷He gave two wagons and four oxen to the Gershonite division for their work, ⁸and he gave four wagons and eight oxen to the Merarite division for their work. All their work was done under the leadership of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest. ⁹But he gave none of the wagons or oxen to the Kohathite division, since they were required to carry the sacred objects of the Tabernacle on their shoulders.

¹⁰The leaders also presented dedication gifts for the altar at the time it was anointed. They each placed their gifts before the altar. ¹¹The LORD said to Moses, “Let one leader bring his gift each day for the dedication of the altar.”

¹²On the first day Nahshon son of Amminadab, leader of the tribe of Judah, presented his offering.

¹³His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds* (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ¹⁴He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces,* which was filled with incense. ¹⁵He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering, ¹⁶and a male goat for a sin offering. ¹⁷For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Nahshon son of Amminadab.

¹⁸On the second day Nehael son of Zuar, leader of the tribe of Issachar, presented his offering.

^{6:11} Or *make atonement for them*. ^{7:5} Hebrew *the Tent of Meeting*; also in 7:89. ^{7:13} Hebrew *130 shekels* [1.5 kilograms] and a silver basin weighing 70 shekels [800 grams]; also in 7:19, 25, 31, 37, 43, 49, 55, 61, 67, 73, 79, 85.

^{13:1} Hebrew *114 grams*; also in 7:20, 26, 32, 38, 44, 50, 56, 62, 68, 74, 80, 86.

¹⁹His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ²⁰He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ²¹He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,²²and a male goat for a sin offering.²³For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Nethanel son of Zuar.

²⁴On the third day Eliab son of Helon, leader of the tribe of Zebulun, presented his offering.

²⁵His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ²⁶He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ²⁷He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,²⁸and a male goat for a sin offering.²⁹For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Eliab son of Helon.

³⁰On the fourth day Elizur son of Shedeur, leader of the tribe of Reuben, presented his offering.

³¹His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ³²He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ³³He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,³⁴and a male goat for a sin offering.³⁵For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Elizur son of Shedeur.

³⁶On the fifth day Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, leader of the tribe of Simeon, presented his offering.

³⁷His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ³⁸He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ³⁹He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁴⁰and a male goat for a sin offering.⁴¹For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

⁴²On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, leader of the tribe of Gad, presented his offering.

⁴³His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ⁴⁴He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ⁴⁵He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁴⁶and a male goat for a sin offering.⁴⁷For a peace offering he brought

two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Eliasaph son of Deuel.

⁴⁸On the seventh day Elishama son of Ammihud, leader of the tribe of Ephraim, presented his offering.

⁴⁹His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ⁵⁰He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ⁵¹He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁵²and a male goat for a sin offering.⁵³For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Elishama son of Ammihud.

⁵⁴On the eighth day Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, leader of the tribe of Manasseh, presented his offering.

⁵⁵His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ⁵⁶He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ⁵⁷He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁵⁸and a male goat for a sin offering.⁵⁹For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

⁶⁰On the ninth day Abidan son of Gideoni, leader of the tribe of Benjamin, presented his offering.

⁶¹His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ⁶²He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ⁶³He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁶⁴and a male goat for a sin offering.⁶⁵For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Abidan son of Gideoni.

⁶⁶On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, leader of the tribe of Dan, presented his offering.

⁶⁷His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ⁶⁸He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ⁶⁹He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁷⁰and a male goat for a sin offering.⁷¹For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

⁷²On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Ocran, leader of the tribe of Asher, presented his offering.

⁷³His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These

were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ⁷⁴He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ⁷⁵He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁷⁶and a male goat for a sin offering.⁷⁷For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Pagiel son of Ocran.

⁷⁸On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, leader of the tribe of Naphtali, presented his offering.

⁷⁹His offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 3 1/4 pounds and a silver basin weighing 1 1/4 pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil. ⁸⁰He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense. ⁸¹He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁸²and a male goat for a sin offering.⁸³For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Ahira son of Enan.

⁸⁴So this was the dedication offering brought by the leaders of Israel at the time the altar was anointed: twelve silver mallets, twelve silver basins, and twelve gold incense containers. ⁸⁵Each silver platter weighed 3 1/4 pounds, and each silver basin weighed 1 1/4 pounds. The total weight of the silver was 60 pounds* (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). ⁸⁶Each of the twelve gold containers that was filled with incense weighed four ounces (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). The total weight of the gold was three pounds.* ⁸⁷Twelve young bulls, twelve rams, and twelve one-year-old male lambs were donated for the burnt offerings, along with their prescribed grain offerings. ⁸⁸Twelve male goats were brought for the sin offerings. ⁸⁹Twenty-four bulls, sixty rams, sixty male goats, and sixty one-year-old male lambs were donated for the peace offerings. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed.

⁹⁰Whenever Moses went into the Tabernacle to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the Ark's cover—the place of the covenant—that rests on the Ark of the Covenant.* The Lord spoke to him from there.

Preparing the Lamps

⁹¹The Lord said to Moses, "Give Aaron the following instructions: When you set up the seven lamps in the lampstand, place them so their light shines forward in front of the lampstand." So Aaron did this. He set up the seven lamps so they reflected their light forward, just as the Lord commanded Moses. ⁹²The entire lampstand, from its decorative blossoms, was made of beaten gold. It was built according to the exact design the Lord had shown me.

The Levites Dedicated

⁹³The Lord said to Moses, "Now set the Levites apart from the rest of the people of Israel and make them ceremonially clean. ⁹⁴Do this by sprinkling them with the water of purification, and have them shave their entire body and

⁹⁵Hebrew 2,400 shekels [27.6 kilograms]. ⁷⁸⁶Hebrew 120 shekels [1.4 kilograms]. ⁷

⁹⁶Exodus 15, 19, 22, 24, 26. ^{8:12}Or to make atonement for the Levites. ^{8:19}Or make atonement for the Levites.

^{9:1}The first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar usually occurs within the months of March, April, or early May.

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five male goats, and five one-year-olds was the offering brought by

Elizahama son of Ammihud, leader presented his offering. Instead of a silver platter weighing over basin weighing 1½ pounds (as eight of the sanctuary shekel). These grain offerings of choice flour and oil.⁵⁰ He also brought a gold cup four ounces, which was filled with a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old lamb for a burnt offering,⁵² and a male lamb.⁵³ For a peace offering he brought five male goats, and five one-year-old rams. This was the offering brought by Ammihud.

amaliel son of Pedahzur, leader of the tribe of Benjamin, presented his offering.

isted of a silver platter weighing a silver basin weighing $1\frac{3}{4}$ pounds, a weight of the sanctuary shekel. These grain offerings of choice flour and oil.⁵⁶ He also brought a gold ephod four ounces, which was filled with a young bull, a ram, and a lamb for a burnt offering,⁵⁸ and a mincha offering.⁵⁹ For a peace offering he brought five male goats, and five rams. This was the offering brought by Edahzur.

obidan son of Gideoni, leader of the ¹⁰
ed his offering.

isted of a silver platter weighing a silver basin weighing $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds, the weight of the sanctuary shekel. There were grain offerings of choice flour and olive oil.⁶² He also brought a goat weighing four ounces, which was filled with a young bull, a ram, and a lamb for a burnt offering,⁶³ and a lamb for a sin offering.⁶⁴ For a peace offering he brought five male goats, and five rams. This was the offering brought by Deoni.

Achiezer son of Ammishaddai presented his offering.

consisted of a silver platter, a silver basin weighing $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, the weight of the sanctuary shekel, with grain offerings of choice fine olive oil.⁶⁸ He also brought a gold ephod weighing four ounces, which was filled with grain, a young bull, a ram, and a lamb for a burnt offering,⁶⁹ and a lamb for a sin offering.⁷⁰ For a peace offering he brought two rams, five male goats, and five lambs. This was the offering brought by Ammishaddai.

were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil.⁷⁴ He also brought a gold container weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense.⁷⁵ He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁷⁶ and a male goat for a sin offering.⁷⁷ For a peace offering he brought two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old male lambs. This was the offering brought by Pagiel son of Ocran.

On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, leader of the tribe of
Gad, presented his offering.

This offering consisted of a silver platter weighing 7½ pounds and a silver basin weighing 1½ pounds (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel). These were both filled with grain offerings of choice flour intermixed with olive oil.⁸⁰ He also brought a gold casket weighing four ounces, which was filled with incense.⁸¹ He brought a young bull, a ram, and a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering,⁸² and a male bull for a sin offering.⁸³ For a peace offering he brought bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five one-year-old lambs. This was the offering brought by Ahira of Enan.

So this was the dedication offering brought by the leaders of Israel at the time the altar was anointed: twelve silver basins, twelve silver basins, and twelve gold incense containers. ⁸⁵Each silver platter weighed 3½ pounds, and each basin weighed 1¼ pounds. The total weight of the silver was 50 pounds* (as measured by the weight of the sancuk). ⁸⁶Each of the twelve gold containers that was used for incense weighed four ounces (as measured by the weight of the sanctum mukha). The total weight of the

out of the sanctuary shekel. The total weight of the three pounds.* 87 Twelve young bulls, twelve rams, twelve one-year-old male lambs were donated for the offerings, along with their prescribed grain offerings. Male goats were brought for the sin offerings. Four bulls, sixty rams, sixty male goats, and sixty-old male lambs were donated for the peace offerings. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was dedicated.

Whenever Moses went into the Tabernacle to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the Ark's cover—the place of judgment—that rests on the Ark of the Covenant.* The voice came to him from there.

Lamps

Lord said to Moses, "Give Aaron the following instructions: When you set up the seven lamps in the place them so their light shines forward in front of the stand." So Aaron did this. He set up the seven lamps, they reflected their light forward, just as the Lord commanded Moses. "The entire lampstand, from its decorative blossoms, was made of beaten gold. It according to the exact design the Lord had shown

dicated

LORD said to Moses, "Now set the Levites apart from the people of Israel and make them ceremonially clean. Do this by sprinkling them with the water of purification, and have them shave their entire body and cut off their hair. 7:86 Hebrew 120 shekels (1.4 kg). 7:86 Hebrew 120 shekels (1.4 kg).
8:12 Or to make atonement for the Levites. 8:12 Or to make atonement for the Levites.
22. 24, 26. The first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar usually occurred in late March, April or early May.

wash their clothing. Then they will be ceremonially clean.⁸ Have them bring a young bull and a grain offering of choice flour moistened with olive oil, along with a second young bull for a sin offering.⁹ Then assemble the whole community of Israel, and present the Levites at the entrance of the Tabernacle.* ¹⁰ When you present the Levites before the Lord, the people of Israel must lay their hands on them.¹¹ Raising his hands, Aaron must then present the Levites to the Lord as a special offering from the people of Israel, thus dedicating them to the Lord's service.

¹²Next the Levites will lay their hands on the heads of the young bulls. Present one as a sin offering and the other as a burn offering to the **Lord**, to purify the Levites and make them right with the **Lord**.^{*} ¹³Then have the Levites stand in front of Aaron and his sons, and raise your hands and present them as a special offering to the **Lord**. ¹⁴In this way, you will set the Levites apart from the rest of the people of Israel, and the Levites will belong to me. ¹⁵After this, they may go into the Tabernacle to do their work, because you have purified them and presented them as a special offering.

¹⁶Of all the people of Israel, the Levites are reserved for me. I have claimed them for myself in place of all the firstborn sons of the Israelites; I have taken the Levites as their substitutes. ¹⁷For all the firstborn males among the people of Israel are mine, both of people and of animals. I set them apart for myself on the day I struck down all the firstborn sons of the Egyptians. ¹⁸Yes, I have claimed the Levites in place of all the firstborn sons of Israel. ¹⁹And of all the Israelites, I have assigned the Levites to Aaron and his sons. They will serve in the Tabernacle on behalf of the Israelites and make sacrifices to purify* the people so no plague will strike them when they approach the sanctuary."

²⁰So Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel dedicated the Levites, carefully following all the Lord's instructions to Moses.²¹ The Levites purified themselves from sin and washed their clothes, and Aaron lifted them up and presented them to the Lord as a special offering. He then offered a sacrifice to purify them and make them right with the Lord.* ²²After that the Levites went into the Tabernacle to perform their duties, assisting Aaron and his sons. So they carried out all the commands that the Lord gave Moses concerning the Levites.

²³The LORD also instructed Moses, ²⁴"This is the rule the Levites must follow: They must begin serving in the Tabernacle at the age of twenty-five, ²⁵and they must retire at the age of fifty. ²⁶After retirement they may assist their fellow Levites by serving as guards at the Tabernacle, but they may not officiate in the service. This is how you must assign duties to the Levites."

The Second Passover

9 A year after Israel's departure from Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai. In the first month* of that year he said, "Tell the Israelites to celebrate the Passover at the prescribed time, ³at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month.* Be sure to follow all my decrees and regulations concerning this celebration."

⁴So Moses told the people to celebrate the Passover ⁵in the wilderness of Sinai as twilight fell on the fourteenth day of the month. And they celebrated the festival there, just as the Lord had commanded Moses. ⁶But some of the men had been ceremonially defiled by touching a dead body, so they could not celebrate the Passover that day. They came to

grams). **7:89** Or *Ark of the Testimony*. **8:9** Hebrew *the Tent of Meeting*; **10:11** Hebrew *make atonement for*. **8:21** Or *then made atonement for them to purify* within the months of March and April. **9:3** This day in the ancient Hebrew

Moses and Aaron that day⁷ and said, "We have become ceremonially unclean by touching a dead body. But why should we be prevented from presenting the Lord's offering at the proper time with the rest of the Israelites?"

⁸Moses answered, "Wait here until I have received instructions for you from the Lord."

⁹This was the Lord's reply to Moses. ¹⁰"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If any of the people now or in future generations are ceremonially unclean at Passover time because of touching a dead body, or if they are on a journey and cannot be present at the ceremony, they may still celebrate the Lord's Passover. ¹¹They must offer the Passover sacrifice one month later, at twilight on the fourteenth day of the second month.* They must eat the Passover lamb at that time with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast. ¹²They must not leave any of the lamb until the next morning, and they must not break any of its bones. They must follow all the normal regulations concerning the Passover."

¹³"But those who neglect to celebrate the Passover at the regular time, even though they are ceremonially clean and not away on a trip, will be cut off from the community of Israel. If they fail to present the Lord's offering at the proper time, they will suffer the consequences of their guilt. ¹⁴And if foreigners living among you want to celebrate the Passover to the Lord, they must follow these same decrees and regulations. The same laws apply both to native-born Israelites and to the foreigners living among you."

The Fiery Cloud

¹⁵On the day the Tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered it.* But from evening until morning the cloud over the Tabernacle looked like a pillar of fire. ¹⁶This was the regular pattern—at night the cloud that covered the Tabernacle had the appearance of fire. ¹⁷Whenever the cloud lifted from over the sacred tent, the people of Israel would break camp and follow it. And wherever the cloud settled, the people of Israel would set up camp. ¹⁸In this way, they traveled and camped at the Lord's command wherever he told them to go. Then they remained in their camp as long as the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle. ¹⁹If the cloud remained over the Tabernacle for a long time, the Israelites stayed and performed their duty to the Lord. ²⁰Sometimes the cloud would stay over the Tabernacle for only a few days, so the people would stay for only a few days, as the Lord commanded. Then at the Lord's command they would break camp and move on. ²¹Sometimes the cloud stayed only overnight and lifted the next morning. But day or night, when the cloud lifted, the people broke camp and moved on. ²²Whether the cloud stayed above the Tabernacle for two days, a month, or a year, the people of Israel stayed in camp and did not move on. But as soon as it lifted, they broke camp and moved on. ²³So they camped or traveled at the Lord's command, and they did whatever the Lord told them through Moses.

The Silver Trumpets

10 Now the Lord said to Moses, ²"Make two trumpets of hammered silver for calling the community to assemble and for signaling the breaking of camp. ³When both trumpets are blown, everyone must gather before you at the entrance of the Tabernacle.* ⁴But if only one trumpet is blown, then only the leaders—the heads of the clans of Israel—must present themselves to you.

^{9:11} This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in late April, May, or early June. ^{9:15} Hebrew *covered the Tabernacle, the Tent of the Testimony.* ^{10:3} Hebrew *Tent of Meeting.* ^{10:11a} This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in late April, May, or early June. ^{10:11b} Or *Tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting.*

⁵"When you sound the signal to move on, the tribes camped on the east side of the Tabernacle must break camp and move forward. ⁶When you sound the signal a second time, the tribes camped on the south will follow. You must sound short blasts as the signal for moving on. ⁷But when you call the people to an assembly, blow the trumpets with a different signal. ⁸Only the priests, Aaron's descendants, are allowed to blow the trumpets. This is a permanent law for you, to be observed from generation to generation.

⁹"When you arrive in your own land and go to war against your enemies who attack you, sound the alarm with the trumpets. Then the Lord your God will remember you and rescue you from your enemies. ¹⁰Blow the trumpets in times of gladness, too, sounding them at your annual festivals and at the beginning of each month. And blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and peace offerings. The trumpets will remind the Lord your God of his covenant with you. I am the Lord your God."

The Israelites Leave Sinai

¹¹In the second year after Israel's departure from Egypt—or the twentieth day of the second month*—the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle of the Covenant.* ¹²So the Israelites set out from the wilderness of Sinai and traveled on from place to place until the cloud stopped in the wilderness of Paran.

¹³When the people set out for the first time, following the instructions the Lord had given through Moses, ¹⁴Jehovah's troops led the way. They marched behind their banner, and their leader was Nahshon son of Amminadab. ¹⁵They were joined by the troops of the tribe of Issachar, led by Nethanel son of Zuar, ¹⁶and the troops of the tribe of Zebulon, led by Eliab son of Helon.

¹⁷Then the Tabernacle was taken down, and the Gershonite and Merarite divisions of the Levites were next in the line of march, carrying the Tabernacle with them. ¹⁸Reuben's troops went next, marching behind their banner. Their leader was Elizur son of Shedeur. ¹⁹They were joined by the troops of the tribe of Simeon, led by Shelumiel son of Zurshaddai, ²⁰and the troops of the tribe of Gad, led by Eliasaph son of Deuel.

²¹Next came the Kohathite division of the Levites, carrying the sacred objects from the Tabernacle. Before they arrived at the next camp, the Tabernacle would already be set up at its new location. ²²Ephraim's troops went next, marching behind their banner. Their leader was Elishama son of Ammihud. ²³They were joined by the troops of the tribe of Manasseh, led by Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, ²⁴and the troops of the tribe of Benjamin, led by Abidan son of Gideoni.

²⁵Dan's troops went last, marching behind their banner and serving as the rear guard for all the tribal camps. Their leader was Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai. ²⁶They were joined by the troops of the tribe of Asher, led by Pagiel son of Ocran, ²⁷and the troops of the tribe of Naphtali, led by Ahira son of Enan.

²⁸This was the order in which the Israelites marched, division by division.

²⁹One day Moses said to his brother-in-law, Hobab son of Reuel the Midianite, "We are on our way to the place the Lord promised us, for he said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us and we will treat you well, for the Lord has promised wonderful blessings for Israel!"

³⁰But Hobab replied, "No, I will not go. I must return to my own land and family."

³¹"Please don't leave us," Moses pleaded. "You know

places in the wilderness where we should camp. Come, be our guide. ³²If you do, we'll share with you all the blessings the Lord gives us."

³³They marched for three days after leaving the mountain of the Lord, with the Ark of the Lord's Covenant moving ahead of them to show them where to stop and rest. ³⁴As they moved on each day, the cloud of the Lord hovered over them. ³⁵And whenever the Ark set out, Moses would shout, "Arise, O Lord, and let your enemies be scattered! Let them flee before you!" ³⁶And when the Ark was set down, he would say, "Return, O Lord, to the countless thousands of Israel!"

The People Complain to Moses

11 Soon the people began to complain about their hardship, and the Lord heard everything they said. Then the Lord's anger blazed against them, and he sent a fire to rage among them, and he destroyed some of the people in the outskirts of the camp. ²Then the people screamed to Moses for help, and when he prayed to the Lord, the fire stopped. ³After that, the area was known as Taberah (which means "the place of burning"), because fire from the Lord had burned among them there.

⁴Then the foreign rabble who were traveling with the Israelites began to crave the good things of Egypt. And the people of Israel also began to complain. "Oh, for some meat!" they exclaimed. ⁵"We remember the fish we used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic we wanted. ⁶But now our appetites are gone. All we ever see is this manna!"

⁷The manna looked like small coriander seeds, and it was pale yellow like gum resin. ⁸The people would go out and gather it from the ground. They made flour by grinding it with hand mills or pounding it in mortars. Then they boiled it in a pot and made it into flat cakes. These cakes tasted like wafers baked with olive oil. ⁹The manna came down on the camp with the dew during the night.

¹⁰Moses heard all the families standing in the doorways of their tents whining, and the Lord became extremely angry. Moses was also very aggravated. ¹¹And Moses said to the Lord, "Why are you treating me, your servant, so harshly? Have mercy on me! What did I do to deserve the burden of all these people? ¹²Did I give birth to them? Did I bring them into the world? Why did you tell me to carry them in my arms like a mother carries a nursing baby? How can I carry them to the land you swore to give their ancestors? ¹³Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people? They keep running to me, saying, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴I can't carry all these people by myself! The load is far too heavy! ¹⁵If this is what you intend to treat me, just go ahead and kill me. Do me a favor and spare me this misery!"

Moses Chooses Seventy Leaders

¹⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather before me seventy men who are recognized as elders and leaders of Israel. Bring them to the Tabernacle* to stand there with you. ¹⁷I will come down and talk to you there. I will take some of the Spirit that is upon you, and I will put the Spirit upon them also. They will bear the burden of the people along with you, ¹⁸but you will not have to carry it alone.

¹⁹And say to the people, 'Purify yourselves, for tomorrow you will have meat to eat. You were whining, and the Lord heard you when you cried. "Oh, for some meat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will have to eat it. ²⁰And it won't be for just a day or two, but for five or ten or even twenty. ²¹You will eat it for a whole month. ²²It is the Tent of Meeting. ²³It is the tent; also in 11:26. ²⁴It is the Tent of Meeting. ²⁵It is the tent; also in 11:26. ²⁶It is the Tent of Meeting. ²⁷It is the tent; also in 11:26. ²⁸It is the Tent of Meeting. ²⁹It is the tent; also in 11:26. ³⁰It is the Tent of Meeting. ³¹It is the tent; also in 11:26. ³²It is the Tent of Meeting. ³³It is the tent; also in 11:26. ³⁴It is the Tent of Meeting. ³⁵It is the tent; also in 11:26. ³⁶It is the Tent of Meeting. ³⁷It is the tent; also in 11:26. ³⁸It is the Tent of Meeting. ³⁹It is the tent; also in 11:26. ⁴⁰It is the Tent of Meeting. ⁴¹It is the tent; also in 11:26. ⁴²It is the Tent of Meeting. ⁴³It is the tent; also in 11:26. ⁴⁴It is the Tent of Meeting. ⁴⁵It is the tent; also in 11:26. ⁴⁶It is the Tent of Meeting. ⁴⁷It is the tent; also in 11:26. ⁴⁸It is the Tent of Meeting. ⁴⁹It is the tent; 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⁷ But not with my servant Moses.

Of all my house, he is the one I trust.

⁸ I speak to him face to face,

clearly, and not in riddles!

He sees the Lord as he is.

So why were you not afraid

to criticize my servant Moses?"

⁹ The Lord was very angry with them, and he departed.

¹⁰ As the cloud moved from above the Tabernacle, there stood Miriam, her skin as white as snow from leprosy.* When Aaron saw what had happened to her, ¹¹ he cried out to Moses, "Oh, my master! Please don't punish us for this sin we have so foolishly committed. ¹² Don't let her be like a still-born baby, already decayed at birth."

¹³ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "O God, I beg you, please heal her!"

¹⁴ But the Lord said to Moses, "If her father had done nothing more than spit in her face, wouldn't she be defiled for seven days? So keep her outside the camp for seven days, and after that she may be accepted back."

¹⁵ So Miriam was kept outside the camp for seven days, and the people waited until she was brought back before they traveled again. ¹⁶ Then they left Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

Twelve Scouts Explore Canaan

13 The Lord now said to Moses, "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes." So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran. ⁴ These were the tribes and the names of their leaders:

Tribe	Leader
Reuben	Shammua son of Zaccur
Simeon	Shaphat son of Hori
Judah	Caleb son of Jephunneh
Issachar	Igal son of Joseph
Ephraim	Hoshea son of Nun
Benjamin	Palti son of Raphu
Zebulun	Gaddiel son of Sodi
Manasseh son of Joseph	Gaddi son of Susi
Dan	Ammiel son of Gemalli
Asher	Sethur son of Michael
Naphtali	Nahbi son of Vophs
Gad	Geul son of Maki

¹⁶ These are the names of the men Moses sent out to explore the land. (Moses called Hoshea son of Nun by the name Joshua.)

¹⁷ Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: "Go north through the Negev into the hill country. ¹⁸ See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. ¹⁹ See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? ²⁰ Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see." (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.)

²¹ So they went up and explored the land from the wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. ²² Going north, they passed through the Negev and arrived at Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai—all descendants of

Anak—lived. (The ancient town of Hebron was founded seven years before the Egyptian city of Zoan.) ²³ When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs. ²⁴ That place was called the valley of Eshcol (which means "cluster"), because of the cluster of grapes the Israelite men cut there.

The Scouting Report

²⁵ After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. ²⁷ This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. ²⁸ But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev, and the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. The Canaanites live along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea* and along the Jordan Valley."

³⁰ But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

³¹ But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" ³² So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. ³³ We even saw giants* there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

The People Rebel

14 Then the whole community began weeping aloud and they cried all night. ² Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. ³ "Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴ Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the whole community of Israel. ⁶ Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. ⁷ They said to all the people of Israel, "The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! ⁸ And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. ⁹ Do not rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"

¹⁰ But the whole community began to talk about storming Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle.* ¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them? ¹² I will disown them and destroy them with a plague. Then I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are!"

Moses Intercedes for the People

¹³ But Moses objected. "What will the Egyptians think when they hear about it?" he asked the Lord. "They know full well the power you displayed in rescuing your people from Egypt. ¹⁴ Now if you destroy them, the Egyptians will send a report to the inhabitants of this land, who have already heard that you live among your people. They know, Lord, that you have appeared to your people face to face and that your pillar of cloud hovers over them. They know that you go before them in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵ Now if you slaughter all these people with a single blow, the nations that have heard of your fame will say, 'The Lord was not able to bring them into the land he swore to give them, so he killed them in the wilderness.'

¹⁶ "Please, Lord, prove that your power is as great as you have claimed. For you said, ¹⁸ 'The Lord is slow to anger and filled with unfailing love, forgiving every kind of sin and rebellion.' But he does not excuse the guilty. He lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations.' ¹⁷ In keeping with your magnificent, unfailing love, please pardon the sins of this people, just as you have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt."

¹⁸ Then the Lord said, "I will pardon them as you have requested. ²¹ But as surely as I live, and as surely as the earth is filled with the Lord's glory, ²² not one of these people will enter that land. They have all seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs I performed both in Egypt and in the wilderness, but again and again they have tested me by refusing to listen to my voice. ²³ They will never even enter the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it. ²⁴ But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have. He has remained loyal to me, so I will bring him into the land he explored. His descendants will possess their full share of that land. ²⁵ Now turn around, and don't go on toward the land where the Amalekites and Canaanites live. Tomorrow you must set out for the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.**

The Lord Punishes the Israelites

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "How long must you put up with this wicked community and its complaints about me? Yes, I have heard the complaints the Israelites are making against me. ²⁸ Now tell them this: 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!'

²⁹ You will all drop dead in this wilderness! Because you complained against me, every one of you who is twenty years old or older and was included in the registration will die. ³⁰ You will not enter and occupy the land I swore to give you. The only exceptions will be Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

³¹ You said your children would be carried off as plunder. Well, I will bring them safely into the land, and they will repay you for what you have despised. ³² But as for you, you will drop dead in this wilderness. ³³ And your children will be like sheep, wandering in the wilderness for forty years. In this way, they will pay for your faithlessness, until the last of you dies dead in the wilderness.

³⁴ "Because your men explored the land for forty days,

you must wander in the wilderness for forty years—a year

each day, suffering the consequences of your sins. Then

you will discover what it is like to have me for an enemy."

³⁵ The Lord, have spoken! I will certainly do these things to

you. ³⁶ Hebrew sea of reeds. ^{15:4a} Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of an ephah (2.2 liters). ^{15:4b} Hebrew $\frac{1}{3}$ of a hin (1.3 liters); also in 15:7. ^{15:9a} Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of an ephah.

town of Hebron was founded in the city of Zoan.) ²³When they cut down a branch with a large leaf that took two of them to it! They also brought back dates and figs. ²⁴That place was which means "cluster", because Israelite men cut there.

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the people as they stood before to take the land," he said. "We can had explored the land with him against them! They are stronger than us! We are weaker than them! We have heard this bad report about the land we traveled through and do not know who goes to live there. All the people are afraid to go there. ³³We even saw giants* there, next to them we felt like grasshoppers! We thought, too!"

community began weeping at night. ²Their voices rose in a great cry to Moses and Aaron. "If only we were in the wilderness!" they said, taking us to this country among our wives and our little ones will not be better for us to be scattered among themselves. ⁴Go back to Egypt!"

They fell face down on the ground in the land of Israel. "Two of the men, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, have spoken. ⁷They said to all the people who traveled through and explored the land, 'The LORD is pleased with us. Let us go into the land and give it to us. It is a land of honey. ⁹Do not rebel against the people of the land. They have no protection, and we are afraid of them!'

Everyone began to talk about the glorious presence of the Israelites at the Tabernacle. ¹⁰How long will these people never believe me, even after all I have done among them? ¹¹I will bring them with a plague. Then I will make them dead in the wilderness.

Because your men explored the land for forty days, you must wander in the wilderness for forty years—a year for each day, suffering the consequences of your sins. Then you will discover what it is like to have me for an enemy. The LORD, have spoken! I will certainly do these things to

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²⁷Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "How long must you stand up with this wicked community and its complaints against me? Yes, I have heard the complaints the Israelites are making against me. ²⁸Now tell them this: 'As surely as I live, says the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say. ²⁹You will all drop dead in this wilderness! Because you have complained against me, every one of you who is twenty years old or older and was included in the registration will die. ³⁰You will not enter and occupy the land I swore to give you. The only exceptions will be Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.'

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³⁴Because your men explored the land for forty days, you must wander in the wilderness for forty years—a year for each day, suffering the consequences of your sins. Then you will discover what it is like to have me for an enemy. The LORD, have spoken! I will certainly do these things to

every member of the community who has conspired against me. They will be destroyed here in this wilderness, and here they will die!"

³⁵The ten men Moses had sent to explore the land—the ones who incited rebellion against the LORD with their bad report—³⁷were struck dead with a plague before the LORD. ³⁸Of the twelve who had explored the land, only Joshua and Caleb remained alive.

³⁹When Moses reported the LORD's words to all the Israelites, the people were filled with grief. ⁴⁰Then they got up early the next morning and went to the top of the range of hills. "Let's go," they said. "We realize that we have sinned, but now we are ready to enter the land the LORD has promised us."

⁴¹But Moses said, "Why are you now disobeying the LORD's orders to return to the wilderness? It won't work. ⁴²Do not go up into the land now. You will only be crushed by your enemies because the LORD is not with you. ⁴³When you face the Amalekites and Canaanites in battle, you will be slaughtered. The LORD will abandon you because you have abandoned the LORD."

⁴⁴But the people defiantly pushed ahead toward the hill country, even though neither Moses nor the Ark of the LORD's Covenant left the camp. ⁴⁵Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in those hills came down and attacked them and chased them back as far as Hormah.

Laws concerning Offerings

15 Then the LORD told Moses, "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel.

"When you finally settle in the land I am giving you, ³you will offer special gifts as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. These gifts may take the form of a burnt offering, a sacrifice to fulfill a vow, a voluntary offering, or an offering at any of your annual festivals, and they may be taken from your herds of cattle or your flocks of sheep and goats. ⁴When you present these offerings, you must also give the LORD a grain offering of two quarts* of choice flour mixed with one quart* of olive oil. ⁵For each lamb offered as a burnt offering or a special sacrifice, you must also present one quart of wine as a liquid offering.

