

**Holman
Christian
Standard Bible**

Old Testament
(Genesis – Job)

Genesis

1 ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

⁴ God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light "day," and He called the darkness "night." Evening came, and then morning: the first day.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be an expanse between the waters, separating water from water."

⁷ So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above the expanse. And it was so.

⁸ God called the expanse "sky." Evening came, and then morning: the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.

¹⁰ God called the dry land "earth," and He called the gathering of the water "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit with seed in it, according to their kinds." And it was so.

¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in

it, according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ Evening came, and then morning: the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night. They will serve as signs for festivals and for days and years.

¹⁵ They will be lights in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth." And it was so.

¹⁶ God made the two great lights--the greater light to have dominion over the day and the lesser light to have dominion over the night--as well as the stars.

¹⁷ God placed them in the expanse of the sky to provide light on the earth,

¹⁸ to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ Evening came, and then morning: the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the water swarm with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky."

²¹ So God created the large sea-creatures and every living creature that moves and swarms in the water, according to their kinds. He also created every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²² So God blessed them, "Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the waters of the seas, and let the birds multiply on the earth."

²³ Evening came, and then morning: the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that crawl, and the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.

²⁵ So God made the wildlife of the earth according to their kinds, the livestock

according to their kinds, and creatures that crawl on the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."

²⁹ God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth, and every

tree whose fruit contains seed. This food will be for you,

³⁰ for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth-- everything having the breath of life in it. I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Evening came, and then morning: the sixth day.

2¹ So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

² By the seventh day, God completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done.

³ God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it He rested from His work of creation.

⁴ These are the records of the heavens and the earth, concerning their creation

at the time that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ No shrub of the field had yet grown on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.

⁶ But water would come out of the ground and water the entire surface of the land.

⁷ Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He placed the man He had formed.

⁹ The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the midst of the garden,

as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers.

¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon, which encircles the entire land of the Havilah, where there is gold.

¹² Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there.

¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon, which encircles the entire land of Cush.

¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows to the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden,

¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is like him."

¹⁹ So the LORD God formed out of the ground each wild animal and each bird of the sky, and brought each to the man to see what he would call it. And whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ The man gave names to all the livestock, to the birds of the sky, and to every wild animal; but for the man no helper was found who was like him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place.

²² Then the LORD God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³ And the man said: This one, at last, is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called woman, for she was taken from man.

²⁴ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵ Both the man and his wife were naked, yet felt no shame.

3 ¹ Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden.

³ But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You

must not eat it or touch it, or you will die."

⁴ "No! You will not die," the serpent said to the woman.

⁵ "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ Then the woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it ; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it .

⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from

the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ So the LORD God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid."

¹¹ Then He asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I had commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² Then the man replied, "The woman You gave to be with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate."

¹³ So the LORD God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "It was the serpent. He deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ Then the LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will

move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

¹⁶ He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children in anguish. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will dominate you.

¹⁷ And He said to Adam, "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the

ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust."

²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living.

²¹ The LORD God made clothing out of skins for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them.

²² The LORD God said, "Since man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil, he must not reach out, and also take from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."

²³ So the LORD God sent him away from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

²⁴ He drove man out, and east of the garden of Eden He stationed cherubim with a flaming, whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.

4 ¹ Adam knew his wife Eve intimately, and she conceived and gave birth to

Cain. She said, "I have had a male child with the LORD's help."

² Then she also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of a flock, but Cain cultivated the land.

³ In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the LORD.

⁴ And Abel also presented an offering --some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

⁵ but He did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he was downcast.

⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why are you downcast?"

⁷ If you do right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must master it."

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's guardian?"

¹⁰ Then He said, "What have you done? Your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground!

¹¹ So now you are cursed with alienation from the ground that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood you have shed.

¹² If you work the land, it will never again give you its yield. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth."

¹³ But Cain answered the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear!

¹⁴ Since You are banishing me today from the soil, and I must hide myself from Your presence and become a

restless wanderer on the earth, whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ Then the LORD replied to him, "In that case, whoever kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." And He placed a mark on Cain so that whoever found him would not kill him.

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the LORD's presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

¹⁷ Cain knew his wife intimately, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch. Then Cain became the builder of a city, and he named the city Enoch after his son.

¹⁸ Irad was born to Enoch, Irad fathered Mehujael, Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech.

¹⁹ Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah.

²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of the nomadic herdsman.

²¹ His brother was named Jubal; he was the father of all who play the lyre and the flute.

²² Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. Tubal-cain's sister was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives: Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a boy for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!

²⁵ Adam knew his wife intimately again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has given me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him."

²⁶ A son was born to Seth also, and he named him Enosh. At that time people began to call on the name of the LORD.

5 ¹ These are the family records of the descendants of Adam. On the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God;

² He created them male and female. When they were created, He blessed them and called them man.

³ Adam was 130 years old when he fathered a child in his likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

⁴ Adam lived 800 years after the birth of Seth, and he fathered sons and daughters.

⁵ So Adam's life lasted 930 years; then he died.

⁶ Seth was 105 years old when he fathered Enosh.

⁷ Seth lived 807 years after the birth of Enosh, and he fathered sons and daughters.

⁸ So Seth's life lasted 912 years; then he died.

⁹ Enosh was 90 years old when he fathered Kenan.

¹⁰ Enosh lived 815 years after the birth of Kenan, and he fathered sons and daughters.

¹¹ So Enosh's life lasted 905 years; then he died.

¹² Kenan was 70 years old when he fathered Mahalalel.

¹³ Kenan lived 840 years after the birth of Mahalalel, and he fathered sons and daughters.

¹⁴ So Kenan's life lasted 910 years; then he died.

¹⁵ Mahalalel was 65 years old when he fathered Jared.

¹⁶ Mahalalel lived 830 years after the birth of Jared, and he fathered sons and daughters.

¹⁷ So Mahalalel's life lasted 895 years; then he died.

¹⁸ Jared was 162 years old when he fathered Enoch.

¹⁹ Jared lived 800 years after the birth of Enoch, and he fathered sons and daughters.

²⁰ So Jared's life lasted 962 years; then he died.

²¹ Enoch was 65 years old when he fathered Methuselah.

²² And after the birth of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and fathered sons and daughters.

²³ So Enoch's life lasted 365 years.

²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not there, because God took him.

²⁵ Methuselah was 187 years old when he fathered Lamech.

²⁶ Methuselah lived 782 years after the birth of Lamech, and he fathered sons and daughters.

²⁷ So Methuselah's life lasted 969 years; then he died.

²⁸ Lamech was 182 years old when he fathered a son.

²⁹ And he named him Noah, saying, "This one will bring us relief from the agonizing labor of our hands, caused by the ground the LORD has cursed."

³⁰ Lamech lived 595 years after Noah's birth, and he fathered sons and daughters.

³¹ So Lamech's life lasted 777 years; then he died.

³² Noah was 500 years old, and he fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

6¹ When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them,

² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were beautiful, and they took any they chose as wives for themselves.

³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years."

⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterwards, when the sons of God came to the daughters of man, who bore children to them. They were the powerful men of old, the famous men.

⁵ When the LORD saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time,

⁶ the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I will wipe off the face of the earth: man, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky--for I regret that I made them."

⁸ Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.

¹⁰ And Noah fathered three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² God saw how corrupt the earth was, for all flesh had corrupted its way on the earth.

¹³ Then God said to Noah, "I have decided to put an end to all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of

them; therefore I am going to destroy them along with the earth.

¹⁴ "Make yourself an ark of gofer wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it with pitch inside and outside.

¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: The ark will be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

¹⁶ You are to make a roof, finishing the sides of the ark to within 18 inches of the roof. You are to put a door in the side of the ark. Make it with lower, middle, and upper decks .

¹⁷ "Understand that I am bringing a deluge--floodwaters on the earth to destroy all flesh under heaven with the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will die.

¹⁸ But I will establish My covenant with you, and you will enter the ark with your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives.

¹⁹ You are also to bring into the ark two of every living thing of all flesh, male and female, to keep them alive with you.

²⁰ Two of everything--from the birds according to their kinds, from the livestock according to their kinds, and from every animal that crawls on the ground according to its kind--will come to you so that you can keep them alive.

²¹ Take with you every kind of food that is eaten; gather it as food for you and for them."

²² And Noah did this. He did everything that God had commanded him.

7¹ Then the LORD said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before Me in this generation.

² You are to take with you seven pairs, a male and its female, of all the clean animals, and two of the animals that are not clean, a male and its female,

³ and seven pairs, male and female, of the birds of the sky--in order to keep offspring alive on the face of the whole earth.

⁴ Seven days from now I will make it rain on the earth 40 days and 40 nights, and I will wipe off the face of the earth every living thing I have made."

⁵ And Noah did everything that the LORD commanded him.

⁶ Noah was 600 years old when the deluge came and water covered the earth.

⁷ So Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives entered the ark because of the waters of the deluge.

⁸ From the clean animals, unclean animals, birds, and every creature that crawls on the ground,

⁹ two of each, male and female, entered the ark with Noah, just as God had commanded him.

¹⁰ Seven days later the waters of the deluge came on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the sources of the watery depths burst open, the floodgates of the sky were opened,

¹² and the rain fell on the earth 40 days and 40 nights.

¹³ On that same day Noah along with his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth, Noah's wife, and his three sons' wives entered the ark with him.

¹⁴ They entered it with all the wildlife according to their kinds, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that crawls on the earth according to its kind, all birds, every fowl, and everything with wings according to their kinds.

¹⁵ Two of all flesh that has the breath of life in it entered the ark with Noah.

¹⁶ Those that entered, male and female of all flesh, entered just as God had commanded him. Then the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ The deluge continued 40 days on the earth; the waters increased and lifted up the ark so that it rose above the earth.

¹⁸ The waters surged and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.

¹⁹ Then the waters surged even higher on the earth, and all the high mountains under the whole sky were covered.

²⁰ The mountains were covered as the waters surged above them more than 20 feet.

²¹ All flesh perished--creatures that crawl on the earth, birds, livestock, wildlife, and all creatures that swarm on the earth, as well as all mankind.

²² Everything with the breath of the spirit of life in its nostrils--everything on dry land died.

²³ He wiped out every living thing that was on the surface of the ground, from mankind to livestock, to creatures that crawl, to the birds of the sky, and they were wiped off the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark.

²⁴ And the waters surged on the earth 150 days.

8¹ God remembered Noah, as well as all the wildlife and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to pass over the earth, and the water began to subside.

² The sources of the watery depths and the floodgates of the sky were closed, and the rain from the sky stopped.

³ The water steadily receded from the earth, and by the end of 150 days the waters had decreased significantly.

⁴ The ark came to rest in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ The waters continued to recede until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were visible.

⁶ After 40 days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made,

⁷ and he sent out a raven. It went back and forth until the waters had dried up from the earth.

⁸ Then he sent out a dove to see whether the water on the earth's surface had gone down,

⁹ but the dove found no resting place for her foot. She returned to him in the ark because water covered the surface

of the whole earth. He reached out and brought her into the ark to himself.

¹⁰ So Noah waited seven more days and sent out the dove from the ark again.

¹¹ When the dove came to him at evening, there was a plucked olive leaf in her beak. So Noah knew that the water on the earth's surface had gone down.

¹² After he had waited another seven days, he sent out the dove, but she did not return to him again.

¹³ In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the water that had covered the earth was dried up. Then Noah removed the ark's cover and saw that the surface of the ground was drying.

¹⁴ By the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the earth was dry.

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah,

¹⁶ "Come out of the ark, you, your wife, your sons, and your sons' wives with you.

¹⁷ Bring out every living thing of all flesh that is with you--birds, livestock, creatures that crawl on the ground--and they will spread over the earth and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

¹⁸ So Noah, along with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, came out.

¹⁹ All wildlife, all livestock, every bird, and every creature that crawls on the earth came out of the ark by their groups.

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD. He took some of every kind of clean animal and every kind of clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

²¹ When the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, He said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, even though man's inclination is evil

from his youth. And I will never again strike down every living thing as I have done.

²² As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night will not cease."

9 ¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

² The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority.

³ Every living creature will be food for you; as I gave the green plants, I have given you everything.

⁴ However, you must not eat meat with its lifeblood in it.

⁵ I will require the life of every animal and every man for your life and your blood. I will require the life of each man's brother for a man's life.

⁶ Whoever sheds man's blood, his blood will be shed by man, for God made man in His image.

⁷ But you, be fruitful and multiply; spread out over the earth and multiply on it."

⁸ Then God said to Noah and his sons with him,

⁹ "Understand that I am confirming My covenant with you and your descendants after you,

¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you--birds, livestock, and all wildlife of the earth that are with you--all the animals of the earth that came out of the ark.

¹¹ I confirm My covenant with you that never again will all flesh be wiped out by

the waters of a deluge; there will never again be a deluge to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all future generations:

¹³ I have placed My bow in the clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

¹⁴ Whenever I form clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds,

¹⁵ I will remember My covenant between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh: water will never again become a deluge to destroy all flesh.

¹⁶ The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh on earth."

¹⁷ God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have confirmed between Me and all flesh on earth."

¹⁸ Noah's sons who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan.

¹⁹ These three were Noah's sons, and from them the whole earth was populated.

²⁰ Noah, a man of the soil, was the first to plant a vineyard.

²¹ He drank some of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.

²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside.

²³ Then Shem and Japheth took a cloak and placed it over both their shoulders, and walking backwards, they covered their father's nakedness. Their faces

were turned away, and they did not see their father naked.

²⁴ When Noah awoke from his drinking and learned what his youngest son had done to him,

²⁵ he said: Canaan will be cursed. He will be the lowest of slaves to his brothers.

²⁶ He also said: Praise the LORD, the God of Shem; Canaan will be his slave.

²⁷ God will extend Japheth; he will dwell in the tents of Shem; Canaan will be his slave.

²⁸ Now Noah lived 350 years after the flood.

²⁹ So Noah's life lasted 950 years; then he died.

10¹ These are the family records of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. They also had sons after the deluge.

² Japheth's sons: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

³ Gomer's sons: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁴ And Javan's sons: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

⁵ The coastland peoples spread out into their lands. These are Japheth's sons by their clans, in their nations. Each group had its own language.

⁶ Ham's sons: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.

⁷ Cush's sons: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. And Raamah's sons: Sheba and Dedan.

⁸ Cush fathered Nimrod, who was the first powerful man on earth.

⁹ He was a powerful hunter in the sight of the LORD. That is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a powerful hunter in the sight of the LORD."

¹⁰ His kingdom started with Babylon, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, Calah,
¹² and Resen, between Nineveh and the great city Calah.

¹³ Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

¹⁴ Pathrusim, Casluhim (the Philistines came from them), and Caphtorim.

¹⁵ Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn, and the Hittites,

¹⁶ the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

¹⁷ the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

¹⁸ the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterwards the Canaanite clans scattered.

¹⁹ The Canaanite border went from Sidon going toward Gerar as far as Gaza,

and going toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

²⁰ These are Ham's sons, by their clans, according to their languages, in their own lands and their nations.

²¹ And Shem, Japheth's older brother, also had children. Shem was the father of all the children of Eber.

²² Shem's sons were Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

²³ Aram's sons: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

²⁴ Arpachshad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber.

²⁵ Eber had two sons. One was named Peleg, for during his days the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

²⁶ And Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were Joktan's sons.

³⁰ Their settlements extended from Mesha to Sephar, the eastern hill country.

³¹ These are Shem's sons by their clans, according to their languages, in their lands and their nations.

³² These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their family records, in their nations. The nations on earth spread out from these after the flood.

11 ¹ At one time the whole earth had the same language and vocabulary.

² As people migrated from the east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there.

³ They said to each other, "Come, let us make oven-fired bricks." They had brick for stone and asphalt for mortar.

⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵ Then the LORD came down to look over the city and the tower that the men were building.

⁶ The LORD said, "If, as one people all having the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

⁷ Come, let Us go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another's speech."

⁸ So the LORD scattered them from there over the face of the whole earth, and they stopped building the city.

⁹ Therefore its name is called Babylon, for there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth, and from

there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

¹⁰ These are the family records of Shem. Shem lived 100 years and fathered Arpachshad two years after the deluge.

¹¹ After he fathered Arpachshad, Shem lived 500 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

¹² Arpachshad lived 35 years and fathered Shelah.

¹³ After he fathered Shelah, Arpachshad lived 403 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

¹⁴ Shelah lived 30 years and fathered Eber.

¹⁵ After he fathered Eber, Shelah lived 403 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

¹⁶ Eber lived 34 years and fathered Peleg.

¹⁷ After he fathered Peleg, Eber lived 430 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

¹⁸ Peleg lived 30 years and fathered Reu.

¹⁹ After he fathered Reu, Peleg lived 209 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

²⁰ Reu lived 32 years and fathered Serug.

²¹ After he fathered Serug, Reu lived 207 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

²² Serug lived 30 years and fathered Nahor.

²³ After he fathered Nahor, Serug lived 200 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

²⁴ Nahor lived 29 years and fathered Terah.

²⁵ After he fathered Terah, Nahor lived 119 years and fathered other sons and daughters.

²⁶ Terah lived 70 years and fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

²⁷ These are the family records of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran fathered Lot.

²⁸ Haran died in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans, during his father Terah's lifetime.

²⁹ Abram and Nahor took wives: Abram's wife was named Sarai, and Nahor's wife was named Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran, the father of both Milcah and Iscah.

³⁰ Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot (Haran's son), and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they set out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of

Canaan. But when they came to Haran, they settled there.

³² Terah lived 205 years and died in Haran.

12 ¹ The LORD said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

² I will make you into a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who treat you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.

⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people he had acquired in Haran, and they set out for

the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,

⁶ Abram passed through the land to the site of Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

⁷ But the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your offspring." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

⁸ From there he moved on to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and worshiped Him.

⁹ Then Abram journeyed by stages to the Negev.

¹⁰ There was a famine in the land, so Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine in the land was severe.

¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "Look, I know what a beautiful woman you are.

¹² When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' They will kill me but let you live.

¹³ Please say you're my sister so it will go well for me because of you, and my life will be spared on your account."

¹⁴ When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful.

¹⁵ Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh, so the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house.

¹⁶ He treated Abram well because of her, and Abram acquired flocks and herds, male and female donkeys, male and female slaves, and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with severe plagues because of Abram's wife Sarai.

¹⁸ So Pharaoh sent for Abram and said, "What have you done to me? Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?"

¹⁹ Why did you say, 'She's my sister,' so that I took her as my wife? Now, here's your wife. Take her and go!"

²⁰ Then Pharaoh gave his men orders about him, and they sent him away, with his wife and all he had.

13 ¹ Then Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev--he, his wife, and all he had, and Lot with him.

² Abram was very rich in livestock, silver, and gold.

³ He went by stages from the Negev to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had formerly been,

⁴ to the site where he had built the altar. And Abram worshiped the LORD there.

⁵ Now Lot, who was traveling with Abram, also had flocks, herds, and tents.

⁶ But the land was unable to support them as long as they stayed together, for they had so many possessions that they could not stay together,

⁷ and there was quarreling between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were living in the land.

⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, "Please, let's not have quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, since we are relatives.

⁹ Isn't the whole land before you? Separate from me: if you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left."

¹⁰ Lot looked out and saw that the entire Jordan Valley as far as Zoar was well-watered everywhere like the LORD's garden and the land of Egypt. This

was before God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

¹¹ So Lot chose the entire Jordan Valley for himself. Then Lot journeyed eastward, and they separated from each other.

¹² Abram lived in the land of Canaan, but Lot lived in the cities of the valley and set up his tent near Sodom.

¹³ Now the men of Sodom were evil, sinning greatly against the LORD.

¹⁴ After Lot had separated from him, the LORD said to Abram, "Look from the place where you are. Look north and south, east and west,

¹⁵ for I will give you and your offspring forever all the land that you see.

¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if one could count the dust of the earth, then your offspring could be counted.

¹⁷ Get up and walk from one end of the land to the other, for I will give it to you."

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and went to live beside the oaks of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.

14 ¹ In those days Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim

² waged war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, as well as the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

³ All of these came as allies to the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea).

⁴ They were subject to Chedorlaomer for 12 years, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

⁵ In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him

came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,

⁶ and the Horites in the mountains of Seir, as far as El-paran by the wilderness.

⁷ Then they came back to invade En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they defeated all the territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and lined up for battle in the Valley of Siddim

⁹ against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar--four kings against five.

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim contained many asphalt pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some

fell into them, but the rest fled to the mountains.

¹¹ The four kings took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on.

¹² They also took Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, for he was living in Sodom, and they went on.

¹³ One of the survivors came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was at the oaks belonging to Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eshcol and the brother of Aner. They were bound by a treaty with Abram.

¹⁴ When Abram heard that his relative had been taken prisoner, he assembled his 318 trained men, born in his household, and they went in pursuit as far as Dan.

¹⁵ And he and his servants deployed against them by night, attacked them,

and pursued them as far as Hobah to the north of Damascus.

¹⁶ He brought back all the goods and also his relative Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the other people.

¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was a priest to God Most High.

¹⁹ He blessed him and said: Abram is blessed by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

²⁰ and give praise to God Most High who has handed over your enemies to you. And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

²¹ Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people, but take the possessions for yourself."

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand in an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,

²³ that I will not take a thread or sandal strap or anything that belongs to you, so you can never say, 'I made Abram rich.'

²⁴ I will take nothing except what the servants have eaten. But as for the share of the men who came with me--Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre--they can take their share."

15 ¹ After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great.

² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what can You give me, since I am childless

and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ Abram continued, "Look, You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house will be my heir."

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to him: "This one will not be your heir; instead, one who comes from your own body will be your heir."

⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then He said to him, "Your offspring will be that numerous ."

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and He credited it to him as righteousness.

⁷ He also said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."

⁸ But he said, "Lord GOD, how can I know that I will possess it?"

⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a three-year-old cow, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ So he brought all these to Him, split them down the middle, and laid the pieces opposite each other, but he did not cut up the birds.

¹¹ Birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was setting, a deep sleep fell on Abram, and suddenly a terror and great darkness descended on him.

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know this for certain: Your offspring will be strangers in a land that does not belong to them; they will be enslaved and oppressed 400 years.

¹⁴ However, I will judge the nation they serve, and afterwards they will go out with many possessions.

¹⁵ But you will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a ripe old age.

¹⁶ In the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."

¹⁷ When the sun had set and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch appeared and passed between the divided animals .

¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "I give this land to your offspring, from the brook of Egypt to the Euphrates River:

¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,

²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaim,

²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites."

16 ¹ Abram's wife Sarai had not borne him children. She owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar.

² Sarai said to Abram, "Since the LORD has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps I can have children by her." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

³ So Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar, her Egyptian slave, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife for him. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan 10 years.

⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she realized that she was pregnant, she looked down on her mistress.

⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for my suffering! I put my slave in your arms, and ever since she saw that she was pregnant, she has looked down on me. May the LORD judge between me and you."

⁶ Abram replied to Sarai, "Here, your slave is in your hands; do whatever you

want with her." Then Sarai mistreated her so much that she ran away from her.

⁷ The Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.

⁸ He said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She replied, "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai."

⁹ Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "You must go back to your mistress and submit to her mistreatment."

¹⁰ The Angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will greatly multiply your offspring, and they will be too many to count."

¹¹ Then the Angel of the LORD said to her: You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard your cry of affliction.

¹² This man will be like a wild ass. His hand will be against everyone, and

everyone's hand will be against him; he will live at odds with all his brothers.

¹³ So she named the LORD who spoke to her: The God Who Sees, for she said, "Have I really seen here the One who sees me?"

¹⁴ That is why she named the spring, "A Well of the Living One Who Sees Me." It is located between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ So Hagar gave birth to Abram's son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son Hagar had.

¹⁶ Abram was 86 years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

17 ¹ When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him, saying, "I am God Almighty. Live in My presence and be devout.

² I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you greatly."

³ Then Abram fell to the ground, and God spoke with him:

⁴ "As for Me, My covenant is with you, and you will become the father of many nations.

⁵ Your name will no longer be Abram, but your name will be Abraham, for I will make you the father of many nations.

⁶ I will make you extremely fruitful and will make nations and kings come from you.

⁷ I will keep My covenant between Me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, as an everlasting covenant to be your God and the God of your offspring after you.

⁸ And to you and your offspring after you I will give the land where you are residing--all the land of Canaan--as an eternal possession, and I will be their God."

⁹ God also said to Abraham, "As for you, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations are to keep My covenant.

¹⁰ This is My covenant, which you are to keep, between Me and you and your offspring after you: Every one of your males must be circumcised.

¹¹ You must circumcise the flesh of your foreskin to serve as a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

¹² Throughout your generations, every male among you at eight days old is to be circumcised. This includes a slave born in your house and one purchased with money from any foreigner. The one who is not your offspring,

¹³ a slave born in your house, as well as one purchased with money, must be circumcised. My covenant will be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant.

¹⁴ If any male is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that man will be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for your wife Sarai, do not call her Sarai, for Sarah will be her name.

¹⁶ I will bless her; indeed, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will produce nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

¹⁷ Abraham fell to the ground, laughed, and thought in his heart, "Can a child be born to a hundred-year-old man? Can Sarah, a ninety-year-old woman, give birth?"

¹⁸ So Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael could live in Your presence!"

¹⁹ But God said, "No. Your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. I will confirm My covenant

with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will certainly bless him; I will make him fruitful and will multiply him greatly. He will father 12 tribal leaders, and I will make him into a great nation.

²¹ But I will confirm My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year."

²² When He finished talking with him, God withdrew from Abraham.

²³ Then Abraham took his son Ishmael and all the slaves born in his house or purchased with his money--every male among the members of Abraham's household--and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskin on that very day, just as God had said to him.

²⁴ Abraham was 99 years old when the flesh of his foreskin was circumcised,

²⁵ and his son Ishmael was 13 years old when the flesh of his foreskin was circumcised.

²⁶ On that same day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised.

²⁷ And all the men of his household--both slaves born in his house and those purchased with money from a foreigner--were circumcised with him.

18 ¹ Then the LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he was sitting in the entrance of his tent during the heat of the day.

² He looked up, and he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them and bowed to the ground.

³ Then he said, "My lord, if I have found favor in your sight, please do not go on past your servant.

⁴ Let a little water be brought, that you may wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree.

⁵ I will bring a bit of bread so that you may strengthen yourselves. This is why you have passed your servant's way . Later, you can continue on." "Yes," they replied, "do as you have said."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick! Knead three measures of fine flour and make bread."

⁷ Meanwhile, Abraham ran to the herd and got a tender, choice calf. He gave it to a young man, who hurried to prepare it.

⁸ Then Abraham took curds and milk, and the calf that he had prepared, and set them before the men. He served them as they ate under the tree.

⁹ "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he answered.

¹⁰ The LORD said, "I will certainly come back to you in about a year's time, and your wife Sarah will have a son!" Now Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent behind him.

¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were old and getting on in years. Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

¹² So she laughed to herself: "After I have become shriveled up and my lord is old, will I have delight?"

¹³ But the LORD asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Can I really have a baby when I'm old?'"

¹⁴ "Is anything impossible for the LORD? At the appointed time I will come back to you, and in about a year she will have a son."

¹⁵ Sarah denied it. "I did not laugh," she said, because she was afraid. But He replied, "No, you did laugh."

¹⁶ The men got up from there and looked out over Sodom, and Abraham was walking with them to see them off.

¹⁷ Then the LORD said, "Should I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?"

¹⁸ Abraham is to become a great and powerful nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him.

¹⁹ For I have chosen him so that he will command his children and his house after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just. This is how the LORD will fulfill to Abraham what He promised him."

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is immense, and their sin is extremely serious.

²¹ I will go down to see if what they have done justifies the cry that has come up to Me. If not, I will find out."

²² The men turned from there and went toward Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

²³ Abraham stepped forward and said, "Will You really sweep away the righteous with the wicked?"

²⁴ What if there are 50 righteous people in the city? Will You really sweep it away instead of sparing the place for the sake of the 50 righteous people who are in it?

²⁵ You could not possibly do such a thing: to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. You could not possibly do that! Won't the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

²⁶ The LORD said, "If at Sodom I find 50 righteous people in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Then Abraham answered, "Since I have ventured to speak to the Lord--even though I am dust and ashes--

²⁸ suppose the 50 righteous lack five. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" He replied, "I will not destroy it if I find 45 there."

²⁹ Then he spoke to Him again, "Suppose 40 are found there?" He answered, "I will not do it on account of 40."

³⁰ Then he said, "Let the Lord not be angry, and I will speak further. Suppose 30 are found there?" He answered, "I will not do it if I find 30 there."

³¹ Then he said, "Since I have ventured to speak to the Lord, suppose 20 are found there?" He replied, "I will not destroy it on account of 20."

³² Then he said, "Let the Lord not be angry, and I will speak one more time. Suppose 10 are found there?" He answered, "I will not destroy it on account of 10."

³³ When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, He departed, and Abraham returned to his place.

19 ¹ The two angels entered Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting at Sodom's gate. When Lot saw them , he got up to meet them. He bowed with his face to the ground

² and said, "My lords, turn aside to your servant's house, wash your feet, and spend the night. Then you can get up early and go on your way." "No," they said. "We would rather spend the night in the square."

³ But he urged them so strongly that they followed him and went into his house. He prepared a feast and baked unleavened bread for them, and they ate.

⁴ Before they went to bed, the men of the city of Sodom, both young and old,

the whole population, surrounded the house.

⁵ They called out to Lot and said, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Send them out to us so we can have sex with them!"

⁶ Lot went out to them at the entrance and shut the door behind him.

⁷ He said, "Don't do this evil, my brothers.

⁸ Look, I've got two daughters who haven't had sexual relations with a man. I'll bring them out to you, and you can do whatever you want to them. However, don't do anything to these men, because they have come under the protection of my roof."

⁹ "Get out of the way!" they said, adding, "This one came here as a foreigner, but he's acting like a judge! Now we'll do more harm to you than

to them." They put pressure on Lot and came up to break down the door.

¹⁰ But the angels reached out, brought Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

¹¹ They struck the men who were at the door of the house, both young and old, with a blinding light so that they were unable to find the door.

¹² Then the angels said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here: a son-in-law, your sons and daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of this place,

¹³ for we are about to destroy this place because the outcry against its people is great before the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

¹⁴ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were going to marry his daughters. "Get up," he said. "Get out of this place, for the LORD is about

to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

¹⁵ At the crack of dawn the angels urged Lot on: "Get up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city."

¹⁶ But he hesitated, so because of the LORD's compassion for him, the men grabbed his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters. And they brought him out and left him outside the city.

¹⁷ As soon as the angels got them outside, one of them said, "Run for your lives! Don't look back and don't stop anywhere on the plain! Run to the mountains, or you will be swept away!"

¹⁸ But Lot said to them, "No, Lord--please.

¹⁹ Your servant has indeed found favor in Your sight, and You have shown me

great kindness by saving my life. But I can't run to the mountains; the disaster will overtake me, and I will die.

²⁰ Look, this town is close enough for me to run to. It is a small place. Please let me go there--it's only a small place, isn't it?--so that I can survive."

²¹ And he said to him, "All right, I'll grant your request about this matter too, and will not overthrow the town you mentioned.

²² Hurry up! Run there, for I cannot do anything until you get there." Therefore the name of the city is Zoar.

²³ The sun had risen over the land when Lot reached Zoar.

²⁴ Then the LORD rained burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah from the LORD out of the sky.

²⁵ He overthrew these cities, the entire plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and whatever grew on the ground.

²⁶ But his wife looked back and became a pillar of salt.

²⁷ Early in the morning Abraham went to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

²⁸ He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace.

²⁹ So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, He remembered Abraham and brought Lot out of the middle of the upheaval when He overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

³⁰ Lot departed from Zoar and lived in the mountains along with his two daughters, because he was afraid to live in Zoar. Instead, he and his two daughters lived in a cave.

³¹ Then the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is

no man in the land to sleep with us as is the custom of all the land.

³² Come, let's get our father to drink wine so that we can sleep with him and preserve our father's line."

³³ So they got their father to drink wine that night, and the firstborn came and slept with her father; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.

³⁴ The next day the firstborn said to the younger, "Look, I slept with my father last night. Let's get him to drink wine again tonight so you can go sleep with him and we can preserve our father's line."

³⁵ That night they again got their father to drink wine, and the younger went and slept with him; he did not know when she lay down or when she got up.

³⁶ So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father.

³⁷ The firstborn gave birth to a son and named him Moab. He is the father of the Moabites of today.

³⁸ The younger also gave birth to a son, and she named him Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites of today.

20 ¹ From there Abraham traveled to the region of the Negev and settled between Kadesh and Shur. While he lived in Gerar,

² Abraham said about his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar had Sarah brought to him.

³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "You are about to die because of the woman you have taken, for she is a married woman."

⁴ Now Abimelech had not approached her, so he said, "Lord, would you destroy a nation even though it is innocent?"

⁵ Didn't he himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He

is my brother.' I did this with a clear conscience and clean hands."

⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you did this with a clear conscience. I have also kept you from sinning against Me. Therefore I have not let you touch her.

⁷ Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, know that you will certainly die, you and all who are yours."

⁸ Early in the morning Abimelech got up, called all his servants together, and personally told them all these things; and the men were terrified.

⁹ Then Abimelech called Abraham in and said to him, "What have you done to us? How did I sin against you that you have brought such enormous guilt on me and on my kingdom? You have done things to me that should never be done."

¹⁰ Abimelech also said to Abraham, "What did you intend when you did this thing?"

¹¹ Abraham replied, "I thought, 'There is absolutely no fear of God in this place. They will kill me because of my wife.'

¹² Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.

¹³ So when God had me wander from my father's house, I said to her: Show your loyalty to me wherever we go, and say about me: 'He's my brother.'"

¹⁴ Then Abimelech took sheep and cattle and male and female slaves, gave them to Abraham, and returned his wife Sarah to him.

¹⁵ Abimelech said, "Look, my land is before you. Settle wherever you want."

¹⁶ And to Sarah he said, "Look, I am giving your brother 1,000 pieces of

silver. It is a verification of your honor to all who are with you. You are fully vindicated."

¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female slaves so that they could bear children,

¹⁸ for the LORD had completely closed all the wombs in Abimelech's household on account of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

21 ¹ The LORD came to Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what He had promised.

² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time God had told him.

³ Abraham named his son who was born to him--the one Sarah bore to him--Isaac.

⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him.

⁵ Abraham was 100 years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and everyone who hears will laugh with me."

⁷ She also said, "Who would have told Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham held a great feast on the day Isaac was weaned.

⁹ But Sarah saw the son mocking--the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham.

¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, "Drive out this slave with her son, for the son of this slave will not be a co-heir with my son Isaac!"

¹¹ Now this was a very difficult thing for Abraham because of his son.

¹² But God said to Abraham, "Do not be concerned about the boy and your slave. Whatever Sarah says to you, listen to her, because your offspring will be traced through Isaac.

¹³ But I will also make a nation of the slave's son because he is your offspring."

¹⁴ Early in the morning Abraham got up, took bread and a waterskin, put them on Hagar's shoulders, and sent her and the boy away. She left and wandered in the Wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she left the boy under one of the bushes.

¹⁶ Then she went and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she said, "I can't bear to watch the boy die!" So as she sat nearby, she wept loudly.

¹⁷ God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What's wrong, Hagar? Don't be afraid, for God has

heard the voice of the boy from the place where he is.

¹⁸ Get up, help the boy up, and sustain him, for I will make him a great nation."

¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the waterskin and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew; he settled in the wilderness and became an archer.

²¹ He settled in the Wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

²² At that time Abimelech, with Phicol the commander of his army, said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do.

²³ Now swear to me here by God that you will not break an agreement with me or with my children and descendants. As I have kept faith with you, so you will

keep faith with me and with the country where you are a resident alien."

²⁴ And Abraham said, "I swear it."

²⁵ But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the water well that Abimelech's servants had seized.

²⁶ Abimelech replied, "I don't know who did this thing. You didn't report anything to me, so I hadn't heard about it until today."

²⁷ Then Abraham took sheep and cattle and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.

²⁸ But Abraham had set apart seven ewe lambs from the flock.

²⁹ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "Why have you set apart these seven ewe lambs?"

³⁰ He replied, "You are to accept the seven ewe lambs from my hand so that this act will serve as my witness that I dug this well."

³¹ Therefore that place was called Beer-sheba because it was there that the two of them swore an oath.

³² After they had made a covenant at Beer-sheba, Abimelech and Phicol, the commander of his army, left and returned to the land of the Philistines.

³³ Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beer-sheba, and there he worshiped the LORD, the Everlasting God.

³⁴ And Abraham lived as a foreigner in the land of the Philistines for many days.

22 ¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him,

"Abraham!" "Here I am," he answered.

² "Take your son," He said, "your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

³ So early in the morning Abraham got up, saddled his donkey, and took with

him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we'll come back to you."

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the sacrificial knife, and the two of them walked on together.

⁷ Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father." And he replied, "Here I am, my son." Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Then the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood.

¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" He replied, "Here I am."

¹² Then He said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from Me."

¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So Abraham went and took the ram and

offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

¹⁴ And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, so today it is said: "It will be provided on the LORD's mountain."

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven

¹⁶ and said, "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this thing and have not withheld your only son,

¹⁷ I will indeed bless you and make your offspring as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your offspring will possess the gates of their enemies.

¹⁸ And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed My command."

¹⁹ Abraham went back to his young men, and they got up and went together

to Beer-sheba. And Abraham settled in Beer-sheba.

²⁰ Now after these things Abraham was told, "Milcah also has borne sons to your brother Nahor:

²¹ Uz his firstborn, his brother Buz, Kemuel the father of Aram,

²² Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel."

²³ And Bethuel fathered Rebekah. Milcah bore these eight to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

²⁴ His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

23 ¹ Now Sarah lived 127 years; these were all the years of her life.

² Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

³ Then Abraham got up from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites:

⁴ "I am a resident alien among you. Give me a burial site among you so that I can bury my dead."

⁵ The Hittites replied to Abraham,

⁶ "Listen to us, lord. You are God's chosen one among us. Bury your dead in our finest burial place. None of us will withhold from you his burial place for burying your dead."

⁷ Then Abraham rose and bowed down to the Hittites, the people of the land.

⁸ He said to them, "If you are willing for me to bury my dead, listen to me and ask Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf

⁹ to give me the cave of Machpelah that belongs to him; it is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me in your presence, for the full price, as a burial place."

¹⁰ Ephron was present with the Hittites. So in the presence of all the Hittites who came to the gate of his city, Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham:

¹¹ "No, my lord. Listen to me. I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. I give it to you in the presence of my people. Bury your dead."

¹² Abraham bowed down to the people of the land

¹³ and said to Ephron in the presence of the people of the land, "Please listen to me. Let me pay the price of the field. Accept it from me, and let me bury my dead there."

¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham and said to him,

¹⁵ "My lord, listen to me. Land worth 400 shekels of silver--what is that between you and me? Bury your dead."

¹⁶ Abraham agreed with Ephron, and Abraham weighed out to Ephron the

silver that he had agreed to in the hearing of the Hittites: 400 shekels of silver at the current commercial rate.

¹⁷ So Ephron's field at Machpelah near Mamre--the field with its cave and all the trees anywhere within the boundaries of the field--became

¹⁸ Abraham's possession in the presence of all the Hittites who came to the gate of his city.

¹⁹ After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field at Machpelah near Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

²⁰ The field with its cave passed from the Hittites to Abraham as a burial place.

24 ¹ Abraham was now old, getting on in years, and the LORD had blessed him in everything.

² Abraham said to his servant, the elder of his household who managed all he

owned, "Place your hand under my thigh,

³ and I will have you swear by the LORD, God of heaven and God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I live,

⁴ but will go to my land and my family to take a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ The servant said to him, "Suppose the woman is unwilling to follow me to this land? Should I have your son go back to the land you came from?"

⁶ Abraham answered him, "Make sure that you don't take my son back there.

⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from my native land, who spoke to me and swore to me, 'I will give this land to your offspring'--He will send His angel before you, and you can take a wife for my son from there.

⁸ If the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are free from this oath to me, but don't let my son go back there."

⁹ So the servant placed his hand under his master Abraham's thigh and swore an oath to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰ The servant took 10 of his master's camels and departed with all kinds of his master's goods in hand. Then he set out for the town of Nahor, Aram-naharaim.

¹¹ He made the camels kneel beside a well of water outside the town at evening. This was the time when the women went out to draw water.

¹² "LORD, God of my master Abraham," he prayed, "grant me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

¹³ I am standing here at the spring where the daughters of the men of the town are coming out to draw water.

¹⁴ Let the girl to whom I say, 'Please lower your water jug so that I may drink,'

and who responds, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels also'--let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. By this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah--daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor--coming with a jug on her shoulder.

¹⁶ Now the girl was very beautiful, a young woman who had not known a man intimately. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up.

¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me have a little water from your jug."

¹⁸ She replied, "Drink, my lord." She quickly lowered her jug to her hand and gave him a drink.

¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I'll also draw water for

your camels until they have had enough to drink."

²⁰ She quickly emptied her jug into the trough and hurried to the well again to draw water. She drew water for all his camels

²¹ while the man silently watched her to see whether or not the LORD had made his journey a success.

²² After the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing half a shekel, and for her wrists two bracelets weighing 10 shekels of gold.

²³ "Whose daughter are you?" he asked. "Please tell me, is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

²⁴ She answered him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor."

²⁵ She also said to him, "We have plenty of straw and feed, and a place to spend the night."

²⁶ Then the man bowed down, worshiped the LORD,

²⁷ and said, "Praise the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not withheld His kindness and faithfulness from my master. As for me, the LORD has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives."

²⁸ The girl ran and told her mother's household about these things.

²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban, and Laban ran out to the man at the spring.

³⁰ As soon as he had seen the ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he had heard his sister Rebekah's words--"The man said this to me!"--he went to the man. He was standing there by the camels at the spring.

³¹ Laban said, "Come, you who are blessed by the LORD. Why are you standing out here? I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."

³² So the man came to the house, and the camels were unloaded. Straw and feed were given to the camels, and water was brought to wash his feet and the feet of the men with him.

³³ A meal was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." So Laban said, "Speak on."

³⁴ "I am Abraham's servant," he said.

³⁵ "The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become rich. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female slaves, and camels and donkeys.

³⁶ Sarah, my master's wife, bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns.

³⁷ My master put me under this oath:
'You will not take a wife for my son
from the daughters of the Canaanites in
whose land I live

³⁸ but will go to my father's household
and to my family to take a wife for my
son.'

³⁹ But I said to my master, 'Suppose the
woman will not come back with me?'

⁴⁰ He said to me, 'The LORD before
whom I have walked will send His angel
with you and make your journey a
success, and you will take a wife for my
son from my family and from my father's
household.

⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath
if you go to my family and they do not
give her to you--you will be free from my
oath.'

⁴² "Today when I came to the spring,
I prayed: LORD, God of my master

Abraham, if only You will make my journey successful!

⁴³ I am standing here at a spring. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, and I say to her: Please let me drink a little water from your jug,

⁴⁴ and who responds to me, 'Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels also'--let her be the woman the LORD has appointed for my master's son.

⁴⁵ "Before I had finished praying in my heart, there was Rebekah coming with her jug on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. So I said to her: Please let me have a drink.

⁴⁶ She quickly lowered her jug from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels also.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels.

⁴⁷ Then I asked her: Whose daughter are you? She responded, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah

bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.

⁴⁸ Then I bowed down, worshiped the LORD, and praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who guided me on the right way to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

⁴⁹ Now, if you are going to show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; if not, tell me, and I will go elsewhere."

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the LORD; we have no choice in the matter.

⁵¹ Rebekah is here in front of you. Take her and go, and let her be a wife for your master's son, just as the LORD has spoken."

⁵² When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed to the ground before the LORD.

⁵³ Then he brought out objects of silver and gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious gifts to her brother and her mother.

⁵⁴ Then he and the men with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they got up in the morning, he said, "Send me to my master."

⁵⁵ But her brother and mother said, "Let the girl stay with us for about 10 days. Then she can go."

⁵⁶ But he responded to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has made my journey a success. Send me away so that I may go to my master."

⁵⁷ So they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her opinion."

⁵⁸ They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She replied, "I will go."

⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.

⁶⁰ They blessed Rebekah, saying to her: Our sister, may you become thousands upon ten thousands. May your offspring possess the gates of their enemies.

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her young women got up, mounted the camels, and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

⁶² Now Isaac was returning from Beer-lahai-roi, for he was living in the Negev region.

⁶³ In the early evening, Isaac went out to walk in the field, and looking up, he saw camels coming.

⁶⁴ Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she got down from her camel

⁶⁵ and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?"

The servant answered, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself.

⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

⁶⁷ And Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah and took Rebekah to be his wife. Isaac loved her, and he was comforted after his mother's death .

25 ¹ Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah, ² and she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

³ Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's sons were the Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

⁴ And Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were sons of Keturah.

⁵ Abraham gave everything he owned to Isaac.

⁶ And Abraham gave gifts to the sons of his concubines, but while he was still

alive he sent them eastward, away from his son Isaac, to the land of the East.

⁷ This is the length of Abraham's life: 175 years.

⁸ He took his last breath and died at a ripe old age, old and contented, and he was gathered to his people.

⁹ His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite.

¹⁰ This was the field that Abraham bought from the Hittites. Abraham was buried there with his wife Sarah.

¹¹ After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who lived near Beer-lahai-roi.

¹² These are the family records of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's slave, bore to Abraham.

¹³ These are the names of Ishmael's sons; their names according to the family records are: Nebaioth, Ishmael's firstborn, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

¹⁵ Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

¹⁶ These are Ishmael's sons, and these are their names by their villages and encampments: 12 leaders of their clans.

¹⁷ This is the length of Ishmael's life: 137 years. He took his last breath and died, and was gathered to his people.

¹⁸ And they settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt as you go toward Asshur. He lived in opposition to all his brothers.

¹⁹ These are the family records of Isaac son of Abraham. Abraham fathered Isaac.

²⁰ Isaac was 40 years old when he took as his wife Rebekah daughter of Bethuel

the Aramean from Paddan-aram, and sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife because she was barren. The LORD heard his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.

²² But the children inside her struggled with each other, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said to her: Two nations are in your womb; two people will come from you and be separated. One people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.

²⁴ When her time came to give birth, there were indeed twins in her womb.

²⁵ The first one came out reddish, covered with hair like a fur coat, and they named him Esau.

²⁶ After this, his brother came out grasping Esau's heel with his hand. So he was named Jacob. Isaac was 60 years old when they were born.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau became an expert hunter, an outdoorsman, but Jacob was a quiet man who stayed at home.

²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for wild game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, exhausted.

³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, because I'm exhausted." That is why he was also named Edom.

³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright."

³² "Look," said Esau, "I'm about to die, so what good is a birthright to me?"

³³ Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to Jacob and sold his birthright to him.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave bread and lentil stew to Esau; he ate, drank, got up, and went away. So Esau despised his birthright.

26 ¹ There was another famine in the land in addition to the one that had occurred in Abraham's time. And Isaac went to Abimelech, king of the Philistines, at Gerar.

² The LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt. Live in the land that I tell you about;

³ stay in this land as a foreigner, and I will be with you and bless you. For I will give all these lands to you and your offspring, and I will confirm the oath that I swore to your father Abraham.

⁴ I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky, I will give your

offspring all these lands, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring,

⁵ because Abraham listened to My voice and kept My mandate, My commands, My statutes, and My instructions."

⁶ So Isaac settled in Gerar.

⁷ When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he was afraid to say "my wife," thinking, "The men of the place will kill me on account of Rebekah, for she is a beautiful woman."

⁸ When Isaac had been there for some time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked down from the window and was surprised to see Isaac caressing his wife Rebekah.

⁹ Abimelech sent for Isaac and said, "So she is really your wife! How could you say, 'She's my sister'?" Isaac answered

him, "Because I thought I might die on account of her."

¹⁰ Then Abimelech said, "What is this you've done to us? One of the people could easily have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us."

¹¹ So Abimelech warned all the people with these words: "Whoever harms this man or his wife will certainly die."

¹² Isaac sowed seed in that land, and in that year he reaped a hundred times what was sown . The LORD blessed him,

¹³ and the man became rich and kept getting richer until he was very wealthy.

¹⁴ He had flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, and many slaves, and the Philistines were envious of him.

¹⁵ The Philistines stopped up all the wells that his father's slaves had dug in the days of his father Abraham, filling them with dirt.

¹⁶ And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Leave us, for you are much too powerful for us."

¹⁷ So Isaac left there, camped in the valley of Gerar, and lived there.

¹⁸ Isaac reopened the water wells that had been dug in the days of his father Abraham and that the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died. He gave them the same names his father had given them.

¹⁹ Moreover, Isaac's slaves dug in the valley and found a well of spring water there.

²⁰ But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen and said, "The water is ours!" So he named the well Quarrel because they quarreled with him.

²¹ Then they dug another well and quarreled over that one also, so he named it Hostility.

²² He moved from there and dug another, and they did not quarrel over it. He named it Open Spaces and said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we will be fruitful in the land."

²³ From there he went up to Beer-sheba,
²⁴ and the LORD appeared to him that night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your offspring because of My servant Abraham."

²⁵ So he built an altar there, worshiped the LORD, and pitched his tent there. Isaac's slaves also dug a well there.

²⁶ Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army.

²⁷ Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me? You hated me and sent me away from you."

²⁸ They replied, "We have clearly seen how the LORD has been with you. We think there should be an oath between two parties--between us and you. Let us make a covenant with you:

²⁹ You will not harm us, just as we have not harmed you but have only done what was good to you, sending you away in peace. You are now blessed by the LORD."

³⁰ So he prepared a banquet for them, and they ate and drank.

³¹ They got up early in the morning and swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent them on their way, and they left him in peace.

³² On that same day Isaac's slaves came to tell him about the well they had dug, saying to him, "We have found water!"

³³ He called it Oath. Therefore the name of the city is Beer-sheba to this day.

³⁴ When Esau was 40 years old, he took as his wives Judith daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath daughter of Elon the Hittite.

³⁵ They made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

27 ¹ When Isaac was old and his eyes were so weak that he could not see, he called his older son Esau and said to him, "My son." And he answered, "Here I am."

² He said, "Look, I am old and do not know the day of my death.

³ Take your hunting gear, your quiver and bow, and go out in the field to hunt some game for me.

⁴ Then make me the delicious food that I love and bring it to me to eat, so that I can bless you before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening to what Isaac said to his son Esau. So while Esau

went to the field to hunt some game to bring in,

⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "Listen! I heard your father talking with your brother Esau. He said,

⁷ 'Bring me some game and make some delicious food for me to eat so that I can bless you in the LORD's presence before I die.'

⁸ Now obey every order I give you, my son.

⁹ Go to the flock and bring me two choice young goats, and I will make them into a delicious meal for your father--the kind he loves.

¹⁰ Then take it to your father to eat so that he may bless you before he dies."

¹¹ Jacob answered Rebekah his mother, "Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, but I am a man with smooth skin.

¹² Suppose my father touches me. Then I will seem to be deceiving him, and I will

bring a curse rather than a blessing on myself."

¹³ His mother said to him, "Your curse be on me, my son. Just obey me and go get them for me."

¹⁴ So he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made the delicious food his father loved.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best clothes of her older son Esau, which were there at the house, and had her younger son Jacob wear them.

¹⁶ She put the goatskins on his hands and the smooth part of his neck.

¹⁷ Then she handed the delicious food and the bread she had made to her son Jacob.

¹⁸ When he came to his father, he said, "My father." And he answered, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

¹⁹ Jacob replied to his father, "I am Esau, your firstborn. I have done as you

told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may bless me."

²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, "How did you ever find it so quickly, my son?" He replied, "Because the LORD your God worked it out for me."

²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come closer so I can touch you, my son. Are you really my son Esau, or not?"

²² So Jacob came closer to his father Isaac. When he touched him, he said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

²³ He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he blessed him.

²⁴ Again he asked, "Are you really my son Esau?" And he replied, "I am."

²⁵ Then he said, "Serve me, and let me eat some of my son's game so that I can bless you." Jacob brought it to him, and

he ate; he brought him wine, and he drank.

²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Please come closer and kiss me, my son."

²⁷ So he came closer and kissed him. When Isaac smelled his clothes, he blessed him and said: Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed.

²⁸ May God give to you--from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land--an abundance of grain and new wine.

²⁹ May peoples serve you and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brothers; may your mother's sons bow down to you. Those who curse you will be cursed, and those who bless you will be blessed.

³⁰ As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob and Jacob had left the presence of

his father Isaac, his brother Esau arrived from the hunt.

³¹ He had also made some delicious food and brought it to his father. Then he said to his father, "Let my father get up and eat some of his son's game, so that you may bless me."

³² But his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am Esau your firstborn son."

³³ Isaac began to tremble uncontrollably. "Who was it then," he said, "who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it all before you came in, and I blessed him. Indeed, he will be blessed!"

³⁴ When Esau heard his father's words, he cried out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me--me too, my father!"

³⁵ But he replied, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."

³⁶ So he said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me twice now. He took my birthright, and look, now he has taken my blessing." Then he asked, "Haven't you saved a blessing for me?"

³⁷ But Isaac answered Esau: "Look, I have made him a master over you, have given him all of his relatives as his servants, and have sustained him with grain and new wine. What then can I do for you, my son?"

³⁸ Esau said to his father, "Do you only have one blessing, my father? Bless me--me too, my father!" And Esau wept loudly.

³⁹ Then his father Isaac answered him: Look, your dwelling place will be away from the richness of the land, away from the dew of the sky above.

⁴⁰ You will live by your sword, and you will serve your brother. But when you

rebel, you will break his yoke from your neck.

⁴¹ Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. And Esau determined in his heart: "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

⁴² When the words of her older son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she summoned her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Listen, your brother Esau is consoling himself by planning to kill you.

⁴³ So now, my son, listen to me. Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran,

⁴⁴ and stay with him for a few days until your brother's anger subsides--

⁴⁵ until your brother's rage turns away from you and he forgets what you have done to him. Then I will send for you and bring you back from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?"

⁴⁶ So Rebekah said to Isaac, "I'm sick of my life because of these Hittite women. If Jacob marries a Hittite woman like one of them, what good is my life?"

28 ¹ Isaac summoned Jacob, blessed him, and commanded him: "Don't take a wife from the Canaanite women.

² Go at once to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel, your mother's father. Marry one of the daughters of Laban, your mother's brother.

³ May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you so that you become an assembly of peoples.

⁴ May God give you and your offspring the blessing of Abraham so that you may possess the land where you live as an alien, the land God gave to Abraham."

⁵ So Isaac sent Jacob to Paddan-aram, to Laban son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

⁶ Esau noticed that Isaac blessed Jacob and sent him to Paddan-aram to get a wife there. When he blessed him, Isaac commanded Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman.

⁷ And Jacob listened to his father and mother and went to Paddan-aram.

⁸ Esau realized that his father Isaac disapproved of the Canaanite women,

⁹ so Esau went to Ishmael and married, in addition to his other wives, Mahalath daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son. She was the sister of Nebaioth.

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.

¹¹ He reached a certain place and spent the night there because the sun had set. He took one of the stones from the place, put it there at his head, and lay down in that place.

¹² And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground with its top reaching

heaven, and God's angels were going up and down on it.

¹³ The LORD was standing there beside him, saying, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your offspring the land that you are now sleeping on.

¹⁴ Your offspring will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out toward the west, the east, the north, and the south. All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

¹⁵ Look, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. I will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! This is none other than the house of God. This is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ Early in the morning Jacob took the stone that was near his head and set it up as a marker. He poured oil on top of it

¹⁹ and named the place Bethel, though previously the city was named Luz.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow: "If God will be with me and watch over me on this journey, if He provides me with food to eat and clothing to wear,

²¹ and if I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God.

²² This stone that I have set up as a marker will be God's house, and I will give to You a tenth of all that You give me."

29 ¹ Jacob resumed his journey and went to the eastern country.

² He looked and saw a well in a field. Three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it because the sheep were watered from this well. A large stone covered the opening of the well.

³ When all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the opening of the well and water the sheep. The stone was then placed back on the well's opening.

⁴ Jacob asked the men at the well, "My brothers! Where are you from?" "We're from Haran," they answered.

⁵ "Do you know Laban son of Nahor?" Jacob asked them. They answered, "We know him ."

⁶ "Is he well?" Jacob asked. "Yes," they said, "and here is his daughter Rachel, coming with his sheep."

⁷ Then Jacob said, "Look, it is still broad daylight. It's not time for the animals to

be gathered. Water the flock, then go out and let them graze."

⁸ But they replied, "We can't, until all the flocks have been gathered and the stone is rolled from the well's opening. Then we will water the sheep."

⁹ While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

¹⁰ As soon as Jacob saw his uncle Laban's daughter Rachel with his sheep, he went up and rolled the stone from the opening and watered his uncle Laban's sheep.

¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel and wept loudly.

¹² He told Rachel that he was her father's relative, Rebekah's son. She ran and told her father.

¹³ When Laban heard the news about his sister's son Jacob, he ran to meet him, hugged him, and kissed him. Then

he took him to his house, and Jacob told him all that had happened.

¹⁴ Laban said to him, "Yes, you are my own flesh and blood." After Jacob had stayed with him a month,

¹⁵ Laban said to him, "Just because you're my relative, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be."

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters: the older was named Leah, and the younger was named Rachel.

¹⁷ Leah had delicate eyes, but Rachel was shapely and beautiful.

¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel, so he answered Laban, "I'll work for you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

¹⁹ Laban replied, "Better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay with me."

²⁰ So Jacob worked seven years for Rachel, and they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time is completed. I want to sleep with her."

²² So Laban invited all the men of the place to a feast.

²³ That evening, Laban took his daughter Leah and gave her to Jacob, and he slept with her.

²⁴ And Laban gave his slave Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her slave.

²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Wasn't it for Rachel that I worked for you? Why have you deceived me?"

²⁶ Laban answered, "It is not the custom in this place to give the younger daughter in marriage before the firstborn.

²⁷ Complete this week of wedding celebration , and we will also give you this younger one in return for working yet another seven years for me."

²⁸ And Jacob did just that. He finished the week of celebration , and Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.

²⁹ And Laban gave his slave Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her slave.

³⁰ Jacob slept with Rachel also, and indeed, he loved Rachel more than Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

³² Leah conceived, gave birth to a son, and named him Reuben, for she said, "The LORD has seen my affliction; surely my husband will love me now."

³³ She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, "The LORD heard that I am

unloved and has given me this son also." So she named him Simeon.

³⁴ She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, "At last, my husband will become attached to me because I have borne him three sons." Therefore he was named Levi.

³⁵ And she conceived again, gave birth to a son, and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she named him Judah. Then Leah stopped having children.

30 ¹ When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she envied her sister. "Give me sons, or I will die!" she said to Jacob.

² Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, "Am I in God's place, who has withheld children from you?"

³ Then she said, "Here is my slave Bilhah. Go sleep with her, and she'll bear

children for me so that through her I too can build a family ."

⁴ So Rachel gave her slave Bilhah to Jacob as a wife, and he slept with her.

⁵ Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

⁶ Rachel said, "God has vindicated me; yes, He has heard me and given me a son," and she named him Dan.

⁷ Rachel's slave Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

⁸ Rachel said, "In my wrestlings with God, I have wrestled with my sister and won," and she named him Naphtali.

⁹ When Leah saw that she had stopped having children, she took her slave Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

¹⁰ Leah's slave Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

¹¹ Then Leah said, "What good fortune!" and she named him Gad.

¹² When Leah's slave Zilpah bore Jacob a second son,

¹³ Leah said, "I am happy that the women call me happy," so she named him Asher.

¹⁴ Reuben went out during the wheat harvest and found some mandrakes in the field. When he brought them to his mother Leah, Rachel asked, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

¹⁵ But Leah replied to her, "Isn't it enough that you have taken my husband? Now you also want to take my son's mandrakes?" "Well," Rachel said, "you can sleep with him tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes."

¹⁶ When Jacob came in from the field that evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come with me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So Jacob slept with her that night.

¹⁷ God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

¹⁸ Leah said, "God has rewarded me for giving my slave to my husband," and she named him Issachar.

¹⁹ Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son.

²⁰ "God has given me a good gift," Leah said. "This time my husband will honor me because I have borne him six sons," and she named him Zebulun.

²¹ Later, Leah bore a daughter and named her Dinah.

²² Then God remembered Rachel. He listened to her and opened her womb.

²³ She conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my shame."

²⁴ She named him Joseph: "May the LORD add another son to me."

²⁵ After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me on my way so that I can return to my homeland.

²⁶ Give me my wives and my children that I have worked for, and let me go.

You know how hard I have worked for you."

²⁷ But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you."

²⁸ Then Laban said, "Name your wages, and I will pay them."

²⁹ So Jacob said to him, "You know what I have done for you and your herds.

³⁰ For you had very little before I came, but now your wealth has increased. The LORD has blessed you because of me. And now, when will I also do something for my own family?"

³¹ Laban asked, "What should I give you?" And Jacob said, "You don't need to give me anything. If you do this one thing for me, I will continue to shepherd and keep your flock.

³² Let me go through all your sheep today and remove every sheep that is

speckled or spotted, every dark-colored sheep among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the female goats. Such will be my wages.

³³ In the future when you come to check on my wages, my honesty will testify for me. If I have any female goats that are not speckled or spotted, or any lambs that are not black, they will be considered stolen."

³⁴ "Good," said Laban. "Let it be as you have said."

³⁵ That day Laban removed the streaked and spotted male goats and all the speckled and spotted female goats--every one that had any white on it--and every dark-colored sheep among the lambs, and he placed his sons in charge of them.

³⁶ He put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob. Jacob, meanwhile,

was shepherding the rest of Laban's flock.

³⁷ Jacob then took branches of fresh poplar, almond, and plane wood, and peeled the bark , exposing white stripes on the branches.

³⁸ He set the peeled branches in the troughs in front of the sheep--in the water channels where the sheep came to drink. And the sheep bred when they came to drink.

³⁹ The flocks bred in front of the branches and bore streaked, speckled, and spotted young.

⁴⁰ Jacob separated the lambs and made the flocks face the streaked and the completely dark sheep in Laban's flocks. Then he set his own stock apart and didn't put them with Laban's sheep.

⁴¹ Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob placed the branches in the troughs, in full view of

the flocks, and they would breed in front of the branches.

⁴² As for the weaklings of the flocks, he did not put out the branches. So it turned out that the weak sheep belonged to Laban and the stronger ones to Jacob.

⁴³ And the man became very rich. He had many flocks, male and female slaves, and camels and donkeys.

31 ¹ Now Jacob heard what Laban's sons were saying: "Jacob has taken all that was our father's and has built this wealth from what belonged to our father."

² And Jacob saw from Laban's face that his attitude toward him was not the same.

³ Then the LORD said to him, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."

⁴ Jacob had Rachel and Leah called to the field where his flocks were.

⁵ He said to them, "I can see from your father's face that his attitude toward me is not the same, but the God of my father has been with me.

⁶ You know that I've worked hard for your father

⁷ and that he has cheated me and changed my wages 10 times. But God has not let him harm me.

⁸ If he said, 'The spotted sheep will be your wages,' then all the sheep were born spotted. If he said, 'The streaked sheep will be your wages,' then all the sheep were born streaked.

⁹ God has taken your father's herds and given them to me.

¹⁰ "When the flocks were breeding, I saw in a dream that the streaked, spotted, and speckled males were mating with the females.

¹¹ In that dream the Angel of God said to me, 'Jacob!' and I said: Here I am.

¹² And He said, 'Look up and see: all the males that are mating with the flocks are streaked, spotted, and speckled, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.

¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you poured oil on the stone marker and made a solemn vow to Me. Get up, leave this land, and return to your native land.'"

¹⁴ Then Rachel and Leah answered him, "Do we have any portion or inheritance in our father's household?

¹⁵ Are we not regarded by him as outsiders? For he has sold us and has certainly spent our money.

¹⁶ In fact, all the wealth that God has taken from our father belongs to us and to our children. So do whatever God has said to you."

¹⁷ Then Jacob got up and put his children and wives on the camels.

¹⁸ He took all the livestock and possessions he had acquired in Paddan-aram, and he drove his herds to go to the land of his father Isaac in Canaan.

¹⁹ When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household idols.

²⁰ And Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean, not telling him that he was fleeing.

²¹ He fled with all his possessions, crossed the Euphrates, and headed for the hill country of Gilead.

²² On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled.

²³ So he took his relatives with him, pursued Jacob for seven days, and overtook him at Mount Gilead.

²⁴ But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night. "Watch yourself!"

God warned him. "Don't say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

²⁵ When Laban overtook Jacob, Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban and his brothers also pitched their tents in the hill country of Gilead.

²⁶ Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have deceived me and taken my daughters away like prisoners of war!

²⁷ Why did you secretly flee from me, deceive me, and not tell me? I would have sent you away with joy and singing, with tambourines and lyres,

²⁸ but you didn't even let me kiss my grandchildren and my daughters. You have acted foolishly.

²⁹ I could do you great harm, but last night the God of your father said to me: 'Watch yourself. Don't say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'

³⁰ Now you have gone off because you long for your father--but why have you stolen my gods?"

³¹ Jacob answered, "I was afraid, for I thought you would take your daughters from me by force.

³² If you find your gods with anyone here , he will not live! Before our relatives, point out anything that is yours and take it." Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the idols .

³³ So Laban went into Jacob's tent, then Leah's tent, and then the tents of the two female slaves, but he found nothing. Then he left Leah's tent and entered Rachel's.

³⁴ Now Rachel had taken Laban's household idols, put them in the saddlebag of the camel, and sat on them. Laban searched the whole tent but found nothing.

³⁵ She said to her father, "Sir, don't be angry that I cannot stand up in your presence; I am having my monthly period." So Laban searched, but could not find the household idols.

³⁶ Then Jacob became incensed and brought charges against Laban. "What is my crime?" he said to Laban. "What is my sin, that you have pursued me?"

³⁷ You've searched all my possessions! Have you found anything of yours? Put it here before my relatives and yours, and let them decide between the two of us.

³⁸ I've been with you these 20 years. Your ewes and female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams from your flock.

³⁹ I did not bring you any of the flock torn by wild beasts; I myself bore the loss. You demanded payment from me for what was stolen by day or by night.

⁴⁰ There I was--the heat consumed me by day and the frost by night, and sleep fled from my eyes.

⁴¹ For 20 years I have worked in your household--14 years for your two daughters and six years for your flocks--and you have changed my wages 10 times!

⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, the Fear of Isaac, had not been with me, certainly now you would have sent me off empty-handed. But God has seen my affliction and my hard work, and He issued His verdict last night."

⁴³ Then Laban answered Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters; the sons, my sons; and the flocks, my flocks! Everything you see is mine! But what can I do today for these daughters of mine or for the children they have borne?"

⁴⁴ Come now, let's make a covenant, you and I. Let it be a witness between the two of us."

⁴⁵ So Jacob picked out a stone and set it up as a marker.

⁴⁶ Then Jacob said to his relatives, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a mound, then ate there by the mound.

⁴⁷ Laban named the mound Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob named it Galeed.

⁴⁸ Then Laban said, "This mound is a witness between me and you today." Therefore the place was called Galeed,

⁴⁹ and also Mizpah, for he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are out of each other's sight.

⁵⁰ If you mistreat my daughters or take other wives, though no one is with us, understand that God will be a witness between you and me."

⁵¹ Laban also said to Jacob, "Look at this mound and the marker I have set up between you and me.

⁵² This mound is a witness and the marker is a witness that I will not pass beyond this mound to you, and you will not pass beyond this mound and this marker to do me harm.

⁵³ The God of Abraham, and the gods of Nahor--the gods of their father--will judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.

⁵⁴ Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain and invited his relatives to eat a meal. So they ate a meal and spent the night on the mountain.

⁵⁵ Laban got up early in the morning, kissed his grandsons and daughters, and blessed them. Then Laban left to return home.

32 ¹ Jacob went on his way, and God's angels met him.

² When he saw them, Jacob said, "This is God's camp." So he called that place Mahanaim.

³ Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

⁴ He commanded them, "You are to say to my lord Esau, 'This is what your servant Jacob says. I have been staying with Laban and have been delayed until now.

⁵ I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male and female slaves. I have sent this message to inform my lord, in order to seek your favor.'"

⁶ When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau; he is coming to meet you--and he has 400 men with him."

⁷ Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; he divided the people with

him into two camps, along with the flocks, cattle, and camels.

⁸ He thought, "If Esau comes to one camp and attacks it, the remaining one can escape."

⁹ Then Jacob said, "God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Go back to your land and to your family, and I will cause you to prosper,'"

¹⁰ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness You have shown Your servant. Indeed, I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two camps.

¹¹ Please rescue me from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid of him; otherwise, he may come and attack me, the mothers, and their children.

¹² You have said, 'I will cause you to prosper, and I will make your offspring

like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'" "

¹³ He spent the night there and took part of what he had brought with him as a gift for his brother Esau:

¹⁴ 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams,

¹⁵ 30 milk camels with their young, 40 cows, 10 bulls, 20 female donkeys, and 10 male donkeys.

¹⁶ He entrusted them to his slaves as separate herds and said to them, "Go on ahead of me, and leave some distance between the herds."

¹⁷ And he told the first one: "When my brother Esau meets you and asks, 'Who do you belong to? Where are you going? And whose animals are these ahead of you?'

¹⁸ then tell him, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau. And look, he is behind us.'"

¹⁹ He also told the second one, the third, and everyone who was walking behind the animals, "Say the same thing to Esau when you find him.

²⁰ You are to also say, 'Look, your servant Jacob is right behind us.'" For he thought, "I want to appease Esau with the gift that is going ahead of me. After that, I can face him, and perhaps he will forgive me."

²¹ So the gift was sent on ahead of him while he remained in the camp that night.

²² During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his 11 sons, and crossed the ford of Jabbok.

²³ He took them and brought them across the stream, along with all his possessions.

²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

²⁵ When the man saw that He could not defeat him, He struck Jacob's hip as they wrestled and dislocated his hip socket.

²⁶ Then He said to Jacob, "Let Me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me."

²⁷ "What is your name?" the man asked. "Jacob!" he replied.

²⁸ "Your name will no longer be Jacob," He said. "It will be Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed."

²⁹ Then Jacob asked Him, "Please tell me Your name." But He answered, "Why do you ask My name?" And He blessed him there.

³⁰ Jacob then named the place Peniel, "For," he said, "I have seen God face to face, and I have been delivered."

³¹ The sun shone on him as he passed by Penuel--limping on his hip.

³² That is why, to this day, the Israelites don't eat the thigh muscle that is at the hip socket: because He struck Jacob's hip socket at the thigh muscle.

33 ¹ Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming toward him with 400 men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two female slaves.

² He put the female slaves first, Leah and her sons next, and Rachel and Joseph last.

³ He himself went on ahead and bowed to the ground seven times until he approached his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him, hugged him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. Then they wept.

⁵ When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he asked, "Who are these with you?" He answered, "The children God has graciously given your servant."

⁶ Then the female slaves and their children approached him and bowed down.

⁷ Leah and her children also approached and bowed down, and then Joseph and Rachel approached and bowed down.

⁸ So Esau said, "What do you mean by this whole procession I met?" "To find favor with you, my lord," he answered.

⁹ "I have enough, my brother," Esau replied. "Keep what you have."

¹⁰ But Jacob said, "No, please! If I have found favor with you, take this gift from my hand. For indeed, I have seen your face, and it is like seeing God's face, since you have accepted me.

¹¹ Please take my present that was brought to you, because God has been gracious to me and I have everything I need." So Jacob urged him until he accepted.

¹² Then Esau said, "Let's move on, and I'll go ahead of you."

¹³ Jacob replied, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and I have nursing sheep and cattle. If they are driven hard for one day, the whole herd will die.

¹⁴ Let my lord go ahead of his servant. I will continue on slowly, at a pace suited to the livestock and the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."

¹⁵ Esau said, "Let me leave some of my people with you." But he replied, "Why do that? Please indulge me, my lord."

¹⁶ On that day Esau started on his way back to Seir,

¹⁷ but Jacob went on to Succoth. He built a house for himself and stalls for his cattle; that is why the place was called Succoth.

¹⁸ After Jacob came from Paddan-aram, he arrived safely at the Canaanite city

of Shechem and camped in front of the city.

¹⁹ He purchased a section of the field from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for 100 qesitahs, where he had pitched his tent.

²⁰ And he set up an altar there and called it "God, the God of Israel."

34 ¹ Dinah, Leah's daughter whom she bore to Jacob, went out to see some of the young women of the area.

² When Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, a prince of the region, saw her, he took her and raped her.

³ He became infatuated with Dinah, daughter of Jacob. He loved the young girl and spoke tenderly to her.

⁴ "Get me this girl as a wife," he told his father Hamor.

⁵ Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter Dinah, but since his sons

were with his cattle in the field, he remained silent until they returned.

⁶ Meanwhile, Shechem's father Hamor came to speak with Jacob.

⁷ Jacob's sons returned from the field when they heard about the incident and were deeply grieved and angry. For Shechem had committed an outrage against Israel by sleeping with Jacob's daughter, and such a thing should not be done.

⁸ Hamor said to Jacob's sons, "My son Shechem is strongly attracted to your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife.

⁹ Intermarry with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves.

¹⁰ Live with us. The land is before you. Settle here, move about, and acquire property in it."

¹¹ Then Shechem said to Dinah's father and brothers, "Grant me this favor, and I'll give you whatever you say.

¹² Set for me the compensation and the gift; I'll give you whatever you ask me. Just give the girl to be my wife!"

¹³ But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully because he had defiled their sister Dinah.

¹⁴ "We cannot do this thing," they said to them. "Giving our sister to an uncircumcised man is a disgrace to us.

¹⁵ We will agree with you only on this condition: if all your males are circumcised as we are.

¹⁶ Then we will give you our daughters, take your daughters for ourselves, live with you, and become one people.

¹⁷ But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go."

¹⁸ Their words seemed good in the eyes of Hamor and his son Shechem.

¹⁹ The young man did not delay doing this, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter. Now he was the most important in all his father's house.

²⁰ So Hamor and his son Shechem went to the gate of their city and spoke to the men there.

²¹ "These men are peaceful toward us," they said. "Let them live in our land and move about in it, for indeed, the region is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters as our wives and give our daughters to them.

²² But the men will agree to live with us and be one people only on this condition: if all our men are circumcised as they are.

²³ Won't their herds, their possessions, and all their livestock become ours? Only

let us agree with them, and they will live with us."

²⁴ All the able-bodied men listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and all the able-bodied men were circumcised.

²⁵ On the third day, when they were still in pain, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords, went into the unsuspecting city, and killed every male.

²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with their swords, took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went away.

²⁷ Jacob's other sons came to the slaughter and plundered the city because their sister had been defiled.

²⁸ They took their sheep, cattle, donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field.

²⁹ They captured all their possessions, children, and wives, and plundered everything in the houses.

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me, making me odious to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. We are few in number; if they unite against me and attack me, I and my household will be destroyed."

³¹ But they answered, "Should he have treated our sister like a prostitute?"

35 ¹ God said to Jacob, "Get up! Go to Bethel and settle there. Build an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

² So Jacob said to his family and all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods that are among you. Purify yourselves and change your clothes."

³ We must get up and go to Bethel. I will build an altar there to the God who answered me in my day of distress. He

has been with me everywhere I have gone."

⁴ Then they gave Jacob all their foreign gods and their earrings, and Jacob hid them under the oak near Shechem.

⁵ When they set out, a terror from God came over the cities around them, and they did not pursue Jacob's sons.

⁶ So Jacob and all who were with him came to Luz (that is, Bethel) in the land of Canaan.

⁷ Jacob built an altar there and called the place God of Bethel because it was there that God had revealed Himself to him when he was fleeing from his brother.

⁸ Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died and was buried under the oak south of Bethel. So Jacob named it Oak of Weeping.

⁹ God appeared to Jacob again after he returned from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him.

¹⁰ God said to him: Your name is Jacob; you will no longer be named Jacob, but Israel will be your name. So He named him Israel.

¹¹ God also said to him: I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed an assembly of nations, will come from you, and kings will descend from you.

¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you. And I will give the land to your descendants after you.

¹³ Then God withdrew from him at the place where He had spoken to him.

¹⁴ Jacob set up a marker at the place where He had spoken to him--a stone marker. He poured a drink offering on it and anointed it with oil.

¹⁵ Jacob named the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

¹⁶ They set out from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth, and her labor was difficult.

¹⁷ During her difficult labor, the midwife said to her, "Don't be afraid, for this is another son for you."

¹⁸ With her last breath--for she was dying--she named him Ben-oni, but his father called him Benjamin.

¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

²⁰ Jacob set up a marker on her grave; it is the marker at Rachel's grave to this day.

²¹ Israel set out again and pitched his tent beyond the tower at Eder.

²² While Israel was living in that region, Reuben went in and slept with his

father's concubine Bilhah, and Israel heard about it. Jacob had 12 sons:

²³ Leah's sons were Reuben (Jacob's firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

²⁴ Rachel's sons were Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁵ The sons of Rachel's slave Bilhah were Dan and Naphtali.

²⁶ The sons of Leah's slave Zilpah were Gad and Asher. These are the sons of Jacob, who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

²⁷ Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had stayed.

²⁸ Isaac lived 180 years.

²⁹ He took his last breath and died, and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. His sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

36 ¹ These are the family records of Esau (that is, Edom).

² Esau took his wives from the Canaanite women: Adah daughter of Elon the Hittite, Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite;

³ and Basemath daughter of Ishmael and sister of Nebaioth.

⁴ Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, Basemath bore Reuel,

⁵ and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These were Esau's sons, who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

⁶ Esau took his wives, sons, daughters, and all the people of his household, as well as his herds, all his livestock, and all the property he had acquired in Canaan; he went to a land away from his brother Jacob.

⁷ For their possessions were too many for them to live together, and because of

their herds, the land where they stayed could not support them.

⁸ So Esau (that is, Edom) lived in the mountains of Seir.

⁹ These are the family records of Esau, father of the Edomites in the mountains of Seir.

¹⁰ These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz son of Esau's wife Adah, and Reuel son of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹¹ The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

¹² Timna, a concubine of Esau's son Eliphaz, bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Esau's wife Adah.

¹³ These are Reuel's sons: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹⁴ These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah daughter of Anah and granddaughter of Zibeon: She bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah to Edom.

¹⁵ These are the chiefs of Esau's sons: the sons of Eliphaz, Esau's firstborn: Chiefs Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz,

¹⁶ Korah, Gatam, and Amalek. These are the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. These are the sons of Adah.

¹⁷ These are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chiefs Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These are the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These are the sons of Esau's wife Basemath.

¹⁸ These are the sons of Esau's wife Oholibamah: Chiefs Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are the chiefs of Esau's wife Oholibamah daughter of Anah.

¹⁹ These are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these are their chiefs.

²⁰ These are the sons of Seir the Horite, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

²¹ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These are the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom.

²² The sons of Lotan were Hori and Heman. Timna was Lotan's sister.

²³ These are Shobal's sons: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

²⁴ These are Zibeon's sons: Aiah and Anah. This was the Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness while he was pasturing the donkeys of his father Zibeon.

²⁵ These are the children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah daughter of Anah.

²⁶ These are Dishon's sons: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

²⁷ These are Ezer's sons: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

²⁸ These are Dishan's sons: Uz and Aran.

²⁹ These are the chiefs of the Horites: Chiefs Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

³⁰ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These are the chiefs of the Horites, according to their divisions, in the land of Seir.

³¹ These are the kings who ruled in the land of Edom before any king ruled over the Israelites:

³² Bela son of Beor ruled in Edom; the name of his city was Dinhabah.

³³ When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah ruled in his place.

³⁴ When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites ruled in his place.

³⁵ When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad ruled in his place. He defeated Midian in the field of Moab; the name of his city was Avith.

³⁶ When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah ruled in his place.

³⁷ When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth-on-the-River ruled in his place.

³⁸ When Shaul died, Baal-hanan son of Achbor ruled in his place.

³⁹ When Baal-hanan son of Achbor died, Hadar ruled in his place. His city was Pau, and his wife's name was Mehetabel daughter of Matred daughter of Me-zahab.

⁴⁰ These are the names of Esau's chiefs, according to their families and their localities, by their names: Chiefs Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,

⁴¹ Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,

⁴² Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,

⁴³ Magdiel, and Iram. These are Edom's chiefs, according to their settlements in the land they possessed. Esau was father of the Edomites.

37 ¹ Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² These are the family records of Jacob. At 17 years of age, Joseph tended sheep

with his brothers. The young man was working with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought a bad report about them to their father.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph was a son born to him in his old age, and he made a robe of many colors for him.

⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not bring themselves to speak peaceably to him.

⁵ Then Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more.

⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:

⁷ There we were, binding sheaves of grain in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood up, and your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."

⁸ "Are you really going to reign over us?" his brothers asked him. "Are you really going to rule us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream and what he had said.

⁹ Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and 11 stars were bowing down to me."

¹⁰ He told his father and brothers, but his father rebuked him. "What kind of dream is this that you have had?" he said. "Are your mother and brothers and I going to bow down to the ground before you?"

¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind .

¹² His brothers had gone to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem.

¹³ Israel said to Joseph, "Your brothers, you know, are pasturing the flocks at

Shechem. Get ready. I'm sending you to them." "I'm ready," Joseph replied.

¹⁴ Then Israel said to him, "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

¹⁵ A man found him there, wandering in the field, and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶ "I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph said. "Can you tell me where they are pasturing their flocks?"

¹⁷ "They've moved on from here," the man said. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph set out after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

¹⁸ They saw him in the distance, and before he had reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer!"

²⁰ Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits. We can say that a vicious animal ate him. Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

²¹ When Reuben heard this, he tried to save him from them. He said, "Let's not take his life."

²² Reuben also said to them, "Don't shed blood. Throw him into this pit in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him"--intending to rescue him from their hands and return him to his father.

²³ When Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off his robe, the robe of many colors that he had on.

²⁴ Then they took him and threw him into the pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat a meal. They looked up, and there was a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their

camels were carrying aromatic gum, balsam, and resin, going down to Egypt.

²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

²⁷ Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay a hand on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." His brothers agreed.

²⁸ When Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for 20 pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.

²⁹ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes.

³⁰ He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone! What am I going to do?"

³¹ So they took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a young goat, and dipped the robe in its blood.

³² They sent the robe of many colors to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it. Is it your son's robe or not?"

³³ His father recognized it. "It is my son's robe," he said. "A vicious animal has devoured him. Joseph has been torn to pieces!"

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth around his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

³⁵ All his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said. "I will go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." And his father wept for him.

³⁶ Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guard.

38 ¹ At that time Judah left his brothers and settled near an Adullamite named Hirah.

² There Judah saw the daughter of a Canaanite named Shua; he took her as a wife and slept with her.

³ She conceived and gave birth to a son, and he named him Er.

⁴ She conceived again, gave birth to a son, and named him Onan.

⁵ She gave birth to another son and named him Shelah. It was at Chezib that she gave birth to him.

⁶ Judah got a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

⁷ Now Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the LORD's sight, and the LORD put him to death.

⁸ Then Judah said to Onan, "Sleep with your brother's wife. Perform your duty as her brother-in-law and produce offspring for your brother."

⁹ But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so whenever he slept with his brother's wife, he released his

semen on the ground so that he would not produce offspring for his brother.