⁶If the sacrifice is a ram, give a grain offering of four quarts* of choice flour mixed with a third of a gallon* of olive oil, ⁷and give a third of a gallon of wine as a liquid offering. This will be a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁸When you present a young bull as a burnt offering or as a sacrifice to fulfill a vow or as a peace offering to the LORD, ⁹you must also give a grain offering of six quarts* of choice flour mixed with two quarts* of olive oil, ¹⁰and give two quarts of wine as a liquid offering. This will be a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹¹Each sacrifice of a bull, ram, lamb, or young goat should be prepared in this way. ¹²Follow these instructions with each offering you present. ¹³All of you native-born Israelites must follow these instructions when you offer a special gift as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁴And if any foreigners visit you or live among you and want to present a special gift as a pleasing aroma to the LORD, they must follow these same procedures. ¹⁵Native-born Israelites and foreigners are equal before the LORD and are subject to the same decrees. This is a permanent law for you, to be observed from generation to generation. ¹⁶The same instructions and regulations will apply both to you and to the foreigners living among you."

^{13:33} Hebrew nep̄.

^{15:4a} Hebrew $\frac{1}{10}$ of an ephah (2.2 liters). ^{15:4b} Hebrew $\frac{1}{4}$ of a hin (1 liter); also in 15:5. ^{15:6a} Hebrew $\frac{1}{10}$ of an ephah.

^{15:6b} Hebrew $\frac{1}{3}$ of a hin (1.3 liters); also in 15:7. ^{15:9a} Hebrew $\frac{1}{10}$ of an ephah (6.6 liters). ^{15:9b} Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of a hin (2 liters); also in 15:10.

¹⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁸"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel:

"When you arrive in the land where I am taking you, ¹⁹and you eat the crops that grow there, you must set some aside as a sacred offering to the LORD. ²⁰Present a cake from the first of the flour you grind, and set it aside as a sacred offering, as you do with the first grain from the threshing floor. ²¹Throughout the generations to come, you are to present a sacred offering to the LORD each year from the first of your ground flour.

²²But suppose you unintentionally fail to carry out all these commands that the LORD has given you through Moses. ²³And suppose your descendants in the future fail to do everything the LORD has commanded through Moses. ²⁴If the mistake was made unintentionally, and the community was unaware of it, the whole community must present a young bull for a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It must be offered along with its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering and with one male goat for a sin offering. ²⁵With it the priest will purify the whole community of Israel, making them right with the LORD,* and they will be forgiven. For it was an unintentional sin, and they have corrected it with their offerings to the LORD—the special gift and the sin offering. ²⁶The whole community of Israel will be forgiven, including the foreigners living among you, for all the people were involved in the sin.

²⁷If one individual commits an unintentional sin, the guilty person must bring a one-year-old female goat for a sin offering. ²⁸The priest will sacrifice it to purify* the guilty person before the LORD, and that person will be forgiven. ²⁹These same instructions apply both to native-born Israelites and to the foreigners living among you.

³⁰But those who brazenly violate the LORD's will, whether native-born Israelites or foreigners, have blasphemed the LORD, and they must be cut off from the community. ³¹Since they have treated the LORD's word with contempt and deliberately disobeyed his command, they must be completely cut off and suffer the punishment for their guilt."

Penalty for Breaking the Sabbath

³²One day while the people of Israel were in the wilderness, they discovered a man gathering wood on the Sabbath day. ³³The people who found him doing this took him before Moses, Aaron, and the rest of the community. ³⁴They held him in custody because they did not know what to do with him. ³⁵Then the Lord said to Moses, "The man must be put to death! The whole community must stone him outside the camp." ³⁶So the whole community took the man outside the camp and stoned him to death, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Tassels on Clothing

³⁷Then the Lord said to Moses, ³⁸"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel: Throughout the generations to come you must make tassels for the hems of your clothing and attach them with a blue cord. ³⁹When you see the tassels, you will remember and obey all the commands of the Lord instead of following your own desires and defiling yourselves, as you are prone to do. ⁴⁰The tassels will help you remember that you must obey all my commands and be holy to your God. ⁴¹I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt that I might be your God. I am the Lord your God!"

15:25 Or will make atonement for the whole community of Israel. 15:28 Or to make atonement for. 16:5 Greek version reads God has visited and known those who are his. Compare 2 Tim 2:19. 16:14 Hebrew Are you trying to put out the eyes of these men? 16:18 Hebrew the Tent of Meeting; also in 15:42, 43, 50.

Korah's Rebellion

16 One day Korah son of Izhar, a descendant of Kohath son of Levi, conspired with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth, from the tribe of Reuben. ²They incited a rebellion against Moses, along with 250 other leaders of the community, all prominent members of the assembly. ³They united against Moses and Aaron and said, "You have gone too far! The whole community of Israel has been set apart by the LORD, and he is with all of us. What right do you have to act as though you are greater than the rest of the LORD's people?"

⁴When Moses heard what they were saying, he fell face down on the ground. ⁵Then he said to Korah and his followers, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show us who belongs to him* and who is holy. The LORD will allow only those whom he selects to enter his own presence. ⁶Korah you and all your followers must prepare your incense burners. ⁷Light fires in them tomorrow, and burn incense before the LORD. Then we will see whom the LORD chooses as his holy one. You Levites are the ones who have gone too far!"

⁸Then Moses spoke again to Korah: "Now listen, you Levites! ⁹Does it seem insignificant to you that the God of Israel has chosen you from among all the community of Israel to be near him so you can serve in the LORD's Tabernacle and stand before the people to minister to them? ¹⁰Korah, he has already given this special ministry to you and your fellow Levites. Are you now demanding the priesthood as well? ¹¹The Lord is the one you and your followers are really revolting against! For who is Aaron that you are complaining about him?"

¹²Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but they replied, "We refuse to come before you! ¹³Isn't it enough that you brought us out of Egypt, a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us here in this wilderness, and that you now treat us like your subjects? ¹⁴What's more, you haven't brought us into another land flowing with milk and honey. You haven't given us a new homeland with fields and vineyards. Are you trying to fool these men? We will not come."

¹⁵Then Moses became very angry and said to the Lord, "Do not accept their grain offerings! I have not taken as much as a donkey from them, and I have never hurt a single one of them." ¹⁶And Moses said to Korah, "You and all your followers must come here tomorrow and present yourselves before the Lord. Aaron will also be here. ¹⁷You and each of your 250 followers must prepare an incense burner and put incense on it, so you can all present them before the Lord. Aaron will also bring his incense burner."

¹⁸So each of these men prepared an incense burner, lit the fire, and placed incense on it. Then they all stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle* with Moses and Aaron. ¹⁹Meanwhile, Korah had stirred up the entire community against Moses and Aaron, and they all gathered at the Tabernacle entrance. Then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared to the whole community, ²⁰and the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ²¹"Get away from all these people so that I may instantly destroy them!"

²²But Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground. "O God," they pleaded, "you are the God who gives breath to all creatures. Must you be angry with all the people when only one man sins?"

²³And the Lord said to Moses, ²⁴"Then tell all the people to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."

²⁵So Moses got up and rushed over to the tents of Dathan and Abiram, followed by the elders of Israel. ²⁶"Quick!" he told the people. "Get away from the tents of these wicked men, and don't touch anything that belongs to them. If you do, you will be destroyed for their sins." ²⁷So all the people stood back from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Then Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the entrances of their tents, together with their wives and children and little ones.

²⁸And Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things that I have done—for I have not done them on my own. ²⁹If these men die a natural death, or if nothing unusual happens, then the Lord has not sent me. ³⁰But if the LORD does something entirely new and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them and all their belongings, and they go down alive into the grave,* then you will know that these men have shown contempt for the LORD."

³¹He had hardly finished speaking the words when the ground suddenly split open beneath them. ³²The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the men, along with their households and all their followers who were standing with them, and everything they owned. ³³So they went down alive into the grave, along with all their belongings. The earth closed over them, and they all vanished from among the people of Israel. ³⁴All the people around them fled when they heard their screams. "The earth will swallow us, too!" they cried. ³⁵Then fire blazed forth from the Lord and burned up the 250 men who were offering incense.

³⁶And the Lord said to Moses, ³⁷"Tell Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to pull all the incense burners from the fire, for they are holy. Also tell him to scatter the burning coals. ³⁸Take the incense burners of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives, and hammer the metal into a thin sheet to overlay the altar. Since these burners were used in the Lord's presence, they have become holy. Let them serve as a warning to the people of Israel."

³⁹So Eleazar the priest collected the 250 bronze incense burners that had been used by the men who died in the fire, and he hammered them into a thin sheet to overlay the altar. ⁴⁰This would warn the Israelites that no unauthorized person—no one who was not a descendant of Aaron—should ever enter the Lord's presence to burn incense. If anyone did, the same thing would happen to him as happened to Korah and his followers. So the Lord's instructions to Moses were carried out.

⁴¹But the very next morning the whole community of Israel began muttering again against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the Lord's people!" ⁴²As the community gathered to protest against Moses and Aaron, they turned toward the Tabernacle and saw that the cloud had covered it and the glorious presence of the Lord appeared.

⁴³Moses and Aaron came and stood in front of the Tabernacle. ⁴⁴and the Lord said to Moses, ⁴⁵"Get away from all these people so that I can instantly destroy them!" But Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground.

⁴⁶And Moses said to Aaron, "Quick, take an incense burner and place burning coals on it from the altar. Lay incense on it, and carry it out among the people to purify them and make them right with the Lord.* The Lord's anger is blazing against them—the plague has already begun."

⁴⁷Aaron did as Moses told him and ran out among the people. ⁴⁸Heb into Sheol; also in 16:33. ⁴⁹Or and made atonement for. ⁵⁰17:1 Verses 17:1-13 are numbered 17:16-28 in Hebrew. ⁵¹Or testimony. The Hebrew word for "testimony" refers to the terms of the Lord's covenant with the people of Israel, also to the covenant itself. ⁵²Or Tabernacle of the Testimony; also in 17:8. ⁵³17:10 Hebrew the Tent of Meeting; also in 18:6, 21, 22, 23, 31.

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what they were saying, he fell face then he said to Korah and his following the LORD will show us who is holy. The LORD will allow one to enter his own presence. "Korah, you must prepare your incense tomorrow, and burn incense we will see whom the LORD chooses are the ones who have gone to

gain to Korah: "Now listen, you insignificant to you that the God of Israel among all the community of Israel serve in the Lord's Tabernacle and to minister to them? 10 Korah, special ministry to you and your family demanding the priesthood as well as Aaron that you are complaining and your followers are really

named Dathan and Abiram, said, "We refuse to come before you brought us out of Egypt, a journey, to kill us here in this wilderness like your subjects? 14 What have us into another land flowing with give us a new homeland where you are trying to fool these men?"

He very angry and said to the Lord offering! I have not taken them, and I have never hurt a simple man said to Korah, "You and all here tomorrow and present yourself will also be here. 17 You and each of you prepare an incense burner and all present them before the Lord's incense burner."

Then prepared an incense burner on it. Then they all stood around the Tabernacle* with Moses and Aaron and stirred up the entire community, and they all gathered at the Tabernacle.

The glorious presence of the Lord community, 20 and the Lord said, "Get away from all these people! 21 Aaron fell face down on the ground, you are the God who gives me be angry with all the people!"

to Moses, 24 "Then tell all the men of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram,

²⁵ So Moses got up and rushed over to the tents of Dathan and Abiram, followed by the elders of Israel. 26 "Quick!" he told the people. "Get away from the tents of these wicked men, and don't touch anything that belongs to them. If you do, you will be destroyed for their sins." 27 So all the people stood back from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Then Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the entrances of their tents, together with their wives and children and little ones.

28 And Moses said, "This is how you will know that the Lord has sent me to do all these things that I have done—for have not done them on my own. 29 If these men die a natural death, or if nothing unusual happens, then the Lord has not sent me. 30 But if the Lord does something entirely new and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them and all their belongings, and they go down alive into the grave,* then you will know that these men have shown contempt for the Lord."

31 He had hardly finished speaking the words when the ground suddenly split open beneath them. 32 The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the men, along with their households and all their followers who were standing with them, and everything they owned. 33 So they went down alive into the grave, along with all their belongings. The earth closed over them, and they all vanished from among the people of Israel. 34 All the people around them fled when they heard their screams. "The earth will swallow us, too!" they cried. 35 Then fire blazed forth from the Lord and burned up the 250 men who were offering incense.

36 And the Lord said to Moses, 37 "Tell Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to pull all the incense burners from the fire, for they are holy. Also tell him to scatter the burning coals. Take the incense burners of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives, and hammer the metal into a thin sheet to overlay the altar. Since these burners were used in the Lord's presence, they have become holy. Let them serve as a warning to the people of Israel."

38 So Eleazar the priest collected the 250 bronze incense burners that had been used by the men who died in the fire, he hammered them into a thin sheet to overlay the altar. This would warn the Israelites that no unauthorized person—no one who was not a descendant of Aaron—should enter the Lord's presence to burn incense. If anyone else did the same thing would happen to him as happened to Korah and his followers. So the Lord's instructions to Moses were carried out.

39 But the very next morning the whole community of Israel began muttering again against Moses and Aaron, saying, "We have killed the Lord's people!" 40 As the community gathered to protest against Moses and Aaron, they turned toward the Tabernacle and saw that the cloud had covered the glorious presence of the Lord. appeared.

41 Moses and Aaron came and stood in front of the Tabernacle. 42 And the Lord said to Moses, 43 "Get away from all the people so that I can instantly destroy them!" But Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground.

44 And Moses said to Aaron, "Quick, take an incense burner and place burning coals on it from the altar. Lay incense on it, and carry it out among the people to purify them and make them right with the Lord.* The Lord's anger is against them—the plague has already begun."

45 Aaron did as Moses told him and ran out among the

people. The plague had already begun to strike down the people, but Aaron burned the incense and purified* the people. 46 He stood between the dead and the living, and the plague stopped. 47 But 14,700 people died in that plague, in addition to those who had died in the affair involving Korah. 48 Then because the plague had stopped, Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tabernacle.

The Budding of Aaron's Staff

17 1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 Tell the people of Israel to bring you twelve wooden staffs, one from each leader of Israel's ancestral tribes, and inscribe each leader's name on his staff. 3 Inscribe Aaron's name on the staff of the tribe of Levi, for there must be one staff for the leader of each ancestral tribe. 4 Place these staffs in the Tabernacle in front of the Ark containing the tablets of the Covenant,* where I meet with you. 5 Buds will sprout on the staff belonging to the man I choose. Then I will finally put an end to the people's murmuring and complaining against you."

6 So Moses gave the instructions to the people of Israel, and each of the twelve tribal leaders, including Aaron, brought Moses a staff. 7 Moses placed the staffs in the Lord's presence in the Tabernacle of the Covenant.* 8 When he went into the Tabernacle of the Covenant the next day, he found that Aaron's staff, representing the tribe of Levi, had sprouted, budded, blossomed, and produced ripe almonds!

9 When Moses brought all the staffs out from the Lord's presence, he showed them to the people. Each man claimed his own staff. 10 And the Lord said to Moses: "Place Aaron's staff permanently before the Ark of the Covenant* to serve as a warning to rebels. This should put an end to their complaints against me and prevent any further deaths." 11 So Moses did as the Lord commanded him.

12 Then the people of Israel said to Moses, "Look, we are doomed! We are dead! We are ruined! 13 Everyone who even comes close to the Tabernacle of the Lord dies. Are we all doomed to die?"

Duties of Priests and Levites

18 Then the Lord said to Aaron: "You, your sons, and your relatives from the tribe of Levi will be held responsible for any offenses related to the sanctuary. But you and your sons alone will be held responsible for violations connected with the priesthood.

2 Bring your relatives of the tribe of Levi—your ancestral tribe—to assist you and your sons as you perform the sacred duties in front of the Tabernacle of the Covenant.* 3 But as the Levites go about all their assigned duties at the Tabernacle, they must be careful not to go near any of the sacred objects or the altar. If they do, both you and they will die. 4 The Levites must join you in fulfilling their responsibilities for the care and maintenance of the Tabernacle,* but no unauthorized person may assist you.

5 You yourselves must perform the sacred duties inside the sanctuary and at the altar. If you follow these instructions, the Lord's anger will never again blaze against the people of Israel. 6 I myself have chosen your fellow Levites from among the Israelites to be your special assistants. They are a gift to you, dedicated to the Lord for service in the Tabernacle. 7 But you and your sons, the priests, must personally handle all the priestly rituals associated with the altar and with everything behind the inner curtain. I am giving you

^{16:36} Verses 16:36–50 are numbered 17:1–15 in Hebrew text. ^{16:46} Or to make atonement for them. ^{17:4} Hebrew in the Tent of Meeting before the covenant itself. ^{17:7} Or Tabernacle of the Testimony; also in 17:8. ^{17:10} Hebrew before the Testimony; see note on 17:4. ^{18:2} Or

^{18:4} Hebrew the Tent of Meeting; also in 18:6, 21, 22, 23, 31.

the priesthood as your special privilege of service. Any unauthorized person who comes too near the sanctuary will be put to death."

Support for the Priests and Levites

⁸The LORD gave these further instructions to Aaron: "I myself have put you in charge of all the holy offerings that are brought to me by the people of Israel. I have given all these consecrated offerings to you and your sons as your permanent share. ⁹You are allotted the portion of the most holy offerings that is not burned on the fire. This portion of all the most holy offerings—including the grain offerings, sin offerings, and guilt offerings—will be most holy, and it belongs to you and your sons. ¹⁰You must eat it as a most holy offering. All the males may eat of it, and you must treat it as most holy.

¹¹"All the sacred offerings and special offerings presented to me when the Israelites lift them up before the altar also belong to you. I have given them to you and to your sons and daughters as your permanent share. Any member of your family who is ceremonially clean may eat of these offerings.

¹²I also give you the harvest gifts brought by the people as offerings to the LORD—the best of the olive oil, new wine, and grain. ¹³All the first crops of their land that the people present to the LORD belong to you. Any member of your family who is ceremonially clean may eat this food.

¹⁴“Everything in Israel that is specially set apart for the LORD* also belongs to you.

¹⁵The firstborn of every mother, whether human or animal, that is offered to the LORD will be yours. But you must always redeem your firstborn sons and the firstborn of ceremonially unclean animals. ¹⁶Redeem them when they are one month old. The redemption price is five pieces of silver* (as measured by the weight of the sanctuary shekel, which equals twenty gerahs).

¹⁷“However, you may not redeem the firstborn of cattle, sheep, or goats. They are holy and have been set apart for the LORD. Sprinkle their blood on the altar, and burn their fat as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁸The meat of these animals will be yours, just like the breast and right thigh that are presented by lifting them up as a special offering before the altar. ¹⁹Yes, I am giving you all these holy offerings that the people of Israel bring to the LORD. They are for you and your sons and daughters, to be eaten as your permanent share. This is an eternal and unbreakable covenant* between the LORD and you, and it also applies to your descendants.”

20 And the Lord said to Aaron, "You priests will receive no allotment of land or share of property among the people of Israel. I am your share and your allotment. **21** As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel.

²²From now on, no Israelites except priests or Levites may approach the Tabernacle. If they come too near, they will be judged guilty and will die. ²³Only the Levites may serve at the Tabernacle, and they will be held responsible for any offenses against it. This is a permanent law for you, to be observed from generation to generation. The Levites will receive no allotment of land among the Israelites, ²⁴because I have given them the Israelites' tithes, which have been presented as sacred offerings to the LORD. This will be the Levites' share. That is why I said they would receive no allotment of land among the Israelites."

18:14 The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration of things or people to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering. **18:16** Hebrew *5 shekels* (2 ounces or 57 grams) of silver. **18:19** Hebrew *a covenant of salt*. **19:4** Hebrew *the Tent of Meeting*. **19:6** Or *juniper*.

²⁵The LORD also told Moses, ²⁶"Give these instructions to the Levites: When you receive from the people of Israel the tithes I have assigned as your allotment, give a tenth of the tithes you receive—a tithe of the tithe—to the LORD as a sacred offering. ²⁷The LORD will consider this offering to be your harvest offering, as though it were the first grain from your own threshing floor or wine from your own winepress. ²⁸You must present one-tenth of the tithe received from the Israelites as a sacred offering to the LORD. This is the LORD's sacred portion, and you must present it to Aaron the priest. ²⁹Be sure to give to the LORD the best portions of the gifts given to you.

³⁰“Also, give these instructions to the Levites: When you present the best part as your offering, it will be considered as though it came from your own threshing floor or winepress. ³¹You Levites and your families may eat this food anywhere you wish, for it is your compensation for serving in the Tabernacle. ³²You will not be considered guilty for accepting the Lord’s tithes if you give the best portion to the priests. But be careful not to treat the holy gifts of the people of Israel as though they were common. If you do, you will die.”

The Water of Purification

19 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Here is another legal requirement commanded by the Lord: Tell the people of Israel to bring you a red heifer, a perfect animal that has no defects and has never been yoked to a plow. **3** Give it to Eleazar the priest, and it will be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence. **4** Eleazar will take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tabernacle.* **5** As Eleazar watches the heifer must be burned—it's hide, meat, blood, and dung. **6** Eleazar the priest must then take a stick of cedar,* a hyssop branch, and some scarlet yarn and throw them into the fire where the heifer is burning.

7 Then the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself in water. Afterward he may return to the camp, though he will remain ceremonially unclean until evening. 8 The man who burns the animal must also wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and he, too, will remain unclean until evening. 9 Then someone who is ceremonially clean will gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them in a purified place outside the camp. They will be kept there for the community of Israel to use in the water for the purification ceremony. This ceremony is performed for the removal of sin. 10 The man who gathers up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he will remain ceremonially unclean until evening. This is a permanent law for the people of Israel and any foreigners who live among them.

¹¹All those who touch a dead human body will be ceremonially unclean for seven days. ¹²They must purify themselves on the third and seventh days with the water of purification; then they will be purified. But if they do not do this on the third and seventh days, they will continue unclean even after the seventh day. ¹³All those who touch a dead body and do not purify themselves in the proper way will defile the Lord's Tabernacle, and they will be cut off from the community of Israel. Since the water of purification was not sprinkled on them, their defilement continues.

¹⁴“This is the ritual law that applies when someone inside a tent: All those who enter that tent and those who were inside when the death occurred will be ceremonially unclean for seven days. ¹⁵Any open container in the

that was not covered with a lid is also defiled.¹⁶ And if someone in an open field touches the corpse of someone who was killed with a sword or who died a natural death, or if someone touches a human bone or a grave, that person will be defiled for seven days.

17 "To remove the defilement, put some of the ashes from the burnt purification offering in a jar, and pour fresh water over them. 18 Then someone who is ceremonially clean must take a hyssop branch and dip it into the water. That person must sprinkle the water on the tent, on all the furnishings in the tent, and on the people who were in the tent; also on the person who touched a human bone, or touched someone who was killed or who died naturally, or touched a grave. 19 On the third and seventh days the person who is ceremonially clean must sprinkle the water on those who are defiled. Then on the seventh day the people being cleansed must wash their clothes and bathe themselves, and that evening they will be cleansed of their defilement.

²⁰ But those who become defiled and do not purify themselves will be cut off from the community, for they have defiled the sanctuary of the Lord. Since the water of purification has not been sprinkled on them, they remain defiled.²¹ This is a permanent law for the people. Those who sprinkle the water of purification must afterward wash their clothes, and anyone who then touches the water used for purification will remain defiled until evening.²² Anything and anyone that a defiled person touches will be ceremonially unclean until evening."

Moses Strikes the Rock

20 In the first month of the year,* the whole community of Israel arrived in the wilderness of Zin and camped at Kadesh. While they were there, Miriam died and was buried.

There was no water for the people to drink at that place they rebelled against Moses and Aaron. ³The people blamed Moses and said, "If only we had died in the LORD's presence with our brothers! ⁴Why have you brought the congregation of the LORD's people into this wilderness to die along with all our livestock? ⁵Why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us here to this terrible place? This land has grain, no figs, no grapes, no pomegranates, and no water! ⁶"

Moses and Aaron turned away from the people and to the entrance of the Tabernacle,* where they fell down on the ground. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to them, and the Lord said to Moses, "You and Aaron must take the staff and assemble the community. As the people watch, speak to the rock over and it will pour out its water. You will provide enough from the rock to satisfy the whole community and livestock."

10 Moses did as he was told. He took the staff from the where it was kept before the LORD. 11 Then he and summoned the people to come and gather at the "Listen, you rebels!" he shouted. "Must we bring you from this rock?" 12 Then Moses raised his hand and the rock twice with the staff, and water gushed out. entire community and their livestock drank their fill. 13 But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving you. 14 This place was known as the waters of Meribah because of your rebellion."¹⁴

20:6 Hebrew the *Tent of Meeting*. 21:2 The Hebrew term used here refers to the offering of the firstfruits, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in 21:3. 21:3 *Hornim* (Heb. *shopharim*) = rams' horns.

oses,²⁶ "Give these instructions to the people of Israel. If someone touches the corpse of someone who has died in an open field, that person will be defiled for seven days. To remove the defilement, put some of the ashes from the burnt purification offering in a jar, and pour fresh water over them. Then someone who is ceremonially clean must take a hyssop branch and dip it into the water. That person must sprinkle the water on the tent, on all the furnishings in the tent, and on the people who were in the tent; also on the person who touched a human bone, or touched someone who was killed or who died naturally, or touched a grave. On the third and seventh days the person who is ceremonially clean must sprinkle the water on those who are defiled. Then on the seventh day the people being cleansed must wash their clothes and bathe themselves, and that evening they will be cleansed of their defilement.

But those who become defiled and do not purify themselves will be cut off from the community, for they have defiled the sanctuary of the Lord. Since the water of purification has not been sprinkled on them, they remain defiled.²⁷ This is a permanent law for the people. Those who sprinkle the water of purification must afterward wash their clothes, and anyone who then touches the water used for purification will remain defiled until evening.²⁸ Anything and anyone that a defiled person touches will be ceremonially unclean until evening."

Moses Strikes the Rock

20 In the first month of the year,* the whole community of Israel arrived in the wilderness of Zin and camped at Kadesh. While they were there, Miriam died and was buried.

There was no water for the people to drink at that place, so they rebelled against Moses and Aaron.³ The people told Moses and said, "If only we had died in the Lord's presence with our brothers!⁴ Why have you brought the congregation of the Lord's people into this wilderness to die along with all our livestock?⁵ Why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us here to this terrible place? This land has no grain, no figs, no grapes, no pomegranates, and no water to drink!"

Moses and Aaron turned away from the people and went to the entrance of the Tabernacle,⁶ where they fell down on the ground. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to them,⁷ and the Lord said to Moses, "You and Aaron must take the staff and assemble the entire community. As the people watch, speak to the rock over there, and it will pour out its water. You will provide enough water from the rock to satisfy the whole community and their livestock."

So Moses did as he was told. He took the staff from the place where it was kept before the Lord.⁸ Then he and Aaron summoned the people to come and gather at the rock. "Listen, you rebels!" he shouted. "Must we bring you water from this rock?"⁹ Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with the staff, and water gushed out. The entire community and their livestock drank their fill.

But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving them."¹⁰ This place was known as the waters of Meribah,¹¹ which means "arguing" because there the people of Israel argued with the Lord, and there he demonstrated his holiness among them.

Edom Refuses Israel Passage

14 While Moses was at Kadesh, he sent ambassadors to the king of Edom with this message:

"This is what your relatives, the people of Israel, say: You know all the hardships we have been through.¹⁵ Our ancestors went down to Egypt, and we lived there a long time, and we and our ancestors were brutally mistreated by the Egyptians.¹⁶ But when we cried out to the Lord, he heard us and sent an angel who brought us out of Egypt. Now we are camped at Kadesh, a town on the border of your land.¹⁷ Please let us travel through your land. We will be careful not to go through your fields and vineyards. We won't even drink water from your wells. We will stay on the king's road and never leave it until we have passed through your territory."

18 But the king of Edom said, "Stay out of my land, or I will meet you with an army!"

19 The Israelites answered, "We will stay on the main road. If our livestock drink your water, we will pay for it. Just let us pass through your country. That's all we ask."

20 But the king of Edom replied, "Stay out! You may not pass through our land." With that he mobilized his army and marched out against them with an imposing force.²¹ Because Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through their country, Israel was forced to turn around.

The Death of Aaron

22 The whole community of Israel left Kadesh and arrived at Mount Hor.²³ There, on the border of the land of Edom, the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "The time has come for Aaron to join his ancestors in death. He will not enter the land I am giving the people of Israel, because the two of you rebelled against my instructions concerning the water at Meribah.²⁴ Now take Aaron and his son Eleazar up Mount Hor.²⁵ There you will remove Aaron's priestly garments and put them on Eleazar, his son. Aaron will die there and join his ancestors."

26 So Moses did as the Lord commanded. The three of them went up Mount Hor together as the whole community watched.²⁷ At the summit, Moses removed the priestly garments from Aaron and put them on Eleazar, Aaron's son. Then Aaron died there on top of the mountain, and Moses and Eleazar went back down.²⁸ When the people realized that Aaron had died, all Israel mourned for him thirty days.

Victory over the Canaanites

21 The Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that the Israelites were approaching on the road through Atharim. So he attacked the Israelites and took some of them as prisoners.² Then the people of Israel made this vow to the Lord: "If you will hand these people over to us, we will completely destroy³ all their towns."⁴ The Lord heard the Israelites' request and gave them victory over the Canaanites. The Israelites completely destroyed them and their towns, and the place has been called Hormah⁵ ever since.

The Bronze Snake

4 Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea⁶ to go around the land of Edom. But

*The first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar usually occurs within the months of March and April. The number of years since leaving Egypt is specified. ^{20:6} Hebrew *the Tent of Meeting*. ^{21:2} The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration of things or people to the Lord, in destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in 21:3. ^{21:3} *Hormah* means "destruction." ^{21:4} Hebrew *sea of reeds*.

the people grew impatient with the long journey,⁵ and they began to speak against God and Moses. "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?" they complained. "There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!"

⁶So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died.⁷ Then the people came to Moses and cried out, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take away the snakes." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸Then the LORD told him, "Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!"⁹ So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!

Israel's Journey to Moab

¹⁰The Israelites traveled next to Oboth and camped there.¹¹ Then they went on to Iye-abarin, in the wilderness on the eastern border of Moab.¹² From there they traveled to the valley of Zered Brook and set up camp.¹³ Then they moved out and camped on the far side of the Arnon River, in the wilderness adjacent to the territory of the Amorites. The Arnon is the boundary line between the Moabites and the Amorites.¹⁴ For this reason *The Book of the Wars of the LORD* speaks of "the town of Waheb in the area of Suphah, and the ravines of the Arnon River,"¹⁵ and the ravines that extend as far as the settlement of Ar on the border of Moab."

¹⁶From there the Israelites traveled to Beer,^{*} which is the well where the LORD said to Moses, "Assemble the people, and I will give them water."¹⁷ There the Israelites sang this song:

"Spring up, O well!
Yes, sing its praises!
¹⁸ Sing of this well,
which princes dug,
which great leaders hollowed out
with their scepters and staffs."

Then the Israelites left the wilderness and proceeded on through Mattanah,¹⁹ Nahaliel, and Bamoth.²⁰ After that they went to the valley in Moab where Pisgah Peak overlooks the wasteland.*

Victory over Sihon and Og

²¹The Israelites sent ambassadors to King Sihon of the Amorites with this message:

²²"Let us travel through your land. We will be careful not to go through your fields and vineyards. We won't even drink water from your wells. We will stay on the king's road until we have passed through your territory."