¹⁰ What he did was evil in the LORD's sight, so He put him to death also.

¹¹ Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up." For he thought, "He might die too, like his brother." So Tamar went to live in her father's house.

¹² After a long time Judah's wife, the daughter of Shua, died. When Judah had finished mourning, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went up to Timnah to the sheepshearers.

¹³ Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

¹⁴ So she took off her widow's clothes, veiled her face, covered herself, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the way to Timnah. For she saw that, though

Shelah had grown up, she had not been given to him as a wife.

¹⁵ When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.

¹⁶ He went over to her and said, "Come, let me sleep with you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me for sleeping with me?"

¹⁷ "I will send you a young goat from my flock," he replied. But she said, "Only if you leave something with me until you send it."

¹⁸ "What should I give you?" he asked. She answered, "Your signet ring, your cord, and the staff in your hand." So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she got pregnant by him.

¹⁹ She got up and left, then removed her veil and put her widow's clothes back on.

²⁰ When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite in order to get back the items he had left with the woman, he could not find her.

²¹ He asked the men of the place, "Where is the cult prostitute who was beside the road at Enaim?" "There has been no cult prostitute here," they answered.

²² So the Adullamite returned to Judah, saying, "I couldn't find her, and furthermore, the men of the place said, 'There has been no cult prostitute here.'"

²³ Judah replied, "Let her keep the items for herself; otherwise we will become a laughingstock. After all, I did send this young goat, but you couldn't find her ."

²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law has been acting like a prostitute, and now she is

pregnant." "Bring her out!" Judah said.
"Let her be burned to death !"

²⁵ As she was being brought out, she sent her father-in-law this message : "I am pregnant by the man to whom these items belong." And she added, "Examine them. Whose signet ring, cord, and staff are these?"

²⁶ Judah recognized them and said, "She is more in the right than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not know her intimately again.

²⁷ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb.

²⁸ As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand, and the midwife took it and tied a scarlet thread around it, announcing, "This one came out first."

²⁹ But then he pulled his hand back, and his brother came out. Then she said, "You have broken out first !" So he was named Perez.

³⁰ Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread tied to his hand, came out, and was named Zerah.

39 ¹ Now Joseph had been taken to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

² The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master.

³ When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did successful,

⁴ Joseph found favor in his master's sight and became his personal attendant. Potiphar also put him in charge of his household and placed all that he owned under his authority.

⁵ From the time that he put him in charge of his household and of all that he

owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph. The LORD's blessing was on all that he owned, in his house and in his fields.

⁶ He left all that he owned under Joseph's authority; he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome.

⁷ After some time his master's wife looked longingly at Joseph and said, "Sleep with me."

⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has put all that he owns under my authority.

⁹ No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. So how could I do such a great evil and sin against God?"

¹⁰ Although she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her.

¹¹ Now one day he went into the house to do his work, and none of the household servants was there.

¹² She grabbed him by his garment and said, "Sleep with me!" But leaving his garment in her hand, he escaped and ran outside.

¹³ When she realized that he had left his garment with her and had run outside,

¹⁴ she called the household servants. "Look," she said to them, "my husband brought a Hebrew man to us to make fun of us. He came to me so he could sleep with me, and I screamed as loud as I could.

¹⁵ When he heard me screaming for help, he left his garment with me and ran outside."

¹⁶ She put Joseph's garment beside her until his master came home.

¹⁷ Then she told him the same story: "The Hebrew slave you brought to us came to me to make fun of me,

¹⁸ but when I screamed for help, he left his garment with me and ran outside."

¹⁹ When his master heard the story his wife told him--"These are the things your slave did to me"--he was furious

²⁰ and had him thrown into prison, where the king's prisoners were confined. So Joseph was there in prison.

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

²² The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there.

²³ The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him, and the LORD made everything that he did successful.

40 ¹ After this, the king of Egypt's cupbearer and his baker offended their master, the king of Egypt.

² Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,

³ and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined.

⁴ The captain of the guard assigned Joseph to them, and he became their personal attendant. And they were in custody for some time.

⁵ The cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, each had a dream. Both had

a dream on the same night, and each dream had its own meaning.

⁶ When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they looked distraught.

⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces sad today?"

⁸ "We had dreams," they said to him, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams ."

⁹ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph: "In my dream there was a vine in front of me.

¹⁰ On the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms came out and its clusters ripened into grapes.

¹¹ Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into

Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

¹² "This is its interpretation," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days.

¹³ In just three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position. You will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand the way you used to when you were his cupbearer.

¹⁴ But when all goes well for you, remember that I was with you. Please show kindness to me by mentioning me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this prison.

¹⁵ For I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should put me in the dungeon."

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was positive, he said

to Joseph, "I also had a dream. Three baskets of white bread were on my head.

¹⁷ In the top basket were all sorts of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

¹⁸ "This is its interpretation," Joseph replied. "The three baskets are three days.

¹⁹ In just three days Pharaoh will lift up your head--from off you--and hang you on a tree. Then the birds will eat the flesh from your body."

²⁰ On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he gave a feast for all his servants. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker:

²¹ he restored the chief cupbearer to his position as cupbearer, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand;

²² but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had explained to them.

²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

41 ¹ Two years later Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing beside the Nile,

² when seven healthy-looking, well-fed cows came up from the Nile and began to graze among the reeds.

³ After them, seven other cows, sickly and thin, came up from the Nile and stood beside those cows along the bank of the Nile.

⁴ The sickly, thin cows ate the healthy, well-fed cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.

⁵ He fell asleep and dreamed a second time: Seven heads of grain, full and good, came up on one stalk.

⁶ After them, seven heads of grain, thin and scorched by the east wind, sprouted up.

⁷ The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven full, good ones. Then Pharaoh woke up, and it was only a dream.

⁸ When morning came, he was troubled, so he summoned all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "Today I remember my faults.

¹⁰ Pharaoh had been angry with his servants, and he put me and the chief baker in the custody of the captain of the guard.

¹¹ He and I had dreams on the same night; each dream had its own meaning.

¹² Now a young Hebrew, a slave of the captain of the guards, was with us there. We told him our dreams, he interpreted our dreams for us, and each had its own interpretation.

¹³ It turned out just the way he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was hanged."

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they quickly brought him from the dungeon. He shaved, changed his clothes, and went to Pharaoh.

¹⁵ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it."

¹⁶ "I am not able to," Joseph answered Pharaoh. "It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

¹⁷ So Pharaoh said to Joseph: "In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile,

¹⁸ when seven well-fed, healthy-looking cows came up from the Nile and began to graze among the reeds.

¹⁹ After them, seven other cows--ugly, very sickly, and thin--came up. I've never seen such ugly ones as these in all the land of Egypt.

²⁰ Then the thin, ugly cows ate the first seven well-fed cows.

²¹ When they had devoured them, you could not tell that they had devoured them; their appearance was as bad as it had been before. Then I woke up.

²² In my dream I had also seen seven heads of grain, full and good, coming up on one stalk.

²³ After them, seven heads of grain--withered, thin, and scorched by the east wind--sprouted up.

²⁴ The thin heads of grain swallowed the seven full ones. I told this to the magicians, but no one can tell me what it means."

²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams mean the same

thing. God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do.

²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years. The dreams mean the same thing.

²⁷ The seven thin, ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven worthless, scorched heads of grain are seven years of famine.

²⁸ "It is just as I told Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.

²⁹ Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt.

³⁰ After them, seven years of famine will take place, and all the abundance in the land of Egypt will be forgotten. The famine will devastate the land.

³¹ The abundance in the land will not be remembered because of the famine that follows it, for the famine will be very severe.

³² Because the dream was given twice to Pharaoh, it means that the matter has been determined by God, and He will soon carry it out.

³³ "So now, let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and set him over the land of Egypt.

³⁴ Let Pharaoh do this: Let him appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the harvest of the land of Egypt during the seven years of abundance.

³⁵ Let them gather all the excess food during these good years that are coming, store the grain under Pharaoh's authority as food in the cities, and preserve it .

³⁶ The food will be a reserve for the land during the seven years of famine that will take place in the land of Egypt. Then the country will not be wiped out by the famine."

³⁷ The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

³⁸ Then Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone like this, a man who has the spirit of God in him?"

³⁹ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as intelligent and wise as you.

⁴⁰ You will be over my house, and all my people will obey your commands. Only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

⁴¹ Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "See, I am placing you over all the land of Egypt."

⁴² Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, clothed him with fine linen garments, and placed a gold chain around his neck.

⁴³ He had Joseph ride in his second chariot, and servants called out before

him, "Abrek!" So he placed him over all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁴ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your permission no one will be able to raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

⁴⁵ Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah and gave him a wife, Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest at On. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ Joseph was 30 years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph left Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout the land of Egypt.

⁴⁷ During the seven years of abundance the land produced outstanding harvests.

⁴⁸ Joseph gathered all the excess food in the land of Egypt during the seven years and placed it in the cities. He placed the

food in every city from the fields around it.

⁴⁹ So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance--like the sand of the sea--that he stopped measuring it because it was beyond measure.

⁵⁰ Two sons were born to Joseph before the years of famine arrived. Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest at On, bore them to him.

⁵¹ Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, meaning, "God has made me forget all my hardship in my father's house."

⁵² And the second son he named Ephraim, meaning, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

⁵³ Then the seven years of abundance in the land of Egypt came to an end,

⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was

famine in every country, but throughout the land of Egypt there was food.

⁵⁵ Extreme hunger came to all the land of Egypt, and the people cried out to Pharaoh for food. Pharaoh told all Egypt, "Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you."

⁵⁶ Because the famine had spread across the whole country, Joseph opened up all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.

⁵⁷ The whole world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, for the famine was severe all over the earth.

42 ¹ When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you keep looking at each other?"

² Listen," he went on, "I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there

and buy some for us so that we will live and not die."

³ So 10 of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

⁴ But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he thought, "Something might happen to him."

⁵ The sons of Israel were among those who came to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

⁶ Joseph was in charge of the country; he sold grain to all its people. His brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground.

⁷ When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan to buy food," they replied.

⁸ Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

⁹ Joseph remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies. You have come to see the weakness of the land."

¹⁰ "No, my lord. Your servants have come to buy food," they said.

¹¹ "We are all sons of one man. We are honest; your servants are not spies."

¹² "No," he said to them. "You have come to see the weakness of the land."

¹³ But they replied, "We, your servants, were 12 brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no longer living."

¹⁴ Then Joseph said to them, "I have spoken: 'You are spies!'"

¹⁵ This is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not

leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

¹⁶ Send one of your number to get your brother. The rest of you will be imprisoned so that your words can be tested to see if they are true. If they are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!"

¹⁷ So Joseph imprisoned them together for three days.

¹⁸ On the third day Joseph said to them, "I fear God--do this and you will live.

¹⁹ If you are honest men, let one of you be confined to the guardhouse, while the rest of you go and take grain to relieve the hunger of your households.

²⁰ Bring your youngest brother to me so that your words can be confirmed; then you won't die." And they consented to this.

²¹ Then they said to each other, "It is plain that we are being punished for

what we did to our brother. We saw his deep distress when he pleaded with us, but we would not listen. That is why this trouble has come to us."

²² But Reuben replied: "Didn't I tell you not to harm the boy? But you wouldn't listen. Now we must account for his blood!"

²³ They did not realize that Joseph understood them, since there was an interpreter between them.

²⁴ He turned away from them and wept. Then he turned back and spoke to them. He took Simeon from them and had him bound before their eyes.

²⁵ Joseph then gave orders to fill their containers with grain, return each man's money to his sack, and give them provisions for their journey. This order was carried out.

²⁶ They loaded the grain on their donkeys and left there.

²⁷ At the place where they lodged for the night, one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his money there at the top of the bag.

²⁸ He said to his brothers, "My money has been returned! It's here in my bag." Their hearts sank. Trembling, they turned to one another and said, "What is this that God has done to us?"

²⁹ When they reached their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them:

³⁰ "The man who is the lord of the country spoke harshly to us and accused us of spying on the country.

³¹ But we told him: We are honest men and not spies.

³² We were 12 brothers, sons of the same father. One is no longer living, and the youngest is now with our father in the land of Canaan.

³³ The man who is the lord of the country said to us, 'This is how I will know if you are honest men: Leave one brother with me, take food to relieve the hunger of your households, and go.

³⁴ Bring back your youngest brother to me, and I will know that you are not spies but honest men. I will then give your brother back to you, and you can trade in the country.'"

³⁵ As they began emptying their sacks, there in each man's sack was his bag of money! When they and their father saw their bags of money, they were afraid.

³⁶ Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my sons. Joseph is gone and Simeon is gone. Now you want to take Benjamin. Everything happens to me!"

³⁷ Then Reuben said to his father, "You can kill my two sons if I don't bring him

back to you. Put him in my care, and I will return him to you."

³⁸ But Jacob answered, "My son will not go down with you, for his brother is dead and he alone is left. If anything happens to him on your journey, you will bring my gray hairs down to Sheol in sorrow."

43 ¹ Now the famine in the land was severe.

² When they had used up the grain they had brought back from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us some food."

³ But Judah said to him, "The man specifically warned us: 'You will not see me again unless your brother is with you.'"

⁴ If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for you.

⁵ But if you will not send him, we will not go, for the man said to us, 'You will

not see me again unless your brother is with you."

⁶ "Why did you cause me so much trouble?" Israel asked. "Why did you tell the man that you had another brother?"

⁷ They answered, "The man kept asking about us and our family: 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' And we answered him accordingly. How could we know that he would say, 'Bring your brother here!'"

⁸ Then Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the boy with me. We will be on our way so that we may live, and not die--neither we, nor you, nor our children.

⁹ I will be responsible for him. You can hold me personally accountable! If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, I will be guilty before you forever.

¹⁰ If we had not wasted time, we could have come back twice by now."

¹¹ Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your packs and take them down to the man as a gift--some balsam and some honey, aromatic gum and resin, pistachios and almonds.

¹² Take twice as much money with you. Return the money that was returned to you in the top of your bags. Perhaps it was a mistake.

¹³ Take your brother also, and go back at once to the man.

¹⁴ May God Almighty cause the man to be merciful to you so that he will release your other brother and Benjamin to you. As for me, if I am deprived of my sons, then I am deprived."

¹⁵ The men took this gift, double the amount of money, and Benjamin. They

made their way down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

¹⁶ When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his steward, "Take the men to my house. Slaughter an animal and prepare it, for they will eat with me at noon."

¹⁷ The man did as Joseph had said and brought them to Joseph's house.

¹⁸ But the men were afraid because they were taken to Joseph's house. They said, "We have been brought here because of the money that was returned in our bags the first time. They intend to overpower us, seize us, make us slaves, and take our donkeys."

¹⁹ So they approached Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the doorway of the house.

²⁰ They said, "Sir, we really did come down here the first time only to buy food.

²¹ When we came to the place where we lodged for the night and opened our bags of grain, each one's money was at the top of his bag! It was the full amount of our money, and we have brought it back with us.

²² We have brought additional money with us to buy food. We don't know who put our money in the bags."

²³ Then the steward said, "May you be well. Don't be afraid. Your God and the God of your father must have put treasure in your bags. I received your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

²⁴ The man brought the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet, and got feed for their donkeys.

²⁵ Since the men had heard that they were going to eat a meal there, they

prepared their gift for Joseph's arrival at noon.

²⁶ When Joseph came home, they brought him the gift they had carried into the house, and they bowed to the ground before him.

²⁷ He asked if they were well, and he said, "How is your elderly father that you told me about? Is he still alive?"

²⁸ They answered, "Your servant our father is well. He is still alive." And they bowed down to honor him.

²⁹ When he looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother that you told me about?" Then he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."

³⁰ Joseph hurried out because he was overcome with emotion for his brother, and he was about to weep. He went into an inner room to weep.

³¹ Then he washed his face and came out. Regaining his composure, he said, "Serve the meal."

³² They served him by himself, his brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who were eating with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, since that is abhorrent to them.

³³ They were seated before him in order by age, from the firstborn to the youngest. The men looked at each other in astonishment.

³⁴ Portions were served to them from Joseph's table, and Benjamin's portion was five times larger than any of theirs. They drank, and they got drunk with Joseph.

44 ¹ Then Joseph commanded his steward: "Fill the men's bags with as much food as they can carry, and put each one's money at the top of his bag."

² Put my cup, the silver one, at the top of the youngest one's bag, along with his grain money." So he did as Joseph told him.

³ At morning light, the men were sent off with their donkeys.

⁴ They had not gone very far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, "Get up. Pursue the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?'"

⁵ Isn't this the cup that my master drinks from and uses for divination? What you have done is wrong!"

⁶ When he overtook them, he said these words to them.

⁷ They said to him, "Why does my lord say these things? Your servants could not possibly do such a thing.

⁸ We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money we found at the top of our bags. How could we

steal gold and silver from your master's house?

⁹ If any of us is found to have it, he must die, and we also will become my lord's slaves."

¹⁰ The steward replied, "What you have said is proper, but only the one who is found to have it will be my slave, and the rest of you will be blameless."

¹¹ So each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.

¹² The steward searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and each one loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

¹⁴ When Judah and his brothers reached Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell to the ground before him.

¹⁵ "What is this you have done?" Joseph said to them. "Didn't you know that a man like me could uncover the truth by divination?"

¹⁶ "What can we say to my lord?" Judah replied. "How can we plead? How can we justify ourselves? God has exposed your servants' iniquity. We are now my lord's slaves--both we and the one in whose possession the cup was found."

¹⁷ Then Joseph said, "I swear that I will not do this. The man in whose possession the cup was found will be my slave. The rest of you can go in peace to your father."

¹⁸ But Judah approached him and said, "Sir, please let your servant speak personally to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, for you are like Pharaoh.

¹⁹ My lord asked his servants, 'Do you have a father or a brother?'

²⁰ and we answered my lord, 'We have an elderly father and a young brother, the child of his old age. The boy's brother is dead. He is the only one of his mother's sons left, and his father loves him.'

²¹ Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him to me so that I can see him.'

²² But we said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father. If he were to leave, his father would die.'

²³ Then you said to your servants, 'If your younger brother does not come down with you, you will not see me again.'

²⁴ "This is what happened when we went back to your servant my father: We reported your words to him.

²⁵ But our father said, 'Go again, and buy us some food.'

²⁶ We told him, 'We cannot go down unless our younger brother goes with us.'

But if our younger brother isn't with us, we cannot see the man.'

²⁷ Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons.

²⁸ One left--I said that he must have been torn to pieces--and I have never seen him again.

²⁹ If you also take this one from me and anything happens to him, you will bring my gray hairs down to Sheol in sorrow.'

³⁰ "So, if I come to your servant my father and the boy is not with us--his life is wrapped up with the boy's life--

³¹ when he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die. Then your servants will have brought the gray hairs of your servant our father down to Sheol in sorrow.

³² Your servant became accountable to my father for the boy, saying, 'If I do not

return him to you, I will always bear the guilt for sinning against you, my father.'

³³ Now please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave, in place of the boy. Let him go back with his brothers.

³⁴ For how can I go back to my father without the boy? I could not bear to see the grief that would overwhelm my father."

45 ¹ Joseph could no longer keep his composure in front of all his attendants, so he called out, "Send everyone away from me!" No one was with him when he revealed his identity to his brothers.

² But he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and also Pharaoh's household heard it.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were too terrified to answer him.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please, come near me," and they came near. "I am Joseph, your brother," he said, "the one you sold into Egypt.

⁵ And now don't be worried or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life.

⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there will be five more years without plowing or harvesting.

⁷ God sent me ahead of you to establish you as a remnant within the land and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.

⁸ Therefore it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹ "Return quickly to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph

says: "God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me without delay.

¹⁰ You can settle in the land of Goshen and be near me--you, your children, and grandchildren, your sheep, cattle, and all you have.

¹¹ There I will sustain you, for there will be five more years of famine. Otherwise, you, your household, and everything you have will become destitute."

¹² Look! Your eyes and my brother Benjamin's eyes can see that it is I , Joseph, who am speaking to you.

¹³ Tell my father all about my glory in Egypt and about all you have seen. And bring my father here quickly."

¹⁴ Then Joseph threw his arms around Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin wept on his shoulder.

¹⁵ Joseph kissed each of his brothers as he wept, and afterward his brothers talked with him.

¹⁶ When the news reached Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," Pharaoh and his servants were pleased.

¹⁷ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and go on back to the land of Canaan.

¹⁸ Get your father and your households, and come back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you can eat from the richness of the land.'

¹⁹ You are also commanded, 'Do this: Take wagons from the land of Egypt for your young children, your wives, and bring your father here.

²⁰ Do not be concerned about your belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

²¹ The sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them wagons as Pharaoh had commanded, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

²² He gave each of the brothers changes of clothes, but he gave Benjamin 300 pieces of silver and five changes of clothes.

²³ He sent his father the following: 10 donkeys carrying the best products of Egypt, and 10 female donkeys carrying grain, food, and provisions for his father on the journey.

²⁴ So Joseph sent his brothers on their way, and as they were leaving, he said to them, "Don't argue on the way."

²⁵ So they went up from Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.

²⁶ They said, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt!" Jacob was stunned, for he did not believe them.

²⁷ But when they told Jacob all that Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to

transport him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

²⁸ Then Israel said, "Enough! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go to see him before I die."

46 ¹ Israel set out with all that he had and came to Beer-sheba, and he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

² That night God spoke to Israel in a vision: "Jacob, Jacob!" He said. And Jacob replied, "Here I am."

³ God said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.

⁴ I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you back. Joseph will put his hands on your eyes."

⁵ Jacob left Beer-sheba. The sons of Israel took their father Jacob in the

wagons Pharaoh had sent to carry him, along with their children and their wives.

⁶ They also took their cattle and possessions they had acquired in the land of Canaan. Then Jacob and all his children with him went to Egypt.

⁷ His sons and grandsons, his daughters and granddaughters, indeed all his offspring, he brought with him to Egypt.

⁸ These are the names of the Israelites, Jacob and his descendants, who went to Egypt: Jacob's firstborn: Reuben.

⁹ Reuben's sons: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

¹⁰ Simeon's sons: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

¹¹ Levi's sons: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹² Judah's sons: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah; but Er and Onan died in the

land of Canaan. Perez's sons: Hezron and Hamul.

¹³ Issachar's sons: Tola, Puvah, Jashub, and Shimron.

¹⁴ Zebulun's sons: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

¹⁵ These were Leah's sons born to Jacob in Paddan-aram, as well as his daughter Dinah. The total number of persons: 33.

¹⁶ Gad's sons: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

¹⁷ Asher's sons: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah. Beriah's sons were Heber and Malchiel.

¹⁸ These were the sons of Zilpah--whom Laban gave to his daughter Leah--that she bore to Jacob: 16 persons.

¹⁹ The sons of Jacob's wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁰ Manasseh and Ephraim were born to Joseph in the land of Egypt. They were

born to him by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, a priest at On.

²¹ Benjamin's sons: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

²² These were Rachel's sons who were born to Jacob: 14 persons.

²³ Dan's son: Hashum.

²⁴ Naphtali's sons: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

²⁵ These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to his daughter Rachel. She bore to Jacob: seven persons.

²⁶ The total number of persons belonging to Jacob--his direct descendants, not including the wives of Jacob's sons--who came to Egypt: 66.

²⁷ And Joseph's sons who were born to him in Egypt: two persons. All those of Jacob's household who had come to Egypt: 70 persons.

²⁸ Now Jacob had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to prepare for his arrival at Goshen. When they came to the land of Goshen,

²⁹ Joseph hitched the horses to his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel. Joseph presented himself to him, threw his arms around him, and wept for a long time.

³⁰ Then Israel said to Joseph, "At last I can die, now that I have seen your face and know you are still alive!"

³¹ Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and inform Pharaoh, telling him: My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

³² The men are shepherds; indeed they raise livestock. They have brought their sheep and cattle and all that they have.

³³ When Pharaoh addresses you and asks, 'What is your occupation?'

³⁴ you are to say, 'Your servants, both we and our fathers, have raised livestock from our youth until now.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the land of Goshen, since all shepherds are abhorrent to Egyptians."

47 ¹ So Joseph went and informed Pharaoh: "My father and my brothers, with their sheep and cattle and all that they have, have come from the land of Canaan and are now in the land of Goshen."

² He took five of his brothers and presented them before Pharaoh.

³ Then Pharaoh asked his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants, both we and our fathers, are shepherds."

⁴ Then they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to live in the land for a while because there is no grazing land for your servants' sheep, since the famine in the

land of Canaan has been severe. So now, please let your servants settle in the land of Goshen."

⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Now that your father and brothers have come to you,

⁶ the land of Egypt is open before you; settle your father and brothers in the best part of the land. They can live in the land of Goshen. If you know of any capable men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."

⁷ Joseph then brought his father Jacob and presented him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

⁸ Then Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many years have you lived?"

⁹ Jacob said to Pharaoh, "My pilgrimage has lasted 130 years. My years have been few and hard, and they have not surpassed the years of my fathers during their pilgrimages."

¹⁰ So Jacob blessed Pharaoh and departed from Pharaoh's presence.

¹¹ Then Joseph settled his father and brothers in the land of Egypt and gave them property in the best part of the land, the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

¹² And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food for their dependents.

¹³ But there was no food in that entire region, for the famine was very severe. The land of Egypt and the land of Canaan were exhausted by the famine.

¹⁴ Joseph collected all the money to be found in the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan in exchange for the grain they were purchasing, and he brought the money to Pharaoh's house.

¹⁵ When the money from the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan was gone, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and

said, "Give us food. Why should we die here in front of you? The money is gone!"

¹⁶ But Joseph said, "Give me your livestock. Since the money is gone, I will give you food in exchange for your livestock."

¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for the horses, the herds of sheep, the herds of cattle, and the donkeys. That year he provided them with food in exchange for all their livestock.

¹⁸ When that year was over, they came the next year and said to him, "We cannot hide from our lord that the money is gone and that all our livestock belongs to our lord. There is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land."

¹⁹ Why should we perish here in front of you--both us and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food. Then we with our land will become Pharaoh's slaves. Give us seed so that we can live and not die, and so that the land won't become desolate."

²⁰ In this way, Joseph acquired all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh, because every Egyptian sold his field since the famine was so severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's,

²¹ and Joseph moved the people to the cities from one end of Egypt to the other.

²² The only land he didn't acquire was that of the priests, for it was their allotment from Pharaoh. They lived off the allotment Pharaoh had given them; therefore they did not sell their land.

²³ Then Joseph said to the people, "Understand today that I have acquired

you and your land for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you. Sow it in the land.

²⁴ At harvest, you are to give a fifth of it to Pharaoh, and four-fifths will be yours as seed for the field and as food for yourselves, your households, and your dependents."

²⁵ And they said, "You have saved our lives. We have found favor in our lord's eyes and will be Pharaoh's slaves."

²⁶ So Joseph made it a law, still in effect today in the land of Egypt, that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. Only the priests' land does not belong to Pharaoh.

²⁷ Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the region of Goshen. They acquired property in it and became fruitful and very numerous.

²⁸ Now Jacob lived in the land of Egypt 17 years, and his life span was 147 years.

²⁹ When the time drew near for him to die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise me that you will deal with me in faithful love. Do not bury me in Egypt.

³⁰ When I lie down with my fathers, carry me away from Egypt and bury me in their burial place." Joseph answered, "I will do what you have asked."

³¹ And Jacob said, "Swear to me." So Joseph swore to him. Then Israel bowed in thanks at the head of his bed.

48 ¹ Some time after this, Joseph was told, "Your father is weaker." So he set out with his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

² When Jacob was told, "Your son Joseph has come to you," Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed.

³ Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me.

⁴ He said to me, 'I will make you fruitful and numerous; I will make many nations come from you, and I will give this land as an eternal possession to your descendants to come.'

⁵ Your two sons born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt are now mine. Ephraim and Manasseh belong to me just as Reuben and Simeon do.

⁶ Children born to you after them will be yours and will be recorded under the names of their brothers with regard to their inheritance.

⁷ When I was returning from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died along the way, some distance from Ephrath in the land of Canaan. I buried her there along the way to Ephrath," (that is, Bethlehem).

⁸ When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?"

⁹ And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons God has given me here." So Jacob said, "Bring them to me and I will bless them."

¹⁰ Now Jacob's eyesight was poor because of old age; he could hardly see. Joseph brought them to him, and he kissed and embraced them.

¹¹ Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face again , but now God has even let me see your offspring."

¹² Then Joseph took them from his father's knees and bowed with his face to the ground.

¹³ Then Joseph took them both--with his right hand Ephraim toward Israel's left, and with his left hand Manasseh toward Israel's right--and brought them to Israel.

¹⁴ But Israel stretched out his right hand and put it on the head of Ephraim, the younger, and crossing his hands, put his left on Manasseh's head, although Manasseh was the firstborn.

¹⁵ Then he blessed Joseph and said: The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,

¹⁶ the Angel who has redeemed me from all harm--may He bless these boys. And may they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they grow to be numerous within the land.

¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father had placed his right hand on Ephraim's head, he thought it was a mistake and took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's.

¹⁸ Joseph said to his father, "Not that way, my father! This one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head."

¹⁹ But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know! He too will become a tribe, and he too will be great; nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his offspring will become a populous nation."

²⁰ So he blessed them that day with these words: Israel will invoke blessings by you, saying, "May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh," putting Ephraim before Manasseh.

²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, "Look! I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you back to the land of your fathers.

²² Over and above what I am giving your brothers, I am giving you the one mountain slope that I took from the

hand of the Amorites with my sword and bow."

49 ¹ Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather around, and I will tell you what will happen to you in the days to come.

² Come together and listen, sons of Jacob; listen to your father Israel:

³ Reuben, you are my firstborn, my strength and the firstfruits of my virility, excelling in prominence, excelling in power.

⁴ Turbulent as water, you will no longer excel, because you got into your father's bed and you defiled it--he got into my bed.

⁵ Simeon and Levi are brothers; their knives are vicious weapons.

⁶ May I never enter their council; may I never join their assembly. For in their anger they kill men, and on a whim they hamstring oxen.

⁷ Their anger is cursed, for it is strong, and their fury, for it is cruel! I will disperse them throughout Jacob and scatter them throughout Israel.

⁸ Judah, your brothers will praise you. Your hand will be on the necks of your enemies; your father's sons will bow down to you.

⁹ Judah is a young lion--my son, you return from the kill--he crouches; he lies down like a lion and like a lioness--who wants to rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah, or the staff from between his feet, until He whose right it is comes and the obedience of the peoples belongs to Him.

¹¹ He ties his donkey to a vine, and the colt of his donkey to the choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes.

¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk.

¹³ Zebulun will live by the seashore and will be a harbor for ships, and his territory will be next to Sidon.

¹⁴ Issachar is a strong donkey lying down between the saddlebags.

¹⁵ He saw that his resting place was good and that the land was pleasant, so he leaned his shoulder to bear a load and became a forced laborer.

¹⁶ Dan will judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁷ He will be a snake by the road, a viper beside the path, that bites the horses' heels so that its rider falls backwards.

¹⁸ I wait for Your salvation, LORD.

¹⁹ Gad will be attacked by marauding bands, but he will attack their heels.

²⁰ Asher's food will be rich, and he will produce royal delicacies.

²¹ Naphtali is a doe set free that bears beautiful fawns.

²² Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine beside a spring; its branches climb over the wall.

²³ The archers attacked him, shot at him, and were hostile toward him.

²⁴ Yet his bow remained steady, and his strong arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,

²⁵ by the God of your father who helps you, and by the Almighty who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, and blessings of the breasts and the womb.

²⁶ The blessings of your father excel the blessings of my ancestors and the bounty of the eternal hills. May they rest on the head of Joseph, on the crown of the prince of his brothers.

²⁷ Benjamin is a wolf; he tears his prey. In the morning he devours the prey, and in the evening he divides the plunder."

²⁸ These are the tribes of Israel, 12 in all, and this was what their father said to them. He blessed them, and he blessed each one with a suitable blessing.

²⁹ Then he commanded them: "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite.

³⁰ The cave is in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, in the land of Canaan. This is the field Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hittite as a burial site.

³¹ Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried there, Isaac and his wife Rebekah are buried there, and I buried Leah there.

³² The field and the cave in it were purchased from the Hittites."

³³ When Jacob had finished instructing his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and died. He was gathered to his people.

50 ¹ Then Joseph, leaning over his father's face, wept and kissed him.

² He commanded his servants who were physicians to embalm his father. So they embalmed Israel.

³ They took 40 days to complete this, for embalming takes that long, and the Egyptians mourned for him 70 days.

⁴ When the days of mourning were over, Joseph said to Pharaoh's household, "If I have found favor with you, please tell Pharaoh that

⁵ my father made me take an oath, saying, 'I am about to die. You must bury me there in the tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan.' Now let me go and bury my father. Then I will return."

⁶ So Pharaoh said, "Go and bury your father in keeping with your oath."

⁷ Then Joseph went to bury his father, and all Pharaoh's servants, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt went with him,

⁸ along with all Joseph's household, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their sheep, and their cattle were left in the land of Goshen.

⁹ Horses and chariots went up with him; it was a very impressive procession.

¹⁰ When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, which is across the Jordan, they lamented and wept loudly, and Joseph mourned seven days for his father.

¹¹ When the Canaanite inhabitants of the land saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a solemn mourning on the part of the

Egyptians." Therefore the place is named Abel-mizraim. It is across the Jordan.

¹² So Jacob's sons did for him what he had commanded them.

¹³ They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave at Machpelah in the field near Mamre, which Abraham had purchased as a burial site from Ephron the Hittite.

¹⁴ After Joseph buried his father, he returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone with him to bury his father.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said to one another, "If Joseph is holding a grudge against us, he will certainly repay us for all the wrong we caused him."

¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph, "Before he died your father gave a command:

¹⁷ 'Say this to Joseph: Please forgive your brothers' transgression and their sin--the wrong they caused you.' Therefore, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when their message came to him.

¹⁸ Then his brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves!"

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?"

²⁰ You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result--the survival of many people.

²¹ Therefore don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

²² Joseph and his father's household remained in Egypt. Joseph lived 110 years.

²³ He saw Ephraim's sons to the third generation; the sons of Manasseh's son Machir were recognized by Joseph.

²⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

²⁵ So Joseph made the Israelites take an oath: "When God comes to your aid, you are to carry my bones up from here."

²⁶ Joseph died at the age of 110. They embalmed him and placed him in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus

1 ¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob; each came with his family:

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;

³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;

⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher.

⁵ The total number of Jacob's descendants was 70; Joseph was already in Egypt.

⁶ Then Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died.

⁷ But the Israelites were fruitful, increased rapidly, multiplied, and became extremely numerous so that the land was filled with them.

⁸ A new king, who had not known Joseph, came to power in Egypt.

⁹ He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and powerful than we are.

¹⁰ Let us deal shrewdly with them; otherwise they will multiply further, and if war breaks out, they may join our enemies, fight against us, and leave the country."

¹¹ So the Egyptians assigned taskmasters over the Israelites to oppress them with forced labor. They built Pithom and Rameses as supply cities for Pharaoh.

¹² But the more they oppressed them, the more they multiplied and spread so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.

¹³ They worked the Israelites ruthlessly
¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with difficult labor in brick and mortar, and in all kinds of fieldwork. They ruthlessly imposed all this work on them.

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

¹⁶ "When you help the Hebrew women give birth, observe them as they deliver. If the child is a son, kill him, but if it's a daughter, she may live."

¹⁷ The Hebrew midwives, however, feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live.

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this and let the boys live?"

¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before a midwife can get to them."

²⁰ So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very numerous.

²¹ Since the midwives feared God, He gave them families.

²² Pharaoh then commanded all his people: "You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile, but let every daughter live."

2 ¹ Now a man from the family of Levi married a Levite woman.

² The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son; when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months.

³ But when she could no longer hide him, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with asphalt and pitch. She placed the child in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

⁴ Then his sister stood at a distance in order to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Pharaoh's daughter went down to bathe at the Nile while her servant girls walked along the riverbank. Seeing the

basket among the reeds, she sent her slave girl to get it.

⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child--a little boy, crying. She felt sorry for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrew boys."

⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I go and call a woman from the Hebrews to nurse the boy for you?"

⁸ "Go." Pharaoh's daughter told her. So the girl went and called the boy's mother.

⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the boy and nursed him.

¹⁰ When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

¹¹ Years later, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his own people and observed their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.

¹² Looking all around and seeing no one, he struck the Egyptian dead and hid him in the sand.

¹³ The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you attacking your neighbor?"

¹⁴ "Who made you a leader and judge over us?" the man replied. "Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses became afraid and thought: What I did is certainly known.

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard about this, he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well.

¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

¹⁷ Then some shepherds arrived and drove them away, but Moses came to their rescue and watered their flock.

¹⁸ When they returned to their father Reuel he asked, "Why have you come back so quickly today?"

¹⁹ They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."

²⁰ "So where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why then did you leave the man behind? Invite him to eat dinner."

²¹ Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage .

²² She gave birth to a son whom he named Gershom, for he said, "I have become a stranger in a foreign land."

²³ After a long time, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned because of their difficult labor, and they cried out; and their cry for help ascended to God because of the difficult labor.

²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and He remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

²⁵ God saw the Israelites, and He took notice.

3¹ Meanwhile Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² Then the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire within a bush. As Moses looked, he saw that the bush was on fire but was not consumed.

³ So Moses thought: I must go over and look at this remarkable sight. Why isn't the bush burning up?

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Here I am," he answered.

⁵ "Do not come closer," He said. "Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

⁶ Then He continued, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings.

⁸ I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the territory of the

Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

⁹ The Israelites' cry for help has come to Me, and I have also seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

¹⁰ Therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses asked God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² He answered, "I will certainly be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: when you bring the people out of Egypt, you will all worship God at this mountain."

¹³ Then Moses asked God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them: The God of your fathers has sent me to you, and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what should I tell them?"

¹⁴ God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.

¹⁶ "Go and assemble the elders of Israel and say to them: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, has appeared to me and said: I have paid close attention to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt.

¹⁷ And I have promised you that I will bring you up from the misery of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites--a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁸ They will listen to what you say. Then you, along with the elders of Israel, must go to the king of Egypt and say to him: The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Now please let us go on a three-day trip into the wilderness so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

¹⁹ "However, I know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go, unless he is forced by a strong hand.

²⁰ I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles that I will perform in it. After that, he will let you go.

²¹ And I will give this people such favor in the sight of the Egyptians that when you go, you will not go empty-handed.

²² Each woman will ask her neighbor and any woman staying in her house for silver and gold jewelry, and clothing, and you will put them on your sons

and daughters. So you will plunder the Egyptians."

4¹ Then Moses answered, "What if they won't believe me and will not obey me but say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

² The LORD asked him, "What is that in your hand?" "A staff," he replied.

³ Then He said, "Throw it on the ground." He threw it on the ground, and it became a snake. Moses ran from it,

⁴ but the LORD told him, "Stretch out your hand and grab it by the tail." So he stretched out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand.

⁵ "This will take place," He continued, "so they will believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

⁶ In addition the LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So he put

his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, his hand was diseased, like snow.

⁷ Then He said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." He put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, it had again become like the rest of his skin.

⁸ "If they will not believe you and will not respond to the evidence of the first sign, they may believe the evidence of the second sign.

⁹ And if they don't believe even these two signs or listen to what you say, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the Nile will become blood on the ground."

¹⁰ But Moses replied to the LORD, "Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent--either in the past or recently or since You have been speaking to Your

servant--because I am slow and hesitant in speech."

¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who made the human mouth? Who makes him mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

¹² Now go! I will help you speak and I will teach you what to say."

¹³ Moses said, "Please, Lord, send someone else."

¹⁴ Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses, and He said, "Isn't Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, he is on his way now to meet you. When he sees you, his heart will rejoice.

¹⁵ You will speak with him and tell him what to say. I will help both you and him to speak , and will teach you both what to do.

¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you. He will be your spokesman, and you will serve as God to him.

¹⁷ And take this staff in your hand that you will perform the signs with."

¹⁸ Then Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, "Please let me return to my relatives in Egypt and see if they are still living." Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

¹⁹ Now in Midian the LORD told Moses, "Return to Egypt, for all the men who wanted to kill you are dead."

²⁰ So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey, and set out for the land of Egypt. And Moses took God's staff in his hand.

²¹ The LORD instructed Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, make sure you do in front of Pharaoh all the wonders I have put within your power. But I will

harden his heart so that he won't let the people go.

²² Then you will say to Pharaoh: This is what the LORD says: Israel is My firstborn son.

²³ I told you: Let My son go so that he may worship Me, but you refused to let him go. Now I will kill your firstborn son!"

²⁴ On the trip, at an overnight campsite, it happened that the LORD confronted him and sought to put him to death.

²⁵ So Zipporah took a flint, cut off her son's foreskin, and threw it at Moses' feet. Then she said, "You are a bridegroom of blood to me!"

²⁶ So He let him alone. At that time she said, "You are a bridegroom of blood," referring to the circumcision.

²⁷ Now the LORD had said to Aaron, "Go and meet Moses in the wilderness."

So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

²⁸ Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and about all the signs He had commanded him to do .

²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the Israelites.

³⁰ Aaron repeated everything the LORD had said to Moses and performed the signs before the people.

³¹ The people believed, and when they heard that the LORD had paid attention to them and that He had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

5 ¹ Later, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Let My people go, so that they may hold a festival for Me in the wilderness."

² But Pharaoh responded, "Who is the LORD that I should obey Him by letting

Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and what's more, I will not let Israel go."

³ Then they answered, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go on a three-day trip into the wilderness so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, or else He may strike us with plague or sword."

⁴ The king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why are you causing the people to neglect their work? Get to your labors!"

⁵ Pharaoh also said, "Look, the people of the land are so numerous, and you would stop them from working."

⁶ That day Pharaoh commanded the overseers of the people as well as their foremen:

⁷ "Don't continue to supply the people with straw for making bricks, as before. They must go and gather straw for themselves.

⁸ But require the same quota of bricks from them as they were making before; do not reduce it. For they are slackers--that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'

⁹ Impose heavier work on the men. Then they will be occupied with it and not pay attention to deceptive words."

¹⁰ So the overseers and foremen of the people went out and said to them, "This is what Pharaoh says: 'I am not giving you straw.

¹¹ Go get straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but there will be no reduction at all in your workload."

¹² So the people scattered throughout the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.

¹³ The overseers insisted, "Finish your assigned work each day, just as you did when straw was provided ."

¹⁴ Then the Israelite foremen, whom Pharaoh's slave drivers had set over the people, were beaten and asked, "Why haven't you finished making your prescribed number of bricks yesterday or today, as you did before?"

¹⁵ So the Israelite foremen went in and cried for help to Pharaoh: "Why are you treating your servants this way?"

¹⁶ No straw has been given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' Look, your servants are being beaten, but it is your own people who are at fault."

¹⁷ But he said, "You are slackers. Slackers! That is why you are saying, 'Let us go sacrifice to the LORD.'

¹⁸ Now get to work. No straw will be given to you, but you must produce the same quantity of bricks."

¹⁹ The Israelite foremen saw that they were in trouble when they were told,

"You cannot reduce your daily quota of bricks."

²⁰ When they left Pharaoh, they confronted Moses and Aaron, who stood waiting to meet them.

²¹ "May the LORD take note of you and judge," they said to them, "because you have made us reek in front of Pharaoh and his officials--putting a sword in their hand to kill us!"

²² So Moses went back to the LORD and asked, "Lord, why have You caused trouble for this people? And why did You ever send me?"

²³ Ever since I went in to Pharaoh to speak in Your name he has caused trouble for this people, and You haven't delivered Your people at all."

6 ¹ But the LORD replied to Moses, "Now you are going to see what I will do to Pharaoh: he will let them go because of My strong hand; he will drive

them out of his land because of My strong hand."

² Then God spoke to Moses, telling him, "I am Yahweh.

³ I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but I did not make My name Yahweh known to them.

⁴ I also established My covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land they lived in as foreigners.

⁵ Furthermore, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are forcing to work as slaves, and I have remembered My covenant.

⁶ "Therefore tell the Israelites: I am Yahweh, and I will deliver you from the forced labor of the Egyptians and free you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgment.

⁷ I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. You will know that I am

Yahweh your God, who delivered you from the forced labor of the Egyptians.

⁸ I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD."

⁹ Moses told this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their broken spirit and hard labor.

¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke to Moses,

¹¹ "Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go from his land."

¹² But Moses said in the LORD's presence: "If the Israelites will not listen to me, then how will Pharaoh listen to me, since I am such a poor speaker?"

¹³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them commands concerning both the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt to bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ These are the heads of their fathers' families: The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. These are the clans of Reuben.

¹⁵ The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman. These are the clans of Simeon.

¹⁶ These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their genealogy: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.

¹⁷ The sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei, by their clans.

¹⁸ The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years.

¹⁹ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites according to their genealogy.

²⁰ Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, and she bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

²¹ The sons of Izhar: Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.

²² The sons of Uzziel: Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri.

²³ Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon. She bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

²⁴ The sons of Korah: Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. These are the clans of the Korahites.

²⁵ Aaron's son Eleazar married one of the daughters of Putiel and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the Levite families by their clans.

²⁶ It was this Aaron and Moses whom the LORD told, "Bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt according to their divisions."

²⁷ Moses and Aaron were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt in order to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

²⁸ On the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,

²⁹ He said to him, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I am telling you."

³⁰ But Moses replied in the LORD's presence, "Since I am such a poor speaker, how will Pharaoh listen to me?"

7 ¹ The LORD answered Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your prophet.

² You must say whatever I command you; then Aaron your brother must declare it to Pharaoh so that he will let the Israelites go from his land.

³ But I will harden Pharaoh's heart and multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.

⁴ Pharaoh will not listen to you, but I will put My hand on Egypt and bring out the ranks of My people the Israelites, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

⁵ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out My hand against Egypt, and bring out the Israelites from among them."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron did this ; they did just as the LORD commanded them.

⁷ Moses was 80 years old and Aaron 83 when they spoke to Pharaoh.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
⁹ "When Pharaoh tells you: Perform a miracle, tell Aaron: Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh. It will become a serpent."

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD had commanded. Aaron threw down his staff

before Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a serpent.

¹¹ But then Pharaoh called the wise men and sorcerers--the magicians of Egypt, and they also did the same thing by their occult practices.

¹² Each one threw down his staff, and it became a serpent. But Aaron's staff swallowed their staffs.

¹³ However, Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh is unresponsive: he refuses to let the people go.

¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning. When you see him walking out to the water, stand ready to meet him by the bank of the Nile. Take in your hand the staff that turned into a snake.

¹⁶ Tell him: The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to tell you: Let My

people go, so that they may worship Me in the wilderness, but so far you have not listened.

¹⁷ This is what the LORD says: Here is how you will know that I am the LORD. Watch. I will strike the water in the Nile with the staff in my hand, and it will turn to blood.

¹⁸ The fish in the Nile will die, the river will stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from it."

¹⁹ So the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron: Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt--over their rivers, canals, ponds, and all their water reservoirs--and they will become blood. There will be blood throughout the land of Egypt, even in wooden and stone containers ."

²⁰ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded; in the sight of Pharaoh and his officials, he raised the

staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile was turned to blood.

²¹ The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad the Egyptians could not drink water from it. There was blood throughout the land of Egypt.

²² But the magicians of Egypt did the same thing by their occult practices. So Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²³ Pharaoh turned around, went into his palace, and didn't even take this to heart.

²⁴ All the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink because they could not drink the water from the river.

²⁵ Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

8 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and tell him: This is

what the LORD says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me.

² But if you refuse to let them go, then I will plague all your territory with frogs.

³ The Nile will swarm with frogs; they will come up and go into your palace, into your bedroom and on your bed, into the houses of your officials and your people, and into your ovens and kneading bowls.

⁴ The frogs will come up on you, your people, and all your officials."

⁵ The LORD then said to Moses, "Tell Aaron: Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, canals, and ponds, and cause the frogs to come up onto the land of Egypt."

⁶ When Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

⁷ But the magicians did the same thing by their occult practices and brought frogs up onto the land of Egypt.

⁸ Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Ask the LORD that He remove the frogs from me and my people. Then I will let the people go and they can sacrifice to the LORD."

⁹ Moses said to Pharaoh, "Make the choice rather than me by saying when I should ask for you, your officials, and your people, that the frogs be taken away from you and your houses, and remain only in the Nile."

¹⁰ "Tomorrow," he answered. Moses replied, "As you have said, so you may know there is no one like the LORD our God,

¹¹ the frogs will go away from you, your houses, your officials, and your people. The frogs will remain only in the Nile."

¹² After Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD for help concerning the frogs that He had brought against Pharaoh.

¹³ The LORD did as Moses had said: the frogs in the houses, courtyards, and fields died.

¹⁴ They piled them in countless heaps, and there was a terrible odor in the land.

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron: Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, and it will become gnats throughout the land of Egypt."

¹⁷ And they did this. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and when he struck the dust of the earth, gnats were on the people and animals. All the dust of the earth became gnats throughout the land of Egypt.

¹⁸ The magicians tried to produce gnats using their occult practices, but they could not. The gnats remained on the people and animals.

¹⁹ "This is the finger of God," the magicians said to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰ The LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh when you see him going out to the water. Tell him: This is what the LORD says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me.

²¹ But if you will not let My people go, then I will send swarms of flies against you, your officials, your people, and your houses. The Egyptians' houses will swarm with flies, and so will the land where they live.

²² But on that day I will give special treatment to the land of Goshen, where

My people are living; no flies will be there. This way you will know that I, the LORD, am in the land.

²³ I will make a distinction between My people and your people. This sign will take place tomorrow."

²⁴ And the LORD did this. Thick swarms of flies went into Pharaoh's palace and his officials' houses. Throughout Egypt the land was ruined because of the swarms of flies.

²⁵ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go sacrifice to your God within the country."

²⁶ But Moses said, "It would not be right to do that, because what we will sacrifice to the LORD our God is detestable to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice what the Egyptians detest in front of them, won't they stone us?"

²⁷ We must go a distance of three days into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He instructs us."

²⁸ Pharaoh responded, "I will let you go and sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness, but don't go very far. Make an appeal for me."

²⁹ "As soon as I leave you," Moses said, "I will appeal to the LORD, and tomorrow the swarms of flies will depart from Pharaoh, his officials, and his people. But Pharaoh must not act deceptively again by refusing to let the people go and sacrifice to the LORD."

³⁰ Then Moses left Pharaoh's presence and appealed to the LORD.

³¹ The LORD did as Moses had said: He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, his officials, and his people; not one was left.

³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also and did not let the people go.

9¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him: This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me.

² But if you refuse to let them go and keep holding them,

³ then the LORD's hand will bring a severe plague against your livestock in the field--the horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks.

⁴ But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that the Israelites own will die."

⁵ And the LORD set a time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

⁶ The LORD did this the next day. All the Egyptian livestock died, but none among the Israelite livestock died.

⁷ Pharaoh sent messengers who saw that not a single one of the Israelite livestock was dead. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of furnace soot, and Moses is to throw it toward heaven in the sight of Pharaoh.

⁹ It will become fine dust over the entire land of Egypt. It will become festering boils on people and animals throughout the land of Egypt."

¹⁰ So they took furnace soot and stood before Pharaoh. Moses threw it toward heaven, and it became festering boils on man and beast.

¹¹ The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians.

¹² But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had told Moses.

¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh. Tell him: This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews says: Let My people go, so that they may worship Me.

¹⁴ Otherwise, I am going to send all My plagues against you, your officials, and your people. Then you will know there is no one like Me in all the earth.

¹⁵ By now I could have stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with a plague, and you would have been obliterated from the earth.

¹⁶ However, I have let you live for this purpose: to show you My power and to make My name known in all the earth.

¹⁷ You are still acting arrogantly against My people by not letting them go.

¹⁸ Tomorrow at this time I will rain down the worst hail that has ever occurred in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.

¹⁹ Therefore give orders to bring your livestock and all that you have in the field into shelters. Every person and animal that is in the field and not brought inside will die when the hail falls on them."

²⁰ Those among Pharaoh's officials who feared the word of the LORD made their servants and livestock flee to shelters,

²¹ but those who didn't take the LORD's word seriously left their servants and livestock in the field.

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be hail throughout the land of Egypt--on man and beast and every plant of the field in the land of Egypt."

²³ So Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent

thunder and hail. Lightning struck the earth, and the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt.

²⁴ The hail, with lightning flashing through it, was so severe that nothing like it had occurred in the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

²⁵ Throughout the land of Egypt, the hail struck down everything in the field, both man and beast. The hail beat down every plant of the field and shattered every tree in the field.

²⁶ The only place it didn't hail was in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were.

²⁷ Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. "I have sinned this time," he said to them. "The LORD is the Righteous One, and I and my people are the guilty ones.

²⁸ Make an appeal to the LORD. There has been enough of God's thunder and

hail. I will let you go; you don't need to stay any longer."

²⁹ Moses said to him, "When I have left the city, I will extend my hands to the LORD. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know the earth is the LORD's.

³⁰ But as for you and your officials, I know that you still do not fear the LORD God."

³¹ The flax and the barley were destroyed because the barley was ripe and the flax was budding,

³² but the wheat and the spelt were not destroyed since they are later crops.

³³ Moses went out from Pharaoh and the city, and extended his hands to the LORD. Then the thunder and hail ceased, and rain no longer poured down on the land.

³⁴ When Pharaoh saw that the rain, hail, and thunder had ceased, he sinned

again and hardened his heart, he and his officials.

³⁵ So Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not let the Israelites go, as the LORD had said through Moses.

10 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may do these miraculous signs of Mine among them, ² and so that you may tell your son and grandson how severely I dealt with the Egyptians and performed miraculous signs among them, and you will know that I am the LORD."

³ So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and told him, "This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may worship Me.

⁴ But if you refuse to let My people go, then tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory.

⁵ They will cover the surface of the land so that no one will be able to see the land. They will eat the remainder left to you that escaped the hail; they will eat every tree you have growing in the fields.

⁶ They will fill your houses, all your officials' houses, and the houses of all the Egyptians--something your fathers and ancestors never saw since the time they occupied the land until today." Then he turned and left Pharaoh's presence.

⁷ Pharaoh's officials asked him, "How long must this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Don't you realize yet that Egypt is devastated?"

⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the LORD

your God," Pharaoh said. "But exactly who will be going?"

⁹ Moses replied, "We will go with our young and our old; we will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks and herds because we must hold the LORD's festival."

¹⁰ He said to them, "May the LORD be with you if I ever let you and your families go! Look out--you are planning evil.

¹¹ No, only the men may go and worship the LORD, for that is what you have been asking for." And they were driven from Pharaoh's presence.

¹² The LORD then said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt and the locusts will come up over it and eat every plant in the land, everything that the hail left."

¹³ So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD sent an

east wind over the land all that day and through the night. By morning the east wind had brought in the locusts.

¹⁴ The locusts went up over the entire land of Egypt and settled on the whole territory of Egypt. Never before had there been such a large number of locusts, and there will never be again.

¹⁵ They covered the surface of the whole land so that the land was black, and they consumed all the plants on the ground and all the fruit on the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green was left on the trees or the plants in the field throughout the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ Pharaoh urgently sent for Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you.

¹⁷ Please forgive my sin once more and make an appeal to the LORD your God, so that He will take this death away from me."

¹⁸ Moses left Pharaoh's presence and appealed to the LORD.

¹⁹ Then the LORD changed the wind to a strong west wind, and it carried off the locusts and blew them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the territory of Egypt.

²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the Israelites go.

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there will be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that can be felt."

²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days.

²³ One person could not see another, and for three days they did not move from where they were. Yet all the Israelites had light where they lived.

²⁴ Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even your families may go with you; only your flocks and your herds must stay behind."

²⁵ Moses responded, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings to prepare for the LORD our God.

²⁶ Even our livestock must go with us; not a hoof will be left behind because we will take some of them to worship the LORD our God. We will not know what we will use to worship the LORD until we get there."

²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was unwilling to let them go.

²⁸ Pharaoh said to him, "Leave me! Make sure you never see my face again, for on the day you see my face, you will die."

²⁹ "As you've said," Moses replied, "I will never see your face again."

11 ¹The LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you out of here.

² Now announce to the people that both men and women should ask their neighbors for gold and silver jewelry."

³ The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. And the man Moses was feared in the land of Egypt, by Pharaoh's officials and the people.

⁴ So Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt

⁵ and every firstborn male in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the servant girl who is behind the millstones, as well as every firstborn of the livestock.

⁶ Then there will be a great cry of anguish through all the land of Egypt such as never was before, or ever will be again.

⁷ But against all the Israelites, whether man or beast, not even a dog will snarl, so that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.

⁸ All these officials of yours will come down to me and bow before me, saying: Leave, you and all the people who follow you. After that, I will leave.'" And he left Pharaoh's presence in fierce anger.

⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his land.

12 ¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:

² "This month is to be the beginning of months for you; it is the first month of your year.

³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they must each select an animal of the flock according to their fathers' households, one animal per household.

⁴ If the household is too small for a whole animal, that person and the neighbor nearest his house are to select one based on the combined number of people; you should apportion the animal according to what each person will eat.

⁵ You must have an unblemished animal, a year-old male; you may take it from either the sheep or the goats.

⁶ You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole

assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight.

⁷ They must take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them.

⁸ They are to eat the meat that night; they should eat it, roasted over the fire along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or cooked in boiling water, but only roasted over fire--its head as well as its legs and inner organs.

¹⁰ Do not let any of it remain until morning; you must burn up any part of it that does remain until morning.

¹¹ Here is how you must eat it: dressed for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in a hurry; it is the LORD's Passover.

¹² "I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. I am the LORD; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt.

¹³ The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ "This day is to be a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to the LORD. You are to celebrate it throughout your generations as a permanent statute.

¹⁵ You must eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day you must remove yeast from your houses. Whoever eats what is leavened from the first day through the seventh day must be cut off from Israel.

¹⁶ You are to hold a sacred assembly on the first day and another sacred assembly on the seventh day. No work may be done on those days except for preparing what people need to eat--you may do only that.

¹⁷ "You are to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread because on this very day I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt. You must observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent statute.

¹⁸ You are to eat unleavened bread in the first month, from the evening of the fourteenth day of the month until the evening of the twenty-first day.

¹⁹ Yeast must not be found in your houses for seven days. If anyone eats something leavened, that person, whether a foreign resident or native of the land, must be cut off from the community of Israel.

²⁰ Do not eat anything leavened; eat unleavened bread in all your homes."

²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go, select an animal from the flock according to your families, and slaughter the Passover lamb.

²² Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and brush the lintel and the two doorposts with some of the blood in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning.

²³ When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, He will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike you .

²⁴ "Keep this command permanently as a statute for you and your descendants.

²⁵ When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as He promised, you are to observe this ritual.

²⁶ When your children ask you, 'What does this ritual mean to you?'

²⁷ you are to reply, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, for He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and spared our homes.'" So the people bowed down and worshiped.

²⁸ Then the Israelites went and did this ; they did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹ Now at midnight the LORD struck every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, and every firstborn of the livestock.

³⁰ During the night Pharaoh got up, he along with all his officials and all the

Egyptians, and there was a loud wailing throughout Egypt because there wasn't a house without someone dead.

³¹ He summoned Moses and Aaron during the night and said, "Get up, leave my people, both you and the Israelites, and go, worship the LORD as you have asked.

³² Take even your flocks and your herds as you asked, and leave, and this will also be a blessing to me."

³³ Now the Egyptians pressured the people in order to send them quickly out of the country, for they said, "We're all going to die!"

³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls wrapped up in their clothes on their shoulders.

³⁵ The Israelites acted on Moses' word and asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing.

³⁶ And the LORD gave the people such favor in the Egyptians' sight that they gave them what they requested. In this way they plundered the Egyptians.

³⁷ The Israelites traveled from Rameses to Succoth, about 600,000 soldiers on foot, besides their families.

³⁸ An ethnically diverse crowd also went up with them, along with a huge number of livestock, both flocks and herds.

³⁹ The people baked the dough they had brought out of Egypt into unleavened loaves, since it had no yeast; for when they had been driven out of Egypt they could not delay and had not prepared any provisions for themselves.

⁴⁰ The time that the Israelites lived in Egypt was 430 years.

⁴¹ At the end of 430 years, on that same day, all the divisions of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

⁴² It was a night of vigil in honor of the LORD, because He would bring them out of the land of Egypt. This same night is in honor of the LORD, a night vigil for all the Israelites throughout their generations.

⁴³ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner may eat it.

⁴⁴ But any slave a man has purchased may eat it, after you have circumcised him.

⁴⁵ A temporary resident or hired hand may not eat the Passover.

⁴⁶ It is to be eaten in one house. You may not take any of the meat outside the house, and you may not break any of its bones.

⁴⁷ The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.

⁴⁸ If a foreigner resides with you and wants to celebrate the LORD's Passover, every male in his household

must be circumcised, and then he may participate; he will become like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person may eat it.

⁴⁹ The same law will apply to both the native and the foreigner who resides among you."

⁵⁰ Then all the Israelites did this ; they did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

⁵¹ On that same day the LORD brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt according to their military divisions.

13 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Consecrate every firstborn male to Me, the firstborn from every womb among the Israelites, both man and animal; it is Mine."

³ Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day when you came out of Egypt, out of the place of slavery, for the LORD brought you out of here by the

strength of His hand. Nothing leavened may be eaten.

⁴ Today, in the month of Abib, you are leaving.

⁵ When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers that He would give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you must carry out this ritual in this month.

⁶ For seven days you must eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there is to be a festival to the LORD.

⁷ Unleavened bread is to be eaten for those seven days. Nothing leavened may be found among you, and no yeast may be found among you in all your territory.

⁸ On that day explain to your son, 'This is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

⁹ Let it serve as a sign for you on your hand and as a reminder on your forehead, so that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for the LORD brought you out of Egypt with a strong hand.

¹⁰ Keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

¹¹ "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to you and your fathers, and gives it to you,

¹² you are to present to the LORD every firstborn male of the womb. All firstborn offspring of the livestock you own that are males will be the LORD's.

¹³ You must redeem every firstborn of a donkey with a flock animal, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. However, you must redeem every firstborn among your sons.

¹⁴ "In the future, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him,

'By the strength of His hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of man to the firstborn of livestock. That is why I sacrifice to the LORD all the firstborn of the womb that are males, but I redeem all the firstborn of my sons.'

¹⁶ So let it be a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead, for the LORD brought us out of Egypt by the strength of His hand."

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them along the road to the land of the Philistines, even though it was nearby; for God said, "The people will change their minds and return to Egypt if they face war."

¹⁸ So He led the people around toward the Red Sea along the road of the wilderness. And the Israelites left the land of Egypt in battle formation.

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, because Joseph had made the Israelites swear a solemn oath, saying, "God will certainly come to your aid; then you must take my bones with you from this place."

²⁰ They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness.

²¹ The LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to lead them on their way during the day and in a pillar of fire to give them light at night, so that they could travel day or night.

²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night never left its place in front of the people.

14 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you must camp in front of Baal-zephon, facing it by the sea.

³ Pharaoh will say of the Israelites: They are wandering around the land in confusion; the wilderness has boxed them in.

⁴ I will harden Pharaoh's heart so that he will pursue them. Then I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about the people and said: "What have we done? We have released Israel from serving us."

⁶ So he got his chariot ready and took his troops with him;

⁷ he took 600 of the best chariots and all the rest of the chariots of Egypt, with officers in each one.

⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the Israelites, who were going out triumphantly.

⁹ The Egyptians--all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, his horsemen, and his army--chased after them and caught up with them as they camped by the sea beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and saw the Egyptians coming after them. Then the Israelites were terrified and cried out to the LORD for help.

¹¹ They said to Moses: "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you

took us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?

¹² Isn't this what we told you in Egypt: Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

¹³ But Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. Stand firm and see the LORD's salvation He will provide for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again.

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you must be quiet."

¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the Israelites to break camp.

¹⁶ As for you, lift up your staff, stretch out your hand over the sea, and divide it so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

¹⁷ I am going to harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them, and I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh, all his army, and his chariots and horsemen.

¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I receive glory through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

¹⁹ Then the Angel of God, who was going in front of the Israelite forces, moved and went behind them. The pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and stood behind them.

²⁰ It came between the Egyptian and Israelite forces. The cloud was there in the darkness, yet it lit up the night. So neither group came near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back with a powerful east wind all that

night and turned the sea into dry land.
So the waters were divided,

²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with the waters like a wall to them on their right and their left.

²³ The Egyptians set out in pursuit--all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen--and went into the sea after them.

²⁴ Then during the morning watch, the LORD looked down on the Egyptian forces from the pillar of fire and cloud, and threw them into confusion.

²⁵ He caused their chariot wheels to swerve and made them drive with difficulty. "Let's get away from Israel," the Egyptians said, "because the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back on

the Egyptians, on their chariots and horsemen."

²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal depth. While the Egyptians were trying to escape from it, the LORD overthrew them in the sea.

²⁸ The waters came back and covered the chariots and horsemen, the entire army of Pharaoh, that had gone after them into the sea. None of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites had walked through the sea on dry ground, with the waters like a wall to them on their right and their left.

³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the power of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

³¹ When Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, the

people feared the LORD and believed in Him and in His servant Moses.

15 ¹ Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said: I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea.

² The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. This is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

³ The LORD is a warrior; Yahweh is His name.

⁴ He threw Pharaoh's chariots and his army into the sea; the elite of his officers were drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵ The floods covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

⁶ LORD, Your right hand is glorious in power. LORD, Your right hand shattered the enemy.

⁷ You overthrew Your adversaries by Your great majesty. You unleashed Your burning wrath; it consumed them like stubble.

⁸ The waters heaped up at the blast of Your nostrils; the currents stood firm like a dam. The watery depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil. My desire will be gratified at their expense. I will draw my sword; my hand will destroy them."

¹⁰ But You blew with Your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ LORD, who is like You among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders?

¹² You stretched out Your right hand, and the earth swallowed them.

¹³ You will lead the people You have redeemed with Your faithful love; You will guide them to Your holy dwelling with Your strength.

¹⁴ When the peoples hear, they will shudder; anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified; trembling will seize the leaders of Moab; the inhabitants of Canaan will panic;

¹⁶ and terror and dread will fall on them. They will be as still as a stone because of Your powerful arm until Your people pass by, LORD, until the people whom You purchased pass by.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of Your possession; LORD, You have prepared the place for Your dwelling; Lord, Your hands have established the sanctuary.

¹⁸ The LORD will reign forever and ever!

¹⁹ When Pharaoh's horses with his chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them. But the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her with tambourines and dancing.

²¹ Miriam sang to them: Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea.

²² Then Moses led Israel on from the Red Sea, and they went out to the Wilderness of Shur. They journeyed for three days in the wilderness without finding water.

²³ They came to Marah, but they could not drink the water at Marah because it was bitter--that is why it was named Marah.

²⁴ The people grumbled to Moses, "What are we going to drink?"

²⁵ So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he threw it into the water, the water became drinkable. He made a statute and ordinance for them at Marah and He tested them there.

²⁶ He said, "If you will carefully obey the LORD your God, do what is right in His eyes, pay attention to His commands, and keep all His statutes, I will not inflict any illness on you I inflicted on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were 12 springs of water and 70 date palms, and they camped there by the waters.

16 ¹ The entire Israelite community departed from Elim and came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between

Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left the land of Egypt.

² The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by pots of meat and ate all the bread we wanted. Instead, you brought us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!"

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. This way I will test them to see whether or not they will follow My instructions.

⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites: "This evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt;

⁷ in the morning you will see the LORD's glory because He has heard your complaints about Him. For who are we that you complain about us?"

⁸ Moses continued, "The LORD will give you meat to eat this evening and abundant bread in the morning, for He has heard the complaints that you are raising against Him. Who are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.'"

¹⁰ As Aaron was speaking to the entire Israelite community, they turned toward

the wilderness, and there, in a cloud, the LORD's glory appeared.

¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹² "I have heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them: At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."

¹³ So at evening quail came and covered the camp. In the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp.

¹⁴ When the layer of dew evaporated, there on the desert surface were fine flakes, as fine as frost on the ground.

¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they asked one another, "What is it?" because they didn't know what it was. Moses told them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each person needs to eat. You may take

two quarts per individual, according to the number of people each of you has in his tent.'" "

¹⁷ So the Israelites did this. Some gathered a lot, some a little.

¹⁸ When they measured it by quarts, the person who gathered a lot had no surplus, and the person who gathered a little had no shortage. Each gathered as much as he needed to eat.

¹⁹ Moses said to them, "No one is to let any of it remain until morning."

²⁰ But they didn't listen to Moses; some people left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and smelled. Therefore Moses was angry with them.

²¹ They gathered it every morning. Each gathered as much as he needed to eat, but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

²² On the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, four quarts apiece, and all

the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses.

²³ He told them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a day of complete rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you want to bake, and boil what you want to boil, and everything left over set aside to be kept until morning.'"

²⁴ So they set it aside until morning as Moses commanded, and it didn't smell or have any maggots in it.

²⁵ "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a Sabbath to the LORD. Today you won't find any in the field.

²⁶ For six days you may gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."

²⁷ Yet on the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they did not find any.

²⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep My commands and instructions?"

²⁹ Understand that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day He will give you two days' worth of bread. Each of you stay where you are; no one is to leave his place on the seventh day."

³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ The house of Israel named the substance manna. It resembled coriander seed, was white, and tasted like wafers made with honey.

³² Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Two quarts of it are to be preserved throughout your generations, so that they may see the bread I fed you in the wilderness when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

³³ Moses told Aaron, "Take a container and put two quarts of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be preserved throughout your generations."

³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron placed it before the testimony to be preserved.

³⁵ The Israelites ate manna for 40 years, until they came to an inhabited land. They ate manna until they reached the border of the land of Canaan.

³⁶ (Two quarts are a tenth of an ephah.)

17 ¹ The entire Israelite community left the Wilderness of Sin, moving from one place to the next according to the LORD's command. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So the people complained to Moses: "Give us water to drink." "Why are you complaining to me?" Moses replied to them. "Why are you testing the LORD?"

³ But the people thirsted there for water, and grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you ever bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with these people? In a little while they will stone me!"

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Take the rod you struck the Nile with in your hand and go.

⁶ I am going to stand there in front of you on the rock at Horeb; when you hit the rock, water will come out of it and the people will drink." Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ He named the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites complained, and because they tested

the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

⁸ At Rephidim, Amalek came and fought against Israel.

⁹ Moses said to Joshua, "Select some men for us, and go fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the hilltop with God's staff in my hand."

¹⁰ Joshua did as Moses had told him, and fought against Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

¹¹ While Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, but whenever he put his hand down, Amalek prevailed.

¹² When Moses' hands grew heavy, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat down on it. Then Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other so that his hands remained steady until the sun went down.

¹³ So Joshua defeated Amalek and his army with the sword.

¹⁴ The LORD then said to Moses, "Write this down on a scroll as a reminder and recite it to Joshua: I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek under heaven."

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and named it, "The LORD Is My Banner."

¹⁶ He said, "Indeed, my hand is lifted up toward the LORD's throne. The LORD will be at war with Amalek from generation to generation."

18 ¹ Moses' father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, heard about everything that God had done for Moses and His people Israel, and how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

² Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken in Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,

³ along with her two sons, one of whom was named Gershom (because Moses had said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land")

⁴ and the other Eliezer (because he had said, "The God of my father was my helper and delivered me from Pharaoh's sword").

⁵ Moses' father-in-law Jethro, along with Moses' wife and sons, came to him in the wilderness where he was camped at the mountain of God.

⁶ He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons."

⁷ So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and then kissed him. They asked each other how they had been and went into the tent.

⁸ Moses recounted to his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the

hardships that confronted them on the way, and how the LORD delivered them.

⁹ Jethro rejoiced over all the good things the LORD had done for Israel when He rescued them from the Egyptians.

¹⁰ "Blessed is the LORD," Jethro exclaimed, "who rescued you from Pharaoh and the power of the Egyptians, and snatched the people from the power of the Egyptians.

¹¹ Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because He did wonders at the time the Egyptians acted arrogantly against Israel."

¹² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law in God's presence.

¹³ The next day Moses sat down to judge the people, and they stood around Moses from morning until evening.

¹⁴ When Moses' father-in-law saw everything he was doing for them he asked, "What is this thing you're doing for the people? Why are you alone sitting as judge, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?"

¹⁵ Moses replied to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God.

¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I make a decision between one man and another. I teach them God's statutes and laws."

¹⁷ "What you're doing is not good," Moses' father-in-law said to him.

¹⁸ "You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can't do it alone.

¹⁹ Now listen to me; I will give you some advice, and God be with you. You be the

one to represent the people before God and bring their cases to Him.

²⁰ Instruct them about the statutes and laws, and teach them the way to live and what they must do.

²¹ But you should select from all the people able men, God-fearing, trustworthy, and hating bribes. Place them over the people as officials of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.

²² They should judge the people at all times. Then they can bring you every important case but judge every minor case themselves. In this way you will lighten your load, and they will bear it with you.

²³ If you do this, and God so directs you, you will be able to endure, and also all these people will be able to go home satisfied."

²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

²⁵ So Moses chose able men from all Israel and made them leaders over the people as officials of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.

²⁶ They judged the people at all times; the hard cases they would bring to Moses, but every minor case they would judge themselves.

²⁷ Then Moses said goodbye to his father-in-law, and he journeyed to his own land.

19 ¹ In the third month, on the same day of the month that the Israelites had left the land of Egypt, they entered the Wilderness of Sinai.

² After they departed from Rephidim, they entered the Wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness, and Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

³ Moses went up the mountain to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain: "This is what you must say to

the house of Jacob, and explain to the Israelites:

⁴ You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me.

⁵ Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine,

⁶ and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites."

⁷ After Moses came back, He summoned the elders of the people, and put before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.

⁸ Then all the people responded together, "We will do all that the LORD has spoken." So Moses brought the people's words back to the LORD.

⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that

the people will hear when I speak with you and will always believe you." Then Moses reported the people's words to the LORD.

¹⁰ And the LORD told Moses, "Go to the people and purify them today and tomorrow. They must wash their clothes

¹¹ and be prepared by the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

¹² Put boundaries for the people all around the mountain and say: Be careful that you don't go up on the mountain or touch its base. Anyone who touches the mountain will be put to death.

¹³ No hand may touch him; instead he will be stoned or shot with arrows, neither animal or man will live. When the ram's horn sounds a long blast, they may go up the mountain."

¹⁴ Then Moses came down from the mountain to the people and consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.

¹⁵ He said to the people, "Be prepared by the third day. Do not have sexual relations with women."

¹⁶ On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a loud trumpet sound, so that all the people in the camp shuddered.

¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

¹⁸ Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the LORD came down on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently.

¹⁹ As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him in the thunder.

²⁰ The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, at the top of the mountain. Then the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and he went up.

²¹ The LORD directed Moses, "Go down and warn the people not to break through to see the LORD; otherwise many of them will die.

²² Even the priests who come near the LORD must purify themselves or the LORD will break out in anger against them."

²³ But Moses responded to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, since You warned us: Put a boundary around the mountain and consider it holy."

²⁴ And the LORD replied to him, "Go down and come back with Aaron. But the priests and the people must not break through to come up to the LORD,

or He will break out in anger against them."

²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

20 ¹ Then God spoke all these words:
² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

³ Do not have other gods besides Me.

⁴ Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.

⁵ You must not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the fathers' sin, to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

⁶ but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commands.

⁷ Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will punish anyone who misuses His name.

⁸ Remember to dedicate the Sabbath day:

⁹ You are to labor six days and do all your work,

¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You must not do any work--you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the foreigner who is within your gates.

¹¹ For the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

¹² Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ Do not murder.

¹⁴ Do not commit adultery.

¹⁵ Do not steal.

¹⁶ Do not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

¹⁸ All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain surrounded by smoke. When the people saw it they trembled and stood at a distance.

¹⁹ "You speak to us, and we will listen," they said to Moses, "but don't let God speak to us, or we will die."

²⁰ Moses responded to the people, "Don't be afraid, for God has come to test you, so that you will fear Him and will not sin."

²¹ And the people remained standing at a distance as Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

²² Then the LORD told Moses, "This is what you are to say to the Israelites: You have seen that I have spoken to you from heaven.

²³ You must not make gods of silver to rival Me; you must not make gods of gold for yourselves.

²⁴ "You must make an earthen altar for Me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats, as well as your cattle. I will come to you and bless you in every place where I cause My name to be remembered.

²⁵ If you make a stone altar for Me, you must not build it out of cut stones. If you use your chisel on it, you will defile it.

²⁶ You must not go up to My altar on steps, so that your nakedness is not exposed on it.

21 ¹ "These are the ordinances that you must set before them:

² "When you buy a Hebrew slave, he is to serve for six years; then in the seventh he is to leave as a free man without paying anything.

³ If he arrives alone, he is to leave alone; if he arrives with a wife, his wife is to leave with him.

⁴ If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children belong to her master, and the man must leave alone.

⁵ "But if the slave declares: 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I do not want to leave as a free man,'

⁶ his master is to bring him to the judges and then bring him to the door or doorpost. His master must pierce his ear

with an awl, and he will serve his master for life.

⁷ "When a man sells his daughter as a slave, she is not to leave as the male slaves do.

⁸ If she is displeasing to her master, who chose her for himself, then he must let her be redeemed. He has no right to sell her to foreigners because he has acted treacherously toward her.

⁹ Or if he chooses her for his son, he must deal with her according to the customary treatment of daughters.

¹⁰ If he takes an additional wife, he must not reduce the food, clothing, or marital rights of the first wife.

¹¹ And if he does not do these three things for her, she may leave free of charge, without any exchange of money.

¹² "Whoever strikes a person so that he dies must be put to death.

¹³ But if he didn't intend any harm, and yet God caused it to happen by his hand, I will appoint a place for you where he may flee.

¹⁴ If a person willfully acts against his neighbor to murder him by scheming, you must take him from My altar to be put to death.

¹⁵ "Whoever strikes his father or his mother must be put to death.

¹⁶ "Whoever kidnaps a person must be put to death, whether he sells him or the person is found in his possession.

¹⁷ "Whoever curses his father or his mother must be put to death.

¹⁸ "When men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or fist, and the injured man does not die but is confined to bed,

¹⁹ if he can later get up and walk around outside leaning on his staff, then the one who struck him will be exempt from

punishment. Nevertheless, he must pay for his lost work time and provide for his complete recovery.

²⁰ "When a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod, and the slave dies under his abuse, the owner must be punished.

²¹ However, if the slave can stand up after a day or two, the owner should not be punished because he is his owner's property.

²² "When men get in a fight, and hit a pregnant woman so that her children are born prematurely , but there is no injury, the one who hit her must be fined as the woman's husband demands from him, and he must pay according to judicial assessment.

²³ If there is an injury, then you must give life for life,

²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

²⁵ burn for burn, bruise for bruise, wound for wound.

²⁶ "When a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave and destroys it, he must let the slave go free in compensation for his eye.

²⁷ If he knocks out the tooth of his male or female slave, he must let the slave go free in compensation for his tooth.

²⁸ "When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox must be stoned, and its meat may not be eaten, but the ox's owner is innocent.

²⁹ However, if the ox was in the habit of goring, and its owner has been warned yet does not restrain it, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox must be stoned, and its owner must also be put to death.

³⁰ If instead a ransom is demanded of him, he can pay a redemption price for his life in the full amount demanded from him.

³¹ If it gores a son or a daughter, he is to be dealt with according to this same law.

³² If the ox gores a male or female slave, he must give 30 shekels of silver to the slave's master, and the ox must be stoned.

³³ "When a man uncovers a pit or digs a pit, and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it,

³⁴ the owner of the pit must give compensation; he must pay money to its owner, but the dead animal will become his.

³⁵ "When a man's ox injures his neighbor's ox and it dies, they must sell the live ox and divide its proceeds; they must also divide the dead animal.

³⁶ If, however, it is known that the ox was in the habit of goring, yet its owner has not restrained it, he must compensate fully, ox for ox; the dead animal will become his.

22¹ "When a man steals an ox or a sheep and butchers it or sells it, he must repay five cattle for the ox or four sheep for the sheep.

² If a thief is caught in the act of breaking in, and he is beaten to death, no one is guilty of bloodshed.

³ But if this happens after sunrise, there is guilt of bloodshed. A thief must make full restitution. If he is unable, he is to be sold because of his theft.

⁴ If what was stolen--whether ox, donkey, or sheep--is actually found alive in his possession, he must repay double.

⁵ "When a man lets a field or vineyard be grazed in, and then allows his animals to go and graze in someone else's field, he must repay with the best of his own field or vineyard.

⁶ "When a fire gets out of control, spreads to thornbushes, and consumes stacks of cut grain, standing grain, or

a field, the one who started the fire must make full restitution for what was burned.

⁷ "When a man gives his neighbor money or goods to keep, but they are stolen from that person's house, the thief, if caught, must repay double.

⁸ If the thief is not caught, the owner of the house must present himself to the judges to determine whether or not he has taken his neighbor's property.

⁹ In any case of wrongdoing involving an ox, a donkey, a sheep, a garment, or anything else lost, and someone claims: That's mine, the case between the two parties is to come before the judges. The one the judges condemn must repay double to his neighbor.

¹⁰ "When a man gives his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any other animal to care for, but it dies, is injured, or is stolen, while no one is watching,

¹¹ there must be an oath before the LORD between the two of them to determine whether or not he has taken his neighbor's property. Its owner must accept the oath , and the other man does not have to make restitution.

¹² But if, in fact, the animal was stolen from his custody, he must make restitution to its owner.

¹³ If it was actually torn apart by a wild animal , he is to bring it as evidence; he does not have to make restitution for the torn carcass.

¹⁴ "When a man borrows an animal from his neighbor, and it is injured or dies while its owner is not there with it, the man must make full restitution.

¹⁵ If its owner is there with it, the man does not have to make restitution. If it was rented, the loss is covered by its rental price.

¹⁶ "When a man seduces a virgin who was not promised in marriage, and he has sexual relations with her, he must certainly pay the bridal price for her to be his wife.

¹⁷ If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must pay an amount in silver equal to the bridal price for virgins.

¹⁸ "You must not allow a sorceress to live.

¹⁹ "Whoever has sexual intercourse with an animal must be put to death.

²⁰ "Whoever sacrifices to any gods, except the LORD alone, is to be set apart for destruction.

²¹ "You must not exploit a foreign resident or oppress him, since you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

²² "You must not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.

²³ If you do mistreat them, they will no doubt cry to Me, and I will certainly hear their cry.

²⁴ My anger will burn, and I will kill you with the sword; then your wives will be widows and your children fatherless.

²⁵ "If you lend money to My people--to the poor person among you, you must not be like a moneylender to him; you must not charge him interest.

²⁶ "If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as collateral, return it to him before sunset.

²⁷ For it is his only covering; it is the clothing for his body. What will he sleep in? And if he cries out to Me, I will listen because I am compassionate.

²⁸ "You must not blaspheme God or curse a leader among your people.

²⁹ "You must not hold back offerings from your harvest or your vats. Give Me the firstborn of your sons.

³⁰ Do the same with your cattle and your flock. Let them stay with their mothers for seven days, but on the eighth day you are to give them to Me.

³¹ "Be My holy people. You must not eat the meat of a mauled animal found in the field; throw it to the dogs.

23 ¹ "You must not spread a false report. Do not join the wicked to be a malicious witness.

² "You must not follow a crowd in wrongdoing. Do not testify in a lawsuit and go along with a crowd to pervert justice .

³ Do not show favoritism to a poor person in his lawsuit.

⁴ "If you come across your enemy's stray ox or donkey, you must return it to him.

⁵ "If you see the donkey of someone who hates you lying helpless under

its load, and you want to refrain from helping it, you must help with it.

⁶ "You must not deny justice to the poor among you in his lawsuit.

⁷ Stay far away from a false accusation. Do not kill the innocent and the just, because I will not justify the guilty.

⁸ You must not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and corrupts the words of the righteous.

⁹ You must not oppress a foreign resident; you yourselves know how it feels to be a foreigner because you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ "Sow your land for six years and gather its produce.

¹¹ But during the seventh year you are to let it rest and leave it uncultivated, so that the poor among your people may eat from it and the wild animals may consume what they leave. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove.

¹² "Do your work for six days but rest on the seventh day so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave as well as the foreign resident may be refreshed.

¹³ "Pay strict attention to everything I have said to you. You must not invoke the names of other gods; they must not be heard on your lips.

¹⁴ "Celebrate a festival in My honor three times a year.

¹⁵ Observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you are to eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, because you came out of Egypt in that month. No one is to appear before Me empty-handed.

¹⁶ Also observe the Festival of Harvest with the firstfruits of your produce from what you sow in the field, and observe the Festival of Ingathering at the end of

the year, when you gather your produce from the field.

¹⁷ Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD.

¹⁸ "You must not offer the blood of My sacrifices with anything leavened. The fat of My festival offering must not remain until morning.

¹⁹ "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your land to the house of the LORD your God. "You must not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

²⁰ "I am going to send an Angel before you to protect you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared.

²¹ Be attentive to Him and listen to His voice. Do not defy Him, because He will not forgive your acts of rebellion, for My name is in Him.

²² But if you will carefully obey Him and do everything I say, then I will be

an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes.

²³ For My Angel will go before you and bring you to the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.

²⁴ You must not bow down to their gods or worship them. Do not imitate their practices. Instead, demolish them and smash their sacred pillars to pieces.

²⁵ Worship the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. I will take away your illnesses.

²⁶ No woman will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you the full number of your days.

²⁷ "I will cause the people ahead of you to feel terror and throw into confusion all the nations you come to. I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you in retreat.

²⁸ I will send the hornet in front of you, and it will drive the Hivites, Canaanites, and Hittites away from you.

²⁹ I will not drive them out ahead of you in a single year; otherwise, the land would become desolate, and wild animals would multiply against you.

³⁰ I will drive them out little by little ahead of you until you have become numerous and take possession of the land.

³¹ I will set your borders from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates River. For I will place the inhabitants of the land under your control, and you will drive them out ahead of you.

³² You must not make a covenant with them or their gods.

³³ They must not remain in your land, or else they will make you sin against

Me. If you worship their gods, it will be a snare for you."

24 ¹ Then He said to Moses, "Go up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and 70 of Israel's elders, and bow in worship at a distance.

² Moses alone is to approach the LORD, but the others are not to approach, and the people are not to go up with him."

³ Moses came and told the people all the commands of the LORD and all the ordinances. Then all the people responded with a single voice, "We will do everything that the LORD has commanded."

⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early the next morning and set up an altar and 12 pillars for the 12 tribes of Israel at the base of the mountain.

⁵ Then he sent out young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and

sacrificed bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD.

⁶ Moses took half the blood and set it in basins; the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

⁷ He then took the covenant scroll and read it aloud to the people. They responded, "We will do and obey everything that the LORD has commanded."

⁸ Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you concerning all these words."

⁹ Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and 70 of Israel's elders,

¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. Beneath His feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire stone, as clear as the sky itself.

¹¹ God did not harm the Israelite nobles; they saw Him, and they ate and drank.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and stay there so that I may give you the stone tablets with the law and commands I have written for their instruction."

¹³ So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and went up the mountain of God.

¹⁴ He told the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. Aaron and Hur are here with you. Whoever has a dispute should go to them."

¹⁵ When Moses went up the mountain, the cloud covered it.

¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day He called to Moses from the cloud.

¹⁷ The appearance of the LORD's glory to the Israelites was like a consuming fire on the mountaintop.

¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud as he went up the mountain, and he remained on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights.

25 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Tell the Israelites to take an offering for Me. You are to take My offering from everyone whose heart stirs him to give .

³ This is the offering you are to receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze;

⁴ blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair;

⁵ ram skins dyed red and manatee skins; acacia wood;

⁶ oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;

⁷ and onyx along with other gemstones for mounting on the ephod and breastpiece.

⁸ "They are to make a sanctuary for Me so that I may dwell among them.

⁹ You must make it according to all that I show you--the design of the tabernacle as well as the design of all its furnishings."

¹⁰ "They are to make an ark of acacia wood, 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

¹¹ Overlay it with pure gold; overlay it both inside and out. Also make a gold molding all around it.

¹² Cast four gold rings for it and place them on its four feet, two rings on one side and two rings on the other side.

¹³ Make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

¹⁴ Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark in order to carry the ark with them.

¹⁵ The poles are to remain in the rings of the ark; they must not be removed from it.

¹⁶ Put the tablets of the testimony that I will give you into the ark.

¹⁷ Make a mercy seat of pure gold, 45 inches long and 27 inches wide.

¹⁸ Make two cherubim of gold; make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat.

¹⁹ Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end. Make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends.

²⁰ The cherubim are to have wings spread out above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and are to face one another. The faces of the cherubim should be toward the mercy seat.

²¹ Set the mercy seat on top of the ark and put the testimony that I will give you into the ark.

²² I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

²³ "You are to construct a table of acacia wood, 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

²⁴ Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding all around it.

²⁵ Make a three-inch frame all around it and make a gold molding for it all around its frame.

²⁶ Make four gold rings for it, and attach the rings to the four corners at its four legs.

²⁷ The rings should be next to the frame as holders for the poles to carry the table.

²⁸ Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold so that the table can be carried by them.

²⁹ You are also to make its plates and cups, as well as its pitchers and bowls for pouring drink offerings. Make them out of pure gold.

³⁰ Put the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times.

³¹ "You are to make a lampstand out of pure, hammered gold. It is to be made of one piece: its base and shaft, its ornamental cups, and its calyxes and petals.

³² Six branches are to extend from its sides, three branches of the lampstand from one side and three branches of the lampstand from the other side.

³³ There are to be three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with a calyx and petals, on the first branch, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with a calyx and petals, on the next branch. It is to be this way for the six branches that extend from the lampstand.

³⁴ There are to be four cups shaped like almond blossoms on the lampstand shaft along with its calyxes and petals.

³⁵ For the six branches that extend from the lampstand, a calyx must be under the first pair of branches from it, a calyx under the second pair of branches from it, and a calyx under the third pair of branches from it.

³⁶ Their calyxes and branches are to be of one piece. All of it is to be a single hammered piece of pure gold.

³⁷ "Make seven lamps on it. Its lamps are to be set up so they illuminate the area in front of it.

³⁸ Its snuffers and firepans must be of pure gold.

³⁹ The lampstand with all these utensils is to be made from 75 pounds of pure gold.

⁴⁰ Be careful to make everything according to the model of them you have been shown on the mountain.

26 ¹ "You are to construct the tabernacle itself with 10 curtains. You must make them of finely spun linen, and blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, with a design of cherubim worked into them.

² The length of each curtain should be 42 feet, and the width of each curtain six feet; all the curtains are to have the same measurements.

³ Five of the curtains should be joined together, and the other five curtains joined together.

⁴ Make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the last curtain in the first set, and do the same on the edge of the outermost curtain in the second set.

⁵ Make 50 loops on the one curtain and make 50 loops on the edge of the curtain in the second set, so that the loops line up together.

⁶ Also make 50 gold clasps and join the curtains together with the clasps, so that the tabernacle may be a single unit.

⁷ "You are to make curtains of goat hair for a tent over the tabernacle; make 11 of these curtains.

⁸ The length of each curtain should be 45 feet and the width of each curtain six feet. All 11 curtains are to have the same measurements.

⁹ Join five of the curtains by themselves, and the other six curtains by themselves. Then fold the sixth curtain double at the front of the tent.

¹⁰ Make 50 loops on the edge of the one curtain, the outermost in the first set, and make 50 loops on the edge of the corresponding curtain of the second set.

¹¹ Make 50 bronze clasps; put the clasps through the loops and join the tent together so that it is a single unit.

¹² As for the flap that is left over from the tent curtains, the leftover half curtain is to hang down over the back of the tabernacle.

¹³ The half yard on one side and the half yard on the other of what is left over along the length of the tent curtains should be hanging down over the sides of the tabernacle on either side to cover it.

¹⁴ Make a covering for the tent from ram skins dyed red, and a covering of manatee skins on top of that.

¹⁵ "You are to make upright planks of acacia wood for the tabernacle.

¹⁶ The length of each plank is to be 15 feet, and the width of each plank 27 inches.

¹⁷ Each plank must be connected together with two tenons. Do the same for all the planks of the tabernacle.

¹⁸ Make the planks for the tabernacle as follows: 20 planks for the south side,

¹⁹ and make 40 silver bases under the 20 planks, two bases under the first plank for its two tenons, and two bases under the next plank for its two tenons;

²⁰ 20 planks for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side,

²¹ along with their 40 silver bases, two bases under the first plank and two bases under each plank;

²² and make six planks for the west side of the tabernacle.

²³ Make two additional planks for the two back corners of the tabernacle.

²⁴ They are to be paired at the bottom, and joined together at the top in a single ring. So it should be for both of them; they will serve as the two corners.

²⁵ There are to be eight planks with their silver bases: 16 bases; two bases under the first plank and two bases under each plank.

²⁶ "You are to make five crossbars of acacia wood for the planks on one side of the tabernacle,

²⁷ five crossbars for the planks on the other side of the tabernacle, and five crossbars for the planks of the back side of the tabernacle on the west.

²⁸ The central crossbar is to run through the middle of the planks from one end to the other.

²⁹ Then overlay the planks with gold, and make their rings of gold as the holders for the crossbars. Also overlay the crossbars with gold.

³⁰ You are to set up the tabernacle according to the plan for it that you have been shown on the mountain.

³¹ "You are to make a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen with a design of cherubim worked into it.

³² Hang it on four gold-plated posts of acacia wood that have gold hooks and that stand on four silver bases.

³³ Hang the veil under the clasps and bring the ark of the testimony there behind the veil, so the veil will make a separation for you between the holy place and the most holy place.

³⁴ Put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

³⁵ Place the table outside the veil and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle, opposite the table; put the table on the north side.

³⁶ "For the entrance to the tent you are to make a screen embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen.

³⁷ Make five posts of acacia wood for the screen and overlay them with gold; their hooks are to be gold, and you are to cast five bronze bases for them.

27 ¹ "You are to construct the altar of acacia wood. The altar must be square, seven and a half feet long, and seven and a half feet wide; it must be four and a half feet high.

² Make horns for it on its four corners; the horns are to be of one piece. Overlay it with bronze.

³ Make its pots for removing ashes, and its shovels, basins, meat forks, and firepans; make all its utensils of bronze.

⁴ Construct a grate for it of bronze mesh, and make four bronze rings on the mesh at its four corners.

⁵ Set it below, under the altar's ledge, so that the mesh comes halfway up the altar.

⁶ Then make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze.

⁷ The poles are to be inserted into the rings, so that the poles are on two sides of the altar when it is carried.

⁸ Construct the altar with boards so that it is hollow. They are to make it just as it was shown to you on the mountain.

⁹ "You are to make the courtyard for the tabernacle. Make the hangings on the south of the courtyard out of finely spun linen, 150 feet long on that side.

¹⁰ There are to be 20 posts and 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands of the posts must be silver.

¹¹ Then make the hangings on the north side 150 feet long. There are to be 20 posts and 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands of the posts must be silver.

¹² Make the hangings of the courtyard on the west side 75 feet long, including their 10 posts and 10 bases.

¹³ Make the hangings of the courtyard on the east side toward the sunrise 75 feet.

¹⁴ Make the hangings on one side of the gate 22 and a half feet, including their three posts and their three bases.

¹⁵ And make the hangings on the other side 22 and a half feet , including their three posts and their three bases.

¹⁶ The gate of the courtyard is to have a thirty-foot screen embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and

finely spun linen. It is to have four posts including their four bases.

¹⁷ "All the posts around the courtyard are to be banded with silver and have silver hooks and bronze bases.

¹⁸ The length of the courtyard is to be 150 feet, the width 75 feet at each end, and the height seven and a half feet, all of it made of finely spun linen. The bases of the posts must be bronze.

¹⁹ All the tools of the tabernacle for every use and all its tent pegs as well as all the tent pegs of the courtyard are to be made of bronze.

²⁰ "You are to command the Israelites to bring you pure oil from crushed olives for the light, in order to keep the lamp burning continually.

²¹ In the tent of meeting outside the veil that is in front of the testimony, Aaron and his sons are to tend the lamp from evening until morning before the LORD.

This is to be a permanent statute for the Israelites throughout their generations.

28¹ "Have your brother Aaron, with his sons, come to you from the Israelites to serve Me as priest--Aaron, his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

² Make holy garments for your brother Aaron, for glory and beauty.

³ You are to instruct all the skilled craftsmen, whom I have filled with a spirit of wisdom, to make Aaron's garments for consecrating him to serve Me as priest.

⁴ These are the garments that they must make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a specially woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. They are to make holy garments for your brother Aaron and his sons so that they may serve Me as priests.

⁵ They should use gold; blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; and fine linen.

⁶ "They are to make the ephod of finely spun linen embroidered with gold, and with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn.

⁷ It must have two shoulder pieces attached to its two edges so that it can be joined together.

⁸ The artistically woven waistband that is on the ephod must be of one piece, according to the same workmanship of gold, of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and of finely spun linen.

⁹ "Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of Israel's sons:

¹⁰ six of their names on the first stone and the remaining six names on the second stone, in the order of their birth.

¹¹ Engrave the two stones with the names of Israel's sons as a gem cutter engraves a seal. Mount them, surrounded with gold filigree settings.

¹² Fasten both stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the Israelites. Aaron will carry their names on his two shoulders before the LORD as a reminder.

¹³ Fashion gold filigree settings

¹⁴ and two chains of pure gold; you will make them of braided cord work, and attach the cord chains to the settings.

¹⁵ "You are to make an embroidered breastpiece for decisions. Make it with the same workmanship as the ephod; make it of gold, of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and of finely spun linen.

¹⁶ It must be square and folded double, nine inches long and nine inches wide.

¹⁷ Place a setting of gemstones on it, four rows of stones: The first row should be a row of carnelian, topaz, and emerald;

¹⁸ the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;

¹⁹ the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

²⁰ and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They should be adorned with gold filigree in their settings.

²¹ The 12 stones are to correspond to the names of Israel's sons. Each stone must be engraved like a seal, with one of the names of the 12 tribes.

²² "You are to make braided chains of pure gold cord work for the breastpiece.

²³ Fashion two gold rings for the breastpiece and attach them to its two corners.

²⁴ Then attach the two gold cords to the two gold rings at the corners of the breastpiece.

²⁵ Attach the other ends of the two cords to the two filigree settings and in this way attach them to the ephod's shoulder pieces in the front.

²⁶ Make two other gold rings and put them at the two other corners of the breastpiece on the edge that is next to the inner border of the ephod.

²⁷ Make two more gold rings and attach them to the bottom of the ephod's two shoulder pieces on its front, close to its seam, and above the ephod's woven waistband.

²⁸ The craftsmen are to tie the breastpiece from its rings to the rings of the ephod with a cord of blue yarn, so that the breastpiece is above the ephod's waistband and does not come loose from the ephod.

²⁹ "Whenever he enters the sanctuary, Aaron is to carry the names of Israel's sons over his heart on the breastpiece for decisions, as a continual reminder before the LORD.

³⁰ Place the Urim and Thummim in the breastpiece for decisions, so that they

will also be over Aaron's heart whenever he comes before the LORD. Aaron will continually carry the means of decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD.

³¹ "You are to make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue yarn.

³² There should be an opening at its top in the center of it. Around the opening, there should be a woven collar with an opening like that for body armor so that it does not tear.

³³ Make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn on its lower hem and all around it. Put gold bells between them all the way around,

³⁴ so that gold bells and pomegranates alternate around the lower hem of the robe.

³⁵ The robe must be worn by Aaron whenever he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he enters the

sanctuary before the LORD and when he exits, so that he does not die.

³⁶ "You are to make a plate of pure gold and engrave it, like the engraving of a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD

³⁷ Fasten it to a cord of blue yarn so it can be placed on the turban; the plate is to be on the front of the turban.

³⁸ It will be on Aaron's forehead so that Aaron may bear the guilt connected with the holy offerings that the Israelites consecrate as all their holy gifts. It is always to be on his forehead, so that they may find acceptance with the LORD.

³⁹ "You are to weave the tunic from fine linen, make a turban of fine linen, and make an embroidered sash.

⁴⁰ Make tunics, sashes, and headbands for Aaron's sons to give them glory and beauty.

⁴¹ Put these on your brother Aaron and his sons; then anoint, ordain, and

consecrate them, so that they may serve Me as priests.

⁴² Make them linen undergarments to cover their naked bodies; they must extend from the waist to the thighs.

⁴³ These must be worn by Aaron and his sons whenever they enter the tent of meeting or approach the altar to minister in the sanctuary area , so that they do not incur guilt and die. This is to be a permanent statute for Aaron and for his descendants after him.

29 ¹ "This is what you are to do for them to consecrate them to serve Me as priests. Take a young bull and two unblemished rams,

² with unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers coated with oil. Make them out of fine wheat flour,

³ put them in a basket, and bring them in the basket, along with the bull and two rams.

⁴ Bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

⁵ Then take the garments and clothe Aaron with the tunic, the robe for the ephod, the ephod itself, and the breastpiece; fasten the ephod on him with its woven waistband.

⁶ Put the turban on his head and place the holy diadem on the turban.

⁷ Take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

⁸ You must also bring his sons, clothe them with tunics,

⁹ fasten headbands on them, and tie sashes around both Aaron and his sons. The priesthood is to be theirs by a permanent statute. This is the way you will ordain Aaron and his sons.

¹⁰ "You are to bring the bull to the front of the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons must lay their hands on the bull's head.

¹¹ Slaughter the bull before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹² Take some of the bull's blood and apply it to the horns of the altar with your finger; then pour out all the rest of the blood at the base of the altar.

¹³ Take all the fat that covers the entrails, the fatty lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys with the fat on them, and burn them on the altar.

¹⁴ But burn up the bull's flesh, its hide, and its dung outside the camp; it is a sin offering.

¹⁵ "Take one ram, and Aaron and his sons are to lay their hands on the ram's head.

¹⁶ You are to slaughter the ram, take its blood, and sprinkle it on all sides of the altar.

¹⁷ Cut the ram into pieces. Wash its entrails and shanks, and place them with its head and its pieces on the altar .

¹⁸ Then burn the whole ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to the LORD. It is a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD.

¹⁹ "You are to take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons must lay their hands on the ram's head.

²⁰ Slaughter the ram, take some of its blood, and put it on Aaron's right earlobe, on his sons' right earlobes, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Sprinkle the remaining blood on all sides of the altar.

²¹ Take some of the blood that is on the altar and some of the anointing oil,

and sprinkle them on Aaron and his garments, as well as on his sons and their garments. In this way, he and his garments will become holy, as well as his sons and their garments.

²² "Take the fat from the ram, the fat tail, the fat covering the entrails, the fatty lobe of the liver, the two kidneys and the fat on them, and the right thigh (since this is a ram for ordination);

²³ take one loaf of bread, one cake of bread made with oil, and one wafer from the basket of unleavened bread that is before the LORD;

²⁴ and put all of them in the hands of Aaron and his sons and wave them as a presentation offering before the LORD.

²⁵ Take them from their hands and burn them on the altar on top of the burnt offering, as a pleasing aroma before the LORD; it is a fire offering to the LORD.

²⁶ "Take the breast from the ram of Aaron's ordination and wave it as a presentation offering before the LORD; it is to be your portion.

²⁷ Consecrate for Aaron and his sons the breast of the presentation offering that is waved and the thigh of the contribution that is lifted up from the ram of ordination.

²⁸ This will belong to Aaron and his sons as a regular portion from the Israelites, for it is a contribution. It will be the Israelites' contribution from their fellowship sacrifices, their contribution to the LORD.

²⁹ "The holy garments that belong to Aaron are to belong to his sons after him, so that they can be anointed and ordained in them.

³⁰ Any priest who is one of his sons and who succeeds him and enters the tent

of meeting to minister in the sanctuary must wear them for seven days.

³¹ "You are to take the ram of ordination and boil its flesh in a holy place.

³² Aaron and his sons are to eat the meat of the ram and the bread that is in the basket at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

³³ They must eat those things by which atonement was made at the time of their ordination and consecration. An unauthorized person must not eat them , for these things are holy.

³⁴ If any of the meat of ordination or any of the bread is left until morning, burn up what is left over. It must not be eaten because it is holy.

³⁵ "This is what you are to do for Aaron and his sons based on all I have commanded you. Ordain them for seven days.

³⁶ Sacrifice a bull as a sin offering each day for atonement. Purify the altar when you make atonement for it, and anoint it in order to consecrate it.

³⁷ For seven days you must make atonement for the altar and consecrate it. The altar will become especially holy; whatever touches the altar will become holy.

³⁸ "This is what you are to offer regularly on the altar every day: two year-old lambs.

³⁹ In the morning offer one lamb, and at twilight offer the other lamb.

⁴⁰ With the first lamb offer two quarts of fine flour mixed with one quart of crushed olive oil, and a drink offering of one quart of wine.

⁴¹ You are to offer the second lamb at twilight. Offer a grain offering and a drink offering with it, like the one in

the morning, as a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD.

⁴² This will be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance to the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you.

⁴³ I will also meet with the Israelites there, and that place will be consecrated by My glory.

⁴⁴ I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve Me as priests.

⁴⁵ I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God.

⁴⁶ And they will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, so that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

30¹ "You are to make an altar for the burning of incense; make it of acacia wood.

² It must be square, 18 inches long and 18 inches wide; it must be 36 inches high. Its horns must be of one piece.

³ Overlay its top, all around its sides, and its horns with pure gold; make a gold molding all around it.

⁴ Make two gold rings for it under the molding on two of its sides; put these on opposite sides of it to be holders for the poles to carry it with.

⁵ Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

⁶ "You are to place the altar in front of the veil by the ark of the testimony--in front of the mercy seat that is over the testimony--where I will meet with you.

⁷ Aaron must burn fragrant incense on it; he must burn it every morning when he tends the lamps.

⁸ When Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he must burn incense. There

is to be an incense offering before the LORD throughout your generations.

⁹ You must not offer unauthorized incense on it, or a burnt or grain offering; you are not to pour a drink offering on it.

¹⁰ "Once a year Aaron is to perform the purification rite on the horns of the altar. Throughout your generations he is to perform the purification rite for it once a year, with the blood of the sin offering for atonement. The altar is especially holy to the LORD."

¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

¹² "When you take a census of the Israelites to register them, each of the men must pay a ransom for himself to the LORD as they are registered. Then no plague will come on them as they are registered.

¹³ Everyone who is registered must pay half a shekel according to the sanctuary

shekel (20 gerahs to the shekel). This half shekel is a contribution to the LORD.

¹⁴ Each man who is registered, 20 years old or more, must give this contribution to the LORD.

¹⁵ The wealthy may not give more, and the poor may not give less, than half a shekel when giving the contribution to the LORD to atone for your lives.

¹⁶ Take the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the tent of meeting. It will serve as a reminder for the Israelites before the LORD to atone for your lives."

¹⁷ The LORD spoke to Moses:

¹⁸ "Make a bronze basin for washing and a bronze stand for it. Set it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

¹⁹ Aaron and his sons must wash their hands and feet from the basin.

²⁰ Whenever they enter the tent of meeting or approach the altar to minister by burning up an offering to the LORD, they must wash with water so that they will not die.

²¹ They must wash their hands and feet so that they will not die; this is to be a permanent statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."

²² The LORD spoke to Moses:

²³ "Take for yourself the finest spices: 12 and a half pounds of liquid myrrh, half as much (six and a quarter pounds) of fragrant cinnamon, six and a quarter pounds of fragrant cane,

²⁴ 12 and a half pounds of cassia (by the sanctuary shekel), and one gallon of olive oil.

²⁵ Prepare from these a holy anointing oil, a scented blend, the work of a perfumer; it will be holy anointing oil.

²⁶ "With it you are to anoint the tent of meeting, the ark of the testimony,

²⁷ the table with all its utensils, the lampstand with its utensils, the altar of incense,

²⁸ the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin with its stand.

²⁹ Consecrate them and they will be especially holy. Whatever touches them will be consecrated.

³⁰ Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them to serve Me as priests.

³¹ "Tell the Israelites: This will be My holy anointing oil throughout your generations.

³² It must not be used for ordinary anointing on a person's body, and you must not make anything like it using its formula. It is holy, and it must be holy to you.

³³ Anyone who blends something like it or puts some of it on an unauthorized person must be cut off from his people."

³⁴ The LORD said to Moses: "Take fragrant spices: stacte, onycha, and galbanum; the spices and pure frankincense are to be in equal measures.

³⁵ Prepare expertly blended incense from these; it is to be seasoned with salt, pure and holy.

³⁶ Grind some of it into a fine powder and put some in front of the testimony in the tent of meeting, where I will meet with you. It must be especially holy to you.

³⁷ As for the incense you are making, you must not make any for yourselves using its formula. It is to be regarded by you as sacred to the LORD.

³⁸ Anyone who makes something like it to smell its fragrance must be cut off from his people."

31 ¹ The LORD also spoke to Moses:
² "Look, I have appointed by name Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

³ I have filled him with God's Spirit, with wisdom, understanding, and ability in every craft

⁴ to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze,

⁵ to cut gemstones for mounting, and to carve wood for work in every craft.

⁶ I have also selected Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to be with him. I have placed wisdom within every skilled craftsman in order to make all that I have commanded you:

⁷ the tent of meeting, the ark of the testimony, the mercy seat that is on top

of it, and all the other furnishings of the tent--

⁸ the table with its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense,

⁹ the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, the basin with its stand--

¹⁰ the specially woven garments, both the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons to serve as priests,

¹¹ the anointing oil, and the fragrant incense for the sanctuary. They must make them according to all that I have commanded you."

¹² The LORD said to Moses:

¹³ "Tell the Israelites: You must observe My Sabbaths, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, so that you will know that I am the LORD who sets you apart.

¹⁴ Observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Whoever profanes it must be put to death. If anyone does work on it, that person must be cut off from his people.

¹⁵ For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a Sabbath of complete rest, dedicated to the LORD. Anyone who does work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.

¹⁶ The Israelites must observe the Sabbath, celebrating it throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.

¹⁷ It is a sign forever between Me and the Israelites, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, but on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed."

¹⁸ When He finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, He gave him the two tablets of the testimony, stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God.

32 ¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us because this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt--we don't know what has happened to him!"

² Then Aaron replied to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me."

³ So all the people took off the gold rings that were on their ears and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ He took the gold from their hands, fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made it into an image of a calf. Then they said, "Israel, this is your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; then he made an

announcement: "There will be a festival to the LORD tomorrow."

⁶ Early the next morning they arose, offered burnt offerings, and presented fellowship offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink, then got up to revel.

⁷ The LORD spoke to Moses: "Go down at once! For your people you brought up from the land of Egypt have acted corruptly.

⁸ They have quickly turned from the way I commanded them; they have made for themselves an image of a calf. They have bowed down to it, sacrificed to it, and said, 'Israel, this is your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.'"

⁹ The LORD also said to Moses: "I have seen this people, and they are indeed a stiff-necked people.

¹⁰ Now leave Me alone, so that My anger can burn against them and I can destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses interceded with the LORD his God: "LORD, why does Your anger burn against Your people You brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and a strong hand?

¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'He brought them out with an evil intent to kill them in the mountains and wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from Your great anger and change Your mind about this disaster planned for Your people.

¹³ Remember that You swore to Your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel by Yourself and declared to them, 'I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of the sky and will give your offspring all this land that I have

promised, and they will inherit it forever."

¹⁴ So the LORD changed His mind about the disaster He said He would bring on His people.

¹⁵ Then Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides--inscribed front and back.

¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was God's writing, engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷ When Joshua heard the sound of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a sound of war in the camp."

¹⁸ But Moses replied: It's not the sound of a victory cry and not the sound of a cry of defeat; I hear the sound of singing!

¹⁹ As he approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses became

enraged and threw the tablets out of his hands, smashing them at the base of the mountain.

²⁰ Then he took the calf they had made, burned it up, and ground it to powder. He scattered the powder over the surface of the water and forced the Israelites to drink the water .

²¹ Then Moses asked Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have led them into such a grave sin?"

²² "Don't be enraged, my lord," Aaron replied. "You yourself know that the people are intent on evil.

²³ They said to me, 'Make us a god who will go before us because this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt--we don't know what has happened to him!'

²⁴ So I said to them, 'Whoever has gold, take it off,' and they gave it to me. When

I threw it into the fire, out came this calf!"

²⁵ Moses saw that the people were out of control, for Aaron had let them get out of control, so that they would be vulnerable to their enemies.

²⁶ And Moses stood at the camp's entrance and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites gathered around him.

²⁷ He told them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'Every man fasten his sword to his side; go back and forth through the camp from entrance to entrance, and each of you kill his brother, his friend, and his neighbor.'"

²⁸ The Levites did as Moses commanded, and about 3,000 men fell dead that day among the people.

²⁹ Afterwards Moses said, "Today you have been dedicated to the LORD, since

each man went against his son and his brother. Therefore you have brought a blessing on yourselves today."

³⁰ The following day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. Now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I will be able to pay for your sin."

³¹ So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, this people has committed a great sin; they have made for themselves a god of gold.

³² Now if You would only forgive their sin. But if not, please erase me from the book You have written."

³³ The LORD replied to Moses:
"Whoever has sinned against Me I will erase from My book.

³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I told you about; see, My angel will go before you. But on the day I settle accounts, I will hold them accountable for their sin."

³⁵ And the LORD inflicted a plague on the people for what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

33 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses: "Go, leave here, you and the people you brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying: I will give it to your offspring.

² I will send an angel ahead of you and will drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you because you are a stiff-necked people; otherwise, I might destroy you on the way."

⁴ When the people heard this bad news, they mourned and didn't put on their jewelry.

⁵ For the LORD said to Moses: "Tell the Israelites: You are a stiff-necked people. If I went with you for a single moment,

I would destroy you. Now take off your jewelry, and I will decide what to do with you."

⁶ So the Israelites remained stripped of their jewelry from Mount Horeb onward

⁷ Now Moses took a tent and set it up outside the camp, far away from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. Anyone who wanted to consult the LORD would go to the tent of meeting that was outside the camp.

⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would stand up, each one at the door of his tent, and they would watch Moses until he entered the tent.

⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and remain at the entrance to the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.

¹⁰ As all the people saw the pillar of cloud remaining at the entrance to the tent, they would stand up, then bow in worship, each one at the door of his tent.

¹¹ The LORD spoke with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his assistant, the young man Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the inside of the tent.

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "Look, You have told me, 'Lead this people up,' but You have not let me know whom You will send with me. You said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.'

¹³ Now if I have indeed found favor in Your sight, please teach me Your ways, and I will know You and find favor in Your sight. Now consider that this nation is Your people."

¹⁴ Then He replied, "My presence will go with you , and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ "If Your presence does not go," Moses responded to Him, "don't make us go up from here.

¹⁶ How will it be known that I and Your people have found favor in Your sight unless You go with us? I and Your people will be distinguished by this from all the other people on the face of the earth."

¹⁷ The LORD answered Moses, "I will do this very thing you have asked, for you have found favor in My sight, and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please, let me see Your glory."

¹⁹ He said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name Yahweh before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

²⁰ But He answered, "You cannot see My face, for no one can see Me and live."

²¹ The LORD said, "Here is a place near Me. You are to stand on the rock,

²² and when My glory passes by, I will put you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by.

²³ Then I will take My hand away, and you will see My back, but My face will not be seen."

34 ¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Cut two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

² Be prepared by morning. Come up Mount Sinai in the morning and stand before Me on the mountaintop.

³ No one may go up with you; in fact, no one must be seen anywhere on the

mountain. Even the flocks and herds are not to graze in front of that mountain."

⁴ Moses cut two stone tablets like the first ones. He got up early in the morning, and taking the two stone tablets in his hand, he climbed Mount Sinai, just as the LORD had commanded him.

⁵ The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed His name Yahweh.

⁶ Then the LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed: Yahweh--Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth,

⁷ maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations , forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children and

grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.

⁸ Moses immediately bowed down to the ground and worshiped.

⁹ Then he said, "My Lord, if I have indeed found favor in Your sight, my Lord, please go with us. Even though this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wrongdoing and sin, and accept us as Your own possession."

¹⁰ And the LORD responded: "Look, I am making a covenant. I will perform wonders in the presence of all your people that have never been done in all the earth or in any nation. All the people you live among will see the LORD's work, for what I am doing with you is awe-inspiring.

¹¹ Observe what I command you today. I am going to drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

¹² Be careful not to make a treaty with the inhabitants of the land that you are going to enter; otherwise, they will become a snare among you.

¹³ Instead, you must tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, and chop down their Asherah poles.

¹⁴ You are to never bow down to another god because the LORD, being jealous by nature, is a jealous God.

¹⁵ "Do not make a treaty with the inhabitants of the land, or else when they prostitute themselves with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, they will invite you, and you will eat of their sacrifice.

¹⁶ Then you will take some of their daughters as brides for your sons. Their daughters will prostitute themselves with their gods and cause your sons to prostitute themselves with their gods.

¹⁷ "Do not make cast images of gods for yourselves.

¹⁸ "Observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread. You are to eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib as I commanded you. For you came out of Egypt in the month of Abib.

¹⁹ "The firstborn male from every womb belongs to Me, including all your male livestock, the firstborn of cattle or sheep.

²⁰ You must redeem the firstborn of a donkey with a sheep, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. You must redeem all the firstborn of your sons. No one is to appear before Me empty-handed.

²¹ "You are to labor six days but you must rest on the seventh day; you must even rest during plowing and harvesting times.

²² "Observe the Festival of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the agricultural year.

²³ Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.

²⁴ For I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your territory. No one will covet your land when you go up three times a year to appear before the LORD your God.

²⁵ "Do not present the blood for My sacrifice with anything leavened. The sacrifice of the Passover Festival must not remain until morning.

²⁶ "Bring the best firstfruits of your land to the house of the LORD your God. "You must not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."

²⁷ The LORD also said to Moses, "Write down these words, for I have made a

covenant with you and with Israel based on these words."

²⁸ Moses was there with the LORD 40 days and 40 nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. He wrote down on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments.

²⁹ As Moses descended from Mount Sinai--with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands as he descended the mountain--he did not realize that the skin of his face shone as a result of his speaking with the LORD.

³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face shone! They were afraid to come near him.

³¹ But Moses called out to them, so Aaron and all the leaders of the community returned to him, and Moses spoke to them.

³² Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he commanded them

everything the LORD had told him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

³⁴ But whenever Moses went before the LORD to speak with Him, he would remove the veil until he came out. After he came out, he would tell the Israelites what he had been commanded,

³⁵ and the Israelites would see that Moses' face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil over his face again until he went to speak with the LORD.

35 ¹ Moses assembled the entire Israelite community and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do:

² For six days work is to be done, but on the seventh day you are to have a holy day, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD. Anyone who does work on it must be executed.

³ Do not light a fire in any of your homes on the Sabbath day."

⁴ Then Moses said to the entire Israelite community, "This is what the LORD has commanded:

⁵ Take up an offering for the LORD among you. Let everyone whose heart is willing bring this as the LORD's offering: gold, silver, and bronze;

⁶ blue, purple, and scarlet yarn; fine linen and goat hair;

⁷ ram skins dyed red and manatee skins; acacia wood;

⁸ oil for the light; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense;

⁹ and onyx with gemstones to mount on the ephod and breastpiece.

¹⁰ "Let all the skilled craftsmen among you come and make everything that the LORD has commanded:

¹¹ the tabernacle--its tent and covering, its clasps and planks, its crossbars, its posts and bases;

¹² the ark with its poles, the mercy seat, and the veil for the screen;

¹³ the table with its poles, all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence;

¹⁴ the lampstand for light with its utensils and lamps as well as the oil for the light;

¹⁵ the altar of incense with its poles; the anointing oil and the fragrant incense; the entryway screen for the entrance to the tabernacle;

¹⁶ the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grate, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin with its stand;

¹⁷ the hangings of the courtyard, its posts and bases, and the screen for the gate of the courtyard;

¹⁸ the tent pegs for the tabernacle and the tent pegs for the courtyard, along with their ropes;

¹⁹ and the specially woven garments for ministering in the sanctuary--the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons to serve as priests."

²⁰ Then the entire Israelite community left Moses' presence.

²¹ Everyone whose heart was moved and whose spirit prompted him came and brought an offering to the LORD to construct the tent of meeting for every use, and to make the holy garments.

²² Both men and women came; all who had willing hearts brought brooches, earrings, rings, necklaces, and all kinds of gold jewelry--everyone who waved a presentation offering of gold to the LORD.

²³ Everyone who had in his possession blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, fine linen or goat hair, ram skins dyed red or manatee skins, brought them .

²⁴ Everyone who offered a contribution of silver or bronze brought it to the LORD. Everyone who possessed acacia wood useful for any task in the work brought it .

²⁵ Every skilled woman spun yarn with her hands and brought it: blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.

²⁶ And all the women whose hearts were moved spun the goat hair by virtue of their skill.

²⁷ The leaders brought onyx and gemstones to mount on the ephod and breastpiece,

²⁸ as well as the spice and oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense.

²⁹ So the Israelites brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts prompted them to bring something for all the work that the LORD, through Moses, had commanded to be done.

³⁰ Moses then said to the Israelites: "Look, the LORD has appointed by name Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

³¹ He has filled him with God's Spirit, with wisdom, understanding, and ability in every kind of craft

³² to design artistic works in gold, silver, and bronze,

³³ to cut gemstones for mounting, and to carve wood for work in every kind of artistic craft.

³⁴ He has also given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others .

³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do all the work of a gem cutter; a designer; an embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen; and a weaver. They can do every kind of craft and design artistic designs.

36 ¹ Bezalel, Oholiab, and all the skilled people are to work based on everything the LORD has commanded. The LORD has given them wisdom and understanding to know how to do all the work of constructing the sanctuary."

² So Moses summoned Bezalel, Oholiab, and every skilled person in whose heart the LORD had placed wisdom, everyone whose heart moved him, to come to the work and do it.

³ They took from Moses' presence all the contributions that the Israelites had brought for the task of making the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the people

continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.

⁴ Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work for the sanctuary came one by one from the work they were doing

⁵ and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than is needed for the construction of the work the LORD commanded to be done."

⁶ After Moses gave an order, they sent a proclamation throughout the camp: "Let no man or woman make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." So the people stopped.

⁷ The materials were sufficient for them to do all the work. There was more than enough.

⁸ All the skilled craftsmen among those doing the work made the tabernacle with 10 curtains. Bezalel made them of finely spun linen, as well as blue,

purple, and scarlet yarn, with a design of cherubim worked into them.

⁹ The length of each curtain was 42 feet, and the width of each curtain six feet; all the curtains had the same measurements.

¹⁰ He joined five of the curtains to each other, and the other five curtains he joined to each other.

¹¹ He made loops of blue yarn on the edge of the last curtain in the first set and did the same on the edge of the outermost curtain in the second set.

¹² He made 50 loops on the one curtain and 50 loops on the edge of the curtain in the second set, so that the loops lined up with each other.

¹³ He also made 50 gold clasps and joined the curtains to each other, so that the tabernacle became a single unit.

¹⁴ He made curtains of goat hair for a tent over the tabernacle; he also made 11 of them.

¹⁵ The length of each curtain was 45 feet, and the width of each curtain six feet. All 11 curtains had the same measurements.

¹⁶ He joined five of the curtains together, and the other six together.

¹⁷ He made 50 loops on the edge of the outermost curtain in the first set and 50 loops on the edge of the corresponding curtain in the second set.

¹⁸ He made 50 bronze clasps to join the tent together as a single unit.

¹⁹ He also made a covering for the tent from ram skins dyed red and a covering of manatee skins on top of it.

²⁰ He made upright planks of acacia wood for the tabernacle.

²¹ The length of each plank was 15 feet, and the width of each was 27 inches.

²² There were two tenons connected to each other for each plank. He did the same for all the planks of the tabernacle.

²³ He made planks for the tabernacle as follows: 20 for the south side,

²⁴ and he made 40 silver bases to put under the 20 planks, two bases under the first plank for its two tenons, and two bases under each of the following planks for their two tenons;

²⁵ for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made 20 planks,

²⁶ with their 40 silver bases, two bases under the first plank and two bases under each of the following ones;

²⁷ and for the west side of the tabernacle he made six planks.

²⁸ He also made two additional planks for the two back corners of the tabernacle.

²⁹ They were paired at the bottom and joined together at the top in a single

ring. This is what he did with both of them for the two corners.

³⁰ So there were eight planks with their 16 silver bases, two bases under each one.

³¹ He made five crossbars of acacia wood for the planks on one side of the tabernacle,

³² five crossbars for the planks on the other side of the tabernacle, and five crossbars for those at the back of the tabernacle on the west.

³³ He made the central crossbar run through the middle of the planks from one end to the other.

³⁴ He overlaid them with gold and made their rings and holders for the crossbars out of gold. He also overlaid the crossbars with gold.

³⁵ Then he made the veil with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely

spun linen. He made it with a design of cherubim worked into it.

³⁶ For it he made four posts of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold; their hooks were of gold. And he cast four silver bases for the posts.

³⁷ He made a screen embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen for the entrance to the tent,

³⁸ together with its five posts and their hooks. He overlaid the tops of the posts and their bands with gold, but their five bases were bronze.

37 ¹ Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood, 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

² He overlaid it with pure gold inside and out and made a gold molding all around it.

³ He cast four gold rings for it to be on its four feet, two rings on one side and two rings on the other side.

⁴ He made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

⁵ He inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark for carrying the ark.

⁶ He made a mercy seat of pure gold, 45 inches long and 27 inches wide.

⁷ He made two cherubim of gold; he made them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat,

⁸ one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end. He made the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat, a cherubim at each end.

⁹ They had wings spread out, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing each other. The faces of the cherubim were looking toward the mercy seat.

¹⁰ He constructed the table of acacia wood, 36 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 27 inches high.

¹¹ He overlaid it with pure gold and made a gold molding all around it.

¹² He made a three-inch frame all around it and made a gold molding all around its frame.

¹³ He cast four gold rings for it and attached the rings to the four corners at its four legs.

¹⁴ The rings were next to the frame as holders for the poles to carry the table.

¹⁵ He made the poles for carrying the table from acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

¹⁶ He also made the utensils that would be on the table out of pure gold: its plates and cups, as well as its bowls and pitchers for pouring drink offerings.

¹⁷ Then he made the lampstand out of pure hammered gold. He made it all of one piece: its base and shaft, its ornamental cups, and its calyxes and petals.

¹⁸ Six branches extended from its sides, three branches of the lampstand from one side and three branches of the lampstand from the other side.

¹⁹ There were three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with a calyx and petals, on the first branch, and three cups shaped like almond blossoms, each with a calyx and petals, on the next branch. It was this way for the six branches that extended from the lampstand.

²⁰ On the lampstand shaft there were four cups shaped like almond blossoms with its calyxes and petals.

²¹ For the six branches that extended from it, a calyx was under the first pair of branches from it, a calyx under the second pair of branches from it, and a calyx under the third pair of branches from it.

²² Their calyxes and branches were of one piece. All of it was a single hammered piece of pure gold.

²³ He also made its seven lamps, snuffers, and firepans of pure gold.

²⁴ He made it and all its utensils of 75 pounds of pure gold.

²⁵ He made the altar of incense out of acacia wood. It was square, 18 inches long and 18 inches wide; it was 36 inches high. Its horns were of one piece.

²⁶ He overlaid it, its top, all around its sides, and its horns with pure gold. Then he made a gold molding all around it.

²⁷ He made two gold rings for it under the molding on two of its sides; he put these on opposite sides of it to be holders for the poles to carry it with.

²⁸ He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

²⁹ He also made the holy anointing oil and the pure, fragrant, and expertly blended incense.

38 ¹ Bezalel constructed the altar of burnt offering from acacia wood. It was square, seven and a half feet long and seven and a half feet wide, and was four and a half feet high.

² He made horns for it on its four corners; the horns were of one piece. Then he overlaid it with bronze.

³ He made all the altar's utensils: the pots, shovels, basins, meat forks, and firepans; he made all its utensils of bronze.

⁴ He constructed for the altar a grate of bronze mesh under its ledge, halfway up from the bottom.

⁵ At the four corners of the bronze grate he cast four rings as holders for the poles.

⁶ He also made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze.

⁷ Then he inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar in order to carry it with them. He constructed the altar with boards so that it was hollow.

⁸ He made the bronze basin and its stand from the bronze mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁹ Then he made the courtyard. The hangings on the south side of the courtyard were of finely spun linen, 150 feet in length,

¹⁰ including their 20 posts and 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands of the posts were silver.

¹¹ The hangings on the north side were also 150 feet in length, including their 20 posts and 20 bronze bases. The hooks and bands of the posts were silver.

¹² The hangings on the west side were 75 feet in length, including their 10 posts and 10 bases. The hooks and bands of the posts were silver.

¹³ The hangings on the east toward the sunrise were also 75 feet in length.

¹⁴ The hangings on one side of the gate were 22 and a half feet, including their three posts and three bases.

¹⁵ It was the same for the other side. The hangings were 22 and a half feet, including their three posts and three bases on both sides of the courtyard gate.

¹⁶ All the hangings around the courtyard were of finely spun linen.

¹⁷ The bases for the posts were bronze; the hooks and bands of the posts were silver; and the plating for the tops of the posts was silver. All the posts of the courtyard were banded with silver.

¹⁸ The screen for the gate of the courtyard was embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen. It was 30 feet long, and like the hangings of the courtyard, seven and a half feet high.

¹⁹ It had four posts, including their four bronze bases. Their hooks were silver, and the bands as well as the plating of their tops were silver.

²⁰ All the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the surrounding courtyard were bronze.

²¹ This is the inventory for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, that was recorded at Moses' command. It was the work of the Levites under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

²² Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything that the LORD commanded Moses.

²³ With him was Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, a gem cutter, a designer, and an embroiderer with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.

²⁴ All the gold of the presentation offering that was used for the project in all the work on the sanctuary, was 2,193 pounds, according to the sanctuary shekel.

²⁵ The silver from those of the community who were registered was 7,544 pounds, according to the sanctuary shekel--

²⁶ two-fifths of an ounce per man, that is, half a shekel according to the sanctuary shekel, from everyone 20 years old or more who had crossed over to the registered group, 603,550 men.

²⁷ There were 7,500 pounds of silver used to cast the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil--100 bases

from 7,500 pounds, 75 pounds for each base.

²⁸ With the remaining 44 pounds he made the hooks for the posts, overlaid their tops, and supplied bands for them.

²⁹ The bronze of the presentation offering totaled 5,310 pounds.

³⁰ He made with it the bases for the entrance to the tent of meeting, the bronze altar and its bronze grate, all the utensils for the altar,

³¹ the bases for the surrounding courtyard, the bases for the gate of the courtyard, all the tent pegs for the tabernacle, and all the tent pegs for the surrounding courtyard.

39 ¹ They made specially woven garments for ministry in the sanctuary, and the holy garments for Aaron from the blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

² Bezalel made the ephod of gold, of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and of finely spun linen.

³ They hammered out thin sheets of gold, and he cut threads from them to interweave with the blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and the fine linen in a skillful design.

⁴ They made shoulder pieces for attaching it; it was joined together at its two edges.

⁵ The artistically woven waistband that was on the ephod was of one piece with the ephod, according to the same workmanship of gold, of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and of finely spun linen, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁶ Then they mounted the onyx stones surrounded with gold filigree settings, engraved with the names of Israel's sons as a gem cutter engraves a seal.

⁷ He fastened them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the Israelites, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁸ He also made the embroidered breastpiece with the same workmanship as the ephod of gold, of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and of finely spun linen.

⁹ They made the breastpiece square and folded double, nine inches long and nine inches wide.

¹⁰ They mounted four rows of gemstones on it. The first row was a row of carnelian, topaz, and emerald;

¹¹ the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;

¹² the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

¹³ and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They were surrounded with gold filigree in their settings.

¹⁴ The 12 stones corresponded to the names of Israel's sons. Each stone was engraved like a seal with one of the names of the 12 tribes.

¹⁵ They made braided chains of pure gold cord for the breastpiece.

¹⁶ They also fashioned two gold filigree settings and two gold rings and attached the two rings to its two corners.

¹⁷ Then they attached the two gold cords to the two gold rings on the corners of the breastpiece.

¹⁸ They attached the other ends of the two cords to the two filigree settings and, in this way, attached them to the ephod's shoulder pieces in front.

¹⁹ They made two other gold rings and put them at the two other corners of the breastpiece on the edge that is next to the inner border of the ephod.

²⁰ They made two more gold rings and attached them to the bottom of the

ephod's two shoulder pieces on its front, close to its seam, above the ephod's woven waistband.

²¹ Then they tied the breastpiece from its rings to the rings of the ephod with a cord of blue yarn, so that the breastpiece was above the ephod's waistband and did not come loose from the ephod. They did just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²² They made the woven robe of the ephod entirely of blue yarn.

²³ There was an opening in the center of the robe like that for body armor with a collar around the opening so that it would not tear.

²⁴ They made pomegranates of finely spun blue, purple, and scarlet yarn on the lower hem of the robe.

²⁵ They made bells of pure gold and attached the bells between the

pomegranates, all around the hem of the robe between the pomegranates,
²⁶ a bell and a pomegranate alternating all around the lower hem of the robe. It is to be used for ministry, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁷ They made the tunics of fine woven linen for Aaron and his sons.

²⁸ They also made the turban and the ornate headbands of fine linen, the undergarments,

²⁹ and the sash of finely spun linen of embroidered blue, purple, and scarlet yarn. They did just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁰ They also made a plate, the holy diadem, out of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription like the engraving on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD

³¹ Then they attached a cord of blue yarn to it in order to mount it

on the turban, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³² So all the work for the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was finished. The Israelites did everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³³ Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses: the tent with all its furnishings, its clasps, its planks, its crossbars, and its posts and bases;

³⁴ the covering of ram skins dyed red and the covering of manatee skins; the veil for the screen;

³⁵ the ark of the testimony with its poles and the mercy seat;

³⁶ the table, all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence;

³⁷ the pure gold lampstand, with its lamps arranged and all its utensils, as well as the oil for the light;

³⁸ the gold altar; the anointing oil; the fragrant incense; the screen for the entrance to the tent;

³⁹ the bronze altar with its bronze grate, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin with its stand;

⁴⁰ the hangings of the courtyard, its posts and bases, the screen for the gate of the courtyard, its ropes and tent pegs, and all the equipment for the service of the tabernacle, the tent of meeting;

⁴¹ and the specially woven garments for ministering in the sanctuary, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons to serve as priests.

⁴² The Israelites had done all the work according to everything the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁴³ Moses inspected all the work they had accomplished. They had done just as the LORD commanded. Then Moses blessed them.

40 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "You are to set up the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, on the first day of the first month.

³ Put the ark of the testimony there, and screen off the ark with the veil.

⁴ Then bring in the table and lay out its arrangement; also bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps.

⁵ Place the gold altar for incense in front of the ark of the testimony. Put up the screen for the entrance to the tabernacle.

⁶ Position the altar of burnt offering in front of the entrance to the tabernacle, the tent of meeting.

⁷ Place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

⁸ Assemble the surrounding courtyard and hang the screen for the gate of the courtyard.

⁹ "Take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it along with all its furnishings so that it will be holy.

¹⁰ Anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils; consecrate the altar so that it will be especially holy.

¹¹ Anoint the basin and its stand, and consecrate it.

¹² "Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

¹³ Clothe Aaron with the holy garments, anoint him, and consecrate him, so that he can serve Me as a priest.

¹⁴ Have his sons come forward and clothe them in tunics.

¹⁵ Anoint them just as you anointed their father, so that they may also serve Me as priests. Their anointing will serve to inaugurate a permanent priesthood for them throughout their generations."

¹⁶ Moses did everything just as the LORD had commanded him.

¹⁷ The tabernacle was set up in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month.

¹⁸ Moses set up the tabernacle: he laid its bases, positioned its planks, inserted its crossbars, and set up its posts.

¹⁹ Then he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent on top of it, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁰ Moses took the testimony and placed it in the ark, and attached the poles to the ark. He set the mercy seat on top of the ark.

²¹ He brought the ark into the tabernacle, put up the veil for the screen, and screened off the ark of the testimony, just as the LORD had commanded him.

²² Moses placed the table in the tent of meeting on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil.

²³ He arranged the bread on it before the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded him.

²⁴ He also put the lampstand in the tent of meeting opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle

²⁵ and set up the lamps before the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded him.

²⁶ Moses also installed the gold altar in the tent of meeting, in front of the veil,

²⁷ and burned fragrant incense on it, just as the LORD had commanded him.

²⁸ He put up the screen at the entrance to the tabernacle.

²⁹ Then he placed the altar of burnt offering at the entrance to the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, and offered the burnt offering and the grain

offering on it, just as the LORD had commanded him.

³⁰ He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing.

³¹ Moses, Aaron, and his sons washed their hands and feet from it.

³² They washed whenever they came to the tent of meeting and approached the altar, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³³ Next Moses set up the surrounding courtyard for the tabernacle and the altar and hung a screen for the gate of the courtyard. So Moses finished the work.

³⁴ The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ Moses was unable to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud rested on

it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ The Israelites set out whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle throughout all the stages of their journey.

³⁷ If the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day it was taken up.

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and there was a fire inside the cloud by night, visible to the entire house of Israel throughout all the stages of their journey.

Leviticus

1 ¹ Then the LORD summoned Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting:

² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When any of you brings an offering to the LORD from the livestock, you may bring your offering from the herd or the flock.

³ "If his gift is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to bring an unblemished male. He must bring it to the entrance to the tent of meeting so that he may be accepted by the LORD.

⁴ He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering so it can be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.

⁵ He is to slaughter the bull before the LORD; Aaron's sons the priests are to present the blood and sprinkle it on all sides of the altar that is at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁶ Then he must skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces.

⁷ The sons of Aaron the priest will prepare a fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire.

⁸ Aaron's sons the priests are to arrange the pieces, the head, and the suet on top of the burning wood on the altar.

⁹ The offerer must wash its entrails and shanks with water. Then the priest will burn all of it on the altar as a burnt offering, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰ "But if his gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from sheep or goats, he is to present an unblemished male.

¹¹ He will slaughter it on the north side of the altar before the LORD. Aaron's sons the priests will sprinkle its blood against the altar on all sides.

¹² He will cut it into pieces with its head and its suet, and the priest will arrange them on top of the burning wood on the altar.

¹³ But he is to wash the entrails and shanks with water. The priest will then present all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴ "If his gift to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, he is to present his offering from the turtledoves or young pigeons.

¹⁵ Then the priest must bring it to the altar, and must twist off its head and burn it on the altar; its blood should be drained at the side of the altar.

¹⁶ He will remove its digestive tract, cutting off the tail feathers, and throw it on the east side of the altar at the place for ashes.

¹⁷ He will tear it open by its wings without dividing the bird . Then the priest is to burn it on the altar on top of the burning wood. It is a burnt offering, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

2¹ "When anyone presents a grain offering as a gift to the LORD, his gift must consist of fine flour. He is to pour olive oil on it, put frankincense on it,
² and bring it to Aaron's sons the priests. The priest will take a handful of fine flour and oil from it, along with all its frankincense, and will burn this memorial portion of it on the altar, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

³ But the rest of the grain offering will belong to Aaron and his sons, the holiest part of the fire offerings to the LORD.

⁴ "When you present a grain offering baked in an oven, it must be made of fine flour, either unleavened cakes mixed with oil or unleavened wafers coated with oil.

⁵ If your gift is a grain offering prepared on the griddle, it must be unleavened bread made of fine flour mixed with oil.

⁶ Break it into pieces and pour oil on it; it is a grain offering.

⁷ If your gift is a grain offering prepared in a pan, it must be made of fine flour with oil.

⁸ When you bring to the LORD the grain offering made in any of these ways, it is to be presented to the priest, and he will take it to the altar.

⁹ The priest will remove the memorial portion from the grain offering and burn

it on the altar, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰ But the rest of the grain offering will belong to Aaron and his sons, the holiest part of the fire offerings to the LORD.

¹¹ "No grain offering that you present to the LORD is to be made with yeast, for you are not to burn any yeast or honey as a fire offering to the LORD.

¹² You may present them to the LORD as an offering of firstfruits, but they are not to be offered on the altar as a pleasing aroma.

¹³ You are to season each of your grain offerings with salt; you must not omit from your grain offering the salt of the covenant with your God. You are to present salt with each of your offerings.

¹⁴ "If you present a grain offering of firstfruits to the LORD, you must present fresh heads of grain, crushed kernels,

roasted on the fire, for your grain offering of firstfruits.

¹⁵ You are to put oil and frankincense on it; it is a grain offering.

¹⁶ The priest will then burn some of its crushed kernels and oil with all its frankincense as a fire offering to the LORD.

3¹ "If his offering is a fellowship sacrifice, and he is presenting an animal from the herd, whether male or female, he must present one without blemish before the LORD.

² He is to lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance to the tent of meeting. Then Aaron's sons the priests will sprinkle the blood on all sides of the altar.

³ He will present part of the fellowship sacrifice as a fire offering to the LORD: the fat surrounding the entrails, all the fat that is on the entrails,

⁴ and the two kidneys with the fat on them at the loins; he will also remove the fatty lobe of the liver with the kidneys.

⁵ Aaron's sons will burn it on the altar along with the burnt offering that is on the burning wood, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁶ "If his offering as a fellowship sacrifice to the LORD is from the flock, he must present a male or female without blemish.

⁷ If he is presenting a lamb for his offering, he is to present it before the LORD.

⁸ He must lay his hand on the head of his offering, then slaughter it before the tent of meeting. Aaron's sons will sprinkle its blood on all sides of the altar.

⁹ He will then present part of the fellowship sacrifice as a fire offering to the LORD consisting of its fat and the entire fat tail, which he is to remove

close to the backbone. He will also remove the fat surrounding the entrails, all the fat on the entrails,

¹⁰ the two kidneys with the fat on them at the loins, and the fatty lobe of the liver above the kidneys.

¹¹ Then the priest will burn it on the altar as food, a fire offering to the LORD.

¹² "If his offering is a goat, he is to present it before the LORD.

¹³ He must lay his hand on its head and slaughter it before the tent of meeting. Aaron's sons will sprinkle its blood on all sides of the altar.

¹⁴ He will present part of his offering as a fire offering to the LORD: the fat surrounding the entrails, all the fat that is on the entrails,

¹⁵ and the two kidneys with the fat on them at the loins; he will also remove the fatty lobe of the liver with the kidneys.

¹⁶ Then the priest will burn them on the altar as food, a fire offering for a pleasing aroma. "All fat belongs to the LORD.

¹⁷ This is a permanent statute throughout your generations, wherever you live: you must not eat any fat or any blood."

4 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Tell the Israelites: When someone sins unintentionally against any of the LORD's commands and does anything prohibited by them--

³ "If the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, he is to present to the LORD a young, unblemished bull as a sin offering for the sin he has committed.

⁴ He must bring the bull to the entrance to the tent of meeting before the LORD, lay his hand on the bull's head, and slaughter it before the LORD.

⁵ The anointed priest must then take some of the bull's blood and bring it into the tent of meeting.

⁶ The priest is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of it seven times before the LORD in front of the veil of the sanctuary.

⁷ The priest must apply some of the blood to the horns of the altar of fragrant incense that is before the LORD in the tent of meeting. He must pour out the rest of the bull's blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁸ He is to remove all the fat from the bull of the sin offering: the fat surrounding the entrails; all the fat that is on the entrails;

⁹ and the two kidneys with the fat on them at the loins. He will also remove the fatty lobe of the liver with the kidneys,

¹⁰ just as the fat is removed from the ox of the fellowship sacrifice. The priest is to burn them on the altar of burnt offering.

¹¹ But the hide of the bull and all its flesh, with its head and shanks, and its entrails and dung--

¹² all the rest of the bull--he must bring to a ceremonially clean place outside the camp to the ash heap, and must burn it on a wood fire. It is to be burned at the ash heap.

¹³ "Now if the whole community of Israel errs, and the matter escapes the notice of the assembly, so that they violate any of the LORD's commands and incur guilt by doing what is prohibited,

¹⁴ then the assembly must present a young bull as a sin offering. When the sin they have committed in regard to the command becomes known, they are to bring it before the tent of meeting.

¹⁵ The elders of the assembly are to lay their hands on the bull's head before the LORD and it is to be slaughtered before the LORD.

¹⁶ The anointed priest will bring some of the bull's blood into the tent of meeting.

¹⁷ The priest is to dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD in front of the veil.

¹⁸ He is to apply some of the blood to the horns of the altar that is before the LORD in the tent of meeting. He must pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹⁹ He is to remove all the fat from it and burn it on the altar.

²⁰ He is to offer this bull just as he did with the bull in the sin offering; he will offer it the same way. So the priest will

make atonement on their behalf, and they will be forgiven.

²¹ Then he will bring the bull outside the camp and burn it just as he burned the first bull. It is the sin offering for the assembly.

²² "When a leader sins and unintentionally violates any of the commands of the LORD his God by doing what is prohibited, and incurs guilt,

²³ or someone informs him about the sin he has committed, he is to bring an unblemished male goat as his offering.

²⁴ He is to lay his hand on the head of the goat and slaughter it at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered before the LORD. It is a sin offering.

²⁵ Then the priest must take some of the blood from the sin offering with his finger and apply it to the horns of the altar of burnt offering. The rest of its

blood he must pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering.

²⁶ He must burn all its fat on the altar, like the fat of the fellowship sacrifice. In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf for that person's sin, and he will be forgiven.

²⁷ "Now if any of the common people sins unintentionally by violating one of the LORD's commands, does what is prohibited, and incurs guilt,

²⁸ or if someone informs him about the sin he has committed, then he is to bring an unblemished female goat as his offering for the sin that he has committed.

²⁹ He is to lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place of the burnt offering.

³⁰ Then the priest must take some of its blood with his finger and apply it to the horns of the altar of burnt offering. He

must pour out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

³¹ He is to remove all its fat just as the fat is removed from the fellowship sacrifice. The priest is to burn it on the altar as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf, and he will be forgiven.

³² "Or if the offering that he brings as a sin offering is a lamb, he is to bring an unblemished female.

³³ He is to lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it as a sin offering at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered.

³⁴ Then the priest must take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and apply it to the horns of the altar of burnt offering. He must pour out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

³⁵ He is to remove all its fat just as the fat of the lamb is removed from the fellowship sacrifice. The priest will burn it on the altar along with the fire offerings to the LORD. In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven.

5 ¹ "When someone sins in any of these ways : If he has seen, heard, or known about something he has witnessed, and did not respond to a public call to testify, he is guilty.

² Or if someone touches anything unclean--a carcass of an unclean wild animal, or unclean livestock, or an unclean swarming creature--without being aware of it, he is unclean and guilty.

³ Or if he touches human uncleanness--any uncleanness by which one can

become defiled--without being aware of it, but later recognizes it , he is guilty.

⁴ Or if someone swears rashly to do what is good or evil--concerning anything a person may speak rashly in an oath--without being aware of it, but later recognizes it, he incurs guilt in such an instance.

⁵ If someone incurs guilt in one of these cases, he is to confess he has committed that sin.

⁶ He must bring his restitution for the sin he has committed to the LORD: a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin.

⁷ "But if he cannot afford an animal from the flock, then he may bring to the LORD two turtledoves or two young pigeons as restitution for his sin--one as

a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering.

⁸ He is to bring them to the priest, who will first present the one for the sin offering. He must twist its head at the back of the neck without severing it .

⁹ Then he will sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, while the rest of the blood is to be drained out at the base of the altar; it is a sin offering.

¹⁰ He must prepare the second bird as a burnt offering according to the regulation. In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven.

¹¹ "But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he may bring two quarts of fine flour as an offering for his sin. He must not put olive

oil or frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering.

¹² He is to bring it to the priest, who will take a handful from it as its memorial portion and burn it on the altar along with the fire offerings to the LORD; it is a sin offering.

¹³ In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf concerning the sin he has committed in any of these cases, and he will be forgiven. The rest will belong to the priest, like the grain offering."

¹⁴ Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

¹⁵ "If someone offends by sinning unintentionally in regard to any of the LORD's holy things, he must bring his restitution offering to the LORD: an unblemished ram from the flock by your valuation in silver shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel, as a restitution offering.

¹⁶ He must make restitution for his sin regarding any holy thing, adding a fifth of its value to it, and give it to the priest. Then the priest will make atonement on his behalf with the ram of the restitution offering, and he will be forgiven.

¹⁷ "If someone sins and without knowing it violates any of the LORD's commands concerning anything prohibited, he bears the consequences of his guilt.

¹⁸ He must bring an unblemished ram from the flock according to your valuation as a restitution offering to the priest. Then the priest will make atonement on his behalf for the error he has committed unintentionally, and he will be forgiven.

¹⁹ It is a restitution offering; he is indeed guilty before the LORD."

6 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

² "When someone sins and offends the LORD by deceiving his neighbor in regard to a deposit, a security, or a robbery; or defrauds his neighbor;

³ or finds something lost and lies about it; or swears falsely about any of the sinful things a person may do--

⁴ once he has sinned and acknowledged his guilt--he must return what he stole or defrauded, or the deposit entrusted to him, or the lost item he found,

⁵ or anything else about which he swore falsely. He must make full restitution for it and add a fifth of its value to it. He is to pay it to its owner on the day he acknowledges his guilt.

⁶ Then he must bring his restitution offering to the LORD: an unblemished ram from the flock, according to your valuation, as a restitution offering to the priest.

⁷ In this way the priest will make atonement on his behalf before the LORD, and he will be forgiven for anything he may have done to incur guilt."

⁸ The LORD spoke to Moses:

⁹ "Command Aaron and his sons: This is the law of the burnt offering; the burnt offering itself must remain on the altar's hearth all night until morning, while the fire of the altar is kept burning on it.

¹⁰ The priest is to put on his linen robe and linen undergarments. He is to remove the ashes of the burnt offering the fire has consumed on the altar, and place them beside the altar.

¹¹ Then he must take off his garments, put on other clothes, and bring the ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place.

¹² The fire on the altar is to be kept burning; it must not go out. Every

morning the priest will burn wood on the fire. He is to arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat portions from the fellowship offerings on it.

¹³ Fire must be kept burning on the altar continually; it must not go out.

¹⁴ "Now this is the law of the grain offering: Aaron's sons will present it before the LORD in front of the altar.

¹⁵ The priest is to remove a handful of fine flour and olive oil from the grain offering, with all the frankincense that is on the offering, and burn its memorial portion on the altar as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁶ Aaron and his sons may eat the rest of it. It is to be eaten as unleavened bread in a holy place; they are to eat it in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.

¹⁷ It must not be baked with yeast; I have assigned it as their portion from My

fire offerings. It is especially holy, like the sin offering and the restitution offering.

¹⁸ Any male among Aaron's descendants may eat it. It is a permanent portion throughout your generations from the fire offerings to the LORD. Anything that touches the offerings will become holy."

¹⁹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

²⁰ "This is the offering that Aaron and his sons must present to the LORD on the day that he is anointed: two quarts of fine flour as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning and half in the evening.

²¹ It is to be prepared with oil on a griddle; you are to bring it well-kneaded. You must present it as a grain offering of baked pieces, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

²² The priest, who is of Aaron's sons and will be anointed to take his place, is to

prepare it. It must be completely burned as a permanent portion for the LORD.

²³ Every grain offering for a priest will be a whole burnt offering; it is not to be eaten."

²⁴ The LORD spoke to Moses:

²⁵ "Tell Aaron and his sons: This is the law of the sin offering. The sin offering is most holy and must be slaughtered before the LORD at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered.

²⁶ The priest who offers it as a sin offering is to eat it. It must be eaten in a holy place, in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.

²⁷ Anything that touches its flesh will become holy, and if any of its blood spatters on a garment, then you must wash that garment in a holy place.

²⁸ A clay pot in which the sin offering is boiled must be broken; if it is boiled in

a bronze vessel, it must be scoured and rinsed with water.

²⁹ Any male among the priests may eat it; it is especially holy.

³⁰ But no sin offering may be eaten if its blood has been brought into the tent of meeting to make atonement in the holy place; it must be burned up.

7¹ "Now this is the law of the restitution offering; it is especially holy.

² The restitution offering must be slaughtered at the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered, and the priest is to sprinkle its blood on all sides of the altar.

³ The offerer must present all the fat from it: the fat tail, the fat surrounding the entrails,

⁴ and the two kidneys with the fat on them at the loins; he will also remove the fatty lobe of the liver with the kidneys.

⁵ The priest will burn them on the altar as a fire offering to the LORD; it is a restitution offering.

⁶ Any male among the priests may eat it. It is to be eaten in a holy place; it is especially holy.

⁷ "The restitution offering is like the sin offering; the law is the same for both. It belongs to the priest who makes atonement with it.

⁸ As for the priest who presents someone's burnt offering, the hide of the burnt offering he has presented belongs to him; it is the priest's.

⁹ Any grain offering that is baked in an oven, or prepared in a pan or on a griddle, belongs to the priest who presents it; it is his.

¹⁰ But any grain offering, whether dry or mixed with oil, belongs equally to all of Aaron's sons.

¹¹ "Now this is the law of the fellowship sacrifice that someone may present to the LORD:

¹² If he presents it for thanksgiving, in addition to the thanksgiving sacrifice, he is to present unleavened cakes mixed with olive oil, unleavened wafers coated with oil, and well-kneaded cakes of fine flour mixed with oil.

¹³ He is to present as his offering cakes of leavened bread, with his thanksgiving sacrifice of fellowship.

¹⁴ From the cakes he must present one portion of each offering as a contribution to the LORD. It will belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the fellowship offering; it is his.

¹⁵ The meat of his thanksgiving sacrifice of fellowship must be eaten on the day he offers it; he may not leave any of it until morning.

¹⁶ "If the sacrifice he offers is a vow or a freewill offering, it is to be eaten on the day he presents his sacrifice, and what is left over may be eaten on the next day.

¹⁷ But what remains of the sacrificial meat by the third day must be burned up.

¹⁸ If any of the meat of his fellowship sacrifice is eaten on the third day, it will not be accepted. It will not be credited to the one who presents it; it is repulsive. The person who eats any of it will be guilty.

¹⁹ "Meat that touches anything unclean must not be eaten; it is to be burned up. Everyone who is clean may eat any other meat.

²⁰ But the one who eats meat from the LORD's fellowship sacrifice while he is unclean, that person must be cut off from his people.

²¹ If someone touches anything unclean, whether human uncleanness, an unclean animal, or any unclean, detestable creature, and eats meat from the LORD's fellowship sacrifice, that person must be cut off from his people."

²² The LORD spoke to Moses:

²³ "Tell the Israelites: You are not to eat any fat of an ox, a sheep, or a goat.

²⁴ The fat of an animal that dies naturally or is mauled by wild beasts may be used for any purpose, but you must not eat it.

²⁵ If anyone eats animal fat from a fire offering presented to the LORD, the person who eats it must be cut off from his people.

²⁶ Wherever you live, you must not eat the blood of any bird or animal.

²⁷ Whoever eats any blood, that person must be cut off from his people."

²⁸ The LORD spoke to Moses:

²⁹ "Tell the Israelites: The one who presents a fellowship sacrifice to the LORD must bring an offering to the LORD from his sacrifice.

³⁰ His own hands will bring the fire offerings to the LORD. He will bring the fat together with the breast. The breast is to be waved as a presentation offering before the LORD.

³¹ The priest is to burn the fat on the altar, but the breast belongs to Aaron and his sons.

³² You are to give the right thigh to the priest as a contribution from your fellowship sacrifices.

³³ The son of Aaron who presents the blood of the fellowship offering and the fat will have the right thigh as a portion.

³⁴ I have taken from the Israelites the breast of the presentation offering and the thigh of the contribution from their fellowship sacrifices, and have

assigned them to Aaron the priest and his sons as a permanent portion from the Israelites."

³⁵ This is the portion from the fire offerings to the LORD for Aaron and his sons since the day they were presented to serve the LORD as priests.

³⁶ The LORD commanded this to be given to them by the Israelites on the day He anointed them. It is a permanent portion throughout their generations.

³⁷ This is the law for the burnt offering, the grain offering, the sin offering, the restitution offering, the ordination offering, and the fellowship sacrifice,

³⁸ which the LORD commanded Moses on Mount Sinai on the day He commanded the Israelites to present their offerings to the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai.

8 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

² "Take Aaron, his sons with him, the garments, the anointing oil, the bull of the sin offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread,

³ and assemble the whole community at the entrance to the tent of meeting."

⁴ So Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the community assembled at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁵ Moses said to them, "This is what the LORD has commanded to be done."

⁶ Then Moses presented Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.

⁷ He put the tunic on Aaron, wrapped the sash around him, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him.

He put the woven band of the ephod around him and fastened it to him.

⁸ Then he put the breastpiece on him and placed the Urim and Thummim into the breastpiece.

⁹ He also put the turban on his head and placed the plate of gold, the holy diadem, on the front of the turban, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it to consecrate them.

¹¹ He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the altar with all its utensils, and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them.

¹² He poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed and consecrated him.

¹³ Then Moses presented Aaron's sons, clothed them with tunics, wrapped sashes around them, and fastened headbands on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁴ Then he brought the bull near for the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid

their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering.

¹⁵ Then Moses slaughtered it , took the blood, and applied it with his finger to the horns of the altar on all sides, purifying the altar. He poured out the blood at the base of the altar and consecrated it by making atonement for it.

¹⁶ Moses took all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat, and he burned them on the altar.

¹⁷ He burned up the bull with its hide, flesh, and dung outside the camp, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁸ Then he presented the ram for the burnt offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram.

¹⁹ Moses slaughtered it and sprinkled the blood on all sides of the altar.

²⁰ Moses cut the ram into pieces and burned the head, the pieces, and the suet,

²¹ but he washed the entrails and shanks with water. He then burned the entire ram on the altar. It was a burnt offering for a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD as He had commanded Moses.

²² Next he presented the second ram, the ram of ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram.

²³ Moses slaughtered it , took some of its blood, and put it on Aaron's right earlobe, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

²⁴ Moses also presented Aaron's sons and put some of the blood on their right earlobes, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right

feet. Then Moses sprinkled the blood on all sides of the altar.

²⁵ He took the fat--the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat--as well as the right thigh.

²⁶ From the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one cake of unleavened bread, one cake of bread made with oil, and one wafer, and placed them on the fat portions and the right thigh.

²⁷ He put all these in the hands of Aaron and his sons and waved them before the LORD as a presentation offering.

²⁸ Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar with the burnt offering. This was an ordination offering for a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD.

²⁹ He also took the breast and waved it before the LORD as a presentation

offering; it was Moses' portion of the ordination ram as the LORD had commanded him.

³⁰ Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that was on the altar and sprinkled them on Aaron and his garments, as well as on his sons and their garments. In this way he consecrated Aaron and his garments, as well as his sons and their garments.

³¹ Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the meat at the entrance to the tent of meeting and eat it there with the bread that is in the basket for the ordination offering as I commanded: Aaron and his sons are to eat it.

³² You must burn up what remains of the meat and bread.

³³ You must not go outside the entrance to the tent of meeting for seven days, until the time your days of ordination

are completed, because it will take seven days to ordain you.

³⁴ The LORD commanded what has been done today in order to make atonement for you.

³⁵ You must remain at the entrance to the tent of meeting day and night for seven days and keep the LORD's charge so that you will not die, for this is what I was commanded."

³⁶ So Aaron and his sons did everything the LORD had commanded through Moses.

9¹ On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron, his sons, and the elders of Israel.

² He said to Aaron, "Take a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, both without blemish, and present them before the LORD.

³ And tell the Israelites: 'Take a male goat for a sin offering; a calf and a lamb,

male yearlings without blemish, for a burnt offering;

⁴ an ox and a ram for a fellowship offering to sacrifice before the LORD; and a grain offering mixed with oil. For today the LORD is going to appear to you."

⁵ They brought what Moses had commanded to the front of the tent of meeting, and the whole community came forward and stood before the LORD.

⁶ Moses said, "This is what the LORD commanded you to do, that the glory of the LORD may appear to you."

⁷ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Approach the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering; make atonement for yourself and the people. Sacrifice the people's offering and make atonement for them, as the LORD commanded."

⁸ So Aaron approached the altar and slaughtered the calf as a sin offering for himself.

⁹ Aaron's sons brought the blood to him, and he dipped his finger in the blood and applied it to the horns of the altar. He poured out the blood at the base of the altar.

¹⁰ He burned the fat, the kidneys, and the fatty lobe of the liver from the sin offering on the altar, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹¹ He burned up the flesh and the hide outside the camp.

¹² Then he slaughtered the burnt offering. Aaron's sons brought him the blood, and he sprinkled it on all sides of the altar.

¹³ They brought him the burnt offering piece by piece, along with the head, and he burned them on the altar.

¹⁴ He washed the entrails and the shanks and burned them with the burnt offering on the altar.

¹⁵ Aaron presented the people's offering. He took the male goat for the people's sin offering, slaughtered it, and made a sin offering with it as he did before.

¹⁶ He presented the burnt offering and sacrificed it according to the regulation.

¹⁷ Next he presented the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned it on the altar in addition to the morning burnt offering.

¹⁸ Finally, he slaughtered the ox and the ram as the people's fellowship sacrifice. Aaron's sons brought him the blood, and he sprinkled it on all sides of the altar.

¹⁹ They also brought the fat portions from the ox and the ram--the fat tail, the fat surrounding the entrails, the kidneys, and the fatty lobe of the liver--

²⁰ and placed these on the breasts. Aaron burned the fat portions on the altar,

²¹ but he waved the breasts and the right thigh as a presentation offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded.

²² Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them. He came down after sacrificing the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the fellowship offering.

²³ Moses and Aaron then entered the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.

²⁴ Fire came out from the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell facedown on the ground .

10 ¹ Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu each took his own firepan, put fire in it, placed incense on it, and presented unauthorized fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them to do .

² Then flames leaped from the LORD's presence and burned them to death before the LORD.

³ So Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD meant when He said: I will show My holiness to those who are near Me, and I will reveal My glory before all the people." But Aaron remained silent.

⁴ Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan, sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, "Come here and carry your relatives away from the front of the sanctuary to a place outside the camp."

⁵ So they came forward and carried them in their tunics outside the camp, as Moses had said.

⁶ Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not let your hair hang loose and do not tear your garments, or else you will die, and the LORD will become angry with the whole community. However, your brothers, the whole house of Israel, may mourn over that tragedy when the LORD sent the fire.

⁷ You must not go outside the entrance to the tent of meeting or you will die, for the LORD's anointing oil is on you." So they did as Moses said.

⁸ The LORD spoke to Aaron:

⁹ "You and your sons are not to drink wine or beer when you enter the tent of meeting, or else you will die; this is a permanent statute throughout your generations.

¹⁰ You must distinguish between the holy and the common, and the clean and the unclean,

¹¹ and teach the Israelites all the statutes that the LORD has given to them through Moses."

¹² Moses spoke to Aaron and his remaining sons, Eleazar and Ithamar: "Take the grain offering that is left over from the fire offerings to the LORD, and eat it prepared without yeast beside the altar, because it is especially holy.

¹³ You must eat it in a holy place because it is your portion and your sons' from the fire offerings to the LORD, for this is what I was commanded.

¹⁴ But you and your sons and your daughters may eat the breast of the presentation offering and the thigh of the contribution in any ceremonially clean place, because these portions have been assigned to you and your children from the Israelites' fellowship sacrifices.

¹⁵ They are to bring the thigh of the contribution and the breast of the

presentation offering, together with the offerings of fat portions made by fire, to wave as a presentation offering before the LORD. It will belong permanently to you and your children, as the LORD commanded."

¹⁶ Later, Moses inquired about the male goat of the sin offering, but it had already been burned up. He was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's surviving sons, and asked,

¹⁷ "Why didn't you eat the sin offering in the sanctuary area? For it is especially holy, and He has assigned it to you to take away the guilt of the community and make atonement for them before the LORD.

¹⁸ Since its blood was not brought inside the sanctuary, you should have eaten it in the sanctuary area , as I commanded."

¹⁹ But Aaron replied to Moses, "See, today they presented their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD. Since these things have happened to me, if I had eaten the sin offering today, would it have been acceptable in the LORD's sight?"

²⁰ When Moses heard this, it was acceptable to him.

11 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

² "Tell the Israelites: You may eat all these kinds of land animals.

³ You may eat any animal with divided hooves and that chews the cud.

⁴ But among the ones that chew the cud or have hooves you are not to eat these : the camel, though it chews the cud, does not have hooves--it is unclean for you;

⁵ the hyrax, though it chews the cud, does not have hooves--it is unclean for you;

⁶ the hare, though it chews the cud, does not have hooves--it is unclean for you;

⁷ the pig, though it has divided hooves, does not chew the cud--it is unclean for you.

⁸ Do not eat any of their meat or touch their carcasses--they are unclean for you.

⁹ "This is what you may eat from all that is in the water: You may eat everything in the water that has fins and scales, whether in the seas or streams.

¹⁰ But these are to be detestable to you: everything that does not have fins and scales in the seas or streams, among all the swarming things and other living creatures in the water.

¹¹ They are to remain detestable to you; you must not eat any of their meat, and you must detest their carcasses.

¹² Everything in the water that does not have fins and scales will be detestable to you.

¹³ "You are to detest these birds. They must not be eaten because they are detestable: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,

¹⁴ the kite, the various kinds of falcon,

¹⁵ every kind of raven,

¹⁶ the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the gull, the various kinds of hawk,

¹⁷ the little owl, the cormorant, the long-eared owl,

¹⁸ the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey,

¹⁹ the stork, the various kinds of heron, the hoopoe, and the bat.

²⁰ "All winged insects that walk on all fours are to be detestable to you.

²¹ But you may eat these kinds of all the winged insects that walk on all fours: those that have jointed legs above their feet for hopping on the ground.

²² You may eat these: the various kinds of locust, the various kinds of katydid, the various kinds of cricket, and the various kinds of grasshopper.

²³ All other winged insects that have four feet are to be detestable to you.

²⁴ "These will make you unclean. Whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean until evening,

²⁵ and whoever carries any of their carcasses must wash his clothes and will be unclean until evening.

²⁶ All animals that have hooves but do not have a divided hoof and do not chew the cud are unclean for you. Whoever touches them becomes unclean.