²³But King Sihon refused to let them cross his territory. Instead, he mobilized his entire army and attacked Israel in the wilderness, engaging them in battle at Jahaz.²⁴ But the Israelites slaughtered them with their swords and occupied their land from the Arnon River to the Jabbok River. They went only as far as the Ammonite border because the boundary of the Ammonites was fortified.*

²⁵So Israel captured all the towns of the Amorites and settled in them, including the city of Heshbon and its surrounding villages.²⁶ Heshbon had been the capital of King Sihon of the Amorites. He had defeated a former Moabite

^{21:16} Beer means "well." ^{21:20} Or overlooks Jeshimon. ^{21:24} Or because the terrain of the Ammonite frontier was rugged; Hebrew reads because the boundary of the Ammonites was strong. ^{21:30} Or until fire spread to Medeba. The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain. ^{22:5a} Or who was at Pethor in the land of the Amavites. ^{22:5b} Hebrew the river. ^{22:7} Hebrew set out with the money of divination in their hand.

king and seized all his land as far as the Arnon River.²⁷ Therefore, the ancient poets wrote this about him:

"Come to Heshbon and let it be rebuilt!
Let the city of Sihon be restored.
²⁸ A fire flamed forth from Heshbon,
a blaze from the city of Sihon.
It burned the city of Ar in Moab;
it destroyed the rulers of the Arnon heights.
²⁹ What sorrow awaits you, O people of Moab!
You are finished, O worshipers of Chemosh!
Chemosh has left his sons as refugees,
his daughters as captives of Sihon, the Amorite king.
³⁰ We have utterly destroyed them,
from Heshbon to Dibon.
We have completely wiped them out
as far away as Nophah and Medeba.*"

³¹So the people of Israel occupied the territory of the Amorites.³² After Moses sent men to explore the Jazer area, they captured all the towns in the region and drove out the Amorites who lived there.³³ Then they turned and marched up the road to Bashan, but King Og of Bashan and all his people attacked them at Edrei.³⁴ The LORD said to Moses, "Do not be afraid of him, for I have handed him over to you, along with all his people and his land. Do the same to him as you did to King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon."³⁵ And Israel killed King Og, his sons, and all his subjects; not a single survivor remained. Then Israel occupied their land.

Balak Sends for Balaam

22 Then the people of Israel traveled to the plains of Moab and camped east of the Jordan River, across from Jericho.² Balak son of Zippor, the Moabite king, had seen everything the Israelites did to the Amorites.³ And when the people of Moab saw how many Israelites there were, they were terrified.⁴ The king of Moab said to the elders of Midian, "This mob will devour everything in sight like an ox devours grass in the field!"

So Balak, king of Moab,⁵ sent messengers to call Balaam son of Beor, who was living in his native land of Pethor^{*} near the Euphrates River.^{*} His message said:

"Look, a vast horde of people has arrived from Egypt. They cover the face of the earth and are threatening me. Please come and curse these people for me because they are too powerful for me. Then perhaps I will be able to conquer them and drive them from the land. I know that blessings fall on any people you bless, and curses fall on people you curse."

Balaam's messengers, who were elders of Moab and Midian, set out with money to pay Balaam to place a curse upon Israel.^{*} They went to Balaam and delivered Balak's message to him.⁸ "Stay here overnight," Balaam said. "In the morning I will tell you whatever the LORD directs me to say." So the officials from Moab stayed there with Balaam.

⁹That night God came to Balaam and asked him, "Who are these men visiting you?"

¹⁰Balaam said to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent me this message: ¹¹Look, a vast horde of people have arrived from Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come and curse these people for me. Then perhaps I will be able to stand up to them and drive them from the land."

¹²But God told Balaam, "Do not go with them. You are not to curse these people, for they have been blessed!"

¹³Then King Balak sent for Balaam again. "Please come and curse these people for me," he said. "I will give you a thousand pieces of silver and a robe of fine linen."

¹⁴But Balaam answered, "I cannot do what you ask. I can only say what God tells me to say."

¹⁵Then King Balak said, "Please come with me to my town of Ar in Moab. I will give you a thousand pieces of silver and a robe of fine linen."

¹⁶But Balaam said, "I will not go with you. I can only say what God tells me to say."

¹⁷Then King Balak said, "Please come with me to my town of Ar in Moab. I will give you a thousand pieces of silver and a robe of fine linen."

¹⁸But Balaam said, "I will not go with you. I can only say what God tells me to say."

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⁴³Then King Balak said, "Please come with me to my town of Ar in Moab. I will give you a thousand pieces of silver and a robe of fine linen."

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¹²⁷Then King Balak said, "Please come with me to my town of Ar in Moab. I will give you a thousand pieces of silver and a robe of fine linen."

¹²⁸

land as far as the Arnon River. Poets wrote this about him: "Let it be rebuilt! It will be restored. Heshbon, city of Sihon. In Moab; heights of the Arnon. You, O people of Moab! Worshipers of Chemosh! Sons as refugees, captives of Sihon, the Amorite king. They overthrew them, Dibon. They wiped them out. Sihon and Medeba.*" The Amorites occupied the territory of the Ammonites to explore the Jazer area, the region and drove out the Ammonites. Then they turned and marched against King Og of Bashan and all his people. The Lord said to Moses, "Do not hand him over to you, along with him. Do the same to him as you did to the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon." 33 All his sons, and all his subjects; not a single Israel occupied their land.

Then Israel traveled to the plains east of the Jordan River, across from Zippor, the Moabite king. Israelites did to the Amorites. Israel saw how many Israelites there were. The king of Moab said to the Israelites, "The mob will devour everything in sight in the field!"

So Israel sent messengers to call Balaam in his native land of Pethor. His message said:

"A people has arrived from Egypt of the earth and are threatening to curse these people for me because of me. Then perhaps I will be able to drive them from the land and fall on any people you bless, and you curse."

So the elders of Moab and Balaam to pay Balaam to place a curse on Israelites and delivered Balak's message. "Balaam said, 'In the morning the Lord directs me to say.' So I went there with Balaam, told him to Balaam and asked him, 'What do you say?'"

"Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab: 11 'Look, a vast horde of people and they cover the face of the earth for me. Then perhaps I will be able to drive them from the land. Do not go with them. You are for them because they have been blessed'."

*"Rugged." Hebrew reads "is uncertain." 22:5a Or who was in their hand.

The next morning Balaam got up and told Balak's officials, "Go on home! The Lord will not let me go with you." So the Moabite officials returned to King Balak and reported, "Balaam refused to come with us." 15 Then Balak sent again. This time he sent a larger number of even more distinguished officials than those he had sent the first time. They went to Balaam and delivered this message to him:

"This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Please don't let anything stop you from coming to help me. 17 I will pay you very well and do whatever you tell me. Just come and curse these people for me!"

But Balaam responded to Balak's messengers, "Even if I were to give me his palace filled with silver and gold, I would be powerless to do anything against the will of the Lord my God. 19 But stay here one more night, and I will see if the Lord has anything else to say to me."

That night God came to Balaam and told him, "Since I have come for you, get up and go with them. But know what I tell you to do."

Balaam and His Donkey

The next morning Balaam got up, saddled his donkey, and started off with the Moabite officials. 22 But God was angering Balaam was going, so he sent the angel of the Lord standing in the road to block his way. As Balaam and two servants were riding along, 23 Balaam's donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. The donkey bolted off the road into a field, but Balaam beat it and turned it back onto the road. 24 Then the angel of the Lord stood at a place where the road narrowed between two vineyard walls. 25 When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it tried to squeeze by and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. So Balaam beat the donkey again. 26 The angel of the Lord moved farther down the road into a place too narrow for the donkey to get by at all. 27 This time when the donkey saw the angel, it lay down under Balaam. In a fit of rage Balaam beat the animal again with his staff.

Then the Lord gave the donkey the ability to speak. "What have I done to you that deserves your beating me three times?" it asked Balaam.

"You have made me look like a fool!" Balaam shouted. "I have a sword with me, I would kill you!"

"But I am the same donkey you have ridden all your life," the donkey answered. "Have I ever done anything like that before?"

"I Balaam admitted.

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam bowed his head and fell face down on the ground before him.

"Why did you beat your donkey those three times?" the angel of the Lord demanded. "Look, I have come to block you because you are stubbornly resisting me. 33 Three times the donkey saw me and shied away; otherwise, I would have killed you by now and spared the donkey."

Then Balaam confessed to the angel of the Lord, "I have not realized you were standing in the road to block me. I will return home if you are against my going."

Then the angel of the Lord told Balaam, "Go with these officials only what I tell you to say." So Balaam went on his way, he went out to meet him at a Moabite town on the Jordan River at the farthest border of his land.

"I send you an urgent invitation? Why didn't you

come right away?" Balak asked Balaam. "Didn't you believe me when I said I would reward you richly?"

38 Balaam replied, "Look, now I have come, but I have no power to say whatever I want. I will speak only the message that God puts in my mouth." 39 Then Balaam accompanied Balak to Kiriath-huzoth, 40 where the king sacrificed cattle and sheep. He sent portions of the meat to Balaam and the officials who were with him. 41 The next morning Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth-baal. From there he could see some of the people of Israel spread out below him.

Balaam Blesses Israel

23 Then Balaam said to King Balak, "Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven young bulls and seven rams for me to sacrifice." 24 Balak followed his instructions, and the two of them sacrificed a young bull and a ram on each altar.

3 Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stand here by your burnt offerings, and I will go to see if the Lord will respond to me. Then I will tell you whatever he reveals to me." So Balaam went alone to the top of a bare hill, 4 and God met him there. Balaam said to him, "I have prepared seven altars and have sacrificed a young bull and a ram on each altar."

5 The Lord gave Balaam a message for King Balak. Then he said, "Go back to Balak and give him my message."

6 So Balaam returned and found the king standing beside his burnt offerings with all the officials of Moab. 7 This was the message Balaam delivered:

"Balak summoned me to come from Aram;
the king of Moab brought me from the eastern hills.
'Come,' he said, 'curse Jacob for me!
Come and announce Israel's doom.'

8 But how can I curse those
whom God has not cursed?
How can I condemn those
whom the Lord has not condemned?
9 I see them from the cliff tops;
I watch them from the hills.
I see a people who live by themselves,
set apart from other nations.

10 Who can count Jacob's descendants, as numerous as
dust?
Who can count even a fourth of Israel's people?
Let me die like the righteous;
let my life end like theirs."

11 Then King Balak demanded of Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies. Instead, you have blessed them!"

12 But Balaam replied, "I will speak only the message that the Lord puts in my mouth."

Balaam's Second Message

13 Then King Balak told him, "Come with me to another place. There you will see another part of the nation of Israel, but not all of them. Curse at least that many!" 14 So Balak took Balaam to the plateau of Zophim on Pisgah Peak. He built seven altars there and offered a young bull and a ram on each altar.

15 Then Balaam said to the king, "Stand here by your burnt offerings while I go over there to meet the Lord."

16 And the Lord met Balaam and gave him a message. Then he said, "Go back to Balak and give him my message."

17 So Balaam returned and found the king standing beside his burnt offerings with all the officials of Moab. "What did the Lord say?" Balak asked eagerly.

¹⁸This was the message Balaam delivered:
 "Rise up, Balak, and listen!
 Hear me, son of Zippor.
¹⁹God is not a man, so he does not lie.
 He is not human, so he does not change his mind.
 Has he ever spoken and failed to act?
 Has he ever promised and not carried it through?
²⁰Listen, I received a command to bless;
 God has blessed, and I cannot reverse it!
²¹No misfortune is in his plan for Jacob;
 no trouble is in store for Israel.
 For the Lord their God is with them;
 he has been proclaimed their king.
²²God brought them out of Egypt;
 for them he is as strong as a wild ox.
²³No curse can touch Jacob;
 no magic has any power against Israel.
 For now it will be said of Jacob,
 'What wonders God has done for Israel!'
²⁴These people rise up like a lioness,
 like a majestic lion rousing itself.
 They refuse to rest
 until they have feasted on prey,
 drinking the blood of the slaughtered!"

²⁵Then Balak said to Balaam, "Fine, but if you won't curse them, at least don't bless them!"

²⁶But Balaam replied to Balak, "Didn't I tell you that I can do only what the Lord tells me?"

Balaam's Third Message

²⁷Then King Balak said to Balaam, "Come, I will take you to one more place. Perhaps it will please God to let you curse them from there."

²⁸So Balak took Balaam to the top of Mount Peor, overlooking the wasteland.* ²⁹Balaam again told Balak, "Build me seven altars, and prepare seven young bulls and seven rams for me to sacrifice." ³⁰So Balak did as Balaam ordered and offered a young bull and a ram on each altar.

24 By now Balaam realized that the Lord was determined to bless Israel, so he did not resort to divination as before. Instead, he turned and looked out toward the wilderness, ²where he saw the people of Israel camped, tribe by tribe. Then the Spirit of God came upon him, ³and this is the message he delivered:

"This is the message of Balaam son of Beor,
 the message of the man whose eyes see clearly,
⁴the message of one who hears the words of God,
 who sees a vision from the Almighty,
 who bows down with eyes wide open:
⁵How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob;
 how lovely are your homes, O Israel!
⁶They spread before me like palm groves,*
 like gardens by the riverside.
 They are like tall trees planted by the Lord,
 like cedars beside the waters.
⁷Water will flow from their buckets;
 their offspring have all they need.
 Their king will be greater than Agag;
 their kingdom will be exalted.
⁸God brought them out of Egypt;
 for them he is as strong as a wild ox.
 He devours all the nations that oppose him,

^{23:28} Or overlooking Jeshimon. ^{24:6} Or like a majestic valley. ^{24:22} Hebrew Asshur; also in 24:24. ^{24:24} Hebrew Kittim. ^{25:1a} Hebrew Shittim.

^{25:1b} As in Greek version; Hebrew reads some of the men began having.

breaking their bones in pieces,
 shooting them with arrows.

⁹Like a lion, Israel crouches and lies down;
 like a lioness, who dares to arouse her?
 Blessed is everyone who blesses you, O Israel,
 and cursed is everyone who curses you."

¹⁰King Balak flew into a rage against Balaam. He angrily clapped his hands and shouted, "I called you to curse my enemies! Instead, you have blessed them three times. ¹¹Now get out of here! Go back home! I promised to reward you richly, but the Lord has kept you from your reward."

¹²Balaam told Balak, "Don't you remember what I told your messengers? I said, ¹³Even if Balak were to give me his palace filled with silver and gold, I would be powerless to do anything against the will of the Lord. I told you that I could say only what the Lord says! ¹⁴Now I am returning to my own people. But first let me tell you what the Israelites will do to your people in the future."

Balaam's Final Messages

¹⁵This is the message Balaam delivered:

"This is the message of Balaam son of Beor,
 the message of the man whose eyes see clearly,

¹⁶the message of one who hears the words of God,
 who has knowledge from the Most High,
 who sees a vision from the Almighty,
 who bows down with eyes wide open:

¹⁷I see him, but not here and now.

I perceive him, but far in the distant future.

A star will rise from Jacob;

a scepter will emerge from Israel.

It will crush the foreheads of Moab's people,
 cracking the skulls of the people of Sheth.

¹⁸Edom will be taken over,
 and Seir, its enemy, will be conquered,
 while Israel marches on in triumph.

¹⁹A ruler will rise in Jacob
 who will destroy the survivors of Ir."

²⁰Then Balaam looked over toward the people of Amalek and delivered this message:

"Amalek was the greatest of nations,
 but its destiny is destruction!"

²¹Then he looked over toward the Kenites and delivered this message:

"Your home is secure;
 your nest is set in the rocks.

²²But the Kenites will be destroyed
 when Assyria* takes you captive."

²³Balaam concluded his messages by saying:

"Alas, who can survive
 unless God has willed it?

²⁴Ships will come from the coasts of Cyprus*;
 they will oppress Assyria and afflict Eber,
 but they, too, will be utterly destroyed."

²⁵Then Balaam and Balak returned to their homes.

Moab Seduces Israel

25 While the Israelites were camped at Acacia Grove, some of the men defiled themselves by having* sexual relations with local Moabite women. ²These women

invited them to attend sacrifices to their gods, so the Israelites feasted with them and worshiped the gods of Moab. ³In this way, Israel joined in the worship of Baal of Peor, causing the Lord's anger to blaze against his people.

⁴The Lord issued the following command to Moses: "Seize all the ringleaders and execute them before the Lord in broad daylight, so his fierce anger will turn away from the people of Israel."

⁵So Moses ordered Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death the men under your authority who have joined in worshiping Baal of Peor."

⁶Just then one of the Israelite men brought a Midianite woman into his tent, right before the eyes of Moses and all the people, as everyone was weeping at the entrance of the Tabernacle.* ⁷When Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron the priest saw this, he jumped up and left the assembly. He took a spear ⁸and rushed after the man into his tent. Phinehas thrust the spear all the way through the man's body and into the woman's stomach. So the plague against the Israelites was stopped, ⁹but not before 24,000 people had died.

¹⁰Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹¹"Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron the priest has turned my anger away from the Israelites by being as zealous among them as I was. So I stopped destroying all Israel as I had intended to do in my zealous anger. ¹²Now tell him that I am making my special covenant of peace with him. ¹³In this covenant, I give him and his descendants a permanent right to the priesthood, for in his zeal for me, his God, he purified the people of Israel, making them right with me."

¹⁴The Israelite man killed with the Midianite woman was named Zimri son of Salu, the leader of a family from the tribe of Simeon. ¹⁵The woman's name was Cozbi; she was the daughter of Zur, the leader of a Midianite clan.

¹⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹⁷"Attack the Midianites and destroy them, ¹⁸because they assaulted you with deceit and tricked you into worshiping Baal of Peor, and because of Cozbi, the daughter of a Midianite leader, who was killed at the time of the plague because of what happened at Peor."

The Second Registration of Israel's Troops

26 After the plague had ended, the Lord said to Moses and to Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, ²"From the whole community of Israel, record the names of all the warriors by their families. List all the men twenty years old or older who are able to go to war."

³So there on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho, Moses and Eleazar the priest issued these instructions to the leaders of Israel: ⁴"List all the men of Israel twenty years old and older, just as the Lord commanded Moses."

This is the record of all the descendants of Israel who came out of Egypt.

The Tribe of Reuben

These were the clans descended from the sons of Reuben, ¹the oldest son:

The Hanochite clan, named after their ancestor Hanoch. The Palluite clan, named after their ancestor Pallu.

* The Hezronite clan, named after their ancestor Hezron. The Carmite clan, named after their ancestor Carmi.

These were the clans of Reuben. Their registered troops numbered 43,730.

⁵Heb. *the Tent of Meeting*. ^{25:13} Or he made atonement for the people of Israel. ^{26:1} Heb. *the Tent of Meeting* (see also Gen 46:10; Exod 6:15); Hebrew reads *Nemuelite* . . . *Nemuel*. ^{26:17} Heb. *the Tent of Meeting* (see also Gen 46:10; Exod 6:15); Hebrew reads *Zerah*. ^{26:17} As in Samaritan Pentateuch and Greek and Syriac versions (see also Gen 25:24); Hebrew reads *Shem*. ^{26:17} Heb. *the Tent of Meeting*, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate (see also 1 Chr 7:1); Hebrew reads *Shem*.

lees,
and lies down;
arouse her?
s you, O Israel,
ho curses you."

against Balaam. He anger
"I called you to curse my
them three times. ¹¹Now
I promised to reward
you from your reward."
you remember what I told
Balak were to give me
I would be powerless to the
Lord. I told you that I could
Now I am returning to tell
you what the Israelites will
do."

delivered:
son of Beor,
whose eyes see clearly
ars the words of God
n the Most High,
Almighty,
es wide open:
ow.
n the distant future.
om Israel.
of Moab's people,
e people of Sheth.
be conquered,
in triumph.
rvivors of Ir."

toward the people of
of nations,
ction!"
d the Kenites and delivered
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stroyed
u captive."
sages by saying:
t?
coasts of Cyprus*
ia and afflict Eber
terly destroyed."
returned to their home."

were camped at Aca
iled themselves by name
bit women. ⁴These were
ew Kithim. ²⁵For the
time of Meeting. ^{25:13} Or he made atonement for the people of Israel. ^{26:5} Hebrew Israel's; see note on 1:20-21b. ^{26:12} As in
Gen 46:10; Exod 6:15; Hebrew reads Nemuelite . . . Nemuel. ^{26:13} As in parallel texts at Gen 46:10 and Exod 6:15; Hebrew reads
Nemuel. ^{26:17} As in Samaritan Pentateuch and Greek and Syriac versions (see also Gen 46:16); Hebrew reads Arod. ^{26:23} As in Samaritan
and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate (see also 1 Chr 7:1); Hebrew reads The Punite clan, named after its ancestor Puvah.

them to attend sacrifices to their gods, so the Israelites joined with them and worshiped the gods of Moab. ³In this Israel joined in the worship of Baal of Peor, causing the anger of God to blaze against his people.

The Lord issued the following command to Moses: "Seize all the ringleaders and execute them before the Lord in daylight, so his fierce anger will turn away from the people of Israel."

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Just then one of the Israelite men brought a Midianite woman into his tent, right before the eyes of Moses and all the people, as everyone was weeping at the entrance of the tabernacle.* ⁷When Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron the priest saw this, he jumped up and left the assembly. He took a spear⁸ and rushed after the man into his tent. Phinehas thrust the spear all the way through the man's body and into the woman's stomach. So the plague against Israelites was stopped, ⁹but not before 24,000 people died.

Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹¹"Phinehas son of Eleazar and grandson of Aaron the priest has turned my anger from the Israelites by being as zealous among them as I. So I stopped destroying all Israel as I had intended to do by zealous anger. ¹²Now tell him that I am making my covenant of peace with him. ¹³In this covenant, I give him and his descendants a permanent right to the priesthood, for in his zeal for me, his God, he purified the people, making them right with me."^{**}

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Second Registration of Israel's Troops

²⁵ After the plague had ended, the Lord said to Moses and to Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, "From the community of Israel, record the names of all the warlike families. List all the men twenty years old or more who are able to go to war."

So there on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, from Jericho, Moses and Eleazar the priest issued instructions to the leaders of Israel: "List all the men twenty years old and older, just as the Lord commanded Moses."

Thus is the record of all the descendants of Israel who came out of Egypt.

Tribes of Reuben

These were the clans descended from the sons of Reuben, the eldest son:

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Palluite clan, named after their ancestor Pallu.

Hezronite clan, named after their ancestor Hezron.

Carmite clan, named after their ancestor Carmi.

These were the clans of Reuben. Their registered troops numbered 43,730.

⁸Pallu was the ancestor of Eliab,⁹and Eliab was the father of Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These Dathan and Abiram are the same community leaders who conspired with Korah against Moses and Aaron, rebelling against the Lord. ¹⁰But the earth opened up its mouth and swallowed them with Korah, and fire devoured 250 of their followers. This served as a warning to the entire nation of Israel. ¹¹However, the sons of Korah did not die that day.

The Tribe of Simeon

¹²These were the clans descended from the sons of Simeon:

- The Jemuelite clan, named after their ancestor Jemuel.*
- The Jaminitite clan, named after their ancestor Jamin.
- The Jakinitite clan, named after their ancestor Jakin.
- The Zoharite clan, named after their ancestor Zohar.*
- The Shaulite clan, named after their ancestor Shaul.

¹⁴These were the clans of Simeon. Their registered troops numbered 22,200.

The Tribe of Gad

¹⁵These were the clans descended from the sons of Gad:

- The Zephonite clan, named after their ancestor Zephon.
- The Haggiite clan, named after their ancestor Haggi.
- The Shunite clan, named after their ancestor Shuni.
- The Oznitite clan, named after their ancestor Ozni.
- The Erite clan, named after their ancestor Eri.
- The Arodite clan, named after their ancestor Arodi.*
- The Arelite clan, named after their ancestor Areli.

¹⁸These were the clans of Gad. Their registered troops numbered 40,500.

The Tribe of Judah

¹⁹Judah had two sons, Er and Onan, who had died in the land of Canaan. ²⁰These were the clans descended from Judah's surviving sons:

- The Shelanite clan, named after their ancestor Shelah.
- The Perezite clan, named after their ancestor Perez.
- The Zerahite clan, named after their ancestor Zerah.

²¹These were the subclans descended from the Perezites:

- The Hezronites, named after their ancestor Hezron.
- The Hamulites, named after their ancestor Hamul.

²²These were the clans of Judah. Their registered troops numbered 76,500.

The Tribe of Issachar

²³These were the clans descended from the sons of Issachar:

- The Tolaitite clan, named after their ancestor Tola.
- The Puite clan, named after their ancestor Puah.*
- The Jashubite clan, named after their ancestor Jashub.
- The Shimronite clan, named after their ancestor Shimron.

²⁵These were the clans of Issachar. Their registered troops numbered 64,300.

The Tribe of Zebulun

²⁶These were the clans descended from the sons of Zebulun:

- The Seredite clan, named after their ancestor Sered.
- The Elonite clan, named after their ancestor Elon.
- The Jahleelite clan, named after their ancestor Jahleel.

²⁶As in Samaritan Pentateuch and Greek and Syriac versions (see also Gen 46:16); Hebrew reads Arod. ^{26:23} As in Samaritan and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate (see also 1 Chr 7:1); Hebrew reads The Punite clan, named after its ancestor Puvah.

²⁷These were the clans of Zebulun. Their registered troops numbered 60,500.

The Tribe of Manasseh

²⁸Two clans were descended from Joseph through Manasseh and Ephraim.

²⁹These were the clans descended from Manasseh:

- The Makirite clan, named after their ancestor Makir.
- The Gileadite clan, named after their ancestor Gilead, Makir's son.

³⁰These were the subclans descended from the Gileadites:

- The Iezerites, named after their ancestor Iezer.
- The Helekites, named after their ancestor Helek.

³¹The Asrielites, named after their ancestor Asriel.

- The Shechemites, named after their ancestor Shechem.

³²The Shemidaites, named after their ancestor Shemida.

- The Hepherites, named after their ancestor Hepher.

³³(One of Hepher's descendants, Zelophehad, had no sons, but his daughters' names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.)

³⁴These were the clans of Manasseh. Their registered troops numbered 52,700.

The Tribe of Ephraim

³⁵These were the clans descended from the sons of Ephraim:

- The Shuthelahite clan, named after their ancestor Shuthelah.

- The Bekerite clan, named after their ancestor Beker.

- The Tahanite clan, named after their ancestor Tahan.

³⁶This was the subclan descended from the Shuthelahites:

- The Eranites, named after their ancestor Eran.

³⁷These were the clans of Ephraim. Their registered troops numbered 32,500.

These clans of Manasseh and Ephraim were all descendants of Joseph.

The Tribe of Benjamin

³⁸These were the clans descended from the sons of Benjamin:

- The Belaita clan, named after their ancestor Bela.

- The Ashbelite clan, named after their ancestor Ashbel.

- The Ahiramite clan, named after their ancestor Ahiram.

³⁹The Shuphamite clan, named after their ancestor Shupham.*

- The Huphamite clan, named after their ancestor Hupham.

⁴⁰These were the subclans descended from the Belaites:

- The Ardites, named after their ancestor Ard.*

- The Naamites, named after their ancestor Naaman.

⁴¹These were the clans of Benjamin. Their registered troops numbered 45,600.

The Tribe of Dan

⁴²These were the clans descended from the sons of Dan:

- The Shuhamite clan, named after their ancestor Shuham.

⁴³These were the Shuhamite clans of Dan. Their registered troops numbered 64,400.

^{26:39} As in some Hebrew manuscripts, Samaritan Pentateuch, Greek and Syriac versions, and Latin Vulgate; most Hebrew manuscripts read Shephupham.

^{26:40} As in Samaritan Pentateuch, some Greek manuscripts, and Latin Vulgate; Hebrew lacks named after their ancestor Ard.

The Tribe of Asher

⁴⁴These were the clans descended from the sons of Asher:

- The Imnite clan, named after their ancestor Imnah.

- The Ishvite clan, named after their ancestor Ishvi.

- The Berite clan, named after their ancestor Beriah.

⁴⁵These were the subclans descended from the Berites:

- The Heberites, named after their ancestor Heber.

- The Malkielites, named after their ancestor Malkiel.

⁴⁶Asher also had a daughter named Serah.

⁴⁷These were the clans of Asher. Their registered troops numbered 53,400.

The Tribe of Naphtali

⁴⁸These were the clans descended from the sons of Naphtali:

- The Jahzeelite clan, named after their ancestor Jahzeel.

- The Gunite clan, named after their ancestor Guni.

⁴⁹The Jezerite clan, named after their ancestor Jezer.

- The Shillemite clan, named after their ancestor Shillem.

⁵⁰These were the clans of Naphtali. Their registered troops numbered 45,400.

Results of the Registration

⁵¹In summary, the registered troops of all Israel numbered 601,730.

⁵²Then the Lord said to Moses, "Divide the land among the tribes, and distribute the grants of land in proportion to the tribes' populations, as indicated by the number of names on the list. ⁵³Give the larger tribes more land and the smaller tribes less land, each group receiving a grant in proportion to the size of its population. ⁵⁴But you must assign the land by lot, and give land to each ancestral tribe according to the number of names on the list. ⁵⁵Each grant of land must be assigned by lot among the larger and smaller tribe groups."

The Tribe of Levi

⁵⁶This is the record of the Levites who were counted according to their clans:

- The Gershonite clan, named after their ancestor Gershon.

- The Kohathite clan, named after their ancestor Kohath.

- The Merarite clan, named after their ancestor Merari.

⁵⁷The Libnites, the Hebronites, the Mahlites, the Mushites and the Korahites were all subclans of the Levites.

Now Kohath was the ancestor of Amram, ⁵⁸and Amram's wife was named Jochebed. She also was a descendant of Levi, born among the Levites in the land of Egypt. Amram and Jochebed became the parents of Aaron, Moses, and their sister, Miriam. ⁵⁹To Aaron were born Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ⁶⁰But Nadab and Abihu died when they burned before the Lord the wrong kind of fire, different from that he had commanded.

⁶¹The men from the Levite clans who were one month old or older numbered 23,000. But the Levites were not included in the registration of the rest of the people of Israel because they were not given an allotment of land when it was divided among the Israelites.

⁶²So these are the results of the registration of the people of Israel as conducted by Moses and Eleazar the priest on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho. ⁶³Not one person on this list had been among them.

⁶⁴These were the Shuhamite clans of Dan. Their registered troops numbered 64,400.

those listed in the previous registration taken by Moses and Aaron in the wilderness of Sinai. ⁶⁵For the Lord had of them, "They will all die in the wilderness." Not one of them survived except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

The Daughters of Zelophehad

⁶⁶One day a petition was presented by the daughters of Zelophehad—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Their father, Zelophehad, was a descendant of Hezron.

⁶⁷These women stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, tribal leaders, and the entire community at the entrance of the Tabernacle.* ⁶⁸"Our father died in the wilderness," they said. "He was not among Korah's followers, who rebelled against the Lord; he died because of his own sin. But he had no sons. ⁶⁹Why should the name of our father disappear from his clan just because he had no sons? Give us property along with the rest of our relatives."

⁷⁰So Moses brought their case before the Lord. ⁷¹"And the Tabernacle." ⁷²The claim of the daughters of Zelophehad is legitimate. You must give them a grant of land along with their father's relatives. Assign them the property that would have been given to their father.

⁷³And give the following instructions to the people of Israel: ⁷⁴If a man dies and has no son, then give his inheritance to his daughters. ⁷⁵If he has no daughter either, transfer his inheritance to his brothers. ⁷⁶If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers. ⁷⁷But if his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan. This is a legal requirement for the people of Israel just as the Lord commanded Moses."

Joshua Chosen to Lead Israel

⁷⁸The day the Lord said to Moses, "Climb one of the mountains east of the river,* and look out over the land I have given the people of Israel. ⁷⁹After you have seen it, you will take your brother, Aaron, ⁸⁰for you both rebelled against my instructions in the wilderness of Zin. When the people of Israel rebelled, you failed to demonstrate my holiness to me at the waters." (These are the waters of Meribah at Meribah* in the wilderness of Zin.)