²⁷ All the four-footed animals that walk on their paws are unclean for you.

Whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean until evening,

²⁸ and anyone who carries their carcasses must wash his clothes and will be unclean until evening. They are unclean for you.

²⁹ "These creatures that swarm on the ground are unclean for you: the weasel, the mouse, the various kinds of large lizard,

³⁰ the gecko, the monitor lizard, the common lizard, the skink, and the chameleon.

³¹ These are unclean for you among all the swarming creatures. Whoever touches them when they are dead will be unclean until evening.

³² When any one of them dies and falls on anything it becomes unclean--any item of wood, clothing, leather, sackcloth, or any implement used for work. It is to be rinsed with water and

will remain unclean until evening; then it will be clean.

³³ If any of them falls into any clay pot, everything in it will become unclean; you must break it.

³⁴ Any edible food coming into contact with that unclean water will become unclean, and any drinkable liquid in any container will become unclean.

³⁵ Anything one of their carcasses falls on will become unclean. If it is an oven or stove, it must be smashed; it is unclean and will remain unclean for you.

³⁶ A spring or cistern containing water will remain clean, but someone who touches a carcass in it will become unclean.

³⁷ If one of their carcasses falls on any seed that is to be sown, it is clean;

³⁸ but if water has been put on the seed and one of their carcasses falls on it, it is unclean for you.

³⁹ "If one of the animals that you use for food dies, anyone who touches its carcass will be unclean until evening.

⁴⁰ Anyone who eats some of its carcass must wash his clothes and will be unclean until evening. Anyone who carries its carcass must wash his clothes and will be unclean until evening.

⁴¹ "All the creatures that swarm on the earth are detestable; they must not be eaten.

⁴² Do not eat any of the creatures that swarm on the earth, anything that moves on its belly or walks on all fours or on many feet, for they are detestable.

⁴³ Do not become contaminated by any creature that swarms; do not become unclean or defiled by them.

⁴⁴ For I am the LORD your God, so you must consecrate yourselves and be holy because I am holy. You must not defile

yourselves by any swarming creature that crawls on the ground.

⁴⁵ For I am the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God, so you must be holy because I am holy.

⁴⁶ "This is the law concerning animals, birds, all living creatures that move in the water, and all creatures that swarm on the ground,

⁴⁷ in order to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between the animals that may be eaten and those that may not be eaten."

12 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Tell the Israelites: When a woman becomes pregnant and gives birth to a male child, she will be unclean seven days, as she is during the days of her menstrual impurity.

³ The flesh of his foreskin must be circumcised on the eighth day.

⁴ She will continue in purification from her bleeding for 33 days. She must not touch any holy thing or go into the sanctuary until completing her days of purification.

⁵ But if she gives birth to a female child, she will be unclean for two weeks as she is during her menstrual impurity. She will continue in purification from her bleeding for 66 days.

⁶ "When her days of purification are complete, whether for a son or daughter, she is to bring to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting a year-old male lamb for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering.

⁷ He will present them before the LORD and make atonement on her behalf; she will be clean from her discharge of blood. This is the law for a woman giving birth, whether to a male or female.

⁸ But if she doesn't have sufficient means for a sheep, she may take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. Then the priest will make atonement on her behalf, and she will be clean."

13 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

² "When a person has a swelling, scab, or spot on the skin of his body, and it becomes a disease on the skin of his body, he is to be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons, the priests.

³ The priest will examine the infection on the skin of his body. If the hair in the infection has turned white and the infection appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a skin disease. After the priest examines him, he must pronounce him unclean.

⁴ But if the spot on the skin of his body is white and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest must quarantine the infected person for seven days.

⁵ The priest will then reexamine him on the seventh day. If the infection remains unchanged in his sight and has not spread on the skin, the priest must quarantine him for another seven days.

⁶ The priest will examine him again on the seventh day. If the infection has faded and has not spread on the skin, the priest is to pronounce him clean; it is a scab. The person is to wash his clothes and will become clean.

⁷ But if the scab spreads further on his skin after he has presented himself to the priest for his cleansing, he must present himself again to the priest.

⁸ The priest will examine him, and if the scab has spread on the skin, then the priest must pronounce him unclean; he has a skin disease.

⁹ "When a skin disease develops on a person, he is to be brought to the priest.

¹⁰ The priest will examine him. If there is a white swelling on the skin that has turned the hair white, and there is a patch of raw flesh in the swelling,

¹¹ it is a chronic disease on the skin of his body, and the priest must pronounce him unclean. He need not quarantine him, for he is unclean.

¹² But if the skin disease breaks out completely over the skin so that it covers all the skin of the infected person from his head to his feet so far as the priest can see,

¹³ the priest will look, and if the skin disease has covered his entire body, he is to pronounce the infected person clean.

Since he has turned totally white, he is clean.

¹⁴ But whenever raw flesh appears on him, he will be unclean.

¹⁵ When the priest examines the raw flesh, he must pronounce him unclean. Raw flesh is unclean; it is a skin disease.

¹⁶ But if the raw flesh changes and turns white, he must go to the priest.

¹⁷ The priest will examine him, and if the infection has turned white, the priest must pronounce the infected person clean; he is clean.

¹⁸ "When a boil appears on the skin of one's body and it heals,

¹⁹ and a white swelling or a reddish-white spot develops where the boil was, the person must present himself to the priest.

²⁰ The priest will make an examination, and if the spot seems to be beneath the skin and the hair in it has turned white,

the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a skin disease that has broken out in the boil.

²¹ But when the priest examines it, if there is no white hair in it, and it is not beneath the skin but is faded, the priest must quarantine him seven days.

²² If it spreads further on the skin, the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is an infection.

²³ But if the spot remains where it is and does not spread, it is only the scar from the boil. The priest is to pronounce him clean.

²⁴ "When there is a burn on the skin of one's body produced by fire, and the patch made raw by the burn becomes a reddish-white or white spot,

²⁵ the priest is to examine it. If the hair in the spot has turned white and the spot appears to be deeper than the skin, it is a skin disease that has broken out

in the burn. The priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a skin disease.

²⁶ But when the priest examines it, if there is no white hair in the spot and it is not beneath the skin but is faded, the priest must quarantine him seven days.

²⁷ The priest will reexamine him on the seventh day. If it has spread further on the skin, the priest must pronounce him unclean; it is a skin disease.

²⁸ But if the spot has remained where it was and has not spread on the skin but is faded, it is the swelling from the burn. The priest is to pronounce him clean, for it is only the scar from the burn.

²⁹ "When a man or woman has an infection on the head or chin,

³⁰ the priest must examine the infection. If it appears to be deeper than the skin, and the hair in it is yellow and sparse, the priest must pronounce the

person unclean. It is a scaly outbreak, a skin disease of the head or chin.

³¹ When the priest examines the scaly infection, if it does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and there is no black hair in it, the priest must quarantine the person with the scaly infection for seven days.

³² The priest will reexamine the infection on the seventh day. If the scaly outbreak has not spread and there is no yellow hair in it and it does not appear to be deeper than the skin,

³³ the person must shave himself but not shave the scaly area. Then the priest must quarantine the person who has the scaly outbreak for another seven days.

³⁴ The priest will examine the scaly outbreak on the seventh day, and if it has not spread on the skin and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, the priest is to pronounce the person clean.

He is to wash his clothes, and he will be clean.

³⁵ But if the scaly outbreak spreads further on the skin after his cleansing,

³⁶ the priest is to examine the person. If the scaly outbreak has spread on the skin, the priest does not need to look for yellow hair; the person is unclean.

³⁷ But if as far as he can see, the scaly outbreak remains unchanged and black hair has grown in it, then it has healed; he is clean. The priest is to pronounce the person clean.

³⁸ "When a man or a woman has white spots on the skin of the body,

³⁹ the priest is to make an examination. If the spots on the skin of the body are dull white, it is only a rash that has broken out on the skin; the person is clean.

⁴⁰ "If a man loses the hair of his head, he is bald, but he is clean.

⁴¹ Or if he loses the hair at his hairline, he is bald on his forehead, but he is clean.

⁴² But if there is a reddish-white infection on the bald head or forehead, it is a skin disease breaking out on his head or forehead.

⁴³ The priest is to examine him, and if the swelling of the infection on his bald head or forehead is reddish-white, like the appearance of a skin disease on his body,

⁴⁴ the man is afflicted with a skin disease; he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him unclean; the infection is on his head.

⁴⁵ "The person afflicted with an infectious skin disease is to have his clothes torn and his hair hanging loose, and he must cover his mouth and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'

⁴⁶ He will remain unclean as long as he has the infection; he is unclean. He must live alone in a place outside the camp.

⁴⁷ "If a fabric is contaminated with mildew--in wool or linen fabric,

⁴⁸ in the warp or woof of linen or wool, or in leather or anything made of leather--

⁴⁹ and if the contamination is green or red in the fabric, the leather, the warp, the woof, or any leather article, it is a mildew contamination and is to be shown to the priest.

⁵⁰ The priest is to examine the contamination and quarantine the contaminated fabric for seven days.

⁵¹ The priest is to reexamine the contamination on the seventh day. If it has spread in the fabric, the warp, the woof, or the leather, regardless of how it is used, the contamination is harmful mildew; it is unclean.

⁵² He is to burn the fabric, the warp or woof in wool or linen, or any leather article, which is contaminated. Since it is harmful mildew it must be burned up.

⁵³ "When the priest examines it , if the contamination has not spread in the fabric, the warp or woof, or any leather article,

⁵⁴ the priest is to order whatever is contaminated to be washed and quarantined for another seven days.

⁵⁵ After it has been washed, the priest is to reexamine the contamination. If the appearance of the contaminated article has not changed, it is unclean. Even though the contamination has not spread, you must burn up the fabric. It is a fungus on the front or back of the fabric .

⁵⁶ "If the priest examines it , and the contamination has faded after it has been washed, he must cut the

contaminated section out of the fabric, the leather, or the warp or woof.

⁵⁷ But if it reappears in the fabric, the warp or woof, or any leather article, it has broken out again. You must burn up whatever is contaminated.

⁵⁸ But if the contamination disappears from the fabric, the warp or woof, or any leather article, which have been washed, it is to be washed again, and it will be clean.

⁵⁹ "This is the law concerning a mildew contamination in wool or linen fabric, warp or woof, or any leather article, in order to pronounce it clean or unclean."

14 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "This is the law concerning the person afflicted with a skin disease on the day of his cleansing. He is to be brought to the priest,

³ who will go outside the camp and examine him . If the skin disease has disappeared from the afflicted person,

⁴ the priest will order that two live clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop be brought for the one who is to be cleansed.

⁵ Then the priest will order that one of the birds be slaughtered over fresh water in a clay pot.

⁶ He is to take the live bird together with the cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop, and dip them all into the blood of the bird that was slaughtered over the fresh water.

⁷ He will then sprinkle the blood seven times on the one who is to be cleansed from the skin disease. He is to pronounce him clean and release the live bird over the open countryside.

⁸ The one who is to be cleansed must wash his clothes, shave off all his hair,

and bathe with water; he is clean. Afterwards he may enter the camp, but he must remain outside his tent for seven days.

⁹ He is to shave off all his hair again on the seventh day: his head, his beard, his eyebrows, and the rest of his hair. He is to wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; he is clean.

¹⁰ "On the eighth day he must take two unblemished male lambs, an unblemished year-old ewe lamb, a grain offering of three quarts of fine flour mixed with olive oil, and one-third of a quart of olive oil.

¹¹ The priest who performs the cleansing will place the person who is to be cleansed, together with these offerings, before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹² The priest is to take one male lamb and present it as a restitution offering,

along with the one-third quart of olive oil, and he must wave them as a presentation offering before the LORD.

¹³ He is to slaughter the male lamb at the place in the sanctuary area where the sin offering and burnt offering are slaughtered, for like the sin offering, the restitution offering belongs to the priest; it is especially holy.

¹⁴ The priest is to take some of the blood from the restitution offering and put it on the lobe of the right ear of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

¹⁵ Then the priest will take some of the one-third of a quart of olive oil and pour it into his left palm.

¹⁶ The priest will dip his right finger into the oil in his left palm and sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD.

¹⁷ From the oil remaining in his palm the priest will put some on the lobe of the right ear of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on top of the blood of the restitution offering.

¹⁸ What is left of the oil in the priest's palm he is to put on the head of the one to be cleansed. In this way the priest will make atonement for him before the LORD.

¹⁹ The priest must sacrifice the sin offering and make atonement for the one to be purified from his uncleanness. Afterwards he will slaughter the burnt offering.

²⁰ The priest is to offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar. The priest will make atonement for him, and he will be clean.

²¹ "But if he is poor and cannot afford these , he is to take one male lamb for a

restitution offering to be waved in order to make atonement for him, along with two quarts of fine flour mixed with olive oil for a grain offering, one-third of a quart of olive oil,

²² and two turtledoves or two young pigeons, whatever he can afford, one to be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.

²³ On the eighth day he is to bring these things for his cleansing to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting before the LORD.

²⁴ The priest will take the male lamb for the restitution offering and the one-third of a quart of olive oil, and wave them as a presentation offering before the LORD.

²⁵ After he slaughters the male lamb for the restitution offering, the priest is to take some of the blood of the restitution offering and put it on the right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb

of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

²⁶ Then the priest will pour some of the oil into his left palm.

²⁷ With his right finger the priest will sprinkle some of the oil in his left palm seven times before the LORD.

²⁸ The priest will also put some of the oil in his palm on the right earlobe of the one to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the same place as the blood of the restitution offering.

²⁹ What is left of the oil in the priest's palm he is to put on the head of the one to be cleansed to make atonement for him before the LORD.

³⁰ He must then sacrifice one type of what he can afford, either the turtledoves or young pigeons,

³¹ one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, sacrificing what

he can afford together with the grain offering. In this way the priest will make atonement before the LORD for the one to be cleansed.

³² This is the law for someone who has a skin disease and cannot afford the cost of his cleansing."

³³ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

³⁴ "When you enter the land of Canaan that I am giving you as a possession, and I place a mildew contamination in a house in the land you possess,

³⁵ the owner of the house is to come and tell the priest: Something like mildew contamination has appeared in my house.

³⁶ The priest must order them to clear the house before he enters to examine the contamination, so that nothing in the house becomes unclean. Afterwards the priest will come to examine the house.

³⁷ He will examine it, and if the contamination in the walls of the house consists of green or red indentations that appear to be beneath the surface of the wall,

³⁸ the priest is to go outside the house to its doorway and quarantine the house for seven days.

³⁹ The priest is to return on the seventh day and examine it. If the contamination has spread on the walls of the house,

⁴⁰ the priest must order that the stones with the contamination be pulled out and thrown into an unclean place outside the city.

⁴¹ He is to have the inside of the house completely scraped, and the plaster that is scraped off must be dumped in an unclean place outside the city.

⁴² Then they must take different stones to replace the former ones and take additional plaster to replaster the house.

⁴³ "If the contamination reappears in the house after the stones have been pulled out, and after the house has been scraped and replastered,

⁴⁴ the priest must come and examine it. If the contamination has spread in the house, it is harmful mildew; the house is unclean.

⁴⁵ It must be torn down with its stones, its beams, and all its plaster, and taken outside the city to an unclean place.

⁴⁶ Whoever enters the house during any of the days the priest quarantines it will be unclean until evening.

⁴⁷ Whoever lies down in the house is to wash his clothes, and whoever eats in it is to wash his clothes.

⁴⁸ "But when the priest comes and examines it, if the contamination has not spread in the house after it was replastered, he is to pronounce the

house clean because the contamination has disappeared.

⁴⁹ He is to take two birds, cedar wood, scarlet yarn, and hyssop to purify the house,

⁵⁰ and he is to slaughter one of the birds over a clay pot containing fresh water.

⁵¹ He will take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet yarn, and the live bird, dip them in the blood of the slaughtered bird and the fresh water, and sprinkle the house seven times.

⁵² He will purify the house with the blood of the bird, the fresh water, the live bird, the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet yarn.

⁵³ Then he is to release the live bird into the open countryside outside the city. In this way he will make atonement for the house, and it will be clean.

⁵⁴ "This is the law for any skin disease or mildew, for a scaly outbreak,

⁵⁵ for mildew in clothing or on a house,
⁵⁶ and for a swelling, scab, or spot,
⁵⁷ to determine when something
is unclean or clean. This is the law
regarding skin disease and mildew."

15 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and
Aaron:

² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them:
When any man has a discharge from his
body, he is unclean.

³ This is uncleanness of his discharge:
Whether his body secretes the discharge
or retains it, he is unclean. All the days
that his body secretes or retains anything
because of his discharge, he is unclean.

⁴ Any bed the man with the discharge
lies on will be unclean, and any furniture
he sits on will be unclean.

⁵ Anyone who touches his bed is to
wash his clothes and bathe with water,
and he will remain unclean until evening.

⁶ Whoever sits on furniture that the man with the discharge was sitting on is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

⁷ Whoever touches the body of the man with a discharge is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

⁸ If the man with the discharge spits on anyone who is clean, he is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

⁹ Any saddle the man with the discharge rides on will be unclean.

¹⁰ Whoever touches anything that was under him will be unclean until evening, and whoever carries such things is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

¹¹ If the man with the discharge touches anyone without first rinsing his hands in

water, the person who was touched is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

¹² Any clay pot that the man with the discharge touches must be broken, while any wooden utensil must be rinsed with water.

¹³ "When the man with the discharge has been cured of it, he is to count seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe his body in fresh water; he will be clean.

¹⁴ He must take two turtledoves or two young pigeons on the eighth day, come before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting, and give them to the priest.

¹⁵ The priest is to sacrifice them, one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for him before the LORD because of his discharge.

¹⁶ "When a man has an emission of semen, he is to bathe himself completely with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

¹⁷ Any clothing or leather on which there is an emission of semen must be washed with water, and it will remain unclean until evening.

¹⁸ If a man sleeps with a woman and has an emission of semen, both of them are to bathe with water, and they will remain unclean until evening.

¹⁹ "When a woman has a discharge, and it consists of blood from her body, she will be unclean because of her menstruation for seven days. Everyone who touches her will be unclean until evening.

²⁰ Anything she lies on during her menstruation will become unclean, and anything she sits on will become unclean.

²¹ Everyone who touches her bed is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

²² Everyone who touches any furniture she was sitting on is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

²³ If discharge is on the bed or the furniture she was sitting on, when he touches it he will be unclean until evening.

²⁴ If a man sleeps with her, and blood from her menstruation gets on him, he will be unclean for seven days, and every bed he lies on will become unclean.

²⁵ "When a woman has a discharge of her blood for many days, though it is not the time of her menstruation, or if she has a discharge beyond her period, she will be unclean all the days of her unclean discharge, as she is during the days of her menstruation.

²⁶ Any bed she lies on during the days of her discharge will be like her bed during menstrual impurity; any furniture she sits on will be unclean as in her menstrual period.

²⁷ Everyone who touches them will be unclean; he must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

²⁸ When she is cured of her discharge, she is to count seven days, and after that she will be clean.

²⁹ On the eighth day she must take two turtledoves or two young pigeons and bring them to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

³⁰ The priest is to sacrifice one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her before the LORD because of her unclean discharge.

³¹ "You must keep the Israelites from their uncleanness, so that they do not die by defiling My tabernacle that is among them.

³² This is the law for someone with a discharge: a man who has an emission of semen, becoming unclean by it;

³³ a woman who is in her menstrual period; anyone who has a discharge, whether male or female; and a man who sleeps with an unclean woman."

16 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of two of Aaron's sons when they approached the presence of the LORD and died.

² The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he may not come whenever he wants into the holy place behind the veil in front of the mercy seat on the ark or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

³ "Aaron is to enter the most holy place in this way: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

⁴ He is to wear a holy linen tunic, and linen undergarments are to be on his body. He must tie a linen sash around him and wrap his head with a linen turban. These are holy garments; he must bathe his body with water before he wears them.

⁵ He is to take from the Israelite community two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶ "Aaron will present the bull for his sin offering and make atonement for himself and his household.

⁷ Next he will take the two goats and place them before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁸ After Aaron casts lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other for Azazel,

⁹ he is to present the goat chosen by lot for the LORD and sacrifice it as a sin offering.

¹⁰ But the goat chosen by lot for Azazel is to be presented alive before the LORD to make purification with it by sending it into the wilderness for Azazel.

¹¹ "When Aaron presents the bull for his sin offering and makes atonement for himself and his household, he will slaughter the bull for his sin offering.

¹² Then he must take a firepan full of fiery coals from the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense, and bring them inside the veil.

¹³ He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, so that the cloud of incense covers the mercy seat that is over the testimony, or else he will die.

¹⁴ He is to take some of the bull's blood and sprinkle it with his finger against

the east side of the mercy seat; then he will sprinkle some of the blood with his finger before the mercy seat seven times.

¹⁵ "When he slaughters the male goat for the people's sin offering and brings its blood inside the veil, he must do the same with its blood as he did with the bull's blood: he is to sprinkle it against the mercy seat and in front of it.

¹⁶ He will purify the most holy place in this way for all their sins because of the Israelites' impurities and rebellious acts. He will do the same for the tent of meeting that remains among them, because it is surrounded by their impurities.

¹⁷ No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the most holy place until he leaves after he has made atonement

for himself, his household, and the whole assembly of Israel.

¹⁸ Then he will go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it. He is to take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it on the horns on all sides of the altar.

¹⁹ He is to sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse and set it apart from the Israelites' impurities.

²⁰ "When he has finished purifying the most holy place, the tent of meeting, and the altar, he is to present the live male goat.

²¹ Aaron will lay both his hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the Israelites' wrongdoings and rebellious acts--all their sins. He is to put them on the goat's head and send

it away into the wilderness by the man appointed for the task.

²² The goat will carry on it all their wrongdoings into a desolate land, and he will release it there.

²³ "Then Aaron is to enter the tent of meeting, take off the linen garments he wore when he entered the most holy place, and leave them there.

²⁴ He will bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes. Then he must go out and sacrifice his burnt offering and the people's burnt offering; he will make atonement for himself and for the people.

²⁵ He is to burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

²⁶ The man who released the goat for Azazel is to wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; afterwards he may reenter the camp.

²⁷ The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought into the most holy place to make atonement, must be brought outside the camp and their hide, flesh, and dung burned up.

²⁸ The one who burns them is to wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterwards he may reenter the camp.

²⁹ "This is to be a permanent statute for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month you are to practice self-denial and do no work, both the native and the foreigner who resides among you.

³⁰ Atonement will be made for you on this day to cleanse you, and you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

³¹ It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must practice self-denial; it is a permanent statute.

³² The priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as high priest in place of his father will make atonement. He will put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

³³ and purify the most holy place. He will purify the tent of meeting and the altar and will make atonement for the priests and all the people of the assembly.

³⁴ This is to be a permanent statute for you, to make atonement for the Israelites once a year because of all their sins." And all this was done as the LORD commanded Moses.

17 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites and tell them: This is what the LORD has commanded:

³ Anyone from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox, sheep, or goat in the camp, or slaughters it outside the camp,

⁴ instead of bringing it to the entrance to the tent of meeting to present it as an offering to the LORD before His tabernacle--that person will be charged with murder. He has shed blood and must be cut off from his people.

⁵ This is so the Israelites will bring to the LORD the sacrifices they have been offering in the open country. They are to bring them to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting and offer them as fellowship sacrifices to the LORD.

⁶ The priest will then sprinkle the blood on the LORD's altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting and burn the fat as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁷ They must no longer offer their sacrifices to the goat-demons that they have prostituted themselves with. This will be a permanent statute for them throughout their generations.

⁸ "Say to them: Anyone from the house of Israel or from the foreigners who live among them who offers a burnt offering or a sacrifice

⁹ but does not bring it to the entrance to the tent of meeting to sacrifice it to the LORD, that person must be cut off from his people.

¹⁰ "Anyone from the house of Israel or from the foreigners who live among them who eats any blood, I will turn against that person who eats blood and cut him off from his people.

¹¹ For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have appointed it to you to make atonement on the altar for your lives, since it is the lifeblood that makes atonement.

¹² Therefore I say to the Israelites: None of you and no foreigner who lives among you may eat blood.

¹³ "Any Israelite or foreigner living among them, who hunts down a wild animal or bird that may be eaten must drain its blood and cover it with dirt.

¹⁴ Since the life of every creature is its blood, I have told the Israelites: You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; whoever eats it must be cut off.

¹⁵ "Every person, whether the native or the foreigner, who eats an animal that died a natural death or was mauled by wild beasts is to wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will remain unclean until evening; he will be clean.

¹⁶ But if he does not wash his clothes and bathe himself, he will bear his punishment."

18 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: I am the LORD your God.

³ Do not follow the practices of the land of Egypt, where you used to live, or follow the practices of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. You must not follow their customs.

⁴ You are to practice My ordinances and you are to keep My statutes by following them; I am the LORD your God.

⁵ Keep My statutes and ordinances; a person will live if he does them. I am the LORD.

⁶ "You are not to come near any close relative for sexual intercourse; I am the LORD.

⁷ You are not to shame your father by having sex with your mother. She is your mother; you must not have sexual intercourse with her.

⁸ You are not to have sex with your father's wife; it will shame your father.

⁹ You are not to have sexual intercourse with your sister, either your father's

daughter or your mother's, whether born at home or born elsewhere. You are not to have sex with her.

¹⁰ You are not to have sexual intercourse with your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, because it will shame your family.

¹¹ You are not to have sexual intercourse with your father's wife's daughter, who is adopted by your father; she is your sister.

¹² You are not to have sexual intercourse with your father's sister; she is your father's close relative.

¹³ You are not to have sexual intercourse with your mother's sister, for she is your mother's close relative.

¹⁴ You are not to shame your father's brother by coming near his wife to have sexual intercourse; she is your aunt.

¹⁵ You are not to have sexual intercourse with your daughter-in-law. She is your

son's wife; you are not to have sex with her.

¹⁶ You are not to have sexual intercourse with your brother's wife; it will shame your brother.

¹⁷ You are not to have sexual intercourse with a woman and her daughter. You are not to marry her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter and have sex with her. They are close relatives; it is depraved.

¹⁸ You are not to marry a woman as a rival to her sister and have sexual intercourse with her during her sister's lifetime.

¹⁹ "You are not to come near a woman during her menstrual impurity to have sexual intercourse with her.

²⁰ You are not to have sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife, defiling yourself with her.

²¹ "You are not to make any of your children pass through the fire to Molech. Do not profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

²² You are not to sleep with a man as with a woman; it is detestable.

²³ You are not to have sexual intercourse with any animal, defiling yourself with it; a woman is not to present herself to an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.

²⁴ "Do not defile yourselves by any of these practices , for the nations I am driving out before you have defiled themselves by all these things.

²⁵ The land has become defiled, so I am punishing it for its sin, and the land will vomit out its inhabitants.

²⁶ But you are to keep My statutes and ordinances. You must not commit any of these abominations--not the native or the foreigner who lives among you.

²⁷ For the men who were in the land prior to you have committed all these abominations, and the land has become defiled.

²⁸ If you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it has vomited out the nations that were before you.

²⁹ Any person who does any of these abominations must be cut off from his people.

³⁰ You must keep My instruction to not do any of the detestable customs that were practiced before you, so that you do not defile yourselves by them; I am the LORD your God."

19 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Speak to the entire Israelite community and tell them: Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

³ "Each of you is to respect his mother and father. You are to keep My Sabbaths; I am the LORD your God.

⁴ Do not turn to idols or make cast images of gods for yourselves; I am the LORD your God.

⁵ "When you offer a fellowship sacrifice to the LORD, sacrifice it that you may be accepted.

⁶ It is to be eaten on the day you sacrifice it or on the next day, but what remains on the third day must be burned up.

⁷ If any is eaten on the third day, it is a repulsive thing; it will not be accepted.

⁸ Anyone who eats it will bear his punishment, for he has profaned what is holy to the LORD. That person must be cut off from his people.

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap to the very edge of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.

¹⁰ You must not strip your vineyard bare or gather its fallen grapes. Leave them

for the poor and the foreign resident; I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ "You must not steal. You must not act deceptively or lie to one another.

¹² You must not swear falsely by My name, profaning the name of your God; I am the LORD.

¹³ "You must not oppress your neighbor or rob him . The wages due a hired hand must not remain with you until morning.

¹⁴ You must not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you are to fear your God; I am the LORD.

¹⁵ "You must not act unjustly when rendering judgment. Do not be partial to the poor or give preference to the rich; judge your neighbor fairly.

¹⁶ You must not go about spreading slander among your people; you must not jeopardize your neighbor's life; I am the LORD.

¹⁷ "You must not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor directly, and you will not incur guilt because of him.

¹⁸ Do not take revenge or bear a grudge against members of your community, but love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

¹⁹ "You are to keep My statutes. You must not crossbreed two different kinds of your livestock, sow your fields with two kinds of seed, or put on a garment made of two kinds of material.

²⁰ "If a man has sexual intercourse with a woman who is a slave designated for another man, but she has not been redeemed or given her freedom, there must be punishment. They are not to be put to death, because she had not been freed.

²¹ However, he must bring his ram as a restitution offering to the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

²² The priest will make atonement on his behalf before the LORD with the ram of the restitution offering for the sin he has committed, and he will be forgiven for the sin he committed.

²³ "When you come into the land and plant any kind of tree for food, you are to consider the fruit forbidden. It will be forbidden to you for three years; it is not to be eaten.

²⁴ In the fourth year all its fruit must be consecrated as a praise offering to the LORD.

²⁵ But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit. In this way its yield will increase for you; I am the LORD your God.

²⁶ "You are not to eat anything with blood in it . You are not to practice divination or sorcery.

²⁷ You are not to cut off the hair at the sides of your head or mar the edge of your beard.

²⁸ You are not to make gashes on your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves; I am the LORD.

²⁹ "Do not debase your daughter by making her a prostitute, or the land will be prostituted and filled with depravity.

³⁰ You must keep My Sabbaths and revere My sanctuary; I am the LORD.

³¹ "Do not turn to mediums or consult spiritists, or you will be defiled by them; I am the LORD your God.

³² "You are to rise in the presence of the elderly and honor the old. Fear your God; I am the LORD.

³³ "When a foreigner lives with you in your land, you must not oppress him.

³⁴ You must regard the foreigner who lives with you as the native-born among you. You are to love him as yourself, for

you were foreigners in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.

³⁵ "You must not act unfairly in measurements of length, weight, or volume.

³⁶ You are to have honest balances, honest weights, an honest dry measure, and an honest liquid measure; I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

³⁷ You must keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them; I am the LORD."

20 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

² "Say to the Israelites: Any Israelite or foreigner living in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death; the people of the country are to stone him.

³ I will turn against that man and cut him off from his people, because he

gave his offspring to Molech, defiling My sanctuary and profaning My holy name.

⁴ But if the people of the country look the other way when that man gives any of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death,

⁵ then I will turn against that man and his family, and cut off from their people both him and all who follow him, prostituting themselves with Molech.

⁶ "Whoever turns to mediums or spiritists and prostitutes himself with them, I will turn against that person and cut him off from his people.

⁷ Consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

⁸ Keep My statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sets you apart.

⁹ "If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death. He has cursed his father or mother; his blood is on his own hands.

¹⁰ If a man commits adultery with a married woman--if he commits adultery with his neighbor's wife--both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.

¹¹ If a man sleeps with his father's wife, he has shamed his father. Both of them must be put to death; their blood is on their own hands.

¹² If a man sleeps with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death. They have acted perversely; their blood is on their own hands.

¹³ If a man sleeps with a man as with a woman, they have both committed an abomination. They must be put to death; their blood is on their own hands.

¹⁴ If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is depraved. Both he and they must be burned with fire, so that there will be no depravity among you.

¹⁵ If a man has sexual intercourse with an animal, he must be put to death; you are also to kill the animal.

¹⁶ If a woman comes near any animal and mates with it, you are to kill the woman and the animal. They must be put to death; their own blood is on them.

¹⁷ If a man marries his sister, whether his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, and they have sexual relations, it is a disgrace. They must be cut off publicly from their people. He has had sexual intercourse with his sister; he will bear his punishment.

¹⁸ If a man sleeps with a menstruating woman and has sexual intercourse with her, he has exposed the source of her flow , and she has uncovered the source of her blood. Both of them must be cut off from their people.

¹⁹ You must not have sexual intercourse with your mother's sister or your father's sister, for it is exposing one's own blood relative; both people will bear their punishment.

²⁰ If a man sleeps with his aunt, he has shamed his uncle; they will bear their guilt and die childless.

²¹ If a man marries his brother's wife, it is impurity. He has shamed his brother; they will be childless.

²² "You are to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances, and do them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live will not vomit you out.

²³ You must not follow the statutes of the nations I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and I abhorred them.

²⁴ And I promised you: You will inherit their land, since I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and

honey. I am the LORD your God who set you apart from the peoples.

²⁵ Therefore you must distinguish the clean animal from the unclean one, and the unclean bird from the clean one. You are not to make yourselves detestable by any land animal, bird, or whatever crawls on the ground; I have set these apart as unclean for you.

²⁶ You are to be holy to Me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be Mine.

²⁷ A man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist must be put to death. They are to be stoned; their blood is on their own hands."

21 ¹ The LORD said to Moses: "Speak to Aaron's sons, the priests, and tell them: A priest is not to make himself ceremonially unclean for a dead person among his relatives,

² except for his immediate family: his mother, father, son, daughter, or brother.

³ He may make himself unclean for his young unmarried sister in his immediate family.

⁴ He is not to make himself unclean for those related to him by marriage and so defile himself.

⁵ "Priests may not make bald spots on their heads, shave the edge of their beards, or make gashes on their bodies.

⁶ They are to be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, because they present the fire offerings to the LORD, the food of their God. They must be holy.

⁷ They are not to marry a woman defiled by prostitution or divorced by her husband, for the priest is holy to his God.

⁸ You are to consider him holy since he presents the food of your God. He will

be holy to you because I, the LORD who sets you apart, am holy.

⁹ If a priest's daughter defiles herself by promiscuity, she defiles her father; she must be burned up.

¹⁰ "The priest who is highest among his brothers, who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and has been ordained to wear the garments, must not dishevel his hair or tear his garments.

¹¹ He must not go near any dead person or make himself unclean even for his father or mother.

¹² He must not leave the sanctuary or he will desecrate the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him; I am the LORD.

¹³ "He is to marry a woman who is a virgin.

¹⁴ He is not to marry a widow, a divorced woman, or one defiled by

prostitution. He is to marry a virgin from his own people,

¹⁵ so that he does not corrupt his bloodline among his people, for I am the LORD who sets him apart."

¹⁶ The LORD spoke to Moses:

¹⁷ "Tell Aaron: None of your descendants throughout your generations who has a physical defect is to come near to present the food of his God.

¹⁸ No man who has any defect is to come near: no man who is blind, lame, facially disfigured, or deformed;

¹⁹ no man who has a broken foot or hand,

²⁰ or who is a hunchback or a dwarf, or who has an eye defect, a festering rash, scabs, or a crushed testicle.

²¹ No descendant of Aaron the priest who has a defect is to come near to present the fire offerings to the LORD.

He has a defect and is not to come near to present the food of his God.

²² He may eat the food of his God from what is especially holy as well as from what is holy.

²³ But because he has a defect, he must not go near the curtain or approach the altar. He is not to desecrate My sanctuaries, for I am the LORD who sets them apart."

²⁴ Moses said this to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites.

22 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Tell Aaron and his sons to deal respectfully with the holy offerings of the Israelites that they have consecrated to Me, so they do not profane My holy name; I am the LORD.

³ Say to them: If any man from any of your descendants throughout your generations is in a state of uncleanness yet approaches the holy offerings that

the Israelites consecrate to the LORD, that person will be cut off from My presence; I am the LORD.

⁴ No man of Aaron's descendants who has a skin disease or a discharge is to eat from the holy offerings until he is clean. Whoever touches anything made unclean by a dead person or by a man who has an emission of semen,

⁵ or whoever touches any swarming creature that makes him unclean or any person who makes him unclean-- whatever his uncleanness--

⁶ the man who touches any of these will remain unclean until evening and is not to eat from the holy offerings unless he has bathed his body with water.

⁷ When the sun has set, he will become clean, and then he may eat from the holy offerings, for that is his food.

⁸ He must not eat an animal that died naturally or was mauled by wild beasts,

making himself unclean by it; I am the LORD.

⁹ They must keep My instruction, or they will be guilty and die because they profane it; I am the LORD who sets them apart.

¹⁰ "No one outside a priest's family is to eat the holy offering. A foreigner staying with a priest or a hired hand is not to eat the holy offering.

¹¹ But if a priest purchases someone with his money, that person may eat it, and those born in his house may eat his food.

¹² If the priest's daughter is married to a man outside a priest's family, she is not to eat from the holy contributions.

¹³ But if the priest's daughter becomes widowed or divorced, has no children, and returns to her father's house as in her youth, she may share her father's food. But no outsider may share it.

¹⁴ If anyone eats a holy offering in error, he must add a fifth to its value and give the holy offering to the priest.

¹⁵ The priests must not profane the holy offerings the Israelites give to the LORD

¹⁶ and have them bear the penalty of restitution if the people eat their holy offerings. For I am the LORD who sets them apart."

¹⁷ The LORD spoke to Moses:

¹⁸ "Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites and tell them: Any man of the house of Israel or of the foreign residents in Israel who presents his offering--whether they present freewill gifts or payment of vows to the LORD as burnt offerings--

¹⁹ must offer an unblemished male from the cattle, sheep, or goats in order for you to be accepted.

²⁰ You are not to present anything that has a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf.

²¹ "When a man presents a fellowship sacrifice to the LORD to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the herd or flock, it has to be unblemished to be acceptable; there must be no defect in it.

²² You are not to present any animal to the LORD that is blind, injured, maimed, or has a running sore, festering rash, or scabs; you may not put any of them on the altar as a fire offering to the LORD.

²³ You may sacrifice as a freewill offering any animal from the herd or flock that has an elongated or stunted limb, but it is not acceptable as a vow offering.

²⁴ You are not to present to the LORD anything that has bruised, crushed,

torn, or severed testicles ; you must not sacrifice them in your land.

²⁵ Neither you nor a foreigner are to present food to your God from any of these animals. They will not be accepted for you because they are deformed and have a defect."

²⁶ The LORD spoke to Moses:

²⁷ "When an ox, sheep, or goat is born, it must remain with its mother for seven days; from the eighth day on, it will be acceptable as a gift, a fire offering to the LORD.

²⁸ But you are not to slaughter an animal from the herd or flock on the same day as its young.

²⁹ When you sacrifice a thank offering to the LORD, sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

³⁰ It is to be eaten on the same day. Do not let any of it remain until morning; I am the LORD.

³¹ "You are to keep My commands and do them; I am the LORD.

³² You must not profane My holy name; I must be treated as holy among the Israelites. I am the LORD who sets you apart,

³³ the One who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God; I am the LORD."

23 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: These are My appointed times, the times of the LORD that you will proclaim as sacred assemblies.

³ "For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a Sabbath of complete rest, a sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; it is a Sabbath to the LORD wherever you live.

⁴ "These are the LORD's appointed times, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times.

⁵ The Passover to the LORD comes in the first month, at twilight on the fourteenth day of the month.

⁶ The Festival of Unleavened Bread to the LORD is on the fifteenth day of the same month. For seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

⁷ On the first day you are to hold a sacred assembly; you are not to do any daily work.

⁸ You are to present a fire offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day there will be a sacred assembly; you must not do any daily work."

⁹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

¹⁰ "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land I am giving you and reap its harvest, you are to bring the first sheaf of your harvest to the priest.

¹¹ He will wave the sheaf before the LORD so that you may be accepted; the priest is to wave it on the day after the Sabbath.

¹² On the day you wave the sheaf, you are to offer a year-old male lamb without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹³ Its grain offering is to be four quarts of fine flour mixed with oil as a fire offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma, and its drink offering will be one quart of wine.

¹⁴ You must not eat bread, roasted grain, or any new grain until this very day, and you have brought the offering of your God. This is to be a permanent statute throughout your generations wherever you live.

¹⁵ "You are to count seven complete weeks starting from the day after the Sabbath, the day you brought the sheaf of the presentation offering.

¹⁶ You are to count 50 days until the day after the seventh Sabbath and then present an offering of new grain to the LORD.

¹⁷ Bring two loaves of bread from your settlements as a presentation offering, each of them made from four quarts of fine flour, baked with yeast, as firstfruits to the LORD.

¹⁸ You are to present with the bread seven unblemished male lambs a year old, one young bull, and two rams. They will be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offerings and drink offerings, a fire offering of a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁹ You are also to prepare one male goat as a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a fellowship sacrifice.

²⁰ The priest will wave the lambs with the bread of firstfruits as a presentation offering before the LORD; the bread and

the two lambs will be holy to the LORD for the priest.

²¹ On that same day you are to make a proclamation and hold a sacred assembly. You are not to do any daily work. This is to be a permanent statute wherever you live throughout your generations.

²² When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to reap all the way to the edge of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the foreign resident; I am the LORD your God."

²³ The LORD spoke to Moses:

²⁴ "Tell the Israelites: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you are to have a day of complete rest, commemoration and jubilation--a sacred assembly.

²⁵ You must not do any daily work, but you must present a fire offering to the LORD."

²⁶ The LORD again spoke to Moses:

²⁷ "The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. You are to hold a sacred assembly and practice self-denial; you are to present a fire offering to the LORD.

²⁸ On this particular day you are not to do any work, for it is a Day of Atonement to make atonement for yourselves before the LORD your God.

²⁹ If any person does not practice self-denial on this particular day, he must be cut off from his people.

³⁰ I will destroy among his people anyone who does any work on this same day.

³¹ You are not to do any work. This is a permanent statute throughout your generations wherever you live.

³² It will be a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must practice self-denial. You are to observe your Sabbath from the evening of the ninth day of the month until the following evening."

³³ The LORD spoke to Moses:

³⁴ "Tell the Israelites: The Festival of Booths to the LORD begins on the fifteenth day of this seventh month and continues for seven days.

³⁵ There is to be a sacred assembly on the first day; you are not to do any daily work.

³⁶ You are to present a fire offering to the LORD for seven days. On the eighth day you are to hold a sacred assembly and present a fire offering to the LORD. It is a solemn gathering; you are not to do any daily work.

³⁷ "These are the LORD's appointed times that you are to proclaim as sacred

assemblies for presenting fire offerings to the LORD, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its designated day.

³⁸ These are in addition to the offerings for the LORD's Sabbaths, your gifts, all your vow offerings, and all your freewill offerings that you give to the LORD.

³⁹ "You are to celebrate the LORD's festival on the fifteenth day of the seventh month for seven days after you have gathered the produce of the land. There will be complete rest on the first day and complete rest on the eighth day.

⁴⁰ On the first day you are to take the product of majestic trees--palm fronds, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook--and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

⁴¹ You are to celebrate it as a festival to the LORD seven days each year. This is a permanent statute for you throughout

your generations; you must celebrate it in the seventh month.

⁴² You are to live in booths for seven days. All the native-born of Israel must live in booths,

⁴³ so that your generations may know that I made the Israelites live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God."

⁴⁴ So Moses declared the LORD's appointed times to the Israelites.

24 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Command the Israelites to bring you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, so that the lamp will burn regularly.

³ Aaron is to tend it regularly from evening until morning before the LORD outside the veil of the testimony in the tent of meeting. This is a permanent statute throughout your generations.

⁴ He must regularly tend the lamps on the pure gold lampstand in the LORD's presence.

⁵ "Take fine flour and bake it into 12 loaves; each loaf is to be made with four quarts.

⁶ Arrange them in two rows, six to a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD.

⁷ Place pure frankincense near each row, so that it may serve as a memorial portion for the bread and a fire offering to the LORD.

⁸ The bread is to be set out before the LORD every Sabbath day as a perpetual covenant obligation on the part of the Israelites.

⁹ It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in a holy place, for it is the holiest portion for him from the fire offerings to the LORD; this is a permanent rule."

¹⁰ Now the son of an Israelite mother and an Egyptian father was among the Israelites. A fight broke out in the camp between the Israelite woman's son and an Israelite man.

¹¹ Her son cursed and blasphemed the Name, and they brought him to Moses. (His mother's name was Shelomith, a daughter of Dibri of the tribe of Dan.)

¹² They put him in custody until the LORD's decision could be made clear to them.

¹³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

¹⁴ "Bring the one who has cursed to the outside of the camp and have all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then have the whole community stone him.

¹⁵ And tell the Israelites: If anyone curses his God, he will bear the consequences of his sin.

¹⁶ Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD is to be put to death; the whole community must stone him. If he blasphemes the Name, he is to be put to death, whether the foreign resident or the native.

¹⁷ "If a man kills anyone, he must be put to death.

¹⁸ Whoever kills an animal is to make restitution for it, life for life.

¹⁹ If any man inflicts a permanent injury on his neighbor, whatever he has done is to be done to him:

²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. Whatever injury he inflicted on the person, the same is to be inflicted on him.

²¹ Whoever kills an animal is to make restitution for it, but whoever kills a person is to be put to death.

²² You are to have the same law for the foreign resident and the native, because I am the LORD your God."

²³ After Moses spoke to the Israelites, they brought the one who had cursed to the outside of the camp and stoned him. So the Israelites did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

25 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai:

² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land I am giving you, the land will observe a Sabbath to the LORD.

³ You may sow your field for six years, and you may prune your vineyard and gather its produce for six years.

⁴ But there will be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land in the seventh year, a Sabbath to the LORD: you are not to sow your field or prune your vineyard.

⁵ You are not to reap what grows by itself from your crop, or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. It must be a year of complete rest for the land.

⁶ Whatever the land produces during the Sabbath year can be food for you; for yourself, your male or female slave, and the hired hand or foreigner who stays with you.

⁷ All of its growth may serve as food for your livestock and the wild animals in your land.

⁸ "You are to count seven sabbatic years, seven times seven years, so that the time period of the seven sabbatic years amounts to 49.

⁹ Then you are to sound a trumpet loudly in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month; you will sound it throughout your land on the Day of Atonement.

¹⁰ You are to consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim freedom in the land for all its inhabitants. It will be your Jubilee, when each of you are to return to his property and each of you to his clan.

¹¹ The fiftieth year will be your Jubilee; you are not to sow, reap what grows by itself, or harvest its untended vines.

¹² It is to be holy to you because it is the Jubilee; you may only eat its produce directly from the field.

¹³ "In this Year of Jubilee, each of you will return to his property.

¹⁴ If you make a sale to your neighbor or a purchase from him, do not cheat one another.

¹⁵ You are to make the purchase from your neighbor based on the number of years since the last Jubilee. He is to sell to you based on the number of remaining harvest years.

¹⁶ You are to increase its price in proportion to a greater amount of years, and decrease its price in proportion to a lesser amount of years, because what he is selling to you is a number of harvests.

¹⁷ You are not to cheat one another, but fear your God, for I am the LORD your God.

¹⁸ "You are to observe My statutes and ordinances and carefully observe them, so that you may live securely in the land.

¹⁹ Then the land will yield its fruit, so that you can eat, be satisfied, and live securely in the land.

²⁰ If you wonder: 'What will we eat in the seventh year if we don't sow or gather our produce?'

²¹ I will appoint My blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years.

²² When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating from the previous harvest.

You will be eating this until the ninth year when its harvest comes in.

²³ "The land is not to be permanently sold because it is Mine, and you are only foreigners and temporary residents on My land.

²⁴ You are to allow the redemption of any land you occupy.

²⁵ If your brother becomes destitute and sells part of his property, his nearest relative may come and redeem what his brother has sold.

²⁶ If a man has no family redeemer, but he prospers and obtains enough to redeem his land,

²⁷ he may calculate the years since its sale, repay the balance to the man he sold it to, and return to his property.

²⁸ But if he cannot obtain enough to repay him, what he sold will remain in the possession of its purchaser until the Year of Jubilee. It is to be released at

the Jubilee, so that he may return to his property.

²⁹ "If a man sells a residence in a walled city, his right of redemption will last until a year has passed after its sale; his right of redemption will last a year.

³⁰ If it is not redeemed by the end of a full year, then the house in the walled city is permanently transferred to its purchaser throughout his generations. It is not to be released on the Jubilee.

³¹ But houses in villages that have no walls around them are to be classified as open fields. The right to redeem such houses stays in effect, and they are to be released at the Jubilee.

³² "Concerning the Levitical cities, the Levites always have the right to redeem houses in the cities they possess.

³³ Whatever property one of the Levites can redeem--a house sold in a city they possess--must be released at the Jubilee,

because the houses in the Levitical cities are their possession among the Israelites.

³⁴ The open pastureland around their cities may not be sold, for it is their permanent possession.

³⁵ "If your brother becomes destitute and cannot sustain himself among you, you are to support him as a foreigner or temporary resident, so that he can continue to live among you.

³⁶ Do not profit or take interest from him, but fear your God and let your brother live among you.

³⁷ You are not to lend him your silver with interest or sell him your food for profit.

³⁸ I 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 your brother among you becomes destitute and sells himself to you, you must not force him to do slave labor.

⁴⁰ Let him stay with you as a hired hand or temporary resident; he may work for you until the Year of Jubilee.

⁴¹ Then he and his children are to be released from you, and he may return to his clan and his ancestral property.

⁴² They are not to be sold as slaves, because they are My slaves I brought out of the land of Egypt.

⁴³ You are not to rule over them harshly but fear your God.

⁴⁴ Your male and female slaves are to be from the nations around you; you may purchase male and female slaves.

⁴⁵ You may also purchase them from the foreigners staying with you, or from their families living among you--those born in your land. These may become your property.

⁴⁶ You may leave them to your sons after you to inherit as property; you can make them slaves for life. But concerning your brothers, the Israelites, you must not rule over one another harshly.

⁴⁷ "If a foreigner or temporary resident living among you prospers, but your brother living near him becomes destitute and sells himself to the foreigner living among you, or to a member of the foreigner's clan,

⁴⁸ he has the right of redemption after he has been sold. One of his brothers may redeem him.

⁴⁹ His uncle or cousin may redeem him, or any of his close relatives from his clan may redeem him. If he prospers, he may redeem himself.

⁵⁰ The one who purchased him is to calculate the time from the year he sold himself to him until the Year of Jubilee. The price of his sale will be determined

by the number of years. It will be set for him like the daily wages of a hired hand.

⁵¹ If many years are still left, he must pay his redemption price in proportion to them based on his purchase price.

⁵² If only a few years remain until the Year of Jubilee, he will calculate and pay the price of his redemption in proportion to his remaining years.

⁵³ He will stay with him like a man hired year by year. A foreign owner is not to rule over him harshly in your sight.

⁵⁴ If he is not redeemed in any of these ways , he and his children are to be released at the Year of Jubilee.

⁵⁵ For the Israelites are My slaves. They are My slaves I brought out of the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.

26 ¹ "Do not make idols for yourselves, set up a carved image or sacred pillar for yourselves, or place a

sculpted stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God.

² You must keep My Sabbaths and honor My sanctuary; I am the LORD.

³ "If you follow My statutes and faithfully observe My commands,

⁴ I will give you rain at the right time, and the land will yield its produce, and the trees of the field will bear their fruit.

⁵ Your threshing will continue until grape harvest, and the grape harvest will continue until sowing time; you will have plenty of food to eat and live securely in your land.

⁶ I will give peace to the land, and you will lie down with nothing to frighten you . I will remove dangerous animals from the land, and no sword will pass through your land.

⁷ You will pursue your enemies, and they will fall before you by the sword.

⁸ Five of you will pursue 100, and 100 of you will pursue 10,000; your enemies will fall before you by the sword.

⁹ "I will turn to you, make you fruitful and multiply you, and confirm My covenant with you.

¹⁰ You will eat the old grain of the previous year and will clear out the old to make room for the new.

¹¹ I will place My residence among you, and I will not reject you.

¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people.

¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, so that you would no longer be their slaves. I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to live in freedom.

¹⁴ "But if you do not obey Me and observe all these commands--

¹⁵ if you reject My statutes and despise My ordinances, and do not observe all My commands--and break My covenant,

¹⁶ then I will do this to you: I will bring terror on you--wasting disease and fever that will cause your eyes to fail and your life to ebb away. You will sow your seed in vain because your enemies will eat it.

¹⁷ I will turn against you, so that you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee even though no one is pursuing you.

¹⁸ "But if after these things you will not obey Me, I will proceed to discipline you seven times for your sins.

¹⁹ I will break down your strong pride. I will make your sky like iron and your land like bronze,

²⁰ and your strength will be used up for nothing. Your land will not yield its

produce, and the trees of the land will not bear their fruit.

²¹ "If you act with hostility toward Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will multiply your plagues seven times for your sins.

²² I will send wild animals against you that will deprive you of your children, ravage your livestock, and reduce your numbers until your roads are deserted.

²³ "If in spite of these things you do not accept My discipline, but act with hostility toward Me,

²⁴ then I will act with hostility toward you; I also will strike you seven times for your sins.

²⁵ I will bring a sword against you to execute the vengeance of the covenant. Though you withdraw into your cities, I will send a pestilence among you, and you will be delivered into enemy hands.

²⁶ When I cut off your supply of bread, 10 women will bake your bread in a single oven and ration out your bread by weight, so that you will eat but not be satisfied.

²⁷ "And if in spite of this you do not obey Me but act with hostility toward Me,

²⁸ I will act with furious hostility toward you; I will also discipline you seven times for your sins.

²⁹ You will eat the flesh of your sons; you will eat the flesh of your daughters.

³⁰ I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and heap your dead bodies on the lifeless bodies of your idols; I will reject you.

³¹ I will reduce your cities to ruins and devastate your sanctuaries. I will not smell the pleasing aroma of your sacrifices .

³² I also will devastate the land, so that your enemies who come to live there will be appalled by it.

³³ But I will scatter you among the nations, and I will draw a sword to chase after you. So your land will become desolate, and your cities will become ruins.

³⁴ "Then the land will make up for its Sabbath years during the time it lies desolate, while you are in the land of your enemies. At that time the land will rest and make up for its Sabbaths.

³⁵ As long as it lies desolate, it will have the rest it did not have during your Sabbaths when you lived there.

³⁶ "I will put anxiety in the hearts of those of you who survive in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a wind-driven leaf will put them to flight, and they will flee as one flees from a

sword, and fall though no one is pursuing them .

³⁷ They will stumble over one another as if fleeing from a sword though no one is pursuing them . You will not be able to stand against your enemies.

³⁸ You will perish among the nations; the land of your enemies will devour you.

³⁹ Those who survive in the lands of your enemies will waste away because of their sin; they will also waste away because of their fathers' sins along with theirs.

⁴⁰ "But if they will confess their sin and the sin of their fathers--their unfaithfulness that they practiced against Me, and how they acted with hostility toward Me,

⁴¹ and I acted with hostility toward them and brought them into the land of their enemies--and if their

uncircumcised hearts will be humbled, and if they will pay the penalty for their sin,

⁴² then I will remember My covenant with Jacob. I will also remember My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

⁴³ For the land abandoned by them will make up for its Sabbaths by lying desolate without the people, while they pay the penalty for their sin, because they rejected My ordinances and abhorred My statutes.

⁴⁴ Yet in spite of this, while they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject or abhor them so as to destroy them and break My covenant with them, since I am the LORD their God.

⁴⁵ For their sake I will remember the covenant with their fathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the

sight of the nations to be their God; I am the LORD."

⁴⁶ These are the statutes, ordinances, and laws the LORD established between Himself and the Israelites through Moses on Mount Sinai.

27 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When someone makes a special vow to the LORD that involves the valuation of people,

³ if the valuation concerns a male from 20 to 60 years old, your valuation is 50 silver shekels measured by the standard sanctuary shekel.

⁴ If the person is a female, your valuation is 30 shekels.

⁵ If the person is from five to 20 years old, your valuation for a male is 20 shekels and for a female 10 shekels.

⁶ If the person is from one month to five years old, your valuation for a male

is five silver shekels, and for a female your valuation is three shekels of silver.

⁷ If the person is 60 years or more, your valuation is 15 shekels for a male and 10 shekels for a female.

⁸ But if one is too poor to pay the valuation, he must present the person before the priest and the priest will set a value for him. The priest will set a value for him according to what the one making the vow can afford.

⁹ "If the vow involves one of the animals that may be brought as an offering to the LORD, any of these he gives to the LORD will be holy.

¹⁰ He may not replace it or make a substitution for it, either good for bad, or bad for good. But if he does substitute one animal for another, both that animal and its substitute will be holy.

¹¹ "If the vow involves any of the unclean animals that may not be

brought as an offering to the LORD, the animal must be presented before the priest.

¹² The priest will set its value, whether high or low; the price will be set as the priest makes the valuation for you.

¹³ If the one who brought it decides to redeem it, he must add a fifth to the valuation.

¹⁴ "When a man consecrates his house as holy to the LORD, the priest will assess its value, whether high or low. The price will stand just as the priest assesses it.

¹⁵ But if the one who consecrated his house redeems it, he must add a fifth to the valuation price, and it will be his.

¹⁶ "If a man consecrates to the LORD any part of a field that he possesses, your valuation will be proportional to the seed needed to sow it, at the rate of 50 silver shekels for every five bushels of barley seed.

¹⁷ If he consecrates his field during the Year of Jubilee, the price will stand according to your valuation.

¹⁸ But if he consecrates his field after the Jubilee, the priest will calculate the price for him in proportion to the years left until the next Year of Jubilee, so that your valuation will be reduced.

¹⁹ If the one who consecrated the field decides to redeem it, he must add a fifth to the valuation price, and the field will transfer back to him.

²⁰ But if he does not redeem the field or if he has sold it to another man, it is no longer redeemable.

²¹ When the field is released in the Jubilee, it will be holy to the LORD like a field permanently set apart; it becomes the priest's property.

²² "If a person consecrates to the LORD a field he has purchased that is not part of his inherited landholding,

²³ then the priest will calculate for him the amount of the valuation up to the Year of Jubilee, and the person will pay the valuation on that day as a holy offering to the LORD.

²⁴ In the Year of Jubilee the field will return to the one he bought it from, the original owner.

²⁵ All your valuations will be measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, 20 gerahs to the shekel.

²⁶ "But no one can consecrate a firstborn of the livestock, whether an animal from the herd or flock, to the LORD, because a firstborn already belongs to the LORD.

²⁷ If it is one of the unclean livestock, it must be ransomed according to your valuation by adding a fifth of its value to it. If it is not redeemed, it can be sold according to your valuation.

²⁸ "Nothing that a man permanently sets apart to the LORD from all he owns, whether a person, an animal, or his inherited landholding, can be sold or redeemed; everything set apart is especially holy to the LORD.

²⁹ No person who has been set apart for destruction is to be ransomed; he must be put to death.

³⁰ "Every tenth of the land's produce, grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

³¹ If a man decides to redeem any part of this tenth, he must add one-fifth to its value.

³² Every tenth animal from the herd or flock, which passes under the shepherd's rod, will be holy to the LORD.

³³ He is not to inspect whether it is good or bad, and he is not to make a substitution for it. But if he does make

a substitution, both the animal and its substitute will be holy; they cannot be redeemed."

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

Numbers

1 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Wilderness of Sinai, on the first day of the second month of the second year after Israel's departure from the land of Egypt:

² "Take a census of the entire Israelite community by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the names of every male one by one.

³ You and Aaron are to register those who are 20 years old or more by their military divisions--everyone who can serve in Israel's army.

⁴ A man from each tribe is to be with you, each one the head of his ancestral house.

⁵ These are the names of the men who are to assist you: Elizur son of Shedeur from Reuben;

⁶ Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai from Simeon;

⁷ Nahshon son of Amminadab from Judah;

⁸ Nethanel son of Zuar from Issachar;

⁹ Eliab son of Helon from Zebulun;

¹⁰ from the sons of Joseph: Elishama son of Ammihud from Ephraim, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur from Manasseh;

¹¹ Abidan son of Gideoni from Benjamin;

¹² Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai from Dan;

¹³ Pagiel son of Ocran from Asher;

¹⁴ Eliasaph son of Deuel from Gad;

¹⁵ Ahira son of Enan from Naphtali.

¹⁶ These are the men called from the community; they are leaders of their

ancestral tribes, the heads of Israel's clans."

¹⁷ So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name,

¹⁸ and they assembled the whole community on the first day of the second month. They recorded their ancestry by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting one by one the names of those 20 years old or more,

¹⁹ just as the LORD commanded Moses. He registered them in the Wilderness of Sinai:

²⁰ The descendants of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting one by one the names of every male 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,

²¹ those registered for the tribe of Reuben numbered 46,500.

²² The descendants of Simeon: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, those registered counting one by one the names of every male 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,

²³ those registered for the tribe of Simeon numbered 59,300.

²⁴ The descendants of Gad: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the names of those 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,

²⁵ those registered for the tribe of Gad numbered 45,650.

²⁶ The descendants of Judah: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the names of those 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,

²⁷ those registered for the tribe of Judah numbered 74,600.

²⁸ The descendants of Issachar: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the names of those 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,

²⁹ those registered for the tribe of Issachar numbered 54,400.

³⁰ The descendants of Zebulun: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the names of those 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,

³¹ those registered for the tribe of Zebulun numbered 57,400.

³² The descendants of Joseph: The descendants of Ephraim: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the

names of those 20 years old or more,
everyone who could serve in the army,
³³ those registered for the tribe of
Ephraim numbered 40,500.

³⁴ The descendants of Manasseh:
according to their family records by
their clans and their ancestral houses,
counting the names of those 20 years
old or more, everyone who could serve
in the army,

³⁵ those registered for the tribe of
Manasseh numbered 32,200.

³⁶ The descendants of Benjamin:
according to their family records by
their clans and their ancestral houses,
counting the names of those 20 years
old or more, everyone who could serve
in the army,

³⁷ those registered for the tribe of
Benjamin numbered 35,400.

³⁸ The descendants of Dan: according
to their family records by their clans

and their ancestral houses, counting the names of those 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,
³⁹ those registered for the tribe of Dan numbered 62,700.

⁴⁰ The descendants of Asher: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the names of those 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,
⁴¹ those registered for the tribe of Asher numbered 41,500.

⁴² The descendants of Naphtali: according to their family records by their clans and their ancestral houses, counting the names of those 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in the army,

⁴³ those registered for the tribe of Naphtali numbered 53,400.

⁴⁴ These are the men Moses and Aaron registered, with the assistance of the 12

leaders of Israel; each represented his ancestral house.

⁴⁵ So all the Israelites 20 years old or more, everyone who could serve in Israel's army, were registered by their ancestral houses.

⁴⁶ All those registered numbered 603,550.

⁴⁷ But the Levites were not registered with them by their ancestral tribe.

⁴⁸ For the LORD had told Moses:

⁴⁹ "Do not register or take a census of the tribe of Levi with the other Israelites.

⁵⁰ Appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, all its furnishings, and everything in it. They are to transport the tabernacle and all its articles, take care of it, and camp around it.

⁵¹ Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites are to take it down, and whenever it is to stop at a campsite, the

Levites are to set it up. Any unauthorized person who comes near it must be put to death.

⁵² "The Israelites are to camp by their military divisions, each man with his encampment and under his banner.

⁵³ The Levites are to camp around the tabernacle of the testimony and watch over it, so that no wrath will fall on the Israelite community."

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

2 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

² "The Israelites are to camp under their respective banners beside the flags of their ancestral houses. They are to camp around the tent of meeting at a distance from it :

³ Judah's military divisions will camp on the east side toward the sunrise under their banner. The leader of the

descendants of Judah is Nahshon son of Amminadab.

⁴ His military division numbers 74,600.

⁵ The tribe of Issachar will camp next to it. The leader of the Issacharites is Nethanel son of Zuar.

⁶ His military division numbers 54,400.

⁷ The tribe of Zebulun will be next . The leader of the Zebulunites is Eliab son of Helon.

⁸ His military division numbers 57,400.

⁹ The total number in their military divisions who belong to Judah's encampment is 186,400; they will move out first.

¹⁰ Reuben's military divisions will camp on the south side under their banner. The leader of the Reubenites is Elizur son of Shedeur.

¹¹ His military division numbers 46,500.

¹² The tribe of Simeon will camp next to it. The leader of the Simeonites is Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

¹³ His military division numbers 59,300.

¹⁴ The tribe of Gad will be next . The leader of the Gadites is Eliasaph son of Deuel.

¹⁵ His military division numbers 45,650.

¹⁶ The total number in their military divisions who belong to Reuben's encampment is 151,450; they will move out second.

¹⁷ The tent of meeting is to move out with the Levites' camp, which is in the middle of the camps. They are to move out just as they camp, each in his place, with their banners.

¹⁸ Ephraim's military divisions will camp on the west side under their banner. The leader of the Ephraimites is Elishama son of Ammihud.

¹⁹ His military division numbers 40,500.

²⁰ The tribe of Manasseh will be next to it. The leader of the Manassites is Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

²¹ His military division numbers 32,200.

²² The tribe of Benjamin will be next . The leader of the Benjaminites is Abidan son of Gideoni.

²³ His military division numbers 35,400.

²⁴ The total in their military divisions who belong to Ephraim's encampment number 108,100; they will move out third.

²⁵ Dan's military divisions will camp on the north side under their banner. The leader of the Danites is Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

²⁶ His military division numbers 62,700.

²⁷ The tribe of Asher will camp next to it. The leader of the Asherites is Pagiel son of Ocran.

²⁸ His military division numbers 41,500.

²⁹ The tribe of Naphtali will be next .
The leader of the Naphtalites is Ahira
son of Enan.

³⁰ His military division numbers 53,400.

³¹ The total number who belong to
Dan's encampment is 157,600; they are
to move out last, with their banners."

³² These are the Israelites registered by
their ancestral houses. The total number
in the camps by their military divisions is
603,550.

³³ But the Levites were not registered
among the Israelites, just as the LORD
had commanded Moses.

³⁴ The Israelites did everything the
LORD commanded Moses; they camped
by their banners in this way and moved
out the same way, each man by his clan
and by his ancestral house.

3 ¹ These are the family records of
Aaron and Moses at the time the
LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai.

² These are the names of Aaron's sons: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

³ These are the names of Aaron's sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to serve as priests.

⁴ But Nadab and Abihu died in the LORD's presence when they presented unauthorized fire before the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai, and they had no sons. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests under the direction of Aaron their father.

⁵ The LORD spoke to Moses:

⁶ "Bring the tribe of Levi near and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him.

⁷ They are to perform duties for him and the entire community before the tent of meeting by attending to the service of the tabernacle.

⁸ They are to take care of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting and perform duties for the Israelites by attending to the service of the tabernacle.

⁹ Assign the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they have been assigned exclusively to him from the Israelites.

¹⁰ You are to appoint Aaron and his sons to carry out their priestly responsibilities, but any unauthorized person who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death."

¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

¹² "See, I have taken the Levites from the Israelites in place of every firstborn Israelite from the womb. The Levites belong to Me,

¹³ because every firstborn belongs to Me. At the time I struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated every firstborn in Israel to

Myself, both man and animal; they are Mine; I am the LORD."

¹⁴ The LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai:

¹⁵ "Register the Levites by their ancestral houses and their clans. You are to register every male one month old or more."

¹⁶ So Moses registered them in obedience to the LORD as he had been commanded:

¹⁷ These were Levi's sons by name: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁸ These were the names of Gershon's sons by their clans: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁹ Kohath's sons by their clans were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

²⁰ Merari's sons by their clans were Mahli and Mushi. These were the Levite clans by their ancestral houses.

²¹ The Libnite clan and the Shimeite clan came from Gershon; these were the Gershonite clans.

²² Those registered, counting every male one month old or more, numbered 7,500.

²³ The Gershonite clans camped behind the tabernacle on the west side,

²⁴ and the leader of the Gershonite family was Eliasaph son of Lael.

²⁵ The Gershonites' duties at the tent of meeting involved the tabernacle, the tent, its covering, the screen for the entrance to the tent of meeting,

²⁶ the hangings of the courtyard, the screen for the entrance to the courtyard that surrounds the tabernacle and the altar, and the tent ropes--all the work relating to these.

²⁷ The Amramite clan, the Izharite clan, the Hebronite clan, and the Uzzielite

clan came from Kohath; these were the Kohathites.

²⁸ Counting every male one month old or more, there were 8,600 responsible for the duties of the sanctuary.

²⁹ The clans of the Kohathites camped on the south side of the tabernacle,

³⁰ and the leader of the family of the Kohathite clans was Elizaphan son of Uzziel.

³¹ Their duties involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the sanctuary utensils that were used with these, and the screen--and all the work relating to them.

³² The chief of the Levite leaders was Eleazar son of Aaron the priest; he had oversight of those responsible for the duties of the sanctuary.

³³ The Mahlite clan and the Mushite clan came from Merari; these were the Merarite clans.

³⁴ Those registered, counting every male one month old or more, numbered 6,200.

³⁵ The leader of the family of the Merarite clans was Zuriel son of Abihail; they camped on the north side of the tabernacle.

³⁶ The assigned duties of Merari's descendants involved the tabernacle's supports, crossbars, posts, bases, all its equipment, and all the work related to these,

³⁷ in addition to the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes.

³⁸ Moses, Aaron, and his sons, who performed the duties of the sanctuary as a service on behalf of the Israelites, camped in front of the tabernacle on the east, in front of the tent of meeting toward the sunrise. Any unauthorized

person who came near it was to be put to death.

³⁹ The total number of all the Levite males one month old or more that Moses and Aaron registered by their clans at the LORD's command was 22,000.

⁴⁰ The LORD told Moses: "Register every firstborn male of the Israelites one month old or more, and list their names.

⁴¹ You are to take the Levites for Me--I am the LORD--in place of every firstborn among the Israelites, and the Levites' cattle in place of every firstborn among the Israelites' cattle."

⁴² So Moses registered every firstborn among the Israelites, as the LORD commanded him.

⁴³ The total number of the firstborn males one month old or more listed by name was 22,273.

⁴⁴ The LORD spoke to Moses again:

⁴⁵ "Take the Levites in place of every firstborn among the Israelites, and the Levites' cattle in place of their cattle. The Levites belong to Me; I am the LORD.

⁴⁶ As the redemption price for the 273 firstborn Israelites who outnumber the Levites,

⁴⁷ collect five shekels for each person, according to the standard sanctuary shekel--20 gerahs to the shekel.

⁴⁸ Give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are in excess among the Israelites."

⁴⁹ So Moses collected the redemption money from those in excess of the ones redeemed by the Levites.

⁵⁰ He collected the money from the firstborn Israelites: 1,365 shekels measured by the standard sanctuary shekel.

⁵¹ He gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons in obedience to the

LORD, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

4 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

² "Among the Levites, take a census of the Kohathites by their clans and their ancestral houses,

³ men from 30 years old to 50 years old--everyone who is qualified to do work at the tent of meeting.

⁴ "The service of the Kohathites at the tent of meeting concerns the most holy objects.

⁵ Whenever the camp is about to move on, Aaron and his sons are to go in, take down the screening veil, and cover the ark of the testimony with it.

⁶ They are to place over this a covering made of manatee skin, spread a solid blue cloth on top, and insert its poles.

⁷ "They are to spread a blue cloth over the table of the Presence and place the

plates and cups on it, as well as the bowls and pitchers for the drink offering. The regular bread offering is to be on it.

⁸ They are to spread a scarlet cloth over them, cover them with a covering made of manatee skin, and insert the poles in the table .

⁹ "They are to take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand used for light, with its lamps, snuffers, and firepans, as well as its jars of oil by which they service it.

¹⁰ Then they must place it with all its utensils inside a covering made of manatee skin and put them on the carrying frame.

¹¹ "They are to spread a blue cloth over the gold altar, cover it with a covering made of manatee skin, and insert its poles.

¹² They are to take all the serving utensils they use in the sanctuary, place them in a blue cloth, cover them with a

covering made of manatee skin, and put them on a carrying frame.

¹³ "They are to remove the ashes from the bronze altar, spread a purple cloth over it,

¹⁴ and place all the equipment on it that they use in serving: the firepans, meatforks, shovels, and basins--all the equipment of the altar. They are to spread a covering made of manatee skin over it and insert its poles.

¹⁵ "Aaron and his sons are to finish covering the holy objects and all their equipment whenever the camp is to move on. The Kohathites will come and carry them, but they are not to touch the holy objects or they will die. These are the transportation duties of the Kohathites regarding the tent of meeting.

¹⁶ "Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has oversight of the lamp oil, the fragrant

incense, the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil. He has oversight of the entire tabernacle and everything in it, the holy objects and their utensils."

¹⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

¹⁸ "Do not allow the Kohathite tribal clans to be wiped out from the Levites.

¹⁹ Do this for them so that they may live and not die when they come near the most holy objects: Aaron and his sons are to go in and assign each man his task and transportation duty.

²⁰ The Kohathites are not to go in and look at the holy objects, even for a moment, or they will die."

²¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

²² "Take a census of the Gershonites also, by their ancestral houses and their clans.

²³ Register men from 30 years old to 50 years old, everyone who is qualified to

perform service, to do work at the tent of meeting.

²⁴ This is the service of the Gershonite clans regarding work and transportation duties:

²⁵ They are to transport the tabernacle curtains, the tent of meeting with its covering and the covering made of manatee skin on top of it, the screen for the entrance to the tent of meeting,

²⁶ the hangings of the courtyard, the screen for the entrance at the gate of the courtyard that surrounds the tabernacle and the altar, along with their ropes and all the equipment for their service. They will carry out everything that needs to be done with these items.

²⁷ "All the service of the Gershonites, all their transportation duties and all their other work, is to be done at the command of Aaron and his sons; you

are to assign to them all that they are responsible to carry.

²⁸ This is the service of the Gershonite clans at the tent of meeting, and their duties will be under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

²⁹ "As for the Merarites, you are to register them by their clans and their ancestral houses.

³⁰ Register men from 30 years old to 50 years old, everyone who is qualified to do the work of the tent of meeting.

³¹ This is what they are responsible to carry as the whole of their service at the tent of meeting: the supports of the tabernacle, with its crossbars, posts, and bases,

³² the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes, including all their equipment and all the work related to them. You are

to assign by name the items that they are responsible to carry.

³³ This is the service of the Merarite clans regarding all their work at the tent of meeting, under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest."

³⁴ So Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the community registered the Kohathites by their clans and their ancestral houses,

³⁵ men from 30 years old to 50 years old, everyone who was qualified for work at the tent of meeting.

³⁶ The men registered by their clans numbered 2,750.

³⁷ These were the registered men of the Kohathite clans, everyone who could serve at the tent of meeting. Moses and Aaron registered them at the LORD's command through Moses.

³⁸ The Gershonites were registered by their clans and their ancestral houses,

³⁹ men from 30 years old to 50 years old, everyone who was qualified for work at the tent of meeting.

⁴⁰ The men registered by their clans and their ancestral houses numbered 2,630.

⁴¹ These were the registered men of the Gershonite clans. At the LORD's command Moses and Aaron registered everyone who could serve at the tent of meeting.

⁴² The men of the Merarite clans were registered by their clans and their ancestral houses,

⁴³ those from 30 years old to 50 years old, everyone who was qualified for work at the tent of meeting.

⁴⁴ The men registered by their clans numbered 3,200.

⁴⁵ These were the registered men of the Merarite clans; Moses and Aaron registered them at the LORD's command through Moses.

⁴⁶ Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel registered all the Levites by their clans and their ancestral houses,

⁴⁷ from 30 years old to 50 years old, everyone who was qualified to do the work of serving at the tent of meeting and transporting it .

⁴⁸ Their registered men numbered 8,580.

⁴⁹ At the LORD's command they were registered under the direction of Moses, each one according to his work and transportation duty, and his assignment was as the LORD commanded Moses.

5 ¹ The LORD instructed Moses:

² "Command the Israelites to send away anyone from the camp who is afflicted with a skin disease, anyone who has a bodily discharge, or anyone who is defiled because of a corpse.

³ You must send away both male or female; send them outside the camp,

so that they will not defile their camps where I dwell among them."

⁴ The Israelites did this, sending them outside the camp. The Israelites did as the LORD instructed Moses.

⁵ The LORD spoke to Moses:

⁶ "Tell the Israelites: When a man or woman commits any sin against another, that person acts unfaithfully toward the LORD and is guilty.

⁷ The person is to confess the sin he has committed. He is to pay full compensation, add a fifth of its value to it, and give it to the individual he has wronged.

⁸ But if that individual has no relative to receive compensation, the compensation goes to the LORD for the priest, along with the atonement ram by which the priest will make atonement for the guilty person.

⁹ Every holy contribution the Israelites present to the priest will be his.

¹⁰ Each one's holy contribution is his to give ; what each one gives to the priest will be his."

¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

¹² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: If any man's wife goes astray, is unfaithful to him,

¹³ and sleeps with another, but it is concealed from her husband, and she is undetected, even though she has defiled herself, since there is no witness against her, and she wasn't caught in the act ;

¹⁴ and if a feeling of jealousy comes over the husband and he becomes jealous because of his wife who has defiled herself--or if a feeling of jealousy comes over him and he becomes jealous of her though she has not defiled herself--

¹⁵ then the man is to bring his wife to the priest. He is also to bring an offering for her of two quarts of barley flour. He is not to pour oil over it or put frankincense on it because it is a grain offering of jealousy, a grain offering for remembrance that brings sin to mind.

¹⁶ "The priest is to bring her forward and have her stand before the LORD.

¹⁷ Then the priest is to take holy water in a clay bowl, and take some of the dust from the tabernacle floor and put it in the water.

¹⁸ After the priest has the woman stand before the LORD, he is to let down her hair and place in her hands the grain offering for remembrance, which is the grain offering of jealousy. The priest is to hold the bitter water that brings a curse.

¹⁹ The priest will require the woman to take an oath and will say to her, 'If no man has slept with you, if you have

not gone astray and become defiled while under your husband's authority, be unaffected by this bitter water that brings a curse.

²⁰ But if you have gone astray while under your husband's authority, if you have defiled yourself and a man other than your husband has slept with you'--

²¹ at this point the priest must make the woman take the oath with the sworn curse, and he is to say to her--'May the LORD make you into an object of your people's cursing and swearing when He makes your thigh shrivel and your belly swell.

²² May this water that brings a curse enter your stomach, causing your belly to swell and your thigh to shrivel.' "And the woman must reply, 'Amen, Amen.'

²³ "Then the priest is to write these curses on a scroll and wash them off into the bitter water.

²⁴ He will require the woman to drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and it will enter her and cause bitter suffering.

²⁵ The priest is to take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand, wave the offering before the LORD, and bring it to the altar.

²⁶ The priest is to take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial portion and burn it on the altar. Then he will require the woman to drink the water.

²⁷ "When he makes her drink the water, if she has defiled herself and been unfaithful to her husband, the water that brings a curse will enter her and cause bitter suffering; her belly will swell, and her thigh will shrivel. She will become a curse among her people.

²⁸ But if the woman has not defiled herself and is pure, she will be unaffected and will be able to conceive children.

²⁹ "This is the law regarding jealousy when a wife goes astray and defiles herself while under her husband's authority,

³⁰ or when a feeling of jealousy comes over a husband and he becomes jealous of his wife. He is to have the woman stand before the LORD, and the priest will apply this entire ritual to her.

³¹ The husband will be free of guilt, but that woman will bear the consequences of her guilt."

6 ¹ The LORD instructed Moses:

² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When a man or woman makes a special vow, a Nazirite vow, to consecrate himself to the LORD,

³ he is to abstain from wine and beer. He must not drink vinegar made from wine or from beer. He must not drink any grape juice or eat fresh grapes or raisins.

⁴ He is not to eat anything produced by the grapevine, from seeds to skin, during his vow.

⁵ "You must not cut his hair throughout the time of his vow of consecration. He must be holy until the time is completed during which he consecrates himself to the LORD; he is to let the hair of his head grow long.

⁶ He must not go near a dead body during the time he consecrates himself to the LORD.

⁷ He is not to defile himself for his father or mother, or his brother or sister, when they die, because the hair consecrated to his God is on his head.

⁸ He is holy to the LORD during the time of consecration.

⁹ "If someone suddenly dies near him, defiling his consecrated head of hair, he must shave his head on the day of

his purification; he is to shave it on the seventh day.

¹⁰ On the eighth day he is to bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹¹ The priest is to offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to make atonement on behalf of the Nazirite, since he sinned because of the corpse. On that day he must consecrate his head again .

¹² He is to rededicate his time of consecration to the LORD and to bring a year-old male lamb as a restitution offering. But do not count the previous period, because his consecrated hair became defiled.

¹³ "This is the law of the Nazirite: On the day his time of consecration is completed, he must be brought to the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹⁴ He is to present an offering to the LORD of one unblemished year-old male lamb as a burnt offering, one unblemished year-old female lamb as a sin offering, one unblemished ram as a fellowship offering,

¹⁵ along with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and a basket of unleavened cakes made from fine flour mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers coated with oil.

¹⁶ "The priest is to present these before the LORD and sacrifice the Nazirite's sin offering and burnt offering.

¹⁷ He will also offer the ram as a fellowship sacrifice to the LORD, together with the basket of unleavened bread. Then the priest will offer the accompanying grain offering and drink offering.

¹⁸ "The Nazirite is to shave his consecrated head at the entrance to the

tent of meeting, take the hair from his head, and put it on the fire under the fellowship sacrifice.

¹⁹ The priest is to take the boiled shoulder from the ram, one unleavened cake from the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and put them into the hands of the Nazirite after he has shaved his consecrated head.

²⁰ The priest is to wave them as a presentation offering before the LORD. It is a holy portion for the priest, in addition to the breast of the presentation offering and the thigh of the contribution. After that, the Nazirite may drink wine.

²¹ "This is the ritual of the Nazirite who vows his offering to the LORD for his consecration, in addition to whatever else he can afford; he must fulfill whatever vow he makes in keeping with the ritual for his consecration."

²² The LORD spoke to Moses:

²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

²⁴ The LORD bless you and protect you;

²⁵ the LORD make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD look with favor on you and give you peace.

²⁷ In this way they will put My name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

7 ¹ On the day Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed and consecrated it and all its furnishings, along with the altar and all its utensils. After he anointed and consecrated these things,

² the leaders of Israel, the heads of their ancestral houses, presented an offering . They were the tribal leaders who supervised the registration.

³ They brought as their offering before the LORD six covered carts and 12 oxen, a cart from every two leaders and an ox

from each one, and presented them in front of the tabernacle.

⁴ The LORD said to Moses,

⁵ "Accept these from them to be used in the work of the tent of meeting, and give this offering to the Levites, to each division according to their service."

⁶ So Moses took the carts and oxen and gave them to the Levites.

⁷ He gave the Gershonites two carts and four oxen corresponding to their service,

⁸ and gave the Merarites four carts and eight oxen corresponding to their service, under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

⁹ But he did not give any to the Kohathites, since their responsibility was service related to the holy objects carried on their shoulders.

¹⁰ The leaders also presented the dedication gift for the altar when it was

anointed. The leaders presented their offerings in front of the altar.

¹¹ The LORD told Moses, "Each day have one leader present his offering for the dedication of the altar."

¹² The one who presented his offering on the first day was Nahshon son of Amminadab from the tribe of Judah.

¹³ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

¹⁴ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

¹⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

¹⁶ one male goat for a sin offering;

¹⁷ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Nahshon son of Amminadab.