⁸¹Then Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, you are the one who gives breath to all creatures. Please appoint a new leader for the community. ⁸²Give them someone who will guide them wherever they go and will lead them in battle, so the community of the Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

⁸³The Lord replied, "Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. ⁸⁴Present him to Eleazar the priest before the whole community, and publicly commission him to lead the people. ⁸⁵Transfer some of your authority to him so the whole community of Israel will obey him. ⁸⁶When direction from the Lord is needed, Joshua will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will use the Urim—one of the sacred lots cast before the Lord—to determine his will. This is how Joshua and the rest of the community of Israel will determine everything they should do."

⁸⁷So Moses did as the Lord commanded. He presented Joshua to Eleazar the priest and the whole community. ⁸⁸Moses laid his hands on him and commissioned him to lead the people, just as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

⁸⁹Then Moses and Aaron and Eleazar and Joshua left the Tent of Meeting. ⁹⁰They went to the mountain of Abarim, where Moses had been given the command to lead the people into the Promised Land. ⁹¹He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹²He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹³He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹⁴He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹⁵He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹⁶He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹⁷He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹⁸He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ⁹⁹He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he was not allowed to go up. ¹⁰⁰He was given the command to go up the mountain, but he 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from the sons of Asher their ancestor Imnah. Their ancestor Ishvi. Their ancestor Beriah. Ded from the Berites. Their ancestor Heber. Their ancestor Malkiel. and Serah.

Daughters of Zelophehad

27 One day a petition was presented by the daughters of Zelophehad—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Their father, Zelophehad, was a descendant of Hezron of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph. These women stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the tribal leaders, and the entire community at the entrance of the Tabernacle.* **3** "Our father died in the wilderness," they said. "He was not among Korah's followers, who rebelled against the Lord; he died because of his own sin. But we have no sons. Why should the name of our father disappear from our clan just because he had no sons? Give us property along with the rest of our relatives."

Moses brought their case before the Lord. **4** And the Lord replied to Moses, "The claim of the daughters of Zelophehad is legitimate. You must give them a grant of land along with their father's relatives. Assign them the property that could have been given to their father. **5** And give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If a man dies and has no son, then give his inheritance to his daughters. **6** And if he has no daughter either, transfer his inheritance to his brothers. **7** If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers. **8** But if his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative. **9** This is a legal requirement for the people of Israel as the Lord commanded Moses."

Chosen to Lead Israel

10 The Lord said to Moses, "Climb one of the mountains of the river,* and look out over the land I have given to the people of Israel. **11** After you have seen it, you will tell your brother, Aaron, **12** for you both rebelled against me in the wilderness of Sin. When the people rebelled, you failed to demonstrate my holiness to the waters." (These are the waters of Meribah at the wilderness of Sin.)

13 Moses said to the Lord, **14** "O Lord, you are the One who gives breath to all creatures. Please appoint a new leader for the community. **15** Give them someone to guide them wherever they go and will lead them so the community of the Lord will not be like without a shepherd."

16 The Lord replied, "Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the spirit of wisdom, and lay your hands on him. **17** Present him to Eleazar the priest before the whole community, and publicly commission him to lead the people. **18** Transfer some of your spirit to him so the whole community of Israel will obey when direction from the Lord is needed. Joshua will then direct Eleazar the priest, who will use the Urim—one sacred lot cast before the Lord—to determine his decisions. **19** Joshua and the rest of the community of Israel will determine everything they should do."

20 Moses did as the Lord commanded. He presented Joshua to Eleazar the priest and the whole community, laid his hands on him and commissioned him to lead the people just as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

the Tent of Meeting. **27:12** Or the mountains of Abarim. **27:14** Hebrew waters of Meribath-kadesh. **28:5a** Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of an ephah. **28:5b** Hebrew $\frac{1}{4}$ of a hin [1 liter]; also in 28:7. **28:9** Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of an ephah [4.4 liters]; also in 28:12, 20, 28. **28:14a** Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of a hin [2 liters]. **28:14b** Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of a hin [1.3 liters]. **28:14c** Hebrew $\frac{1}{2}$ of a hin [1.3 liters]. **28:16** This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in late March, April, or early May. **28:22** Or to make atonement for

The Daily Offering:

28 The Lord said: The people of special gifts are a plea. See to it that they are offered according to my command.

3 "Say to the people: sent to the Lord as you two one-year-old male lamb in the morning; each lamb you must offer choice flour mixed with oil, pure oil or pressed olives. This is the regular burnt offering instituted at Mount Sinai as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. **7** Along with it you must present the proper liquid offering of one quart of alcoholic drink with each lamb, poured out in the Holy Place as an offering to the Lord. **8** Offer the second lamb in the evening with the same grain offering and liquid offering. It, too, is a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

The Sabbath Offerings

9 "On the Sabbath day, sacrifice two one-year-old male lambs with no defects. They must be accompanied by a grain offering of four quarts* of choice flour moistened with olive oil, and a liquid offering. **10** This is the burnt offering to be presented each Sabbath day, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its accompanying liquid offering.

The Monthly Offerings

11 "On the first day of each month, present an extra burnt offering to the Lord of two young bulls, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **12** These must be accompanied by grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts* with each bull, four quarts with the ram, **13** and two quarts with each lamb. This burnt offering will be a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. **14** You must also present a liquid offering with each sacrifice: two quarts* of wine for each bull, a third of a gallon* for the ram, and one quart* for each lamb. Present this monthly burnt offering on the first day of each month throughout the year.

15 "On the first day of each month, you must also offer one male goat for a sin offering to the Lord. This is in addition to the regular burnt offering and its accompanying liquid offering.

Offerings for the Passover

16 "On the fourteenth day of the first month,* you must celebrate the Lord's Passover. **17** On the following day—the fifteenth day of the month—a joyous, seven-day festival will begin, but no bread made with yeast may be eaten. **18** The first day of the festival will be an official day for holy assembly, and no ordinary work may be done on that day. **19** As a special gift you must present a burnt offering to the Lord—two young bulls, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **20** These will be accompanied by grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts with each bull, four quarts with the ram, **21** and two quarts with each of the seven lambs. **22** You must also offer a male goat as a sin offering to purify yourselves and make yourselves right with the Lord.* **23** Present these offerings in addition to your regular morning burnt offering. **24** On each

DEUTERONOMY 9
For they are set apart for
the Lord will not accept
his name.
12 Observe the Sabbath
and enter my sabbaths.
13 You must not mistreat
the Lord will not accept
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14 Observe the Sabbath
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15 You must not mistreat
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of the seven days of the festival, this is how you must prepare the food offering that is presented as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. These will be offered in addition to the regular burnt offerings and liquid offerings. ²⁵The seventh day of the festival will be another official day for holy assembly, and no ordinary work may be done on that day.

Offerings for the Festival of Harvest

²⁶At the Festival of Harvest,* when you present the first of your new grain to the LORD, you must call an official day for holy assembly, and you may do no ordinary work on that day. ²⁷Present a special burnt offering on that day as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It will consist of two young bulls, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs. ²⁸These will be accompanied by grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts with each bull, four quarts with the ram, ²⁹and two quarts with each of the seven lambs. ³⁰Also, offer one male goat to purify yourselves and make yourselves right with the LORD. ³¹Prepare these special burnt offerings, along with their liquid offerings, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its accompanying grain offering. Be sure that all the animals you sacrifice have no defects.

Offerings for the Festival of Trumpets

29 "Celebrate the Festival of Trumpets each year on the first day of the appointed month in early autumn.* You must call an official day for holy assembly, and you may do no ordinary work. ²On that day you must present a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It will consist of one young bull, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ³These must be accompanied by grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts* with the bull, four quarts* with the ram, ⁴and two quarts* with each of the seven lambs. ⁵In addition, you must sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering to purify yourselves and make yourselves right with the LORD.* ⁶These special sacrifices are in addition to your regular monthly and daily burnt offerings, and they must be given with their prescribed grain offerings and liquid offerings. These offerings are given as a special gift to the LORD, a pleasing aroma to him.

Offerings for the Day of Atonement

⁷Ten days later, on the tenth day of the same month,* you must call another holy assembly. On that day, the Day of Atonement, the people must go without food and must do no ordinary work. ⁸You must present a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It will consist of one young bull, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ⁹These offerings must be accompanied by the prescribed grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts of choice flour with the bull, four quarts of choice flour with the ram, ¹⁰and two quarts of choice flour with each of the seven lambs. ¹¹You must also sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering. This is in addition to the sin offering of atonement and the regular daily burnt offering with its grain offering, and their accompanying liquid offerings.

^{28:26} Hebrew *Festival of Weeks*. This was later called the Festival of Pentecost (see Acts 2:1). It is celebrated today as Shavuot (or Shabuoth). ^{29:1} Hebrew *the first day of the seventh month*. This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in September or October. This festival is celebrated today as Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year. ^{29:3a} Hebrew *½ of an ephah* [6.6 liters]; also in 29:9, 14. ^{29:3b} Hebrew *½ of an ephah* [4.4 liters]; also in 29:9, 14. ^{29:4} Hebrew *½ of an ephah* [2.2 liters]; also in 29:10, 15. ^{29:5} Or *to make atonement for yourselves*. ^{29:7} Hebrew *On the tenth day of the seventh month*; see 29:1 and the note there. This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in September or October. It is celebrated today as Yom Kippur. ^{29:12a} Hebrew *On the fifteenth day of the seventh month*; see 29:1, 7 and the notes there. This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in late September, October, or early November. ^{29:12b} Or *Festival of Booths*, or *Festival of Tabernacles*. This was earlier called the Festival of the Final Harvest or Festival of Ingathering (see Exod 23:16b). It is celebrated today as Sukkot (or Succoth).

Offerings for the Festival of Shelters

¹²Five days later, on the fifteenth day of the same month,* you must call another holy assembly of all the people, and you may do no ordinary work on that day. It is the beginning of the Festival of Shelters,* a seven-day festival to the LORD. ¹³On the first day of the festival, you must present a burnt offering as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It will consist of thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ¹⁴Each of these offerings must be accompanied by a grain offering of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts for each of the thirteen bulls, four quarts for each of the two rams, ¹⁵and two quarts for each of the fourteen lambs. ¹⁶You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

¹⁷On the second day of this seven-day festival, sacrifice twelve young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ¹⁸Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ¹⁹You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

²⁰On the third day of the festival, sacrifice eleven young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ²¹Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ²²You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

²³On the fourth day of the festival, sacrifice ten young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ²⁴Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ²⁵You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

²⁶On the fifth day of the festival, sacrifice nine young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ²⁷Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ²⁸You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

²⁹On the sixth day of the festival, sacrifice eight young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ³⁰Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ³¹You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

³²On the seventh day of the festival, sacrifice seven young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ³³Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ³⁴You must also sacrifice one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

³⁵On the eighth day of the festival, proclaim another day. You must do no ordinary work on that day. ³⁶You must present a burnt offering as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It will consist of one young bull, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. ³⁷Each of these offerings must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ³⁸You must also sacrifice one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

³⁹You must present these offerings to the LORD at your annual festivals. These are in addition to the sacrifices and offerings you present in connection with vows, or as voluntary offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, liquid offerings, or peace offerings."

⁴⁰So Moses gave all of these instructions to the people of Israel as the LORD had commanded him.

Law concerning Vows

30 ¹Then Moses summoned the leaders of the tribes of Israel and told them, "This is what the LORD has commanded: ²A man who makes a vow to the LORD or makes a pledge under oath must never break it. He must do exactly what he said he would do.

³If a young woman makes a vow to the LORD or a pledge under oath while she is still living at her father's home, ⁴and her father hears of the vow or pledge and does not object to it, then all her vows and pledges will stand. ⁵If her father hears of it, let her fulfill the vow or pledge on the day he hears of it, then all her vows and pledges will become invalid. The LORD will forgive her because her father would let her fulfill them.

⁶Now suppose a young woman makes a vow or binds herself with an impulsive pledge and later marries. ⁷If her husband learns of her vow or pledge and does not object on the day he hears of it, her vows and pledges will stand. ⁸But if her husband refuses to accept her vow or impulsive pledge on the day he hears of it, he nullifies her commitments, and the LORD will forgive her. ⁹If, however, a woman is a widow or divorced, she must fulfill all her vows and pledges.

¹⁰But suppose a woman is married and living in her husband's home when she makes a vow or binds herself with a pledge. ¹¹If her husband hears of it and does not object to it, her vow or pledge will stand. ¹²But if her husband refuses to accept it on the day he hears of it, her vow or pledge will be nullified, and the LORD will forgive her. ¹³So her husband either confirms or nullifies any vows or pledges she makes to deny herself. ¹⁴But if he does not object on the day he hears of it, then he is agreeing to all her vows and pledges. ¹⁵If he waits more than a day and then tries to nullify a vow or pledge, he will be punished for her guilt."

¹⁶These are the regulations the LORD gave Moses concerning relationships between a man and his wife, and between a father and a young daughter who still lives at home.

Conquest of the Midianites

31 Then the LORD said to Moses, ²"On behalf of the people of Israel, take revenge on the Midianites for leading them into idolatry. After that, you will die and join your ancestors."

³So Moses said to the people, "Choose some men, and them to fight the LORD's war of revenge against Midian. From each tribe of Israel, send 1,000 men into battle." ⁴So he chose 1,000 men from each tribe of Israel, a total of 12,000 men armed for battle. ⁵Then Moses sent them out.

⁶Verse 29:40 is numbered 30:1 in Hebrew text. ^{30:1} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:1} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:2} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:3} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:4} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:5} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:6} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:7} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:8} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:9} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:10} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:11} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:12} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:13} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:14} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in Hebrew text. ^{31:15} Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:1-16 in 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of Shelters ²⁴On the eighth day of the festival, proclaim another day. You must do no ordinary work on that day. ²⁵You present a burnt offering as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It will consist of one young bull, one ram, seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. Each of these offerings must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. ²⁶You must also sacrifice one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

²⁷You must present these offerings to the Lord at your festivals. These are in addition to the sacrifices and offerings you present in connection with vows, or as voluntary offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, liquid offerings, or peace offerings."

²⁸So Moses gave all of these instructions to the people of Israel as the Lord had commanded him.

concerning Vows

30 ¹Then Moses summoned the leaders of the tribes of Israel and told them, "This is what the Lord has commanded: ²A man who makes a vow to the Lord or a pledge under oath must never break it. He must do what he said he would do.

³If a young woman makes a vow to the Lord or a pledge under oath while she is still living at her father's home, ⁴and her father hears of the vow or pledge and does not object to it, then all her vows and pledges will stand. ⁵But if her father lets her fulfill the vow or pledge on the day he hears of it, then all her vows and pledges will become invalid. The Lord will forgive her because her father would let her fulfill them.

⁶Now suppose a young woman makes a vow or binds herself with an impulsive pledge and later marries. ⁷If her husband learns of her vow or pledge and does not object to it, he hears of it, her vows and pledges will stand. ⁸But if he refuses to accept her vow or impulsive pledge when he hears of it, he nullifies her commitments, and he will forgive her. ⁹If, however, a woman is a widow or divorced, she must fulfill all her vows and pledges.

¹⁰Now suppose a woman is married and living in her husband's home when she makes a vow or binds herself with a pledge. ¹¹If her husband hears of it and does not object to it, his pledge will stand. ¹²But if her husband refuses to accept it on the day he hears of it, her vow or pledge will be nullified, and the Lord will forgive her. ¹³So her husband must not confirm or nullify any vows or pledges she makes or denies herself. ¹⁴But if he does not object on the day he hears of it, then he is agreeing to all her vows and pledges. ¹⁵He must then agree to it, and then tries to nullify a vow he will be punished for her guilt."

¹⁶These are the regulations the Lord gave Moses concerning relationships between a man and his wife, and between a man and a young daughter who still lives at home.

War against the Midianites

¹⁷Then the Lord said to Moses, "On behalf of the people of Israel, take revenge on the Midianites for leading them into idolatry. After that, you will die and join your ancestors."

¹⁸Moses said to the people, "Choose some men, and let them fight the Lord's war of revenge against Midian. ¹⁹Send the tribe of Israel, send 1,000 men into battle." ²⁰So Moses chose 1,000 men from each tribe of Israel, a total of 3,000 men armed for battle. ²¹Then Moses sent them out,

1,000 men from each tribe, and Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest led them into battle. They carried along the holy objects of the sanctuary and the trumpets for sounding the charge. ²²They attacked Midian as the Lord had commanded Moses, and they killed all the men. ²³All five of the Midianite kings—Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba—died in the battle. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.

²⁴Then the Israelite army captured the Midianite women and children and seized their cattle and flocks and all their wealth as plunder. ²⁵They burned all the towns and villages where the Midianites had lived. ²⁶After they had gathered the plunder and captives, both people and animals, ²⁷they brought them all to Moses and Eleazar the priest, and to the whole community of Israel, which was camped on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho. ²⁸Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the community went to meet them outside the camp. ²⁹But Moses was furious with all the generals and captains* who had returned from the battle.

³⁰"Why have you let all the women live?" he demanded. ³¹These are the very ones who followed Balaam's advice and caused the people of Israel to rebel against the Lord at Mount Peor. They are the ones who caused the plague to strike the Lord's people. ³²So kill all the boys and all the women who have had intercourse with a man. ³³Only the young girls who are virgins may live; you may keep them for yourselves. ³⁴And all of you who have killed anyone or touched a dead body must stay outside the camp for seven days. You must purify yourselves and your captives on the third and seventh days. ³⁵Purify all your clothing, too, and everything made of leather, goat hair, or wood."

³⁶Then Eleazar the priest said to the men who were in the battle, "The Lord has given Moses this legal requirement: ³⁷Anything made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, or lead—that is, all metals that do not burn—must be passed through fire in order to be made ceremonially pure. These metal objects must then be further purified with the water of purification. But everything that burns must be purified by the water alone. ³⁸On the seventh day you must wash your clothes and be purified. Then you may return to the camp."

Division of the Plunder

³⁹And the Lord said to Moses, ⁴⁰"You and Eleazar the priest and the family leaders of each tribe are to make a list of all the plunder taken in the battle, including the people and animals. ⁴¹Then divide the plunder into two parts, and give half to the men who fought the battle and half to the rest of the people. ⁴²From the army's portion, first give the Lord his share of the plunder—one of every 500 of the prisoners and of the cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats. ⁴³Give this share of the army's half to Eleazar the priest as an offering to the Lord. ⁴⁴From the half that belongs to the people of Israel, take one of every fifty of the prisoners and of the cattle, donkeys, sheep, goats, and other animals. Give this share to the Levites, who are in charge of maintaining the Lord's Tabernacle." ⁴⁵So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the Lord commanded Moses.

⁴⁶The plunder remaining from everything the fighting men had taken totaled 675,000 sheep and goats, ⁴⁷72,000 cattle, ⁴⁸1,000 donkeys, ⁴⁹and 32,000 virgin girls.

⁵⁰Half of the plunder was given to the fighting men. It totaled 337,500 sheep and goats, ⁵¹of which 675 were the Lord's share; ⁵²36,000 cattle, of which 72 were the Lord's share; ⁵³30,500 donkeys, of which 61 were the Lord's share; ⁵⁴and 16,000 virgin girls, of whom 32 were the

¹30:1 is numbered 30:1 in Hebrew text. ²30:1 Verses 30:1-16 are numbered 30:2-17 in Hebrew text. ^{31:14} Hebrew *the commanders of hundreds*; also in 31:48, 52, 54.

LORD's share. ⁴¹Moses gave all the LORD's share to Eleazar the priest, just as the Lord had directed him.

⁴²Half of the plunder belonged to the people of Israel, and Moses separated it from the half belonging to the fighting men. ⁴³It totaled 337,500 sheep and goats, ⁴⁴36,000 cattle, ⁴⁵30,500 donkeys, ⁴⁶and 16,000 virgin girls. ⁴⁷From the half-share given to the people, Moses took one of every fifty prisoners and animals and gave them to the Levites, who maintained the Lord's Tabernacle. All this was done as the Lord had commanded Moses.

⁴⁸Then all the generals and captains came to Moses ⁴⁹and said, "We, your servants, have accounted for all the men who went out to battle under our command; not one of us is missing! ⁵⁰So we are presenting the items of gold we captured as an offering to the Lord from our share of the plunder—armbands, bracelets, rings, earrings, and necklaces. This will purify our lives before the Lord and make us right with him."^{**}

⁵¹So Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from all the military commanders—all kinds of jewelry and crafted objects. ⁵²In all, the gold that the generals and captains presented as a gift to the Lord weighed about 420 pounds.* ⁵³All the fighting men had taken some of the plunder for themselves. ⁵⁴So Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted the gifts from the generals and captains and brought the gold to the Tabernacle* as a reminder to the Lord that the people of Israel belong to him.

The Tribes East of the Jordan

32 The tribes of Reuben and Gad owned vast numbers of livestock. So when they saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were ideally suited for their flocks and herds, ²they came to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the other leaders of the community. They said, ³"Notice the towns of Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sibmah,* Nebo, and Beon. ⁴The Lord has conquered this whole area for the community of Israel, and it is ideally suited for all our livestock. ⁵If we have found favor with you, please let us have this land as our property instead of giving us land across the Jordan River."

"Do you intend to stay here while your brothers go across and do all the fighting?" Moses asked the men of Gad and Reuben. ⁷"Why do you want to discourage the rest of the people of Israel from going across to the land the Lord has given them? ⁸Your ancestors did the same thing when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land. ⁹After they went up to the valley of Eshcol and explored the land, they discouraged the people of Israel from entering the land the Lord was giving them. ¹⁰Then the Lord was very angry with them, and he vowed, ¹¹"Of all those I rescued from Egypt, no one who is twenty years old or older will ever see the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for they have not obeyed me wholeheartedly. ¹²The only exceptions are Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they have wholeheartedly followed the Lord."

¹³The Lord was angry with Israel and made them wander in the wilderness for forty years until the entire generation that sinned in the Lord's sight had died. ¹⁴But here you are, a brood of sinners, doing exactly the same thing! You are making the Lord even angrier with Israel. ¹⁵If you turn away from him like this and he abandons them again in the wilderness, you will be responsible for destroying this entire nation!"

¹⁶But they approached Moses and said, "We simply want to build pens for our livestock and fortified towns for our

wives and children. ¹⁷Then we will arm ourselves and lead our fellow Israelites into battle until we have brought them safely to their land. Meanwhile, our families will stay in the fortified towns we build here, so they will be safe from any attacks by the local people. ¹⁸We will not return to our homes until all the people of Israel have received their portions of land. ¹⁹But we do not claim any of the land on the other side of the Jordan. We would rather live here on the east side and accept this as our grant of land."

²⁰Then Moses said, "If you keep your word and arm yourselves for the Lord's battles, ²¹and if your troops cross the Jordan and keep fighting until the Lord has driven out his enemies, ²²then you may return when the Lord has conquered the land. You will have fulfilled your duty to the Lord and to the rest of the people of Israel. And the land on the east side of the Jordan will be your property from the Lord. ²³But if you fail to keep your word, then you will have sinned against the Lord, and you may be sure that your sin will find you out. ²⁴Go ahead and build towns for your families and pens for your flocks, but do everything you have promised."

²⁵Then the men of Gad and Reuben replied, "We, your servants, will follow your instructions exactly. ²⁶Our children, wives, flocks, and cattle will stay here in the towns of Gilead. ²⁷But all who are able to bear arms will cross over to fight for the Lord, just as you have said."

²⁸So Moses gave orders to Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders of the clans of Israel. ²⁹He said, "The men of Gad and Reuben who are armed for battle must cross the Jordan with you to fight for the Lord. If they do give them the land of Gilead as their property when the land is conquered. ³⁰But if they refuse to arm themselves and cross over with you, then they must accept land with the rest of you in the land of Canaan."

³¹The tribes of Gad and Reuben said again, "We are your servants, and we will do as the Lord has commanded! ³²We will cross the Jordan into Canaan fully armed to fight for the Lord, but our property will be here on this side of the Jordan." ³³So Moses assigned land to the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph. He gave them the territory of King Sihon of the Amorites and the land of King Og of Bashan—the whole land with its cities and surrounding lands.

³⁴The descendants of Gad built the towns of Dibon, Aroth, Aroer, ³⁵Atroth-shophan, Jazer, Rogbehah, ³⁶Beth-nimrah, and Beth-haran. These were all fortified towns with pens for their flocks.

³⁷The descendants of Reuben built the towns of Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim, ³⁸Nebo, Baal-meon, and Sibmah. They changed the names of some of the towns they conquered and rebuilt.

³⁹Then the descendants of Makir of the tribe of Manasseh went to Gilead and conquered it, and they drove out the Amorites living there. ⁴⁰So Moses gave Gilead to the Makir descendants of Manasseh, and they settled there. ⁴¹The people of Jair, another clan of the tribe of Manasseh, captured many of the towns in Gilead and changed the name of the region to the Towns of Jair.* ⁴²Meanwhile, a man named Nobah captured the town of Kenath and its surrounding villages, and he renamed that area Nobah after himself.

Remembering Israel's Journey

33 This is the route the Israelites followed as they marched out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. ²At the Lord's direction, Moses kept a written record of their progress. These are the stages of their march, identified by the different places where they stopped along the way.

³They set out from the city of Rameses in early spring—on the fifteenth day of the first month*—on the morning after the first Passover celebration. The people of Israel left defiantly, in full view of all the Egyptians. ⁴Meanwhile, the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn sons, whom the Lord had killed the night before. The Lord had defeated the gods of Egypt that night with great acts of judgment!

⁵After leaving Rameses, the Israelites set up camp at Succoth.

⁶Then they left Succoth and camped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness.

⁷They left Etham and turned back toward Pi-hahiroth,

⁸opposite Baal-zephon, and camped near Migdol.

⁹They left Pi-hahiroth and crossed the Red Sea* into the wilderness beyond. Then they traveled for three days into the Etham wilderness and camped at Marah.

¹⁰They left Marah and camped at Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees.

¹¹They left Elim and camped beside the Red Sea.*

¹²They left the Red Sea and camped in the wilderness of Sin.*

¹³They left the wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah.

¹⁴They left Dophkah and camped at Alush.

¹⁵They left Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

¹⁶They left Rephidim and camped in the wilderness of Sinai.

¹⁷They left the wilderness of Sinai and camped at Kibroth-taavaah.

¹⁸They left Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.

¹⁹They left Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

²⁰They left Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez.

²¹They left Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah.

²²They left Libnah and camped at Rissah.

²³They left Rissah and camped at Kehelathah.

²⁴They left Kehelathah and camped at Mount Sheper.

²⁵They left Mount Sheper and camped at Haradah.

²⁶They left Haradah and camped at Makheloth.

²⁷They left Makheloth and camped at Tahath.

²⁸They left Tahath and camped at Terah.

²⁹They left Terah and camped at Mithcrah.

³⁰They left Mithcrah and camped at Hashmonah.

³¹They left Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.

³²They left Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan.

³³They left Hor-haggidgad and camped at Hor-haggidgad.

³⁴They left Hor-haggidgad and camped at Jotbathah.

³⁵They left Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.

³⁶They left Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber.

³⁷They left Ezion-geber and camped at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

³⁸They left Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, at the border of Edom.

³⁹While they were at the foot of Mount Hor, Aaron the priest was directed by the Lord to go up the mountain, and there he died. This happened in midsummer, on the first day of the fifth month* of the fortieth year after Israel's departure from Egypt.

⁴⁰Aaron was 123 years old when he died there on Mount Hor.

⁴¹At that time the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in

⁴²This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in late March, April, or early May.

^{33:11} The geographical name Sin is related to Sinai and should not be confused with the name of the month.

^{33:12} This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in July or August.

^{33:13} Hebrew as far as Abel-shittim. ^{34:1} Hebrew reads lyim, another name for the Jordan River.

^{34:2} Hebrew Sea of Kinnereth. ^{34:3} Hebrew Salt Sea; also in 34:12.

⁴¹May

⁴²April

⁴³May

⁴⁴June

⁴⁵July

⁴⁶July

⁴⁷July

⁴⁸August

⁴⁹September

⁵⁰September

⁵¹October

⁵²November

⁵³December

⁵⁴January

⁵⁵February

⁵⁶March

⁵⁷April

⁵⁸May

⁵⁹June

⁶⁰July

⁶¹August

⁶²September

⁶³October

⁶⁴November

⁶⁵December

⁶⁶January

⁶⁷February

⁶⁸March

⁶⁹April

⁷⁰May

⁷¹June

⁷²July

⁷³August

⁷⁴September

⁷⁵October

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⁷⁷December

⁷⁸January

⁷⁹February

⁸⁰March

⁸¹April

⁸²May

⁸³June

⁸⁴July

⁸⁵August

⁸⁶September

⁸⁷October

⁸⁸November

⁸⁹December

⁹⁰January

⁹¹February

⁹²March

⁹³April

⁹⁴May

⁹⁵June

⁹⁶July

⁹⁷August

⁹⁸September

⁹⁹October

¹⁰⁰November

¹⁰¹December

¹⁰²January

¹⁰³February

¹⁰⁴March

¹⁰⁵April

¹⁰⁶May

¹⁰⁷June

¹⁰⁸July

¹⁰⁹August

¹¹⁰September

¹¹¹October

¹¹²November

¹¹³December

¹¹⁴January

¹¹⁵February

¹¹⁶March

¹¹⁷April

¹¹⁸May

¹¹⁹June

¹²⁰July

¹²¹August

¹²²September

¹²³October

¹²⁴November

¹²⁵December

¹²⁶January

¹²⁷February

¹²⁸March

¹²⁹April

¹³⁰May

¹³¹June

¹³²July

¹³³August

¹³⁴September

¹³⁵October

¹³⁶November

¹³⁷December

¹³⁸January

¹³⁹February

¹⁴⁰March

¹⁴¹April

¹⁴²May

¹⁴³June

¹⁴⁴July

¹⁴⁵August

¹⁴⁶September

¹⁴⁷October

¹⁴⁸November

¹⁴⁹December

¹⁵⁰January

¹⁵¹February

¹⁵²March

¹⁵³April

¹⁵⁴May

¹⁵⁵June

¹⁵⁶July

¹⁵⁷August

¹⁵⁸September

¹⁵⁹October

¹⁶⁰November

¹⁶¹December

¹⁶²January

¹⁶³February

¹⁶⁴March

¹⁶⁵April

¹⁶⁶May

¹⁶⁷June

¹⁶⁸July

¹⁶⁹August

¹⁷⁰September

¹⁷¹October

¹⁷²November

¹⁷³December

¹⁷⁴January

¹⁷⁵February

¹⁷⁶March

¹⁷⁷April

then we will arm ourselves and lead the battle until we have brought them here, so they will be safe from all people. ¹⁸We will not return to our land of Israel we have received their portion and do not claim any of the land on the way. We would rather live here on as our grant of land."

if you keep your word and arm your troops, ²¹and if your troops cross the Jordan River until the Lord has driven out all the people, then you will have returned when the Lord has completely fulfilled your duty to the people of Israel. And the land on the Jordan will be your property from the Lord. If you keep your word, then you will have surely be sure that your sin will not be forgotten. And build towns for your families and do everything you have promised the Lord and Reuben replied, "We will follow your instructions exactly. ²⁶Our cattle will stay here in the towns we are able to bear arms will cross over as you have said."

Then Moses said to Eleazar the priest, "Joshua, son of the clans of Israel. ²⁹He said, "The men who are armed for battle are to fight for the Lord. If they refuse to arm themselves, then in them must accept land with the land of Canaan."

and Reuben said again, "We are to do as the Lord has commanded us to Canaan fully armed to fight in the land on this side of the Jordan River."

and land to the tribes of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh son of Joseph. He gave them the land of the Amorites and the land of the whole land with its cities and towns.

of Gad built the towns of Dibon, Bezer, Pherath, Jazer, Rogbehah, and Arnon. These were all fortified towns.

of Reuben built the towns of Japhia, Rabbah, Nebo, Baal-meon, and Shiloh. Names of some of the towns in the land.

lands of Makir of the tribe of Manasseh, and they settled there. ⁴¹The man of the tribe of Manasseh, who had Gilead and changed the name of Jair. ⁴²Meanwhile, a man named Kenath and its surrounding land that area Nobah after himself.

and the land of the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the land of the Canaanites.

in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in late March, April, or early May. ^{33:8} Hebrew *the sea*. ^{33:10} Hebrew *sea of reeds*; also in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in July or August. ^{33:45} As in 33:44; Hebrew reads *lyim*, another name for Iye-abarim. ^{33:47} Or *the mountains of Abarim*; also in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in July or August. ^{33:49} Hebrew *as far as Abel-shittim*. ^{34:3} Hebrew *Salt Sea*; also in 34:12. ^{34:4} Or *the ascent of Akrabbim*. ^{34:5} Hebrew *the sea*; also in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in July or August. ^{33:11} Hebrew *the sea of Kinnereth*.

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They left Marah and camped at Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees.

They left Elim and camped beside the Red Sea.*

They left the Red Sea and camped in the wilderness of Sin.*

They left the wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah.

They left Dophkah and camped at Alush.

They left Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

They left Rephidim and camped in the wilderness of Shur.

They left the wilderness of Sinai and camped at Kibroth-hattaavah.

They left Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.

They left Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

They left Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez.

They left Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah.

They left Libnah and camped at Rissah.

They left Rissah and camped at Kehelathah.

They left Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher.

They left Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.

They left Haradah and camped at Makheloth.

They left Makheloth and camped at Tahath.

They left Tahath and camped at Terah.

They left Terah and camped at Mithcrah.

They left Mithcrah and camped at Hashmonah.

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They left Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.

They left Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber.

They left Ezion-geber and camped at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

They left Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, at the border of Edom. ³⁸While they were at the foot of Mount Hor, the priest was directed by the Lord to go up the mountain, and there he died. This happened in summer, on the first day of the fifth month* of the year after Israel's departure from Egypt. Aaron was 123 years old when he died there on Mount Hor.

At that time the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the land of the Canaanites.

Negev in the land of Canaan, heard that the people of Israel were approaching his land.

⁴¹Meanwhile, the Israelites left Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.

⁴²Then they left Zalmonah and camped at Punon.

⁴³They left Punon and camped at Oboth.

⁴⁴They left Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim on the border of Moab.

⁴⁵They left Iye-abarim* and camped at Dibon-gad.

⁴⁶They left Dibon-gad and camped at Almon-diblathaim.

⁴⁷They left Almon-diblathaim and camped in the mountains east of the river,* near Mount Nebo.

⁴⁸They left the mountains east of the river and camped on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho. ⁴⁹Along the Jordan River they camped from Beth-jeshimoth as far as the meadows of Acacia* on the plains of Moab.

⁵⁰While they were camped near the Jordan River on the plains of Moab opposite Jericho, the Lord said to Moses,

⁵¹"Give the following instructions to the people of Israel:

When you cross the Jordan River into the land of Canaan,

⁵²you must drive out all the people living there. You must

destroy all their carved and molten images and demolish all

their pagan shrines. ⁵³Take possession of the land and settle

in it, because I have given it to you to occupy. ⁵⁴You must

distribute the land among the clans by sacred lot and in proportion to their size. A larger portion of land will be allotted to each of the larger clans, and a smaller portion will be allotted to each of the smaller clans. The decision of the sacred

lot is final. In this way, the portions of land will be divided among your ancestral tribes. ⁵⁵But if you fail to drive out the

people who live in the land, those who remain will be like

splinters in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will harass you in the land where you live. ⁵⁶And I will do to you

what I had planned to do to them."

Boundaries of the Land

34 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Give these instructions to the Israelites: When you come into the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your special possession, these will be the boundaries. ³The southern portion of your country will extend from the wilderness of Zin, along the edge of Edom. The southern boundary will begin on the east at the Dead Sea.* ⁴It will then run south past Scorpion Pass* in the direction of Zin. Its southernmost point will be Kadesh-barnea, from which it will go to Hazar-addar, and on to Azmon. ⁵From Azmon the boundary will turn toward the Brook of Egypt and end at the Mediterranean Sea.*

"Your western boundary will be the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.

"Your northern boundary will begin at the Mediterranean Sea and run east to Mount Hor, ⁸then to Lebo-hamath, and on through Zedad ⁹and Ziphron to Hazar-enan. This will be your northern boundary.

¹⁰The eastern boundary will start at Hazar-enan and run south to Shepham, ¹¹then down to Riblah on the east side of Ain. From there the boundary will run down along the eastern edge of the Sea of Galilee,* ¹²and then along the Jordan River to the Dead Sea. These are the boundaries of your land."

¹³Then Moses told the Israelites, "This territory is the homeland you are to divide among yourselves by sacred lot.

¹⁴It will be divided into twelve portions, one for each tribe.

¹⁵Each tribe will receive a portion, and each portion will be divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

¹⁶Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

¹⁷Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

¹⁸Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

¹⁹Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

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¹⁰¹Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

¹⁰²Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

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¹¹⁹Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

¹²⁰Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

¹²¹Each tract will be further divided into tracts for the twelve families of Israel.

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The LORD has commanded that the land be divided among the nine and a half remaining tribes.¹⁴ The families of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have already received their grants of land¹⁵ on the east side of the Jordan River, across from Jericho toward the sunrise."

Leaders to Divide the Land

¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses,¹⁷ "Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun are the men designated to divide the grants of land among the people.¹⁸ Enlist one leader from each tribe to help them with the task.¹⁹ These are the tribes and the names of the leaders:

Tribe	Leader
Judah	Caleb son of Jephunneh
²⁰ Simeon	Shemuel son of Ammihud
²¹ Benjamin	Elidad son of Kislon
²² Dan	Bukki son of Jogi
²³ Manasseh son of Joseph	Hanniel son of Ephod
²⁴ Ephraim son of Joseph	Kemuvel son of Shiptan
²⁵ Zebulun	Elizaphan son of Parnach
²⁶ Issachar	Paltiel son of Azzan
²⁷ Asher	Ahiahud son of Shelomi
²⁸ Naphtali	Pedahel son of Ammihud

²⁹ These are the men the LORD has appointed to divide the grants of land in Canaan among the Israelites."

Towns for the Levites

35 While Israel was camped beside the Jordan on the plains of Moab across from Jericho, the LORD said to Moses,² "Command the people of Israel to give to the Levites from their property certain towns to live in, along with the surrounding pasturelands.³ These towns will be for the Levites to live in, and the surrounding lands will provide pasture for their cattle, flocks, and other livestock.⁴ The pastureland assigned to the Levites around these towns will extend 1,500 feet* from the town walls in every direction.⁵ Measure off 3,000 feet* outside the town walls in every direction—east, south, west, north—with the town at the center. This area will serve as the larger pastureland for the towns.

⁶ "Six of the towns you give the Levites will be cities of refuge, where a person who has accidentally killed someone can flee for safety. In addition, give them forty-two other towns.⁷ In all, forty-eight towns with the surrounding pastureland will be given to the Levites.⁸ These towns will come from the property of the people of Israel. The larger tribes will give more towns to the Levites, while the smaller tribes will give fewer. Each tribe will give property in proportion to the size of its land."

Cities of Refuge

⁹ The LORD said to Moses,¹⁰ "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel:

"When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,¹¹ designate cities of refuge to which people can flee if they have killed someone accidentally.¹² These cities will be places of protection from a dead person's relatives who want to avenge the death. The slayer must not be put to death before being tried by the community.¹³ Designate six cities of refuge for yourselves,¹⁴ three on the east side of the Jordan River and three on the west in the land of Canaan.¹⁵ These cities are for the protection of Israelites, foreigners living among you, and traveling merchants. Anyone who accidentally kills someone may flee there for safety.

¹⁶ "But if someone strikes and kills another person with a

35:4 Hebrew 1,000 cubits [460 meters]. 35:5 Hebrew 2,000 cubits [920 meters]. 35:33 Or can make atonement for murder.

piece of iron, it is murder, and the murderer must be executed.¹⁷ Or if someone with a stone in his hand strikes and kills another person, it is murder, and the murderer must be put to death.¹⁸ Or if someone strikes and kills another person with a wooden object, it is murder, and the murderer must be put to death.¹⁹ The victim's nearest relative is responsible for putting the murderer to death. When they meet, the avenger must put the murderer to death.²⁰ So if someone hates another person and pushes him or throws a dangerous object at him and he dies, it is murder.²¹ Or if someone hates another person and hits him with a fist and he dies, it is murder. In such cases, the avenger must put the murderer to death when they meet.

²² But suppose someone pushes another person without having shown previous hostility, or throws something that unintentionally hits another person,²³ or accidentally drops a huge stone on someone, though they were not enemies, and the person dies.²⁴ If this should happen, the community must follow these regulations in making a judgment between the slayer and the avenger, the victim's nearest relative:²⁵ The community must protect the slayer from the avenger and must escort the slayer back to live in the city of refuge to which he fled. There he must remain until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the sacred oil.

²⁶ But if the slayer ever leaves the limits of the city of refuge,²⁷ and the avenger finds him outside the city and kills him, it will not be considered murder.²⁸ The slayer should have stayed inside the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest, the slayer may return to his own property.²⁹ These are legal requirements for you to observe from generation to generation wherever you may live.

³⁰ All murderers must be put to death, but only if evidence is presented by more than one witness. No one may be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.³¹ Also you must never accept a ransom payment for the life of someone judged guilty of murder and subject to execution. Murderers must always be put to death.³² And never accept a ransom payment from someone who has fled to a city of refuge, allowing a slayer to return to his property before the death of the high priest.³³ This will ensure that the land where you live will not be polluted, for murder pollutes the land. And no sacrifice except the execution of the murderer can purify the land from murder.³⁴ You must not defile the land where you live, for I live there myself. I am the LORD who lives among the people of Israel."

Women Who Inherit Property

36 Then the heads of the clans of Gilead—descendants of Makir, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph—came to Moses and the family leaders of Israel with a petition.² They said, "Sir, the LORD instructed you to divide the land by lot among the people of Israel. You were told by the LORD to give the grant of land owned by our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.³ But if they marry men from another tribe, their grants of land will go with them to the tribe into which they marry. In this way, the total area of our land will be reduced.⁴ Then when the Year of Jubilee comes, their portion of land will be added to that of the new tribe, causing it to be lost forever to our ancestral tribe."⁵

⁵ So Moses gave the Israelites this command from the LORD: "The claim of the men of the tribe of Joseph is legitimate.⁶ This is what the LORD commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad: Let them marry anyone they like, long as it is within their own ancestral tribe.⁷ None of the

land may pass from tribe to tribe, for all the land given to each tribe must remain within the tribe to which it was first allotted.⁸ The daughters throughout the tribes of Israel who are in line to inherit property must marry within their tribe,⁹ so that all the Israelites will keep their ancestral property.¹⁰ No grant of land may pass from one tribe to another; each tribe of Israel must keep its allotted portion of land."¹¹

¹⁰ The daughters of Zelophehad did as the LORD commanded.

it is murder, and the murderer must be executed. If someone with a stone in his hand strikes and kills another person, it is murder, and the murderer must be executed. ¹⁹Or if someone strikes and kills another person with an object, it is murder, and the murderer must be executed. ²⁰The victim's nearest relative is responsible for putting the murderer to death. When the avenger must put the murderer to death, ²¹So if another person pushes him or throws a stone at him and he dies, it is murder. ²²Or if another person hits him with a fist and kills him, the avenger must put the murderer to death when they meet.

If someone pushes another person without previous hostility, or throws something that accidentally hits another person, ²³or accidentally drops it on someone, though they were not enemies, it is murder. ²⁴If this should happen, the community must regulate in making a judgment between the avenger and the victim's nearest relative. ²⁵The community must protect the slayer from the avenger and return the slayer back to live in the city of refuge. ²⁶There he must remain until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the sacred oil. ²⁷If the slayer ever leaves the limits of the city of refuge, the avenger finds him outside the city and kills him. He is not to be considered murder. ²⁸The slayer should remain inside the city of refuge until the death of the high priest, but after the death of the high priest, the slayer may return to his own property. ²⁹These are legal requirements you are to observe from generation to generation, until you may live.

Murderers must be put to death, but only if it is established by more than one witness. No one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. ³⁰Never accept a ransom payment for the life of a person accused of murder and subject to execution. ³¹He must always be put to death. ³²And never accept payment from someone who has fled to a city of refuge, asking a slayer to return to his property before the death of the high priest. ³³This will ensure that the land will not be polluted, for murder pollutes the land. ³⁴Never sacrifice except the execution of the murderer. ³⁵Do not remove the land from murder.* ³⁶You must not defile the land where you live, for I live there myself. I am the Lord, your God, among the people of Israel."

36 Who Inherit Property

1 The heads of the clans of Gilead—descendants of Joseph, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph—came to the family leaders of Israel with a petition. ²The Lord instructed you to divide the land among the people of Israel. You were told that the grant of land owned by our brother Joseph is divided among his daughters. ³But if they marry men from other tribes, their grants of land will go with them to the tribe they marry. In this way, the total area of the land will be reduced. ⁴Then when the Year of Jubilee comes, the land will be added to that of the new owner, and it will be lost forever to our ancestral tribe." ⁵God gave the Israelites this command concerning the inheritance of the men of the tribe of Joseph. ⁶What is the Lord commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad: Let them marry anyone they choose within their own ancestral tribe. ⁷None of them can make atonement for murder.

8 Land may pass from tribe to tribe, for all the land given to each tribe must remain within the tribe to which it was first allotted. ⁹The daughters throughout the tribes of Israel who are in line to inherit property must marry within their tribe, so that all the Israelites will keep their ancestral property. ¹⁰No land may pass from one tribe to another; each tribe of Israel must keep its allotted portion of land."

11 The daughters of Zelophehad did as the Lord com-

manded Moses. ¹¹Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah all married cousins on their father's side. ¹²They married into the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. Thus, their inheritance of land remained within their ancestral tribe.

13 These are the commands and regulations that the Lord gave to the people of Israel through Moses while they were camped on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River across from Jericho.

DEUTERONOMY

Author Moses, according to tradition (except for the final summary, possibly written by Joshua)
Date Written 1407–1406 B.C.

Content The book of Deuteronomy records the covenant between God and Israel. It calls each new generation of Israel to remember who God is and what he has done for them. Through a series of speeches, this fifth and final book of Moses summarizes the events that led up to this moment in Israel's history: the eve of Israel's entry into the Promised Land. Moses exhorted the Israelites to remain faithful and obedient and called them to rededicate their lives to the task God had given them. Then Moses led the people in worship. Finally, Moses appointed his successor, Joshua, and went off to a mountain by himself to view the Promised Land from a distance before he died.

Introduction to Moses' First Address

1 These are the words that Moses spoke to all the people of Israel while they were in the wilderness east of the Jordan River. They were camped in the Jordan Valley* near Suph, between Paran on one side and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Di-zahab on the other.

2 Normally it takes only eleven days to travel from Mount Sinai* to Kadesh-barnea, going by way of Mount Seir. **3** But forty years after the Israelites left Egypt, on the first day of the eleventh month,* Moses addressed the people of Israel, telling them everything the Lord had commanded him to say. **4** This took place after he had defeated King Sihon of the Amorites, who had ruled in Heshbon, and King Og of Bashan, who had ruled in Ashtaroth and Edrei.

5 While the Israelites were in the land of Moab east of the Jordan River, Moses carefully explained the Lord's instructions as follows.

The Command to Leave Sinai

6 "When we were at Mount Sinai, the Lord our God said to us, 'You have stayed at this mountain long enough. **7** It is time to break camp and move on. Go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all the neighboring regions—the Jordan Valley, the hill country, the western foothills,* the Negev, and the coastal plain. Go to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, and all the way to the great Euphrates River. **8** Look, I am giving all this land to you! Go in and occupy it, for it is the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all their descendants."

Moses Appoints Leaders from Each Tribe

9 Moses continued, "At that time I told you, 'You are too great a burden for me to carry all by myself. **10** The Lord your God has increased your population, making you as numerous as the stars! **11** And may the Lord, the God of your ancestors, multiply you a thousand times more and bless you as he promised! **12** But you are such a heavy load to carry! How can I deal with all your problems and bickering? **13** Choose some well-respected men from each tribe who are known for their wisdom and understanding, and I will appoint them as your leaders."

14 "Then you responded, 'Your plan is a good one.' **15** So I took the wise and respected men you had selected from your tribes and appointed them to serve as judges and officials over you. Some were responsible for a thousand people, some for a hundred, some for fifty, and some for ten.

16 "At that time I instructed the judges, 'You must hear the

cases of your fellow Israelites and the foreigners living among you. Be perfectly fair in your decisions¹⁷ and impartial in your judgments. Hear the cases of those who are poor as well as those who are rich. Don't be afraid of anyone's anger, for the decision you make is God's decision. Bring me any cases that are too difficult for you, and I will handle them.¹⁸

18 At that time I gave you instructions about everything you were to do.

Scouts Explore the Land

19 Then, just as the Lord our God commanded us, we left Mount Sinai and traveled through the great and terrifying wilderness, as you yourselves remember, and headed toward the hill country of the Amorites. When we arrived at Kadesh-barnea,²⁰ I said to you, 'You have now reached the hill country of the Amorites that the Lord our God is giving us.²¹ Look! He has placed the land in front of you. Go and occupy it as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Don't be afraid! Don't be discouraged!'

22 But you all came to me and said, 'First, let's send out scouts to explore the land for us. They will advise us on our best route to take and which towns we should enter.'

23 This seemed like a good idea to me, so I chose two scouts, one from each of your tribes.²⁴ They headed for the hill country and came to the valley of Eshcol and explored it.²⁵ They picked some of its fruit and brought it back to me. And they reported, 'The land the Lord our God has given us is indeed a good land.'

Israel's Rebellion against the Lord

26 But you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God and refused to go in.²⁷ You complained in your tents and said, 'The Lord must hate us. That's why he has brought us here from Egypt—to hand us over to the Amorites to be slaughtered.²⁸ Where can we go? Our brothers have demoralized us with their report. They tell us, "The people of the land are taller and more powerful than we are, and their towns are large, with walls rising high into the sky! We saw giants there—the descendants of Anak!"'

29 But I said to you, 'Don't be shocked or afraid of them.³⁰ The Lord your God is going ahead of you. He will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt.³¹ And you saw how the Lord your God cared for you all along the way as you traveled through the wilderness, just as a father cares for his child. Now he has brought you to this place.'

32 But even after all he did, you refused to trust the Lord.

1:1 Hebrew *the Arabah*; also in 1:7. **1:2** Hebrew *Horob*, another name for Sinai; also in 1:6, 19. **1:3** Hebrew *In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month*. This day in the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar occurred in January or February. **1:7** Hebrew *the Shephelah*.

God,³³ who goes before you looking for the best places to camp, guiding you with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day.

34 When the Lord heard your complaining, he became angry. So he solemnly swore,³⁵ 'Not one of you from this wicked generation will live to see the good land I swore to give your ancestors,³⁶ except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see this land because he has followed the Lord completely. I will give to him and his descendants some of the land he explored during his scouting mission.'

37 And the Lord was also angry with me because of you. He said to me, 'Moses, not even you will enter the Promised Land.³⁸ Instead, your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will lead the people into the land. Encourage him, for he will lead them as they take possession of it.³⁹ I will give the land to your little ones—your innocent children. You were afraid they would be captured, but they will be the ones who occupy it. For you, turn around now and go on back through the wilderness toward the Red Sea.'⁴⁰

41 Then you confessed, 'We have sinned against the Lord. We will go into the land and fight for it, as the Lord God has commanded us.' So your men strapped on their armor, thinking it would be easy to attack the hill country.

42 But the Lord told me to tell you, 'Do not attack, for I am with you. If you go ahead on your own, you will be beaten by your enemies.'

43 This is what I told you, but you would not listen. Instead, you again rebelled against the Lord's command and again went into the hill country to fight.⁴⁴ But the Amorites who lived there came out against you like a swarm of locusts. They chased and battered you all the way from Seir to Mahanah.⁴⁵ Then you returned and wept before the Lord, but he refused to listen.⁴⁶ So you stayed there at Kadesh for a long time.

Remembering Israel's Wanderings

2 Then we turned around and headed back across the wilderness toward the Red Sea,⁴⁷ just as the Lord had instructed me, and we wandered around in the region of Mount Seir for a long time.

48 Then at last the Lord said to me, 'You have been wandering around in this hill country long enough; turn to the north.⁴⁹ Give these orders to the people: "You will pass through the country belonging to your relatives the Edomites, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. The Edomites feel threatened, so be careful. **50** Do not bother them, for I have given them all the hill country around Mount Seir as their property, and I will not give you even one square foot of their land. **51** If you need food to eat or water to drink, pay for it. **52** For the Lord your God has blessed you in everything you have done. He has watched over you every step of the way through this great wilderness. During these forty years, the Lord your God has been with you, and you have lacked nothing."

53 So we bypassed the territory of our relatives, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We avoided the road through the Arabah Valley that comes up from Elath and Sela (Geber).

54 Then as we turned north along the desert route through the Arabah, the Lord warned us, 'Do not bother the Moabites, the descendants of Lot, or start a war with them. I have given Ar as their property, and I will not give you any of their land.'

55 A race of giants called the Emites had once lived in the land of Ar. They were as strong and numerous and tall as the people of the land of the sea of reeds.⁵⁶ **56** Hebrew *sea of reeds*. **57** Hebrew *sea of reeds*. **58** Hebrew *from Caphtor*. **59** Hebrew *or people to the Lord, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering*.

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13 Moving into Seir.

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God,³³ who goes before you looking for the best places camp, guiding you with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day.

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And the Lord was also angry with me because of you. said to me, 'Moses, not even you will enter the Promised land.³⁷ Instead, your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will lead people into the land. Encourage him, for he will lead them as they take possession of it.³⁸ I will give the land to your ones—your innocent children. You were afraid they would be captured, but they will be the ones who occupy it. Turn you, turn around now and go on back through the wilderness toward the Red Sea.'³⁹

Then you confessed, 'We have sinned against the Lord. We will go into the land and fight for it, as the Lord has commanded us.' So your men strapped on their armor, thinking it would be easy to attack the hill country. But the Lord told me to tell you, 'Do not attack, for I am with you. If you go ahead on your own, you will be defeated by your enemies.'

This is what I told you, but you would not listen. Instead, you again rebelled against the Lord's command and went into the hill country to fight.⁴⁰ But the Amorites who lived there came out against you like a swarm of locusts. They chased and battered you all the way from Seir to Ar. ⁴¹ Then you returned and wept before the Lord, refused to listen.⁴² So you stayed there at Kadesh for a long time.

Remembering Israel's Wanderings

Then we turned around and headed back across the wilderness toward the Red Sea,⁴³ just as the Lord had instructed me, and we wandered around in the region of Seir for a long time.

Then at last the Lord said to me,⁴⁴ 'You have been wandering in this hill country long enough; turn to the north and go these orders to the people: "You will pass through the country belonging to your relatives the Edomites, descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. The Edomites are threatening, so be careful. Do not bother them, for they have all the hill country around Mount Seir as their property, and I will not give you even one square foot of it. If you need food to eat or water to drink, pay for it.⁴⁵ For the Lord your God has blessed you in all you have done. He has watched every step you have taken in this great wilderness. During these forty years, the Lord our God has been with you, and you have lacked nothing."⁴⁶

We passed the territory of our relatives, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We avoided the road through the Arabah Valley that comes up from Elath and Sela.

Then we turned north along the desert route through Moab. The Lord warned us, 'Do not bother the Moabites, descendants of Lot, or start a war with them. I have given them their property, and I will not give you any of their land.⁴⁷

The race of giants called the Emites had once lived in the land. They were as strong and numerous and tall as the sea of reeds.⁴⁸ 2:1 Hebrew *sea of reeds*. 2:23 Hebrew *from Caphtor*. 2:34 The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration to the Lord, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

Anakites, another race of giants.⁴⁹ Both the Emites and the Anakites are also known as the Rephaeites, though the Moabites call them Emites.⁵⁰ In earlier times the Horites had lived in Seir, but they were driven out and displaced by the descendants of Esau, just as Israel drove out the people of Canaan when the Lord gave Israel their land.)

Moses continued, 'Then the Lord said to us, 'Get moving. Cross the Zered Brook.' So we crossed the brook.'

30Thirty-eight years passed from the time we first left Kadesh-barne until we finally crossed the Zered Brook! By then, all the men old enough to fight in battle had died in the wilderness, as the Lord had vowed would happen.⁵¹ The Lord struck them down until they had all been eliminated from the community.

32When all the men of fighting age had died,⁵² the Lord said to me,⁵³ 'Today you will cross the border of Moab at Ar and enter the land of the Ammonites, the descendants of Lot. But do not bother them or start a war with them. I have given the land of Ammon to them as their property, and I will not give you any of their land.'⁵⁴

35That area was once considered the land of the Rephaeites, who had lived there, though the Ammonites call them Zamzummites.⁵⁵ They were also as strong and numerous and tall as the Anakites. But the Lord destroyed them so the Ammonites could occupy their land.⁵⁶ He had done the same for the descendants of Esau who lived in Seir, for he destroyed the Horites so they could settle there in their place. The descendants of Esau live there to this day.⁵⁷ A similar thing happened when the Captorites from Crete* invaded and destroyed the Avvites, who had lived in villages in the area of Gaza.)

38Moses continued, 'Then the Lord said, 'Now get moving! Cross the Arnon Gorge. Look, I will hand over to you King Sihon, king of Heshbon, and I will give you his land. Attack him and begin to occupy the land.⁵⁸ Beginning today I will make people throughout the earth terrified because of you. When they hear reports about you, they will tremble with dread and fear.'⁵⁹

Victory over Sihon of Heshbon

39Moses continued, 'From the wilderness of Kedemoth I sent ambassadors to King Sihon of Heshbon with this proposal of peace:

40"Let us travel through your land. We will stay on the main road and won't turn off into the fields on either side.⁶⁰ Sell us food to eat and water to drink, and we will pay for it. All we want is permission to pass through your land.⁶¹ The descendants of Esau who live in Seir allowed us to go through their country, and so did the Moabites, who live in Ar. Let us pass through until we cross the Jordan into the land the Lord our God is giving us."⁶²

42But King Sihon of Heshbon refused to allow us to pass through, because the Lord your God made Sihon stubborn and defiant so he could help you defeat him, as he has now done.

43Then the Lord said to me, 'Look, I have begun to hand King Sihon and his land over to you. Begin now to conquer and occupy his land.'

44Then King Sihon declared war on us and mobilized his forces at Jahaz.⁶³ But the Lord our God handed him over to us, and we crushed him, his sons, and all his people.⁶⁴ We conquered all his towns and completely destroyed* everyone—men, women, and children. Not a single person was

written by Joshua)

Israel. It calls each new for them. Through a series that led up to this moment, Moses exhorted the Israelites to the task God had appointed his successor, Land from a distance

elites and the foreigners in your decisions and in the cases of those who are you. Don't be afraid of anyone make is God's decision. Bring difficult for you, and I will give you instructions about every

our God commanded us, we through the great and terrible cases remember, and head the Amorites. When we arrived you, 'You have now reached the land in front of you. God of your ancestors, has promised for us. They will advise us which towns we should enter: a good idea to me, so I chose your tribes. They headed the valley of Eshcol and explored its fruit and brought it back, and the Lord our God has given

inst the LORD

inst the command of the Lord. You complained in us. That's why he handed us over to the Amorites. In we go? Our brothers have art. They tell us, "The people are more powerful than we are. The hills rising high into the sky. descendants of Anak!"

Don't be shocked or afraid going ahead of you. He will do in Egypt.³¹ And you should you all along the way in this wilderness, just as a father carried you to this place."

2:1 The race of giants called the Emites had once lived in the land. They were as strong and numerous and tall as the sea of reeds. 2:23 Hebrew *from Caphtor*. 2:34 The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration to the Lord, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

spared.³⁵ We took all the livestock as plunder for ourselves, along with anything of value from the towns we ransacked.

³⁶ "The Lord our God also helped us conquer Aroer on the edge of the Arnon Gorge, and the town in the gorge, and the whole area as far as Gilead. No town had walls too strong for us.³⁷ However, we avoided the land of the Ammonites all along the Jabbok River and the towns in the hill country—all the places the Lord our God had commanded us to leave alone.

Victory over Og of Bashan

3 "Next we turned and headed for the land of Bashan, where King Og and his entire army attacked us at Edrei.² But the Lord told me, 'Do not be afraid of him, for I have given you victory over Og and his entire army, and I will give you all his land. Treat him just as you treated King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in Heshbon.'

³ "So the Lord our God handed King Og and all his people over to us, and we killed them all. Not a single person survived.⁴ We conquered all sixty of his towns—the entire Argob region in his kingdom of Bashan. Not a single town escaped our conquest.⁵ These towns were all fortified with high walls and barred gates. We also took many unwalled villages at the same time.⁶ We completely destroyed* the kingdom of Bashan, just as we had destroyed King Sihon of Heshbon. We destroyed all the people in every town we conquered—men, women, and children alike.⁷ But we kept all the livestock for ourselves and took plunder from all the towns.

⁸ "So we took the land of the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River—all the way from the Arnon Gorge to Mount Hermon.⁹ (Mount Hermon is called Sirion by the Sidonians, and the Amorites call it Senir.)¹⁰ We had now conquered all the cities on the plateau and all Gilead and Bashan, as far as the towns of Salecrah and Edrei, which were part of Og's kingdom in Bashan.¹¹ (King Og of Bashan was the last survivor of the giant Rephaeites. His bed was made of iron and was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide.* It can still be seen in the Ammonite city of Rabbah.)

Land Division East of the Jordan

¹² "When we took possession of this land, I gave to the tribes of Reuben and Gad the territory beyond Aroer along the Arnon Gorge, plus half of the hill country of Gilead with its towns.¹³ Then I gave the rest of Gilead and all of Bashan—Og's former kingdom—to the half-tribe of Manasseh. (This entire Argob region of Bashan used to be known as the land of the Rephaeites.¹⁴ Jair, a leader from the tribe of Manasseh, conquered the whole Argob region in Bashan, all the way to the border of the Geshurites and Maacathites. Jair renamed this region after himself, calling it the Towns of Jair,* as it is still known today.)¹⁵ I gave Gilead to the clan of Makir.¹⁶ But I also gave part of Gilead to the tribes of Reuben and Gad. The area I gave them extended from the middle of the Arnon Gorge in the south to the Jabbok River on the Ammonite frontier.¹⁷ They also received the Jordan Valley, all the way from the Sea of Galilee down to the Dead Sea,* with the Jordan River serving as the western boundary. To the east were the slopes of Pisgah.

¹⁸ "At that time I gave this command to the tribes that would live east of the Jordan: 'Although the Lord your God has given you this land as your property, all your fighting men must cross the Jordan ahead of your Israelite relatives, armed and ready to assist them.¹⁹ Your wives, children, and numer-

ous livestock, however, may stay behind in the towns I have given you.²⁰ When the Lord has given security to the rest of the Israelites, as he has to you, and when they occupy the land the Lord your God is giving them across the Jordan River, then you may all return here to the land I have given you.'

Moses Forbidden to Enter the Land

²¹ "At that time I gave Joshua this charge: 'You have seen for yourself everything the Lord your God has done to these two kings. He will do the same to all the kingdoms on the west side of the Jordan.²² Do not be afraid of the nations there, for the Lord your God will fight for you.'

²³ "At that time I pleaded with the Lord and said, 'O Sovereign Lord, you have only begun to show your greatness and the strength of your hand to me, your servant. Is there any god in heaven or on earth who can perform such great and mighty deeds as you do?²⁴ Please let me cross the Jordan to see the wonderful land on the other side, the beautiful hill country and the Lebanon mountains.'

²⁵ "But the Lord was angry with me because of you, and he would not listen to me. 'That's enough!' he declared. 'Speak of it no more.²⁶ But go up to Pisgah Peak, and look over the land in every direction. Take a good look, but you may not cross the Jordan River.²⁷ Instead, commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead the people across the Jordan. He will give them all the land you now have before you as their possession.'²⁸ So we stayed in the valley near Beth-peor.

Moses Urges Israel to Obey

4 "And now, Israel, listen carefully to these decrees and regulations that I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you may live, so you may enter and occupy the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you.² Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you.