¹⁸ On the second day Nethanel son of Zuar, leader of Issachar, presented an offering .

¹⁹ As his offering, he presented one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

²⁰ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

²¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

²² one male goat for a sin offering;

²³ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Nethanel son of Zuar.

²⁴ On the third day Eliab son of Helon, leader of the Zebulunites, presented an offering .

²⁵ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

²⁶ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

²⁷ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

²⁸ one male goat for a sin offering;

²⁹ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a

year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Eliab son of Helon.

³⁰ On the fourth day Elizur son of Shedeur, leader of the Reubenites, presented an offering .

³¹ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

³² one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

³³ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

³⁴ one male goat for a sin offering;

³⁵ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Elizur son of Shedeur.

³⁶ On the fifth day Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, leader of the Simeonites, presented an offering .

³⁷ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

³⁸ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

³⁹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁴⁰ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁴¹ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

⁴² On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, leader of the Gadites, presented an offering .

⁴³ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁴⁴ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

⁴⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁴⁶ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁴⁷ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice.

This was the offering of Eliasaph son of Deuel.

⁴⁸ On the seventh day Elishama son of Ammihud, leader of the Ephraimites, presented an offering .

⁴⁹ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁵⁰ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

⁵¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁵² one male goat for a sin offering;

⁵³ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice.

This was the offering of Elishama son of Ammihud.

⁵⁴ On the eighth day Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, leader of the Manassites, presented an offering .

⁵⁵ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁵⁶ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

⁵⁷ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁵⁸ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁵⁹ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice.

This was the offering of Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

⁶⁰ On the ninth day Abidan son of Gideoni, leader of the Benjaminites, presented an offering .

⁶¹ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁶² one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

⁶³ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁶⁴ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁶⁵ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Abidan son of Gideoni.

⁶⁶ On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, leader of the Danites, presented an offering .

⁶⁷ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁶⁸ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

⁶⁹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁷⁰ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁷¹ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

⁷² On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Ochan, leader of the Asherites, presented an offering .

⁷³ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁷⁴ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

⁷⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁷⁶ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁷⁷ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Pagiel son of Ochan.

⁷⁸ On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, leader of the Naphtalites, presented an offering .

⁷⁹ His offering was one silver dish weighing three and a quarter pounds and one silver basin weighing one and three-quarter pounds, measured by the standard sanctuary shekel, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁸⁰ one gold bowl weighing four ounces, full of incense;

⁸¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁸² one male goat for a sin offering;

⁸³ and two bulls, five rams, five male breeding goats, and five male lambs a year old, for the fellowship sacrifice. This was the offering of Ahira son of Enan.

⁸⁴ This was the dedication gift from the leaders of Israel for the altar when it

was anointed: 12 silver dishes, 12 silver basins, and 12 gold bowls.

⁸⁵ Each silver dish weighed three and a quarter pounds, and each basin one and three-quarter pounds. The total weight of the silver articles was 60 pounds measured by the standard sanctuary shekel.

⁸⁶ The 12 gold bowls full of incense each weighed four ounces measured by the standard sanctuary shekel. The total weight of the gold bowls was three pounds.

⁸⁷ All the livestock for the burnt offering totaled 12 bulls, 12 rams, and 12 male lambs a year old, with their grain offerings, and 12 male goats for the sin offering.

⁸⁸ All the livestock for the fellowship sacrifice totaled 24 bulls, 60 rams, 60 male breeding goats, and 60 male lambs

a year old. This was the dedication gift for the altar after it was anointed.

⁸⁹ When Moses entered the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim. He spoke to him that way

.

8 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:

² "Speak to Aaron and tell him: When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps are to give light in front of the lampstand."

³ So Aaron did this; he set up its lamps to give light in front of the lampstand just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁴ This is the way the lampstand was made: it was a hammered work of gold, hammered from its base to its flower petals. The lampstand was made

according to the pattern the LORD had shown Moses.

⁵ The LORD spoke to Moses:

⁶ "Take the Levites from among the Israelites and ceremonially cleanse them.

⁷ This is what you must do to them for their purification: Sprinkle them with the purification water. Have them shave their entire bodies and wash their clothes, and so purify themselves.

⁸ "They are to take a young bull and its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you are to take a second young bull for a sin offering.

⁹ Bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the entire Israelite community.

¹⁰ Then present the Levites before the LORD, and have the Israelites lay their hands on them.

¹¹ Aaron is to present the Levites before the LORD as a presentation offering from the Israelites, so that they may perform the LORD's work.

¹² Next the Levites are to lay their hands on the heads of the bulls. Sacrifice one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites.

¹³ "You are to have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons, and you are to present them before the LORD as a presentation offering.

¹⁴ In this way you are to separate the Levites from the rest of the Israelites so that the Levites will belong to Me.

¹⁵ After that the Levites may come to serve at the tent of meeting, once you have ceremonially cleansed them and presented them as a presentation offering.

¹⁶ For they have been exclusively assigned to Me from the Israelites. I have taken them for Myself in place of all who come first from the womb, every Israelite firstborn.

¹⁷ For every firstborn among the Israelites is Mine, both man and animal. I consecrated them to Myself on the day I struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt.

¹⁸ But I have taken the Levites in place of every firstborn among the Israelites.

¹⁹ From the Israelites, I have given the Levites exclusively to Aaron and his sons to perform the work for the Israelites at the tent of meeting and to make atonement on their behalf, so that no plague will come against the Israelites when they approach the sanctuary."

²⁰ Moses, Aaron, and the entire Israelite community did this to the Levites. The Israelites did everything to them the

LORD commanded Moses regarding the Levites.

²¹ The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes; then Aaron presented them before the LORD as a presentation offering. Aaron also made atonement for them to ceremonially cleanse them.

²² After that, the Levites came to do their work at the tent of meeting in the presence of Aaron and his sons. So they did to them as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites.

²³ The LORD spoke to Moses:

²⁴ "In regard to the Levites: From 25 years old or more, a man enters the service in the work at the tent of meeting.

²⁵ But at 50 years old he is to retire from his service in the work and no longer serve.

²⁶ He may assist his brothers to fulfill responsibilities at the tent of meeting, but he must not do the work. This is how you are to deal with the Levites regarding their duties."

9¹ In the first month of the second year after their departure from the land of Egypt, the LORD told Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai:

² "The Israelites are to observe the Passover at its appointed time.

³ You must observe it at its appointed time on the fourteenth day of this month at twilight; you are to observe it according to all its statutes and ordinances."

⁴ So Moses told the Israelites to observe the Passover,

⁵ and they observed it in the first month on the fourteenth day at twilight in the Wilderness of Sinai. The Israelites did

everything as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁶ But there were some men who were unclean because of a human corpse, so they could not observe the Passover on that day. These men came before Moses and Aaron the same day

⁷ and said to him, "We are unclean because of a human corpse. Why should we be excluded from presenting the LORD's offering at its appointed time with the other Israelites?"

⁸ Moses replied to them, "Wait here until I hear what the LORD commands for you."

⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

¹⁰ "Tell the Israelites: When any one of you or your descendants is unclean because of a corpse or is on a distant journey, he may still observe the Passover to the LORD.

¹¹ Such people are to observe it in the second month, on the fourteenth day at twilight. They are to eat the animal with unleavened bread and bitter herbs;

¹² they may not leave any of it until morning or break any of its bones. They must observe the Passover according to all its statutes.

¹³ "But the man who is ceremonially clean, is not on a journey, and yet fails to observe the Passover is to be cut off from his people, because he did not present the LORD's offering at its appointed time. That man will bear the consequences of his sin.

¹⁴ "If a foreigner resides with you and wants to observe the Passover to the LORD, he is to do so according to the Passover statute and its ordinances. You are to apply the same statute to both the foreign resident and the native of the land."

¹⁵ On the day the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and it appeared like fire above the tabernacle from evening until morning.

¹⁶ It remained that way continuously: the cloud would cover it, appearing like fire at night.

¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was lifted up above the tent, the Israelites would set out; at the place where the cloud stopped, there the Israelites camped.

¹⁸ At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at the LORD's command they camped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they camped.

¹⁹ Even when the cloud stayed over the tabernacle many days, the Israelites carried out the LORD's requirement and did not set out.

²⁰ Sometimes the cloud remained over the tabernacle for only a few days. They

would camp at the LORD's command and set out at the LORD's command.

²¹ Sometimes the cloud remained only from evening until morning; when the cloud lifted in the morning, they set out. Or if it remained a day and a night, they moved out when the cloud lifted.

²² Whether it was two days, a month, or longer, the Israelites camped and did not set out as long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle. But when it was lifted, they set out.

²³ They camped at the LORD's command, and they set out at the LORD's command. They carried out the LORD's requirement according to His command through Moses.

10 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Make two trumpets of hammered silver to summon the community and have the camps set out.

³ When both are sounded in long blasts, the entire community is to gather before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁴ However, if one is sounded, only the leaders, the heads of Israel's clans, are to gather before you.

⁵ "When you sound short blasts, the camps pitched on the east are to set out.

⁶ When you sound short blasts a second time, the camps pitched on the south are to set out. Short blasts are to be sounded for them to set out.

⁷ When calling the assembly together, you are to sound long blasts, not short ones.

⁸ The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to sound the trumpets. Your use of these is a permanent statute throughout your generations.

⁹ "When you enter into battle in your land against an adversary who is

attacking you, sound short blasts on the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God and be delivered from your enemies.

¹⁰ You are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and your fellowship sacrifices and on your joyous occasions, your appointed festivals, and the beginning of each of your months. They will serve as a reminder for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."

¹¹ During the second year, in the second month on the twentieth day of the month, the cloud was lifted up above the tabernacle of the testimony.

¹² The Israelites traveled on from the Wilderness of Sinai, moving from one place to the next until the cloud stopped in the Wilderness of Paran.

¹³ They set out for the first time according to the LORD's command through Moses.

¹⁴ The military divisions of the camp of Judah with their banner set out first, and Nahshon son of Amminadab was over Judah's divisions.

¹⁵ Nethanel son of Zuar was over the division of the Issachar tribe,

¹⁶ and Eliab son of Helon was over the division of the Zebulun tribe.

¹⁷ The tabernacle was then taken down, and the Gershonites and the Merarites set out, transporting the tabernacle.

¹⁸ The military divisions of the camp of Reuben with their banner set out, and Elizur son of Shedeur was over Reuben's division.

¹⁹ Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai was over the division of Simeon's tribe,

²⁰ and Eliasaph son of Deuel was over the division of the tribe of Gad.

²¹ The Kohathites then set out, transporting the holy objects; the tabernacle was to be set up before their arrival.

²² Next the military divisions of the camp of Ephraim with their banner set out, and Elishama son of Ammihud was over Ephraim's division.

²³ Gamaliel son of Pedahzur was over the division of the tribe of Manasseh,

²⁴ and Abidan son of Gideoni was over the division of the tribe of Benjamin.

²⁵ The military divisions of the camp of Dan with their banner set out, serving as rearguard for all the camps, and Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai was over Dan's division.

²⁶ Pagiël son of Ocran was over the division of the tribe of Asher,

²⁷ and Ahira son of Enan was over the division of the tribe of Naphtali.

²⁸ This was the order of march for the Israelites by their military divisions as they set out.

²⁹ Moses said to Hobab, son of Moses' father-in-law Reuel the Midianite: "We're setting out for the place the LORD promised: 'I will give it to you.' Come with us, and we will treat you well, for the LORD has promised good things to Israel."

³⁰ But he replied to him, "I don't want to go. Instead, I will go to my own land and my relatives."

³¹ "Please don't leave us," Moses said, "since you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you can serve as our eyes.

³² If you come with us, whatever good the LORD does for us we will do for you."

³³ They set out from the mountain of the LORD on a three-day journey to seek a resting place for them, with the ark of

the LORD's covenant traveling ahead of them for the three days.

³⁴ Meanwhile, the cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp.

³⁵ Whenever the ark set out, Moses would say: Arise, LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, and those who hate You flee from Your presence.

³⁶ When it came to rest, he would say: Return, LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel.

11 ¹ Now the people began complaining openly before the LORD about hardship. When the LORD heard, His anger burned, and the fire from the LORD blazed among them and consumed the outskirts of the camp.

² Then the people cried out to Moses, and he prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down.

³ So that place was named Taberah, because the LORD's fire had blazed among them.

⁴ Contemptible people among them had a strong craving for other food . The Israelites cried again and said, "Who will feed us meat?"

⁵ We remember the free fish we ate in Egypt, along with the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic.

⁶ But now our appetite is gone; there's nothing to look at but this manna!"

⁷ The manna resembled coriander seed, and its appearance was like that of bdellium.

⁸ The people walked around and gathered it . They ground it on a pair of grinding stones or crushed it in a mortar, then boiled it in a cooking pot and shaped it into cakes. It tasted like a pastry cooked with the finest oil.

⁹ When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it.

¹⁰ Moses heard the people, family after family, crying at the entrance of their tents. The LORD was very angry; Moses was also provoked.

¹¹ So Moses asked the LORD, "Why have You brought such trouble on Your servant? Why are You angry with me, and why do You burden me with all these people?"

¹² Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth so You should tell me, 'Carry them at your breast, as a nursing woman carries a baby,' to the land that You swore to give their fathers?

¹³ Where can I get meat to give all these people? For they are crying to me: 'Give us meat to eat!'

¹⁴ "I can't carry all these people by myself. They are too much for me.

¹⁵ If You are going to treat me like this, please kill me right now. If You are pleased with me, don't let me see my misery any more ."

¹⁶ The LORD answered Moses, "Bring Me 70 men from Israel known to you as elders and officers of the people. Take them to the tent of meeting and have them stand there with you.

¹⁷ Then I will come down and speak with you there. I will take some of the Spirit who is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you bear the burden of the people, so that you do not have to bear it by yourself.

¹⁸ "Tell the people: Purify yourselves in readiness for tomorrow, and you will eat meat because you cried before the LORD: 'Who will feed us meat? We really had it good in Egypt.' The LORD will give you meat and you will eat.

¹⁹ You will eat, not for one day, or two days, or five days, or 10 days, or 20 days,
²⁰ but for a whole month--until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes nauseating to you--because you have rejected the LORD who is among you, and cried to Him: 'Why did we ever leave Egypt?'"

²¹ But Moses replied, "I'm in the middle of a people with 600,000 foot soldiers, yet You say, 'I will give them meat, and they will eat for a month.'

²² If flocks and herds were slaughtered for them, would they have enough? Or if all the fish in the sea were caught for them, would they have enough?"

²³ The LORD answered Moses, "Is the LORD's power limited? You will see whether or not what I have promised will happen to you."

²⁴ Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. He brought 70

men from the elders of the people and had them stand around the tent.

²⁵ Then the LORD descended in the cloud and spoke to him. He took some of the Spirit that was on Moses and placed the Spirit on the 70 elders. As the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they never did it again.

²⁶ Two men had remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other Medad; the Spirit rested on them--they were among those listed, but had not gone out to the tent--and they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷ A young man ran and reported to Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

²⁸ Joshua son of Nun, assistant to Moses since his youth, responded, "Moses, my lord, stop them!"

²⁹ But Moses asked him, "Are you jealous on my account? If only all the

LORD's people were prophets, and the LORD would place His Spirit on them."

³⁰ Then Moses returned to the camp along with the elders of Israel.

³¹ A wind sent by the LORD came up and blew quail in from the sea; it dropped them at the camp all around, three feet off the ground, about a day's journey in every direction.

³² The people were up all that day and night and all the next day gathering the quail--the one who took the least gathered 33 bushels--and they spread them out all around the camp.

³³ While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the LORD's anger burned against the people, and the LORD struck them with a very severe plague.

³⁴ So they named that place Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved the meat .

³⁵ From Kibroth-hattaavah the people moved on to Hazeroth and remained there.

12 ¹ Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because of the Cushite woman he married (for he had married a Cushite woman).

² They said, "Does the LORD speak only through Moses? Does He not also speak through us?" And the LORD heard it .

³ Moses was a very humble man, more so than any man on the face of the earth.

⁴ Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "You three come out to the tent of meeting." So the three of them went out.

⁵ Then the LORD descended in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the tent, and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them came forward,

⁶ He said: "Listen to what I say: If there is a prophet among you from the LORD, I

make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.

⁷ Not so with My servant Moses; he is faithful in all My household.

⁸ I speak with him directly, openly, and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. So why were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"

⁹ The LORD's anger burned against them, and He left.

¹⁰ As the cloud moved away from the tent, Miriam's skin suddenly became diseased, as white as snow. When Aaron turned toward her, he saw that she was diseased

¹¹ and said to Moses, "My lord, please don't hold against us this sin we have so foolishly committed.

¹² Please don't let her be like a dead baby whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb."

¹³ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "God, please heal her!"

¹⁴ The LORD answered Moses, "If her father had merely spit in her face, wouldn't she remain in disgrace for seven days? Let her be confined outside the camp for seven days; after that she may be brought back in."

¹⁵ So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was brought back in.

¹⁶ After that, the people set out from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran.

13 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses:
² "Send men to scout out the land of Canaan I am giving to the Israelites. Send one man who is a leader among them from each of their ancestral tribes."

³ Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran at the LORD's command. All the men were leaders in Israel.

⁴ These were their names: Shammua son of Zaccur from the tribe of Reuben;

⁵ Shaphat son of Hori from the tribe of Simeon;

⁶ Caleb son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah;

⁷ Igal son of Joseph from the tribe of Issachar;

⁸ Hoshea son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim;

⁹ Palti son of Raphu from the tribe of Benjamin;

¹⁰ Gaddiel son of Sodi from the tribe of Zebulun;

¹¹ Gaddi son of Susi from the tribe of Manasseh (from the tribe of Joseph);

¹² Ammiel son of Gemalli from the tribe of Dan;

¹³ Sethur son of Michael from the tribe of Asher;

¹⁴ Nahbi son of Vophsi from the tribe of Naphtali;

¹⁵ Geuel son of Machi from the tribe of Gad.

¹⁶ These were the names of the men Moses sent to scout out the land, and Moses renamed Hoshea son of Nun, Joshua.

¹⁷ When Moses sent them to scout out the land of Canaan, he told them, "Go up this way to the Negev, then go up into the hill country.

¹⁸ See what the land is like, and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.

¹⁹ Is the land they live in good or bad? Are the cities they live in encampments or fortifications?

²⁰ Is the land fertile or unproductive? Are there trees in it or not? Be

courageous. Bring back some fruit from the land." It was the season for the first ripe grapes.

²¹ So they went up and scouted out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob near the entrance to Hamath.

²² They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were living. Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.

²³ When they came to the Valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes, which was carried on a pole by two men. They also took some pomegranates and figs.

²⁴ That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut there.

²⁵ At the end of 40 days they returned from scouting out the land.

²⁶ The men went back to Moses, Aaron, and the entire Israelite community in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh. They brought back a report for them and the whole community, and they showed them the fruit of the land.

²⁷ They reported to Moses: "We went into the land where you sent us. Indeed it is flowing with milk and honey, and here is some of its fruit.

²⁸ However, the people living in the land are strong, and the cities are large and fortified. We also saw the descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites are living in the land of the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the Jordan."

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people in the presence of Moses and said, "We must

go up and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it!"

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him responded, "We can't go up against the people because they are stronger than we are!"

³² So they gave a negative report to the Israelites about the land they had scouted: "The land we passed through to explore is one that devours its inhabitants, and all the people we saw in it are men of great size.

³³ We even saw the Nephilim there." (The offspring of Anak were descended from the Nephilim.) "To ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and we must have seemed the same to them."

14 ¹ Then the whole community broke into loud cries, and the people wept that night.

² All the Israelites complained about Moses and Aaron, and the whole

community told them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness!

³ Why is the LORD bringing us into this land to die by the sword? Our wives and little children will become plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

⁴ So they said to one another, "Let's appoint a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell down with their faces to the ground in front of the whole assembly of the Israelite community.

⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who scouted out the land, tore their clothes

⁷ and said to the entire Israelite community: "The land we passed through and explored is an extremely good land.

⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us.

⁹ Only don't rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land, for we will devour them. Their protection has been removed from them, and the LORD is with us. Don't be afraid of them!"

¹⁰ While the whole community threatened to stone them, the glory of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites at the tent of meeting.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people despise Me? How long will they not trust in Me despite all the signs I have performed among them?

¹² I will strike them with a plague and destroy them. Then I will make you into a greater and mightier nation than they are."

¹³ But Moses replied to the LORD, "The Egyptians will hear about it, for by Your strength You brought up this people from them.

¹⁴ They will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people, how You, LORD, are seen face to face, how Your cloud stands over them, and how You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

¹⁵ If You kill this people with a single blow, the nations that have heard of Your fame will declare,

¹⁶ 'Since the LORD wasn't able to bring this people into the land He swore to give them, He has slaughtered them in the wilderness.'

¹⁷ "So now, may My Lord's power be magnified just as You have spoken:

¹⁸ The LORD is slow to anger and rich in faithful love, forgiving wrongdoing and

rebellion. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children to the third and fourth generation.

¹⁹ Please pardon the wrongdoing of this people in keeping with the greatness of Your faithful love, just as You have forgiven them from Egypt until now."

²⁰ The LORD responded, "I have pardoned them as you requested.

²¹ Yet as surely as I live and as the whole earth is filled with the LORD's glory,

²² none of the men who have seen My glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tested Me these 10 times and did not obey Me,

²³ will ever see the land I swore to give their fathers. None of those who have despised Me will see it.

²⁴ But since My servant Caleb has a different spirit and has followed Me

completely, I will bring him into the land where he has gone, and his descendants will inherit it.

²⁵ Since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the lowlands, turn back tomorrow and head for the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea."

²⁶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

²⁷ "How long must I endure this evil community that keeps complaining about Me? I have heard the Israelites' complaints that they make against Me.

²⁸ Tell them: As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you exactly as I heard you say.

²⁹ Your corpses will fall in this wilderness--all of you who were registered in the census , the entire number of you 20 years old or more--because you have complained about Me.

³⁰ I swear that none of you will enter the land I promised to settle you in, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

³¹ I will bring your children whom you said would become plunder into the land you rejected, and they will enjoy it.

³² But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness.

³³ Your children will be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years and bear the penalty for your acts of unfaithfulness until all your corpses lie scattered in the wilderness.

³⁴ You will bear the consequences of your sins 40 years based on the number of the 40 days that you scouted the land, a year for each day. You will know My displeasure.

³⁵ I, the LORD, have spoken. I swear that I will do this to the entire evil community that has conspired against Me. They will

come to an end in the wilderness, and there they will die."

³⁶ So the men Moses sent to scout out the land, and who returned and incited the entire community to complain about him by spreading a bad report about the land--

³⁷ those men who spread the report about the land were struck down by the LORD.

³⁸ Only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh remained alive of those men who went to scout out the land.

³⁹ When Moses reported these words to all the Israelites, the people were overcome with grief.

⁴⁰ They got up early the next morning and went up the ridge of the hill country, saying, "Let's go to the place the LORD promised, for we were wrong."

⁴¹ But Moses responded, "Why are you going against the LORD's command? It won't succeed.

⁴² Don't go, because the LORD is not among you and you will be defeated by your enemies.

⁴³ The Amalekites and Canaanites are right in front of you, and you will fall by the sword. The LORD won't be with you, since you have turned from following Him."

⁴⁴ But they dared to go up the ridge of the hill country, even though the ark of the LORD's covenant and Moses did not leave the camp.

⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that part of the hill country came down, attacked them, and routed them as far as Hormah.

- 15** ¹ The LORD instructed Moses:
- ² "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land I am giving you to settle in,
- ³ and you make a fire offering to the LORD from the herd or flock--either a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow, or as a freewill offering, or at your appointed festivals--to produce a pleasing aroma for the LORD,
- ⁴ the one presenting his offering to the LORD must also present a grain offering of two quarts of fine flour mixed with a quart of oil.
- ⁵ Prepare a quart of wine as a drink offering with the burnt offering or sacrifice of each lamb.
- ⁶ "If you prepare a grain offering with a ram, it must be four quarts of fine flour mixed with a third of a gallon of oil.

⁷ Also present a third of a gallon of wine for a drink offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁸ "If you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering or as a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow, or as a fellowship offering to the LORD,

⁹ a grain offering of six quarts of fine flour mixed with two quarts of oil must be presented with the bull.

¹⁰ Also present two quarts of wine as a drink offering. It is a fire offering of pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹¹ This is to be done for each ox, ram, lamb, or goat.

¹² This is how you must prepare each of them, no matter how many.

¹³ "Every Israelite is to prepare these things in this way when he presents a fire offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴ When a foreigner resides with you or someone else is among you and wants

to prepare a fire offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD, he is to do exactly as you do throughout your generations.

¹⁵ The assembly is to have the same statute for both you and the foreign resident as a permanent statute throughout your generations. You and the foreigner will be alike before the LORD.

¹⁶ The same law and the same ordinance will apply to both you and the foreigner who resides with you."

¹⁷ The LORD instructed Moses:

¹⁸ "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: After you enter the land where I am bringing you,

¹⁹ you are to offer a contribution to the LORD when you eat from the food of the land.

²⁰ You are to offer a loaf from your first batch of dough as a contribution;

offer it just like a contribution from the threshing floor.

²¹ Throughout your generations, you are to give the LORD a contribution from the first batch of your dough.

²² "When you sin unintentionally and do not obey all these commands that the LORD spoke to Moses--

²³ all that the LORD has commanded you through Moses, from the day the LORD issued the commands and onward throughout your generations--

²⁴ and if it was done unintentionally without the community's awareness, the entire community is to prepare one young bull for a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering and drink offering according to the regulation, and one male goat as a sin offering.

²⁵ The priest must then make atonement for the entire Israelite

community so that they may be forgiven, for the sin was unintentional. They are to bring their offering, one made by fire to the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD for their unintentional sin.

²⁶ The entire Israelite community and the foreigner who resides among them will be forgiven, since it happened to all the people unintentionally.

²⁷ "If one person sins unintentionally, he is to present a year-old female goat as a sin offering.

²⁸ The priest must then make atonement before the LORD on behalf of the person who acts in error sinning unintentionally, and when he makes atonement for him, he will be forgiven.

²⁹ You are to have the same law for the person who acts in error, whether he is an Israelite or a foreigner who lives among you.

³⁰ "But the person who acts defiantly, whether native or foreign resident, blasphemes the LORD. That person is to be cut off from his people.

³¹ He will certainly be cut off, because he has despised the LORD's word and broken His command; his guilt remains on him."

³² While the Israelites were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering wood on the Sabbath day.

³³ Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses, Aaron, and the entire community.

³⁴ They placed him in custody, because it had not been decided what should be done to him.

³⁵ Then the LORD told Moses, "The man is to be put to death. The entire community is to stone him outside the camp."

³⁶ So the entire community brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁷ The LORD said to Moses,

³⁸ "Speak to the Israelites and tell them that throughout their generations they are to make tassels for the corners of their garments, and put a blue cord on the tassel at each corner.

³⁹ These will serve as tassels for you to look at, so that you may remember all the LORD's commands and obey them and not become unfaithful by following your own heart and your own eyes.

⁴⁰ This way you will remember and obey all My commands and be holy to your God.

⁴¹ I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God; I am the LORD your God."

16 ¹ Now Korah son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took

² 250 prominent Israelite men who were leaders of the community and representatives in the assembly, and they rebelled against Moses.

³ They came together against Moses and Aaron and told them, "You have gone too far! Everyone in the entire community is holy, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the LORD's assembly?"

⁴ When Moses heard this , he fell facedown.

⁵ Then he said to Korah and all his followers, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will reveal who belongs to Him, who is set apart, and the one He will let come near Him. He will let the one He chooses come near Him.

⁶ Korah, you and all your followers are to do this: take firepans, and tomorrow ⁷ place fire in them and put incense on them before the LORD. Then the man the LORD chooses will be the one who is set apart. It is you Levites who have gone too far!"

⁸ Moses also told Korah, "Now listen, Levites!

⁹ Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the Israelite community to bring you near to Himself, to perform the work at the LORD's tabernacle, and to stand before the community to minister to them?

¹⁰ He has brought you near, and all your fellow Levites who are with you, but you are seeking the priesthood as well.

¹¹ Therefore, it is you and all your followers who have conspired against the LORD! As for Aaron, who is he that you should complain about him?"

¹² Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come!

¹³ Is it not enough that you brought us up from a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? Do you also have to appoint yourself as ruler over us?

¹⁴ Furthermore, you didn't bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey or give us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you gouge out the eyes of these men? We will not come!"

¹⁵ Then Moses became angry and said to the LORD, "Don't respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them or mistreated a single one of them."

¹⁶ So Moses told Korah, "You and all your followers are to appear before the LORD tomorrow--you, they, and Aaron.

¹⁷ Each of you is to take his firepan, place incense on it, and present his firepan before the LORD--250 firepans. You and Aaron are each to present your firepan also."

¹⁸ Each man took his firepan, placed fire in it, put incense on it, and stood at the entrance to the tent of meeting along with Moses and Aaron.

¹⁹ After Korah assembled the whole community against them at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the whole community.

²⁰ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,

²¹ "Separate yourselves from this community so I may consume them instantly."

²² But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and said, "God, God of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will you vent Your wrath on the whole community?"

²³ The LORD replied to Moses,

²⁴ "Tell the community: Get away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."

²⁵ Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

²⁶ He warned the community, "Get away now from the tents of these wicked men. Don't touch anything that belongs to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins."

²⁷ So they got away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Meanwhile, Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the entrance of their tents with their wives, children, and infants.

²⁸ Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD sent me to do all these things and that it was not of my own will:

²⁹ If these men die naturally as all people would, and suffer the fate of all, then the LORD has not sent me.

³⁰ But if the LORD brings about something unprecedented, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them along with all that belongs to them so that they go down alive into Sheol, then you will know that these men have despised the LORD."

³¹ Just as he finished speaking all these words, the ground beneath them split open.

³² The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, all Korah's people, and all their possessions.

³³ They went down alive into Sheol with all that belonged to them. The earth closed over them, and they vanished from the assembly.

³⁴ At their cries, all the people of Israel who were around them fled because they thought, "The earth may swallow us too!"

³⁵ Fire also came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were presenting the incense.

³⁶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

³⁷ "Tell Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to remove the firepans from the burning debris, because they are holy, and scatter the fire far away.

³⁸ As for the firepans of those who sinned at the cost of their own lives, make them into hammered sheets as plating for the altar, for they presented them before the LORD, and the firepans are holy. They will be a sign to the Israelites."

³⁹ So Eleazar the priest took the bronze firepans that those who were

burned had presented, and they were hammered into plating for the altar,
⁴⁰ just as the LORD commanded him through Moses. It was to be a reminder for the Israelites that no unauthorized person outside the lineage of Aaron should approach to offer incense before the LORD and become like Korah and his followers.

⁴¹ The next day the entire Israelite community complained about Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the LORD's people!"

⁴² When the community assembled against them, Moses and Aaron turned toward the tent of meeting, and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the LORD's glory appeared.

⁴³ Moses and Aaron went to the front of the tent of meeting,

⁴⁴ and the LORD said to Moses,

⁴⁵ "Get away from this community so that I may consume them instantly." But they fell facedown.

⁴⁶ Then Moses told Aaron, "Take your firepan, place fire from the altar in it, and add incense. Go quickly to the community and make atonement for them, because wrath has come from the LORD; the plague has begun."

⁴⁷ So Aaron took his firepan as Moses had ordered, ran into the middle of the assembly, and saw that the plague had begun among the people. After he added incense, he made atonement for the people.

⁴⁸ He stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was halted.

⁴⁹ But those who died from the plague numbered 14,700, in addition to those who died because of the Korah incident.

⁵⁰ Aaron then returned to Moses at the entrance to the tent of meeting, since the plague had been halted.

17 ¹ The LORD instructed Moses:
² "Speak to the Israelites and take one staff from them for each ancestral house, 12 staffs from all the leaders of their ancestral houses. Write each man's name on his staff.

³ Write Aaron's name on Levi's staff, because there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral house.

⁴ Then place them in the tent of meeting in front of the testimony where I meet with you.

⁵ The staff of the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid Myself of the Israelites' complaints that they have been making about you."

⁶ So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and each of their leaders gave him a staff, one for each of the leaders of their

ancestral houses, 12 staffs in all . Aaron's staff was among them.

⁷ Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the tent of the testimony.

⁸ The next day Moses entered the tent of the testimony and saw that Aaron's staff, representing the house of Levi, had sprouted, formed buds, blossomed, and produced almonds!

⁹ Moses then brought out all the staffs from the LORD's presence to all the Israelites. They saw them , and each man took his own staff.

¹⁰ The LORD told Moses, "Put Aaron's rod back in front of the testimony to be kept as a sign for the rebels, so that you may put an end to their complaints before Me, or else they will die."

¹¹ So Moses did as the LORD commanded him.

¹² Then the Israelites declared to Moses, "Look, we're perishing! We're lost; we're all lost!

¹³ Anyone who comes near the LORD's tabernacle will die. Will we all perish?"

18 ¹ The LORD said to Aaron, "You, your sons, and your ancestral house will be responsible for sin against the sanctuary. You and your sons will be responsible for sin involving your priesthood.

² But also bring your brothers with you from the tribe of Levi, your ancestral tribe, so they may join you and serve with you and your sons in front of the tent of the testimony.

³ They are to perform duties for you and for the whole tent. They must not come near the sanctuary equipment or the altar; otherwise, both they and you will die.

⁴ They are to join you and guard the tent of meeting, doing all the work at the tent, but no unauthorized person may come near you.

⁵ "You are to guard the sanctuary and the altar so that wrath may not fall on the Israelites again.

⁶ Look, I have selected your fellow Levites from the Israelites as a gift for you, assigned by the LORD to work at the tent of meeting.

⁷ But you and your sons will carry out your priestly responsibilities for everything concerning the altar and for what is inside the veil, and you will do that work. I am giving you the work of the priesthood as a gift, but an unauthorized person who comes near the sanctuary will be put to death."

⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, "Look, I have put you in charge of the contributions brought to Me. As for all

the holy offerings of the Israelites, I have given them to you and your sons as a portion and a perpetual statute.

⁹ A portion of the holiest offerings kept from the fire will be yours; every one of their offerings that they give Me, whether the grain offering, sin offering, or restitution offering will be most holy for you and your sons.

¹⁰ You are to eat it as a most holy offering. Every male may eat it; it is to be holy to you.

¹¹ "The contribution of their gifts also belongs to you. I have given all the Israelites' presentation offerings to you and to your sons and daughters as a perpetual statute. Every ceremonially clean person in your house may eat it.

¹² I am giving you all the best of the fresh olive oil, new wine, and grain, which the Israelites give to the LORD as their firstfruits.

¹³ The firstfruits of all that is in their land, which they bring to the LORD, belong to you. Every clean person in your house may eat them.

¹⁴ "Everything in Israel that is permanently dedicated to the LORD belongs to you.

¹⁵ The firstborn of every living thing, man or animal, presented to the LORD belongs to you. But you must certainly redeem the firstborn of man, and redeem the firstborn of an unclean animal.

¹⁶ You will pay the redemption price for a month-old male according to your valuation: five shekels of silver by the standard sanctuary shekel, which is 20 gerahs.

¹⁷ "However, you must not redeem the firstborn of an ox, a sheep, or a goat; they are holy. You are to sprinkle their blood on the altar and burn their fat as a

fire offering for a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁸ But their meat belongs to you. It belongs to you like the breast of the presentation offering and the right thigh.

¹⁹ "I give to you and to your sons and daughters all the holy contributions that the Israelites present to the LORD as a perpetual statute. It is a perpetual covenant of salt before the LORD for you as well as your offspring."

²⁰ The LORD told Aaron, "You will not have an inheritance in their land; there will be no portion among them for you. I am your portion and your inheritance among the Israelites.

²¹ "Look, I have given the Levites every tenth in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work they do, the work of the tent of meeting.

²² The Israelites must never again come near the tent of meeting, or they will incur guilt and die.

²³ The Levites will do the work of the tent of meeting, and they will bear the consequences of their sin. The Levites will not receive an inheritance among the Israelites; this is a perpetual statute throughout your generations.

²⁴ For I have given them the tenth that the Israelites present to the LORD as a contribution for their inheritance. That is why I told them that they would not receive an inheritance among the Israelites."

²⁵ The LORD instructed Moses,

²⁶ "Speak to the Levites and tell them: When you receive from the Israelites the tenth that I have given you as your inheritance, you must present part of it as an offering to the LORD--a tenth of the tenth.

²⁷ Your offering will be credited to you as if it were your grain from the threshing floor or the full harvest from the winepress.

²⁸ You are to present an offering to the LORD from every tenth you receive from the Israelites. Give some of it to Aaron the priest as an offering to the LORD.

²⁹ You must present the entire offering due the LORD from all your gifts. The best part of the tenth is to be consecrated.

³⁰ "Tell them further: Once you have presented the best part of the tenth, and it is credited to you Levites as the produce of the threshing floor or the winepress,

³¹ then you and your household may eat it anywhere. It is your wage in return for your work at the tent of meeting.

³² You will not incur guilt because of it once you have presented the best part of

it, but you must not defile the Israelites' holy offerings, so that you will not die."

19 ¹The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron,

²"This is the legal statute that the LORD has commanded: Instruct the Israelites to bring you an unblemished red cow that has no defect and has never been yoked.

³Give it to Eleazar the priest, and he will have it brought outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence.

⁴Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the tent of meeting.

⁵The cow must be burned in his sight. Its hide, flesh, and blood, are to be burned along with its dung.

⁶The priest is to take cedar wood, hyssop, and crimson yarn, and throw

them onto the fire where the cow is burning.

⁷ Then the priest must wash his clothes and bathe his body in water; after that he may enter the camp, but he will remain ceremonially unclean until evening.

⁸ The one who burned the cow must also wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and he will remain unclean until evening.

⁹ "A man who is clean is to gather up the cow's ashes and deposit them outside the camp in a ceremonially clean place. The ashes must be kept by the Israelite community for preparing the water to remove impurity; it is a sin offering.

¹⁰ Then the one who gathers up the cow's ashes must wash his clothes, and he will remain unclean until evening. This is a perpetual statute for the Israelites

and for the foreigner who resides among them.

¹¹ "The person who touches any human corpse will be unclean for seven days.

¹² He is to purify himself with the water on the third day and the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third and seventh days, he will not be clean.

¹³ Anyone who touches a body of a person who has died, and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of the LORD. That person will be cut off from Israel. He remains unclean because the water for impurity has not been sprinkled on him, and his uncleanness is still on him.

¹⁴ "This is the law when a person dies in a tent: everyone who enters the tent and everyone who is already in the tent will be unclean for seven days,

¹⁵ and any open container without a lid tied on it is unclean.

¹⁶ Anyone in the open field who touches a person who has been killed by the sword or has died, or a human bone, or a grave, will be unclean for seven days.

¹⁷ For the purification of the unclean person, they are to take some of the ashes of the burnt sin offering, put them in a jar, and add fresh water to them.

¹⁸ A person who is clean is to take hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle the tent, all the furnishings, and the people who were there. He is also to sprinkle the one who touched a bone, a grave, a corpse, or a person who had been killed.

¹⁹ "The one who is clean is to sprinkle the unclean person on the third day and the seventh day. After he purifies the unclean person on the seventh day, the one being purified must wash his clothes

and bathe in water, and he will be clean by evening.

²⁰ But a person who is unclean and does not purify himself, that person will be cut off from the assembly because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water for impurity has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean.

²¹ This is a perpetual statute for them. The person who sprinkles the water for impurity is to wash his clothes, and whoever touches the water for impurity will be unclean until evening.

²² Anything the unclean person touches will become unclean, and anyone who touches it will be unclean until evening."

20¹ The entire Israelite community entered the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and they settled in Kadesh. Miriam died and was buried there.

² There was no water for the community, so they assembled against Moses and Aaron.

³ The people quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD.

⁴ Why have you brought the LORD's assembly into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here?

⁵ Why have you led us up from Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It's not a place of grain, figs, vines, and pomegranates, and there is no water to drink!"

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting. They fell down with their faces to the ground, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

⁷ The LORD spoke to Moses,

⁸ "Take the staff and assemble the community. You and your brother Aaron

are to speak to the rock while they watch, and it will yield its water. You will bring out water for them from the rock and provide drink for the community and their livestock."

⁹ So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence just as He had commanded him.

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron summoned the assembly in front of the rock, and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels! Must we bring water out of this rock for you?"

¹¹ Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff, so that a great amount of water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

¹² But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust Me to show My holiness in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this

assembly into the land I have given them."

¹³ These are the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD, and He showed His holiness to them.

¹⁴ Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom, "This is what your brother Israel says, 'You know all the hardships that have overtaken us.

¹⁵ Our fathers went down to Egypt, and we lived in Egypt many years, but the Egyptians treated us and our fathers badly.

¹⁶ When we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice, sent an Angel, and brought us out of Egypt. Now look, we are in Kadesh, a city on the border of your territory.

¹⁷ Please let us travel through your land. We won't travel through any field or vineyard, or drink any well water. We

will travel the King's Highway; we won't turn to the right or the left until we have traveled through your territory."

¹⁸ But Edom answered him, "You must not travel through our land, or we will come out and confront you with the sword."

¹⁹ "We will go on the main road," the Israelites replied to them, "and if we or our herds drink your water, we will pay its price. There will be no problem; only let us travel through on foot."

²⁰ Yet Edom insisted, "You must not travel through." And they came out to confront them with a large force of heavily-armed people.

²¹ Edom refused to allow Israel to travel through their territory, and Israel turned away from them.

²² After they set out from Kadesh, the entire Israelite community came to Mount Hor.

²³ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor on the border of the land of Edom,

²⁴ "Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will not enter the land I have given the Israelites, because you both rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah.

²⁵ Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up Mount Hor.

²⁶ Remove Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. Aaron will be gathered to his people and die there."

²⁷ So Moses did as the LORD commanded, and they climbed Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community.

²⁸ After Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar, Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain.

²⁹ When the whole community saw that Aaron had passed away, the entire house of Israel mourned for him 30 days.

21 ¹ When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming on the Atharim road, he fought against Israel and captured some prisoners.

² Then Israel made a vow to the LORD, "If You will deliver this people into our hands, we will completely destroy their cities."

³ The LORD listened to Israel's request, the Canaanites were defeated, and Israel completely destroyed them and their cities. So they named the place Hormah.

⁴ Then they set out from Mount Hor by way of the Red Sea to bypass the land of Edom, but the people became impatient because of the journey.

⁵ The people spoke against God and Moses: "Why have you led us up from

Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread or water, and we detest this wretched food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and they bit them so that many Israelites died.

⁷ The people then came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you. Intercede with the LORD so that He will take the snakes away from us." And Moses interceded for the people.

⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake image and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will recover.

⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and mounted it on a pole. Whenever someone was bitten, and he looked at the bronze snake, he recovered.

¹⁰ The Israelites set out and camped at Oboth.

¹¹ They set out from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim in the wilderness that borders Moab on the east.

¹² From there they went and camped at Zered Valley.

¹³ They set out from there and camped on the other side of the Arnon River , in the wilderness that extends from the Amorite border, because the Arnon was the Moabite border between Moab and the Amorites.

¹⁴ Therefore it is stated in the Book of the LORD's Wars: Waheb in Suphah and the ravines of the Arnon,

¹⁵ even the slopes of the ravines that extend to the site of Ar and lie along the border of Moab.

¹⁶ From there they went to Beer, the well the LORD told Moses about, "Gather the people so I may give them water."

¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song: Spring up, well--sing to it!

¹⁸ The princes dug the well; The nobles of the people hollowed it out with a scepter and with their staffs. They went from the wilderness to Mattanah,

¹⁹ from Mattanah to Nahaliel, from Nahaliel to Bamoth,

²⁰ from Bamoth to the valley in the territory of Moab near the Pisgah highlands that overlook the wasteland.

²¹ Israel sent messengers to say to Sihon king of the Amorites:

²² "Let us travel through your land. We won't go into the fields or vineyards. We won't drink any well water. We will travel the King's Highway until we have traveled through your territory."

²³ But Sihon would not let Israel travel through his territory. Instead, he gathered his whole army and went out to confront Israel in the wilderness. When he came to Jahaz, he fought against Israel.

²⁴ Israel struck him with the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, but only up to the Ammonite border, because it was fortified.

²⁵ Israel took all the cities and lived in all these Amorite cities, including Heshbon and all its villages.

²⁶ Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab and had taken control of all his land as far as the Arnon.

²⁷ Therefore the poets say: Come to Heshbon, let it be rebuilt; let the city of Sihon be restored.

²⁸ For fire came out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon. It consumed Ar of Moab, the lords of Arnon's heights.

²⁹ Woe to you, Moab! You have been destroyed, people of Chemosh! He gave up his sons as refugees, and his

daughters into captivity to Sihon the Amorite king.

³⁰ We threw them down; Heshbon has been destroyed as far as Dibon. We caused desolation as far as Nophah, which reaches as far as Medeba.

³¹ So Israel lived in the Amorites' land.

³² After Moses sent spies to Jazer, Israel captured its villages and drove out the Amorites who were there.

³³ Then they turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og king of Bashan came out against them with his whole army to do battle at Edrei.

³⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Do not fear him, for I have handed him over to you along with his whole army and his land. Do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon."

³⁵ So they struck him, his sons, and his whole army until no one was left, and they took possession of his land.

22 ¹ The Israelites traveled on and camped in the plains of Moab near the Jordan across from Jericho.

² Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

³ Moab was terrified of the people because they were numerous, and dreaded the Israelites.

⁴ So the Moabites said to the elders of Midian, "This horde will devour everything around us like an ox eats up the green plants in the field." Since Balak son of Zippor was Moab's king at that time,

⁵ he sent messengers to Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the Euphrates in the land of his people. Balak said to him: "Look, a people has come out of Egypt; they cover the surface of the land and are living right across from me.

⁶ Please come and put a curse on these people for me because they are more

powerful than I am. I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that those you bless are blessed and those you curse are cursed."

⁷ The elders of Moab and Midian departed with fees for divination in hand. They came to Balaam and reported Balak's words to him.

⁸ He said to them, "Spend the night here, and I will give you the answer the LORD tells me." So the officials of Moab stayed with Balaam.

⁹ Then God came to Balaam and asked, "Who are these men with you?"

¹⁰ Balaam replied to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent this message to me:

¹¹ 'Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the surface of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. I may be able to fight against them and drive them away.'"

¹² Then God said to Balaam, "You are not to go with them. You are not to curse this people, for they are blessed."

¹³ So Balaam got up the next morning and said to Balak's officials, "Go back to your land, because the LORD has refused to let me go with you."

¹⁴ The officials of Moab arose, returned to Balak, and reported, "Balaam refused to come with us."

¹⁵ Balak sent officials again who were more numerous and higher in rank than the others.

¹⁶ They came to Balaam and said to him, "This is what Balak son of Zippor says: 'Let nothing keep you from coming to me,

¹⁷ for I will greatly honor you and do whatever you ask me. So please come and put a curse on these people for me!'"

¹⁸ But Balaam responded to the servants of Balak, "If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go against the command of the LORD my God to do anything small or great.

¹⁹ Please stay here overnight as the others did, so that I may find out what else the LORD has to tell me."

²⁰ God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "Since these men have come to summon you, get up and go with them, but you must only do what I tell you."

²¹ When he got up in the morning, Balaam saddled his donkey and went with the officials of Moab.

²² But God was incensed that Balaam was going, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand on the path to oppose him. Balaam was riding his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

²³ When the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing on the path with a drawn sword in His hand, she turned off the path and went into the field. So Balaam hit her to return her to the path.

²⁴ Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow passage between the vineyards, with a stone wall on either side.

²⁵ The donkey saw the Angel of the LORD and pressed herself against the wall, squeezing Balaam's foot against it. So he hit her once again.

²⁶ The Angel of the LORD went ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn to the right or the left.

²⁷ When the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she crouched down under Balaam. So he became furious and beat the donkey with his stick.

²⁸ Then the LORD opened the donkey's mouth, and she asked Balaam, "What

have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?"

²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, "You made me look like a fool. If I had a sword in my hand, I'd kill you now!"

³⁰ But the donkey said, "Am I not the donkey you've ridden all your life until today? Have I ever treated you this way before?" "No," he replied.

³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the path with a drawn sword in His hand. Balaam knelt and bowed with his face to the ground .

³² The Angel of the LORD asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? Look, I came out to oppose you, because what you are doing is evil in My sight.

³³ The donkey saw Me and turned away from Me these three times. If she had

not turned away from Me, I would have killed you by now and let her live."

³⁴ Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that You were standing in the path to confront me. And now, if it is evil in Your sight, I will go back."

³⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but you are to say only what I tell you." So Balaam went with Balak's officials.

³⁶ When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the Moabite city on the Arnon border at the edge of his territory.

³⁷ Balak asked Balaam, "Did I not send you an urgent summons? Why didn't you come to me? Am I really not able to reward you?"

³⁸ Balaam said to him, "Look, I have come to you, but can I say anything I

want? I must speak only the message God puts in my mouth."

³⁹ So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth.

⁴⁰ Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep, and sent for Balaam and the officials who were with him.

⁴¹ In the morning, Balak took Balaam and brought him to Bamoth-baal. From there he saw the outskirts of the people's camp.

23 ¹ Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build me seven altars here and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

² So Balak did as Balaam directed, and they offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

³ Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here by your burnt offering while I am gone. Maybe the LORD will meet with me. I

will tell you whatever He reveals to me." So he went to a barren hill.

⁴ God met with him and Balaam said to Him, "I have arranged seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar."

⁵ Then the LORD put a message in Balaam's mouth and said, "Return to Balak and say what I tell you."

⁶ So he returned to Balak, who was standing there by his burnt offering with all the officials of Moab.

⁷ Balaam proclaimed his poem: Balak brought me from Aram; the king of Moab, from the eastern mountains: "Come, put a curse on Jacob for me; come, denounce Israel!"

⁸ How can I curse someone God has not cursed? How can I denounce someone the LORD has not denounced?

⁹ I see them from the top of rocky cliffs, and I watch them from the hills. There

is a people living alone; it does not consider itself among the nations.

¹⁰ Who has counted the dust of Jacob or numbered the dust clouds of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright; let the end of my life be like theirs.

¹¹ "What have you done to me?" Balak asked Balaam. "I brought you to curse my enemies, but look, you have only blessed them !"

¹² He answered, "Shouldn't I say exactly what the LORD puts in my mouth?"

¹³ Then Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place where you can see them. You will only see the outskirts of their camp; you won't see all of them. From there, put a curse on them for me."

¹⁴ So Balak took him to Lookout Field on top of Pisgah, built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

¹⁵ Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here by your burnt offering while I seek the LORD over there."

¹⁶ The LORD met with Balaam and put a message in his mouth. Then He said, "Return to Balak and say what I tell you."

¹⁷ So he returned to Balak, who was standing there by his burnt offering with the officials of Moab. Balak asked him, "What did the LORD say?"

¹⁸ Balaam proclaimed his poem: Balak, get up and listen; son of Zippor, pay attention to what I say!

¹⁹ God is not a man who lies, or a son of man who changes His mind. Does He speak and not act, or promise and not fulfill?

²⁰ I have indeed received a command to bless; since He has blessed, I cannot change it.

²¹ He considers no disaster for Jacob; He sees no trouble for Israel. The LORD

their God is with them, and there is rejoicing over the King among them.

²² God brought them out of Egypt; He is like the horns of a wild ox for them.

²³ There is no magic curse against Jacob and no divination against Israel. It will now be said about Jacob and Israel, "What great things God has done!"

²⁴ A people rise up like a lioness; They rouse themselves like a lion. They will not lie down until they devour the prey and drink the blood of the slain.

²⁵ Then Balak told Balaam, "Don't curse them and don't bless them!"

²⁶ But Balaam answered him, "Didn't I tell you: Whatever the LORD says, I must do?"

²⁷ Again Balak said to Balaam, "Please come. I will take you to another place. Maybe it will be agreeable to God that you can put a curse on them for me there."

²⁸ So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, which overlooks the wasteland.

²⁹ Balaam told Balak, "Build me seven altars here and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

³⁰ So Balak did as Balaam said and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

24 ¹ Since Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go to seek omens as on previous occasions, but turned toward the wilderness.

² When Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God descended on him,

³ and he proclaimed his poem: The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eyes are opened,

⁴ the oracle of one who hears the sayings of God, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls into a trance with his eyes uncovered:

⁵ How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, Israel.

⁶ they stretch out like river valleys, like gardens beside a stream, like aloes the LORD has planted, like cedars beside the water.

⁷ Water will flow from his buckets, and his seed will be by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, and his kingdom will be exalted.

⁸ God brought him out of Egypt; He is like the horns of a wild ox for them. He will feed on enemy nations and gnaw their bones; he will strike them with his arrows.

⁹ He crouches, he lies down like a lion or a lioness--who dares to rouse him? Those who bless you will be blessed, and those who curse you will be cursed.

¹⁰ Then Balak became furious with Balaam, struck his hands together, and said to him, "I summoned you to put a

curse on my enemies, but instead, you have blessed them these three times .

¹¹ Now go to your home! I said I would reward you richly, but look, the LORD has denied you a reward."

¹² Balaam answered Balak, "Didn't I previously tell the messengers you sent me:

¹³ If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go against the LORD's command, to do anything good or bad of my own will? I will say whatever the LORD says.

¹⁴ Now I am going back to my people, but first, let me warn you what these people will do to your people in the future."

¹⁵ Then he proclaimed his poem: The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eyes are opened;

¹⁶ the oracle of one who hears the sayings of God and has knowledge from

the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls into a trance with his eyes uncovered:

¹⁷ I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead of Moab and strike down all the Shethites.

¹⁸ Edom will become a possession; Seir will become a possession of its enemies, but Israel will be triumphant.

¹⁹ One who comes from Jacob will rule; he will destroy the city's survivors.

²⁰ Then Balaam saw Amalek and proclaimed his poem: Amalek was first among the nations, but his future is destruction.

²¹ Next he saw the Kenites and proclaimed his poem: Your dwelling place is enduring; your nest is set in the cliffs.

²² Kain will be destroyed when Asshur takes you captive.

²³ Once more he proclaimed his poem: Ah, who can live when God does this?

²⁴ Ships will come from the coast of Kittim; they will afflict Asshur and Eber, but they too will come to destruction.

²⁵ Balaam then arose and went back to his homeland, and Balak also went his way.

25 ¹ While Israel was staying in Acacia Grove, the people began to have sexual relations with the women of Moab.

² The women invited them to the sacrifices for their gods, and the people ate and bowed in worship to their gods.

³ So Israel aligned itself with Baal of Peor, and the LORD's anger burned against Israel.

⁴ The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute them

in broad daylight before the LORD so that His burning anger may turn away from Israel."

⁵ So Moses told Israel's judges, "Kill each of the men who aligned themselves with Baal of Peor."

⁶ An Israelite man came bringing a Midianite woman to his relatives in the sight of Moses and the whole Israelite community while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁷ When Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he got up from the assembly, took a spear in his hand,

⁸ followed the Israelite man into the tent, and drove it through both the Israelite man and the woman--through her belly. Then the plague on the Israelites was stopped,

⁹ but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹¹ "Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the Israelites because he was zealous among them with My zeal, so that I did not destroy the Israelites in My zeal.

¹² Therefore declare: I grant him My covenant of peace.

¹³ It will be a covenant of perpetual priesthood for him and his descendants, because he was zealous for his God and made atonement for the Israelites."

¹⁴ The name of the slain Israelite man, who was struck dead with the Midianite woman, was Zimri son of Salu, the leader of a Simeonite ancestral house.

¹⁵ The name of the slain Midianite woman was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur, a tribal head of an ancestral house in Midian.

¹⁶ The LORD told Moses:

¹⁷ "Attack the Midianites and strike them dead.

¹⁸ For they attacked you with the treachery that they used against you in the Peor incident. They did the same in the case involving their sister Cozbi, daughter of the Midianite leader who was killed the day the plague came at Peor."

26 ¹ After the plague, the LORD said to Moses and Eleazar son of Aaron the priest,

² "Take a census of the entire Israelite community by their ancestral houses of those 20 years old or more who can serve in Israel's army."

³ So Moses and Eleazar the priest said to them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho,

⁴ "Take a census of those 20 years old or more, as the LORD had commanded

Moses and the Israelites who came out of the land of Egypt."

⁵ Reuben was the firstborn of Israel. Reuben's descendants: the Hanochite clan from Hanoch; the Palluite clan from Pallu;

⁶ the Hezronite clan from Hezron; the Carmite clan from Carmi.

⁷ These were the Reubenite clans, and their registered men numbered 43,730.

⁸ The son of Pallu was Eliab.

⁹ The sons of Eliab were Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. (It was Dathan and Abiram, chosen by the community, who fought against Moses and Aaron; they and Korah's followers fought against the LORD.

¹⁰ The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them with Korah, when his followers died and the fire consumed 250 men. They serve as a warning sign.

¹¹ The sons of Korah, however, did not die.)

¹² Simeon's descendants by their clans: the Nemuelite clan from Nemuel; the Jaminite clan from Jamin; the Jachinite clan from Jachin;

¹³ the Zerahite clan from Zerah; the Shaulite clan from Shaul.

¹⁴ These were the Simeonite clans, numbering 22,200 men.

¹⁵ Gad's descendants by their clans: the Zephonite clan from Zephon; the Haggite clan from Haggi; the Shunite clan from Shuni;

¹⁶ the Oznite clan from Ozni; the Erite clan from Eri;

¹⁷ the Arodite clan from Arod; the Arelite clan from Areli.

¹⁸ These were the Gadite clans numbered by their registered men: 40,500.

¹⁹ Judah's sons included Er and Onan, but they died in the land of Canaan.

²⁰ Judah's descendants by their clans: the Shelanite clan from Shelah; the Perezite clan from Perez; the Zerahite clan from Zerah.

²¹ The descendants of Perez: the Hezronite clan from Hezron; the Hamulite clan from Hamul.

²² These were Judah's clans numbered by their registered men: 76,500.

²³ Issachar's descendants by their clans: the Tolaite clan from Tola; the Punite clan from Puvah;

²⁴ the Jashubite clan from Jashub; the Shimronite clan from Shimron.

²⁵ These were Issachar's clans numbered by their registered men: 64,300.

²⁶ Zebulun's descendants by their clans: the Seredite clan from Sered; the Elonite

clan from Elon; the Jahleelite clan from Jahleel.

²⁷ These were the Zebulunite clans numbered by their registered men: 60,500.

²⁸ Joseph's descendants by their clans from Manasseh and Ephraim:

²⁹ Manasseh's descendants: the Machirite clan from Machir. Machir fathered Gilead; the Gileadite clan from Gilead.

³⁰ These were Gilead's descendants: the Iezerite clan from Iezer; the Helekite clan from Helek;

³¹ The Asrielite clan from Asriel; the Shechemite clan from Shechem;

³² the Shemidaite clan from Shemida; the Hephherite clan from Hephher;

³³ Zelophehad son of Hephher had no sons--only daughters. The names of Zelophehad's daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

³⁴ These were Manasseh's clans, numbered by their registered men: 52,700.

³⁵ These were Ephraim's descendants by their clans: the Shuthelahite clan from Shuthelah; the Becherite clan from Becher; the Tahanite clan from Tahan.

³⁶ These were Shuthelah's descendants: the Eranite clan from Eran.

³⁷ These were the Ephraimite clans numbered by their registered men: 32,500. These were Joseph's descendants by their clans.

³⁸ Benjamin's descendants by their clans: the Belaite clan from Bela; the Ashbelite clan from Ashbel; the Ahiramite clan from Ahiram;

³⁹ the Shuphamite clan from Shupham; the Huphamite clan from Hupham.

⁴⁰ Bela's descendants from Ard and Naaman: the Ardite clan from Ard; the Naamite clan from Naaman.

⁴¹ These were the Benjaminite clans numbered by their registered men: 45,600.

⁴² These were Dan's descendants by their clans: the Shuhamite clan from Shuham. These were the clans of Dan by their clans.

⁴³ All the Shuhamite clans numbered by their registered men were 64,400.

⁴⁴ Asher's descendants by their clans: the Imnite clan from Imnah; the Ishvite clan from Ishvi; the Beriite clan from Beriah.

⁴⁵ From Beriah's descendants: the Heberite clan from Heber; the Malchielite clan from Malchiel.

⁴⁶ And the name of Asher's daughter was Serah.

⁴⁷ These were the Asherite clans numbered by their registered men: 53,400.

⁴⁸ Naphtali's descendants by their clans: the Jahzeelite clan from Jahzeel; the Gunitite clan from Guni;

⁴⁹ the Jezerite clan from Jezer; the Shillemite clan from Shillem.

⁵⁰ These were the Naphtali clans numbered by their registered men: 45,400.

⁵¹ These registered Israelite men numbered 601,730.

⁵² The LORD spoke to Moses,

⁵³ "The land is to be divided among them as an inheritance based on the number of names.

⁵⁴ Increase the inheritance for a large tribe, and decrease it for a small one. Each is to be given its inheritance according to those who were registered in it.

⁵⁵ The land must be divided by lot; they will receive an inheritance according to the names of their ancestral tribes.

⁵⁶ Each inheritance will be divided by lot among the larger and smaller tribes

."

⁵⁷ These were the Levites registered by their clans: the Gershonite clan from Gershon; the Kohathite clan from Kohath; the Merarite clan from Merari.

⁵⁸ These were the Levite family groups: the Libnite clan, the Hebronite clan, the Mahlite clan, the Mushite clan, and the Korahite clan. Kohath was the ancestor of Amram.

⁵⁹ The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, a descendant of Levi, born to Levi in Egypt. She bore to Amram: Aaron, Moses, and their sister Miriam.

⁶⁰ Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar were born to Aaron,

⁶¹ but Nadab and Abihu died when they presented unauthorized fire before the LORD.

⁶² Those registered were 23,000, every male one month old or more; they were not registered among the other Israelites, because no inheritance was given to them among the Israelites.

⁶³ These were the ones registered by Moses and Eleazar the priest when they registered the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.

⁶⁴ But among them there was not one of those who had been registered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they registered the Israelites in the Wilderness of Sinai.

⁶⁵ For the LORD had said to them that they would all die in the wilderness. None of them was left except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

27 ¹ The daughters of Zelophehad approached; Zelophehad was the son of Hopher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh from the

clans of Manasseh, the son of Joseph. These were the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

² They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and the entire community at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said,

³ "Our father died in the wilderness, but he was not among Korah's followers, who gathered together against the LORD. Instead, he died because of his own sin, and he had no sons.

⁴ Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan? Since he had no son, give us property among our father's brothers."

⁵ Moses brought their case before the LORD,

⁶ and the LORD answered him,

⁷ "What Zelophehad's daughters say is correct. You are to give them hereditary

property among their father's brothers and transfer their father's inheritance to them.

⁸ Tell the Israelites: When a man dies without having a son, transfer his inheritance to his daughter.

⁹ If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers.

¹⁰ If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

¹¹ If his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative of his clan, and he will take possession of it. This is to be a statutory ordinance for the Israelites as the LORD commanded Moses."

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go up this mountain of the Abarim range and see the land that I have given the Israelites.

¹³ After you have seen it, you will also be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was.

¹⁴ When the community quarreled in the Wilderness of Zin, both of you rebelled against My command to show My holiness in their sight at the waters." Those were the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.

¹⁵ So Moses appealed to the LORD,

¹⁶ "May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the community

¹⁷ who will go out before them and come back in before them, and who will bring them out and bring them in, so that the LORD's community won't be like sheep without a shepherd."

¹⁸ The LORD replied to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him.

¹⁹ Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole community, and commission him in their sight.

²⁰ Confer some of your authority on him so that the entire Israelite community will obey him .

²¹ He will stand before Eleazar who will consult the LORD for him with the decision of the Urim. He and all the Israelites with him, even the entire community, will go out and come back in at his command."

²² Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua, had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire community,

²³ laid his hands on him, and commissioned him, as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

28 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "Command the Israelites and say to them: Be sure to present to Me

at its appointed time My offering and My food as My fire offering, a pleasing aroma to Me.

³ And say to them: This is the fire offering you are to present to the LORD: "Each day present two unblemished year-old male lambs as a regular burnt offering.

⁴ Offer one lamb in the morning and the other lamb at twilight,

⁵ along with two quarts of fine flour for a grain offering mixed with a quart of beaten olive oil.

⁶ It is a regular burnt offering established at Mount Sinai for a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD.

⁷ The drink offering is to be a quart with each lamb. Pour out the offering of beer to the LORD in the sanctuary area.

⁸ Offer the second lamb at twilight, along with the same kind of grain offering and drink offering as in the

morning. It is a fire offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁹ "On the Sabbath day present two unblemished year-old male lambs, four quarts of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, and its drink offering.

¹⁰ It is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

¹¹ "At the beginning of each of your months present a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, seven male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

¹² with six quarts of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for each bull, four quarts of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for the ram,

¹³ and two quarts of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for each lamb. It is a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD.

¹⁴ Their drink offerings are to be two quarts of wine with each bull, one and a third quarts with the ram, and one quart with each male lamb. This is the monthly burnt offering for all the months of the year.

¹⁵ And one male goat is to be offered as a sin offering to the LORD, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its drink offering.

¹⁶ "The Passover to the LORD comes in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month.

¹⁷ On the fifteenth day of this month there will be a festival; unleavened bread is to be eaten for seven days.

¹⁸ On the first day there is to be a sacred assembly; you are not to do any daily work.

¹⁹ Present a fire offering, a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls,

one ram, and seven male lambs a year old. Your animals are to be unblemished.

²⁰ The grain offering with them is to be of fine flour mixed with oil; offer six quarts with each bull and four quarts with the ram.

²¹ Offer two quarts with each of the seven lambs

²² and one male goat for a sin offering to make atonement for yourselves.

²³ Offer these with the morning burnt offering that is part of the regular burnt offering.

²⁴ You are to offer the same food each day for seven days as a fire offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It is to be offered with its drink offering and the regular burnt offering.

²⁵ On the seventh day you are to hold a sacred assembly; you are not to do any daily work.

²⁶ "On the day of firstfruits, you are to hold a sacred assembly when you present an offering of new grain to the LORD at your Festival of Weeks; you are not to do any daily work.

²⁷ Present a burnt offering for a pleasing aroma to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old,

²⁸ with their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, six quarts with each bull, four quarts with the ram,

²⁹ and two quarts with each of the seven lambs

³⁰ and one male goat to make atonement for yourselves.

³¹ Offer them with their drink offerings in addition to the regular burnt offering and its grain offering. Your animals are to be unblemished.

29 ¹ "You are to hold a sacred assembly in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, and you

are not to do any daily work. This will be a day of jubilation for you.

² Offer a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD: one young bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

³ with their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, six quarts with the bull, four quarts with the ram,

⁴ and two quarts with each of the seven male lambs.

⁵ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for yourselves.

⁶ These are in addition to the monthly and regular burnt offerings with their grain offerings and drink offerings. They are a pleasing aroma, a fire offering to the LORD.

⁷ "You are to hold a sacred assembly on the tenth day of this seventh month and

practice self-denial; you must not do any work.

⁸ Present a burnt offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma: one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old. All your animals are to be unblemished.

⁹ Their grain offering is to be of fine flour mixed with oil, six quarts with the bull, four quarts with the ram,

¹⁰ and two quarts with each of the seven lambs.

¹¹ Offer one male goat for a sin offering. The regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offerings are in addition to the sin offering of atonement.

¹² "You are to hold a sacred assembly on the fifteenth day of the seventh month; you must not do any daily work. You are to celebrate a seven-day festival for the LORD.

¹³ Present a burnt offering, a fire offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD: 13 young bulls, two rams, and 14 male lambs a year old. They are to be unblemished.

¹⁴ Their grain offering is to be of fine flour mixed with oil, six quarts with each of the 13 bulls, four quarts with each of the two rams,

¹⁵ and two quarts with each of the 14 lambs.

¹⁶ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

¹⁷ "On the second day present 12 young bulls, two rams, and 14 male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

¹⁸ with their grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, in proportion to their number.

¹⁹ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

²⁰ "On the third day present 11 bulls, two rams, 14 male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

²¹ with their grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, in proportion to their number.

²² Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

²³ "On the fourth day present 10 bulls, two rams, 14 male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

²⁴ with their grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, in proportion to their number.

²⁵ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the

regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

²⁶ "On the fifth day present nine bulls, two rams, 14 male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

²⁷ with their grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, in proportion to their number.

²⁸ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

²⁹ "On the sixth day present eight bulls, two rams, 14 male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

³⁰ with their grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, in proportion to their number.

³¹ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

³² "On the seventh day present seven bulls, two rams, and 14 male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

³³ with their grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, in proportion to their number.

³⁴ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

³⁵ "On the eighth day you are to hold a solemn assembly; you are not to do any daily work.

³⁶ Present a burnt offering, a fire offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD: one bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old--all unblemished--

³⁷ with their grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, in proportion to their number.

³⁸ Also offer one male goat as a sin offering. These are in addition to the

regular burnt offering with its grain and drink offerings.

³⁹ "You must offer these to the LORD at your appointed times in addition to your vow and freewill offerings, whether burnt, grain, drink, or fellowship offerings."

⁴⁰ So Moses told the Israelites everything the LORD had commanded him.

30 ¹ Moses told the leaders of the Israelite tribes, "This is what the LORD has commanded:

² When a man makes a vow to the LORD or swears an oath to put himself under an obligation, he must not break his word; he must do whatever he has promised.

³ "When a woman in her father's house during her youth makes a vow to the LORD or puts herself under an obligation,

⁴ and her father hears about her vow or the obligation she put herself under, and he says nothing to her, all her vows and every obligation she put herself under are binding.

⁵ But if her father prohibits her on the day he hears about it , none of her vows and none of the obligations she put herself under are binding. The LORD will absolve her because her father has prohibited her.

⁶ "If a woman marries while her vows or the rash commitment she herself made are binding,

⁷ and her husband hears about it and says nothing to her when he finds out, her vows are binding, and the obligations she put herself under are binding.

⁸ But if her husband prohibits her when he hears about it , he will cancel her vow that is binding or the rash commitment

she herself made, and the LORD will forgive her.

⁹ "Any vow a widow or divorcée put herself under is binding on her.

¹⁰ "If a woman in her husband's house has made a vow or put herself under an obligation with an oath,

¹¹ and her husband hears about it , says nothing to her, and does not prohibit her, all her vows are binding, and every obligation she put herself under is binding.

¹² But if her husband cancels them on the day he hears about it , nothing that came from her lips, whether her vows or her obligation, is binding. Her husband has canceled them, and the LORD will absolve her.

¹³ Her husband may confirm or cancel any vow or any sworn obligation to deny herself.

¹⁴ If her husband says nothing at all to her from day to day, he confirms all her vows and obligations, which are binding. He has confirmed them because he said nothing to her when he heard about them .

¹⁵ But if he cancels them after he hears about them , he will be responsible for her commitment."

¹⁶ These are the statutes that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the relationship between a man and his wife, or between a father and his daughter in his house during her youth.

31 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "Execute vengeance for the Israelites against the Midianites. After that, you will be gathered to your people."

³ So Moses spoke to the people, "Equip some of your men for war. They will

go against Midian to inflict the LORD's vengeance on them.

⁴ Send 1,000 men to war from each Israelite tribe."

⁵ So 1,000 were recruited from each Israelite tribe out of the thousands in Israel--12,000 equipped for war.

⁶ Moses sent 1,000 from each tribe to war. They went with Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest, in whose care were the holy objects and signal trumpets.

⁷ They waged war against Midian, as the LORD had commanded Moses, and killed every male.

⁸ Along with the others slain by them, they killed the Midianite kings--Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.

⁹ The Israelites took the Midianite women and their children captive, and

they plundered all their cattle, flocks, and property.

¹⁰ Then they burned all the cities where the Midianites lived, as well as all their encampments,

¹¹ and took away all the spoils of war and the captives, both human and animal.

¹² They brought the prisoners, animals, and spoils of war to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the Israelite community at the camp on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.

¹³ Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the community went to meet them outside the camp.

¹⁴ But Moses became furious with the officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, who were returning from the military campaign.

¹⁵ "Have you let every female live?" he asked them.

¹⁶ "Yet they are the ones who, at Balaam's advice, incited the Israelites to unfaithfulness against the LORD in the Peor incident, so that the plague came against the LORD's community.

¹⁷ So now, kill all the male children and kill every woman who has had sexual relations with a man,

¹⁸ but keep alive for yourselves all the young females who have not had sexual relations.

¹⁹ "You are to remain outside the camp for seven days. All of you and your prisoners who have killed a person or touched the dead are to purify yourselves on the third day and the seventh day.

²⁰ Also purify everything: garments, leather goods, things made of goat hair, and every article of wood."

²¹ Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone to battle, "This is

the legal statute the LORD commanded Moses:

²² Only the gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, and lead--

²³ everything that can withstand fire--put through fire, and it will be clean. It must still be purified with the purification water. Anything that cannot withstand fire, put through the water.

²⁴ On the seventh day wash your clothes, and you will be clean. After that you may enter the camp."

²⁵ The LORD told Moses,

²⁶ "You, Eleazar the priest, and the family leaders of the community are to take a count of what was captured, human and animal.

²⁷ Then divide the captives between the troops who went out to war and the entire community.

²⁸ Set aside a tribute for the LORD from what belongs to the fighting men who

went out to war: one out of every 500 humans, cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats.

²⁹ Take the tribute from their half and give it to Eleazar the priest as a contribution to the LORD.

³⁰ From the Israelites' half, take one out of every 50 from the people, cattle, donkeys, sheep, and goats, all the livestock, and give them to the Levites who perform the duties of the LORD's tabernacle."

³¹ So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

³² The captives remaining from the plunder the army had taken totaled: 675,000 sheep and goats,

³³ 72,000 cattle,

³⁴ 61,000 donkeys,

³⁵ and 32,000 people, all the females who had not had sexual relations with a man.

³⁶ The half portion for those who went out to war numbered: 337,500 sheep and goats,

³⁷ and the tribute to the LORD was 675 from the sheep and goats;

³⁸ from the 36,000 cattle, the tribute to the LORD was 72;

³⁹ from the 30,500 donkeys, the tribute to the LORD was 61;

⁴⁰ and from the 16,000 people, the tribute to the LORD was 32 people.

⁴¹ Moses gave the tribute to Eleazar the priest as a contribution for the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁴² From the Israelites' half, which Moses separated from the men who fought,

⁴³ the community's half was: 337,500 sheep and goats,

⁴⁴ 36,000 cattle,

⁴⁵ 30,500 donkeys,

⁴⁶ and 16,000 people.

⁴⁷ Moses took one out of every 50, selected from the people and the livestock from the Israelites' half. He gave them to the Levites who perform the duties of the LORD's tabernacle, as the LORD had commanded him.

⁴⁸ The officers who were over the thousands of the army, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, approached Moses

⁴⁹ and told him, "Your servants have taken a census of the fighting men under our command, and not one of us is missing.

⁵⁰ So we have presented to the LORD an offering of the gold articles each man found--armlets, bracelets, rings, earrings, and necklaces--to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD."

⁵¹ Moses and Eleazar the priest received from them all the articles made out of gold.

⁵² All the gold of the contribution they offered to the LORD, from the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, was 420 pounds.

⁵³ Each of the soldiers had taken plunder for himself.

⁵⁴ Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the commanders of thousands and of hundreds and brought it into the tent of meeting as a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD.

32 ¹ The Reubenites and Gadites had a very large number of livestock. When they surveyed the lands of Jazer and Gilead, they saw that the region was a good one for livestock.

² So the Gadites and Reubenites came to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the leaders of the community and said:

³ "The territory of Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon,

⁴ which the LORD struck down before the community of Israel, is good land for livestock, and your servants own livestock."

⁵ They said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Don't make us cross the Jordan."

⁶ But Moses asked the Gadites and Reubenites, "Should your brothers go to war while you stay here?"

⁷ Why are you discouraging the Israelites from crossing into the land the LORD has given them?

⁸ That's what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land.

⁹ After they went up as far as Eshcol Valley and saw the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the LORD had given them.

¹⁰ So the LORD's anger burned that day, and He swore an oath:

¹¹ 'Because they did not follow Me completely, none of the men 20 years old or more who came up from Egypt will see the land I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob--

¹² none except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, because they did follow the LORD completely.'

¹³ The LORD's anger burned against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness 40 years until the whole

generation that had done what was evil in the LORD's sight was gone.

¹⁴ And here you, a brood of sinners, stand in your fathers' place adding even more to the LORD's burning anger against Israel.

¹⁵ If you turn back from following Him, He will once again leave this people in the wilderness, and you will destroy all of them."

¹⁶ Then they approached him and said, "We want to build sheepfolds here for our livestock and cities for our dependents.

¹⁷ But we will arm ourselves and be ready to go ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them into their place. Meanwhile, our dependents will remain in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land.

¹⁸ We will not return to our homes until each of the Israelites has taken possession of his inheritance.

¹⁹ Yet we will not have an inheritance with them across the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance will be across the Jordan to the east."

²⁰ Moses replied to them, "If you do this--if you arm yourselves for battle before the LORD,

²¹ and every one of your armed men crosses the Jordan before the LORD until He has driven His enemies from His presence,

²² and the land is subdued before the LORD--afterwards you may return and be free from obligation to the LORD and to Israel. And this land will belong to you as a possession before the LORD.

²³ But if you don't do this, you will certainly sin against the LORD; be sure your sin will catch up with you.

²⁴ Build cities for your dependents and folds for your flocks, but do what you have promised."

²⁵ The Gadites and Reubenites answered Moses, "Your servants will do just as my lord commands.

²⁶ Our little children, wives, livestock, and all our animals will remain here in the cities of Gilead,

²⁷ but your servants are equipped for war before the LORD and will go across to the battle as my lord orders."

²⁸ So Moses gave orders about them to Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the family leaders of the Israelite tribes.

²⁹ Moses told them, "If the Gadites and Reubenites cross the Jordan with you, every man in battle formation before the LORD, and the land is subdued before you, you are to give them the land of Gilead as a possession.

³⁰ But if they don't go across with you in battle formation, they must accept land in Canaan with you."

³¹ The Gadites and Reubenites replied, "What the LORD has spoken to your servants is what we will do.

³² We will cross over in battle formation before the LORD into the land of Canaan, but we will keep our hereditary possession across the Jordan."

³³ So Moses gave them--the Gadites, Reubenites, and half the tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph--the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land including its cities with the territories surrounding them.

³⁴ The Gadites rebuilt Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer,

³⁵ Atroth-shopan, Jazer, Jogbehah,

³⁶ Beth-nimrah, and Beth-haran as fortified cities, and built sheepfolds.

³⁷ The Reubenites rebuilt Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim,

³⁸ as well as Nebo and Baal-meon (whose names were changed), and Sibmah. They gave names to the cities they rebuilt.

³⁹ The descendants of Machir son of Manasseh went to Gilead, captured it, and drove out the Amorites who were there.

⁴⁰ So Moses gave Gilead to the clan of Machir son of Manasseh, and they settled in it.

⁴¹ Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, went and captured their villages, which he renamed Jair's Villages.

⁴² Nobah went and captured Kenath with its villages and called it Nobah after his own name.

33 ¹ These were the stages of the Israelites' journey when they went out of the land of Egypt by their

military divisions under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

² At the LORD's command, Moses wrote down the starting points for the stages of their journey; these are the stages listed by their starting points:

³ They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the month. On the day after the Passover the Israelites went out triumphantly in the sight of all the Egyptians.

⁴ Meanwhile, the Egyptians were burying every firstborn male the LORD had struck down among them, for the LORD had executed judgment against their gods.

⁵ The Israelites departed from Rameses and camped at Succoth.

⁶ They departed from Succoth and camped at Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness.

⁷ They departed from Etham and turned back to Pi-hahiroth, which faces Baal-zephon, and they camped before Migdol.

⁸ They departed from Pi-hahiroth and crossed through the middle of the sea into the wilderness. They took a three-day journey into the Wilderness of Etham and camped at Marah.

⁹ They departed from Marah and came to Elim. There were 12 springs of water and 70 date palms at Elim, so they camped there.

¹⁰ They departed from Elim and camped by the Red Sea.

¹¹ They departed from the Red Sea and camped in the Wilderness of Sin.

¹² They departed from the Wilderness of Sin and camped in Dophkah.

¹³ They departed from Dophkah and camped at Alush.

¹⁴ They departed from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

¹⁵ They departed from Rephidim and camped in the Wilderness of Sinai.

¹⁶ They departed from the Wilderness of Sinai and camped at Kibroth-hattaavah.

¹⁷ They departed from Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.

¹⁸ They departed from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

¹⁹ They departed from Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez.

²⁰ They departed from Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah.

²¹ They departed from Libnah and camped at Rissah.

²² They departed from Rissah and camped at Kehelathah.

²³ They departed from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher.

²⁴ They departed from Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.

²⁵ They departed from Haradah and camped at Makheloth.

²⁶ They departed from Makheloth and camped at Tahath.

²⁷ They departed from Tahath and camped at Terah.

²⁸ They departed from Terah and camped at Mithkah.

²⁹ They departed from Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah.

³⁰ They departed from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.

³¹ They departed from Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan.

³² They departed from Bene-jaakan and camped at Hor-haggidgad.

³³ They departed from Hor-haggidgad and camped at Jotbathah.

³⁴ They departed from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.

³⁵ They departed from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber.

³⁶ They departed from Ezion-geber and camped in the Wilderness of Zin (that is, Kadesh).

³⁷ They departed from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor on the edge of the land of Edom.

³⁸ At the LORD's command, Aaron the priest climbed Mount Hor and died there on the first day of the fifth month in the fortieth year after the Israelites went out of the land of Egypt.

³⁹ Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mount Hor.

⁴⁰ At that time the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev in the land of Canaan, heard the Israelites were coming.

⁴¹ They departed from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.

42 They departed from Zalmonah and camped at Punon.

43 They departed from Punon and camped at Oboth.

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

45 They departed from Iyim and camped at Dibon-gad.

46 They departed from Dibon-gad and camped at Almon-diblathaim.

47 They departed from Almon-diblathaim and camped in the Abarim range facing Nebo.

48 They departed from the Abarim range and camped on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.

49 They camped by the Jordan from Beth-jeshimoth to Acacia Meadows on the plains of Moab.

⁵⁰ The LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho,

⁵¹ "Tell the Israelites: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

⁵² you must drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you, destroy all their stone images and cast images, and demolish all their high places.

⁵³ You are to take possession of the land and settle in it because I have given you the land to possess.

⁵⁴ You are to receive the land as an inheritance by lot according to your clans. Increase the inheritance for a large clan and decrease it for a small one. Whatever place the lot indicates for someone will be his. You will receive an inheritance according to your ancestral tribes.

⁵⁵ But if you don't drive out the inhabitants of the land before you, those

you allow to remain will become thorns in your eyes and in your sides; they will harass you in the land where you will live.

⁵⁶ And what I had planned to do to them, I will do to you."

34 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses,
² "Command the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land of Canaan, it will be allotted to you as an inheritance with these borders:

³ Your southern side will be from the Wilderness of Zin along the boundary of Edom. Your southern border on the east will begin at the east end of the Dead Sea.

⁴ Your border will turn south of the Ascent of Akrabbim, proceed to Zin, and end south of Kadesh-barnea. It will go to Hazar-addar and proceed to Azmon.

⁵ The border will turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, where it will end at the Mediterranean Sea.