³ "You saw for yourself what the Lord did to you at Beth-peor. There the Lord your God destroyed everyone who worshiped Baal, the god of Peor.⁴ But all of you who were faithful to the Lord your God are still alive today—every one of you.

⁵ "Look, I now teach you these decrees and regulations just as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy.⁶ Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim, 'How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation!'⁷ For what nation has a god as near to them as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call on him?⁸ And what great nation decrees and regulations as righteous and fair as this book of instructions that I am giving you today?

⁹ "But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live!¹⁰ And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.¹¹ Never forget the day when you stood before the Lord your God at Mount Sinai,* where he told me, 'Summon the people before me, and I will personally instruct them. Then they will learn to fear me as I am, as they live, and they will teach their children to fear me as I am.'

¹¹ "You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while flames from the mountain shot into the sky. The mountain was shrouded in black clouds and deep darkness.

¹² "And the Lord spoke to you from the heart of the fire. You heard the sound of his words but didn't see his form; there was only a voice.¹³ He proclaimed his covenant—the Ten Commandments*—which he commanded you to keep, and which he wrote on two stone tablets.¹⁴ It was at that time the Lord commanded me to teach you his decrees and regulations so you would obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy.

Warning against Idolatry

¹⁵ "But be very careful! You did not see the Lord's form on the day he spoke to you from the heart of the fire at Mount Sinai.¹⁶ So do not corrupt yourselves by making an idol in the form—whether of a man or a woman,¹⁷ an animal on the ground, a bird in the sky,¹⁸ a small animal that scurries along the ground, or a fish in the deepest sea.¹⁹ And when you look into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the creatures of heaven—don't be seduced into worshiping them. The Lord your God gave them to all the peoples of the earth. Remember that the Lord rescued you from the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt in order to make you his very own people and his special possession, which is what you are today.²⁰

²¹ "But the Lord was angry with me because of you. He said that I would not cross the Jordan River into the good land the Lord your God is giving you as your special possession.²² You will cross the Jordan to occupy the land, but I will instead, I will die here on the east side of the river.²³ So be careful not to break the covenant the Lord your God has made with you. Do not make idols of any shape or form, for the Lord your God has forbidden this.²⁴ The Lord your God is a jealous God.²⁵ In the future, when you have children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time, do not corrupt yourselves by making idols of any kind. This is evil in the sight of the Lord your God and will arouse his anger.²⁶ Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed.²⁷ For the Lord will scatter you among the nations, and only a few of you will survive.²⁸ There, in a foreign land you will worship idols made from wood and stone—that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.²⁹ But from that land you will search again for the Lord your God. And if you will search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.³⁰ In the distant future, when you are suffering all these things, you will finally return to the Lord your God and listen to what he tells you.³¹ For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the covenant he made with your ancestors.

Is There Only One God

³² "Search all of history, from the time God created people on the earth until now, and search from one end of the earth to the other. Has anything as great as this ever been heard before?³³ Has any nation ever heard the voice of God speaking from fire—as you did—and survived?³⁴ No other god dared to take a nation for himself out of that nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts?³⁵ That is what the Lord your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes.³⁶ He showed you these things so you would know that the Lord is God and there is no other.³⁷ He let you hear his voice from heaven so he could instruct you. He let you see

³⁸ the ten words.³⁹ Or voice of a god.⁴⁰ As in Syriac version (see also side of the Jordan as far as the sea of the Arabah).⁴¹ Hebrew Horeb, another name for Sinai; also in 4:15.

^{3:6} The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration of things or people to the Lord, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in 3:6b. ^{3:11} Hebrew 9 cubits (4.1 meters) long and 4 cubits (1.8 meters) wide. ^{3:14} Hebrew Har-voth-jair. ^{3:17} Hebrew from Kinnereth to the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea. ^{4:10} Hebrew Horeb, another name for Sinai; also in 4:15.

^{5:1} Hebrew 10 cubits (4.5 meters) long and 5 cubits (2.25 meters) wide. ^{5:2} Hebrew Horeb, another name for Sinai; also in 4:15.

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may stay behind in the towns I have given security to the rest of you, and when they occupy the land, I will bring them across the Jordan River to the land I have given you.'

Enter the Land

hua this charge: 'You have seen for yourself that the LORD your God has done to these same to all the kingdoms on the earth who can perform such great things? 22Do not be afraid of the nations God will fight for you.'

ed with the Lord and said, 24' O Sovereign God, you have only begun to show your greatness to me, your servant. Is there any who can perform such great things? 25Please let me cross the Jordan to the other side, the beautiful hills and mountains.'

gry with me because of you, and that's enough!' he declared. 'Send me to Pisgah Peak, and look over the land. Take a good look, but you may not cross the Jordan River into the land I will give you all the land you now possess. 29So we stayed in the valley of Jezreel.'

Obey

sten carefully to these decrees and regulations I am about to teach you. Obey them and you may enter and occupy the land that your ancestors, is giving you. 2Do not let these commands I am giving you go out of the LORD your God that I am giving you. 3What the Lord did to you at Baal-peor, when God destroyed everyone who followed Baal-peor. 4But all of you who followed the Lord are still alive today—ever

you these decrees and regulations I commanded me, so that you are about to enter and occupy the land, and you will display your greatness before the surrounding nations who see you, they will exclaim, 'How great is this great nation! 7For what great nation is there like the Lord our God who is on him? 8And what great nation is as righteous and fair as this God who is giving you today?'

careful never to forget what you have seen with your own eyes, let these memories escape from your mind! And be sure to pass them on to your children. 10Never forget the day when the Lord your God at Mount Sinai appeared before me, and I will tell you what the people before me, and I will tell you what the Lord your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes.

He showed you these things so you would know that there is no God and there is no other. 36He let you hear his voice from heaven so he could instruct you. He let you see

and the Lord spoke to you from the heart of the fire. You heard the sound of his words but didn't see his form; there was only a voice. 13He proclaimed his covenant—the Ten Commandments*—which he commanded you to keep, and which he wrote on two stone tablets. 14It was at that time that the Lord commanded me to teach you his decrees and regulations so you would obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy.

Warning against Idolatry

But be very careful! You did not see the Lord's form or the day he spoke to you from the heart of the fire at Mount Sinai. 16So do not corrupt yourselves by making an idol in any form—whether of a man or a woman, 17an animal on the ground, a bird in the sky, 18a small animal that scurries along the ground, or a fish in the deepest sea. 19And when you look into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the works of heaven—don't be seduced into worshiping them. The Lord your God gave them to all the peoples of the earth. Remember that the Lord rescued you from the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt in order to make you his very own people and his special possession, which is what you are today. 21But the Lord was angry with me because of you. He said that I would not cross the Jordan River into the good land that the Lord your God is giving you as your special possession. 22You will cross the Jordan to occupy the land, but I will not. Instead, I will die here on the east side of the river. 23So be careful not to break the covenant the Lord your God has made with you. Do not make idols of any shape or form, for the Lord your God has forbidden this. 24The Lord your God is a devouring fire; he is a jealous God.

In the future, when you have children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time, do not corrupt yourselves by making idols of any kind. This is evil in the sight of the Lord your God and will arouse his anger.

Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will be here only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed. 27For the Lord will scatter you among the nations, and only a few of you will survive. 28There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone—that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29But from that land you will search again for the Lord your God. And if you find him with all your heart and soul, you will find him. 30In the distant future, when you are suffering all these things, you will finally return to the Lord your God and listen to what he tells you. 31For the Lord your God is a merciful God who will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the covenant he made with your ancestors.

There Is Only One God

Now search all of history, from the time God created people on the earth until now, and search from one end of the earth to the other. Has anything as great as this ever been heard before? 33Has any nation ever heard the voice of God speaking from fire—as you did—and survived? 34No other god dared to take a nation for himself out of another nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts? 35That is what the Lord your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes.

He showed you these things so you would know that there is no God and there is no other. 36He let you hear his voice from heaven so he could instruct you. He let you see

the ten words. 4:33 Or voice of a god. 4:48 As in Syriac version (see also 3:9); Hebrew reads Mount Sion. 4:49 Hebrew took the Arabah, the valley side of the Jordan as far as the sea of the Arabah. 5:2 Hebrew Horeb, another name for Sinai. 5:10 Hebrew for thousands of those.

his great fire here on earth so he could speak to you from it. 37Because he loved your ancestors, he chose to bless their descendants, and he personally brought you out of Egypt with a great display of power. 38He drove out nations far greater than you, so he could bring you in and give you their land as your special possession, as it is today.

39So remember this and keep it firmly in mind: The Lord is God both in heaven and on earth, and there is no other. 40If you obey all the decrees and commands I am giving you today, all will be well with you and your children. I am giving you these instructions so you will enjoy a long life in the land the Lord your God is giving you for all time."

Eastern Cities of Refuge

41Then Moses set apart three cities of refuge east of the Jordan River. 42Anyone who killed another person unintentionally, without previous hostility, could flee there to live in safety. 43These were the cities: Bezer on the wilderness plateau for the tribe of Reuben; Ramoth in Gilead for the tribe of Gad; Golan in Bashan for the tribe of Manasseh.

Introduction to Moses' Second Address

44This is the body of instruction that Moses presented to the Israelites. 45These are the laws, decrees, and regulations that Moses gave to the people of Israel when they left Egypt, 46and as they camped in the valley near Beth-peor east of the Jordan River. (This land was formerly occupied by the Amorites under King Sihon, who ruled from Heshbon. But Moses and the Israelites destroyed him and his people when they came up from Egypt.) 47Israel took possession of his land and that of King Og of Bashan—the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan. 48So Israel conquered the entire area from Aroer at the edge of the Arnon Gorge all the way to Mount Sirion,* also called Mount Hermon. 49And they conquered the eastern bank of the Jordan River as far south as the Dead Sea,* below the slopes of Pisgah.)

Ten Commandments for the Covenant Community

5 Moses called all the people of Israel together and said, 5 "Listen carefully, Israel. Hear the decrees and regulations I am giving you today, so you may learn them and obey them!"

2The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Mount Sinai.* 3The Lord did not make this covenant with our ancestors, but with all of us who are alive today. 4At the mountain the Lord spoke to you face to face from the heart of the fire. 5I stood as an intermediary between you and the Lord, for you were afraid of the fire and did not want to approach the mountain. He spoke to me, and I passed his words on to you. This is what he said:

6" I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

7" You must not have any other god but me.

8" You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind, or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 9You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. 10But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those* who love me and obey my commands.

6:1 Hebrew the ten words. 4:33 Or voice of a god. 4:48 As in Syriac version (see also 3:9); Hebrew reads Mount Sion. 4:49 Hebrew took the Arabah, the valley side of the Jordan as far as the sea of the Arabah. 5:2 Hebrew Horeb, another name for Sinai. 5:10 Hebrew for thousands of those.

11"You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

12"Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the LORD your God has commanded you. **13**You have six days each week for your ordinary work, **14**but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the LORD your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work.

This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your oxen and donkeys and other livestock, and any foreigners living among you. All your male and female servants must rest as you do.

15Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, but the LORD your God brought you out with his strong hand and powerful arm. That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to rest on the Sabbath day.

16"Honor your father and mother, as the LORD your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

17"You must not murder.

18"You must not commit adultery.

19"You must not steal.

20"You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

21"You must not covet your neighbor's wife. You must not covet your neighbor's house or land, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

22"The LORD spoke these words to all of you assembled there at the foot of the mountain. He spoke with a loud voice from the heart of the fire, surrounded by clouds and deep darkness. This was all he said at that time, and he wrote his words on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

23"But when you heard the voice from the heart of the darkness, while the mountain was blazing with fire, all your tribal leaders and elders came to me. **24**They said, 'Look, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice from the heart of the fire. Today we have seen that God can speak to us humans, and yet we live! **25**But now, why should we risk death again? If the LORD our God speaks to us again, we will certainly die and be consumed by this awesome fire. **26**Can any living thing hear the voice of the living God from the heart of the fire as we did and yet survive? **27**Go yourself and listen to what the LORD our God says. Then come and tell us everything he tells you, and we will listen and obey.'

28"The LORD heard the request you made to me. And he said, 'I have heard what the people said to you, and they are right. **29**Oh, that they would always have hearts like this, that they might fear me and obey all my commands! If they did, they and their descendants would prosper forever. **30**Go and tell them, "Return to your tents." **31**But you stand here with me so I can give you all my commands, decrees, and regulations. You must teach them to the people so they can obey them in the land I am giving them as their possession."

32So Moses told the people, "You must be careful to obey all the commands of the LORD your God, following his instructions in every detail. **33**Stay on the path that the LORD your God has commanded you to follow. Then you will live long and prosperous lives in the land you are about to enter and occupy.

A Call for Wholehearted Commitment

6"These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you. You

6:4 Or *The LORD our God is one LORD; or The LORD our God, the LORD is one; or The LORD is our God, the LORD is one.* **7:2** The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration of things or people to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering; also in 7:26.

must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, **2**and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the LORD your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. **3**Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

4"Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone."

5And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. **6**And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. **7**Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. **8**Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. **9**Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

10The LORD your God will soon bring you into the land he swore to give you when he made a vow to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is a land with large, prosperous cities that you did not build. **11**The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant. When you have eaten your fill in this land, **12**be careful not to forget the LORD, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. **13**You must fear the LORD your God and serve him. When you take an oath, you must use only his name.

14You must not worship any of the gods of neighboring nations, **15**for the LORD your God, who lives among you, is a jealous God. His anger will flare up against you, and he will wipe you from the face of the earth. **16**You must not test the LORD your God as you did when you complained at Massah. **17**You must diligently obey the commands of the LORD your God—all the laws and decrees he has given you. **18**Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so all will go well with you. Then you will enter and occupy the good land that the LORD swore to give your ancestors. **19**You will drive out all the nations living in the land, just as the LORD said you would.

20In the future your children will ask you, 'What is the meaning of these laws, decrees, and regulations that the LORD our God has commanded us to obey?'

21"Then you must tell them, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand. **22**The LORD did miraculous signs and wonders before our eyes, dealing terrifying blows against Egypt and Pharaoh and all his people. **23**He brought us out of Egypt so he could give us this land he had sworn to give our ancestors. **24**And the LORD our God commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear him so he can continue to bless us and preserve our lives, as he has done to this day. **25**For we will be counted as righteous when we obey all the commands the LORD our God has given us.'

The Privilege of Holiness

7"When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are about to enter and occupy, he will clear away nations ahead of you: the Hittites, Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. These seven nations are greater and more numerous than you. **2**When the LORD your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you must completely destroy* them. Make treaties with them and show them no mercy. **3**You must not intermarry with them. Do not let your daughters and sons

marry their sons and daughters, **4**for they will lead your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and he will quickly destroy you. **5**This is what you must do. You must break down their altars and shatter their sacred pillars. Cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols. **6**For you are a holy people who belong to the LORD your God. Of all the people on earth, the LORD your God has chosen you to be his own special treasure.

7The LORD did not set his heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! **8**Rather, it was simply the LORD loves you, and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you from slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. **9**Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands. **10**But he does not hesitate to punish and destroy those who reject him. **11**Therefore, you must obey all these commands, decrees, and regulations I am giving you today.

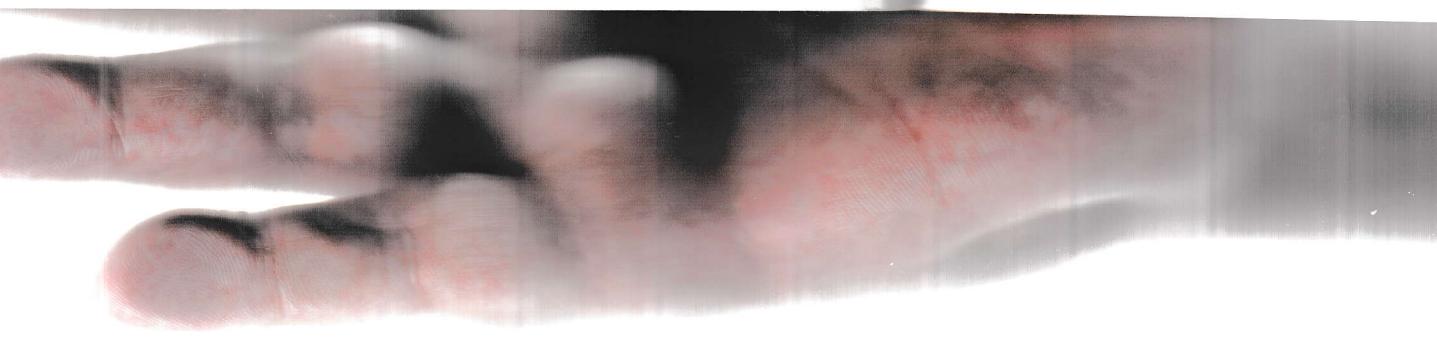
12If you listen to these regulations and faithfully obey them, the LORD your God will keep his covenant of unfailing love with you, as he promised with an oath to your ancestors. He will love you and bless you, and he will give you many children. He will give fertility to your land and your animals. When you arrive in the land he swore to give your ancestors, you will have large harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil, and great herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. **13**You will be blessed above all the nations of the earth. None of your men will be childless, and all your livestock will bear offspring. **14**And the LORD will protect you from all sickness. He will not let you suffer from the terrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all your enemies!

15You must destroy all the nations the LORD your God hands over to you. Show them no mercy, and do not worship their gods, or they will trap you. **16**Perhaps you will think to yourselves, 'How can we ever conquer these nations that are much more powerful than we are?' **17**But don't be afraid of them! Just remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all the land of Egypt. **18**Remember the great terror the LORD your God sent against them. You saw it all with your own eyes! And remember the miraculous signs and wonders, and the strong hand and powerful arm with which he brought you out of Egypt. The LORD your God will use this power against all the people you fear. **19**And then the LORD your God will send terror* to drive out the few survivors still hiding from you!

20No, do not be afraid of those nations, for the LORD your God is among you, and he is a great and awesome God. **21**The LORD your God will drive those nations out ahead of you little by little. You will not clear them away all at once, otherwise the wild animals would multiply too quickly for you. **22**The LORD your God will hand them over to you. He will bring them into complete confusion until they are defeated. **23**He will put their kings in your power, and you will take their names from the face of the earth. No one will be able to stand against you, and you will destroy them all.

24You must burn their idols in fire, and you must not take the silver or gold that covers them. You must not take

7:1 Or *then rendered the hornet.* The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain.



are about to enter and ~~and~~ their sons and daughters, ⁴for they will lead your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and he will quickly destroy you. If you obey all my commands, you will live. You will enjoy a long life. ⁵Listen, then, and obey. Then all will go well with you in the land flowing with the Lord, the God of your God, the Lord alone.

⁶And you must command me to obey all the commands that I am giving you again and again to your children. You are at home and when you go to bed and when you wake up, you must bind them on your hands and wear them on your foreheads, and on the doorposts of your house.

⁷So bring you into the land with large, prosperous houses will be produced. You will draw water from the well, and you will eat from the plant. When you have eaten, do not forget the Lord your God, who keeps his covenant of unfailing love on those who love him.

⁸For I listen to these regulations and faithfully obey them. The Lord your God will keep his covenant of unfailing love with you, as he promised with an oath to your ancestors. He will love you and bless you, and he will give you many children. He will give fertility to your land and your animals.

⁹When you arrive in the land he swore to give your ancestors, you will have large harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil, great herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. ¹⁰You will be above all the nations of the earth. None of your men will be childless, and all your livestock will bear offspring. ¹¹And the Lord will protect you from all sickness. He will let you suffer from the terrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all your enemies!

¹²You must destroy all the nations the Lord your God gives over to you. Show them no mercy, and do not worship their gods, or they will trap you. ¹³Perhaps you will think to yourselves, 'How can we ever conquer these nations that are more powerful than we are?' ¹⁴But don't be afraid. Just remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all the land of Egypt. ¹⁵Remember the great terror the Lord your God sent against them. You saw it all with your own eyes! And remember the miraculous signs and wonders, and the strong hand and powerful arm with which he brought you out of Egypt. The Lord your God will use this power against all the people you fear. ¹⁶And then the Lord your God will send terror* to drive out the few survivors who are still living from you!

¹⁷Do not be afraid of those nations, for the Lord your God is among you, and he is a great and awesome God. ¹⁸The Lord your God will drive those nations out ahead of you little by little. You will not clear them away all at once, otherwise the wild animals would multiply too quickly for you.

¹⁹The Lord your God will hand them over to you. He will scatter them into complete confusion until they are destroyed. ²⁰He will put their kings in your power, and you will take their names from the face of the earth. No one will be able to stand against you, and you will destroy them all.

²¹You must burn their idols in fire, and you must not take the silver or gold that covers them. You must not take it, for it will become a trap to you, for it is detestable to the Lord. ²²Do not bring any detestable objects into your home, for then you will be destroyed, just like them.

rendered the hornet. The meaning of the Hebrew is uncertain.

You must utterly detest such things, for they are set apart for destruction.

A Call to Remember and Obey

8 "Be careful to obey all the commands I am giving you today. Then you will live and multiply, and you will enter and occupy the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors. ²Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands. ³Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴For all these forty years your clothes didn't wear out, and your feet didn't blister or swell. ⁵Think about it: Just as a parent disciplines a child, the Lord your God disciplines you for your own good.

⁶ "So obey the commands of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and fearing him. ⁷For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land of flowing streams and pools of water, with fountains and springs that gush out in the valleys and hills. ⁸It is a land of wheat and barley; of grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates; of olive oil and honey. ⁹It is a land where food is plentiful and nothing is lacking. It is a land where iron is as common as stone, and copper is abundant in the hills. ¹⁰When you have eaten your fill, be sure to praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

¹¹ "But that is the time to be careful! Beware that in your plenty you do not forget the Lord your God and disobey his commands, regulations, and decrees that I am giving you today. ¹²For when you have become full and prosperous and have built fine homes to live in, ¹³and when your flocks and herds have become very large and your silver and gold have multiplied along with everything else, be careful! ¹⁴Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. ¹⁵Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! ¹⁶He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you for your own good. ¹⁷He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' ¹⁸Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.

¹⁹ "But I assure you of this: If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods, worshiping and bowing down to them, you will certainly be destroyed. ²⁰Just as the Lord has destroyed other nations in your path, you also will be destroyed if you refuse to obey the Lord your God.

Victory by God's Grace

9 "Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you. They live in cities with walls that reach to the sky! ²The people are strong and tall—descendants of the famous Anakite giants. You've heard the saying, 'Who can stand up to the Anakites?' ³But recognize today that the Lord your God is the one who will cross over ahead of you like a devouring fire to destroy them. He will subdue them so that you will quickly conquer them and drive them out, just as the Lord has promised.

⁴"After the LORD your God has done this for you, don't say in your hearts, 'The LORD has given us this land because we are such good people!' No, it is because of the wickedness of the other nations that he is pushing them out of your way. ⁵It is not because you are so good or have such integrity that you are about to occupy their land. The LORD your God will drive these nations out ahead of you only because of their wickedness, and to fulfill the oath he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ⁶You must recognize that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land because you are good, for you are not—you are a stubborn people.

Remembering the Gold Calf

⁷"Remember and never forget how angry you made the LORD your God out in the wilderness. From the day you left Egypt until now, you have been constantly rebelling against him. ⁸Even at Mount Sinai* you made the LORD so angry he was ready to destroy you. ⁹This happened when I was on the mountain receiving the tablets of stone inscribed with the words of the covenant that the LORD had made with you. I was there for forty days and forty nights, and all that time I ate no food and drank no water. ¹⁰The LORD gave me the two tablets on which God had written with his own finger all the words he had spoken to you from the heart of the fire when you were assembled at the mountain.

¹¹"At the end of the forty days and nights, the LORD handed me the two stone tablets inscribed with the words of the covenant. ¹²Then the LORD said to me, 'Get up! Go down immediately, for the people you brought out of Egypt have corrupted themselves. How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted gold and made an idol for themselves!'

¹³"The LORD also said to me, 'I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. ¹⁴Leave me alone so I may destroy them and erase their name from under heaven. Then I will make a mighty nation of your descendants, a nation larger and more powerful than they are.'

¹⁵"So while the mountain was blazing with fire I turned and came down, holding in my hands the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. ¹⁶There below me I could see that you had sinned against the LORD your God. You had melted gold and made a calf idol for yourselves. How quickly you had turned away from the path the LORD had commanded you to follow! ¹⁷So I took the stone tablets and threw them to the ground, smashing them before your eyes.

¹⁸"Then, as before, I threw myself down before the LORD for forty days and nights. I ate no bread and drank no water because of the great sin you had committed by doing what the LORD hated, provoking him to anger. ¹⁹I feared that the furious anger of the LORD, which turned him against you, would drive him to destroy you. But again he listened to me. ²⁰The LORD was so angry with Aaron that he wanted to destroy him, too. But I prayed for Aaron, and the LORD spared him. ²¹I took your sin—the calf you had made—and I melted it down in the fire and ground it into fine dust. Then I threw the dust into the stream that flows down the mountain.

²²"You also made the LORD angry at Taberah,* Massah,* and Kibroth-hattaavah.* ²³And at Kadesh-barnea the LORD sent you out with this command: 'Go up and take over the land I have given you.' But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God and refused to put your trust in him or obey him. ²⁴Yes, you have been rebelling against the LORD as long as I have known you.

^{9:8} Hebrew *Horob*, another name for Sinai. ^{9:22a} *Taberah* means "place of burning." See Num 11:1-3. ^{9:22b} *Massah* means "place of testing." See Ex 17:1-7. ^{9:22c} *Kibroth-hattaavah* means "graves of glutony." See Num 11:31-34. ^{10:4} Hebrew *the ten words*. ^{10:6} Or *set out from Beeroth of Bejaakan*. ^{10:16} Hebrew *circumcise the foreskin of your hearts*.

²⁵"That is why I threw myself down before the LORD for forty days and nights—for the LORD said he would destroy you. ²⁶I prayed to the LORD and said, 'O Sovereign LORD, do not destroy them. They are your own people. They are your special possession, whom you redeemed from Egypt by your mighty power and your strong hand.' ²⁷Please overlook the stubbornness and the awful sin of these people, and remember instead your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁸If you destroy these people, the Egyptians will say, 'The Israelites died because the LORD wasn't able to bring them to the land he had promised to give them.' Or they might say, 'He destroyed them because he hated them; he deliberately took them into the wilderness to slaughter them.' ²⁹But they are your people and your special possession, whom you brought out of Egypt by your great strength and powerful arm.'

A New Copy of the Covenant

10 "At that time the LORD said to me, 'Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones. Also make a wooden Ark—a sacred chest to store them in. Come up to me on the mountain, ²and I will write on the tablets the same words that were on the ones you smashed. Then place the tablets in the Ark.'

³"So I made an Ark of acacia wood and cut two stone tablets like the first two. Then I went up the mountain with the tablets in my hand. ⁴Once again the LORD wrote the Ten Commandments* on the tablets and gave them to me. They were the same words the LORD had spoken to you from the heart of the fire on the day you were assembled at the foot of the mountain. ⁵Then I turned and came down the mountain and placed the tablets in the Ark of the Covenant, which had been made, just as the LORD commanded me. And the tablets were still there in the Ark."

⁶(The people of Israel set out from the wells of the people of Jaakan* and traveled to Moserah, where Aaron died and was buried. His son Eleazar ministered as high priest in his place. ⁷Then they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from there to Jotbahah, a land with many brooks and streams. ⁸At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark of the LORD's Covenant, and to stand before the LORD as ministers, and to pronounce blessings in his name. These are their duties to this day. ⁹That is why the Levites have a share of property or possession of land among the other Israelite tribes. The LORD himself is their special possession, as the LORD your God told them.)

¹⁰"As for me, I stayed on the mountain in the LORD's presence for forty days and nights, as I had done the first time. And once again the LORD listened to my pleas and agreed not to destroy you. ¹¹Then the LORD said to me, 'Get up and resume the journey, and lead the people to the land I will give to their ancestors, so they may take possession of it.'

A Call to Love and Obedience

¹²"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul. ¹³And you must always obey the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you for your own good.

¹⁴"Look, the highest heavens and the earth and everything in it all belong to the LORD your God. ¹⁵Yet the LORD chose your ancestors as the objects of his love. And he chose their descendants, above all other nations, as is evident to all.

¹⁶Therefore, change your hearts* and stop being stubborn.

¹⁷For the LORD your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed. ¹⁸He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. ¹⁹So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰You must fear the LORD your God and worship him and cling to him. Your oaths must be in his name alone. ²¹He alone is the God, the only one who is worthy of your praise, the one who has done these mighty miracles that you have seen with your own eyes. ²²When your ancestors went down into Egypt, there were only seventy of them. But now the LORD God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky!

11 "You must love the LORD your God and obey all his requirements, decrees, regulations, and commands. ²Keep in mind that I am not talking now to your children, who have never experienced the discipline of the LORD your God. ³They didn't see the miraculous signs and wonders he performed in Egypt against Pharaoh and all his land. ⁴They didn't see what the LORD did to the armies of Egypt and to their horses and chariots—how he drowned them in the Red Sea as they were chasing you. He destroyed them, and they were not recovered to this very day! ⁵Your children didn't see how the LORD cared for you in the wilderness until you arrived here. ⁶They didn't see what God did to Dathan and Abiram (the sons of Eliab, a descendant of Reuben) when the earth opened its mouth in the Israelite camp and swallowed them, along with their households and tents and every living thing that belonged to them. ⁷But you have seen the LORD perform all these mighty acts with your own eyes!

The Blessings of Obedience

⁸Therefore, be careful to obey every command I am giving you today, so you may have strength to go in and take over the land you are about to enter. ⁹If you obey, you will enjoy a life in the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors. ¹⁰For the land you are about to enter and take over is like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you sowed your seed and made irrigation ditches with your hands in a vegetable garden. ¹¹Rather, the land you will take over is a land of hills and valleys with plenty of water—a land that the LORD your God cares for. He watches over it through each season of the year! ¹²If you carefully obey all the commands I am giving you, and if you love the LORD your God and serve him with your heart and soul, ¹³then he will send the rains in their seasons—the early and late rains—so you can bring in your harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil. ¹⁴He will turn your lush pastureland for your livestock, and you yourselves will have all you want to eat. ¹⁵But be careful. Don't let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the LORD and serve and worship other gods. ¹⁶If you do, the LORD's anger will burn against you. He will put up the sky and hold back the rain, and the ground will fail to produce its harvests. Then you will quickly die in the good land the LORD is giving you. ¹⁷So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your heads as reminders. ¹⁸Teach them to your children. Talk them over when you are at home and when you are on the new sea of reeds. ¹⁹When you are on the western sea. ²⁰When you are on the Arabah.

The Land

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myself down before the Lord for the Lord said he would destroy us and said, 'O Sovereign Lord, do not let your people be your own people. They are your own people. You are the ones you redeemed from Egypt by your strong hand.' ²⁷Please overlook the sin of these people, and remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ²⁸If the Egyptians will say, 'The Israelites weren't able to bring them to the land for them.' Or they might say, 'He hated them; he deliberately took them to slaughter them.' ²⁹But they are your special possession, whom you brought with strength and powerful arm.'

Covenant

The Lord said to me, 'Chisel out two tablets of acacia wood and cut two stone tablets. Also make a wooden ark to hold them in. Come up to me on the mountain and write on the tablets the same words I have smashed. Then place the tablets

in acacia wood and cut two stone tablets. When I went up the mountain with the tablets, the Lord wrote the commandments on the tablets and gave them to me. The Lord had spoken to you from the day you were assembled at the foot of the mountain and came down in the Ark of the Covenant, which the Lord commanded me. And the tablets

set out from the wells of the Jordan to Moserah, where Aaron died. Eleazar ministered as high priest in my place. I went to Gudgodah, and from there many brooks and streams. ³⁴At the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark and to stand before the Lord and receive blessings in his name. That day. ³⁵That is why the Levites have possession of land among the other tribes; himself is their special possession.

On the mountain in the Lord's presence, as I had done the first night, I listened to my pleas and when the Lord said to me, 'Get up and lead the people to the land I have given you, so they may take possession of it.'

Obedience

At that time the Lord your God said to you that you fear the Lord your God, serve him, and love him and serve his soul. ¹³And you must always obey the decrees that I am giving you.

Heavens and the earth and every object of the Lord your God. ¹⁵Yet the Lord your God is the object of his love. And he loves all other nations, as is evident in our hearts* and stop being stubborn.

^{22b} Massah means "place of testing." ^{10:6} Or set out from Beersheba.

¹⁷For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed. ¹⁸He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. ¹⁹So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰You must fear the Lord your God and worship him and cling to him. Your oaths must be in his name alone. ²¹He alone is God, the only one who is worthy of your praise, the one who has done these mighty miracles that you have seen with your own eyes. ²²When your ancestors went down into Egypt, there were only seventy of them. But now the Lord God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky!

11 You must love the Lord your God and obey all his requirements, decrees, regulations, and commands. ¹²Keep in mind that I am not talking now to your children, who have never experienced the discipline of the Lord your God. ¹³They have seen his greatness and his strong hand and powerful arm. ¹⁴They didn't see the miraculous signs and wonders he performed in Egypt against Pharaoh and all his land. ¹⁵They didn't see what the Lord did to the armies of Egypt and to their horses and chariots—how he drowned them in the Red Sea as they were chasing you. He destroyed them, and they have not recovered to this very day! ¹⁶Your children didn't see how the Lord cared for you in the wilderness until you arrived here. ¹⁷They didn't see what happened to Dathan and Abiram (the sons of Eliab, a descendant of Reuben) when the earth opened its mouth in the Israelite Camp and swallowed them, along with their households and tents and every living thing that belonged to them. ¹⁸But you have seen the Lord perform all these mighty miracles with your own eyes!

Blessings of Obedience

Therefore, be careful to obey every command I am giving you today, so you may have strength to go in and take over the land you are about to enter. ²If you obey, you will enjoy a life in the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors and to you, their descendants—a land flowing with milk and honey. ³For the land you are about to enter and take over is like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you sowed your seed and made irrigation ditches with your own hands in a vegetable garden. ⁴Rather, the land you will take over is a land of hills and valleys with plenty of water that the Lord your God cares for. He watches over it through each season of the year!

⁵You carefully obey all the commands I am giving you, and if you love the Lord your God and serve him with your heart and soul, ⁶then he will send the rains in their proper seasons—the early and late rains—so you can bring in harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil. ⁷He will give you pastureland for your livestock, and you will have all you want to eat.

⁸But be careful. Don't let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the Lord and serve and worship other gods. ⁹If you do, the Lord's anger will burn against you. He will raise up the sky and hold back the rain, and the ground will not produce its harvests. Then you will quickly die in the land and the Lord is giving you.

¹⁰Commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your foreheads as reminders. ¹¹Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the

road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. ¹²Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ¹³so that as long as the sky remains above the earth, you and your children may flourish in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.

¹⁴Be careful to obey all these commands I am giving you. Show love to the Lord your God by walking in his ways and holding tightly to him. ¹⁵Then the Lord will drive out all the nations ahead of you, though they are much greater and stronger than you, and you will take over their land. ¹⁶Wherever you set foot, that land will be yours. Your frontiers will stretch from the wilderness in the south to Lebanon in the north, and from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.* ¹⁷No one will be able to stand against you, for the Lord your God will cause the people to fear and dread you, as he promised, wherever you go in the whole land.

¹⁸Look, today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse! ¹⁹You will be blessed if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today. ²⁰But you will be cursed if you reject the commands of the Lord your God and turn away from him and worship gods you have not known before.

²¹When the Lord your God brings you into the land and helps you take possession of it, you must pronounce the blessing at Mount Gerizim and the curse at Mount Ebal. ²²(These two mountains are west of the Jordan River in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Jordan Valley,* near the town of Gilgal, not far from the oaks of Moreh.) ²³For you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land the Lord your God is giving you. When you take that land and are living in it, ²⁴you must be careful to obey all the decrees and regulations I am giving you today.

The Lord's Chosen Place for Worship

12 These are the decrees and regulations you must be careful to obey when you live in the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must obey them as long as you live.

¹When you drive out the nations that live there, you must destroy all the places where they worship their gods—high on the mountains, up on the hills, and under every green tree. ²Break down their altars and smash their sacred pillars. Burn their Asherah poles and cut down their carved idols. Completely erase the names of their gods!

³Do not worship the Lord your God in the way these pagan peoples worship their gods. ⁴Rather, you must seek the Lord your God at the place of worship he himself will choose from among all the tribes—the place where his name will be honored. ⁵There you will bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your sacred offerings, your offerings to fulfill a vow, your voluntary offerings, and your offerings of the firstborn animals of your herds and flocks. ⁶There you and your families will feast in the presence of the Lord your God, and you will rejoice in all you have accomplished because the Lord your God has blessed you.

⁷Your pattern of worship will change. Today all of you are doing as you please, ⁸because you have not yet arrived at the place of rest, the land the Lord your God is giving you as your special possession. ⁹But you will soon cross the Jordan River and live in the land the Lord your God is giving you. When he gives you rest from all your enemies and you're living safely in the land, ¹⁰you must bring everything I command you—your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your sacred offerings, and your offerings to fulfill a

^{11:24} Hebrew to the western sea. ^{11:30} Hebrew the Arabah.

are prophets among you or those about the future, and they pronounce and the predicted signs or miracles say, 'Come, let us worship other gods known before—³do not listen to them, for they are testing you to see if you truly serve the Lord with your heart and soul. 'Serve only the Lord your God. Obey his commands, listen to him. ⁵The false prophets or visionaries you have seen in the land must be put to death, for they have turned against the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt and brought you out of the land of slavery. ⁶They lead you astray from the way the Lord has commanded you to live, you must put them to death! ⁷He will purge the evil from among you. ⁸They secretly entice you—even your sons, your daughter, your beloved wife, or your slaves. 'Let us go worship other gods, gods your ancestors have known.' ⁹They will worship the gods of peoples who live in the ends of the earth. ¹⁰But do not be like them! Do not pity, and do not spare or protect them to death! Strike the first blow, and the people must join in. ¹¹Stone them, because they have tried to draw you away from the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery. ¹²Then all Israel will know that no one will act so wickedly again. ¹³Living in the towns the Lord your God gave you ¹⁴that scoundrels among you will lead you astray by saying, 'Let us go to other gods you have not known before.' ¹⁵Examine the facts carefully. If you do not believe me, and such a detestable act has been committed, ¹⁶you must attack that town and its inhabitants, as well as all the people in it. Burn the entire town as an offering to your God. That town must not be rebuilt. ¹⁷Keep none of its inhabitants set apart for destruction. Then let my fierce anger and be merciful to you and make you a people like your ancestors. ¹⁸God will be merciful only if you obey his commands that I am giving you.

⁷oves, so they are ceremonially unclean for you. ⁸And you not eat the pig. It has split hooves but does not chew the so it is ceremonially unclean for you. You may not eat meat of these animals or even touch their carcasses.

⁹Of all the marine animals, you may eat whatever has fins and scales. ¹⁰You may not, however, eat marine animals that do not have both fins and scales. They are ceremonially unclean for you.

You may eat any bird that is ceremonially clean. These are the birds you may not eat: the griffon vulture, the vulture, the black vulture,¹³ the kite, the falcon, buzzards of all kinds,¹⁴ ravens of all kinds,¹⁵ the eagle owl, the eared owl, the seagull, hawks of all kinds,¹⁶ the little owl, the great owl, the barn owl,¹⁷ the desert owl, the Egyptian vulture, the cormorant,¹⁸ the stork, herons of all kinds, the dove, and the bat.

All winged insects that walk along the ground are ceremonially unclean for you and may not be eaten. ²⁰But you eat any winged bird or insect that is ceremonially clean. ²¹You must not eat anything that has died a natural death. You may give it to a foreigner living in your town, or they may sell it to a stranger. But do not eat it yourselves, for it is set apart as holy to the Lord your God. ²³You must not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

• Giving of Tithes

Living at Tithe
must set aside a tithe of your crops—one-tenth of all
you harvest each year. ²³Bring this tithe to the des-
place of worship—the place the LORD your God
for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his
ence. This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, ol-
and the firstborn males of your flocks and herds.
This will teach you always to fear the LORD your God.
Now when the LORD your God blesses you with a good
the place of worship he chooses for his name to be
might be too far for you to bring the tithe. ²⁵If so,
sell the tithe portion of your crops and herds, put
money in a pouch, and go to the place the LORD your God
wishes. ²⁶When you arrive, you may use the money to
kind of food you want—cattle, sheep, goats, wine, or
alcoholic drink. Then feast there in the presence of
your God and celebrate with your household.
Do not neglect the Levites in your town, for they will
be allottedment of land among you.

¶ At the end of every third year, bring the entire tithe of your harvest and store it in the nearest town. ²⁹Give it to the Levites, who will receive no allotment of land among you, as to the foreigners living among you, the orphans, the widows in your towns, so they can eat and be satisfied. ³⁰Then the LORD your God will bless you in all your work.

for **Debtors**

5 At the end of every seventh year you must cancel the debts of everyone who owes you money. 6 This is how it should be done. Everyone must cancel the loans they have made to their fellow Israelites. They must not demand payment from their neighbors or relatives, for the Lord's time has arrived. 7 This release from debt, however, applies only to your fellow Israelites—not to the foreigners living among you.

There should be no poor among you, for the LORD your God greatly bless you in the land he is giving you as a possession. 5You will receive this blessing if you are to obey all the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today. 6The LORD your God will bless you as the Hebrew man or woman is sold to you. 16:1 Hebrew *Observe the* ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurs within the months of

he has promised. You will lend money to many nations but will never need to borrow. You will rule many nations, but they will not rule over you.

⁷But if there are any poor Israelites in your towns when you arrive in the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tightfisted toward them. ⁸Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need. ⁹Do not be mean-spirited and refuse someone a loan because the year for canceling debts is close at hand. If you refuse to make the loan and the needy person cries out to the Lord, you will be considered guilty of sin. ¹⁰Give generously to the poor, not grudgingly, for the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do. ¹¹There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need.

Release for Hebrew Slaves

¹²If a fellow Hebrew sells himself or herself to be your servant* and serves you for six years, in the seventh year you must set that servant free.

¹³When you release a male servant, do not send him away empty-handed. ¹⁴Give him a generous farewell gift from your flock, your threshing floor, and your winepress. Share with him some of the bounty with which the Lord your God has blessed you. ¹⁵Remember that you were once slaves in the land of Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you! That is why I am giving you this command.

¹⁶But suppose your servant says, 'I will not leave you,' because he loves you and your family, and he has done well with you. ¹⁷In that case, take an awl and push it through his earlobe into the door. After that, he will be your servant for life. And do the same for your female servants.

18th You must not consider it a hardship when you release your servants. Remember that for six years they have given you services worth double the wages of hired workers, and the LORD your God will bless you in all you do.

Sacrificing Firstborn Male Animals

Sacrificing Firstborn Male Animals
19 "You must set aside for the Lord your God all the firstborn males from your flocks and herds. Do not use the firstborn of your herds to work your fields, and do not shear the firstborn of your flocks. 20 Instead, you and your family must eat these animals in the presence of the Lord your God each year at the place he chooses. 21 But if this firstborn animal has any defect, such as lameness or blindness, or if anything else is wrong with it, you must not sacrifice it to the Lord your God. 22 Instead, use it for food for your family in your hometown. Anyone, whether ceremonially clean or unclean, may eat it, just as anyone may eat a gazelle or deer. 23 But you must not consume the blood. You must pour it out on the ground like water.

Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

16 "In honor of the Lord your God, celebrate the Passover each year in the early spring, in the month of Abib,* for that was the month in which the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night. **2**Your Passover sacrifice may be from either the flock or the herd, and it must be sacrificed to the Lord your God at the designated place of worship—the place he chooses for his name to be honored. **3**Eat it with bread made without yeast. For seven days the bread you eat must be made without yeast, as when you escaped from Egypt in such a hurry. Eat this bread—the bread of suffering—so that as long as you live you will remember the day you departed from Egypt. **4**Let no yeast be found in any house

throughout your land for those seven days. And when you sacrifice the Passover lamb on the evening of the first day, do not let any of the meat remain until the next morning.

⁵You may not sacrifice the Passover in just any of the towns that the Lord your God is giving you. ⁶You must offer it only at the designated place of worship—the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored. Sacrifice it there in the evening as the sun goes down on the anniversary of your exodus from Egypt. ⁷Roast the lamb and eat it in the place the Lord your God chooses. Then you may go back to your tents the next morning. ⁸For the next six days you may not eat any bread made with yeast. On the seventh day proclaim another holy day in honor of the Lord your God, and no work may be done on that day.

The Festival of Harvest

⁹Count off seven weeks from when you first begin to cut the grain at the time of harvest. ¹⁰Then celebrate the Festival of Harvest* to honor the Lord your God. Bring him a voluntary offering in proportion to the blessings you have received from him. ¹¹This is a time to celebrate before the Lord your God at the designated place of worship he will choose for his name to be honored. Celebrate with your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites from your towns, and the foreigners, orphans, and widows who live among you. ¹²Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, so be careful to obey all these decrees.

The Festival of Shelters

¹³You must observe the Festival of Shelters* for seven days at the end of the harvest season, after the grain has been threshed and the grapes have been pressed. ¹⁴This festival will be a happy time of celebrating with your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows from your towns. ¹⁵For seven days you must celebrate this festival to honor the Lord your God at the place he chooses, for it is he who blesses you with bountiful harvests and gives you success in all your work. This festival will be a time of great joy for all.

¹⁶Each year every man in Israel must celebrate these three festivals: the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Harvest, and the Festival of Shelters. On each of these occasions, all men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he chooses, but they must not appear before the Lord without a gift for him. ¹⁷All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God.

Justice for the People

¹⁸Appoint judges and officials for yourselves from each of your tribes in all the towns the Lord your God is giving you. They must judge the people fairly. ¹⁹You must never twist justice or show partiality. Never accept a bribe, for bribes blind the eyes of the wise and corrupt the decisions of the godly. ²⁰Let true justice prevail, so you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

²¹You must never set up a wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build for the Lord your God. ²²And never set up sacred pillars for worship, for the Lord your God hates them.

17 "Never sacrifice sick or defective cattle, sheep, or goats to the Lord your God, for he detests such gifts.

²When you begin living in the towns the Lord your God is giving you, a man or woman among you might do evil in

16:10 Hebrew Festival of Weeks; also in 16:16. This was later called the Festival of Pentecost (see Acts 2:1). It is celebrated today as Shavuot (or Shabuoth).
16:13 Or Festival of Booths, or Festival of Tabernacles; also in 16:16. This was earlier called the Festival of the Final Harvest or Festival of Ingathering (see Exod 23:16b). It is celebrated today as Sukkot (or Succoth).

the sight of the Lord your God and violate the covenant. ³For instance, they might serve other gods or worship the sun, the moon, or any of the stars—the forces of heaven—which I have strictly forbidden. ⁴When you hear about it, investigate the matter thoroughly. If it is true that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, ⁵then the man or woman who has committed such an evil act must be taken to the gates of the town and stoned to death. ⁶But never put a person to death on the testimony of only one witness. There must always be two or three witnesses. ⁷The witnesses must throw the first stones, and then all the people may join in. In this way, you will purge the evil from among you.

⁸"Suppose a case arises in a local court that is too hard for you to decide—for instance, whether someone is guilty of murder or only of manslaughter, or a difficult lawsuit, or a case involving different kinds of assault. Take such legal cases to the place the Lord your God will choose, ⁹and present them to the Levitical priests or the judge on duty at that time. They will hear the case and declare the verdict. ¹⁰You must carry out the verdict they announce and the sentence they prescribe at the place the Lord chooses. You must do exactly what they say. ¹¹After they have interpreted the law and declared their verdict, the sentence they impose must be fully executed; do not modify it in any way. ¹²Anyone arrogant enough to reject the verdict of the judge or of the priest who represents the Lord your God must die. In this way you will purge the evil from Israel. ¹³Then everyone else will hear about it and be afraid to act so arrogantly.

Guidelines for a King

¹⁴You are about to enter the land the Lord your God is giving you. When you take it over and settle there, you may think, 'We should select a king to rule over us like the other nations around us.' ¹⁵If this happens, be sure to select the man the Lord your God chooses. You must appoint a fellow Israelite; he may not be a foreigner.

¹⁶The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt to buy horses, for the Lord has told you, 'You must never return to Egypt.' ¹⁷The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the Lord. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

¹⁸When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the Lord his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. ²⁰This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.

Gifts for the Priests and Levites

18 "Remember that the Levitical priests—that is, the whole of the tribe of Levi—will receive no allotment of land among the other tribes in Israel. Instead, the priests and Levites will eat from the special gifts given to the Lord for that is their share. ²They will have no land of their own among the Israelites. The Lord himself is their special possession, just as he promised them.

³These are the parts the priests may claim as their share from the cattle, sheep, and goats that the people bring as

offerings: the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach. ⁴You must also give to the priests the first share of the grain, the new wine, the olive oil, and the wool at shearing time. ⁵For the Lord your God chose the tribe of Levi out of all your tribes to minister in the Lord's name forever.

⁶Suppose a Levite chooses to move from his town in Israel, wherever he is living, to the place the Lord chooses for worship. ⁷He may minister there in the name of the Lord his God, just like all his fellow Levites who are serving the Lord there. ⁸He may eat his share of the sacrifices and offerings, even if he also receives support from his family.

A Call to Holy Living

⁹When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. ¹⁰For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering.* And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, ¹¹or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. ¹²Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord. It is because the other nations have done these detestable things that the Lord your God will drive them out ahead of you. ¹³But you must be blameless before the Lord your God. ¹⁴The nations you are about to displace consult sorcerers and fortune-tellers, but the Lord your God forbids you to do such things."

True and False Prophets

¹⁵Moses continued, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶For this is what you yourselves requested of the Lord your God when you were assembled at Mount Sinai.* You said, 'Don't let us hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore or see this blazing fire, for we will

¹⁷Then the Lord said to me, 'What they have said is right. ¹⁸I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. ¹⁹I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf. ²⁰But any prophet who falsely claims to speak in my name or who speaks in the name of another god must die.'

²¹But you may wonder, 'How will we know whether or a prophecy is from the Lord?' ²²If the prophet speaks in the Lord's name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the Lord did not give that message. That prophet has spoken without my authority and need not be feared.

Cities of Refuge

19 "When the Lord your God destroys the nations whose land he is giving you, you will take over their land and settle in their towns and homes. ²Then you must set apart three cities of refuge in the land the Lord your God is giving you. ³Survey the territory,* and divide the land the Lord your God is giving you into three districts, with one of these cities in each district. Then anyone who has killed someone can flee to one of the cities of refuge for safety.

⁴If someone kills another person unintentionally, without previous hostility, the slayer may flee to any of these cities to live in safety. ⁵For example, suppose someone goes into the forest with a neighbor to cut wood. And suppose one of them swings an ax to chop down a tree, and the ax

16:10 Or never make your son or daughter pass through the fire. 18:16 Hebrew Horeb, anot

Concordance

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your God and violate the covenant might serve other gods or worship the stars—the forces of heaven forbidden. ⁴When you hear about it, thoroughly. If it is true that this is done in Israel, ⁵then the man or woman such an evil act must be taken to be stoned to death. ⁶But never put a person to death on the testimony of only one witness. There must be three witnesses. ⁷The witnesses must be men, and then all the people may join in to urge the evil from among you.

arises in a local court that is too hard to instance, whether someone is guilty of manslaughter, or a difficult lawsuit, or other kinds of assault. Take such legal action as the Lord your God will choose, ⁸and let the priests or the judge on duty at the case and declare the verdict. ⁹Then verdict they announce and the sentence the place the Lord chooses. You must obey. ¹⁰After they have interpreted the verdict, the sentence they impose must not modify it in any way. ¹¹Anyone who rejects the verdict of the judge or of the Lord your God must die. In this way the evil from Israel. ¹²Then everyone will be afraid to act so arrogantly.

King

o enter the land the Lord your God will take it over and settle there, you will select a king to rule over us like the other nations. ¹³If this happens, be sure to select the Lord your God chooses. You must always be a foreigner. ¹⁴Do not build up a large stable of horses, or people to Egypt to buy horses, for you must never return to Egypt. ¹⁵Many wives for himself, because they come from the Lord. And he must not accumulate wealth in silver and gold for himself. ¹⁶He must be on the throne as king, he must carry a scroll of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the priests. ¹⁷He must always keep the Law daily as long as he lives. That way the Lord his God by obeying all the commandments and decrees. ¹⁸This regular reading will become proud and acting as if he is a citizen. It will also prevent him from giving commands in the smallest way. ¹⁹And his descendants will reign over Israel.

Priests and Levites

er that the Levitical priests—the tribe of Levi—will receive no gifts from the other tribes in Israel. Instead, they will receive from the special gifts given to the Levites. The Lord himself is their God, who promised them.

he parts the priests may claim a share, and goats that the people bring. ²⁰It is celebrated today as Shavuot, or the Festival of the Final Harvest or Festival of Ingathering.

ings: the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach. ⁴You must also give to the priests the first share of the grain, the new wine, the olive oil, and the wool at shearing time. ⁵For the Lord your God chose the tribe of Levi out of all your tribes to minister in the Lord's name forever.

Suppose a Levite chooses to move from his town in Israel wherever he is living, to the place the Lord chooses for his worship. ⁷He may minister there in the name of the Lord his God just like all his fellow Levites who are serving the Lord there. ⁸He may eat his share of the sacrifices and offerings, even if he also receives support from his family.

Call to Holy Living

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But you may wonder, 'How will we know whether or not a prophecy is from the Lord?' ²¹If the prophet speaks in the Lord's name but his prediction does not happen or come true, you will know that the Lord did not give that prophecy. That prophet has spoken without my authority and must not be feared.

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head flies off the handle, killing the other person. In such cases, the slayer may flee to one of the cities of refuge to live in safety.

²⁸If the distance to the nearest city of refuge is too far, an enraged avenger might be able to chase down and kill the person who caused the death. Then the slayer would die unfairly, since he had never shown hostility toward the person who died. ²⁹That is why I am commanding you to set aside three cities of refuge.

³⁰And if the Lord your God enlarges your territory, as he swore to your ancestors, and gives you all the land he promised them, ³¹you must designate three additional cities of refuge. (He will give you this land if you are careful to obey all the commands I have given you—if you always love the Lord your God and walk in his ways.) ³²That way you will prevent the death of innocent people in the land the Lord your God is giving you as your special possession. You will not be held responsible for the death of innocent people.

³³But suppose someone is hostile toward a neighbor and deliberately ambushes and murders him and then flees to one of the cities of refuge. ³⁴In that case, the elders of the murderer's hometown must send agents to the city of refuge to bring him back and hand him over to the dead person's avenger to be put to death. ³⁵Do not feel sorry for that murderer! Purge from Israel the guilt of murdering innocent people; then all will go well with you.

Concern for Justice

³⁶When you arrive in the land the Lord your God is giving you as your special possession, you must never steal anyone's land by moving the boundary markers your ancestors set up to mark their property.

³⁷You must not convict anyone of a crime on the testimony of only one witness. The facts of the case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

³⁸If a malicious witness comes forward and accuses someone of a crime, ³⁹then both the accuser and accused must appear before the Lord by coming to the priests and judges in office at that time. ⁴⁰The judges must investigate the case thoroughly. If the accuser has brought false charges against his fellow Israelite, ⁴¹you must impose on the accuser the sentence he intended for the other person. In this way, you will purge such evil from among you. ⁴²Then the rest of the people will hear about it and be afraid to do such an evil thing. ⁴³You must show no pity for the guilty! Your rule should be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Regulations concerning War

20 "When you go out to fight your enemies and you face horses and chariots and an army greater than your own, do not be afraid. The Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you! ²¹When you prepare for battle, the priest must come forward to speak to the troops. ²²He will say to them, 'Listen to me, all you men of Israel! Do not be afraid as you go out to fight your enemies today! Do not lose heart or panic or tremble before them. ²³For the Lord your God is going with you! He will fight for you against your enemies, and he will give you victory!'

²⁴Then the officers of the army must address the troops and say, 'Has anyone here just built a new house but not yet dedicated it? If so, you may go home! You might be killed in the battle, and someone else would dedicate your house. ²⁵Has anyone here just planted a vineyard but not yet eaten any of its fruit? If so, you may go home! You might die in battle and leave your son or daughter pass through the fire. ²⁶18:16 Hebrew Horeb, another name for Sinai. ^{19:3} Or Keep the roads in good repair.

battle, and someone else would eat the first fruit. ⁷Has anyone here just become engaged to a woman but not yet married her? Well, you may go home and get married! You might die in the battle, and someone else would marry her.'

⁸Then the officers will also say, 'Is anyone here afraid or worried? If you are, you may go home before you frighten anyone else.' ⁹When the officers have finished speaking to their troops, they will appoint the unit commanders.

¹⁰As you approach a town to attack it, you must first offer its people terms for peace. ¹¹If they accept your terms and open the gates to you, then all the people inside will serve you in forced labor. ¹²But if they refuse to make peace and prepare to fight, you must attack the town. ¹³When the Lord your God hands the town over to you, use your swords to kill every man in the town. ¹⁴But you may keep for yourselves all the women, children, livestock, and other plunder. You may enjoy the plunder from your enemies that the Lord your God has given you.

¹⁵But these instructions apply only to distant towns, not to the towns of the nations in the land you will enter. ¹⁶In those towns that the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession, destroy every living thing. ¹⁷You must completely destroy* the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, just as the Lord your God has commanded you. ¹⁸This will prevent the people of the land from teaching you to imitate their detestable customs in the worship of their gods, which would cause you to sin deeply against the Lord your God.

¹⁹When you are attacking a town and the war drags on, you must not cut down the trees with your axes. You may eat the fruit, but do not cut down the trees. Are the trees your enemies, that you should attack them? ²⁰You may only cut down trees that you know are not valuable for food. Use them to make the equipment you need to attack the enemy town until it falls.

Cleansing for Unsolved Murder

21 "When you are in the land the Lord your God is giving you, someone may be found murdered in a field, and you don't know who committed the murder. ²In such a case, your elders and judges must measure the distance from the site of the crime to the nearby towns. ³When the nearest town has been determined, that town's elders must select from the herd a young cow that has never been trained or yoked to a plow. ⁴They must lead it down to a valley that has not been plowed or planted and that has a stream running through it. There in the valley they must break the young cow's neck. ⁵Then the Levitical priests must step forward, for the Lord your God has chosen them to minister before him and to pronounce blessings in the Lord's name. They are to decide all legal and criminal cases.

⁶The elders of the town must wash their hands over the young cow whose neck was broken. ⁷Then they must say, 'Our hands did not shed this person's blood, nor did we see it happen. ⁸O Lord, forgive your people Israel whom you have redeemed. Do not charge your people with the guilt of murdering an innocent person.' Then they will be absolved of the guilt of this person's blood. ⁹By following these instructions, you will do what is right in the Lord's sight and will cleanse the guilt of murder from your community.

Marriage to a Captive Woman

¹⁰Suppose you go out to war against your enemies and the Lord your God hands them over to you, and you take some ¹⁰ The Hebrew term used here refers to the complete consecration of things or people to the Lord, either by destroying them or by giving them an offering. ^{21:22} Or *impaled on a pole*; similarly in 21:23. ^{21:23} Greek version reads *for everyone who is hung on a tree*. Compare Gal 3:13. ^{22:1} Hebrew *don't hide yourself*; similarly in 22:3.

of them as captives. ¹¹And suppose you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and you are attracted to her and want to marry her. ¹²If this happens, you may take her to your home, where she must shave her head, cut her nails ¹³and change the clothes she was wearing when she was captured. She will stay in your home, but let her mourn for her father and mother for a full month. Then you may marry her, and you will be her husband and she will be your wife. ¹⁴But if you marry her and she does not please you, you must let her go free. You may not sell her or treat her as a slave, for you have humiliated her.

Rights of the Firstborn

¹⁵Suppose a man has two wives, but he loves one and not the other, and both have given him sons. And suppose the firstborn son is the son of the wife he does not love. ¹⁶When the man divides his inheritance, he may not give the large inheritance to his younger son, the son of the wife he loves as if he were the firstborn son. ¹⁷He must recognize the rights of his oldest son, the son of the wife he does not love by giving him a double portion. He is the first son of his father's virility, and the rights of the firstborn belong to him

Dealing with a Rebellious Son

¹⁸Suppose a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or mother, even though they discipline him. ¹⁹In such a case, the father and mother must take the son to the elders as they hold court at the town gate. ²⁰The parents must say to the elders, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious and refuses to obey. He is a glutton and a drunkard.' ²¹Then all the men of his town must stone him to death. In this way, you will purge this evil from among you, and all Israel will hear about it and be afraid.

Various Regulations

²²If someone has committed a crime worthy of death and is executed and hung on a tree,* ²³the body must not remain hanging from the tree overnight. You must bury the body that same day, for anyone who is hung* is cursed in the sight of God. In this way, you will prevent the defilement of the land the Lord your God is giving you as your special possession.

22 "If you see your neighbor's ox or sheep or goat wandering away, don't ignore your responsibility.* Take it back to its owner. ²If its owner does not live nearby or you don't know who the owner is, take it to your place and keep it until the owner comes looking for it. Then you must return it. ³Do the same if you find your neighbor's donkey, clothing, or anything else your neighbor loses. Don't ignore your responsibility.

⁴If you see that your neighbor's donkey or ox has collapsed on the road, do not look the other way. Go and help your neighbor get it back on its feet!

⁵A woman must not put on men's clothing, and a man must not wear women's clothing. Anyone who does this is detestable in the sight of the Lord your God.

⁶If you happen to find a bird's nest in a tree or on the ground, and there are young ones or eggs in it with the mother sitting in the nest, do not take the mother with the young. You may take the young, but let the mother go, so that you may prosper and enjoy a long life.

⁸When you build a new house, you must build a railing

around the edge of its flat roof. That way you will not be considered guilty of murder if someone falls from the roof.

⁹You must not plant any other crop between the rows of your vineyard. If you do, you are forbidden to use either the grapes from the vineyard or the other crop.

¹⁰You must not plow with an ox and a donkey harnessed together.

¹¹You must not wear clothing made of wool and linen woven together.

¹²You must put four tassels on the hem of the cloak with which you cover yourself—on the front, back, and sides.

Regulations for Sexual Purity

¹³Suppose a man marries a woman, but after sleeping with her, he turns against her ¹⁴and publicly accuses her of shameful conduct, saying, 'When I married this woman, I discovered she was not a virgin.' ¹⁵Then the woman's father and mother must bring the proof of her virginity to the elders as they hold court at the town gate. ¹⁶Her father must say to them, 'I gave my daughter to this man to be his wife, and now he has turned against her.' ¹⁷He has accused her of shameful conduct, saying, 'I discovered that your daughter was not a virgin.' But here is the proof of my daughter's virginity.' Then they must spread her bed sheet before the elders. ¹⁸The elders must then take the man and punish him. They must also fine him 100 pieces of silver,* which he must pay to the woman's father because he publicly accused a virgin of Israel of shameful conduct. The woman will then remain the man's wife, and he may never divorce her.

¹⁹But suppose the man's accusations are true, and he can show that she was not a virgin. ²⁰The woman must be taken to the door of her father's home, and there the men of the town must stone her to death, for she has committed a disgraceful crime in Israel by being promiscuous while living in her parents' home. In this way, you will purge this evil from among you.

²¹If a man is discovered committing adultery, both he and the woman must die. In this way, you will purge Israel of such evil.

²³Suppose a man meets a young woman, a virgin who is engaged to be married, and he has sexual intercourse with her. If this happens within a town, ²⁴you must take both of them to the gates of that town and stone them to death. The man is guilty because she did not scream for help. The man must die because he violated another man's wife. In this way, you will purge this evil from among you.