⁶ Your western border will be the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea; this will be your western border.

⁷ This will be your northern border: From the Mediterranean Sea draw a line to Mount Hor;

⁸ from Mount Hor draw a line to the entrance of Hamath, and the border will reach Zedad.

⁹ Then the border will go to Ziphron and end at Hazar-enan. This will be your northern border.

¹⁰ For your eastern border, draw a line from Hazar-enan to Shepham.

¹¹ The border will go down from Shepham to Riblah east of Ain. It will continue down and reach the eastern slope of the Sea of Chinnereth.

¹² Then the border will go down to the Jordan and end at the Dead Sea. This will be your land defined by its borders on all sides."

¹³ So Moses commanded the Israelites, "This is the land you are to receive by lot as an inheritance, which the LORD commanded to be given to the nine and a half tribes.

¹⁴ For the tribe of the Reubenites and the tribe of the Gadites have received their inheritance according to their ancestral houses, and half the tribe of Manasseh has received its inheritance.

¹⁵ The two and a half tribes have received their inheritance across the Jordan from Jericho, eastward toward the sunrise."

¹⁶ The LORD spoke to Moses,

¹⁷ "These are the names of the men who are to distribute the land as an

inheritance for you: Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun.

¹⁸ Take one leader from each tribe to distribute the land.

¹⁹ These are the names of the men: Caleb son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah;

²⁰ Shemuel son of Ammihud from the tribe of Simeon;

²¹ Elidad son of Chislon from the tribe of Benjamin;

²² Bukki son of Jogli, a leader from the tribe of Dan;

²³ from the sons of Joseph: Hanniel son of Ephod, a leader from the tribe of Manasseh,

²⁴ Kemuel son of Shiphtan, a leader from the tribe of Ephraim;

²⁵ Eli-zaphan son of Parnach, a leader from the tribe of Zebulun;

²⁶ Paltiel son of Azzan, a leader from the tribe of Issachar;

²⁷ Ahihud son of Shelomi, a leader from the tribe of Asher;

²⁸ Pedahel son of Ammihud, a leader from the tribe of Naphtali."

²⁹ These are the ones the LORD commanded to distribute the inheritance to the Israelites in the land of Canaan.

35 ¹ The LORD again spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho:

² "Command the Israelites to give cities out of their hereditary property for the Levites to live in and pastureland around the cities.

³ The cities will be for them to live in, and their pasturelands will be for their herds, flocks, and all their other animals.

⁴ The pasturelands of the cities you are to give the Levites will extend from the city wall 500 yards on every side.

⁵ Measure 1,000 yards outside the city for the east side, 1,000 yards for the

south side, 1,000 yards for the west side, and 1,000 yards for the north side, with the city in the center. This will belong to them as pasturelands for the cities.

⁶ "The cities you give the Levites will include six cities of refuge, which you must provide so that the one who kills someone may flee there; in addition to these, give 42 other cities.

⁷ The total number of cities you give the Levites will be 48, along with their pasturelands.

⁸ Of the cities that you give from the Israelites' territory, you should take more from a larger tribe and less from a smaller one. Each tribe is to give some of its cities to the Levites in proportion to the inheritance it receives."

⁹ The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁰ "Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

¹¹ designate cities to serve as cities of refuge for you, so that a person who kills someone unintentionally may flee there.

¹² You will have the cities as a refuge from the avenger, so that the one who kills someone will not die until he stands trial before the assembly.

¹³ The cities you select will be your six cities of refuge.

¹⁴ Select three cities across the Jordan and three cities in the land of Canaan to be cities of refuge.

¹⁵ These six cities will serve as a refuge for the Israelites and for the foreigner or temporary resident among them, so that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there.

¹⁶ "If anyone strikes a person with an iron object and death results, he is a murderer; the murderer must be put to death.

¹⁷ If a man has in his hand a stone capable of causing death and strikes another man and he dies, the murderer must be put to death.

¹⁸ If a man has in his hand a wooden object capable of causing death and he dies, the murderer must be put to death.

¹⁹ The avenger of blood himself is to kill the murderer; when he finds him, he is to kill him.

²⁰ Likewise, if anyone in hatred pushes a person or throws an object at him with malicious intent and he dies,

²¹ or if in hostility he strikes him with his hand and he dies, the one who struck him must be put to death; he is a murderer. The avenger of blood is to kill the murderer when he finds him.

²² "But if anyone suddenly pushes a person without hostility or throws any object at him without malicious intent

²³ or drops a stone without looking that could kill a person and he dies, but he was not his enemy and wasn't trying to harm him,

²⁴ the assembly is to judge between the slayer and the avenger of blood according to these ordinances.

²⁵ The assembly is to protect the one who kills someone from the hand of the avenger of blood. Then the assembly will return him to the city of refuge he fled to, and he must live there until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

²⁶ "If the one who kills someone ever goes outside the border of the city of refuge he fled to,

²⁷ and the avenger of blood finds him outside the border of his city of refuge and kills him, the avenger will not be guilty of bloodshed,

²⁸ for the one who killed a person was supposed to live in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. Only after the death of the high priest may the one who has killed a person return to the land he possesses.

²⁹ These instructions will be a statutory ordinance for you throughout your generations wherever you live.

³⁰ "If anyone kills a person, the murderer is to be put to death based on the word of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death based on the testimony of one witness.

³¹ You are not to accept a ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of killing someone; he must be put to death.

³² Neither should you accept a ransom for the person who flees to his city of refuge, allowing him to return and live

in the land before the death of the high priest.

³³ "Do not defile the land where you are, for bloodshed defiles the land, and there can be no atonement for the land because of the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of the person who shed it.

³⁴ Do not make the land unclean where you live and where I reside; for I, the LORD, reside among the Israelites."

36 ¹ The family leaders from the clan of the descendants of Gilead--the son of Machir, son of Manasseh--one of the clans of the sons of Joseph approached and addressed Moses and the leaders who were over the Israelite families.

² They said, "The LORD commanded my lord to give the land as an inheritance by lot to the Israelites. My lord was further commanded by the LORD to give our

brother Zelophehad's inheritance to his daughters.

³ If they marry any of the men from the other Israelite tribes, their inheritance will be taken away from our fathers' inheritance and added to that of the tribe into which they marry. Therefore, part of our allotted inheritance would be taken away.

⁴ When the Jubilee comes for the Israelites, their inheritance will be added to that of the tribe into which they marry, and their inheritance will be taken away from the inheritance of our ancestral tribe."

⁵ So Moses commanded the Israelites at the word of the LORD, "What the tribe of Joseph's descendants says is right.

⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded concerning Zelophehad's daughters: They may marry anyone they like

provided they marry within a clan of their ancestral tribe.

⁷ An inheritance belonging to the Israelites must not transfer from tribe to tribe, because each of the Israelites is to retain the inheritance of his ancestral tribe.

⁸ Any daughter who possesses an inheritance from an Israelite tribe must marry someone from the clan of her ancestral tribe, so that each of the Israelites will possess the inheritance of his fathers.

⁹ No inheritance is to transfer from one tribe to another, because each of the Israelite tribes is to retain its inheritance."

¹⁰ The daughters of Zelophehad did as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹¹ Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, married cousins on their father's side.

¹² They married men from the clans of the descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained within the tribe of their father's clan.

¹³ These are the commands and ordinances the LORD commanded the Israelites through Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.

Deuteronomy

1 ¹ These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Di-zahab.

² It is an eleven-day journey from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea by way of Mount Seir.

³ In the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first of the month, Moses told the Israelites everything the LORD had commanded him to say to them.

⁴ This was after he had defeated Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth, at Edrei.

⁵ Across the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying:

⁶ "The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, 'You have stayed at this mountain long enough.

⁷ Resume your journey and go to the hill country of the Amorites and their neighbors in the Arabah, the hill country, the lowlands, the Negev and the sea coast--to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon as far as the Euphrates River.

⁸ See, I have set the land before you. Enter and take possession of the land the LORD swore to give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants after them.'

⁹ "I said to you at that time: I can't bear the responsibility for you on my own.

¹⁰ The LORD your God has so multiplied you that today you are as numerous as the stars of the sky.

¹¹ May the LORD, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times more, and bless you as He promised you.

¹² But how can I bear your troubles, burdens, and disputes by myself?

¹³ Appoint for yourselves wise, understanding, and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will make them your leaders.

¹⁴ "You replied to me, 'What you propose to do is good.'

¹⁵ "So I took the leaders of your tribes, wise and respected men, and set them over you as leaders: officials for thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, and officers for your tribes.

¹⁶ I commanded your judges at that time: Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge rightly between a man and his brother or a foreign resident.

¹⁷ Do not show partiality when rendering judgment; listen to small and great alike. Do not be intimidated by anyone, for judgment belongs to God.

Bring me any case too difficult for you, and I will hear it.

¹⁸ At that time I commanded you about all the things you were to do.

¹⁹ "We then set out from Horeb and went across all the great and terrible wilderness you saw on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, just as the LORD our God had commanded us.

When we reached Kadesh-barnea,

²⁰ I said to you: You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

²¹ See, the LORD your God has set the land before you. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not be afraid or discouraged.

²² "Then all of you approached me and said, 'Let's send men ahead of us, so that they may explore the land for us and bring us back a report about the route

we should go up and the cities we will come to.'

²³ The plan seemed good to me, so I selected 12 men from among you, one man for each tribe.

²⁴ They left and went up into the hill country and came to the Valley of Eshcol, scouting the land.

²⁵ They took some of the fruit from the land in their hands, carried it down to us, and brought us back a report: 'The land the LORD our God is giving us is good.'

²⁶ "But you were not willing to go up, rebelling against the command of the LORD your God.

²⁷ You grumbled in your tents and said, 'The LORD brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites so they would destroy us, because He hated us.

²⁸ Where can we go? Our brothers have discouraged us, saying: The people are

larger and taller than we are; the cities are large, fortified to the heavens. We also saw the descendants of the Anakim there.'

²⁹ "So I said to you: Don't be terrified or afraid of them!

³⁰ The LORD your God who goes before you will fight for you, just as you saw Him do for you in Egypt.

³¹ And you saw in the wilderness how the LORD your God carried you as a man carries his son all along the way you traveled until you reached this place.

³² But in spite of this you did not trust the LORD your God,

³³ who went before you on the journey to seek out a place for you to camp. He went in the fire by night and in the cloud by day to guide you on the road you were to travel.

³⁴ "When the LORD heard your words, He grew angry and swore an oath:

³⁵ 'None of these men in this evil generation will see the good land I swore to give your fathers,

³⁶ except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land on which he has set foot, because he followed the LORD completely.'

³⁷ "The LORD was angry with me also because of you and said: 'You will not enter there either.

³⁸ Joshua son of Nun, who attends you, will enter it. Encourage him, for he will enable Israel to inherit it.

³⁹ Your little children who you said would be plunder, your sons who don't know good from evil, will enter there. I will give them the land, and they will take possession of it.

⁴⁰ But you are to turn back and head for the wilderness by way of the Red Sea.'

⁴¹ "You answered me, 'We have sinned against the LORD. We will go up and fight just as the LORD our God commanded us.' Then each of you put on his weapons of war and thought it would be easy to go up into the hill country.

⁴² "But the LORD said to me, 'Tell them: Don't go up and fight, for I am not with you to keep you from being defeated by your enemies.'

⁴³ So I spoke to you, but you didn't listen. You rebelled against the LORD's command and defiantly went up into the hill country.

⁴⁴ Then the Amorites who lived there came out against you and chased you like a swarm of bees. They routed you from Seir as far as Hormah.

⁴⁵ When you returned, you wept before the LORD, but He didn't listen to your requests or pay attention to you.

⁴⁶ For this reason you stayed in Kadesh as long as you did.

2 ¹ "Then we turned back and headed for the wilderness by way of the Red Sea, as the LORD had told me, and we traveled around the hill country of Seir for many days.

² The LORD then said to me,

³ 'You've been traveling around this hill country long enough; turn north.

⁴ Command the people: You are about to travel through the territory of your brothers, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, so you must be very careful.

⁵ Don't fight with them, for I will not give you any of their land, not even an inch of it, because I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his possession.

⁶ You may purchase food from them with silver, so that you may eat, and buy water from them to drink.

⁷ For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this immense wilderness. The LORD your God has been with you this past 40 years, and you have lacked nothing.'

⁸ "So we bypassed our brothers, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We turned away from the Arabah road and from Elath and Ezion-geber. We traveled along the road to the Wilderness of Moab.

⁹ The LORD said to me, 'Show no hostility toward Moab, and do not provoke them to battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, since I have given Ar as a possession to the descendants of Lot.'"

¹⁰ The Emim, a great and numerous people as tall as the Anakim, had previously lived there.

¹¹ They were also regarded as Rephaim, like the Anakim, though the Moabites called them Emim.

¹² The Horites had previously lived in Seir, but the descendants of Esau drove them out, destroying them completely and settling in their place, just as Israel did in the land of its possession the LORD gave them.

¹³ "The LORD said, 'Now get up and cross the Zered Valley.' So we crossed the Zered Valley.

¹⁴ The time we spent traveling from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed the Zered Valley was 38 years until the entire generation of fighting men had perished from the camp, as the LORD had sworn to them.

¹⁵ Indeed, the LORD's hand was against them, to eliminate them from the camp until they had all perished.

¹⁶ "When all the fighting men had died among the people,

¹⁷ the LORD spoke to me,

¹⁸ 'Today you are going to cross the border of Moab at Ar.

¹⁹ When you get close to the Ammonites, don't show any hostility to them or fight with them, for I will not give you any of the Ammonites' land as a possession; I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.'"

²⁰ This too used to be regarded as the land of the Rephaim. The Rephaim lived there previously, though the Ammonites called them Zamzummim,

²¹ a great and numerous people, tall as the Anakim. The LORD destroyed the Rephaim at the advance of the Ammonites, so that they drove them out and settled in their place.

²² This was just as He had done for the descendants of Esau who lived in Seir,

when He destroyed the Horites before them; they drove them out and have lived in their place until now.

²³ The Caphtorim, who came from Caphtor, destroyed the Avvim, who lived in villages as far as Gaza, and settled in their place.

²⁴ "The LORD also said, 'Get up, move out, and cross the Arnon Valley. See, I have handed Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land over to you. Begin to take possession of it ; engage him in battle.

²⁵ Today I will begin to put the fear and dread of you on the peoples everywhere under heaven. They will hear the report about you, tremble, and be in anguish because of you.'

²⁶ "So I sent messengers with an offer of peace to Sihon king of Heshbon from the Wilderness of Kedemoth, saying,

²⁷ 'Let us travel through your land; we will keep strictly to the highway. We will not turn to the right or the left.

²⁸ You can sell us food in exchange for silver so we may eat, and give us water for silver so we may drink. Only let us travel through on foot,

²⁹ just as the descendants of Esau who live in Seir did for us, and the Moabites who live in Ar, until we cross the Jordan into the land the LORD our God is giving us.'

³⁰ But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us travel through his land, for the LORD your God made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate in order to hand him over to you, as has now taken place.

³¹ "Then the LORD said to me, 'See, I have begun to give Sihon and his land to you. Begin to take possession of it.'

³² So Sihon and his whole army came out against us for battle at Jahaz.

³³ The LORD our God handed him over to us, and we defeated him, his sons, and his whole army.

³⁴ At that time we captured all his cities and completely destroyed the people of every city, including the women and children. We left no survivors.

³⁵ We took only the livestock and the spoil from the cities we captured as plunder for ourselves.

³⁶ There was no city that was inaccessible to us, from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along with the city in the valley, even as far as Gilead. The LORD our God gave everything to us.

³⁷ But you did not go near the Ammonites' land, all along the bank of the Jabbok River and the cities of the hill country, everything that the LORD our God had commanded.

3 ¹ "Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og king of

Bashan, with his whole army, came out against us for battle at Edrei.

² But the LORD said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have handed him over to you, along with his whole army and his land. Do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon.'

³ So the LORD our God also handed over Og king of Bashan and his whole army to us. We struck him until there was no survivor left.

⁴ We captured all his cities at that time. There wasn't a city that we didn't take from them: 60 cities, the entire region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

⁵ All these were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides a large number of rural villages.

⁶ We completely destroyed them, as we had done to Sihon king of Heshbon, destroying the men, women, and children of every city.

⁷ But we took all the livestock and the spoil from the cities as plunder for ourselves.

⁸ "At that time we took the land from the two Amorite kings across the Jordan, from the Arnon Valley as far as Mount Hermon,

⁹ which the Sidonians call Sirion, but the Amorites call Senir,

¹⁰ all the cities of the plateau, Gilead, and Bashan as far as Salecah and Edrei, cities of Og's kingdom in Bashan.

¹¹ (Only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. His bed was made of iron. Isn't it in Rabbah of the Ammonites? It is 13 feet six inches long and six feet wide by a standard measure.)

¹² "At that time we took possession of this land. I gave to the Reubenites and Gadites the area extending from Aroer

by the Arnon Valley, and half the hill country of Gilead along with its cities.

¹³ I gave to half the tribe of Manasseh the rest of Gilead and all Bashan, the kingdom of Og. The entire region of Argob, the whole territory of Bashan, used to be called the land of the Rephaim.

¹⁴ Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, took over the entire region of Argob as far as the border of the Geshurites and Maacathites. He called Bashan by his own name, Jair's Villages, as it is today.

¹⁵ I gave Gilead to Machir,

¹⁶ and I gave to the Reubenites and Gadites the area extending from Gilead to the Arnon Valley (the middle of the valley was the border) and up to the Jabbok River, the border of the Ammonites.

¹⁷ The Arabah and Jordan are also borders from Chinnereth as far as the

Sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, under the slopes of Pisgah on the east.

¹⁸ "I commanded you at that time: The LORD your God has given you this land to possess. All your fighting men will cross over in battle formation ahead of your brothers the Israelites.

¹⁹ But your wives, young children, and livestock--I know that you have a lot of livestock--will remain in the cities I have given you

²⁰ until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as He has to you, and they also take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving them across the Jordan. Then each of you may return to his possession that I have given you.

²¹ "I commanded Joshua at that time: Your own eyes have seen everything the LORD your God has done to these two kings. The LORD will do the same to all the kingdoms you are about to enter.

²² Don't be afraid of them, for the LORD your God fights for you.

²³ "At that time I begged the LORD:

²⁴ Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your greatness and power to Your servant, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can perform deeds and mighty acts like Yours?

²⁵ Please let me cross over and see the beautiful land on the other side of the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.

²⁶ "But the LORD was angry with me on account of you and would not listen to me. The LORD said to me, 'That's enough! Do not speak to Me again about this matter.

²⁷ Go to the top of Pisgah and look to the west, north, south, and east, and see it with your own eyes, for you will not cross this Jordan.

²⁸ But commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for he will cross over ahead of the people and enable them to inherit this land that you will see.'

²⁹ So we stayed in the valley facing Beth-peor.

4 ¹ "Now, Israel, listen to the statutes and ordinances I am teaching you to follow, so that you may live, enter, and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

² You must not add anything to what I command you or take anything away from it, so that you may keep the commands of the LORD your God I am giving you.

³ Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed every one of you who followed Baal of Peor.

⁴ But you who have remained faithful to the LORD your God are all alive today.

⁵ Look, I have taught you statutes and ordinances as the LORD my God has commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to possess.

⁶ Carefully follow them , for this will show your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the peoples. When they hear about all these statutes, they will say, 'This great nation is indeed a wise and understanding people.'

⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god near to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call to Him?

⁸ And what great nation has righteous statutes and ordinances like this entire law I set before you today?

⁹ "Only be on your guard and diligently watch yourselves, so that you don't forget the things your eyes have seen

and so that they don't slip from your mind as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your grandchildren.

¹⁰ The day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people before Me, and I will let them hear My words, so that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth and may instruct their children.'

¹¹ You came near and stood at the base of the mountain, a mountain blazing with fire into the heavens and enveloped in a dense, black cloud.

¹² Then the LORD spoke to you from the fire. You kept hearing the sound of the words, but didn't see a form; there was only a voice.

¹³ He declared His covenant to you. He commanded you to follow the Ten Commandments, which He wrote on two stone tablets.

¹⁴ At that time the LORD commanded me to teach you statutes and ordinances for you to follow in the land you are about to cross into and possess.

¹⁵ "Be extremely careful for your own good--because you did not see any form on the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire--

¹⁶ not to act corruptly and make an idol for yourselves in the shape of any figure: a male or female form,

¹⁷ or the form of any beast on the earth, any winged creature that flies in the sky,

¹⁸ any creature that crawls on the ground, or any fish in the waters under the earth.

¹⁹ When you look to the heavens and see the sun, moon, and stars--all the array of heaven--do not be led astray to bow down and worship them. The LORD your God has provided them for all people everywhere under heaven.

²⁰ But the LORD selected you and brought you out of Egypt's iron furnace to be a people for His inheritance, as you are today.

²¹ "The LORD was angry with me on your account. He swore that I would not cross the Jordan and enter the good land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

²² I won't be crossing the Jordan because I am going to die in this land. But you are about to cross over and take possession of this good land.

²³ Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that He made with you, and make an idol for yourselves in the shape of anything He has forbidden you.

²⁴ For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

²⁵ "When you have children and grandchildren and have been in the land

a long time, and if you act corruptly, make an idol in the form of anything, and do what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, provoking Him to anger,

²⁶ I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that you will quickly perish from the land you are about to cross the Jordan to possess. You will not live long there, but you will certainly be destroyed.

²⁷ The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be reduced to a few survivors among the nations where the LORD your God will drive you.

²⁸ There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see, hear, eat, or smell.

²⁹ But from there, you will search for the LORD your God, and you will find Him when you seek Him with all your heart and all your soul.

³⁰ When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, you will return to the LORD your God in later days and obey Him.

³¹ He will not leave you, destroy you, or forget the covenant with your fathers that He swore to them by oath, because the LORD your God is a compassionate God.

³² "Indeed, ask about the earlier days that preceded you, from the day God created man on the earth and from one end of the heavens to the other: Has anything like this great event ever happened, or has anything like it been heard of?

³³ Has a people ever heard God's voice speaking from the fire as you have, and lived?

³⁴ Or has a god ever attempted to go and take a nation as his own out of another nation, by trials, signs, wonders,

and war, by a strong hand and an outstretched arm, by great terrors, as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

³⁵ You were shown these things so that you would know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides Him.

³⁶ He let you hear His voice from heaven to instruct you. He showed you His great fire on earth, and you heard His words from the fire.

³⁷ Because He loved your fathers, He chose their descendants after them and brought you out of Egypt by His presence and great power,

³⁸ to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you in and give you their land as an inheritance, as is now taking place.

³⁹ Today, recognize and keep in mind that the LORD is God in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other.

⁴⁰ Keep His statutes and commands, which I am giving you today, so that you and your children after you may prosper and so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

⁴¹ Then Moses set apart three cities across the Jordan to the east,

⁴² where one could flee who committed manslaughter and killed his neighbor accidentally without previously hating him. He could flee to one of these cities and stay alive:

⁴³ Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau land, belonging to the Reubenites; Ramoth in Gilead, belonging to the Gadites; or Golan in Bashan, belonging to the Manassites.

⁴⁴ This is the law Moses gave the Israelites.

⁴⁵ These are the decrees, statutes, and ordinances Moses proclaimed to them after they came out of Egypt,

⁴⁶ across the Jordan in the valley facing Beth-peor in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites. He lived in Heshbon, and Moses and the Israelites defeated him after they came out of Egypt.

⁴⁷ They took possession of his land and the land of Og king of Bashan, the two Amorite kings who were across the Jordan to the east,

⁴⁸ from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley as far as Mount Sion (that is, Hermon)

⁴⁹ and all the Arabah on the east side of the Jordan as far as the Dead Sea below the slopes of Pisgah.

5 ¹ Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "Israel, listen to the statutes and ordinances I am proclaiming

as you hear them today. Learn and follow them carefully.

² The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.

³ He did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with all of us who are alive here today.

⁴ The LORD spoke to you face to face from the fire on the mountain.

⁵ At that time I was standing between the LORD and you to report the word of the LORD to you, because you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain. And He said:

⁶ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

⁷ Do not have other gods besides Me.

⁸ Do not make an idol for yourself in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth.

⁹ You must not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the fathers' sin to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

¹⁰ but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commands.

¹¹ Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will punish anyone who misuses His name.

¹² Be careful to dedicate the Sabbath day, as the LORD your God has commanded you.

¹³ You are to labor six days and do all your work,

¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You must not do any work--you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, your ox or donkey, any of your livestock, or the foreigner

who lives within your gates, so that your male and female slaves may rest as you do.

¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶ Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷ Do not murder.

¹⁸ Do not commit adultery.

¹⁹ Do not steal.

²⁰ Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbor.

²¹ Do not desire your neighbor's wife or covet your neighbor's house, his

field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

²² "The LORD spoke these commands in a loud voice to your entire assembly from the fire, cloud, and thick darkness on the mountain; He added nothing more. He wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

²³ All of you approached me with your tribal leaders and elders when you heard the voice from the darkness and while the mountain was blazing with fire.

²⁴ You said, 'Look, the LORD our God has shown us His glory and greatness, and we have heard His voice from the fire. Today we have seen that God speaks with a person, yet he still lives.

²⁵ But now, why should we die? This great fire will consume us and we will die if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any longer.

²⁶ For who out of all mankind has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the fire, as we have, and lived?

²⁷ Go near and listen to everything the LORD our God says. Then you can tell us everything the LORD our God tells you; we will listen and obey.'

²⁸ "The LORD heard your words when you spoke to me. He said to me, 'I have heard the words that these people have spoken to you. Everything they have said is right.

²⁹ If only they had such a heart to fear Me and keep all My commands, so that they and their children will prosper forever.

³⁰ Go and tell them: Return to your tents.

³¹ But you stand here with Me, and I will tell you every command--the statutes and ordinances--you are to teach them,

so that they may follow them in the land I am giving them to possess.'

³² "Be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you are not to turn aside to the right or the left.

³³ Follow the whole instruction the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live, prosper, and have a long life in the land you will possess.

6 ¹ "This is the command--the statutes and ordinances--the LORD your God has instructed me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess.

² Do this so that you may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life by keeping all His statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life.

³ Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them , so that you may prosper and

multiply greatly, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ "Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One.

⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart.

⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead.

⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰ "When the LORD your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that

He would give you--a land with large and beautiful cities that you did not build,

¹¹ houses full of every good thing that you did not fill them with, wells dug that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant--and when you eat and are satisfied,

¹² be careful not to forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

¹³ Fear the LORD your God, worship Him, and take your oaths in His name.

¹⁴ Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you,

¹⁵ for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God. Otherwise, the LORD your God will become angry with you and wipe you off the face of the earth.

¹⁶ Do not test the LORD your God as you tested Him at Massah.

¹⁷ Carefully observe the commands of the LORD your God, the decrees and statutes He has commanded you.

¹⁸ Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that you may prosper and so that you may enter and possess the good land the LORD your God swore to give your fathers,

¹⁹ by driving out all your enemies before you, as the LORD has said.

²⁰ "When your son asks you in the future, 'What is the meaning of the decrees, statutes, and ordinances, which the LORD our God has commanded you?'

²¹ tell him, 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand.

²² Before our eyes the LORD inflicted great and devastating signs and wonders on Egypt, on Pharaoh and all his household,

²³ but He brought us from there in order to lead us in and give us the land that He swore to our fathers.

²⁴ The LORD commanded us to follow all these statutes and to fear the LORD our God for our prosperity always and for our preservation, as it is today.

²⁵ Righteousness will be ours if we are careful to follow every one of these commands before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.'

7 ¹ "When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess, and He drives out many nations before you--the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and powerful than you--

² and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you and you defeat them, you must completely destroy them.

Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.

³ Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons,

⁴ because they will turn your sons away from Me to worship other gods. Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and He will swiftly destroy you.

⁵ Instead, this is what you are to do to them: tear down their altars, smash their standing pillars, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn up their carved images.

⁶ For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be His own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

⁷ "The LORD was devoted to you and chose you, not because you were more numerous than all peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

⁸ But because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your fathers, He brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from the place of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹ Know that Yahweh your God is God, the faithful God who keeps His gracious covenant loyalty for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commands.

¹⁰ But He directly pays back and destroys those who hate Him. He will not hesitate to directly pay back the one who hates Him.

¹¹ So keep the command--the statutes and ordinances--that I am giving you to follow today.

¹² "If you listen to and are careful to keep these ordinances, the LORD your God will keep His covenant loyalty with you, as He swore to your fathers.

¹³ He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will bless your descendants, and the produce of your soil--your grain, new wine, and oil--the young of your herds, and the newborn of your flocks, in the land He swore to your fathers that He would give you.

¹⁴ You will be blessed above all peoples; there will be no infertile male or female among you or your livestock.

¹⁵ The LORD will remove all sickness from you; He will not put on you all the terrible diseases of Egypt that you know about, but He will inflict them on all who hate you.

¹⁶ You must destroy all the peoples the LORD your God is delivering over to you and not look on them with pity. Do not worship their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

¹⁷ "If you say to yourself, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I drive them out?'

¹⁸ do not be afraid of them. Be sure to remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and all Egypt:

¹⁹ the great trials that you saw, the signs and wonders, the strong hand and outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you fear.

²⁰ The LORD your God will also send the hornet against them until all the survivors and those hiding from you perish.

²¹ Don't be terrified of them, for the LORD your God, a great and awesome God, is among you.

²² The LORD your God will drive out these nations before you little by little. You will not be able to destroy them all

at once; otherwise, the wild animals will become too numerous for you.

²³ The LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed.

²⁴ He will hand their kings over to you, and you will wipe out their names under heaven. No one will be able to stand against you; you will annihilate them.

²⁵ You must burn up the carved images of their gods. Don't covet the silver and gold on the images and take it for yourself, or else you will be ensnared by it, for it is abhorrent to the LORD your God.

²⁶ You must not bring any abhorrent thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You are to utterly detest and abhor it, because it is set apart for destruction.

8¹ "You must carefully follow every command I am giving you today, so

that you may live and increase, and may enter and take possession of the land the LORD swore to your fathers.

² Remember that the LORD your God led you on the entire journey these 40 years in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commands.

³ He humbled you by letting you go hungry; then He gave you manna to eat, which you and your fathers had not known, so that you might learn that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

⁴ Your clothing did not wear out, and your feet did not swell these 40 years.

⁵ Keep in mind that the LORD your God has been disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

⁶ So keep the commands of the LORD your God by walking in His ways and fearing Him.

⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams of water, springs, and deep water sources, flowing in both valleys and hills;

⁸ a land of wheat, barley, vines, figs, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey;

⁹ a land where you will eat food without shortage, where you will lack nothing; a land whose rocks are iron and from whose hills you will mine copper.

¹⁰ When you eat and are full, you will praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.

¹¹ "Be careful that you don't forget the LORD your God by failing to keep His command--the ordinances and statutes--I am giving you today.

¹² When you eat and are full, and build beautiful houses to live in,

¹³ and your herds and flocks grow large, and your silver and gold multiply, and everything else you have increases,

¹⁴ be careful that your heart doesn't become proud and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

¹⁵ He led you through the great and terrible wilderness with its poisonous snakes and scorpions, a thirsty land where there was no water. He brought water out of the flintlike rock for you.

¹⁶ He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers had not known, in order to humble and test you, so that in the end He might cause you to prosper.

¹⁷ You may say to yourself, 'My power and my own ability have gained this wealth for me,'

¹⁸ but remember that the LORD your God gives you the power to gain wealth, in order to confirm His covenant He swore to your fathers, as it is today.

¹⁹ If you ever forget the LORD your God and go after other gods to worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will perish.

²⁰ Like the nations the LORD is about to destroy before you, you will perish if you do not obey the LORD your God.

9¹ "Listen, Israel: Today you are about to cross the Jordan to go and drive out nations greater and stronger than you with large cities fortified to the heavens.

² The people are strong and tall, the descendants of the Anakim. You know about them and you have heard it said about them, 'Who can stand up to the sons of Anak?'

³ But understand that today the LORD your God will cross over ahead of you as a consuming fire; He will devastate and subdue them before you. You will drive them out and destroy them swiftly, as the LORD has told you.

⁴ When the LORD your God drives them out before you, do not say to yourself, 'The LORD brought me in to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.' Instead, the LORD will drive out these nations before you because of their wickedness.

⁵ You are not going to take possession of their land because of your righteousness or your integrity. Instead, the LORD your God will drive out these nations before you because of their wickedness, in order to keep the promise He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

⁶ Understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess

because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

⁷ "Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God in the wilderness. You have been rebelling against the LORD from the day you left the land of Egypt until you reached this place.

⁸ You provoked the LORD at Horeb, and He was angry enough with you to destroy you.

⁹ When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant the LORD made with you, I stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights. I did not eat bread or drink water.

¹⁰ On the day of the assembly the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, inscribed by God's finger. The exact words were on them, which the LORD spoke to you from the fire on the mountain.

¹¹ The LORD gave me the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant, at the end of the 40 days and 40 nights.

¹² "The LORD said to me, 'Get up and go down immediately from here. For your people you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly. They have quickly turned from the way that I commanded them; they have made a cast image for themselves.'

¹³ The LORD also said to me, 'I have seen this people, and indeed, they are a stiff-necked people.

¹⁴ Leave Me alone, and I will destroy them and blot out their name under heaven. Then I will make you into a nation stronger and more numerous than they.'

¹⁵ "So I went back down the mountain, while it was blazing with fire, and the two tablets of the covenant were in my hands.

¹⁶ I saw how you had sinned against the LORD your God; you had made a calf image for yourselves. You had quickly turned from the way the LORD had commanded for you.

¹⁷ So I took hold of the tablets and threw them from my hands, shattering them before your eyes.

¹⁸ Then I fell down like the first time in the presence of the LORD for 40 days and 40 nights; I did not eat bread or drink water because of all the sin you committed, doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and provoking Him to anger.

¹⁹ I was afraid of the fierce anger the LORD had directed against you, because He was about to destroy you. But again, the LORD listened to me on that occasion.

²⁰ The LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him. But I prayed for Aaron at that time also.

²¹ I took the sinful calf you had made, burned it up, and crushed it, thoroughly grinding it to powder as fine as dust. Then I threw it into the stream that came down from the mountain.

²² "You continued to provoke the LORD at Taberah, Massah, and Kibroth-hattaavah.

²³ When the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, He said, 'Go up and possess the land I have given you'; you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. You did not believe or obey Him.

²⁴ You have been rebelling against the LORD ever since I have known you.

²⁵ "I fell down in the presence of the LORD 40 days and 40 nights because the LORD had threatened to destroy you.

²⁶ I prayed to the LORD: Lord GOD, do not annihilate Your people, Your inheritance, whom You redeemed

through Your greatness and brought out of Egypt with a strong hand.

²⁷ Remember Your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Disregard this people's stubbornness, and their wickedness and sin.

²⁸ Otherwise, those in the land you brought us from will say, 'Because the LORD wasn't able to bring them into the land He had promised them, and because He hated them, He brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.'

²⁹ But they are Your people, Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your great power and outstretched arm.

10 ¹ "The LORD said to me at that time, 'Cut two stone tablets like the first ones and come to Me on the mountain and make a wooden ark.

² I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets you broke, and you are to place them in the ark.'

³ So I made an ark of acacia wood, cut two stone tablets like the first ones, and climbed the mountain with the two tablets in my hand.

⁴ Then, on the day of the assembly, the LORD wrote on the tablets what had been written previously, the Ten Commandments that He had spoken to you on the mountain from the fire. The LORD gave them to me,

⁵ and I went back down the mountain and placed the tablets in the ark I had made. And they have remained there, as the LORD commanded me."

⁶ The Israelites traveled from Beeroth Bene-jaakan to Moserah. Aaron died and was buried there, and Eleazar his son became priest in his place.

⁷ They traveled from there to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with streams of water.

⁸ "At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the LORD's covenant, to stand before the LORD to serve Him, and to bless in His name, as it is today.

⁹ For this reason, Levi does not have a portion or inheritance like his brothers; the LORD is his inheritance, as the LORD your God told him.

¹⁰ "I stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights like the first time. The LORD also listened to me on this occasion; He agreed not to annihilate you.

¹¹ Then the LORD said to me, 'Get up. Continue your journey ahead of the people, so that they may enter and possess the land I swore to give their fathers.'

¹² "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you except to fear the LORD your God by walking in all His

ways, to love Him, and to worship the LORD your God with all your heart and all your soul?

¹³ Keep the LORD's commands and statutes I am giving you today, for your own good.

¹⁴ The heavens, indeed the highest heavens, belong to the LORD your God, as does the earth and everything in it.

¹⁵ Yet the LORD was devoted to your fathers and loved them. He chose their descendants after them--He chose you out of all the peoples, as it is today.

¹⁶ Therefore, circumcise your hearts and don't be stiff-necked any longer.

¹⁷ For the LORD your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God, showing no partiality and taking no bribe.

¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreign resident, giving him food and clothing.

¹⁹ You also must love the foreigner, since you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

²⁰ You are to fear the LORD your God and worship Him. Remain faithful to Him and take oaths in His name.

²¹ He is your praise and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome works your eyes have seen.

²² Your fathers went down to Egypt, 70 people in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of the sky.

11 ¹ "Therefore, love the LORD your God and always keep His mandate and His statutes, ordinances, and commands.

² You must understand today that it is not your children who experienced or saw the discipline of the LORD your God: His greatness, strong hand, and outstretched arm;

³ His signs and the works He did in Egypt to Pharaoh king of Egypt and all his land;

⁴ what He did to Egypt's army, its horses and chariots, when He made the waters of the Red Sea flow over them as they pursued you, and He destroyed them completely;

⁵ what He did to you in the wilderness until you reached this place;

⁶ and what He did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when in the middle of the whole Israelite camp the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, their households, their tents, and every living thing with them.

⁷ Your own eyes have seen every great work the LORD has done.

⁸ "Keep every command I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to cross into and possess the land you are to inherit,

⁹ and so that you may live long in the land the LORD swore to your fathers to give them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰ For the land you are entering to possess is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated by hand as in a vegetable garden.

¹¹ But the land you are entering to possess is a land of mountains and valleys, watered by rain from the sky.

¹² It is a land the LORD your God cares for. He is always watching over it from the beginning to the end of the year.

¹³ "If you carefully obey My commands I am giving you today, to love the LORD your God and worship Him with all your heart and all your soul,

¹⁴ I will provide rain for your land in season, the early and late rains, and you

will harvest your grain, new wine, and oil.

¹⁵ I will provide grass in your fields for your livestock. You will eat and be satisfied.

¹⁶ Be careful that you are not enticed to turn aside, worship, and bow down to other gods.

¹⁷ Then the LORD's anger will burn against you. He will close the sky, and there will be no rain; the land will not yield its produce, and you will perish quickly from the good land the LORD is giving you.

¹⁸ "Impress these words of Mine on your hearts and souls, bind them as a sign on your hands, and let them be a symbol on your foreheads.

¹⁹ Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

²⁰ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,

²¹ so that as long as the heavens are above the earth, your days and those of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your fathers.

²² For if you carefully observe every one of these commands I am giving you to follow--to love the LORD your God, walk in all His ways, and remain faithful to Him--

²³ the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will drive out nations greater and stronger than you are.

²⁴ Every place the sole of your foot treads will be yours. Your territory will extend from the wilderness to Lebanon and from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea.

²⁵ No one will be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put fear and

dread of you in all the land where you set foot, as He has promised you.

²⁶ "Look, today I set before you a blessing and a curse:

²⁷ there will be a blessing, if you obey the commands of the LORD your God I am giving you today,

²⁸ and a curse, if you do not obey the commands of the LORD your God, and you turn aside from the path I command you today by following other gods you have not known.

²⁹ When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim the blessing at Mount Gerizim and the curse at Mount Ebal.

³⁰ Aren't these mountains across the Jordan, beyond the western road in the land of the Canaanites, who live in the Arabah, opposite Gilgal, near the oaks of Moreh?

³¹ For you are about to cross the Jordan to enter and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you possess it and settle in it,

³² be careful to follow all the statutes and ordinances I set before you today.

12 ¹ "Be careful to follow these statutes and ordinances in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess all the days you live on the earth.

² Destroy completely all the places where the nations you are driving out worship their gods--on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every flourishing tree.

³ Tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, burn up their Asherah poles, cut down the carved images of their gods, and wipe out their names from every place.

⁴ Don't worship the LORD your God this way.

⁵ Instead, you must go to the place the LORD your God chooses from all your tribes to put His name for His dwelling.

⁶ You are to bring there your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tenths and personal contributions, your vow offerings and freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

⁷ You will eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice with your household in everything you do, because the LORD your God has blessed you.

⁸ "You are not to do as we are doing here today; everyone is doing whatever seems right in his own eyes.

⁹ Indeed, you have not yet come into the resting place and the inheritance the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁰ When you cross the Jordan and live in the land the LORD your God is giving

you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all the enemies around you and you live in security,

¹¹ then the LORD your God will choose the place to have His name dwell. Bring there everything I command you: your burnt offerings, sacrifices, offerings of the tenth, personal contributions, and all your choice offerings you vow to the LORD.

¹² You will rejoice before the LORD your God--you, your sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion or inheritance among you.

¹³ Be careful not to offer your burnt offerings in all the sacred places you see.

¹⁴ You must offer your burnt offerings only in the place the LORD chooses in one of your tribes, and there you must do everything I command you.

¹⁵ "But whenever you want, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your gates, according to the blessing the LORD your God has given you. Those who are clean or unclean may eat it, as they would a gazelle or deer,

¹⁶ but you must not eat the blood; pour it on the ground like water.

¹⁷ Within your gates you may not eat: the tenth of your grain, new wine, or oil; the firstborn of your herd or flock; any of your vow offerings that you pledge; your freewill offerings; or your personal contributions.

¹⁸ You must eat them in the presence of the LORD your God at the place the LORD your God chooses--you, your son and daughter, your male and female slave, and the Levite who is within your gates. Rejoice before the LORD your God in everything you do,

¹⁹ and be careful not to neglect the Levite, as long as you live in your land.

²⁰ "When the LORD your God enlarges your territory as He has promised you, and you say, 'I want to eat meat' because you have a strong desire to eat meat, you may eat it whenever you want.

²¹ If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, you may slaughter any of your herd or flock He has given you, as I have commanded you, and you may eat it within your gates whenever you want.

²² Indeed, you may eat it as the gazelle and deer are eaten; both the clean and the unclean may eat it.

²³ But don't eat the blood, since the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the meat.

²⁴ Do not eat blood; pour it on the ground like water.

²⁵ Do not eat it, so that you and your children after you will prosper, because you will be doing what is right in the LORD's sight.

²⁶ "But you are to take the holy offerings you have and your vow offerings and go to the place the LORD chooses.

²⁷ Present the meat and blood of your burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD your God. The blood of your other sacrifices is to be poured out beside the altar of the LORD your God, but you may eat the meat.

²⁸ Be careful to obey all these things I command you, so that you and your children after you may prosper forever, because you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

²⁹ "When the LORD your God annihilates the nations before you, which you are entering to take

possession of, and you drive them out and live in their land,

³⁰ be careful not to be ensnared by their ways after they have been destroyed before you. Do not inquire about their gods, asking, 'How did these nations worship their gods? I'll also do the same.'

³¹ You must not do the same to the LORD your God, because they practice for their gods every detestable thing the LORD hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

³² You must be careful to do everything I command you; do not add anything to it or take anything away from it.

13 ¹ "If a prophet or someone who has dreams arises among you and proclaims a sign or wonder to you,

² and that sign or wonder he has promised you comes about, but he says, 'Let us follow other gods,' which you

have not known, 'and let us worship them,'

³ do not listen to that prophet's words or to that dreamer. For the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and all your soul.

⁴ You must follow the LORD your God and fear Him. You must keep His commands and listen to His voice; you must worship Him and remain faithful to Him.

⁵ That prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he has urged rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the place of slavery, to turn you from the way the LORD your God has commanded you to walk. You must purge the evil from you.

⁶ "If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or daughter, or the

wife you embrace, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, 'Let us go and worship other gods'--which neither you nor your fathers have known,

⁷ any of the gods of the peoples around you, near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other--

⁸ you must not yield to him or listen to him. Show him no pity, and do not spare him or shield him.

⁹ Instead, you must kill him. Your hand is to be the first against him to put him to death, and then the hands of all the people.

¹⁰ Stone him to death for trying to turn you away from the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

¹¹ All Israel will hear and be afraid, and they will no longer do anything evil like this among you.

¹² "If you hear it said about one of your cities the LORD your God is giving you to live in,

¹³ that wicked men have sprung up among you, led the inhabitants of their city astray, and said, 'Let us go and worship other gods,' which you have not known,

¹⁴ you are to inquire, investigate, and interrogate thoroughly. If the report turns out to be true that this detestable thing has happened among you,

¹⁵ you must strike down the inhabitants of that city with the sword. Completely destroy everyone in it as well as its livestock with the sword.

¹⁶ You are to gather all its spoil in the middle of the city square and completely burn up the city and all its spoil for the LORD your God. The city must remain a mound of ruins forever; it is not to be rebuilt.

¹⁷ Nothing set apart for destruction is to remain in your hand, so that the LORD will turn from His burning anger and grant you mercy, show you compassion, and multiply you as He swore to your fathers.

¹⁸ This will occur if you obey the LORD your God, keeping all His commands I am giving you today, doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God.

14 ¹ "You are sons of the LORD your God; do not cut yourselves or make a bald spot on your head on behalf of the dead,

² for you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. The LORD has chosen you to be His special people out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

³ "You must not eat any detestable thing.

⁴ These are the animals you may eat:
the ox, the sheep, the goat,

⁵ the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope, and the mountain sheep.

⁶ You may eat any animal that has hooves divided in two and chews the cud.

⁷ But among the ones that chew the cud or have divided hooves, you are not to eat these: the camel, the hare, and the hyrax, though they chew the cud, they do not have hooves--they are unclean for you;

⁸ and the pig, though it has hooves, it does not chew the cud--it is unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses.

⁹ "You may eat everything from the water that has fins and scales,

¹⁰ but you may not eat anything that does not have fins and scales--it is unclean for you.

¹¹ "You may eat every clean bird,

¹² but these are the ones you may not eat: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,

¹³ the kite, the various kinds of falcon,

¹⁴ every kind of raven,

¹⁵ the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the gull, the various kinds of hawk,

¹⁶ the little owl, the long-eared owl, the white owl,

¹⁷ the desert owl, the osprey, the cormorant,

¹⁸ the stork, the various kinds of heron, the hoopoe, and the bat.

¹⁹ All winged insects are unclean for you; they may not be eaten.

²⁰ But you may eat every clean flying creature.

²¹ "You are not to eat any carcass; you may give it to a resident alien within your gates, and he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. You must not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

²² "Each year you are to set aside a tenth of all the produce grown in your fields.

²³ You are to eat a tenth of your grain, new wine, and oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, in the presence of the LORD your God at the place where He chooses to have His name dwell, so that you will always learn to fear the LORD your God.

²⁴ But if the distance is too great for you to carry it, since the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far away from you and since the LORD your God has blessed you,

²⁵ then exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place the LORD your God chooses.

²⁶ You may spend the money on anything you want: cattle, sheep, wine, beer, or anything you desire. You are to feast there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice with your family.

²⁷ Do not forget the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion or inheritance among you.

²⁸ "At the end of every three years, bring a tenth of all your produce for that year and store it within your gates.

²⁹ Then the Levite, who has no portion or inheritance among you, the foreign resident, fatherless, and widow within your gates may come, eat, and be satisfied. And the LORD your God will bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

15 ¹ "At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.

² This is how to cancel debt: Every creditor is to cancel what he has lent his neighbor. He is not to collect anything from his neighbor or brother, because the LORD's release of debts has been proclaimed.

³ You may collect something from a foreigner, but you must forgive whatever your brother owes you.

⁴ "There will be no poor among you, however, because the LORD is certain to bless you in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance--

⁵ if only you obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow every one of these commands I am giving you today.

⁶ When the LORD your God blesses you as He has promised you, you will lend to many nations but not borrow; you will

rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you.

⁷ "If there is a poor person among you, one of your brothers within any of your gates in the land the LORD your God is giving you, you must not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother.

⁸ Instead, you are to open your hand to him and freely loan him enough for whatever need he has.

⁹ Be careful that there isn't this wicked thought in your heart, 'The seventh year, the year of canceling debts, is near,' and you are stingy toward your poor brother and give him nothing . He will cry out to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty.

¹⁰ Give to him, and don't have a stingy heart when you give, and because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you do.

¹¹ For there will never cease to be poor people in the land; that is why I am commanding you, 'You must willingly open your hand to your afflicted and poor brother in your land.'

¹² "If your fellow Hebrew, a man or woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, you must set him free in the seventh year.

¹³ When you set him free, do not send him away empty-handed.

¹⁴ Give generously to him from your flock, your threshing floor, and your winepress. You are to give him whatever the LORD your God has blessed you with.

¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you; that is why I am giving you this command today.

¹⁶ But if your slave says to you, 'I don't want to leave you,' because he loves you and your family, and is well off with you,

¹⁷ take an awl and pierce through his ear into the door, and he will become your slave for life. Also treat your female slave the same way.

¹⁸ Do not regard it as a hardship when you set him free, because he worked for you six years--worth twice the wages of a hired hand. Then the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do.

¹⁹ "You must consecrate to the LORD your God every firstborn male produced by your herd and flock. You are not to put the firstborn of your oxen to work or shear the firstborn of your flock.

²⁰ Each year you and your family are to eat it before the LORD your God in the place the LORD chooses.

²¹ But if there is a defect in the animal, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

²² Eat it within your gates; both the unclean person and the clean may eat it , as though it were a gazelle or deer.

²³ But you must not eat its blood; pour it on the ground like water.

16 ¹ "Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, because the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night in the month of Abib.

² Sacrifice to the LORD your God a Passover animal from the herd or flock in the place where the LORD chooses to have His name dwell.

³ You must not eat leavened bread with it. For seven days you are to eat unleavened bread with it, the bread of hardship--because you left the land of Egypt in a hurry--so that you may remember for the rest of your life the day you left the land of Egypt.

⁴ No yeast is to be found anywhere in your territory for seven days, and none of the meat you sacrifice in the evening of the first day is to remain until morning.

⁵ You are not to sacrifice the Passover animal in any of the towns the LORD your God is giving you.

⁶ You must only sacrifice the Passover animal at the place where the LORD your God chooses to have His name dwell. Do this in the evening as the sun sets at the same time of day you departed from Egypt.

⁷ You are to cook and eat it in the place the LORD your God chooses, and you are to return to your tents in the morning.

⁸ You must eat unleavened bread for six days. On the seventh day there is to be a solemn assembly to the LORD your God, and you must not do any work.

⁹ "You are to count seven weeks, counting the weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing grain.

¹⁰ You are to celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the LORD your God with a freewill offering that you give in proportion to how the LORD your God has blessed you.

¹¹ Rejoice before the LORD your God in the place where He chooses to have His name dwell--you, your son and daughter, your male and female slave, the Levite within your gates, as well as the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow among you.

¹² Remember that you were slaves in Egypt; carefully follow these statutes.

¹³ "You are to celebrate the Festival of Booths for seven days when you have gathered in everything from your threshing floor and winepress.

¹⁴ Rejoice during your festival--you, your son and daughter, your male and female slave, as well as the Levite, the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow within your gates.

¹⁵ You are to hold a seven-day festival for the LORD your God in the place He chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, and you will have abundant joy.

¹⁶ "All your males are to appear three times a year before the LORD your God in the place He chooses: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths. No one is to appear before the LORD empty-handed.

¹⁷ Everyone must appear with a gift suited to his means, according to the blessing the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁸ "Appoint judges and officials for your tribes in all your towns the LORD your God is giving you. They are to judge the people with righteous judgment.

¹⁹ Do not deny justice or show partiality to anyone . Do not accept a bribe, for it blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

²⁰ Pursue justice and justice alone, so that you will live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you.

²¹ "Do not set up an Asherah of any kind of wood next to the altar you will build for the LORD your God,

²² and do not set up a sacred pillar; the LORD your God hates them.

17 ¹ "You must not sacrifice to the LORD your God an ox or sheep with a defect or any serious flaw, for that is detestable to the LORD your God.

² "If a man or woman among you in one of your towns that the LORD your

God will give you is discovered doing evil in the sight of the LORD your God and violating His covenant

³ and has gone to worship other gods by bowing down to the sun, moon, or all the stars in the sky--which I have forbidden--

⁴ and if you are told or hear about it , you must investigate it thoroughly. If the report turns out to be true that this detestable thing has happened in Israel,

⁵ you must bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing and stone them to death.

⁶ The one condemned to die is to be executed on the testimony of two or three witnesses. No one is to be executed on the testimony of a single witness.

⁷ The witnesses' hands are to be the first in putting him to death, and after

that, the hands of all the people. You must purge the evil from you.

⁸ "If a case is too difficult for you--concerning bloodshed, lawsuits, or assaults--cases disputed at your gates, you must go up to the place the LORD your God chooses.

⁹ You are to go to the Levitical priests and to the judge who presides at that time. Ask, and they will give you a verdict in the case.

¹⁰ You must abide by the verdict they give you at the place the LORD chooses. Be careful to do exactly as they instruct you.

¹¹ You must abide by the instruction they give you and the verdict they announce to you. Do not turn to the right or the left from the decision they declare to you.

¹² The person who acts arrogantly, refusing to listen either to the priest

who stands there serving the LORD your God or to the judge, must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

¹³ Then all the people will hear about it , be afraid, and no longer behave arrogantly.

¹⁴ "When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, take possession of it, live in it, and say, 'We want to appoint a king over us like all the nations around us,'

¹⁵ you are to appoint over you the king the LORD your God chooses. Appoint a king from your brothers. You are not to set a foreigner over you, or one who is not of your people.

¹⁶ However, he must not acquire many horses for himself or send the people back to Egypt to acquire many horses, for the LORD has told you, 'You are never to go back that way again.'

¹⁷ He must not acquire many wives for himself so that his heart won't go astray. He must not acquire very large amounts of silver and gold for himself.

¹⁸ When he is seated on his royal throne, he is to write a copy of this instruction for himself on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests.

¹⁹ It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to observe all the words of this instruction, and to do these statutes.

²⁰ Then his heart will not be exalted above his countrymen, he will not turn from this command to the right or the left, and he and his sons will continue ruling many years over Israel.

18¹ "The Levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, will have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They will eat

the LORD's fire offerings; that is their inheritance.

² Although Levi has no inheritance among his brothers, the LORD is his inheritance, as He promised him.

³ This is the priests' share from the people who offer a sacrifice, whether it is an ox, a sheep, or a goat; the priests are to be given the shoulder, jaws, and stomach.

⁴ You are to give him the firstfruits of your grain, new wine, and oil, and the first sheared wool of your flock.

⁵ For the LORD your God has chosen him and his sons from all your tribes to stand and minister in the LORD's name from now on.

⁶ When a Levite leaves one of your towns where he lives in Israel and wants to go to the place the LORD chooses,

⁷ he may serve in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow Levites who

minister there in the presence of the LORD.

⁸ They will eat equal portions besides what he has received from the sale of the family estate.

⁹ "When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not imitate the detestable customs of those nations.

¹⁰ No one among you is to make his son or daughter pass through the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, interpret omens, practice sorcery,

¹¹ cast spells, consult a medium or a familiar spirit, or inquire of the dead.

¹² Everyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and the LORD your God is driving out the nations before you because of these detestable things.

¹³ You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

¹⁴ Though these nations you are about to drive out listen to fortune-tellers and diviners, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do this.

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.

¹⁶ This is what you requested from the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let us not continue to hear the voice of the LORD our God or see this great fire any longer, so that we will not die!'

¹⁷ Then the LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well.

¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.

¹⁹ I will hold accountable whoever does not listen to My words that he speaks in My name.

²⁰ But the prophet who dares to speak in My name a message I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods--that prophet must die.'

²¹ You may say to yourself, 'How can we recognize a message the LORD has not spoken?'

²² When a prophet speaks in the LORD's name, and the message does not come true or is not fulfilled, that is a message the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

19 ¹ "When the LORD your God annihilates the nations whose land He is giving you, so that you drive them out and live in their cities and houses,

² you are to set apart three cities for yourselves within the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

³ You are to determine the distances and divide the land the LORD your God is granting you as an inheritance into three regions, so that anyone who commits manslaughter can flee to these cities.

⁴ "Here is the law concerning a case of someone who kills a person and flees there to save his life, having killed his neighbor accidentally without previously hating him:

⁵ If he goes into the forest with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings the ax to chop down a tree, but the blade flies off the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies, that person may flee to one of these cities and live.

⁶ Otherwise, the avenger of blood in the heat of his anger might pursue the one who committed manslaughter, overtake him because the distance is great, and strike him dead. Yet he did not deserve

to die, since he did not previously hate his neighbor.

⁷ This is why I am commanding you to set apart three cities for yourselves.

⁸ If the LORD your God enlarges your territory as He swore to your fathers, and gives you all the land He promised to give them--

⁹ provided you keep every one of these commands I am giving you today and follow them, loving the LORD your God and walking in His ways at all times--you are to add three more cities to these three.

¹⁰ In this way, innocent blood will not be shed, and you will not become guilty of bloodshed in the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

¹¹ But if someone hates his neighbor, lies in ambush for him, attacks him, and strikes him fatally, and flees to one of these cities,

¹² the elders of his city must send for him , take him from there, and hand him over to the avenger of blood and he will die.

¹³ You must not look on him with pity but purge from Israel the guilt of shedding innocent blood, and you will prosper.

¹⁴ "You must not move your neighbor's boundary marker, established at the start in the inheritance you will receive in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

¹⁵ "One witness cannot establish any wrongdoing or sin against a person, whatever that person has done. A fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

¹⁶ "If a malicious witness testifies against someone accusing him of a crime,

¹⁷ the two people in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and judges in authority at the time.

¹⁸ The judges are to make a careful investigation, and if the witness turns out to be a liar who has falsely accused his brother,

¹⁹ you must do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from you.

²⁰ Then everyone else will hear and be afraid, and they will never again do anything evil like this among you.

²¹ You must not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, and foot for foot.

20 ¹ "When you go out to war against your enemies and see horses, chariots, and an army larger than yours, do not be afraid of them, for the LORD

your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you.

² When you are about to engage in battle, the priest is to come forward and address the army.

³ He is to say to them: 'Listen, Israel: Today you are about to engage in battle with your enemies. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, alarmed, or terrified because of them.

⁴ For the LORD your God is the One who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.'

⁵ "The officers are to address the army, 'Has any man built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him leave and return home. Otherwise, he may die in battle and another man dedicate it.

⁶ Has any man planted a vineyard and not begun to enjoy its fruit? Let him leave and return home. Otherwise he

may die in battle and another man enjoy its fruit.

⁷ Has any man become engaged to a woman and not married her? Let him leave and return home. Otherwise he may die in battle and another man marry her.'

⁸ The officers will continue to address the army and say, 'Is there any man who is afraid or fainthearted? Let him leave and return home, so that his brothers' hearts won't melt like his own.'

⁹ When the officers have finished addressing the army, they will appoint military commanders to lead it.

¹⁰ "When you approach a city to fight against it, you must make an offer of peace.

¹¹ If it accepts your offer of peace and opens its gates to you, all the people found in it will become forced laborers for you and serve you.

¹² However, if it does not make peace with you but wages war against you, lay siege to it.

¹³ When the LORD your God hands it over to you, you must strike down all its males with the sword.

¹⁴ But you may take the women, children, animals, and whatever else is in the city--all its spoil--as plunder. You may enjoy the spoil of your enemies that the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁵ This is how you are to treat all the cities that are far away from you and are not among the cities of these nations.

¹⁶ However, you must not let any living thing survive among the cities of these people the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

¹⁷ You must completely destroy them--the Hittite, Amorite, Canaanite, Perizzite, Hivite, and Jebusite--as the LORD your God has commanded you,

¹⁸ so that they won't teach you to do all the detestable things they do for their gods, and you sin against the LORD your God.

¹⁹ "When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees by putting an ax to them, because you can get food from them. You must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human, to come under siege by you?

²⁰ But you may destroy the trees that you know do not produce food. You may cut them down to build siege works against the city that is waging war with you, until it falls.

21 ¹ "If a murder victim is found lying in a field in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess, and it is not known who killed him,

² your elders and judges must come out and measure the distance from the victim to the nearby cities.

³ The elders of the city nearest to the victim are to get a cow that has not been yoked or used for work.

⁴ The elders of that city will bring the cow down to a continually flowing stream, to a place not tilled or sown, and they will break the cow's neck there by the stream.

⁵ Then the priests, the sons of Levi, will come forward, for the LORD your God has chosen them to serve Him and pronounce blessings in the LORD's name, and they are to give a ruling in every dispute and case of assault.

⁶ All the elders of the city nearest to the victim will wash their hands by the stream over the heifer whose neck has been broken.

⁷ They will declare, 'Our hands did not shed this blood; our eyes did not see it .

⁸ LORD, forgive Your people Israel You redeemed, and do not hold the shedding of innocent blood against them.' Then they will be absolved of responsibility for bloodshed.

⁹ You must purge from yourselves the guilt of shedding innocent blood, for you will be doing what is right in the LORD's sight.

¹⁰ "When you go to war against your enemies and the LORD your God hands them over to you and you take some of them prisoner, and

¹¹ if you see a beautiful woman among the captives, desire her, and want to take her as your wife,

¹² you are to bring her into your house. She must shave her head, trim her nails,

¹³ remove the clothes she was wearing when she was taken prisoner, live in your

house, and mourn for her father and mother a full month. After that, you may have sexual relations with her and be her husband, and she will be your wife.

¹⁴ Then if you are not satisfied with her, you are to let her go where she wants, but you must not sell her for money or treat her as merchandise, because you have humiliated her.

¹⁵ "If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved bear him sons, and if the unloved wife has the firstborn son,

¹⁶ when that man gives what he has to his sons as an inheritance, he is not to show favoritism to the son of the loved wife as his firstborn over the firstborn of the unloved wife.

¹⁷ He must acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved wife, by giving him a double portion of everything that

belongs to him, for he is the firstfruits of his virility; he has the rights of the firstborn.

¹⁸ "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father or mother and doesn't listen to them even after they discipline him,

¹⁹ his father and mother must take hold of him and bring him to the elders of his city, to the gate of his hometown.

²⁰ They will say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he doesn't obey us. He's a glutton and a drunkard.'

²¹ Then all the men of his city will stone him to death. You must purge the evil from you, and all Israel will hear and be afraid.

²² "If anyone is found guilty of an offense deserving the death penalty and is executed, and you hang his body on a tree,

²³ you are not to leave his corpse on the tree overnight but are to bury him that day, for anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not defile the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

22 ¹ "If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, you must not ignore it; make sure you return it to your brother.

² If your brother does not live near you or you don't know him, you are to bring the animal to your home to remain with you until your brother comes looking for it; then you can return it to him.

³ Do the same for his donkey, his garment, or anything your brother has lost and you have found. You must not ignore it .

⁴ If you see your brother's donkey or ox fallen down on the road, you must not ignore it; you must help him lift it up.

⁵ "A woman is not to wear male clothing, and a man is not to put on a woman's garment, for everyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD your God.

⁶ "If you come across a bird's nest with chicks or eggs, either in a tree or on the ground along the road, and the mother is sitting on the chicks or eggs, you must not take the mother along with the young.

⁷ You may take the young for yourself, but be sure to let the mother go free, so that you may prosper and live long.

⁸ If you build a new house, make a railing around your roof, so that you don't bring bloodguilt on your house if someone falls from it.

⁹ Do not plant your vineyard with two types of seed; otherwise, the entire harvest, both the crop you plant and the produce of the vineyard, will be defiled.

¹⁰ Do not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

¹¹ Do not wear clothes made of both wool and linen.

¹² Make tassels on the four corners of the outer garment you wear.

¹³ "If a man marries a woman, has sexual relations with her, and comes to hate her,

¹⁴ and accuses her of shameful conduct, and gives her a bad name, saying, 'I married this woman and was intimate with her, but I didn't find any evidence of her virginity,'

¹⁵ the young woman's father and mother will take the evidence of her virginity and bring it to the city elders at the gate.

¹⁶ The young woman's father will say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter to this man as a wife, but he hates her.

¹⁷ He has accused her of shameful conduct, saying: 'I didn't find any evidence of your daughter's virginity, but here is the evidence of my daughter's virginity.' They will spread out the cloth before the city elders.

¹⁸ Then the elders of that city will take the man and punish him.

¹⁹ They will also fine him 100 silver shekels and give them to the young woman's father, because that man gave an Israelite virgin a bad name. She will remain his wife; he cannot divorce her as long as he lives.

²⁰ But if this accusation is true and no evidence of the young woman's virginity is found,

²¹ they will bring the woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city will stone her to death. For she has committed an outrage in Israel

by being promiscuous in her father's house. You must purge the evil from you.

²² "If a man is discovered having sexual relations with another man's wife, both the man who had sex with the woman and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

²³ If there is a young woman who is a virgin engaged to a man, and another man encounters her in the city and has sex with her,

²⁴ you must take the two of them out to the gate of that city and stone them to death--the young woman because she did not cry out in the city and the man because he has violated his neighbor's fiancée. You must purge the evil from you.

²⁵ But if the man encounters the engaged woman in the open country, and he seizes and rapes her, only the man who raped her must die.

²⁶ Do nothing to the young woman, because she is not guilty of an offense deserving death. This case is just like one in which a man attacks his neighbor and murders him.

²⁷ When he found her in the field, the engaged woman cried out, but there was no one to rescue her.

²⁸ If a man encounters a young woman, a virgin who is not engaged, takes hold of her and rapes her, and they are discovered,

²⁹ the man who raped her must give the young woman's father 50 silver shekels , and she must become his wife because he violated her. He cannot divorce her as long as he lives.

³⁰ "A man is not to marry his father's wife; he must not violate his father's marriage bed.

23 ¹ "No man whose testicles have been crushed or whose penis

has been cut off may enter the LORD's assembly.

² No one of illegitimate birth may enter the LORD's assembly; none of his descendants, even to the tenth generation, may enter the LORD's assembly.

³ No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the LORD's assembly; none of their descendants, even to the tenth generation, may ever enter the LORD's assembly.

⁴ This is because they did not meet you with food and water on the journey after you came out of Egypt, and because Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram-naharaim was hired to curse you.

⁵ Yet the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but He turned the curse into a blessing for you because the LORD your God loves you.

⁶ Never seek peace or friendship with them as long as you live.

⁷ Do not despise an Edomite, because he is your brother. Do not despise an Egyptian, because you were a foreign resident in his land.

⁸ The children born to them in the third generation may enter the LORD's assembly.

⁹ "When you are encamped against your enemies, be careful to avoid anything offensive.

¹⁰ If there is a man among you who is unclean because of a bodily emission during the night, he must go outside the camp; he may not come anywhere inside the camp.

¹¹ When evening approaches, he must wash with water, and when the sun sets he may come inside the camp.

¹² You must have a place outside the camp and go there to relieve yourself .

¹³ You must have a digging tool in your equipment; when you relieve yourself, dig a hole with it and cover up your excrement.

¹⁴ For the LORD your God walks throughout your camp to protect you and deliver your enemies to you; so your encampments must be holy. He must not see anything improper among you or He will turn away from you.

¹⁵ "Do not return a slave to his master when he has escaped from his master to you.

¹⁶ Let him live among you wherever he wants within your gates. Do not mistreat him.

¹⁷ "No Israelite woman is to be a cult prostitute, and no Israelite man is to be a cult prostitute.

¹⁸ Do not bring a female prostitute's wages or a male prostitute's earnings into the house of the LORD your God

to fulfill any vow, because both are detestable to the LORD your God.

¹⁹ "Do not charge your brother interest on money, food, or anything that can earn interest.

²⁰ You may charge a foreigner interest, but you must not charge your brother interest, so that the LORD your God may bless you in everything you do in the land you are entering to possess.

²¹ "If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not be slow to keep it, because He will require it of you, and it will be counted against you as sin.

²² But if you refrain from making a vow, it will not be counted against you as sin.

²³ Be careful to do whatever comes from your lips, because you have freely vowed what you promised to the LORD your God.

²⁴ "When you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat as many grapes as

you want until you are full, but you must not put any in your container.

²⁵ When you enter your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck heads of grain with your hand, but you must not put a sickle to your neighbor's grain.

24 ¹ "If a man marries a woman, but she becomes displeasing to him because he finds something improper about her, he may write her a divorce certificate, hand it to her, and send her away from his house.

² If after leaving his house she goes and becomes another man's wife,

³ and the second man hates her, writes her a divorce certificate, hands it to her, and sends her away from his house or if he dies,

⁴ the first husband who sent her away may not marry her again after she has been defiled, because that would be detestable to the LORD. You must not

bring guilt on the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

⁵ "When a man takes a bride, he must not go out with the army or be liable for any duty. He is free to stay at home for one year, so that he can bring joy to the wife he has married.

⁶ "Do not take a pair of millstones or an upper millstone as security for a debt, because that is like taking a life as security.

⁷ "If a man is discovered kidnapping one of his Israelite brothers, whether he treats him as a slave or sells him, the kidnapper must die. You must purge the evil from you.

⁸ "Be careful in a case of infectious skin disease, following carefully everything the Levitical priests instruct you to do. Be careful to do as I have commanded them.

⁹ Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the journey after you left Egypt.

¹⁰ "When you make a loan of any kind to your neighbor, do not enter his house to collect what he offers as security.

¹¹ You must stand outside while the man you are making the loan to brings the security out to you.

¹² If he is a poor man, you must not sleep in the garment he has given as security.

¹³ Be sure to return it to him at sunset. Then he will sleep in it and bless you, and this will be counted as righteousness to you before the LORD your God.

¹⁴ "Do not oppress a hired hand who is poor and needy, whether one of your brothers or one of the foreigners residing within a town in your land.

¹⁵ You are to pay him his wages each day before the sun sets, because he is

poor and depends on them. Otherwise he will cry out to the LORD against you, and you will be held guilty.

¹⁶ "Fathers are not to be put to death for their children or children for their fathers; each person will be put to death for his own sin.

¹⁷ Do not deny justice to a foreign resident or fatherless child, and do not take a widow's garment as security.

¹⁸ Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. Therefore I am commanding you to do this.

¹⁹ "When you reap the harvest in your field, and you forget a sheaf in the field, do not go back to get it. It is to be left for the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

²⁰ When you knock down the fruit from your olive tree, you must not go over the branches again. What remains will be for the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow.

²¹ When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you must not glean what is left. What remains will be for the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow.

²² Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt. Therefore I am commanding you to do this.

25 ¹ "If there is a dispute between men, they are to go to court, and the judges will hear their case. They will clear the innocent and condemn the guilty.

² If the guilty party deserves to be flogged, the judge will make him lie down and be flogged in his presence with the number of lashes appropriate for his crime.

³ He may be flogged with 40 lashes, but no more. Otherwise, if he is flogged with more lashes than these, your brother will be degraded in your sight.

⁴ "Do not muzzle an ox while it treads out grain.

⁵ "When brothers live on the same property and one of them dies without a son, the wife of the dead man may not marry a stranger outside the family . Her brother-in-law is to take her as his wife, have sexual relations with her, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law for her.

⁶ The first son she bears will carry on the name of the dead brother, so his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

⁷ But if the man doesn't want to marry his sister-in-law, she must go to the elders at the city gate and say, 'My brother-in-law refuses to preserve his brother's name in Israel. He isn't willing

to perform the duty of a brother-in-law for me.'

⁸ The elders of his city will summon him and speak with him. If he persists and says, 'I don't want to marry her,'

⁹ then his sister-in-law will go up to him in the sight of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, and spit in his face. Then she will declare, 'This is what is done to a man who will not build up his brother's house.'

¹⁰ And his family name in Israel will be called 'The house of the man whose sandal was removed.'

¹¹ "If two men are fighting with each other, and the wife of one steps in to rescue her husband from the one striking him, and she puts out her hand and grabs his genitals,

¹² you are to cut off her hand. You must not show pity.

¹³ "You must not have two different weights in your bag, one heavy and one light.

¹⁴ You must not have two differing dry measures in your house, a larger and a smaller.

¹⁵ You must have a full and honest weight, a full and honest dry measure, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁶ For everyone who does such things and acts unfairly is detestable to the LORD your God.

¹⁷ "Remember what the Amalekites did to you on the journey after you left Egypt.

¹⁸ They met you along the way and attacked all your stragglers from behind when you were tired and weary. They did not fear God.

¹⁹ When the LORD your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in

the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget.

26 ¹ "When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and live in it,

² you must take some of the first of all the soil's produce that you harvest from the land the LORD your God is giving you and put it in a container. Then go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to have His name dwell.

³ When you come before the priest who is serving at that time, you must say to him, 'Today I acknowledge to the LORD your God that I have entered the land the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.'

⁴ "Then the priest will take the container from your hand and place it before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵ You are to respond by saying in the presence of the LORD your God: My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt with a few people and lived there. There he became a great, powerful, and populous nation.

⁶ But the Egyptians mistreated and afflicted us, and forced us to do hard labor.

⁷ So we called out to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our cry and saw our misery, hardship, and oppression.

⁸ Then the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with terrifying power, and with signs and wonders.

⁹ He led us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰ I have now brought the first of the land's produce that You, LORD, have given me. You will then place the container before the LORD your God and bow down to Him.

¹¹ You, the Levite, and the foreign resident among you will rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given you and your household.

¹² "When you have finished paying all the tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tenth, you are to give it to the Levite, the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

¹³ Then you will say in the presence of the LORD your God: I have taken the consecrated portion out of my house; I have also given it to the Levite, the foreign resident, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all the commands

You gave me. I have not violated or forgotten Your commands.

¹⁴ I have not eaten any of it while in mourning, or removed any of it while unclean, or offered any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God; I have done all You commanded me.

¹⁵ Look down from Your holy dwelling, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land You have given us as You swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁶ "The LORD your God is commanding you this day to follow these statutes and ordinances. You must be careful to follow them with all your heart and all your soul.

¹⁷ Today you have affirmed that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in His ways, keep His statutes, commands, and ordinances, and obey Him.

¹⁸ And today the LORD has affirmed that you are His special people as He promised you, that you are to keep all His commands,

¹⁹ that He will put you far above all the nations He has made in praise, fame, and glory, and that you will be a holy people to the LORD your God as He promised."

27 ¹ Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people, "Keep every command I am giving you today.

² At the time you cross the Jordan into the land the LORD your God is giving you, you must set up large stones and cover them with plaster.

³ Write all the words of this law on the stones after you cross to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you.

⁴ When you have crossed the Jordan, you are to set up these stones on Mount Ebal, as I am commanding you today, and you are to cover them with plaster.

⁵ Build an altar of stones there to the LORD your God--you must not use any iron tool on them.

⁶ Use uncut stones to build the altar of the LORD your God and offer burnt offerings to the LORD your God on it.

⁷ There you are to sacrifice fellowship offerings, eat, and rejoice in the presence of the LORD your God.

⁸ Write clearly all the words of this law on the plastered stones."

⁹ Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel, "Be silent, Israel, and listen! This day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

¹⁰ Obey the LORD your God and follow His commands and statutes I am giving you today."

¹¹ On that day Moses commanded the people,

¹² "When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes will stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.

¹³ And these tribes will stand on Mount Ebal to deliver the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

¹⁴ The Levites will proclaim in a loud voice to every Israelite:

¹⁵ 'Cursed is the person who makes a carved idol or cast image, which is detestable to the LORD, the work of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people will reply, 'Amen!'

¹⁶ 'Cursed is the one who dishonors his father or mother.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

¹⁷ 'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's boundary marker.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

¹⁸ 'Cursed is the one who leads a blind person astray on the road.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

¹⁹ 'Cursed is the one who denies justice to a foreign resident, a fatherless child, or a widow.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

²⁰ 'Cursed is the one who sleeps with his father's wife, for he has violated his father's marriage bed.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

²¹ 'Cursed is the one who has sexual intercourse with any animal.' And all the people will say 'Amen!'

²² 'Cursed is the one who sleeps with his sister, whether his father's daughter or his mother's daughter.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

²³ 'Cursed is the one who sleeps with his mother-in-law.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

²⁴ 'Cursed is the one who kills his neighbor in secret.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

²⁵ 'Cursed is the one who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

²⁶ 'Cursed is anyone who does not put the words of this law into practice.' And all the people will say, 'Amen!'

28 ¹ "Now if you faithfully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all His commands I am giving you today, the LORD your God will put you far above all the nations of the earth.

² All these blessings will come and overtake you, because you obey the LORD your God:

³ You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

⁴ Your descendants will be blessed, and your soil's produce, and the offspring of your livestock, including the young

of your herds and the newborn of your flocks.

⁵ Your basket and kneading bowl will be blessed.

⁶ You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

⁷ "The LORD will cause the enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you. They will march out against you from one direction but flee from you in seven directions.

⁸ The LORD will grant you a blessing on your storehouses and on everything you do; He will bless you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

⁹ The LORD will establish you as His holy people, as He swore to you, if you obey the commands of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

¹⁰ Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the LORD's name, and they will stand in awe of you.

¹¹ The LORD will make you prosper abundantly with children, the offspring of your livestock, and your soil's produce in the land the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

¹² The LORD will open for you His abundant storehouse, the sky, to give your land rain in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow.

¹³ The LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you will only move upward and never downward if you listen to the LORD your God's commands I am giving you today and are careful to follow them

¹⁴ Do not turn aside to the right or the left from all the things I am commanding you today, and do not go after other gods to worship them.

¹⁵ "But if you do not obey the LORD your God by carefully following all His commands and statutes I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overtake you:

¹⁶ You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

¹⁷ Your basket and kneading bowl will be cursed.

¹⁸ Your descendants will be cursed, and your soil's produce, the young of your herds, and the newborn of your flocks.

¹⁹ You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.

²⁰ The LORD will send against you curses, confusion, and rebuke in everything you do until you are destroyed and quickly perish, because of the wickedness of your actions in abandoning Me.

²¹ The LORD will make pestilence cling to you until He has exterminated

you from the land you are entering to possess.

²² The LORD will afflict you with wasting disease, fever, inflammation, burning heat, drought, blight, and mildew; these will pursue you until you perish.

²³ The sky above you will be bronze, and the earth beneath you iron.

²⁴ The LORD will turn the rain of your land into falling dust; it will descend on you from the sky until you are destroyed.

²⁵ The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will march out against them from one direction but flee from them in seven directions. You will be an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

²⁶ Your corpses will be food for all the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the land, and no one will scare them away.

²⁷ "The LORD will afflict you with the boils of Egypt, tumors, a festering rash, and scabies, from which you cannot be cured.

²⁸ The LORD will afflict you with madness, blindness, and mental confusion,

²⁹ so that at noon you will grope as a blind man gropes in the dark. You will not be successful in anything you do. You will only be oppressed and robbed continually, and no one will help you .

³⁰ You will become engaged to a woman, but another man will rape her. You will build a house but not live in it. You will plant a vineyard but not enjoy its fruit.

³¹ Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat any of it. Your donkey will be taken away from you and not returned to you. Your flock will

be given to your enemies, and no one will help you.

³² Your sons and daughters will be given to another people, while your eyes grow weary looking for them every day. But you will be powerless to do anything.

³³ A people you don't know will eat your soil's produce and everything you have labored for. You will only be oppressed and crushed continually.

³⁴ You will be driven mad by what you see.

³⁵ The LORD will afflict you on your knees and thighs with painful and incurable boils from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.

³⁶ "The LORD will bring you and your king that you have appointed to a nation neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you will worship other gods, of wood and stone.

³⁷ You will become an object of horror, scorn, and ridicule among all the peoples where the LORD will drive you.

³⁸ "You will sow much seed in the field but harvest little, because locusts will devour it.

³⁹ You will plant and cultivate vineyards but not drink the wine or gather the grapes , because worms will eat them.

⁴⁰ You will have olives trees throughout your territory but not anoint yourself with oil, because your olives will drop off.

⁴¹ You will father sons and daughters, but they will not remain yours, because they will be taken prisoner.

⁴² Whirring insects will take possession of all your trees and your land's produce.

⁴³ The foreign resident among you will rise higher and higher above you, while you sink lower and lower.

⁴⁴ He will lend to you, but you won't lend to him. He will be the head, and you will be the tail.

⁴⁵ "All these curses will come, pursue, and overtake you until you are destroyed, since you did not obey the LORD your God and keep the commands and statutes He gave you.

⁴⁶ These curses will be a sign and a wonder against you and your descendants forever.

⁴⁷ Because you didn't serve the LORD your God with joy and a cheerful heart, even though you had an abundance of everything,

⁴⁸ you will serve your enemies the LORD will send against you, in famine, thirst, nakedness, and a lack of everything. He will place an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

⁴⁹ The LORD will bring a nation from far away, from the ends of the earth,

to swoop down on you like an eagle,
a nation whose language you don't
understand,

⁵⁰ a ruthless nation, showing no respect
for the old and not sparing the young.

⁵¹ They will eat the offspring of your
livestock and your soil's produce until
you are destroyed. They will leave you
no grain, new wine, oil, young of your
herds, or newborn of your flocks until
they cause you to perish.

⁵² They will besiege you within all your
gates until your high and fortified walls,
that you trust in, come down throughout
your land. They will besiege you within
all your gates throughout the land the
LORD your God has given you.

⁵³ "You will eat your children, the flesh
of your sons and daughters the LORD
your God has given you during the siege
and hardship your enemy imposes on
you.

⁵⁴ The most sensitive and refined man among you will look grudgingly at his brother, the wife he embraces, and the rest of his children,

⁵⁵ refusing to share with any of them his children's flesh that he will eat because he has nothing left during the siege and hardship your enemy imposes on you in all your towns.

⁵⁶ The most sensitive and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her refinement and sensitivity, will begrudge the husband she embraces, her son, and her daughter,

⁵⁷ the afterbirth that comes out from between her legs and the children she bears, because she will secretly eat them for lack of anything else during the siege and hardship your enemy imposes on you within your gates.

⁵⁸ "If you are not careful to obey all the words of this law, which are written in this scroll, by fearing this glorious and awesome name--Yahweh, your God--

⁵⁹ He will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, severe and lasting plagues, and terrible and chronic sicknesses.

⁶⁰ He will afflict you again with all the diseases of Egypt, which you dreaded, and they will cling to you.

⁶¹ The LORD will also inflict you with every sickness and plague not recorded in the book of this law, until you are destroyed.

⁶² Though you were as numerous as the stars of the sky, you will be left with only a few people, because you did not obey the LORD your God.

⁶³ Just as the LORD was glad to cause you to prosper and to multiply you, so He will also be glad to cause you to

perish and to destroy you. You will be deported from the land you are entering to possess.

⁶⁴ Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples from one end of the earth to the other, and there you will worship other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

⁶⁵ You will find no peace among those nations, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and a despondent spirit.

⁶⁶ Your life will hang in doubt before you. You will be in dread night and day, never certain of survival.

⁶⁷ In the morning you will say, 'If only it were evening!' and in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!' -because of the dread you will have in

your heart and because of what you will see.

⁶⁸ The LORD will take you back in ships to Egypt by a route that I said you would never see again. There you will sell yourselves to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you ."