²⁵But if the man meets the engaged woman out in the country, and he rapes her, then only the man must die. ²⁶Do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no crime worthy of death. She is as innocent as a murder victim. Since the man raped her out in the country, it must be assumed that she screamed, but there was no one to rescue her.

²⁷Suppose a man has intercourse with a young woman who is a virgin but is not engaged to be married. If they are discovered, ²⁸he must pay her father fifty pieces of silver.* Then he must marry the young woman because he violated her and he may never divorce her as long as he lives.

³⁰*A man must not marry his father's former wife, for this would violate his father.

Regulations concerning Worship

23 ¹*If a man's testicles are crushed or his penis is cut off, he may not be admitted to the assembly of the Lord.

²If a person is illegitimate by birth, neither he nor his descendants may enter the assembly of the Lord.

¹⁹ Hebrew 100 shekels of silver, about 2.5 pounds or 1.1 kilograms in weight.

^{22:30} Verse 22:30 is numbered 23:1 in Hebrew text. ^{23:1} Verses 23:1-25:22

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But suppose the man's accusations are true, and he can prove that she was not a virgin.²¹ The woman must be taken out of her father's home, and there the men of the town will stone her to death, for she has committed a disgraceful crime in Israel by being promiscuous while living in her parents' home. In this way, you will purge this evil among you.

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Regulations concerning Worship

If a man's testicles are crushed or his penis is cut off, he may not be admitted to the assembly of the people.

If a person is illegitimate by birth, neither he nor his descendants for ten generations may be admitted to the assembly of the LORD.

3⁰ No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants for ten generations may be admitted to the assembly of the LORD.

4⁰ These nations did not welcome you with food and water when you came out of Egypt. Instead, they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in distant Aram-naharaim to curse you.⁵ But the LORD your God refused to listen to Balaam. He turned the intended curse into a blessing because the LORD your God loves you.⁶ As long as you live, you must never promote the welfare and prosperity of the Ammonites or Moabites.

7⁰ Do not detest the Edomites or the Egyptians, because the Edomites are your relatives and you lived as foreigners among the Egyptians.⁸ The third generation of Edomites and Egyptians may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Miscellaneous Regulations

9⁰ When you go to war against your enemies, be sure to stay away from anything that is impure.

10⁰ Any man who becomes ceremonially defiled because of a nocturnal emission must leave the camp and stay away all day.¹¹ Toward evening he must bathe himself, and at sunset he may return to the camp.

12⁰ You must have a designated area outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself.¹³ Each of you must have a spade as part of your equipment. Whenever you relieve yourself, dig a hole with the spade and cover the excrement.¹⁴ The camp must be holy, for the LORD your God moves around in your camp to protect you and to defeat your enemies. He must not see any shameful thing among you, or he will turn away from you.

15⁰ If slaves should escape from their masters and take refuge with you, you must not hand them over to their masters.¹⁶ Let them live among you in any town they choose, and do not oppress them.

17⁰ No Israelite, whether man or woman, may become a temple prostitute.¹⁸ When you are bringing an offering to fulfill a vow, you must not bring to the house of the LORD your God any offering from the earnings of a prostitute, whether a man* or a woman, for both are detestable to the LORD your God.

19⁰ Do not charge interest on the loans you make to a fellow Israelite, whether you loan money, or food, or anything else.²⁰ You may charge interest to foreigners, but you may not charge interest to Israelites, so that the LORD your God may bless you in everything you do in the land you are about to enter and occupy.

21⁰ When you make a vow to the LORD your God, be prompt in fulfilling whatever you promised him. For the LORD your God demands that you promptly fulfill all your vows, or you will be guilty of sin.²² However, it is not a sin to refrain from making a vow.²³ But once you have voluntarily made a vow, be careful to fulfill your promise to the LORD your God.

24⁰ When you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, but you must not carry any away in a basket.²⁵ And when you enter your neighbor's field of grain, you may pluck the heads of grain with your hand, but you must not harvest it with a sickle.

24 Suppose a man marries a woman but she does not please him. Having discovered something wrong with her, he writes her a letter of divorce, hands it to her, and sends her away from his house.²⁷ When she leaves his house,²⁸ she must go back to her father's house. If she has married another man, she may not return to her first husband.²⁹ If a man marries a woman who has been divorced and then dies, he must not marry her again. If a man marries a woman who has been divorced and then remarries her, he must not divorce her again, for he has violated her. If he does, he must pay her 100 shekels of silver, about 2.5 pounds or 1.1 kilograms in weight.

22:29 Hebrew 50 shekels of silver, about 1.25 pounds or 570 grams in weight.

23:30 Verse 22:30 is numbered 23:1 in Hebrew text. 23:1 Verses 23:1-25 are numbered 23:2-26 in Hebrew text. 23:18 Hebrew a dog.

she is free to marry another man. ³But if the second husband also turns against her and divorces her, or if he dies, ⁴the first husband may not marry her again, for she has been defiled. That would be detestable to the Lord. You must not bring guilt upon the land the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession.

⁵A newly married man must not be drafted into the army or be given any other official responsibilities. He must be free to spend one year at home, bringing happiness to the wife he has married.

⁶It is wrong to take a set of millstones, or even just the upper millstone, as security for a loan, for the owner uses it to make a living.

⁷If anyone kidnaps a fellow Israelite and treats him as a slave or sells him, the kidnapper must die. In this way, you will purge the evil from among you.

⁸In all cases involving serious skin diseases* be careful to follow the instructions of the Levitical priests; obey all the commands I have given them. ⁹Remember what the Lord your God did to Miriam as you were coming from Egypt.

¹⁰If you lend anything to your neighbor, do not enter his house to pick up the item he is giving as security. ¹¹You must wait outside while he goes in and brings it out to you. ¹²If your neighbor is poor and gives you his cloak as security for a loan, do not keep the cloak overnight. ¹³Return the cloak to its owner by sunset so he can stay warm through the night and bless you, and the Lord your God will count you as righteous.

¹⁴Never take advantage of poor and destitute laborers, whether they are fellow Israelites or foreigners living in your towns. ¹⁵You must pay them their wages each day before sunset because they are poor and are counting on it. If you don't, they might cry out to the Lord against you, and it would be counted against you as sin.

¹⁶Parents must not be put to death for the sins of their children, nor children for the sins of their parents. Those deserving to die must be put to death for their own crimes.

¹⁷True justice must be given to foreigners living among you and to orphans, and you must never accept a widow's garment as security for her debt. ¹⁸Always remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God redeemed you from your slavery. That is why I have given you this command.

¹⁹When you are harvesting your crops and forget to bring in a bundle of grain from your field, don't go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all you do. ²⁰When you beat the olives from your olive trees, don't go over the boughs twice. Leave the remaining olives for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. ²¹When you gather the grapes in your vineyard, don't glean the vines after they are picked. Leave the remaining grapes for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. ²²Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt. That is why I am giving you this command.

25 Suppose two people take a dispute to court, and the judges declare that one is right and the other is wrong. ²If the person in the wrong is sentenced to be flogged, the judge must command him to lie down and be beaten in his presence with the number of lashes appropriate to the crime. ³But never give more than forty lashes; more than forty lashes would publicly humiliate your neighbor.

⁴You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain.

24:8 Traditionally rendered *leprosy*. The Hebrew word used here can describe various skin diseases.

⁵If two brothers are living together on the same property and one of them dies without a son, his widow may not be married to anyone from outside the family. Instead, the husband's brother should marry her and have intercourse with her to fulfill the duties of a brother-in-law. ⁶The first son she bears to him will be considered the son of the dead brother, so that his name will not be forgotten in Israel.

⁷But if the man refuses to marry his brother's widow, he must go to the town gate and say to the elders assembled there, 'My husband's brother refuses to preserve my brother's name in Israel—he refuses to fulfill the duties of brother-in-law by marrying me.' ⁸The elders of the town will then summon him and talk with him. If he still refuses to marry her, he says, 'I don't want to marry her,' the widow must walk up to him in the presence of the elders, pull his sandal from his foot, and spit in his face. Then she must declare, 'This is what happens to a man who refuses to provide his brother with children.' ⁹Ever afterward in Israel his family will be referred to as 'the family of the man whose sandal was pulled off!'

¹¹If two Israelite men get into a fight and the wife of one tries to rescue her husband by grabbing the testicles of the other man, ¹²you must cut off her hand. Show her no pity.

¹³You must use accurate scales when you weigh merchandise, ¹⁴and you must use full and honest measures. ¹⁵Yes, always use honest weights and measures, so that you may enjoy a long life in the land the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁶All who cheat with dishonest weights and measures are detestable to the Lord your God.

¹⁷Never forget what the Amalekites did to you as you came from Egypt. ¹⁸They attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they struck down those who were straggling behind. They had no fear of God. ¹⁹Therefore, when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies in the land he is giving you as a special possession, must destroy the Amalekites and erase their memory from under heaven. Never forget this!

Harvest Offerings and Tithes

26 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession and you have conquered it and settled there, ²put some of the first produce from each crop you harvest into a basket and bring it to the designated place of worship—the place the Lord your God chooses for his name to be honored. ³Go to the priest in charge at that time and say to him, 'With this gift I acknowledge to the Lord your God that I have entered the land you swore to our ancestors he would give us.' ⁴The priest will then take the basket from your hand and set it before the altar of the Lord your God.

⁵You must then say in the presence of the Lord your God: 'My ancestor Jacob was a wandering Aramean who went as a foreigner in Egypt. His family arrived few in number, but in Egypt they became a large and mighty nation. ⁶When the Egyptians oppressed and humiliated us by making us their slaves, ⁷we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors. He heard our cries and saw our hardship, toil, and oppression. ⁸So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and powerful arm, with overwhelming terror, and with miraculous signs and wonders. ⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰Now, O Lord, I have brought you the first portion of the harvest you have given me from the ground. ¹¹Then place the produce before the Lord your God, and bow to the ground in worship before him. ¹²Afterward you may go and celebrate.

¹³cause of all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household. Remember to include the Levites and the foreigners living among you in the celebration.

¹⁴Every third year you must offer a special tithe of your produce to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows, so that they will have enough to eat in your towns. ¹⁵Then you must appear in the presence of the Lord your God, 'I have taken the sacred gift from my house and have given it to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows, just as you commanded me. I have not violated or forgotten any of your commandments. ¹⁶I have not eaten any of it while in mourning; I have not handled it while I was ceremonially unclean; and I have not offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the Lord God and have done everything you commanded me. ¹⁷Now look down from your holy dwelling place in heaven and bless your people Israel and the land you swore to our ancestors to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Call to Obey the Lord's Commands

¹⁸Today the Lord your God has commanded you to obey all his decrees and regulations. So be careful to obey them wholeheartedly. ¹⁹You have declared today that the Lord is your God. And you have promised to walk in his ways, and to obey his decrees, commands, and regulations, and to do everything he tells you. ²⁰The Lord has declared today that you are his people, his own special treasure, just as he promised, and that you must obey all his commands. ²¹And if you obey him, he will set you high above all the other nations he has blessed. Then you will receive praise, honor, and renown. You will be a nation that is holy to the Lord your God, just as he promised.'

The Altar on Mount Ebal

27 Then Moses and the leaders of Israel gave this charge to the people: 'Obey all these commands that I am giving you today. ²When you cross the Jordan River and enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, set up some stones and coat them with plaster. ³Write this whole list of instruction on them when you cross the river to enter the land the Lord your God is giving you—a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴When you cross the Jordan, set up these stones at Mount Ebal and coat them with plaster, as I am commanding you today.'

⁵Then build an altar there to the Lord your God, using natural, uncut stones. You must not shape the stones with any tool. ⁶Build the altar of uncut stones, and use it to offer burnt offerings to the Lord your God. ⁷Also sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, and celebrate by feasting there before the Lord your God. ⁸You must clearly write all these instructions on the stones coated with plaster.'

⁹Then Moses and the Levitical priests addressed all Israel as follows: 'O Israel, be quiet and listen! Today you have become the people of the Lord your God. ¹⁰So you must obey the Lord your God by keeping all these commands and decrees that I am giving you today.'

Curses from Mount Ebal

¹¹That same day Moses also gave this charge to the people: 'When you cross the Jordan River, the tribes of Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin must stand on Mount Gerizim to proclaim a blessing over the people. ¹²And the tribes of Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali must stand on Mount Ebal to proclaim a curse. ¹³Then the Levites will shout to all the people of Israel:

¹⁵Curse sets down
A

¹⁶Curse
A

¹⁷Curse moves
A

¹⁸Curse road
A

¹⁹Curse orph
A

²⁰Curse his f
A

²¹Curse anim
A

²²Curse sister
mother
A

²³Curse moth
A

²⁴Curse An

²⁵Curse innoc
A

²⁶Curse terms
A

Blessing
²⁷ k

²⁸ the Lord
the world
obey the

³ Your t
will

⁴ Your c
will
The o
will

⁵ Your f
will

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you

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do and w
God will b

living together on the same property without a son, his widow may not be outside the family. Instead, he could marry her and have intercourse with a brother-in-law. ⁶The first will be considered the son of the dead one will not be forgotten in Israel.

7If he refuses to marry his brother's widow, then say to the elders assembled: 'This brother refuses to preserve his brother's name— he refuses to fulfill the duties of a brother-in-law.' ⁸The elders of the town will talk with him. If he still refuses to marry her, ⁹the widow must walk before the elders, pull his sandal from his foot. Then she must declare, 'This brother refuses to provide his brother's name afterword in Israel his family will be named after the man whose sandal was taken from him.'

10Then get into a fight and the wife of the man by grabbing the testicles of the man and cut off her hand. Show her no pity. ¹¹Use accurate scales when you weigh and measure, so that the land the Lord your God is giving you will not be dishonored with dishonest weights and measures. ¹²Obey your God.

13At the Amalekites did to you as they attacked you when you were young and they struck down those who were young and they had no fear of God. ¹⁴Therefore God has given you rest from all your enemies, giving you as a special possession. ¹⁵Amalekites and erase their memory from the earth.

And Tithes

16After the land the Lord your God is giving you as a special possession and you have settled there, ¹⁷put some of the first produce of your harvest into a basket and bring it to the place the Lord your God has chosen to be honored. ¹⁸Go to the priest and say to him, 'With this gift I acknowledge God that I have entered the land he would give us.' ¹⁹The priest will take the basket from your hand and set it before the Lord.

20In the presence of the Lord your God you are a wandering Aramean who went into Egypt. His family arrived few in number, but became a large and mighty nation. ²¹God had humiliated us by making us go out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors and saw our hardship, toil, and suffering. ²²He brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand, with overwhelming terror, and with great wonders. ²³He brought us to this land flowing with milk and honey. ²⁴He brought you the first portion of the land from the ground. Then place the Ark of your God, and bow to the ground. ²⁵Afterward you may go and eat the fruit of the land.

26Because of all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household. Remember to include the Levites and the foreigners living among you in the celebration.

27Every third year you must offer a special tithe of your crops. In this year of the special tithe you must give your tithe to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows, so that they will have enough to eat in your towns. ²⁸Then you must appear in the presence of the Lord your God, 'I have taken the sacred gift from my house and have given it to the Levites, foreigners, orphans, and widows, just as you commanded me. I have not violated or forgotten any of your commands. ²⁹I have not eaten any of it while I was ceremonially unclean; and I have not offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the Lord God and have done everything you commanded me. ³⁰Now look down from your holy dwelling place in heaven and bless your people Israel and the land you swore to our ancestors to give us—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Call to Obey the Lord's Commands

31Today the Lord your God has commanded you to obey all these decrees and regulations. So be careful to obey them wholeheartedly. ³²You have declared today that the Lord is your God. And you have promised to walk in his ways, and to obey his decrees, commands, and regulations, and to do everything he tells you. ³³The Lord has declared today that you are his people, his own special treasure, just as he promised, and that you must obey all his commands. ³⁴And if you do, he will set you high above all the other nations he has made. Then you will receive praise, honor, and renown. You will be a nation that is holy to the Lord your God, just as he promised.'

The Altar on Mount Ebal

35Then Moses and the leaders of Israel gave this charge to the people: 'Obey all these commands that I am giving you today. ³⁶When you cross the Jordan River and enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster. ³⁷Write this whole charge of instruction on them when you cross the river to enter the land the Lord your God is giving you—a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ³⁸When you cross the Jordan, set up these stones at Mount Ebal and coat them with plaster, as I am commanding you today.'

39Then build an altar there to the Lord your God, using natural uncut stones. You must not shape the stones with any tool. ⁴⁰Build the altar of uncut stones, and use it to offer burnt offerings to the Lord your God. ⁴¹Also sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, and celebrate by feasting there before the Lord your God. ⁴²You must clearly write all these instructions on the stones coated with plaster.'

43Then Moses and the Levitical priests addressed all Israel and said: 'O Israel, be quiet and listen! Today you have become the people of the Lord your God. ⁴⁴So you must obey the Lord your God by keeping all these commands and decrees that I am giving you today.'

Curses from Mount Ebal

45That same day Moses also gave this charge to the people: 'When you cross the Jordan River, the tribes of Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin must stand on Mount Gerizim to proclaim a blessing over the people. ⁴⁶The tribes of Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Manasseh must stand on Mount Ebal to proclaim a curse. ⁴⁷Then the Levites will shout to all the people of Israel:

48Cursed is anyone who carves or casts an idol and secretly sets it up. These idols, the work of craftsmen, are detestable to the Lord.'

49And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

50Cursed is anyone who dishonors father or mother.'

51And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

52Cursed is anyone who steals property from a neighbor by moving a boundary marker.'

53And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

54Cursed is anyone who leads a blind person astray on the road.'

55And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

56Cursed is anyone who denies justice to foreigners, orphans, or widows.'

57And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

58Cursed is anyone who has sexual intercourse with one of his father's wives, for he has violated his father.'

59And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

60Cursed is anyone who has sexual intercourse with an animal.'

61And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

62Cursed is anyone who has sexual intercourse with his sister, whether she is the daughter of his father or his mother.'

63And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

64Cursed is anyone who attacks a neighbor in secret.'

65And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

66Cursed is anyone who accepts payment to kill an innocent person.'

67And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

68Cursed is anyone who does not affirm and obey the terms of these instructions.'

69And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

Blessings for Obedience

70Then Moses and the Levitical priests addressed all Israel and said: 'If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. ⁷¹You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God:

72Your towns and your fields will be blessed.

73Your children and your crops will be blessed.

74The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed.

75Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be blessed.

76Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed.

77The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you. They will attack you from one direction, but they will scatter from you in seven!

78The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

⁹If you obey the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways, the LORD will establish you as his holy people as he swore he would do. ¹⁰Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the LORD, and they will stand in awe of you.

¹¹The LORD will give you prosperity in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, blessing you with many children, numerous livestock, and abundant crops. ¹²The LORD will send rain at the proper time from his rich treasury in the heavens and will bless all the work you do. You will lend to many nations, but you will never need to borrow from them. ¹³If you listen to these commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today, and if you carefully obey them, the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always be on top and never at the bottom. ¹⁴You must not turn away from any of the commands I am giving you today, nor follow after other gods and worship them.

Curses for Disobedience

¹⁵But if you refuse to listen to the LORD your God and do not obey all the commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overwhelm you:

¹⁶ Your towns and your fields will be cursed.

¹⁷ Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be cursed.

¹⁸ Your children and your crops will be cursed.

The offspring of your herds and flocks will be cursed.

¹⁹ Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be cursed.

²⁰The LORD himself will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in everything you do, until at last you are completely destroyed for doing evil and abandoning me. ²¹The LORD will afflict you with diseases until none of you are left in the land you are about to enter and occupy. ²²The LORD will strike you with wasting diseases, fever, and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, and with blight and mildew. These disasters will pursue you until you die. ²³The skies above will be as unyielding as bronze, and the earth beneath will be as hard as iron. ²⁴The LORD will change the rain that falls on your land into powder, and dust will pour down from the sky until you are destroyed.

²⁵The LORD will cause you to be defeated by your enemies. You will attack your enemies from one direction, but you will scatter from them in seven! You will be an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶Your corpses will be food for all the scavenging birds and wild animals, and no one will be there to chase them away.

²⁷The LORD will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, scurvy, and the itch, from which you cannot be cured. ²⁸The LORD will strike you with madness, blindness, and panic. ²⁹You will grope around in broad daylight like a blind person groping in the darkness, but you will not find your way. You will be oppressed and robbed continually, and no one will come to save you.

³⁰You will be engaged to a woman, but another man will sleep with her. You will build a house, but someone else will live in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will never enjoy its fruit. ³¹Your ox will be butchered before your eyes, but you will not eat a single bite of the meat. Your donkey will be taken from you, never to be returned. Your sheep and goats will be given to your enemies, and no one will be there to help you. ³²You will watch as your sons and daughters are taken away as slaves. Your heart will break for them, but you

won't be able to help them. ³³A foreign nation you have never heard about will eat the crops you worked so hard to grow. You will suffer under constant oppression and harsh treatment. ³⁴You will go mad because of all the tragedy you see around you. ³⁵The LORD will cover your knees and legs with incurable boils. In fact, you will be covered from head to foot.

³⁶The LORD will exile you and your king to a nation unknown to you and your ancestors. There in exile you will worship gods of wood and stone! ³⁷You will become an object of horror, ridicule, and mockery among all the nations to which the LORD sends you.

³⁸You will plant much but harvest little, for locusts will eat your crops. ³⁹You will plant vineyards and care for them, but you will not drink the wine or eat the grapes, for worms will destroy the vines. ⁴⁰You will grow olive trees throughout your land, but you will never use the olive oil, for the fruit will drop before it ripens. ⁴¹You will have sons and daughters, but you will lose them, for they will be led away into captivity. ⁴²Swarms of insects will destroy your trees and crops.

⁴³The foreigners living among you will become stronger and stronger, while you become weaker and weaker. ⁴⁴Their will lend money to you, but you will not lend to them. They will be the head, and you will be the tail!

⁴⁵If you refuse to listen to the LORD your God and to obey the commands and decrees he has given you, all these curses will pursue and overtake you until you are destroyed.

⁴⁶These horrors will serve as a sign and warning among you and your descendants forever. ⁴⁷If you do not serve the LORD your God with joy and enthusiasm for the abundant benefits you have received, ⁴⁸you will serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you. You will be left hungry, thirsty, naked, and lacking in everything. The LORD will put an iron yoke on your neck, oppressing you harshly until he has destroyed you.

⁴⁹The LORD will bring a distant nation against you from the end of the earth, and it will swoop down on you like a vulture. It is a nation whose language you do not understand, ⁵⁰a fierce and heartless nation that shows no respect for the old and no pity for the young. ⁵¹Its armies will devour your livestock and crops, and you will be destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine, olive oil, calves, or lambs, and you will starve to death. ⁵²They will attack your cities until all the fortified walls in your land—the walls you trusted to protect you—are knocked down. They will attack all the towns in the land the LORD your God has given you.

⁵³The siege and terrible distress of the enemy's attack will be so severe that you will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you.

⁵⁴The most tenderhearted man among you will have compassion for his own brother, his beloved wife, and his surviving children. ⁵⁵He will refuse to share with them the flesh he is devouring—the flesh of one of his own children—because he has nothing else to eat during the siege and terrible distress that your enemy will inflict on all your towns. ⁵⁶The most tender and delicate woman among you—so delicate she would not so much as touch the ground with her foot—will be selfish toward the husband she loves and toward her own son or daughter. ⁵⁷She will hide from them the afterbirth and the new baby she has borne, so that she herself can secretly eat them. She will have nothing else to eat during the siege and terrible distress that your enemy will inflict on all your towns.

⁵⁸If you refuse to obey all the words of instruction that are written in this book, and if you do not fear the glorious and awesome name of the LORD your God, ⁵⁹then the LORD will overwhelm you and your children with indescribable

plagues. These plagues will be intense and without relief, making you miserable and unbearably sick. ⁶⁰He will afflict you with all the diseases of Egypt that you feared so much, and you will have no relief. ⁶¹The LORD will afflict you with sickness and plague there is, even those not mentioned in this Book of Instruction, until you are destroyed. ⁶²Though you become as numerous as the stars in the sky, few of you will be left because you would not listen to the LORD your God.

⁶³Just as the LORD has found great pleasure in causing you to prosper and multiply, the LORD will find pleasure in destroying you. You will be torn from the land you are about to enter and occupy. ⁶⁴For the LORD will scatter you among all the nations from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship foreign gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, gods made of wood and stone! ⁶⁵Among those nations you will find no peace or place to rest, and the LORD will cause your heart to tremble, your eyesight fail, and your soul to despair. ⁶⁶Your life will constantly hang in the balance. You will live night and day in fear, uncertain if you will survive. ⁶⁷In the morning you will say, 'If only it were night!' And in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' For you will be terrified by the awful horrors you are around you. ⁶⁸Then the LORD will send you back to Egypt, ships, to a destination I promised you would never see again. There you will offer to sell yourselves to your enemies as slaves, but no one will buy you."

29

¹*These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites while they were in the land of Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Mount Sinai.*

Moses Reviews the Covenant

Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them, "You have seen with your own eyes everything the LORD did in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to his own country—all the great tests of strength, the miracu-
lous signs, and the amazing wonders. ⁴But to this day the LORD has not given you minds that understand, nor eyes that see, nor ears that hear! ⁵For forty years I led you through the wilderness, yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out. You ate no bread and drank no wine or other alcoholic drink, but he gave you food so you would know that he is the LORD your God.

⁶When we came here, King Sihon of Heshbon and King Balak of Moab came out to fight against us, but we defeated them. ⁷We took their land and gave it to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and to the half-tribe of Manasseh as their grant land.

⁸Therefore, obey the terms of this covenant so that you will prosper in everything you do. ⁹All of you—tribal leaders, elders, officers, all the men of Israel—are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God. ¹⁰Your little ones and your wives are with you, as well as the foreigners living among you who chop your wood and carry your water. ¹¹You are standing here today to enter into the covenant of the LORD your God. The LORD is making this covenant, including its curses. ¹²By entering into the covenant today, he will establish you as his people and confirm that he is your God, as he promised you and as he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

¹³But you are not the only ones with whom I am making this covenant with its curses. ¹⁴I am making this covenant with you who stand here today in the presence of the LORD your God. ¹⁵Verse 29:1 is numbered 28:69 in Hebrew text. ^{29:1b} Hebrew *Horob*, another word for *Horob*. ^{29:17} The Hebrew term (literally *round things*) probably alludes to

33 A foreign nation you have become. The crops you worked so hard to harvest will cover your knees and legs, and you will be covered from head to toe. 34 You will be given over to a nation and your king to a nation of your ancestors. There in exile you will live in stone! 35 You will become an object of mockery among all the nations. 36 You will harvest little, for locusts will eat your vineyards and care for the vines or eat the grapes, for you will grow olive trees throughout the land, but the olive oil, for the fruit you will have sons and daughters, but they will be led away into captivity and destroy your trees and crops. 37 Among you will become some who are weak and feeble, and you will not lend to them. 38 You will be given over to the LORD your God and to the trees he has given you, all of which will take you until you are destroyed. 39 As a sign and warning among the nations, 40 If you do not serve the LORD with all your heart and enthusiasm for the abundant land, 41 you will serve your enemies, who are against you. You will be left alone, lacking in everything. The LORD's hand will be on your neck, oppressing you harshly.

These plagues will be intense and without relief, making you miserable and unbearably sick. 42 He will afflict you with all the diseases of Egypt that you feared so much, and you will have no relief. 43 The LORD will afflict you with sickness and plague there is, even those not mentioned in this Book of Instruction, until you are destroyed. 44 Though you become as numerous as the stars in the sky, you will be left because you would not listen to the LORD your God.

45 Just as the LORD has found great pleasure in causing you to prosper and multiply, the LORD will find pleasure in destroying you. You will be torn from the land you are about to inherit and occupy. 46 For the LORD will scatter you among the nations from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship foreign gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, gods made of wood and stone! 47 There among those nations you will find no peace or place to rest. The LORD will cause your heart to tremble, your eyesight to fail, and your soul to despair. 48 Your life will constantly hang in the balance. You will live night and day in fear, until you will survive. 49 In the morning you will say, 'If only it were night!' And in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' For you will be terrified by the awful horrors you will surround you. 50 Then the LORD will send you back to Egypt, to a destination I promised you would never see again. There you will offer to sell yourselves to your enemies, but no one will buy you."

29 These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites while they were in the land of Moab, in addition to the covenant he made with them at Mount Sinai.*

Reviews the Covenant

30 The LORD summoned all the Israelites and said to them, "You have seen with your own eyes everything the LORD did in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to his country—all the great tests of strength, the miracu-lous signs, and the amazing wonders. 31 But to this day the LORD has not given you minds that understand, nor eyes that see or ears that hear! 32 For forty years I led you through the desert, yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out. 33 You ate bread and drank no wine or other alcoholic beverages, but he gave you food so you would know that he is the LORD your God.

34 When we came here, King Sihon of Heshbon and King Og of Bashan came out to fight against us, but we defeated them. 35 We took their land and gave it to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and to the half-tribe of Manasseh as their grant land.

36 Therefore, obey the terms of this covenant so that you will prosper in everything you do. 37 All of you—tribal leaders, officers, all the men of Israel—are standing today before the presence of the LORD your God. 38 Your little ones and your wives are with you, as well as the foreigners living among you who chop your wood and carry your water. 39 You have come here today to enter into the covenant of the LORD your God. The LORD is making this covenant, including you. 40 By entering into the covenant today, he will establish you as his people and confirm that he is your God, as he promised you and as he swore to your ancestors, Isaac and Jacob.

41 You are not the only ones with whom I am making this covenant with its curses. 42 I am making this covenant with all who stand here today in the presence of the

LORD our God, and also with the future generations who are not standing here today.

43 You remember how we lived in the land of Egypt and how we traveled through the lands of enemy nations as we left. 44 You have seen their detestable practices and their idols* made of wood, stone, silver, and gold. 45 I am making this covenant with you so that no one among you—no man, woman, clan, or tribe—will turn away from the LORD our God to worship these gods of other nations, and so that no root among you bears bitter and poisonous fruit.

46 Those who hear the warnings of this curse should not congratulate themselves, thinking, 'I am safe, even though I am following the desires of my own stubborn heart.' This would lead to utter ruin! 47 The LORD will never pardon such people. Instead his anger and jealousy will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will come down on them, and the LORD will erase their names from under heaven. 48 The LORD will separate them from all the tribes of Israel, to pour out on them all the curses of the covenant recorded in this Book of Instruction.

49 Then the generations to come, both your own descendants and the foreigners who come from distant lands, will see the devastation of the land and the diseases the LORD inflicts on it. 50 They will exclaim, 'The whole land is devastated by sulfur and salt. It is a wasteland with nothing planted and nothing growing, not even a blade of grass. It is like the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboim, which the LORD destroyed in his intense anger.'

51 And all the surrounding nations will ask, 'Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why was he so angry?'

52 And the answer will be, 'This happened because the people of the land abandoned the covenant that the LORD, the God of their ancestors, made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt. 53 Instead, they turned away to serve and worship gods they had not known before, gods that were not from the LORD. 54 That is why the LORD's anger has burned against this land, bringing down on it every curse recorded in this book. 55 In great anger and fury the LORD uprooted his people from their land and banished them to another land, where they still live today!'

56 The LORD our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions.

A Call to Return to the LORD

30 In the future, when you experience all these blessings and curses I have listed for you, and when you are living among the nations to which the LORD your God has exiled you, take to heart all these instructions. 2 If at that time you and your children return to the LORD your God, and if you obey with all your heart and all your soul all the commands I have given you today, 3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you back from all the nations where he has scattered you. 4 Even though you are banished to the ends of the earth, the LORD your God will gather you from there and bring you back again. 5 The LORD your God will return you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will possess that land again. Then he will make you even more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors!

6 The LORD your God will change your heart* and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live! 7 The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on

* numbered 28:69 in Hebrew text. 29:1b Hebrew *Horeb*, another name for Sinai. 29:2 Verses 29:2-29 are numbered 29:1-28 in Hebrew text.

17 The Hebrew term (literally *round things*) probably alludes to dung. 30:6 Hebrew *circumcise your heart*.