29 ¹ These are the words of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in the land of Moab, in addition to the covenant He had made with them at Horeb.

² Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "You have seen with your own eyes everything the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to his entire land.

³ You saw with your own eyes the great trials and those great signs and wonders.

⁴ Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a mind to understand, eyes to see, or ears to hear.

⁵ I led you 40 years in the wilderness; your clothes and the sandals on your feet did not wear out;

⁶ you did not eat bread or drink wine or beer--so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.

⁷ When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out against us in battle, but we defeated them.

⁸ We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁹ Therefore, observe the words of this covenant and follow them, so that you will succeed in everything you do.

¹⁰ "All of you are standing today before the LORD your God--your leaders, tribes, elders, officials, all the men of Israel,

¹¹ your children, your wives, and the foreigners in your camps who cut your wood and draw your water--

¹² so that you may enter into the covenant of the LORD your God, which He is making with you today, so that you may enter into His oath

¹³ and so that He may establish you today as His people and He may be your God as He promised you and as He swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

¹⁴ I am making this covenant and this oath not only with you,

¹⁵ but also with those who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God and with those who are not here today.

¹⁶ "Indeed, you know how we lived in the land of Egypt and passed through the nations where you traveled.

¹⁷ You saw their detestable images and idols made of wood, stone, silver, and gold, which were among them.

¹⁸ Be sure there is no man, woman, clan, or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations. Be sure there is no root among you bearing poisonous and bitter fruit.

¹⁹ When someone hears the words of this oath, he may bless himself in his mind, thinking, 'I will have peace even though I follow my own stubborn heart.' This will lead to the destruction of the well-watered land as well as the dry land

²⁰ The LORD will not be willing to forgive him. Instead, His anger and jealousy will burn against that person, and every curse written in this scroll will descend on him. The LORD will blot out his name under heaven,

²¹ and single him out for harm from all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this book of the law.

²² "Future generations of your children who follow you and the foreigner who comes from a distant country will see the plagues of the land and the sicknesses the LORD has inflicted on it.

²³ All its soil will be a burning waste of sulfur and salt, unsown, producing nothing, with no plant growing on it, just like the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD demolished in His fierce anger.

²⁴ All the nations will ask, 'Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?'

²⁵ Then people will answer, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers,

which He had made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.

²⁶ They began to worship other gods, bowing down to gods they had not known--gods that the LORD had not permitted them to worship .

²⁷ Therefore the LORD's anger burned against this land, and He brought every curse written in this book on it.

²⁸ The LORD uprooted them from their land in His anger, fury, and great wrath, and threw them into another land where they are today.'

²⁹ The hidden things belong to the LORD our God, but the revealed things belong to us and our children forever, so that we may follow all the words of this law.

30 ¹ "When all these things happen to you--the blessings and curses I have set before you--and you come to your senses while you are in all the

nations where the LORD your God has driven you,

² and you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and all your soul by doing everything I am giving you today,

³ then He will restore your fortunes, have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.

⁴ Even if your exiles are at the ends of the earth, He will gather you and bring you back from there.

⁵ The LORD your God will bring you into the land your fathers possessed, and you will take possession of it. He will cause you to prosper and multiply you more than He did your fathers.

⁶ The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants, and you will love Him with

all your heart and all your soul, so that you will live.

⁷ The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you.

⁸ Then you will again obey Him and follow all His commands I am giving you today.

⁹ The LORD your God will make you prosper abundantly in all the work of your hands with children, the offspring of your livestock, and your soil's produce. Indeed, the LORD will again delight in your prosperity, as He delighted in that of your fathers,

¹⁰ when you obey the LORD your God by keeping His commands and statutes that are written in this book of the law and return to Him with all your heart and all your soul.

¹¹ "This command that I give you today is certainly not too difficult or beyond your reach.

¹² It is not in heaven, so that you have to ask, 'Who will go up to heaven, get it for us, and proclaim it to us so that we may follow it?'

¹³ And it is not across the sea, so that you have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea, get it for us, and proclaim it to us so that we may follow it?'

¹⁴ But the message is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may follow it.

¹⁵ See, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and adversity.

¹⁶ For I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and multiply, and the LORD

your God may bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not listen and you are led astray to bow down to other gods and worship them,

¹⁸ I tell you today that you will certainly perish and will not live long in the land you are entering to possess across the Jordan.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

²⁰ love the LORD your God, obey Him, and remain faithful to Him. For He is your life, and He will prolong your life in the land the LORD swore to give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

31 ¹ Then Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel,

² saying, "I am now 120 years old; I can no longer act as your leader. The LORD has told me, 'You will not cross this Jordan.'

³ The LORD your God is the One who will cross ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will drive them out. Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you, as the LORD has said.

⁴ The LORD will deal with them as He did Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and their land when He destroyed them.

⁵ The LORD will deliver them over to you, and you must do to them exactly as I have commanded you.

⁶ Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will not leave you or forsake you."

⁷ Moses then summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land the LORD swore to give to their fathers. You will enable them to take possession of it.

⁸ The LORD is the One who will go before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."

⁹ Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the LORD's covenant, and to all the elders of Israel.

¹⁰ Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of debt cancellation, during the Festival of Booths,

¹¹ when all Israel assembles in the presence of the LORD your God at the

place He chooses, you are to read this law aloud before all Israel.

¹² Gather the people--men, women, children, and foreigners living within your gates--so that they may listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and be careful to follow all the words of this law.

¹³ Then their children who do not know the law will listen and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

¹⁴ The LORD said to Moses, "The time of your death is now approaching. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, so that I may commission him." When Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the tent of meeting,

¹⁵ the LORD appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood at the entrance to the tent.

¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses, "You are about to rest with your fathers, and this people will soon commit adultery with the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will abandon Me and break the covenant I have made with them.

¹⁷ My anger will burn against them on that day; I will abandon them and hide My face from them so that they will become easy prey. Many troubles and afflictions will come to them. On that day they will say, 'Haven't these troubles come to us because our God is no longer with us?'

¹⁸ I will certainly hide My face on that day because of all the evil they have done by turning to other gods.

¹⁹ Therefore write down this song for yourselves and teach it to the Israelites; have them recite it, so that this song

may be a witness for Me against the Israelites.

²⁰ When I bring them into the land I swore to give their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey, they will eat their fill and prosper. They will turn to other gods and worship them, despising Me and breaking My covenant.

²¹ And when many troubles and afflictions come to them, this song will testify against them, because their descendants will not have forgotten it. For I know what they are prone to do, even before I bring them into the land I swore to give them ."

²² So Moses wrote down this song on that day and taught it to the Israelites.

²³ The LORD commissioned Joshua son of Nun, "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I swore to them, and I will be with you."

²⁴ When Moses had finished writing down on a scroll every single word of this law,

²⁵ he commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the LORD's covenant,

²⁶ "Take this book of the law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, so that it may remain there as a witness against you.

²⁷ For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you are rebelling against the LORD now, while I am still alive, how much more will you rebel after I am dead!

²⁸ Assemble all your tribal elders and officers before me, so that I may speak these words directly to them and call heaven and earth as witnesses against them.

²⁹ For I know that after my death you will become completely corrupt and turn from the path I have commanded you.

Disaster will come to you in the future, because you will do what is evil in the LORD's sight, infuriating Him with what your hands have made."

³⁰ Then Moses recited aloud every single word of this song to the entire assembly of Israel:

32 ¹ Pay attention, heavens, and I will speak; listen, earth, to the words of my mouth.

² Let my teaching fall like rain and my word settle like dew, like gentle rain on new grass and showers on tender plants.

³ For I will proclaim the LORD's name. Declare the greatness of our God!

⁴ The Rock--His work is perfect; all His ways are entirely just. A faithful God, without prejudice, He is righteous and true.

⁵ His people have acted corruptly toward Him; this is their defect--they

are not His children but a devious and crooked generation.

⁶ Is this how you repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Isn't He your Father and Creator? Didn't He make you and sustain you?

⁷ Remember the days of old; consider the years long past. Ask your father, and he will tell you, your elders, and they will teach you.

⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance and divided the human race, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the people of Israel.

⁹ But the LORD's portion is His people, Jacob, His own inheritance.

¹⁰ He found him in a desolate land, in a barren, howling wilderness; He surrounded him, cared for him, and guarded him as the pupil of His eye.

¹¹ He watches over His nest like an eagle and hovers over His young; He spreads His wings, catches him, and lifts him up on His pinions.

¹² The LORD alone led him, with no help from a foreign god.

¹³ He made him ride on the heights of the land and eat the produce of the field. He nourished him with honey from the rock and oil from flintlike rock,

¹⁴ cream from the herd and milk from the flock, with the fat of lambs, rams from Bashan, and goats, with the choicest grains of wheat; you drank wine from the finest grapes.

¹⁵ Then Jeshurun became fat and rebelled--you became fat, bloated, and gorged. He abandoned the God who made him and scorned the Rock of his salvation.

¹⁶ They provoked His jealousy with foreign gods; they enraged Him with detestable practices.

¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not God, to gods they had not known, new gods that had just arrived, which your fathers did not fear.

¹⁸ You ignored the Rock who gave you birth; you forgot the God who brought you forth.

¹⁹ When the LORD saw this , He despised them , provoked to anger by His sons and daughters.

²⁰ He said: "I will hide My face from them; I will see what will become of them, for they are a perverse generation--unfaithful children.

²¹ They have provoked My jealousy with their so-called gods; they have enraged Me with their worthless idols. So I will provoke their jealousy with an inferior

people; I will enrage them with a foolish nation.

²² For fire has been kindled because of My anger and burns to the depths of Sheol; it devours the land and its produce, and scorches the foundations of the mountains.

²³ I will pile disasters on them; I will use up My arrows against them.

²⁴ They will be weak from hunger, ravaged by pestilence and bitter plague; I will unleash on them wild beasts with fangs, as well as venomous snakes that slither in the dust.

²⁵ Outside, the sword will take their children, and inside, there will be terror; the young man and the virgin will be killed, the infant and the gray-haired man.

²⁶ I would have said: I will cut them to pieces and blot out the memory of them from mankind,

²⁷ if I had not feared insult from the enemy, or feared that these foes might misunderstand and say: Our own hand has prevailed; it wasn't the LORD who did all this."

²⁸ Israel is a nation lacking sense with no understanding at all.

²⁹ If only they were wise, they would figure it out; they would understand their fate.

³⁰ How could one man pursue a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up?

³¹ But their "rock" is not like our Rock; even our enemies concede.

³² For their vine is from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are poisonous; their clusters are bitter.

³³ Their wine is serpents' venom, the deadly poison of cobras.

³⁴ "Is it not stored up with Me, sealed up in My vaults?

³⁵ Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay. In time their foot will slip, for their day of disaster is near, and their doom is coming quickly."

³⁶ The LORD will indeed vindicate His people and have compassion on His servants when He sees that their strength is gone and no one is left--slave or free.

³⁷ He will say: "Where are their gods, the 'rock' they found refuge in?"

³⁸ Who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up and help you; let it be a shelter for you.

³⁹ See now that I alone am He; there is no God but Me. I bring death and I give life; I wound and I heal. No one can rescue anyone from My hand.

⁴⁰ I raise My hand to heaven and declare: As surely as I live forever,

⁴¹ when I sharpen My flashing sword, and My hand takes hold of judgment, I will take vengeance on My adversaries and repay those who hate Me.

⁴² I will make My arrows drunk with blood while My sword devours flesh--the blood of the slain and the captives, the heads of the enemy leaders."

⁴³ Rejoice, you nations, over His people, for He will avenge the blood of His servants. He will take vengeance on His adversaries; He will purify His land and His people.

⁴⁴ Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and recited all the words of this song in the presence of the people.

⁴⁵ After Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel,

⁴⁶ he said to them, "Take to heart all these words I am giving as a warning to

you today, so that you may command your children to carefully follow all the words of this law.

⁴⁷ For they are not meaningless words to you but they are your life, and by them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

⁴⁸ On that same day the LORD spoke to Moses,

⁴⁹ "Go up Mount Nebo in the Abarim range in the land of Moab, across from Jericho, and view the land of Canaan I am giving the Israelites as a possession.

⁵⁰ Then you will die on the mountain that you go up, and you will be gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people.

⁵¹ For both of you broke faith with Me among the Israelites at the waters of Meribath-kadesh in the Wilderness of

Zin by failing to treat Me as holy in their presence.

⁵² Although you will view the land from a distance, which I am giving the Israelites, you will not go there."

33 ¹ This is the blessing that Moses, the man of God, gave the Israelites before his death.

² He said: The LORD came from Sinai and appeared to them from Seir; He shone on them from Mount Paran and came with ten thousand holy ones, with lightning from His right hand for them.

³ Indeed He loves the people. All Your holy ones are in Your hand, and they assemble at Your feet. Each receives Your words.

⁴ Moses gave us instruction, a possession for the assembly of Jacob.

⁵ So He became King in Jeshurun when the leaders of the people gathered with the tribes of Israel.

⁶ Let Reuben live and not die though his people become few.

⁷ He said this about Judah: LORD, hear Judah's cry and bring him to his people. He fights for his cause with his own hands, but may You be a help against his foes.

⁸ He said about Levi: Your Thummim and Urim belong to Your faithful one; You tested him at Massah and contended with him at the waters of Meribah.

⁹ He said about his father and mother, "I do not regard them." He disregarded his brothers and didn't acknowledge his sons, for they kept Your word and maintained Your covenant.

¹⁰ They will teach Your ordinances to Jacob and Your instruction to Israel; they will set incense before You and whole burnt offerings on Your altar.

¹¹ LORD, bless his possessions, and accept the work of his hands. Smash the

loins of his adversaries and enemies, so that they cannot rise again.

¹² He said about Benjamin: The LORD's beloved rests securely on Him. He shields him all day long, and he rests on His shoulders.

¹³ He said about Joseph: May his land be blessed by the LORD with the dew of heaven's bounty and the watery depths that lie beneath;

¹⁴ with the bountiful harvest from the sun and the abundant yield of the seasons;

¹⁵ with the best products of the ancient mountains and the bounty of the eternal hills;

¹⁶ with the choice gifts of the land and everything in it; and with the favor of Him who appeared in the burning bush. May these rest on the head of Joseph, on the crown of the prince of his brothers.

¹⁷ His firstborn bull has splendor, and horns like those of a wild ox; he gores all the peoples with them to the ends of the earth. Such are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and such are the thousands of Manasseh.

¹⁸ He said about Zebulun: Rejoice, Zebulun, in your journeys, and Issachar, in your tents.

¹⁹ They summon the peoples to a mountain; there they offer acceptable sacrifices. For they draw from the wealth of the seas and the hidden treasures of the sand.

²⁰ He said about Gad: The one who enlarges Gad's territory will be blessed. He lies down like a lion and tears off an arm or even a head.

²¹ He chose the best part for himself, because a ruler's portion was assigned there for him. He came with the leaders

of the people; he carried out the LORD's justice and His ordinances for Israel.

²² He said about Dan: Dan is a young lion, leaping out of Bashan.

²³ He said about Naphtali: Naphtali, enjoying approval, full of the LORD's blessing, take possession to the west and the south.

²⁴ He said about Asher: May Asher be the most blessed of the sons; may he be the most favored among his brothers and dip his foot in olive oil.

²⁵ May the bolts of your gate be iron and bronze, and your strength last as long as you live.

²⁶ There is none like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to your aid on the clouds in His majesty.

²⁷ The God of old is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He drives out the enemy before you, and commands, "Destroy!"

²⁸ So Israel dwells securely; Jacob lives untroubled in a land of grain and new wine; even his skies drip with dew.

²⁹ How happy you are, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is the shield that protects you, the sword you boast in. Your enemies will cringe before you, and you will tread on their backs.

34 ¹ Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which faces Jericho, and the LORD showed him all the land: Gilead as far as Dan,

² all of Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea,

³ the Negev, and the region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.

⁴ The LORD then said to him, "This is the land I promised Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not cross into it."

⁵ So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, as the LORD had said.

⁶ He buried him in the valley in the land of Moab facing Beth-peor, and no one to this day knows where his grave is.

⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died; his eyes were not weak, and his vitality had not left him .

⁸ The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab 30 days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end.

⁹ Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.

¹¹ He was unparalleled for all the signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do against the land of Egypt--to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to all his land,

¹² and for all the mighty acts of power and terrifying deeds that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Joshua

1 ¹ After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, who had served Moses:

² "Moses My servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites.

³ I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses.

⁴ Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great Euphrates River--all the land of the Hittites--and west to the Mediterranean Sea.

⁵ No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you,

just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or forsake you.

⁶ "Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their fathers to give them as an inheritance.

⁷ Above all, be strong and very courageous to carefully observe the whole instruction My servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go.

⁸ This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to recite it day and night, so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

⁹ Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people:

¹¹ "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get provisions ready for yourselves, for within three days you will be crossing the Jordan to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you to inherit.'"

¹² Joshua said to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh:

¹³ "Remember what Moses the LORD's servant commanded you when he said, 'The LORD your God will give you rest, and He will give you this land.'

¹⁴ Your wives, young children, and livestock may remain in the land Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But your fighting men must cross over in battle formation ahead of your brothers and help them

¹⁵ until the LORD gives our brothers rest, as He has given you, and they too

possess the land the LORD your God is giving them. You may then return to the land of your inheritance and take possession of what Moses the LORD's servant gave you on the east side of the Jordan."

¹⁶ They answered Joshua, "Everything you have commanded us we will do, and everywhere you send us we will go.

¹⁷ We will obey you, just as we obeyed Moses in everything. And may the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.

¹⁸ Anyone who rebels against your order and does not obey your words in all that you command him, will be put to death. Above all, be strong and courageous!"

2 ¹ Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from Acacia Grove, saying, "Go and scout the land, especially Jericho." So they left, and they came

to the house of a woman, a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there.

² The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelite men have come here tonight to investigate the land."

³ Then the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab and said, "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they came to investigate the entire land."

⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. So she said, "Yes, the men did come to me, but I didn't know where they were from."

⁵ At nightfall, when the gate was about to close, the men went out, and I don't know where they were going. Chase after them quickly, and you can catch up with them!"

⁶ But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among the stalks of flax that she had arranged on the roof.

⁷ The men pursued them along the road to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as they left to pursue them, the gate was shut.

⁸ Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof

⁹ and said to them, "I know that the LORD has given you this land and that dread of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you.

¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan.

¹¹ When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.

¹² Now please swear to me by the LORD that you will also show kindness to my family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a sure sign

¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death."

¹⁴ The men answered her, "We will give our lives for yours. If you don't report our mission, we will show kindness and faithfulness to you when the LORD gives us the land."

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, since she lived in a house that was built into the wall of the city.

¹⁶ "Go to the hill country so that the men pursuing you won't find you," she said to them. "Hide yourselves there for three days until they return; afterwards, go on your way."

¹⁷ The men said to her, "We will be free from this oath you made us swear,

¹⁸ unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother, brothers, and all your father's family into your house.

¹⁹ If anyone goes out the doors of your house, his blood will be on his own head, and we will be innocent. But if anyone with you in the house should be harmed, his blood will be on our heads.

²⁰ And if you report our mission, we are free from the oath you made us swear."

²¹ "Let it be as you say," she replied, and she sent them away. After they had gone, she tied the scarlet cord to the window.

²² So the two men went into the hill country and stayed there three days until the pursuers had returned. They

searched all along the way, but did not find them.

²³ Then the men returned, came down from the hill country, and crossed the Jordan . They went to Joshua son of Nun and reported everything that had happened to them.

²⁴ They told Joshua, "The LORD has handed over the entire land to us. Everyone who lives in the land is also panicking because of us."

3 ¹ Joshua started early the next morning and left Acacia Grove with all the Israelites. They went as far as the Jordan and stayed there before crossing.

² After three days the officers went through the camp

³ and commanded the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God carried by the Levitical priests, you must break camp and follow it.

⁴ But keep a distance of about 1,000 yards between yourselves and the ark. Don't go near it, so that you can see the way to go, for you haven't traveled this way before."

⁵ Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, because the LORD will do wonders among you tomorrow."

⁶ Then he said to the priests, "Take the ark of the covenant and go on ahead of the people." So they carried the ark of the covenant and went ahead of them.

⁷ The LORD spoke to Joshua: "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so they will know that I will be with you just as I was with Moses.

⁸ Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the waters, stand in the Jordan.'"

⁹ Then Joshua told the Israelites, "Come closer and listen to the words of the LORD your God."

¹⁰ He said, "You will know that the living God is among you and that He will certainly dispossess before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites

¹¹ when the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth goes ahead of you into the Jordan.

¹² Now choose 12 men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe.

¹³ When the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the Jordan's waters, its waters will be cut off. The water flowing downstream will stand up in a mass."

¹⁴ When the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carried the ark of the covenant ahead of the people.

¹⁵ Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the priests carrying the ark

reached the Jordan, their feet touched the water at its edge

¹⁶ and the water flowing downstream stood still, rising up in a mass that extended as far as Adam, a city next to Zarethan. The water flowing downstream into the Sea of the Arabah (the Dead Sea) was completely cut off, and the people crossed opposite Jericho.

¹⁷ The priests carrying the ark of the LORD's covenant stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed on dry ground until the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

4 ¹ After the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD spoke to Joshua,

² "Choose 12 men from the people, one man for each tribe,

³ and command them, 'Take 12 stones from this place in the middle of the

Jordan where the priests' feet are standing, carry them with you, and set them down at the place where you spend the night.'" "

⁴ So Joshua summoned the 12 men selected from the Israelites, one man for each tribe,

⁵ and said to them, "Go across to the ark of the LORD your God in the middle of the Jordan. Each of you lift a stone onto his shoulder, one for each of the Israelite tribes,

⁶ so that this will be a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean to you?'

⁷ you should tell them, 'The waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the LORD's covenant. When it crossed the Jordan, the Jordan's waters were cut off.' Therefore these stones will always be a memorial for the Israelites."

⁸ The Israelites did just as Joshua had commanded them. The 12 men took stones from the middle of the Jordan, one for each of the Israelite tribes, just as the LORD had told Joshua. They carried them to the camp and set them down there.

⁹ Joshua also set up 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant were standing. The stones are there to this day.

¹⁰ The priests carrying the ark continued standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything was completed that the LORD had commanded Joshua to tell the people, in keeping with all that Moses had commanded Joshua. The people hurried across,

¹¹ and after everyone had finished crossing, the priests with the ark of the LORD crossed in the sight of the people.

¹² The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh went in battle formation in front of the Israelites, as Moses had instructed them.

¹³ About 40,000 equipped for war crossed to the plains of Jericho in the LORD's presence.

¹⁴ On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they revered him throughout his life, as they had revered Moses.

¹⁵ The LORD told Joshua,

¹⁶ "Command the priests who carry the ark of the testimony to come up from the Jordan."

¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up from the Jordan."

¹⁸ When the priests carrying the ark of the LORD's covenant came up from the middle of the Jordan, and their feet stepped out on solid ground, the waters

of the Jordan resumed their course, flowing over all the banks as before.

¹⁹ The people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and camped at Gilgal on the eastern limits of Jericho.

²⁰ Then Joshua set up in Gilgal the 12 stones they had taken from the Jordan,

²¹ and he said to the Israelites, "When your children ask their fathers in the future, 'What is the meaning of these stones?'

²² you should tell your children, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

²³ For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, just as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over.

²⁴ This is so that all the people of the earth may know that the LORD's hand is

mighty, and so that you may always fear the LORD your God."

5¹ When all the Amorite kings across the Jordan to the west and all the Canaanite kings near the sea heard how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, they lost heart and their courage failed because of the Israelites.

² At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelite men again."

³ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelite men at Gibeath-haaraloth.

⁴ This is the reason Joshua circumcised them : All the people who came out of Egypt who were males--all the men of war--had died in the wilderness along the way after they had come out of Egypt.

⁵ Though all the people who came out were circumcised, none of the people born in the wilderness along the way were circumcised after they had come out of Egypt.

⁶ For the Israelites wandered in the wilderness 40 years until all the nation's men of war who came out of Egypt had died off because they did not obey the LORD. So the LORD vowed never to let them see the land He had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁷ Joshua raised up their sons in their place; it was these he circumcised. They were still uncircumcised, since they had not been circumcised along the way.

⁸ After the entire nation had been circumcised, they stayed where they were in the camp until they recovered.

⁹ The LORD then said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the disgrace of Egypt

from you." Therefore, that place has been called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they kept the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month.

¹¹ The day after Passover they ate unleavened bread and roasted grain from the produce of the land.

¹² And the day after they ate from the produce of the land, the manna ceased. Since there was no more manna for the Israelites, they ate from the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

¹³ When Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua approached Him and asked, "Are You for us or for our enemies?"

¹⁴ "Neither," He replied. "I have now come as commander of the LORD's

army." Then Joshua bowed with his face to the ground in worship and asked Him, "What does my Lord want to say to His servant?"

¹⁵ The commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

6 ¹ Now Jericho was strongly fortified because of the Israelites--no one leaving or entering.

² The LORD said to Joshua, "Look, I have handed Jericho, its king, and its fighting men over to you.

³ March around the city with all the men of war, circling the city one time. Do this for six days.

⁴ Have seven priests carry seven ram's-horn trumpets in front of the ark. But on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the trumpets.

⁵ When there is a prolonged blast of the horn and you hear its sound, have all the people give a mighty shout. Then the city wall will collapse, and the people will advance, each man straight ahead."

⁶ So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and have seven priests carry seven trumpets in front of the ark of the LORD."

⁷ He said to the people, "Move forward, march around the city, and have the armed troops go ahead of the ark of the LORD."

⁸ After Joshua had spoken to the people, seven priests carrying seven trumpets before the LORD moved forward and blew the trumpets; the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them.

⁹ While the trumpets were blowing, the armed troops went in front of the priests

who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard went behind the ark.

¹⁰ But Joshua had commanded the people: "Do not shout or let your voice be heard. Don't let one word come out of your mouth until the time I say, 'Shout!' Then you are to shout."

¹¹ So the ark of the LORD was carried around the city, circling it once. They returned to the camp and spent the night there.

¹² Joshua got up early the next morning. The priests took the ark of the LORD,

¹³ and the seven priests carrying seven trumpets marched in front of the ark of the LORD. While the trumpets were blowing, the armed troops went in front of them, and the rear guard went behind the ark of the LORD.

¹⁴ On the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

¹⁵ Early on the seventh day, they started at dawn and marched around the city seven times in the same way. That was the only day they marched around the city seven times.

¹⁶ After the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city.

¹⁷ But the city and everything in it are set apart to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the men we sent.

¹⁸ But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and bring disaster on it.

¹⁹ For all the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated

to the LORD and must go into the LORD's treasury."

²⁰ So the people shouted, and the trumpets sounded. When they heard the blast of the trumpet, the people gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. The people advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city.

²¹ They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword-- every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey.

²² Joshua said to the two men who had scouted the land, "Go to the prostitute's house and bring the woman out of there, and all who are with her, just as you promised her."

²³ So the young men who had scouted went in and brought out Rahab and her father, mother, brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her

whole family and settled them outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴ They burned up the city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house.

²⁵ But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, her father's household, and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent to spy on Jericho, and she lives in Israel to this day.

²⁶ At that time Joshua imposed this curse: Cursed before the LORD is the man who undertakes the rebuilding of this city, Jericho. He will lay its foundation at the cost of his firstborn; He will set up its gates at the cost of his youngest.

²⁷ And the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.

7 ¹ The Israelites, however, were unfaithful regarding the things set apart for destruction. Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of what was set apart, and the LORD's anger burned against the Israelites.

² Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and scout the land." So the men went up and scouted Ai.

³ After returning to Joshua they reported to him, "Don't send all the people, but send about 2,000 or 3,000 men to attack Ai. Since the people of Ai are so few, don't wear out all our people there."

⁴ So about 3,000 men went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai.

⁵ The men of Ai struck down about 36 of them and chased them from outside

the gate to the quarries, striking them down on the descent. As a result, the people's hearts melted and became like water.

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell before the ark of the LORD with his face to the ground until evening, as did the elders of Israel; they all put dust on their heads.

⁷ "Oh, Lord GOD," Joshua said, "why did You ever bring these people across the Jordan to hand us over to the Amorites for our destruction? If only we had been content to remain on the other side of the Jordan!

⁸ What can I say, Lord, now that Israel has turned its back and run from its enemies?

⁹ When the Canaanites and all who live in the land hear about this, they will surround us and wipe out our name

from the earth. Then what will You do about Your great name?"

¹⁰ The LORD then said to Joshua, "Stand up! Why are you on the ground?"

¹¹ Israel has sinned. They have violated My covenant that I appointed for them. They have taken some of what was set apart. They have stolen, deceived, and put the things with their own belongings.

¹² This is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies. They will turn their backs and run from their enemies, because they have been set apart for destruction. I will no longer be with you unless you remove from you what is set apart.

¹³ "Go and consecrate the people. Tell them to consecrate themselves tomorrow, for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'There are among you, Israel, things set apart. You will not

be able to stand against your enemies until you remove what is set apart.

¹⁴ In the morning you must present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the LORD selects is to come forward clan by clan. The clan the LORD selects is to come forward family by family. The family the LORD selects is to come forward man by man.

¹⁵ The one who is caught with the things set apart must be burned, along with everything he has, because he has violated the LORD's covenant and committed an outrage in Israel."

¹⁶ Joshua got up early the next morning. He had Israel come forward tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was selected.

¹⁷ He had the clans of Judah come forward, and the Zerahite clan was selected. He had the Zerahite clan come

forward by heads of families, and Zabdi was selected.

¹⁸ He then had Zabdi's family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected.

¹⁹ So Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and make a confession to Him. I urge you, tell me what you have done. Don't hide anything from me."

²⁰ Achan replied to Joshua, "It is true. I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I did:

²¹ When I saw among the spoils a beautiful cloak from Babylon, 200 silver shekels, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, I coveted them and took them. You can see for yourself. They are concealed in the ground inside my tent, with the money under the cloak."

²² So Joshua sent messengers who ran to the tent, and there was the cloak, concealed in his tent, with the money underneath.

²³ They took the things from inside the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and spread them out in the LORD's presence.

²⁴ Then Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the cloak, and the bar of gold, his sons and daughters, his ox, donkey, and sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

²⁵ Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? Today the LORD will trouble you!" So all Israel stoned him to death. They burned their bodies, threw stones on them,

²⁶ and raised over him a large pile of rocks that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from His burning anger.

Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

8 ¹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged. Take the whole military force with you and go attack Ai. Look, I have handed over to you the king of Ai, his people, city, and land.

² Treat Ai and its king as you did Jericho and its king; you may plunder its spoil and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city."

³ So Joshua and the whole military force set out to attack Ai. Joshua selected 30,000 fighting men and sent them out at night.

⁴ He commanded them: "Pay attention. Lie in ambush behind the city, not too far from it, and all of you be ready.

⁵ Then I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. When they

come out against us as they did the first time, we will flee from them.

⁶ They will come after us until we have drawn them away from the city, for they will say, 'They are fleeing from us as before.' While we are fleeing from them, ⁷ you are to come out of your ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God has handed it over to you.

⁸ After taking the city, set it on fire. Follow the LORD's command--see that you do as I have ordered you."

⁹ So Joshua sent them out, and they went to the ambush site and waited between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai. But he spent that night with the troops.

¹⁰ Joshua started early the next morning and mobilized them. Then he and the elders of Israel led the troops up to Ai.

¹¹ All those who were with him went up and approached the city, arriving opposite Ai, and camped to the north of

it, with a valley between them and the city.

¹² Now Joshua had taken about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city.

¹³ The military force was stationed in this way: the main camp to the north of the city and its rear guard to the west of the city. And that night Joshua went into the valley.

¹⁴ When the king of Ai saw the Israelites , the men of the city hurried and went out early in the morning, so that he and all his people could engage Israel in battle at a suitable place facing the plain of the Jordan . But he did not know there was an ambush waiting for him behind the city.

¹⁵ Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten back by them and fled toward the wilderness.

¹⁶ Then all the troops of Ai were summoned to pursue them, and they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city.

¹⁷ Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel, leaving the city exposed while they pursued Israel.

¹⁸ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Hold out the sword in your hand toward Ai, for I will hand the city over to you." So Joshua held out his sword toward it.

¹⁹ When he held out his hand, the men in ambush rose quickly from their position. They ran, entered the city, captured it, and immediately set it on fire.

²⁰ The men of Ai turned and looked back, and smoke from the city was rising to the sky! They could not escape in any direction, and the troops who had

fled to the wilderness now became the pursuers.

²¹ When Joshua and all Israel saw that the men in ambush had captured the city and that smoke was rising from it, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.

²² The men in the ambush came out of the city against them, and the men of Ai were trapped between the Israelite forces, some on one side and some on the other. They struck them down until no survivor or fugitive remained,

²³ but they captured the king of Ai alive and brought him to Joshua.

²⁴ When Israel had finished killing everyone living in Ai who had pursued them into the open country, and when every last one of them had fallen by the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the sword.

²⁵ The total of those who fell that day, both men and women, was 12,000--all the people of Ai.

²⁶ Joshua did not draw back his hand that was holding the sword until all the inhabitants of Ai were completely destroyed.

²⁷ Israel plundered only the cattle and spoil of that city for themselves, according to the LORD's command that He had given Joshua.

²⁸ Joshua burned Ai and left it a permanent ruin, desolate to this day.

²⁹ He hung the body of the king of Ai on a tree until evening, and at sunset Joshua commanded that they take his body down from the tree. They threw it down at the entrance of the city gate and put a large pile of rocks over it, which remains to this day.

³⁰ At that time Joshua built an altar on Mount Ebal to the LORD, the God of Israel,

³¹ just as Moses the LORD's servant had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the book of the law of Moses: an altar of uncut stones on which no iron tool has been used. Then they offered burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings on it.

³² There on the stones, Joshua copied the law of Moses, which he had written in the presence of the Israelites.

³³ All Israel, foreigner and citizen alike, with their elders, officers, and judges, stood on either side of the ark of the LORD's covenant facing the Levitical priests who carried it. As Moses the LORD's servant had commanded earlier, half of them were in front of Mount

Gerizim and half in front of Mount Ebal, to bless the people of Israel.

³⁴ Afterwards, Joshua read aloud all the words of the law--the blessings as well as the curses--according to all that is written in the book of the law.

³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read before the entire assembly of Israel, including the women, little children, and foreigners who were with them.

9 ¹ When all the kings heard about Jericho and Ai , those who were west of the Jordan in the hill country, in the Judean foothills, and all along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea toward Lebanon--the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites--

² they formed a unified alliance to fight against Joshua and Israel.

³ When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,

⁴ they acted deceptively. They gathered provisions and took worn-out sacks on their donkeys and old wineskins, cracked and mended.

⁵ They wore old, patched sandals on their feet and threadbare clothing on their bodies. Their entire provision of bread was dry and crumbly.

⁶ They went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant land. Please make a treaty with us."

⁷ The men of Israel replied to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us. How can we make a treaty with you?"

⁸ They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." Then Joshua asked them, "Who are you and where do you come from?"

⁹ They replied to him, "Your servants have come from a far away land because of the reputation of the LORD your God. For we have heard of His fame, and all that He did in Egypt,

¹⁰ and all that He did to the two Amorite kings beyond the Jordan--Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan, who was in Ashtaroth.

¹¹ So our elders and all the inhabitants of our land told us, 'Take provisions with you for the journey; go and meet them and say, "We are your servants. Please make a treaty with us."'

¹² This bread of ours was warm when we took it from our houses as food on the day we left to come to you. But take a look, it is now dry and crumbly.

¹³ These wineskins were new when we filled them, but look, they are cracked. And these clothes and sandals of ours

are worn out from the extremely long journey."

¹⁴ Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions, but did not seek the LORD's counsel.

¹⁵ So Joshua established peace with them and made a treaty to let them live, and the leaders of the community swore an oath to them.

¹⁶ Three days after making the treaty with them, they heard that the Gibeonites were their neighbors, living among them.

¹⁷ So the Israelites set out and reached the Gibeonite cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.

¹⁸ But the Israelites did not attack them, because the leaders of the community had sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then the

whole community grumbled against the leaders.

¹⁹ All the leaders answered them, "We have sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we cannot touch them.

²⁰ This is how we will treat them: we will let them live, so that no wrath will fall on us because of the oath we swore to them."

²¹ They also said, "Let them live." So the Gibeonites became woodcutters and water carriers for the whole community, as the leaders had promised them.

²² Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said to them, "Why did you deceive us by telling us you live far away from us, when in fact you live among us?

²³ Therefore you are cursed and will always be slaves--woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

²⁴ The Gibeonites answered him, "It was clearly reported to your servants that the LORD your God had commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land before you. We greatly feared for our lives because of you, and that is why we did this.

²⁵ Now we are in your hands. Do to us whatever you think is right."

²⁶ This is what Joshua did to them: he delivered them from the hands of the Israelites, and they did not kill them.

²⁷ On that day he made them woodcutters and water carriers--as they are today--for the community and for the LORD's altar at the place He would choose.

10¹ Now Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and completely destroyed it, doing to Ai and its king as he had

done to Jericho and its king, and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were living among them.

² So Adoni-zedek and his people were greatly alarmed because Gibeon was a large city like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were warriors.

³ Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent word to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying,

⁴ "Come up and help me. We will attack Gibeon, because they have made peace with Joshua and the Israelites."

⁵ So the five Amorite kings--the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon--joined forces, advanced with all their armies, besieged Gibeon, and fought against it.

⁶ Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: "Don't abandon your servants. Come quickly and save us! Help us, for all the Amorite kings living in the hill country have joined forces against us."

⁷ So Joshua and his whole military force, including all the fighting men, came from Gilgal.

⁸ The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to stand against you."

⁹ So Joshua caught them by surprise, after marching all night from Gilgal.

¹⁰ The LORD threw them into confusion before Israel. He defeated them in a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them through the ascent of Beth-horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makedah.

¹¹ As they fled before Israel, the LORD threw large hailstones on them from the sky along the descent of Beth-horon all the way to Azekah, and they died. More of them died from the hail than the Israelites killed with the sword.

¹² On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and moon, over the valley of Aijalon."

¹³ And the sun stood still and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on its enemies. Isn't this written in the Book of Jashar? So the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed its setting almost a full day.

¹⁴ There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man, because the LORD fought for Israel.

¹⁵ Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

¹⁶ Now the five defeated kings had fled and hidden themselves in the cave at Makkedah.

¹⁷ It was reported to Joshua: "The five kings have been found; they are hiding in the cave at Makkedah."

¹⁸ Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and station men by it to guard the kings.

¹⁹ But as for the rest of you, don't stay there. Pursue your enemies and attack them from behind. Don't let them enter their cities, for the LORD your God has handed them over to you."

²⁰ So Joshua and the Israelites finished inflicting a terrible slaughter on them until they were destroyed, although a few survivors ran away to the fortified cities.

²¹ The people returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. No one could say a thing against the Israelites.

²² Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring those five kings to me out of there."

²³ That is what they did. They brought the five kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon to Joshua out of the cave.

²⁴ When they had brought the kings to him, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the military commanders who had accompanied him, "Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings." So the commanders came forward and put their feet on their necks.

²⁵ Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or discouraged. Be strong and courageous, for the LORD will do this to all the enemies you fight."

²⁶ After this, Joshua struck them down and executed them. He hung their bodies on five trees and they were there until evening.

²⁷ At sunset Joshua commanded that they be taken down from the trees and thrown into the cave where they had hidden. Then large stones were placed against the mouth of the cave, and the stones are there to this day.

²⁸ On that day Joshua captured Makkedah and struck it down with the sword, including its king. He completely destroyed it and everyone in it, leaving no survivors. So he treated the king of Makkedah as he had the king of Jericho.

²⁹ Joshua and all Israel with him crossed from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against Libnah.

³⁰ The LORD also handed it and its king over to Israel. He struck it down, putting everyone in it to the sword, and left no

survivors in it. He treated Libnah's king as he had the king of Jericho.

³¹ From Libnah, Joshua and all Israel with him crossed to Lachish. They laid siege to it and attacked it.

³² The LORD handed Lachish over to Israel, and Joshua captured it on the second day. He struck it down, putting everyone in it to the sword, just as he had done to Libnah.

³³ At that time Horam king of Gezer went to help Lachish, but Joshua struck him down along with his people, leaving no survivors in it.

³⁴ Then Joshua crossed from Lachish to Eglon and all Israel with him. They laid siege to it and attacked it.

³⁵ On that day they captured it and struck it down, putting everyone in it to the sword. He completely destroyed it that day, just as he had done to Lachish.

³⁶ Next, Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron and attacked it.

³⁷ They captured it and struck down its king, all its villages, and everyone in it with the sword. Just as he had done at Eglon, he left no survivors. He completely destroyed Hebron and everyone in it.

³⁸ Finally, Joshua turned toward Debir and attacked it. And all Israel was with him.

³⁹ He captured it--its king and all its villages. They struck them down with the sword and completely destroyed everyone in it, leaving no survivors. He treated Debir and its king as he had treated Hebron and as he had treated Libnah and its king.

⁴⁰ So Joshua conquered the whole region--the hill country, the Negev, the Judean foothills, and the slopes--with

all their kings, leaving no survivors. He completely destroyed every living being, as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded.

⁴¹ Joshua conquered everyone from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, and all the land of Goshen as far as Gibeon.

⁴² Joshua captured all these kings and their land in one campaign, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.

⁴³ Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

11 ¹ When Jabin king of Hazor heard this news, he sent a message to: Jobab king of Madon, the kings of Shimron and Achshaph,

² and the kings of the north in the hill country, the plain south of Chinnereth, the Judean foothills, and the Slopes of Dor to the west,

³ the Canaanites in the east and west, the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, and

Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites at the foot of Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

⁴ They went out with all their armies--a multitude as numerous as the sand on the seashore--along with a vast number of horses and chariots.

⁵ All these kings joined forces; they came together and camped at the waters of Merom to attack Israel.

⁶ The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for at this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over dead to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn up their chariots."

⁷ So Joshua and his whole military force surprised them at the waters of Merom and attacked them.

⁸ The LORD handed them over to Israel, and they struck them down, pursuing them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and to the east as

far as the valley of Mizpeh. They struck them down, leaving no survivors.

⁹ Joshua treated them as the LORD had told him; he hamstringed their horses and burned up their chariots.

¹⁰ At that time Joshua turned back, captured Hazor, and struck down its king with the sword, because Hazor had formerly been the leader of all these kingdoms.

¹¹ They struck down everyone in it with the sword, completely destroying them; he left no one alive. Then he burned down Hazor.

¹² Joshua captured all these kings and their cities and struck them down with the sword. He completely destroyed them, as Moses the LORD's servant had commanded.

¹³ However, Israel did not burn any of the cities that stood on their mounds except Hazor, which Joshua burned.

¹⁴ The Israelites plundered all the spoils and cattle of these cities for themselves. But they struck down every person with the sword until they had annihilated them, leaving no one alive.

¹⁵ Just as the LORD had commanded His servant Moses, Moses commanded Joshua. That is what Joshua did, leaving nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁶ So Joshua took all this land--the hill country, all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the Judean foothills, the plain, and the hill country of Israel with its Judean foothills--

¹⁷ from Mount Halak, which ascends to Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon at the foot of Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and struck them down, putting them to death.

¹⁸ Joshua waged war with all these kings for a long time.

¹⁹ No city made peace with the Israelites except the Hivites who inhabited Gibeon; all of them were taken in battle.

²⁰ For it was the LORD's intention to harden their hearts, so that they would engage Israel in battle, be completely destroyed without mercy, and be annihilated, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²¹ At that time Joshua proceeded to exterminate the Anakim from the hill country--Hebron, Debir, Anab--all the hill country of Judah and of Israel. Joshua completely destroyed them with their cities.

²² No Anakim were left in the land of the Israelites, except for some remaining in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

²³ So Joshua took the entire land, in keeping with all that the LORD had told Moses. Joshua then gave it as an

inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. After this, the land had rest from war.

12 ¹ The Israelites struck down the following kings of the land and took possession of their land beyond the Jordan to the east and from the Arnon Valley to Mount Hermon, including all the Arabah eastward:

² Sihon king of the Amorites lived in Heshbon. He ruled over the territory from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along the middle of the valley, and half of Gilead up to the Jabbok River (the border of the Ammonites),

³ the Arabah east of the Sea of Chinnereth to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea), eastward through Beth-jeshimoth and southward below the slopes of Pisgah.

⁴ Og king of Bashan, of the remnant of the Rephaim, lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei.

⁵ He ruled over Mount Hermon, Salecah, all Bashan up to the Geshurite and Maacathite border, and half of Gilead to the border of Sihon, king of Heshbon.

⁶ Moses the LORD's servant and the Israelites struck them down. And Moses the LORD's servant gave their land as an inheritance to the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁷ Joshua and the Israelites struck down the following kings of the land beyond the Jordan to the west, from Baal-gad in the valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which ascends toward Seir (Joshua gave their land as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel according to their allotments:

⁸ the hill country, the Judean foothills, the plain, the slopes, the desert, and

the Negev of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites):

⁹ the king of Jericho one the king of Ai, which is next to Bethel one

¹⁰ the king of Jerusalem one the king of Hebron one

¹¹ the king of Jarmuth one the king of Lachish one

¹² the king of Eglon one the king of Gezer one

¹³ the king of Debir one the king of Geder one

¹⁴ the king of Hormah one the king of Arad one

¹⁵ the king of Libnah one the king of Adullam one

¹⁶ the king of Makkedah one the king of Bethel one

¹⁷ the king of Tappuah one the king of Hopher one

¹⁸ the king of Aphek one the king of Lasharon one

¹⁹ the king of Madon one the king of Hazor one

²⁰ the king of Shimron-meron one the king of Achshaph one

²¹ the king of Taanach one the king of Megiddo one

²² the king of Kedesh one the king of Jokneam in Carmel one

²³ the king of Dor in Naphoth-dor one the king of Goiim in Gilgal one

²⁴ the king of Tirzah one the total number of all kings: 31

13 ¹ Joshua was now old, advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, "You have become old, advanced in years, but a great deal of the land remains to be possessed.

² This is the land that remains: All the districts of the Philistines and the Geshurites:

³ from the Shihor east of Egypt to the border of Ekron on the north (considered to be Canaanite territory)-- the five Philistine rulers of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron, as well as the Avvites

⁴ in the south; all the land of the Canaanites: from Arah of the Sidonians to Aphek and as far as the border of the Amorites;

⁵ the land of the Gebalites; and all Lebanon east from Baal-gad below Mount Hermon to the entrance of Hamath--

⁶ all the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim, all the Sidonians. I will drive them out before the Israelites, only distribute the land as an inheritance for Israel, as I have commanded you.

⁷ Therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."

⁸ With the other half of the tribe, the Reubenites and Gadites had received the inheritance Moses gave them beyond the Jordan to the east, just as Moses the LORD's servant had given them:

⁹ From Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along with the city in the middle of the valley, all the Medeba plateau as far as Dibon,

¹⁰ and all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, to the border of the Ammonites;

¹¹ also Gilead and the territory of the Geshurites and Maacathites, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan to Salecah--

¹² the whole kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei; he was one of the remaining Rephaim.

Moses struck them down and drove them out,

¹³ but the Israelites did not drive out the Geshurites and Maacathites. So Geshur and Maacath live in Israel to this day.

¹⁴ He did not give any inheritance to the tribe of Levi. This was its inheritance, just as He had promised: the offerings made by fire to the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁵ To the tribe of the Reubenites by their clans, Moses gave

¹⁶ this as their territory: From Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along with the city in the middle of the valley, to the whole plateau as far as Medeba,

¹⁷ with Heshbon and all its cities on the plateau--Dibon, Bamoth-baal, Beth-baal-meon,

¹⁸ Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath,

¹⁹ Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth-shahar on the hill in the valley,

²⁰ Beth-peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth--

²¹ all the cities of the plateau, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon. Moses had killed him and the chiefs of Midian--Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba--the princes of Sihon who lived in the land.

²² Along with those the Israelites put to death, they also killed the diviner, Balaam son of Beor, with the sword.

²³ The border of the Reubenites was the Jordan and its plain. This was the inheritance of the Reubenites by their clans, with the cities and their villages.

²⁴ To the tribe of the Gadites by their clans, Moses gave

²⁵ this as their territory: Jazer and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites to Aroer, near Rabbah;

²⁶ from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir;

²⁷ in the valley: Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon--the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon. Their land also included the Jordan and its territory as far as the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth on the east side of the Jordan.

²⁸ This was the inheritance of the Gadites by their clans, with the cities and their villages.

²⁹ And to half the tribe of Manasseh, that is, to half the tribe of Manasseh's descendants by their clans, Moses gave

³⁰ this as their territory: From Mahanaim through all Bashan--all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, including

all of Jair's Villages that are in Bashan--60 cities.

³¹ But half of Gilead, and Og's royal cities in Bashan--Ashtaroth and Edrei--are for the descendants of Machir son of Manasseh, that is, half the descendants of Machir by their clans.

³² These were the portions Moses gave them on the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan east of Jericho.

³³ But Moses did not give a portion to the tribe of Levi. The LORD, the God of Israel, was their inheritance, just as He had promised them.

14 ¹ The Israelites received these portions that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the families of the Israelite tribes gave them in the land of Canaan.

² Their inheritance was by lot as the LORD commanded through Moses for the nine and a half tribes,

³ because Moses had given the inheritance to the two and a half tribes beyond the Jordan. But he gave no inheritance among them to the Levites.

⁴ The descendants of Joseph became two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. No portion of the land was given to the Levites except cities to live in, along with pasturelands for their cattle and livestock.

⁵ So the Israelites did as the LORD commanded Moses, and they divided the land.

⁶ The descendants of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD promised Moses the man of God at Kadesh-barnea about you and me.

⁷ I was 40 years old when Moses the LORD's servant sent me from

Kadesh-barnea to scout the land, and I brought back an honest report.

⁸ My brothers who went with me caused the people's hearts to melt with fear, but I remained loyal to the LORD my God.

⁹ On that day Moses promised me, 'The land where you have set foot will be an inheritance for you and your descendants forever, because you have remained loyal to the LORD my God.'

¹⁰ "As you see, the LORD has kept me alive these 45 years as He promised, since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel was journeying in the wilderness. Here I am today, 85 years old.

¹¹ I am still as strong today as I was the day Moses sent me out. My strength for battle and for daily tasks is now as it was then.

¹² Now give me this hill country the LORD promised me on that day, because you heard then that the Anakim are there, as well as large fortified cities. Perhaps the LORD will be with me and I will drive them out as the LORD promised."

¹³ Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as an inheritance.

¹⁴ Therefore, Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite as an inheritance to this day, because he remained loyal to the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁵ Hebron's name used to be Kiriath-arba; Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim. After this, the land had rest from war.

15 ¹ Now the allotment for the tribe of the descendants of Judah by their clans was in the southernmost

region, south of the wilderness of Zin to the border of Edom.

² Their southern border began at the tip of the Dead Sea on the south bay

³ and went south of the ascent of Akrabbim, proceeded to Zin, ascended to the south of Kadesh-barnea, passed Hezron, ascended to Addar, and turned to Karka.

⁴ It proceeded to Azmon and to the Brook of Egypt and so the border ended at the Mediterranean Sea. This is your southern border.

⁵ Now the eastern border was along the Dead Sea to the mouth of the Jordan. The border on the north side was from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

⁶ It ascended to Beth-hoglah, proceeded north of Beth-arabah, and ascended to the stone of Bohan son of Reuben.

⁷ Then the border ascended to Debir from the Valley of Achor, turning north to the Gilgal that is opposite the ascent of Adummim, which is south of the ravine. The border proceeded to the waters of En-shemesh and ended at En-rogel.

⁸ From there the border ascended the Valley of Hinnom to the southern Jebusite slope (that is, Jerusalem) and ascended to the top of the hill that faces the Valley of Hinnom on the west, at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim.

⁹ From the top of the hill the border curved to the spring of the Waters of Nephtoah, went to the cities of Mount Ephron, and then curved to Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim).

¹⁰ The border turned westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, went to the northern slope of Mount Jearim (that is,

Chesalon), descended to Beth-shemesh, and proceeded to Timnah.

¹¹ Then the border reached to the slope north of Ekron, curved to Shikkeron, proceeded to Mount Baalah, went to Jabneel, and ended at the Mediterranean Sea.

¹² Now the western border was the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea. This was the boundary of the descendants of Judah around their clans.

¹³ He gave Caleb son of Jephunneh the following portion among the descendants of Judah based on the LORD's instruction to Joshua: Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron; Arba was the father of Anak).

¹⁴ Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, descendants of Anak.

¹⁵ From there he marched against the inhabitants of Debir whose name used to be Kiriath-sepher,

¹⁶ and Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Achsah as a wife to the one who strikes down and captures Kiriath-sepher."

¹⁷ So Othniel son of Caleb's brother, Kenaz, captured it, and Caleb gave his daughter Achsah to him as a wife.

¹⁸ When she arrived, she persuaded Othniel to ask her father for a field. As she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you want?"

¹⁹ She replied, "Give me a blessing. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me the springs of water also." So he gave her the upper and lower springs.

²⁰ This was the inheritance of the tribe of the descendants of Judah by their clans.

²¹ These were the outermost cities of the tribe of the descendants of Judah toward the border of Edom in the Negev: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,

²² Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

²³ Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,

²⁴ Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,

²⁵ Hazor-hadattah, Keriioth-hezron (that is, Hazor),

²⁶ Amam, Shema, Moladah,

²⁷ Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet,

²⁸ Hazar-shual, Beer-sheba, Biziothiah,

²⁹ Baalah, Iim, Ezem,

³⁰ Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,

³¹ Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

³² Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon--

29 cities in all, with their villages.

³³ In the Judean foothills: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,

³⁴ Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam,

³⁵ Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,

³⁶ Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim--14 cities, with their villages;

³⁷ Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad,

³⁸ Dilan, Mizpeh, Jokthe-el,

³⁹ Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,

⁴⁰ Cabbon, Lahmam, Chitlish,

⁴¹ Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah--16 cities, with their villages;

⁴² Libnah, Ether, Ashan,

⁴³ Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,

⁴⁴ Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah--nine cities, with their villages;

⁴⁵ Ekron, with its towns and villages;

⁴⁶ from Ekron to the sea, all the cities near Ashdod, with their villages;

⁴⁷ Ashdod, with its towns and villages; Gaza, with its towns and villages, to the Brook of Egypt and the coastline of the Mediterranean Sea.

⁴⁸ In the hill country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh,

⁴⁹ Dannah, Kiriath-sannah (that is, Debir),

⁵⁰ Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,

⁵¹ Goshen, Holon, and Giloh--11 cities, with their villages;

⁵² Arab, Dumah, Eshan,

⁵³ Janim, Beth-tappuah, Aphekah,

⁵⁴ Humtah, Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior--nine cities, with their villages;

⁵⁵ Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,

⁵⁶ Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,

⁵⁷ Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah--10 cities, with their villages;

⁵⁸ Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor,

⁵⁹ Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon--six cities, with their villages;

⁶⁰ Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), and Rabbah--two cities, with their villages.

⁶¹ In the wilderness: Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah,

⁶² Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En-ge-di--six cities, with their villages.

⁶³ But the descendants of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem. So the Jebusites live in Jerusalem among the descendants of Judah to this day.

16 ¹ The allotment for the descendants of Joseph went from the Jordan at Jericho to the waters of Jericho on the east, through the wilderness ascending from Jericho into the hill country of Bethel.

² From Bethel it went to Luz and proceeded to the border of the Archites by Ataroth.

³ It then descended westward to the border of the Japhletites as far as the border of lower Beth-horon, then to Gezer, and ended at the Mediterranean Sea.

⁴ So Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, received their inheritance.

⁵ This was the territory of the descendants of Ephraim by their clans: The border of their inheritance went from Ataroth-addar on the east of Upper Beth-horon.

⁶ In the north the border went westward from Michmethath; it turned eastward from Taanath-shiloh and passed it east of Janoah.

⁷ From Janoah it descended to Ataroth and Naarah, and then reached Jericho and went to the Jordan.

⁸ From Tappuah the border went westward along the Brook of Kanah and ended at the Mediterranean Sea. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the descendants of Ephraim by their clans, together with

⁹ the cities set apart for the descendants of Ephraim within the inheritance of

the descendants of Manasseh--all these cities with their villages.

¹⁰ But, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer. So the Canaanites live in Ephraim to this day, but they are forced laborers.

17 ¹ This was the allotment for the tribe of Manasseh as Joseph's firstborn. Gilead and Bashan came to Machir, the firstborn of Manasseh and the father of Gilead, who was a man of war.

² So the allotment was for the rest of Manasseh's descendants by their clans, for the sons of Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hopher, and Shemida. These are the male descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph, by their clans.

³ Now Zelophehad son of Hopher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, had no sons, only daughters. These are the names of his daughters:

Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

⁴ They came before Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders, saying, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our male relatives." So they gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers, in keeping with the LORD's instruction.

⁵ As a result, 10 tracts fell to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which are beyond the Jordan,

⁶ because Manasseh's daughters received an inheritance among his sons. The land of Gilead belonged to the rest of Manasseh's sons.

⁷ The border of Manasseh went from Asher to Michmethath near Shechem. It then went southward toward the inhabitants of En-tappuah.

⁸ The region of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but Tappuah itself on Manasseh's border belonged to the descendants of Ephraim.

⁹ From there the border descended to the Brook of Kanah; south of the brook, cities belonged to Ephraim among Manasseh's cities. Manasseh's border was on the north side of the brook and ended at the Mediterranean Sea.

¹⁰ Ephraim's territory was to the south and Manasseh's to the north, with the Sea as its border. They reached Asher on the north and Issachar on the east.

¹¹ Within Issachar and Asher, Manasseh had Beth-shean with its towns, Ibleam with its towns, and the inhabitants of Dor with its towns; the inhabitants of En-dor with its towns, the inhabitants of Taanach with its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo with its towns--the three cities of Naphath.

¹² The descendants of Manasseh could not possess these cities, because the Canaanites were determined to stay in this land.

¹³ However, when the Israelites grew stronger, they imposed forced labor on the Canaanites but did not drive them out completely.

¹⁴ Joseph's descendants said to Joshua: "Why did you give us only one tribal allotment as an inheritance? We have many people, because the LORD has greatly blessed us."

¹⁵ "If you have so many people," Joshua replied to them, "go to the forest and clear an area for yourselves there in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaim, because Ephraim's hill country is too small for you."

¹⁶ But the descendants of Joseph said, "The hill country is not enough for us, and all the Canaanites who inhabit the

valley area have iron chariots, both at Beth-shean with its towns and in the Jezreel Valley."

¹⁷ So Joshua replied to Joseph's family (that is, Ephraim and Manasseh), "You have many people and great strength. You will not have just one lot,

¹⁸ because the hill country will be yours also. It is a forest; clear it and its outlying areas will be yours. You can also drive out the Canaanites, even though they have iron chariots and are strong."

18 ¹ The entire Israelite community assembled at Shiloh where it set up the tent of meeting there; the land had been subdued by them.

² Seven tribes among the Israelites were left who had not divided up their inheritance.

³ So Joshua said to the Israelites, "How long will you delay going out to take

possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, gave you?

⁴ Appoint for yourselves three men from each tribe, and I will send them out. They are to go and survey the land, write a description of it for the purpose of their inheritance, and return to me.

⁵ Then they are to divide it into seven portions. Judah is to remain in its territory in the south, and Joseph's family in their territory in the north.

⁶ When you have written a description of the seven portions of land and brought it to me, I will cast lots for you here in the presence of the LORD our God.

⁷ But the Levites among you do not get a portion, because their inheritance is the priesthood of the LORD. Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have taken their inheritance beyond the

Jordan to the east, which Moses the LORD's servant gave them."

⁸ As the men prepared to go, Joshua commanded them to write down a description of the land, saying, "Go and survey the land, write a description of it, and return to me. I will then cast lots for you here in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD."

⁹ So the men left, went through the land, and described it by towns in a document of seven sections. They returned to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh.

¹⁰ Joshua cast lots for them at Shiloh in the presence of the LORD where he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their divisions.

¹¹ The lot came up for the tribe of Benjamin's descendants by their clans, and their allotted territory lay between Judah's descendants and Joseph's descendants.

¹² Their border on the north side began at the Jordan, ascended to the slope of Jericho on the north, through the hill country westward, and ended at the wilderness of Beth-aven.

¹³ From there the border went toward Luz, to the southern slope of Luz (that is, Bethel); it then went down by Ataroth-addar, over the hill south of Lower Beth-horon.

¹⁴ On the west side, from the hill facing Beth-horon on the south, the border curved, turning southward, and ended at Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a city of the descendants of Judah. This was the west side of their border .

¹⁵ The south side began at the edge of Kiriath-jearim, and the border extended westward; it went to the spring at the Waters of Nephtoah.

¹⁶ The border descended to the foot of the hill that faces the Valley of Hinnom

at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim. It ran down the Valley of Hinnom toward the south Jebusite slope and downward to En-rogel.

¹⁷ It curved northward and went to En-shemesh and on to Geliloth, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim, and continued down to the Stone of Bohan, Reuben's son.

¹⁸ Then it went north to the slope opposite the Jordan Valley and proceeded into the valley.

¹⁹ The border continued to the north slope of Beth-hoglah and ended at the northern bay of the Dead Sea, at the southern end of the Jordan. This was the southern border.

²⁰ The Jordan formed the border on the east side. This was the inheritance of Benjamin's descendants, by their clans, according to its surrounding borders.

²¹ These were the cities of the tribe of Benjamin's descendants by their clans:

Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz,

²² Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,

²³ Avvim, Parah, Ophrah,

²⁴ Chephar-ammoni, Ophni, and Geba--12 cities, with their villages;

²⁵ Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,

²⁶ Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah,

²⁷ Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,

²⁸ Zela, Haeleph, Jebus (that is, Jerusalem), Gibeah, and Kiriath--14 cities, with their villages. This was the inheritance for Benjamin's descendants by their clans.

19 ¹ The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of his descendants by their clans, but their inheritance was within the portion of Judah's descendants.

² Their inheritance included: Beer-sheba (or Sheba), Moladah,

³ Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem,

⁴ Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,

⁵ Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah,

⁶ Beth-lebath, and Sharuhem--13

cities, with their villages;

⁷ Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan--four cities, with their villages;

⁸ and all the villages surrounding these cities as far as Baalath-beer (Ramah of the south). This was the inheritance of the tribe of Simeon's descendants by their clans.

⁹ The inheritance of Simeon's descendants was within the territory of Judah's descendants, because the share for Judah's descendants was too large for them. So Simeon's descendants received an inheritance within Judah's portion.

¹⁰ The third lot came up for Zebulun's descendants by their clans. The territory

of their inheritance stretched as far as Sarid;

¹¹ their border went up westward to Maralah, reached Dabbesheth, and met the brook east of Jokneam.

¹² From Sarid, it turned east toward the sunrise along the border of Chisloth-tabor, went to Daberath, and went up to Japhia.

¹³ From there, it went east toward the sunrise to Gath-hepher and to Eth-kazin; it extended to Rimmon, curving around to Neah.

¹⁴ The border then circled around Neah on the north to Hannathon and ended at the valley of Iphtah-el,

¹⁵ along with Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem--12 cities, with their villages.

¹⁶ This was the inheritance of Zebulun's descendants by their clans, these cities, with their villages.

¹⁷ The fourth lot came out for the tribe of Issachar's descendants by their clans.

¹⁸ Their territory went to Jezreel, and included Chesulloth, Shunem,

¹⁹ Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath,

²⁰ Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez,

²¹ Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, Beth-pazzez.

²² The border reached Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth-shemesh, and ended at the Jordan--16 cities, with their villages.

²³ This was the inheritance of the tribe of Issachar's descendants by their clans, the cities, with their villages.

²⁴ The fifth lot came out for the tribe of Asher's descendants by their clans.

²⁵ Their boundary included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph,

²⁶ Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal and reached westward to Carmel and Shihor-libnath.

²⁷ It turned eastward to Beth-dagon, passed Zebulun and the valley of Iphtah-el, north toward Beth-emek and Neiel, and went north to Cabul,

²⁸ Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, as far as Great Sidon.

²⁹ The boundary then turned to Ramah as far as the fortified city of Tyre; it turned back to Hosah and ended at the sea, including Mahalab, Achzib,

³⁰ Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob--22 cities, with their villages.

³¹ This was the inheritance of the tribe of Asher's descendants by their clans, these cities with their villages.

³² The sixth lot came out for Naphtali's descendants by their clans.

³³ Their boundary went from Heleph and from the oak in Zaanannim, including Adami-nekeb and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum, and ended at the Jordan.

³⁴ To the west, the boundary turned to Aznoth-tabor and went from there to Hukkok, reaching Zebulun on the south, Asher on the west, and Judah at the Jordan on the east.

³⁵ The fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,

³⁶ Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,

³⁷ Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor,

³⁸ Iron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh--19 cities, with their villages.

³⁹ This was the inheritance of the tribe of Naphtali's descendants by their clans, the cities with their villages.

⁴⁰ The seventh lot came out for the Danite tribe by its clans.

⁴¹ The territory of their inheritance included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh,

⁴² Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah,

⁴³ Elon, Timnah, Ekron,

⁴⁴ Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,

⁴⁵ Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon,
⁴⁶ Me-jarkon, and Rakkon, with the
territory facing Joppa.

⁴⁷ When the territory of the Danites
slipped out of their control, they went
up and fought against Leshem, captured
it, and struck it down with the sword.
So they took possession of it, lived
there, and renamed Leshem after their
ancestor Dan.

⁴⁸ This was the inheritance of the
Danite tribe by its clans, these cities with
their villages.

⁴⁹ When they had finished distributing
the land into its territories, the Israelites
gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance
among them.

⁵⁰ By the LORD's command, they gave
him the city Timnath-serah in the hill
country of Ephraim, which he requested.
He rebuilt the city and lived in it.

⁵¹ These were the portions that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the families distributed to the Israelite tribes by lot at Shiloh in the LORD's presence at the entrance to the tent of meeting. So they finished dividing up the land.

20 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, ² "Tell the Israelites: 'Select your cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses,

³ so that a person who kills someone unintentionally or accidentally may flee there. These will be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

⁴ When someone flees to one of these cities, stands at the entrance of the city gate, and states his case before the elders of that city, they are to bring him into the city and give him a place to live among them.

⁵ And if the avenger of blood pursues him, they must not hand the one who committed manslaughter over to him, for he killed his neighbor accidentally and did not hate him beforehand.

⁶ He is to stay in that city until he stands trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest serving at that time. Then the one who committed manslaughter may return home to his own city from which he fled."

⁷ So they designated Kedesh in the hill country of Naphtali in Galilee, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.

⁸ Across the Jordan east of Jericho, they selected Bezer on the wilderness plateau from Reuben's tribe, Ramoth in Gilead from Gad's tribe, and Golan in Bashan from Manasseh's tribe.

⁹ These are the cities appointed for all the Israelites and foreigners among them, so that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there and not die at the hand of the avenger of blood until he stands before the assembly.

21 ¹ The heads of the Levite families approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the families of the Israelite tribes.

² They told them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan: "The LORD commanded through Moses that we be given cities to live in, with their pasturelands for our livestock."

³ So the Israelites, by the LORD's command, gave the Levites these cities with their pasturelands from their inheritance.

⁴ The lot came out for the Kohathite clans: The Levites who were the descendants of Aaron the priest received

13 cities by lot from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

⁵ The remaining descendants of Kohath received 10 cities by lot from the clans of the tribes of Ephraim, Dan, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁶ Gershon's descendants received 13 cities by lot from the clans of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and half the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

⁷ Merari's descendants received 12 cities for their clans from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

⁸ The Israelites gave these cities with their pasturelands around them to the Levites by lot, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

⁹ The Israelites gave these cities by name from the tribes of the descendants of Judah and Simeon

¹⁰ to the descendants of Aaron from the Kohathite clans of the Levites, because they received the first lot.

¹¹ They gave them Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) with its surrounding pasturelands in the hill country of Judah. Arba was the father of Anak.

¹² But they gave the fields and villages of the city to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his possession.

¹³ They gave to the descendants of Aaron the priest: Hebron, the city of refuge for the one who commits manslaughter, with its pasturelands, Libnah with its pasturelands,

¹⁴ Jattir with its pasturelands, Eshtemoa with its pasturelands,

¹⁵ Holon with its pasturelands, Debir with its pasturelands,

¹⁶ Ain with its pasturelands, Juttah with its pasturelands, and Beth-shemesh with

its pasturelands--nine cities from these two tribes.

¹⁷ From the tribe of Benjamin they gave : Gibeon with its pasturelands, Geba with its pasturelands,

¹⁸ Anathoth with its pasturelands, and Almon with its pasturelands--four cities.

¹⁹ All 13 cities with their pasturelands were for the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

²⁰ The allotted cities to the remaining clans of Kohath's descendants, who were Levites, came from the tribe of Ephraim.

²¹ The Israelites gave them: Shechem, the city of refuge for the one who commits manslaughter, with its pasturelands in the hill country of Ephraim, Gezer with its pasturelands,

²² Kibzaim with its pasturelands, and Beth-horon with its pasturelands--four cities.

²³ From the tribe of Dan they gave :
Elteke with its pasturelands, Gibbethon
with its pasturelands,

²⁴ Aijalon with its pasturelands, and
Gath-rimmon with its pasturelands--four
cities.

²⁵ From half the tribe of Manasseh they
gave : Taanach with its pasturelands and
Gath-rimmon with its pasturelands--two
cities.

²⁶ All 10 cities with their pasturelands
were for the clans of Kohath's other
descendants.

²⁷ From half the tribe of Manasseh, they
gave to the descendants of Gershon,
who were one of the Levite clans:
Golan, the city of refuge for the one
who commits manslaughter, with its
pasturelands in Bashan, and Beeshterah
with its pasturelands--two cities.

²⁸ From the tribe of Issachar they gave :
Kishion with its pasturelands, Daberath
with its pasturelands,

²⁹ Jarmuth with its pasturelands, and
En-gannim with its pasturelands--four
cities.

³⁰ From the tribe of Asher they gave :
Mishal with its pasturelands, Abdon with
its pasturelands,

³¹ Helkath with its pasturelands, and
Rehob with its pasturelands--four cities.

³² From the tribe of Naphtali they gave
: Kedesh in Galilee, the city of refuge
for the one who commits manslaughter,
with its pasturelands, Hammoth-dor
with its pasturelands, and Kartan with its
pasturelands--three cities.

³³ All 13 cities with their pasturelands
were for the Gershonites by their clans.

³⁴ From the tribe of Zebulun, they
gave to the clans of the descendants of
Merari, who were the remaining Levites:

Jokneam with its pasturelands, Kartah with its pasturelands,

³⁵ Dimnah with its pasturelands, and Nahalal with its pasturelands--four cities.

³⁶ From the tribe of Reuben, they gave : Bezer with its pasturelands, Jahzah with its pasturelands,

³⁷ Kedemoth with its pasturelands, and Mephaath with its pasturelands--four cities.

³⁸ From the tribe of Gad, they gave : Ramoth in Gilead, the city of refuge for the one who commits manslaughter, with its pasturelands, Mahanaim with its pasturelands,

³⁹ Heshbon with its pasturelands, and Jazer with its pasturelands--four cities in all.

⁴⁰ All 12 cities were allotted to the clans of Merari's descendants, the remaining Levite clans.

⁴¹ Within the Israelite possession there were 48 cities in all with their pasturelands for the Levites.

⁴² Each of these cities had its own surrounding pasturelands; this was true for all the cities.

⁴³ So the LORD gave Israel all the land He had sworn to give their fathers, and they took possession of it and settled there.

⁴⁴ The LORD gave them rest on every side according to all He had sworn to their fathers. None of their enemies were able to stand against them, for the LORD handed over all their enemies to them.

⁴⁵ None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

22 ¹ Joshua summoned the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh,

² and told them, "You have done everything Moses the LORD's servant commanded you and have obeyed me in everything I commanded you.

³ You have not deserted your brothers even once this whole time but have carried out the requirement of the command of the LORD your God.

⁴ Now that He has given your brothers rest, just as He promised them, return to your homes in your own land that Moses the LORD's servant gave you across the Jordan.

⁵ Only carefully obey the command and instruction that Moses the LORD's servant gave you: to love the LORD your God, walk in all His ways, keep His commands, remain faithful to Him, and serve Him with all your heart and all your soul."

⁶ Joshua blessed them and sent them on their way, and they went to their homes.

⁷ Moses had given territory to half the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, but Joshua had given territory to the other half, with their brothers, on the west side of the Jordan. When Joshua sent them to their homes and blessed them,

⁸ he said, "Return to your homes with great wealth: a huge number of cattle, and silver, gold, bronze, iron, and a large quantity of clothing. Share the spoil of your enemies with your brothers."

⁹ The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in the land of Canaan to go to their own land of Gilead, which they took possession of according to the LORD's command through Moses.

¹⁰ When they came to the region of the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the

Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh built a large, impressive altar there by the Jordan.

¹¹ Then the Israelites heard it said, "Look, the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan at the region of the Jordan, on the Israelite side."

¹² When the Israelites heard this , the entire Israelite community assembled at Shiloh to go to war against them.

¹³ The Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest to the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead.

¹⁴ They sent 10 leaders with him--one family leader for each tribe of Israel. All of them were heads of their families among the clans of Israel.

¹⁵ They went to the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, and told them,

¹⁶ "This is what the LORD's entire community says: 'What is this treachery you have committed today against the God of Israel by turning away from the LORD and building an altar for yourselves, so that you are in rebellion against the LORD today?'

¹⁷ Wasn't the sin of Peor, which brought a plague on the LORD's community, enough for us, so that we have not cleansed ourselves from it even to this day,

¹⁸ and now, you would turn away from the LORD? If you rebel against the LORD today, tomorrow He will be angry with the entire community of Israel.

¹⁹ But if the land you possess is defiled, cross over to the land the LORD possesses where the LORD's tabernacle

stands, and take possession of it among us. But don't rebel against the LORD or against us by building for yourselves an altar other than the altar of the LORD our God.

²⁰ Wasn't Achan son of Zerah unfaithful regarding what was set apart for destruction, bringing wrath on the entire community of Israel? He was not the only one who perished because of his sin."

²¹ The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered the leaders of the Israelite clans,

²² "The LORD is the God of gods! The LORD is the God of gods! He knows, and may Israel also know. Do not spare us today, if it was in rebellion or treachery against the LORD

²³ that we have built for ourselves an altar to turn away from Him. May the LORD Himself hold us accountable if

we intended to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings on it, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it.

²⁴ We actually did this from a specific concern that in the future your descendants might say to our descendants, 'What relationship do you have with the LORD, the God of Israel?

²⁵ For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between us and you descendants of Reuben and Gad. You have no share in the LORD!' So your descendants may cause our descendants to stop fearing the LORD.

²⁶ "Therefore we said: Let us take action and build an altar for ourselves, but not for burnt offering or sacrifice.

²⁷ Instead, it is to be a witness between us and you, and between the generations after us, so that we may carry out the worship of the LORD in His presence with our burnt offerings, sacrifices, and

fellowship offerings. Then in the future, your descendants will not be able to say to our descendants, 'You have no share in the LORD!'

²⁸ We thought that if they said this to us or to our generations in the future, we would reply: Look at the replica of the LORD's altar that our fathers made, not for burnt offering or sacrifice, but as a witness between us and you.

²⁹ We would never rebel against the LORD or turn away from Him today by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering, or sacrifice, other than the altar of the LORD our God, which is in front of His tabernacle."

³⁰ When Phinehas the priest and the community leaders, the heads of Israel's clans who were with him, heard what the descendants of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh had to say, they were pleased.

³¹ Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest said to the descendants of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh, "Today we know that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against Him. As a result, you have delivered the Israelites from the LORD's power."

³² Then Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest and the leaders returned from the Reubenites and Gadites in the land of Gilead to the Israelites in the land of Canaan and brought back a report to them.

³³ The Israelites were pleased with the report, and they praised God. They spoke no more about going to war against them to ravage the land where the Reubenites and Gadites lived.

³⁴ So the Reubenites and Gadites named the altar: It is a witness between us that the LORD is God.

23 ¹ A long time after the LORD had given Israel rest from all the enemies around them, Joshua was old, getting on in years.

² So Joshua summoned all Israel, including its elders, leaders, judges, and officers, and said to them, "I am old, getting on in years,

³ and you have seen for yourselves everything the LORD your God did to all these nations on your account, because it was the LORD your God who was fighting for you.

⁴ See, I have allotted these remaining nations to you as an inheritance for your tribes, including all the nations I have destroyed, from the Jordan westward to the Mediterranean Sea.

⁵ The LORD your God will force them back on your account and drive them out before you, so that you can take

possession of their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

⁶ "Be very strong, and continue obeying all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you do not turn from it to the right or left

⁷ and so that you do not associate with these nations remaining among you. Do not call on the names of their gods or make an oath to them; do not worship them or bow down to them.

⁸ Instead, remain faithful to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day.

⁹ "The LORD has driven out great and powerful nations before you, and no one has been able to stand against you to this day.

¹⁰ One of you routed a thousand, because the LORD your God was fighting for you, as He promised.

¹¹ So be very diligent to love the LORD your God for your own well-being.

¹² For if you turn away and cling to the rest of these nations remaining among you, and if you intermarry or associate with them and they with you,

¹³ know for certain that the LORD your God will not continue to drive these nations out before you. They will become a snare and a trap for you, a scourge for your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you disappear from this good land the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁴ "I am now going the way of all the earth, and you know with all your heart and all your soul that none of the good promises the LORD your God made to you has failed. Everything was fulfilled for you; not one promise has failed.

¹⁵ Since every good thing the LORD your God promised you has come about, so He will bring on you every bad thing until He has annihilated you from this

good land the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁶ If you break the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and go and worship other gods, and bow down to them, the LORD's anger will burn against you, and you will quickly disappear from this good land He has given you."

24 ¹ Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and summoned Israel's elders, leaders, judges, and officers, and they presented themselves before God.

² Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

³ But I took your father Abraham from the region beyond the Euphrates River,

led him throughout the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants. I gave him Isaac,

⁴ and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave the hill country of Seir to Esau as a possession, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.

⁵ "Then I sent Moses and Aaron, I plagued Egypt by what I did there, and afterwards I brought you out.

⁶ When I brought your fathers out of Egypt and you reached the Red Sea, the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen as far as the sea.

⁷ Your fathers cried out to the LORD, so He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea over them, engulfing them. Your own eyes saw what I did to Egypt. After that, you lived in the wilderness a long time.

⁸ "Later, I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the

Jordan. They fought against you, but I handed them over to you. You possessed their land, and I annihilated them before you.

⁹ Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, set out to fight against Israel. He sent for Balaam son of Beor to curse you,

¹⁰ but I would not listen to Balaam. Instead, he repeatedly blessed you, and I delivered you from his hand.

¹¹ "You then crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The people of Jericho--as well as the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites--fought against you, but I handed them over to you.

¹² I sent the hornet ahead of you, and it drove out the two Amorite kings before you. It was not by your sword or bow.

¹³ I gave you a land you did not labor for, and cities you did not build, though you live in them; you are eating from

vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.'

¹⁴ "Therefore, fear the LORD and worship Him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the LORD.

¹⁵ But if it doesn't please you to worship the LORD, choose for yourselves today the one you will worship: the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD."

¹⁶ The people replied, "We will certainly not abandon the LORD to worship other gods!

¹⁷ For the LORD our God brought us and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, the place of slavery and performed these great signs before our eyes. He also protected us all along the way we went

and among all the peoples whose lands we traveled through.

¹⁸ The LORD drove out before us all the peoples, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will worship the LORD, because He is our God."

¹⁹ But Joshua told the people, "You will not be able to worship the LORD, because He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not remove your transgressions and sins.

²⁰ If you abandon the LORD and worship foreign gods, He will turn against you , harm you, and completely destroy you, after He has been good to you."

²¹ "No!" the people answered Joshua. "We will worship the LORD."

²² Joshua then told the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you yourselves have chosen to worship the LORD." "We are witnesses," they said.

²³ "Then get rid of the foreign gods that are among you and offer your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

²⁴ So the people said to Joshua, "We will worship the LORD our God and obey Him."

²⁵ On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people at Shechem and established a statute and ordinance for them.

²⁶ Joshua recorded these things in the book of the law of God; he also took a large stone and set it up there under the oak next to the sanctuary of the LORD.

²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, "You see this stone--it will be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words the LORD said to us, and it will be a witness against you, so that you will not deny your God."

²⁸ Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance.

²⁹ After these things, the LORD's servant, Joshua son of Nun, died at the age of 110.

³⁰ They buried him in his allotted territory at Timnath-serah, in the hill country of Ephraim north of Mount Gaash.

³¹ Israel worshiped the LORD throughout Joshua's lifetime and during the lifetimes of the elders who outlived Joshua, and who had experienced all the works the LORD had done for Israel.

³² Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the parcel of land Jacob had purchased from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for 100 qesitahs. It was an inheritance for Joseph's descendants.

³³ And Eleazar son of Aaron died, and they buried him at Gibeah, which had

been given to his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

Judges

1 ¹ After the death of Joshua, the Israelites inquired of the LORD, "Who will be the first to fight for us against the Canaanites?"

² The LORD answered, "Judah is to go. I have handed the land over to him."

³ Judah said to his brother Simeon, "Come with me to my territory, and let us fight against the Canaanites. I will also go with you to your territory." So Simeon went with him.

⁴ When Judah attacked, the LORD handed the Canaanites and Perizzites over to them. They struck down 10,000 men in Bezek.

⁵ They found Adoni-bezek in Bezek, fought against him, and struck down the Canaanites and Perizzites.

⁶ When Adoni-bezek fled, they pursued him, seized him, and cut off his thumbs and big toes.

⁷ Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. God has repaid me for what I have done." They brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

⁸ The men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it. They put the city to the sword and set it on fire.

⁹ Afterwards, the men of Judah marched down to fight against the Canaanites who were living in the hill country, the Negev, and the Judean foothills.

¹⁰ Judah also marched against the Canaanites who were living in Hebron (Hebron was formerly named Kiriath-arba). They struck down Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi.

¹¹ From there they marched against the residents of Debir (Debir was formerly named Kiriath-sepher).

¹² Caleb said, "Whoever strikes down and captures Kiriath-sepher, I will give my daughter Achsah to him as a wife."

¹³ So Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's youngest brother, captured it, and Caleb gave his daughter Achsah to him as his wife.

¹⁴ When she arrived, she persuaded Othniel to ask her father for a field. As she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you want?"

¹⁵ She answered him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me springs of water also." So Caleb gave her both the upper and lower springs.

¹⁶ The descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, had gone up with the men of Judah from the City of Palms

to the Wilderness of Judah, which was in the Negev of Arad. They went to live among the people.

¹⁷ Judah went with his brother Simeon, struck the Canaanites who were living in Zephath, and completely destroyed the town. So they named the town Hormah.

¹⁸ Judah captured Gaza and its territory, Ashkelon and its territory, and Ekron and its territory.

¹⁹ The LORD was with Judah and enabled them to take possession of the hill country, but they could not drive out the people who were living in the valley because those people had iron chariots.

²⁰ Judah gave Hebron to Caleb, just as Moses had promised. Then Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak who lived there.

²¹ At the same time the Benjaminites did not drive out the Jebusites who were living in Jerusalem. The Jebusites

have lived among the Benjaminites in Jerusalem to this day.

²² The house of Joseph also attacked Bethel, and the LORD was with them.

²³ They sent spies to Bethel (the town was formerly named Luz).

²⁴ The spies saw a man coming out of the town and said to him, "Please show us how to get into town, and we will treat you well."

²⁵ When he showed them the way into the town, they put the town to the sword but released the man and his entire family.

²⁶ Then the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a town, and named it Luz. That is its name to this day.

²⁷ At that time Manasseh failed to take possession of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the residents of Dor and its villages, or the residents of Ibleam and its villages,

or the residents of Megiddo and its villages. But the Canaanites refused to leave this land.

²⁸ When Israel became stronger, they made the Canaanites serve as forced labor but never drove them out completely.

²⁹ At that time Ephraim failed to drive out the Canaanites who were living in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived among them in Gezer.

³⁰ Zebulun failed to drive out the residents of Kitron or the residents of Nahalol, so the Canaanites lived among them and served as forced labor.

³¹ Asher failed to drive out the residents of Acco or of Sidon, or Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob.

³² The Asherites lived among the Canaanites who were living in the land, because they failed to drive them out.

³³ Naphtali did not drive out the residents of Beth-shemesh or the residents of Beth-anath. They lived among the Canaanites who were living in the land, but the residents of Beth-shemesh and Beth-anath served as their forced labor.

³⁴ The Amorites forced the Danites into the hill country and did not allow them to go down into the valley.

³⁵ The Amorites refused to leave Har-heres, Aijalon, and Shaalbim. When the house of Joseph got the upper hand, the Amorites were made to serve as forced labor.

³⁶ The territory of the Amorites extended from the ascent of Akrabbim, that is from Sela upward.

2 ¹ The Angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim and said, "I brought you out of Egypt and led you into the land I had promised to your

fathers. I also said: I will never break My covenant with you.

² You are not to make a covenant with the people who are living in this land, and you are to tear down their altars. But you have not obeyed Me. What is this you have done?

³ Therefore, I now say: I will not drive out these people before you. They will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a trap to you."

⁴ When the Angel of the LORD had spoken these words to all the Israelites, the people wept loudly.

⁵ So they named that place Bochim and offered sacrifices there to the LORD.

⁶ Joshua sent the people away, and the Israelites went to take possession of the land, each to his own inheritance.

⁷ The people worshiped the LORD throughout Joshua's lifetime and during the lifetimes of the elders who outlived

Joshua. They had seen all the LORD's great works He had done for Israel.

⁸ Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110.

⁹ They buried him in the territory of his inheritance, in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰ That whole generation was also gathered to their ancestors. After them another generation rose up who did not know the LORD or the works He had done for Israel.

¹¹ The Israelites did what was evil in the LORD's sight. They worshiped the Baals

¹² and abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They went after other gods from the surrounding peoples and bowed down to them. They infuriated the LORD,

¹³ for they abandoned Him and worshiped Baal and the Ashtoreths.

¹⁴ The LORD's anger burned against Israel, and He handed them over to marauders who raided them. He sold them to the enemies around them, so that they could no longer resist their enemies.

¹⁵ Whenever the Israelites went out, the LORD was against them and brought disaster on them , just as He had promised and sworn to them. So they suffered greatly.

¹⁶ The LORD raised up judges, who saved them from the power of their marauders,

¹⁷ but they did not listen to their judges. Instead, they prostituted themselves with other gods, bowing down to them. They quickly turned from the way of their fathers, who had walked in

obedience to the LORD's commands. They did not do as their fathers did.

¹⁸ Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for the Israelites, the LORD was with him and saved the people from the power of their enemies while the judge was still alive. The LORD was moved to pity whenever they groaned because of those who were oppressing and afflicting them.

¹⁹ Whenever the judge died, the Israelites would act even more corruptly than their fathers, going after other gods to worship and bow down to them. They did not turn from their evil practices or their obstinate ways.

²⁰ The LORD's anger burned against Israel, and He declared, "Because this nation has violated My covenant that I made with their fathers and disobeyed Me,

²¹ I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died.

²² I did this to test Israel and to see whether they would keep the LORD's way by walking in it, as their fathers had."

²³ The LORD left these nations and did not drive them out immediately. He did not hand them over to Joshua.

3¹ These are the nations the LORD left in order to test Israel, since none of these Israelites had fought in any of the wars with Canaan.

² This was to teach the future generations of the Israelites how to fight in battle, especially those who had not fought before.

³ These nations included: the five rulers of the Philistines and all of the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived in the Lebanese

mountains from Mount Baal-hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath.

⁴ The LORD left them to test Israel, to determine if they would keep the LORD's commands He had given their fathers through Moses.

⁵ But they settled among the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

⁶ The Israelites took their daughters as wives for themselves, gave their own daughters to their sons, and worshiped their gods.

⁷ The Israelites did what was evil in the LORD's sight; they forgot the LORD their God and worshiped the Baals and the Asherahs.

⁸ The LORD's anger burned against Israel, and He sold them to Cushan-rishathaim king of Aram of the Two Rivers, and the Israelites served him eight years.

⁹ The Israelites cried out to the LORD. So the LORD raised up Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's youngest brother as a deliverer to save the Israelites.

¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD was on him, and he judged Israel. Othniel went out to battle, and the LORD handed over Cushan-rishathaim king of Aram to him, so that Othniel overpowered him.

¹¹ Then the land was peaceful 40 years, and Othniel son of Kenaz died.

¹² The Israelites again did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He gave Eglon king of Moab power over Israel, because they had done what was evil in the LORD's sight.

¹³ After Eglon convinced the Ammonites and the Amalekites to join forces with him, he attacked and defeated Israel and took possession of the City of Palms.

¹⁴ The Israelites served Eglon king of Moab 18 years.

¹⁵ Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, and He raised up Ehud son of Gera, a left-handed Benjaminite, as a deliverer for them. The Israelites sent him to Eglon king of Moab with tribute money .

¹⁶ Ehud made himself a double-edged sword 18 inches long. He strapped it to his right thigh under his clothes

¹⁷ and brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab, who was an extremely fat man.

¹⁸ When Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he dismissed the people who had carried it.

¹⁹ At the carved images near Gilgal he returned and said, "King Eglon , I have a secret message for you." The king called for silence, and all his attendants left him.

²⁰ Then Ehud approached him while he was sitting alone in his room upstairs where it was cool. Ehud said, "I have a

word from God for you," and the king stood up from his throne.

²¹ Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and plunged it into Eglon's belly.

²² Even the handle went in after the blade, and Eglon's fat closed in over it, so that Ehud did not withdraw the sword from his belly. And Eglon's insides came out.

²³ Ehud escaped by way of the porch, closing and locking the doors of the upstairs room behind him.

²⁴ Ehud was gone when Eglon's servants came in. They looked and found the doors of the upstairs room locked and thought he was relieving himself in the cool room.

²⁵ The servants waited until they became worried and saw that he had still not opened the doors of the upstairs room. So they took the key and opened

the doors--and there was their lord lying dead on the floor!

²⁶ Ehud escaped while the servants waited. He crossed over the Jordan near the carved images and reached Seirah.

²⁷ After he arrived, he sounded the ram's horn throughout the hill country of Ephraim. The Israelites came down with him from the hill country, and he became their leader.

²⁸ He told them, "Follow me, because the LORD has handed over your enemies, the Moabites, to you." So they followed him, captured the fords of the Jordan leading to Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross over.

²⁹ At that time they struck down about 10,000 Moabites, all strong and able-bodied men. Not one of them escaped.

³⁰ Moab became subject to Israel that day, and the land was peaceful 80 years.

³¹ After Ehud, Shamgar son of Anath became judge . He delivered Israel by striking down 600 Philistines with an oxgoad.

4 ¹ The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud had died.

² So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his forces was Sisera who lived in Harosheth of the Nations.

³ Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD, because Jabin had 900 iron chariots, and he harshly oppressed them 20 years.

⁴ Deborah, a woman who was a prophet and the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

⁵ It was her custom to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim,

and the Israelites went up to her for judgment.

⁶ She summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "Hasn't the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you : 'Go, deploy the troops on Mount Tabor, and take with you 10,000 men from the Naphtalites and Zebulunites?

⁷ Then I will lure Sisera commander of Jabin's forces, his chariots, and his army at the Wadi Kishon to fight against you, and I will hand him over to you."

⁸ Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go. But if you will not go with me, I will not go."

⁹ "I will go with you," she said, "but you will receive no honor on the road you are about to take, because the LORD will sell Sisera into a woman's hand." So Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

¹⁰ Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; 10,000 men followed him, and Deborah also went with him.

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had moved away from the Kenites, the sons of Hobab, Moses' father-in-law, and pitched his tent beside the oak tree of Zaanannim, which was near Kedesh.

¹² It was reported to Sisera that Barak son of Abinoam had gone up Mount Tabor.

¹³ Sisera summoned all his 900 iron chariots and all the people who were with him from Harosheth of the Nations to the Wadi Kishon.

¹⁴ Then Deborah said to Barak, "Move on, for this is the day the LORD has handed Sisera over to you. Hasn't the LORD gone before you?" So Barak came down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him.

¹⁵ The LORD threw Sisera, all his charioteers, and all his army into confusion with the sword before Barak. Sisera left his chariot and fled on foot.

¹⁶ Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth of the Nations, and the whole army of Sisera fell by the sword; not a single man was left.

¹⁷ Meanwhile, Sisera had fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite.

¹⁸ Jael went out to greet Sisera and said to him, "Come in, my lord. Come in with me. Don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she covered him with a rug.

¹⁹ He said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink for I am thirsty." She opened a container of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him again .

²⁰ Then he said to her, "Stand at the entrance to the tent. If a man comes and asks you, 'Is there a man here?' say, 'No.'"

²¹ While he was sleeping from exhaustion, Heber's wife Jael took a tent peg, grabbed a hammer, and went silently to Sisera. She hammered the peg into his temple and drove it into the ground, and he died.

²² When Barak arrived in pursuit of Sisera, Jael went out to greet him and said to him, "Come and I will show you the man you are looking for." So he went in with her, and there was Sisera lying dead with a tent peg through his temple!

²³ That day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan before the Israelites.

²⁴ The power of the Israelites continued to increase against Jabin king of Canaan until they destroyed him.

5 ¹ On that day Deborah and Barak son of Abinoam sang:

² When the leaders lead in Israel, when the people volunteer, praise the LORD.

³ Listen, kings! Pay attention, princes! I will sing to the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

⁴ LORD, when You came from Seir, when You marched from the fields of Edom, the earth trembled, the heavens poured rain, the clouds poured water.

⁵ The mountains melted before the LORD, even Sinai before the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁶ In the days of Shamgar son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the main ways were deserted, because travelers kept to the side roads.

⁷ Villages were deserted, they were deserted in Israel, until I, Deborah, I arose, a mother in Israel.

⁸ Israel chose new gods, then war was in the gates. Not a shield or spear was seen among 40,000 in Israel.

⁹ My heart is with the leaders of Israel, with the volunteers of the people. Praise the LORD!

¹⁰ You who ride on white donkeys, who sit on saddle blankets, and who travel on the road, give praise!

¹¹ Let them tell the righteous acts of the LORD, the righteous deeds of His warriors in Israel, with the voices of the singers at the watering places. Then the LORD's people went down to the gates.

¹² "Awake! Awake, Deborah! Awake! Awake, sing a song! Arise Barak, and take hold of your captives, son of Abinoam!"

¹³ The survivors came down to the nobles; the LORD's people came down to me with the warriors.

¹⁴ Those with their roots in Amalek came from Ephraim; Benjamin came with

your people after you. The leaders came down from Machir, and those who carry a marshal's staff came from Zebulun.

¹⁵ The princes of Issachar were with Deborah; Issachar was with Barak. They set out at his heels in the valley. There was great searching of heart among the clans of Reuben.

¹⁶ Why did you sit among the sheepfolds listening to the playing of pipes for the flocks? There was great searching of heart among the clans of Reuben.

¹⁷ Gilead remained beyond the Jordan. Dan, why did you linger at the ships? Asher remained at the seashore and stayed in his harbors.

¹⁸ Zebulun was a people risking their lives, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.

¹⁹ Kings came and fought. Then the kings of Canaan fought at Taanach by

the waters of Megiddo, but they took no spoil of silver.

²⁰ The stars fought from the heavens; the stars fought with Sisera from their courses.

²¹ The river Kishon swept them away, the ancient river, the river Kishon. March on, my soul, in strength!

²² The horses' hooves then hammered—the galloping, galloping of his stallions.

²³ "Curse Meroz," says the Angel of the LORD, "Bitterly curse her inhabitants, for they did not come to help the LORD, to help the LORD against the mighty warriors."

²⁴ Jael is most blessed of women, the wife of Heber the Kenite; she is most blessed among tent-dwelling women.

²⁵ He asked for water; she gave him milk. She brought him curdled milk in a majestic bowl.

²⁶ She reached for a tent peg, her right hand, for a workman's mallet. Then she hammered Sisera--she crushed his head; she shattered and pierced his temple.

²⁷ He collapsed, he fell, he lay down at her feet; he collapsed, he fell at her feet; where he collapsed, there he fell--dead.

²⁸ Sisera's mother looked through the window; she peered through the lattice, crying out: "Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why don't I hear the hoofbeats of his horses?"

²⁹ Her wisest princesses answer her; she even answers herself:

³⁰ "Are they not finding and dividing the spoil--a girl or two for each warrior, the spoil of colored garments for Sisera, the spoil of an embroidered garment or two for my neck?"

³¹ LORD, may all your enemies perish as Sisera did. But may those who love Him be like the rising of the sun in its

strength. And the land was peaceful 40 years.

6¹ The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD handed them over to Midian seven years,

² and they oppressed Israel. Because of Midian, the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds.

³ Whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and the eastern peoples came and attacked them.

⁴ They encamped against them and destroyed the produce of the land, even as far as Gaza. They left nothing for Israel to eat, as well as no sheep, ox or donkey.

⁵ For the Midianites came with their cattle and their tents like a great swarm of locusts. They and their camels were

without number, and they entered the land to waste it.

⁶ So Israel became poverty stricken because of Midian, and the Israelites cried out to the LORD.

⁷ When the Israelites cried out to Him because of Midian,

⁸ the LORD sent a prophet to them. He said to them, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I brought you out of Egypt and out of the place of slavery.

⁹ I delivered you from the power of Egypt and the power of all who oppressed you. I drove them out before you and gave you their land.

¹⁰ I said to you: I am the LORD your God. Do not fear the gods of the Amorites whose land you live in. But you did not obey Me.'"

¹¹ The Angel of the LORD came, and He sat under the oak that was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash, the Abiezrite.

His son Gideon was threshing wheat in the wine vat in order to hide it from the Midianites.

¹² Then the Angel of the LORD appeared to him and said: "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."

¹³ Gideon said to Him, "Please Sir, if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened? And where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about? They said, 'Hasn't the LORD brought us out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to Midian."

¹⁴ The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and deliver Israel from the power of Midian. Am I not sending you?"

¹⁵ He said to Him, "Please, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Look, my family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house."

¹⁶ "But I will be with you," the LORD said to him. "You will strike Midian down as if it were one man."

¹⁷ Then he said to Him, "If I have found favor in Your sight, give me a sign that You are speaking with me.

¹⁸ Please do not leave this place until I return to You. Let me bring my gift and set it before You." And He said, "I will stay until you return."

¹⁹ So Gideon went and prepared a young goat and unleavened bread from a half bushel of flour. He placed the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot. He brought them out and offered them to Him under the oak.

²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat with the unleavened bread, put it on this stone, and pour the broth on it ." And he did so.

²¹ The Angel of the LORD extended the tip of the staff that was in His hand and

touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire came up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. Then the Angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.

²² When Gideon realized that He was the Angel of the LORD, he said, "Oh no, Lord GOD! I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face!"

²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace to you. Don't be afraid, for you will not die."

²⁴ So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it Yahweh Shalom. It is in Ophrah of the Abiezrites until today.

²⁵ On that very night the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull and a second bull seven years old. Then tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.

²⁶ Build a well-constructed altar to the LORD your God on the top of this rock. Take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah pole you cut down."

²⁷ So Gideon took 10 of his male servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of his father's household and the men of the city to do it in the daytime, he did it at night.

²⁸ When the men of the city got up in the morning, they found Baal's altar torn down, the Asherah pole beside it cut down, and the second bull offered up on the altar that had been built.

²⁹ They said to each other, "Who did this?" After they made a thorough investigation, they said, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

³⁰ Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die,

because he tore down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."

³¹ But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead Baal's case for him? Would you save him? Whoever pleads his case will be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead his own case, because someone tore down his altar."

³² That day, Gideon's father called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead his case with him," because he tore down his altar.

³³ All the Midianites, Amalekites, and Qedemites gathered together, crossed over the Jordan , and camped in the Valley of Jezreel.

³⁴ The Spirit of the LORD enveloped Gideon, and he blew the ram's horn and the Abiezrites rallied behind him.

³⁵ He sent messengers throughout all of Manasseh, who rallied behind him. He

also sent messengers throughout Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, who also came to meet him.

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "If You will deliver Israel by my hand, as You said,

³⁷ I will put a fleece of wool here on the threshing floor. If dew is only on the fleece, and all the ground is dry, I will know that You will deliver Israel by my strength, as You said."

³⁸ And that is what happened. When he got up early in the morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung dew out of it, filling a bowl with water.

³⁹ Gideon then said to God, "Don't be angry with me; let me speak one more time. Please allow me to make one more test with the fleece. Let it remain dry, and the dew be all over the ground."

⁴⁰ That night God did as Gideon requested : only the fleece was dry, and dew was all over the ground.

7¹ Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and everyone who was with him, got up early and camped beside the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them, below the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

² The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many people for Me to hand the Midianites over to you, or else Israel might brag: 'I did it myself.'

³ Now announce in the presence of the people: 'Whoever is fearful and trembling may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So 22,000 of the people turned back, but 10,000 remained.

⁴ Then the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many people. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. If I say to you, 'This one can go with you,' he can go. But if I say about anyone, 'This one cannot go with you,' he cannot go."

⁵ So he brought the people down to the water, and the LORD said to Gideon, "Separate everyone who laps water with his tongue like a dog. Do the same with everyone who kneels to drink."

⁶ The number of those who lapped with their hands to their mouths was 300 men, and all the rest of the people knelt to drink water.

⁷ The LORD said to Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped and hand the Midianites over to you. But everyone else is to go home."

⁸ So Gideon sent all the Israelites to their tents, but kept the 300 who took the people's provisions and their trumpets. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹ That night the LORD said to him, "Get up and go into the camp, for I have given it into your hand."

¹⁰ But if you are afraid to go to the camp, go with Purah your servant.

¹¹ Listen to what they say, and then you will be strengthened to go to the camp." So he went with Purah his servant to the outpost of the troops who were in the camp.

¹² Now the Midianites, Amalekites, and all the Qedemites had settled down in the valley like a swarm of locusts, and their camels were as innumerable as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ When Gideon arrived, there was a man telling his friend about a dream. He said, "Listen, I had a dream: a loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp, struck a tent, and it fell. The loaf turned the tent upside down so that it collapsed."

¹⁴ His friend answered: "This is nothing less than the sword of Gideon son of

Joash, the Israelite. God has handed the entire Midianite camp over to him."

¹⁵ When Gideon heard the account of the dream and its interpretation, he bowed in worship. He returned to Israel's camp and said, "Get up, for the LORD has handed the Midianite camp over to you."

¹⁶ Then he divided the 300 men into three companies and gave each of the men a trumpet in one hand and an empty pitcher with a torch inside it in the other .

¹⁷ "Watch me," he said, "and do the same. When I come to the outpost of the camp, do as I do.

¹⁸ When I and everyone with me blow our trumpets, you are also to blow your trumpets all around the camp. Then you will say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!'"

¹⁹ Gideon and the 100 men who were with him went to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch after the sentries had been stationed. They blew their trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands.

²⁰ The three companies blew their trumpets and shattered their pitchers. They held their torches in their left hands, their trumpets in their right hands, and shouted, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

²¹ Each Israelite took his position around the camp, and the entire Midianite army fled, and cried out as they ran.

²² When Gideon's men blew their 300 trumpets, the LORD set the swords of each man in the army against each other. They fled to Beth-shittah in the

direction of Zererah as far as the border of Abel-meholah near Tabbath.

²³ Then the men of Israel were called from Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh, and they pursued the Midianites.

²⁴ Gideon sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim with this message: "Come down to intercept the Midianites and take control of the watercourses ahead of them as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan." So all the men of Ephraim were called out, and they took control of the watercourses as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan.

²⁵ They captured Oreb and Zeeb, the two princes of Midian; they killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb, while they were pursuing the Midianites. They brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon across the Jordan.

8 ¹ The men of Ephraim said to him, "Why have you done this to us, not calling us when you went to fight against the Midianites?" And they argued with him violently.

² So he said to them, "What have I done now compared to you? Is not the gleaning of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?"

³ God handed over to you Oreb and Zeeb, the two princes of Midian. What was I able to do compared to you?" When he said this, their anger against him subsided.

⁴ Gideon and the 300 men came to the Jordan and crossed it. They were exhausted, but still in pursuit.

⁵ He said to the men of Succoth, "Please give some loaves of bread to the people who are following me, because they are exhausted, for I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

⁶ But the princes of Succoth asked, "Are Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hands that we should give bread to your army?"

⁷ Gideon replied, "Very well, when the LORD has handed Zebah and Zalmunna over to me, I will trample your flesh on thorns and briars from the wilderness!"

⁸ He went from there to Penuel and asked the same thing from them. The men of Penuel answered just as the men of Succoth had answered.

⁹ He also told the men of Penuel, "When I return in peace, I will tear down this tower!"

¹⁰ Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and with them was their army of about 15,000 men, who were all those left of the entire army of the Qedemites. Those who had been killed were 120,000 warriors.

¹¹ Gideon traveled on the caravan route, east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and attacked their army while the army was unsuspecting.

¹² Zebah and Zalmunna fled, and he pursued them. He captured these two kings of Midian and routed the entire army.

¹³ Gideon son of Joash returned from the battle by the ascent of Heres.

¹⁴ He captured a youth from the men of Succoth and interrogated him. The youth wrote down for him the names of the 77 princes and elders of Succoth.

¹⁵ Then he went to the men of Succoth and said, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna. You taunted me about them, saying, 'Are Zebah and Zalmunna now in your power that we should give bread to your exhausted men?'"

¹⁶ So he took the elders of the city, as well as some thorns and briers from the

wilderness, and he disciplined the men of Succoth with them.

¹⁷ He also tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.

¹⁸ He asked Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men did you kill at Tabor?" "They were like you," they said. "Each resembled the son of a king."

¹⁹ So he said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother! As the LORD lives, if you had let them live, I would not kill you."

²⁰ Then he said to Jether, his firstborn, "Get up and kill them." The youth did not draw his sword, because he was afraid, for he was still a youth.

²¹ Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Get up and kill us yourself, for a man is judged by his strength." So Gideon got up, killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that were on the necks of their camels.

²² Then the Israelites said to Gideon, "Rule over us, you as well as your sons and your grandsons, for you delivered us from the power of Midian."

²³ But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you."

²⁴ Then he said to them, "Let me make a request of you: Everyone give me an earring from his plunder." Now the enemy had gold earrings because they were Ishmaelites.

²⁵ They said, "We agree to give them." So they spread out a mantle, and everyone threw an earring from his plunder on it.

²⁶ The weight of the gold earrings he requested was about 43 pounds of gold, in addition to the crescent ornaments and ear pendants, the purple garments on the kings of Midian, and the chains on the necks of their camels.

²⁷ Gideon made an ephod from all this and put it in Ophrah, his hometown. Then all Israel prostituted themselves with it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his household.

²⁸ So Midian was subdued before the Israelites, and they were no longer a threat. The land was peaceful 40 years during the days of Gideon.

²⁹ Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) son of Joash went back to live at his house.

³⁰ Gideon had 70 sons, his own offspring, since he had many wives.

³¹ His concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech.

³² Then Gideon son of Joash died at a ripe old age and was buried in the tomb of his father Joash in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

³³ When Gideon died, the Israelites turned and prostituted themselves with

the Baals and made Baal-berith their god.

³⁴ The Israelites did not remember the LORD their God who had delivered them from the power of the enemies around them.

³⁵ They did not show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) for all the good he had done for Israel.

9 ¹ Abimelech son of Jerubbaal went to his mother's brothers at Shechem and spoke to them and to all his maternal grandfather's clan, saying,

² "Please speak in the presence of all the lords of Shechem, 'Is it better for you that 70 men, all the sons of Jerubbaal, rule over you or that one man rule over you?' Remember that I am your own flesh and blood."

³ His mother's relatives spoke all these words about him in the presence of all the lords of Shechem, and they were

favorable to Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

⁴ So they gave him 70 pieces of silver from the temple of Baal-berith. Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men with this money, and they followed him.

⁵ He went to his father's house in Ophrah and killed his 70 brothers, the sons of Jerubbaal, on top of a large stone. But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerubbaal, survived, because he hid himself.

⁶ Then all the lords of Shechem and of Beth-millo gathered together and proceeded to make Abimelech king at the oak of the pillar in Shechem.

⁷ When they told Jotham, he climbed to the top of Mount Gerizim, raised his voice, and called to them: Listen to me, lords of Shechem, and may God listen to you:

⁸ The trees set out to anoint a king over themselves. They said to the olive tree, "Reign over us."

⁹ But the olive tree said to them, "Should I stop giving my oil that honors both God and man, and rule over the trees?"

¹⁰ Then the trees said to the fig tree, "Come and reign over us."

¹¹ But the fig tree said to them, "Should I stop giving my sweetness and my good fruit, and rule over trees?"

¹² Later, the trees said to the grapevine, "Come and reign over us."

¹³ But the grapevine said to them, "Should I stop giving my wine that cheers both God and man, and rule over trees?"

¹⁴ Finally, all the trees said to the bramble, "Come and reign over us."

¹⁵ The bramble said to the trees, "If you really are anointing me as king over you, come and find refuge in my shade. But if

not, may fire come out from the bramble and consume the cedars of Lebanon."

¹⁶ "Now if you have acted faithfully and honestly in making Abimelech king, if you have done well by Jerubbaal and his family, and if you have rewarded him appropriately for what he did--

¹⁷ for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you from the hand of Midian,

¹⁸ and now you have attacked my father's house today, killed his 70 sons on top of a large stone, and made Abimelech, the son of his slave, king over the lords of Shechem 'because he is your brother'--

¹⁹ if then, you have acted faithfully and honestly with Jerubbaal and his house this day, rejoice in Abimelech and may he also rejoice in you.

²⁰ But if not, may fire come from Abimelech and consume the lords of

Shechem and Beth-millo, and may fire come from the lords of Shechem and Beth-millo and consume Abimelech."

²¹ Then Jotham fled, escaping to Beer, and lived there because of his brother Abimelech.

²² When Abimelech had ruled over Israel three years,

²³ God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the lords of Shechem. They treated Abimelech deceitfully,

²⁴ so that the crime against the 70 sons of Jerubbaal might come to justice and their blood would be avenged on their brother Abimelech, who killed them, and on the lords of Shechem, who had helped him kill his brothers.

²⁵ The lords of Shechem rebelled against him by putting people on the tops of the mountains to ambush and rob everyone who passed by them

on the road. So this was reported to Abimelech.

²⁶ Gaal son of Ebed came with his brothers and crossed into Shechem, and the lords of Shechem trusted him.

²⁷ So they went out to the countryside and harvested grapes from their vineyards. They trod the grapes and held a celebration. Then they went to the house of their god, and as they ate and drank, they cursed Abimelech.

²⁸ Gaal son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech and who is Shechem that we should serve him? Isn't he the son of Jerubbaal, and isn't Zebul his officer? You are to serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem. Why should we serve Abimelech?"

²⁹ If only these people were in my power, I would remove Abimelech." So he said to Abimelech, "Gather your army and come out."

³⁰ When Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard the words of Gaal son of Ebed, he was angry.

³¹ So he sent messengers secretly to Abimelech, saying, "Look, Gaal son of Ebed, with his brothers, have come to Shechem and are turning the city against you.

³² Now tonight, you and the people with you are to come wait in ambush in the countryside.

³³ Then get up early and at sunrise, charge the city. When he and the people who are with him come out against you, do to him whatever you can."

³⁴ So Abimelech and all the people with him got up at night and waited in ambush for Shechem in four units.

³⁵ Gaal son of Ebed went out and stood at the entrance of the city gate. Then Abimelech and the people who were with him got up from their ambush.

³⁶ When Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people are coming down from the mountaintops!" But Zebul said to him, "The shadows of the mountains look like men to you."

³⁷ Then Gaal spoke again: "Look, people are coming down from the central part of the land, and one unit is coming from the direction of the Diviners' Oak."

³⁸ Zebul replied, "Where is your mouthing off now? You said, 'Who is Abimelech that we should serve him?' Aren't these the people you despised? Now go and fight them!"

³⁹ So Gaal went out leading the lords of Shechem and fought against Abimelech,

⁴⁰ but Abimelech pursued him, and Gaal fled before him. Many wounded died as far as the entrance of the gate.

⁴¹ Abimelech stayed in Arumah, and Zebul drove Gaal and his brothers from Shechem.

⁴² The next day when the people went into the countryside, this was reported to Abimelech.

⁴³ He took the people, divided them into three companies, and waited in ambush in the countryside. He looked, and the people were coming out of the city, so he arose against them and struck them down.

⁴⁴ Then Abimelech and the units that were with him rushed forward and took their stand at the entrance of the city gate. The other two units rushed against all who were in the countryside and struck them down.

⁴⁵ So Abimelech fought against the city that entire day, captured it, and killed the people who were in it. Then he tore down the city and sowed it with salt.

⁴⁶ When all the lords of the Tower of Shechem heard, they entered the inner chamber of the temple of El-berith.

⁴⁷ Then it was reported to Abimelech that all the lords of the Tower of Shechem had gathered together.

⁴⁸ So Abimelech and all the people who were with him went up to Mount Zalmon. Abimelech took his ax in his hand and cut a branch from the trees. He picked up the branch, put it on his shoulder, and said to the people who were with him, "Hurry and do what you have seen me do."

⁴⁹ Each person also cut his own branch and followed Abimelech. They put the branches against the inner chamber and set it on fire around the people, and all the people in the Tower of Shechem died--about 1,000 men and women.

⁵⁰ Abimelech went to Thebez, camped against it, and captured it.

⁵¹ There was a strong tower inside the city, and all the men, women, and lords of the city fled there. They locked

themselves in and went up to the roof of the tower.

⁵² When Abimelech came to attack the tower, he approached its entrance to set it on fire.

⁵³ But a woman threw the upper portion of a millstone on Abimelech's head and fractured his skull.

⁵⁴ He quickly called his armor-bearer and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, or they'll say about me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his armor-bearer thrust him through, and he died.

⁵⁵ When the Israelites saw that Abimelech was dead, they all went home.

⁵⁶ In this way, the evil that Abimelech had done against his father, by killing his 70 brothers, God turned back on him.

⁵⁷ And God also returned all the evil of the men of Shechem on their heads. So

the curse of Jotham son of Jerubbaal came on them.

10¹ After Abimelech, Tola son of Puah, son of Dodo became judge and began to deliver Israel. He was from Issachar and lived in Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim.

² Tola judged Israel 23 years, and when he died, was buried in Shamir.

³ After him came Jair the Gileadite, who judged Israel 22 years.

⁴ He had 30 sons who rode on 30 young donkeys. They had 30 towns in Gilead, which are called Jair's Villages to this day.

⁵ When Jair died, he was buried in Kamon.

⁶ Then the Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They worshiped the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Aram, Sidon, and Moab, and the gods of the Ammonites and the

Philistines. They abandoned the LORD and did not worship Him.

⁷ So the LORD's anger burned against Israel, and He sold them to the Philistines and the Ammonites.

⁸ They shattered and crushed the Israelites that year, and for 18 years they did the same to all the Israelites who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites in Gilead.

⁹ The Ammonites also crossed the Jordan to fight against Judah, Benjamin, and the house of Ephraim. Israel was greatly oppressed,

¹⁰ so they cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against You. We have abandoned our God and worshiped the Baals."

¹¹ The LORD said to the Israelites, "When the Egyptians, Amorites, Ammonites, Philistines,

¹² Sidonians, Amalekites, and Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to Me, did I not deliver you from their power?

¹³ But you have abandoned Me and worshiped other gods. Therefore, I will not deliver you again.

¹⁴ Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them deliver you in the time of your oppression."

¹⁵ But the Israelites said, "We have sinned. Deal with us as You see fit; only deliver us today!"

¹⁶ So they got rid of the foreign gods among them and worshiped the LORD, but He became weary of Israel's misery.

¹⁷ The Ammonites were called together, and they camped in Gilead. So the Israelites assembled and camped at Mizpah.

¹⁸ The rulers of Gilead said to one another, "Which man will lead the fight

against the Ammonites? He will be the leader of all the inhabitants of Gilead."

11 ¹ Jephthah the Gileadite was a great warrior, but he was the son of a prostitute, and Gilead was his father.

² Gilead's wife bore him sons, and when they grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You will have no inheritance in our father's house, because you are the son of another woman."

³ So Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob. Then some lawless men joined Jephthah and traveled with him.

⁴ Some time later, the Ammonites fought against Israel.

⁵ When the Ammonites made war with Israel, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶ They said to him, "Come, be our commander, and let's fight against the Ammonites."

⁷ Jephthah replied to the elders of Gilead, "Didn't you hate me and drive me from my father's house? Why then have you come to me now when you're in trouble?"

⁸ They answered Jephthah, "Since that's true, we now turn to you. Come with us, fight the Ammonites, and you will become leader of all the inhabitants of Gilead."

⁹ So Jephthah said to them, "If you are bringing me back to fight the Ammonites and the LORD gives them to me, I will be your leader."

¹⁰ The elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD is our witness if we don't do as you say."

¹¹ So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead. The people put him over

themselves as leader and commander, and Jephthah repeated all his terms in the presence of the LORD at Mizpah.

¹² Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites, saying, "What do you have against me that you have come to fight against me in my land?"

¹³ The king of the Ammonites said to Jephthah's messengers, "When Israel came from Egypt, they seized my land from the Arnon to the Jabbok and the Jordan. Now restore it peaceably."

¹⁴ Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites

¹⁵ to tell him, "This is what Jephthah says: Israel did not take away the land of Moab or the land of the Ammonites.

¹⁶ But when they came from Egypt, Israel traveled through the wilderness to the Red Sea and came to Kadesh.

¹⁷ Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Please let us travel

through your land,' but the king of Edom would not listen. They also sent messengers to the king of Moab, but he refused. So Israel stayed in Kadesh.

¹⁸ "Then they traveled through the wilderness and around the lands of Edom and Moab. They came to the east side of the land of Moab and camped on the other side of the Arnon but did not enter into the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was the boundary of Moab.

¹⁹ "Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon. Israel said to him, 'Please let us travel through your land to our country,'

²⁰ but Sihon did not trust Israel. Instead, Sihon gathered all his people, camped at Jahaz, and fought with Israel.

²¹ Then the LORD God of Israel handed over Sihon and all his people to Israel, and they defeated them. So Israel took

possession of the entire land of the Amorites who lived in that country.

²² They took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the wilderness to the Jordan.

²³ "The LORD God of Israel has now driven out the Amorites before His people Israel, but will you drive us out?

²⁴ Isn't it true that you may possess whatever your god Chemosh drives out for you, and we may possess everything the LORD our God drives out before us?

²⁵ Now are you any better than Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever contend with Israel or fight against them?

²⁶ While Israel lived 300 years in Heshbon and its villages, in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, why didn't you take them back at that time?

²⁷ I have not sinned against you, but you have wronged me by fighting against me. Let the LORD who is the Judge decide today between the Israelites and the Ammonites."

²⁸ But the king of the Ammonites would not listen to Jephthah's message that he sent him.

²⁹ The Spirit of the LORD came on Jephthah, who traveled through Gilead and Manasseh, and then through Mizpah of Gilead. He crossed over to the Ammonites from Mizpah of Gilead.

³⁰ Jephthah made this vow to the LORD: "If You will hand over the Ammonites to me,

³¹ whatever comes out of the doors of my house to greet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites will belong to the LORD, and I will offer it as a burnt offering."

³² Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD handed them over to him.

³³ He defeated 20 of their cities with a great slaughter from Aroer all the way to the entrance of Minnith and to Abel-keramim. So the Ammonites were subdued before the Israelites.

³⁴ When Jephthah went to his home in Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with tambourines and dancing! She was his only child; he had no other son or daughter besides her.

³⁵ When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "No! Not my daughter! You have devastated me! You have brought great misery on me. I have given my word to the LORD and cannot take it back.

³⁶ Then she said to him, "My father, you have given your word to the LORD. Do to me as you have said, for the LORD

brought vengeance on your enemies, the Ammonites."

³⁷ She also said to her father, "Let me do this one thing: Let me wander two months through the mountains with my friends and mourn my virginity."

³⁸ "Go," he said. And he sent her away two months. So she left with her friends and mourned her virginity as she wandered through the mountains.

³⁹ At the end of two months, she returned to her father, and he kept the vow he had made about her. And she had never been intimate with a man. Now it became a custom in Israel

⁴⁰ that four days each year the young women of Israel would commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

12 ¹ The men of Ephraim were called together and crossed the Jordan to Zaphon. They said to Jephthah, "Why have you crossed over to fight against

the Ammonites but didn't call us to go with you? We will burn your house down with you in it !"

² Then Jephthah said to them, "My people and I had a serious conflict with the Ammonites. So I called for you, but you didn't deliver me from their power.

³ When I saw that you weren't going to deliver me, I took my life in my own hands and crossed over to the Ammonites, and the LORD handed them over to me. Why then have you come today to fight against me?"

⁴ Then Jephthah gathered all of the men of Gilead. They fought and defeated Ephraim, because Ephraim had said, "You Gileadites are Ephraimite fugitives in the territories of Ephraim and Manasseh."

⁵ The Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan leading to Ephraim. Whenever a fugitive from Ephraim said, "Let me cross over," the Gileadites asked

him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he answered, "No,"

⁶ they told him, "Please say Shibboleth." If he said, "Sibboleth," because he could not pronounce it correctly, they seized him and killed him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time, 42,000 from Ephraim died.

⁷ Jephthah judged Israel six years, and when he died, he was buried in one of the cities of Gilead.

⁸ Ibzan, who was from Bethlehem, judged Israel after Jephthah

⁹ and had 30 sons. He gave his 30 daughters in marriage to men outside the tribe and brought back 30 wives for his sons from outside the tribe . Ibzan judged Israel seven years,

¹⁰ and when he died, he was buried in Bethlehem.

¹¹ Elon, who was from Zebulun, judged Israel after Ibzan. He judged Israel 10 years,

¹² and when he died, he was buried in Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

¹³ After Elon, Abdon son of Hillel, who was from Pirathon, judged Israel.

¹⁴ He had 40 sons and 30 grandsons, who rode on 70 donkeys. Abdon judged Israel eight years,

¹⁵ and when he died, he was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

13 ¹ The Israelites again did what was evil in the LORD's sight, so the LORD handed them over to the Philistines 40 years.

² There was a certain man from Zorah, from the family of Dan, whose name was Manoah; his wife was barren and had no children.

³ The Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "It is true that you are barren and have no children, but you will conceive and give birth to a son.

⁴ Now please be careful not to drink wine or other alcoholic beverages, or to eat anything unclean;

⁵ for indeed, you will conceive and give birth to a son. You must never cut his hair, because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from birth, and he will begin to save Israel from the power of the Philistines."

⁶ Then the woman went and told her husband, "A man of God came to me. He looked like the awe-inspiring Angel of God. I didn't ask Him where He came from, and He didn't tell me His name.

⁷ He said to me, 'You will conceive and give a birth to a son. Therefore, do not drink wine or other alcoholic beverages, and do not eat anything unclean,

because the boy will be a Nazirite to God from birth until the day of his death.'" "

⁸ Manoah prayed to the LORD and said, "Please Lord, let the man of God you sent come again to us and teach us what we should do for the boy who will be born."

⁹ God listened to Manoah, and the Angel of GOD came again to the woman. She was sitting in the field, and her husband Manoah was not with her.

¹⁰ The woman ran quickly to her husband and told him, "The man who came to me today has just come back!"

¹¹ So Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he asked, "Are You the man who spoke to my wife?" "I am," He said.

¹² Then Manoah asked, "When Your words come true, what will the boy's responsibilities and mission be?"

¹³ The Angel of the LORD answered Manoah, "Your wife needs to do everything I told her.

¹⁴ She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine or drink wine or other alcoholic beverages. And she must not eat anything unclean. Your wife must do everything I have commanded her."

¹⁵ "Please stay here," Manoah told Him, "and we will prepare a young goat for You."

¹⁶ The Angel of the LORD said to him, "If I stay, I won't eat your food. But if you want to prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD." For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.

¹⁷ Then Manoah said to Him, "What is Your name, so that we may honor You when Your words come true?"

¹⁸ "Why do you ask My name," the Angel of the LORD asked him, "since it is wonderful."

¹⁹ Manoah took a young goat and a grain offering and offered them on a rock to the LORD, and He did a wonderful thing while Manoah and his wife were watching.

²⁰ When the flame went up from the altar to the sky, the Angel of the LORD went up in its flame. When Manoah and his wife saw this , they fell facedown on the ground.

²¹ The Angel of the LORD did not appear again to Manoah and his wife. Then Manoah realized that it was the Angel of the LORD.

²² "We're going to die," he said to his wife, "because we have seen God!"

²³ But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had intended to kill us, He wouldn't have accepted the burnt offering and the

grain offering from us, and He would not have shown us all these things or spoken to us now like this."

²⁴ So the woman gave birth to a son and named him Samson. The boy grew, and the LORD blessed him.

²⁵ Then the Spirit of the LORD began to direct him in the Camp of Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14 ¹ Samson went down to Timnah and saw a young Philistine woman there.

² He went back and told his father and his mother: "I have seen a young Philistine woman in Timnah. Now get her for me as a wife."

³ But his father and mother said to him, "Can't you find a young woman among your relatives or among any of our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines for a wife?"

But Samson told his father, "Get her for me, because I want her."

⁴ Now his father and mother did not know this was from the LORD, who was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. At that time, the Philistines were ruling over Israel.

⁵ Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Suddenly a young lion came roaring at him,

⁶ the Spirit of the LORD took control of him, and he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he did not tell his father or mother what he had done.

⁷ Then he went and spoke to the woman, because Samson wanted her.

⁸ After some time, when he returned to get her, he left the road to see the lion's carcass, and there was a swarm of bees with honey in the carcass.

⁹ He scooped some honey into his hands and ate it as he went along. When he returned to his father and mother, he gave some to them and they ate it . But he did not tell them that he had scooped the honey from the lion's carcass.

¹⁰ His father went to visit the woman, and Samson prepared a feast there, as young men were accustomed to do.

¹¹ When the Philistines saw him, they brought 30 men to accompany him.

¹² "Let me tell you a riddle," Samson said to them. "If you can explain it to me during the seven days of the feast and figure it out, I will give you 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes.

¹³ But if you can't explain it to me, you must give me 30 linen garments and 30 changes of clothes." "Tell us your riddle," they replied. "Let's hear it."

¹⁴ So he said to them: Out of the eater came something to eat, and out of the

strong came something sweet. After three days, they were unable to explain the riddle.

¹⁵ On the fourth day they said to Samson's wife, "Persuade your husband to explain the riddle to us, or we will burn you and your father's household to death. Did you invite us here to rob us?"

¹⁶ So Samson's wife came to him, weeping, and said, "You hate me and don't love me! You told my people the riddle, but haven't explained it to me." "Look," he said, "I haven't even explained it to my father or mother, so why should I explain it to you?"

¹⁷ She wept the whole seven days of the feast, and at last, on the seventh day, he explained it to her, because she had nagged him so much. Then she explained it to her people.

¹⁸ On the seventh day before sunset, the men of the city said to him: What is

sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion? So he said to them: If you hadn't plowed with my young cow, you wouldn't know my riddle now!

¹⁹ The Spirit of the LORD took control of him, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed 30 of their men. He stripped them and gave their clothes to those who had explained the riddle. In a rage, Samson returned to his father's house,

²⁰ and his wife was given to one of the men who had accompanied him.

15 ¹ Later on, during the wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat as a gift and visited his wife. "I want to go to my wife in her room," he said. But her father would not let him enter.

² "I was sure you hated her," her father said, "so I gave her to one of the men who accompanied you. Isn't her younger sister more beautiful than she is? Why not take her instead?"

³ Samson said to them, "This time I won't be responsible when I harm the Philistines."

⁴ So he went out and caught 300 foxes. He took torches, turned the foxes tail-to-tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.

⁵ Then he ignited the torches and released the foxes into the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the piles of grain and the standing grain as well as the vineyards and olive groves.

⁶ Then the Philistines asked, "Who did this?" They were told, "It was Samson, the Timnite's son-in-law, because he has taken Samson's wife and given her to another man." So the Philistines went to her and her father and burned them to death.

⁷ Then Samson told them, "Because you did this, I swear that I won't rest until I have taken vengeance on you."

⁸ He tore them limb from limb with a great slaughter, and he went down and stayed in the cave at the rock of Etam.

⁹ The Philistines went up, camped in Judah, and raided Lehi.

¹⁰ So the men of Judah said, "Why have you attacked us?" They replied, "We have come to arrest Samson and pay him back for what he did to us."

¹¹ Then 3,000 men of Judah went to the cave at the rock of Etam, and they asked Samson, "Don't you realize that the Philistines rule over us? What have you done to us?" "I have done to them what they did to me," he answered.

¹² They said to him, "We've come to arrest you and hand you over to the Philistines." Then Samson told them, "Swear to me that you yourselves won't kill me."

¹³ "No," they said, "we won't kill you, but we will tie you up securely and hand

you over to them." So they tied him up with two new ropes and led him away from the rock.

¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came to meet him shouting. The Spirit of the LORD took control of him, and the ropes that were on his arms became like burnt flax and his bonds fell off his wrists.

¹⁵ He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand, took it, and killed 1,000 men with it.

¹⁶ Then Samson said: With the jawbone of a donkey I have piled them in a heap. With the jawbone of a donkey I have killed 1,000 men.

¹⁷ When he finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone and named that place Ramath-lehi.

¹⁸ He became very thirsty and called out to the LORD: "You have accomplished this great victory through Your servant.

Must I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"

¹⁹ So God split a hollow place in the ground at Lehi, and water came out of it. After Samson drank, his strength returned, and he revived. That is why he named it En-hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

²⁰ And he judged Israel 20 years in the days of the Philistines.

16 ¹ Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute and went to bed with her.

² When the Gazites heard that Samson was there, they surrounded the place and waited in ambush for him all that night at the city gate. While they were waiting quietly, they said, "Let us wait until dawn; then we will kill him."

³ But Samson stayed in bed until midnight when he got up, took hold of the doors of the city gate along with

the two gateposts, and pulled them out, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and took them to the top of the mountain overlooking Hebron.

⁴ Some time later, he fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the Sorek Valley.

⁵ The Philistine leaders went to her and said, "Persuade him to tell you where his great strength comes from, so we can overpower him, tie him up, and make him helpless. Each of us will then give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me, where does your great strength come from ? How could someone tie you up and make you helpless?"

⁷ Samson told her, "If they tie me up with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I will become weak and be like any other man."

⁸ The Philistine leaders brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him up with them.

⁹ While the men in ambush were waiting in her room, she called out to him, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" But he snapped the bowstrings as a strand of yarn snaps when it touches fire. The secret of his strength remained unknown.

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have mocked me and told me lies! Won't you please tell me how you can be tied up?"

¹¹ He told her, "If they tie me up with new ropes that have never been used, I will become weak and be like any other man."

¹² Delilah took new ropes, tied him up with them, and shouted, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" But while the men

in ambush were waiting in her room, he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread.

¹³ Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have mocked me all along and told me lies! Tell me how you can be tied up." He told her, "If you weave the seven braids on my head with the web of a loom--"

¹⁴ She fastened the braids with a pin and called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled out the pin, with the loom and the web.

¹⁵ "How can you say, 'I love you,'" she told him, "when your heart is not with me? This is the third time you have mocked me and not told me what makes your strength so great!"

¹⁶ Because she nagged him day after day and pled with him until she wore him out,

¹⁷ he told her the whole truth and said to her, "My hair has never been cut, because I am a Nazirite to God from birth. If I am shaved, my strength will leave me, and I will become weak and be like any other man."

¹⁸ When Delilah realized that he had told her the whole truth, she sent this message to the Philistine leaders: "Come one more time, for he has told me the whole truth." The Philistine leaders came to her and brought the money with them.

¹⁹ Then she let him fall asleep on her lap and called a man to shave off the seven braids on his head. In this way, she rendered him helpless, and his strength left him.

²⁰ Then she cried, "Samson, the Philistines are here!" When he awoke from his sleep, he said, "I will escape as I did before and shake myself free." But

he did not know that the LORD had left him.

²¹ The Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes. They brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles, and he was forced to grind grain in the prison.

²² But his hair began to grow back after it had been shaved.

²³ Now the Philistine leaders gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to their god Dagon. They rejoiced and said: Our god has handed over our enemy Samson to us.

²⁴ When the people saw him, they praised their god and said: Our god has handed over to us our enemy who destroyed our land and who multiplied our dead.

²⁵ When they were drunk, they said, "Bring Samson here to entertain us." So they brought Samson from prison,

and he entertained them. They had him stand between the pillars.

²⁶ Samson said to the young man who was leading him by the hand, "Lead me where I can feel the pillars supporting the temple, so I can lean against them."

²⁷ The temple was full of men and women; all the leaders of the Philistines were there, and about 3,000 men and women were on the roof watching Samson entertain them .

²⁸ He called out to the LORD: "Lord GOD, please remember me. Strengthen me, God, just once more. With one act of vengeance, let me pay back the Philistines for my two eyes."

²⁹ Samson took hold of the two middle pillars supporting the temple and leaned against them, one on his right hand and the other on his left.

³⁰ Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." He pushed with all his might,

and the temple fell on the leaders and all the people in it. And the dead he killed at his death were more than those he had killed in his life.

³¹ Then his brothers and his father's family came down, carried him back, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. So he judged Israel 20 years.

17 ¹ There was a man from the hill country of Ephraim named Micah.

² He said to his mother, "The 1,100 pieces of silver taken from you, and that I heard you utter a curse about--here, I have the silver with me. I took it. So now I return it to you." Then his mother said, "My son, you are blessed by the LORD!"

³ He returned the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother, and his mother said, "I personally consecrate the silver to the

LORD for my son's benefit to make a carved image overlaid with silver."

⁴ So he returned the silver to his mother, and she took five pounds of silver and gave it to a silversmith. He made it into a carved image overlaid with silver, and it was in Micah's house.

⁵ This man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household idols, and installed one of his sons to be his priest.

⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever he wanted.

⁷ There was a young man, a Levite, from Bethlehem in Judah, who resided within the clan of Judah.

⁸ The man left the town of Bethlehem in Judah to settle wherever he could find a place. On his way he came to Micah's home in the hill country of Ephraim.

⁹ "Where do you come from?" Micah asked him. He answered him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I'm going to settle wherever I can find a place.

¹⁰ Micah replied, "Stay with me and be my father and priest, and I will give you four ounces of silver a year, along with your clothing and provisions." So the Levite went in

¹¹ and agreed to stay with the man, and the young man became like one of his sons.

¹² Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest and lived in Micah's house.

¹³ Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, because a Levite has become my priest."

18 ¹ In those days, there was no king in Israel, and the Danite tribe was looking for territory to occupy. Up to

that time no territory had been captured by them among the tribes of Israel.

² So the Danites sent out five brave men from all their clans, from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and explore it. They told them, "Go and explore the land." They came to the hill country of Ephraim as far as the home of Micah and spent the night there.

³ While they were near Micah's home, they recognized the speech of the young Levite. So they went over to him and asked, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is keeping you here?"

⁴ He told them what Micah had for him and that he had hired him as his priest.

⁵ Then they said to him, "Please inquire of God so we will know if we will have a successful journey."

⁶ The priest told them, "Go in peace. The LORD is watching over the journey you are going on."

⁷ The five men left and came to Laish. They saw that the people who were there were living securely, in the same way as the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting. There was nothing lacking in the land and no oppressive ruler. They were far from the Sidonians, having no alliance with anyone.

⁸ When the men went back to their clans at Zorah and Eshtaol, their people asked them, "What did you find out?"

⁹ They answered, "Come on, let's go up against them, for we have seen the land, and it is very good. Why wait? Don't hesitate to go and invade and take possession of the land!"

¹⁰ When you get there, you will come to an unsuspecting people and a wide-open land, for God has handed it over to you.

It is a place where nothing on earth is lacking."

¹¹ Six hundred Danites departed from Zorah and Eshtaol armed with weapons of war.

¹² They went up and camped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. This is why the place is called the Camp of Dan to this day; it is west of Kiriath-jearim.

¹³ From there they traveled to the hill country of Ephraim and arrived at Micah's house.

¹⁴ The five men who had gone to spy out the land of Laish told their brothers, "Did you know that there are an ephod, household gods, and a carved image overlaid with silver in these houses? Now think about what you should do."

¹⁵ So they detoured there and went to the house of the young Levite at the home of Micah and greeted him.

¹⁶ The 600 Danite men were standing by the entrance of the gate, armed with their weapons of war.

¹⁷ Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went in and took the carved image overlaid with silver, the ephod, and the household idols, while the priest was standing by the entrance of the gate with the 600 men armed with weapons of war.

¹⁸ When they entered Micah's house and took the carved image overlaid with silver, the ephod, and the household idols, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

¹⁹ They told him, "Be quiet. Keep your mouth shut. Come with us and be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest for the house of one person or for you to be a priest for a tribe and family in Israel?"

²⁰ So the priest was pleased and took his ephod, household idols, and carved image, and went with the people.

²¹ They prepared to leave, putting their small children, livestock, and possessions in front of them.

²² After they were some distance from Micah's house, the men who were in the houses near it mobilized and caught up with the Danites.

²³ They called to the Danites, who turned to face them, and said to Micah, "What's the matter with you that you mobilized the men?"

²⁴ He said, "You took the gods I had made and the priest, and went away. What do I have left? How can you say to me, 'What's the matter with you?'"

²⁵ The Danites said to him, "Don't raise your voice against us, or angry men will attack you, and you and your family will lose your lives."

²⁶ The Danites went on their way, and Micah turned to go back home, because he saw that they were stronger than he was.

²⁷ After they had taken the gods Micah had made and the priest that belonged to him, they went to Laish, to a quiet and unsuspecting people. They killed them with their swords and burned down the city.

²⁸ There was no one to save them, because it was far from Sidon and they had no alliance with anyone. It was in a valley that belonged to Beth-rehob. They rebuilt the city and lived in it.

²⁹ They named the city Dan, after the name of their ancestor Dan, who was born to Israel. The city was formerly named Laish.

³⁰ The Danites set up the carved image for themselves. Jonathan son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons

were priests for the Danite tribe until the time of the exile from the land.

³¹ So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image that he had made, and it was there as long as the house of God was in Shiloh.

19 ¹ In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a Levite living in a remote part of the hill country of Ephraim acquired a woman from Bethlehem in Judah as his concubine.

² But she was unfaithful to him and left him for her father's house in Bethlehem in Judah. She was there for a period of four months.

³ Then her husband got up and went after her to speak kindly to her and bring her back. His servant and a couple of donkeys were with him. So she brought him to her father's house, and when the girl's father saw him, he gladly welcomed him.

⁴ His father-in-law, the girl's father, detained him, and he stayed with him for three days. They ate, drank, and spent the nights there.

⁵ On the fourth day, they got up early in the morning and prepared to go, but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Have something to eat to keep up your strength and then you can go."

⁶ So they sat down and the two of them ate and drank together. Then the girl's father said to the man, "Please agree to stay overnight and enjoy yourself."

⁷ The man got up to go, but his father-in-law persuaded him, so he stayed and spent the night there again.

⁸ He got up early in the morning of the fifth day to leave, but the girl's father said to him, "Please keep up your strength." So they waited until late afternoon and the two of them ate.

⁹ The man got up to go with his concubine and his servant, when his father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, "Look, night is coming. Please spend the night. See, the day is almost over. Spend the night here, enjoy yourself, then you can get up early tomorrow for your journey and go home."

¹⁰ But the man was unwilling to spend the night. He got up, departed, and arrived opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). The man had his two saddled donkeys and his concubine with him.

¹¹ When they were near Jebus and the day was almost gone, the servant said to his master, "Please, why not let us stop at this Jebusite city and spend the night here?"

¹² But his master replied to him, "We will not stop at a foreign city where there are no Israelites. Let's move on to Gibeah."

¹³ "Come on," he said, "let's try to reach one of these places and spend the night in Gibeah or Ramah."

¹⁴ So they continued on their journey, and the sun set as they neared Gibeah in Benjamin.

¹⁵ They stopped to go in and spend the night in Gibeah. The Levite went in and sat down in the city square, but no one took them into their home to spend the night.

¹⁶ In the evening, an old man came in from his work in the field. He was from the hill country of Ephraim but was residing in Gibeah, and the men of that place were Benjaminites.

¹⁷ When he looked up and saw the traveler in the city square, the old man asked, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?"

¹⁸ He answered him, "We're traveling from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote

hill country of Ephraim, where I am from. I went to Bethlehem in Judah, and now I'm going to the house of the LORD. No one has taken me into his home,

¹⁹ although we have both straw and feed for our donkeys, and bread and wine for me, your female servant, and the young man with your servant. There is nothing we lack."

²⁰ "Peace to you," said the old man. "I'll take care of everything you need. Only don't spend the night in the square."

²¹ So he brought him to his house and fed the donkeys. Then they washed their feet and ate and drank.

²² While they were enjoying themselves, all of a sudden, perverted men of the city surrounded the house and beat on the door. They said to the old man who was the owner of the house, "Bring out the man who came

to your house so we can have sex with him!"

²³ The owner of the house went out and said to them, "No, don't do this evil, my brothers. After all, this man has come into my house. Don't do this horrible thing.

²⁴ Here, let me bring out my virgin daughter and the man's concubine now. Use them and do whatever you want to them. But don't do this horrible thing to this man."

²⁵ But the men would not listen to him, so the man seized his concubine and took her outside to them. They raped her and abused her all night until morning. At daybreak they let her go.

²⁶ Early that morning, the woman made her way back, and as it was getting light, she collapsed at the doorway of the man's house where her master was.

²⁷ When her master got up in the morning, opened the doors of the house, and went out to leave on his journey, there was the woman, his concubine, collapsed near the doorway of the house with her hands on the threshold.

²⁸ "Get up," he told her. "Let's go." But there was no response. So the man put her on his donkey and set out for home.

²⁹ When he entered his house, he picked up a knife, took hold of his concubine, cut her into 12 pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout the territory of Israel.

³⁰ Everyone who saw it said, "Nothing like this has ever happened or been seen since the day the Israelites came out of the land of Egypt to this day. Think it over, discuss it, and speak up!"

20 ¹ All the Israelites from Dan to Beer-sheba and from the land of

Gilead came out, and the community assembled as one body before the LORD at Mizpah.

² The leaders of all the people and of all the tribes of Israel presented themselves in the assembly of God's people: 400,000 armed foot soldiers.

³ The Benjaminites heard that the Israelites had gone up to Mizpah. The Israelites asked, "Tell us, how did this outrage occur?"

⁴ The Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, answered: "I went to Gibeah in Benjamin with my concubine to spend the night.

⁵ Citizens of Gibeah ganged up on me and surrounded the house at night. They intended to kill me, but they raped my concubine, and she died.

⁶ Then I took my concubine and cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout Israel's territory, because

they committed a horrible shame in Israel.

⁷ Look, all of you are Israelites. Give your judgment and verdict here and now ."

⁸ Then all the people stood united and said, "None of us will go to his tent or return to his house.

⁹ Now this is what we will do to Gibeah: we will go against it by lot.

¹⁰ We will take 10 men out of every 100 from all the tribes of Israel, and 100 out of every 1,000, and 1,000 out of every 10,000 to get provisions for the people when they go to Gibeah in Benjamin to punish them for all the horror they did in Israel."

¹¹ So all the men of Israel gathered united against the city.

¹² Then the tribes of Israel sent men throughout the tribe of Benjamin,

saying, "What is this outrage that has occurred among you?"

¹³ Hand over the perverted men in Gibeah so we can put them to death and eradicate evil from Israel." But the Benjaminites would not obey their fellow Israelites.

¹⁴ Instead, the Benjaminites gathered together from their cities to Gibeah to go out and fight against the Israelites.

¹⁵ On that day the Benjaminites rallied 26,000 armed men from their cities, besides 700 choice men rallied by the inhabitants of Gibeah.

¹⁶ There were 700 choice men who were left-handed among all these people; all could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

¹⁷ The Israelites, apart from Benjamin, rallied 400,000 armed men, every one an experienced warrior.

¹⁸ They set out, went to Bethel, and inquired of God. The Israelites asked, "Who is to go first to fight for us against the Benjaminites?" And the LORD answered, "Judah will be first."

¹⁹ In the morning, the Israelites set out and camped near Gibeah.

²⁰ The men of Israel went out to fight against Benjamin and took their battle positions against Gibeah.

²¹ The Benjaminites came out of Gibeah and slaughtered 22,000 men of Israel on the field that day.

²² But the Israelite army rallied and again took their battle positions in the same place where they positioned themselves on the first day.

²³ They went up, wept before the LORD until evening, and inquired of Him: "Should we again fight against our brothers the Benjaminites?" And the LORD answered: "Fight against them."

²⁴ On the second day the Israelites advanced against the Benjaminites.

²⁵ That same day the Benjaminites came out from Gibeah to meet them and slaughtered an additional 18,000 Israelites on the field; all were armed men.

²⁶ The whole Israelite army went to Bethel where they wept and sat before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD.

²⁷ Then the Israelites inquired of the LORD. In those days, the ark of the covenant of God was there,

²⁸ and Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, was serving before it. The Israelites asked: "Should we again fight against our brothers the Benjaminites or should we stop?" The LORD answered: "Fight, because I will hand them over to you tomorrow."

²⁹ So Israel set up an ambush around Gibeah.

³⁰ On the third day the Israelites fought against the Benjaminites and took their battle positions against Gibeah as before.

³¹ Then the Benjaminites came out against the people and were drawn away from the city. They began to attack the people as before, killing about 30 men of Israel on the highways, one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah through the open country.

³² The Benjaminites said, "We are defeating them as before." But the Israelites said, "Let's flee and draw them away from the city to the highways."

³³ So all the men of Israel got up from their places and took their battle positions at Baal-tamar, while the Israelites in ambush charged out of their places west of Geba.

³⁴ Then 10,000 choice men from all Israel made a frontal assault against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce, but the Benjaminites did not know that disaster was about to strike them.

³⁵ The LORD defeated Benjamin in the presence of Israel, and on that day the Israelites slaughtered 25,100 men of Benjamin; all were armed men.

³⁶ Then the Benjaminites realized they had been defeated. The men of Israel had retreated before Benjamin, because they were confident in the ambush they had set against Gibeah.

³⁷ The men in ambush had rushed quickly against Gibeah; they advanced and put the whole city to the sword.

³⁸ The men of Israel had a prearranged signal with the men in ambush: when they sent up a great cloud of smoke from the city,

³⁹ the men of Israel would return to the battle. When Benjamin had begun to strike them down, killing about 30 men of Israel, they said, "They're defeated before us, just as they were in the first battle."

⁴⁰ But when the column of smoke began to go up from the city, Benjamin looked behind them, and the whole city was going up in smoke.

⁴¹ Then the men of Israel returned, and the men of Benjamin were terrified when they realized that disaster had struck them.

⁴² They retreated before the men of Israel toward the wilderness, but the battle overtook them, and those who came out of the cities slaughtered those between them.

⁴³ They surrounded the Benjaminites, pursued them, and easily overtook them near Gibeah toward the east.

⁴⁴ There were 18,000 men who died from Benjamin; all were warriors.

⁴⁵ Then Benjamin turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon, and Israel killed 5,000 men on the highways. They overtook them at Gidom and struck 2,000 more dead.

⁴⁶ All the Benjaminites who died that day were 25,000 armed men; all were warriors.

⁴⁷ But 600 men escaped into the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon and stayed there four months.

⁴⁸ The men of Israel turned back against the other Benjaminites and killed them with their swords--the entire city, the animals, and everything that remained. They also burned down all the cities that remained.

21 ¹ The men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah: "None of us will

give his daughter to a Benjaminite in marriage."

² So the people went to Bethel and sat there before God until evening. They wept loudly and bitterly,

³ and cried out, "Why, LORD God of Israel, has it occurred that one tribe is missing in Israel today?"

⁴ The next day the people got up early, built an altar there, and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings.

⁵ The Israelites asked, "Who of all the tribes of Israel didn't come to the LORD with the assembly?" For a great oath had been taken that anyone who had not come to the LORD at Mizpah would certainly be put to death.

⁶ But the Israelites had compassion on their brothers, the Benjaminites, and said, "Today a tribe has been cut off from Israel.

⁷ What should we do about wives for the survivors? We've sworn to the LORD not to give them any of our daughters as wives."

⁸ They asked, "Which city among the tribes of Israel didn't come to the LORD at Mizpah?" It turned out that no one from Jabesh-gilead had come to the camp and the assembly.

⁹ For when the people were counted, no one was there from the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead.

¹⁰ The congregation sent 12,000 brave warriors there and commanded them: "Go and kill the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the sword, including women and children.

¹¹ This is what you should do: Completely destroy every male, as well as every female who has slept with a man."

¹² They found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins, who had not had sexual relations with a man, and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh in the land of Canaan.

¹³ The whole congregation sent a message of peace to the Benjaminites who were at the rock of Rimmon.

¹⁴ Benjamin returned at that time, and Israel gave them the women they had kept alive from Jabesh-gilead. But there were not enough for them.

¹⁵ The people had compassion on Benjamin, because the LORD had made this gap in the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶ The elders of the congregation said, "What should we do about wives for those who are left, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?"

¹⁷ They said, "There must be heirs for the survivors of Benjamin, so that a tribe of Israel will not be wiped out.

¹⁸ But we can't give them our daughters as wives." For the Israelites had sworn: "Anyone who gives a wife to a Benjaminite is cursed."

¹⁹ They also said, "Look, there's an annual festival to the LORD in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah."

²⁰ Then they commanded the Benjaminites: "Go and hide in the vineyards.

²¹ Watch, and when you see the young women of Shiloh come out to perform the dances, each of you leave the vineyards and catch a wife for yourself from the young women of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

²² When their fathers or brothers come to us and protest, we will tell them, 'Show favor to them, since we did not get enough wives for each of them in

the battle. You didn't actually give the women to them, so you are not guilty of breaking your oath .'"

²³ The Benjaminites did this and took the number of women they needed from the dancers they caught. They went back to their own inheritance, rebuilt their cities, and lived in them.

²⁴ At that time, each of the Israelites returned from there to his own tribe and family. Each returned from there to his own inheritance.

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did whatever he wanted.

Ruth

1 ¹ During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. A man left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons to live in the land of Moab for a while.

² The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the land of Moab and settled there.

³ Naomi's husband Elimelech died, and she was left with her two sons.

⁴ Her sons took Moabite women as their wives: one was named Orpah and the second was named Ruth. After they lived in Moab about 10 years,

⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two children and without her husband.

⁶ She and her daughters-in-law prepared to leave the land of Moab, because she had heard in Moab that the LORD had paid attention to His people's need by providing them food.

⁷ She left the place where she had been living, accompanied by her two daughters-in-law, and traveled along the road leading back to the land of Judah.

⁸ She said to them, "Each of you go back to your mother's home. May the LORD show faithful love to you as you have shown to the dead and to me.

⁹ May the LORD enable each of you to find security in the house of your new husband." She kissed them, and they wept loudly.

¹⁰ "No," they said to her. "We will go with you to your people."

¹¹ But Naomi replied, "Return home, my daughters. Why do you want to go with me? Am I able to have any more sons who could become your husbands?"

¹² Return home, my daughters. Go on, for I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me to have a husband tonight and to bear sons,

¹³ would you be willing to wait for them to grow up? Would you restrain yourselves from remarrying? No, my daughters, my life is much too bitter for you to share, because the LORD's hand has turned against me."

¹⁴ Again they wept loudly, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law."

¹⁶ But Ruth replied: Do not persuade me to leave you or go back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD do this to me, and even more, if anything but death separates you and me.

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped trying to persuade her.

¹⁹ The two of them traveled until they came to Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, the whole town was excited about their arrival and the local women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara," she answered, "for the Almighty has made me very bitter.

²¹ I left full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has pronounced judgment on me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

²² So Naomi came back from the land of Moab with her daughter-in-law Ruth the Moabite. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

2¹ Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side named Boaz. He was a prominent man of noble character from Elimelech's family.

² Ruth the Moabite asked Naomi, "Will you let me go into the fields and gather fallen grain behind someone who allows me to?" Naomi answered her, "Go ahead, my daughter."

³ So Ruth left and entered the field to gather grain behind the harvesters. She happened to be in the portion of

land belonging to Boaz, who was from Elimelech's family.

⁴ Later, when Boaz arrived from Bethlehem, he said to the harvesters, "The LORD be with you." "The LORD bless you," they replied.

⁵ Boaz asked his servant who was in charge of the harvesters, "Whose young woman is this?"

⁶ The servant answered, "She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab.

⁷ She asked, 'Will you let me gather fallen grain among the bundles behind the harvesters?' She came and has remained from early morning until now, except that she rested a little in the shelter."

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Don't go and gather grain in another field, and don't leave this one, but stay here close to my young women.

⁹ See which field they are harvesting, and follow them . Haven't I ordered the young men not to touch you? When you are thirsty, go and drink from the jars the young men have filled."

¹⁰ She bowed with her face to the ground and said to him, "Why are you so kind to notice me, although I am a foreigner?"

¹¹ Boaz answered her, "Everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband's death has been fully reported to me: how you left your father and mother, and the land of your birth, and how you came to a people you didn't previously know.

¹² May the LORD reward you for what you have done, and may you receive a full reward from the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

¹³ "My lord," she said, "you have been so kind to me, for you have comforted and encouraged your slave, although I am not like one of your female servants."

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz told her, "Come over here and have some bread and dip it in the vinegar sauce." So she sat beside the harvesters, and he offered her roasted grain. She ate and was satisfied and had some left over.

¹⁵ When she got up to gather grain , Boaz ordered his young men, "Be sure to let her gather grain among the bundles, and don't humiliate her.

¹⁶ Pull out some stalks from the bundles for her and leave them for her to gather. Don't rebuke her.

¹⁷ So Ruth gathered grain in the field until evening. She beat out what she had gathered, and it was about 26 quarts of barley.

¹⁸ She picked up the grain and went into the city, where her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. Then she brought out what she had left over from her meal and gave it to her.

¹⁹ Then her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you gather barley today, and where did you work? May the LORD bless the man who noticed you." Ruth told her mother-in-law about the men she had worked with and said, "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz."

²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, who has not forsaken his kindness to the living or the dead." Naomi continued, "The man is a close relative. He is one of our family redeemers."

²¹ Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also told me, 'Stay with my young men until they have finished all of my harvest.'"

²² So Naomi said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, "My daughter, it is good for you to work with his young women, so that nothing will happen to you in another field."

²³ Ruth stayed close to Boaz's young women and gathered grain until the barley and the wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

3 ¹ Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, shouldn't I find security for you, so that you will be taken care of?"

² Now isn't Boaz our relative? Haven't you been working with his young women? This evening he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor.

³ Wash, put on perfumed oil, and wear your best clothes. Go down to the threshing floor, but don't let the man

know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.

⁴ When he lies down, notice the place where he's lying, go in and uncover his feet, and lie down. Then he will explain to you what you should do."

⁵ So Ruth said to her, "I will do everything you say."

⁶ She went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law had instructed her.

⁷ After Boaz ate, drank, and was in good spirits, he went to lie down at the end of the pile of barley. Then she went in secretly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

⁸ At midnight, Boaz was startled, turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman!

⁹ So he asked, "Who are you?" "I am Ruth, your slave," she replied. "Spread

your cloak over me, for you are a family redeemer."

¹⁰ Then he said, "May the LORD bless you, my daughter. You have shown more kindness now than before, because you have not pursued younger men, whether rich or poor.

¹¹ Now don't be afraid, my daughter. I will do for you whatever you say, since all the people in my town know that you are a woman of noble character.

¹² Yes, it is true that I am a family redeemer, but there is a redeemer closer than I am.

¹³ Stay here tonight, and in the morning, if he wants to redeem you, that's good. Let him redeem you . But if he doesn't want to redeem you, as the LORD lives, I will. Now, lie down until morning."

¹⁴ So she lay down at his feet until morning but got up while it was still dark. Then Boaz said, "Don't let it be known

that a woman came to the threshing floor."

¹⁵ And he told Ruth , "Bring the shawl you're wearing and hold it out." When she held it out, he shoveled six measures of barley into her shawl, and she went into the city.

¹⁶ She went to her mother-in-law, Naomi, who asked her , "How did it go, my daughter?" Then Ruth told her everything the man had done for her.

¹⁷ She said, "He gave me these six measures of barley, because he said, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"

¹⁸ "Wait, my daughter," she said, "until you find out how things go, for he won't rest unless he resolves this today."

4 ¹ Boaz went to the gate of the town and sat down there. Soon, the family redeemer Boaz had spoken about came by. Boaz called him by name and said,

"Come over here and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

² Then Boaz took 10 men of the city's elders and said, "Sit here." And they sat down.

³ He said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has returned from the land of Moab, is selling a piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

⁴ I thought I should inform you: Buy it back in the presence of those seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you want to redeem it , do so. But if you do not want to redeem it , tell me, so that I will know, because there isn't anyone other than you to redeem it , and I am next after you." "I want to redeem it ," he answered.

⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you will also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of

the deceased man, to perpetuate the man's name on his property."

⁶ The redeemer replied, "I can't redeem it myself, or I will ruin my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption, because I can't redeem it."

⁷ At an earlier period in Israel, a man removed his sandal and gave it to the other party in order to make any matter legally binding concerning the right of redemption or the exchange of property. This was the method of legally binding a transaction in Israel.

⁸ So the redeemer removed his sandal and said to Boaz, "Buy back the property yourself."

⁹ Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I am buying from Naomi everything that belonged to Elimelech, Chilion, and Mahlon.

¹⁰ I will also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, to perpetuate the deceased man's name on his property, so that his name will not disappear among his relatives or from the gate of his home. You are witnesses today."

¹¹ The elders and all the people who were at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is entering your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built the house of Israel. May you be powerful in Ephrathah and famous in Bethlehem.

¹² May your house become like the house of Perez, the son Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring the LORD will give you by this young woman."

¹³ Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he was intimate with her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Praise the LORD, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name be famous in Israel.

¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

¹⁶ Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and took care of him.

¹⁷ The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron.

¹⁹ Hezron fathered Ram, who fathered Amminadab.

²⁰ Amminadab fathered Nahshon, who fathered Salmon.

²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz, who fathered Obed.

²² And Obed fathered Jesse, who fathered David.

1 Samuel

1 ¹ There was a man from Ramathaim-zophim in the hill country of Ephraim. His name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

² He had two wives, the first named Hannah and the second Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah was childless.

³ This man would go up from his town every year to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of Hosts at Shiloh, where Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were the LORD's priests.

⁴ Whenever Elkanah offered a sacrifice, he always gave portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to each of her sons and daughters.

⁵ But he gave a double portion to Hannah, for he loved her even though the LORD had kept her from conceiving.

⁶ Her rival would taunt her severely just to provoke her, because the LORD had kept Hannah from conceiving.

⁷ Whenever she went up to the LORD's house, her rival taunted her in this way every year. Hannah wept and would not eat.

⁸ "Hannah, why are you crying?" her husband Elkanah asked. "Why won't you eat? Why are you troubled? Am I not better to you than 10 sons?"

⁹ Hannah got up after they ate and drank at Shiloh. Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's tabernacle.

¹⁰ Deeply hurt, Hannah prayed to the LORD and wept with many tears.

¹¹ Making a vow, she pleaded, "LORD of Hosts, if You will take notice of Your

servant's affliction, remember and not forget me, and give Your servant a son, I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and his hair will never be cut."

¹² While she was praying in the LORD's presence, Eli watched her lips.

¹³ Hannah was speaking to herself, and although her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli thought she was drunk

¹⁴ and scolded her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!"

¹⁵ "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the LORD.

¹⁶ Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment."

¹⁷ Eli responded, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the petition you've requested from Him."

¹⁸ "May your servant find favor with you," she replied. Then Hannah went on her way; she ate and no longer appeared downcast.

¹⁹ The next morning Elkanah and Hannah got up early to bow and to worship the LORD. Afterwards, they returned home to Ramah. Then Elkanah was intimate with his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.

²⁰ After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, "I requested him from the LORD."

²¹ When Elkanah and all his household went up to make the annual sacrifice and his vow offering to the LORD,

²² Hannah did not go and explained to her husband, "After the child is weaned, I'll take him to appear in the LORD's presence and to stay there permanently."

²³ Her husband Elkanah replied, "Do what you think is best, and stay here until you've weaned him. May the LORD confirm your word." So Hannah stayed there and nursed her son until she weaned him.

²⁴ When she had weaned him, she took him with her to Shiloh, as well as a three-year-old bull, two and one-half gallons of flour, and a jar of wine. Though the boy was still young, she took him to the LORD's house at Shiloh.

²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the boy to Eli.

²⁶ "Please, my lord," she said, "as sure as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD.

²⁷ I prayed for this boy, and since the LORD gave me what I asked Him for,

²⁸ I now give the boy to the LORD. For as long as he lives, he is given to the

LORD." Then he bowed and worshiped the LORD there.

2¹ Hannah prayed: My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is lifted up by the LORD. My mouth boasts over my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation.

² There is no one holy like the LORD. There is no one besides You! And there is no rock like our God.

³ Do not boast so proudly, or let arrogant words come out of your mouth, for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and actions are weighed by Him.

⁴ The bows of the warriors are broken, but the feeble are clothed with strength.

⁵ Those who are full hire themselves out for food, but those who are starving hunger no more. The barren woman gives birth to seven, but the woman with many sons pines away.

⁶ The LORD brings death and gives life; He sends some to Sheol, and He raises others up.

⁷ The LORD brings poverty and gives wealth; He humbles and He exalts.

⁸ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the garbage pile. He seats them with noblemen and gives them a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; He has set the world on them.

⁹ He guards the steps of His faithful ones, but the wicked are silenced in darkness, for a man does not prevail by his own strength.

¹⁰ Those who oppose the LORD will be shattered; He will thunder in the heavens against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give power to His king; He will lift up the horn of His anointed.

¹¹ Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy served the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest.

¹² Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD

¹³ or for the priests' share of the sacrifices from the people. When any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged meat fork while the meat was boiling

¹⁴ and plunge it into the container or kettle or caldron or cooking pot. The priest would claim for himself whatever the meat fork brought up. This is the way they treated all the Israelites who came there to Shiloh.

¹⁵ Even before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast, because he

won't accept boiled meat from you--only raw."

¹⁶ If that man said to him, "The fat must be burned first; then you can take whatever you want for yourself," the servant would reply, "No, I insist that you hand it over right now. If you don't, I'll take it by force!"

¹⁷ So the servants' sin was very severe in the presence of the LORD, because they treated the LORD's offering with contempt.

¹⁸ The boy Samuel served in the LORD's presence and wore a linen ephod.

¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife: "May the LORD give you children by this woman in place of the one she has given to the LORD." Then they would go home.

²¹ The LORD paid attention to Hannah's need , and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

²² Now Eli was very old. He heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they were sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

²³ He said to them, "Why are you doing these things? I have heard about your evil actions from all these people.

²⁴ No, my sons, the report I hear from the LORD's people is not good.

²⁵ If a man sins against another man, God can intercede for him, but if a man sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to their father, since the LORD intended to kill them.

²⁶ By contrast, the boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men.

²⁷ A man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Didn't I reveal Myself to your ancestral house when it was in Egypt and belonged to Pharaoh's palace?

²⁸ I selected your house from the tribes of Israel to be priests, to offer sacrifices on My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in My presence. I also gave your house all the Israelite fire offerings.

²⁹ Why, then, do all of you despise My sacrifices and offerings that I require at the place of worship? You have honored your sons more than Me, by making yourselves fat with the best part of all of the offerings of My people Israel.'

³⁰ "Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Although I said your family and your ancestral house would walk

before Me forever, the LORD now says, "No longer!" I will honor those who honor Me, but those who despise Me will be disgraced.

³¹ "Look, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your ancestral family, so that none in your family will reach old age.

³² You will see distress in the place of worship, in spite of all that is good in Israel, and no one in your family will ever again reach old age.

³³ Any man from your family I do not cut off from My altar will bring grief and sadness to you. All your descendents will die violently.

³⁴ This will be the sign that will come to you concerning your two sons Hophni and Phinehas: both of them will die on the same day.

³⁵ "Then I will raise up a faithful priest for Myself. He will do whatever is in My

heart and mind. I will establish a lasting dynasty for him, and he will walk before My anointed one for all time.

³⁶ Anyone who is left in your family will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread. He will say: Please appoint me to some priestly office so I can have a piece of bread to eat."

3 ¹ The boy Samuel served the LORD in Eli's presence. In those days the word of the LORD was rare and prophetic visions were not widespread.

² One day Eli, whose eyesight was failing, was lying in his room.

³ Before the lamp of God had gone out, Samuel was lying down in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was located.

⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel, and he answered, "Here I am."

⁵ He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "I didn't call," Eli replied. "Go and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶ Once again the LORD called, "Samuel!" Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; you called me." "I didn't call, my son," he replied. "Go and lie down."

⁷ Now Samuel had not yet experienced the LORD, because the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ Once again, for the third time, the LORD called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the boy.

⁹ He told Samuel, "Go and lie down. If He calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came, stood there, and called as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel responded, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

¹¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "I am about to do something in Israel that everyone who hears about it will shudder.

¹² On that day I will carry out against Eli everything I said about his family, from beginning to end.

¹³ I told him that I am going to judge his family forever because of the iniquity he knows about: his sons are defiling the sanctuary, and he has not stopped them.

¹⁴ Therefore, I have sworn to Eli's family: The iniquity of Eli's family will never be wiped out by either sacrifice or offering."

¹⁵ Samuel lay down until the morning; then he opened the doors of the LORD's house. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision,

¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." "Here I am," answered Samuel.

¹⁷ "What was the message He gave you?" Eli asked. "Don't hide it from me. May God punish you and do so severely if you hide anything from me that He told you."

¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and did not hide anything from him. Eli responded, "He is the LORD. He will do what He thinks is good."

¹⁹ Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let nothing he said prove false.

²⁰ All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the LORD.

²¹ The LORD continued to appear in Shiloh, because there He revealed Himself to Samuel by His word.

4¹ And Samuel's words came to all Israel. Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle and camped at Ebenezer while the Philistines camped at Aphek.

² The Philistines lined up in battle formation against Israel, and as the battle intensified, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who struck down about 4,000 men on the battlefield.

³ When the troops returned to the camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD let us be defeated today by the Philistines? Let's bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh. Then it will go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."

⁴ So the people sent men to Shiloh to bring back the ark of the covenant of the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

⁵ When the ark of the covenant of the LORD entered the camp, all the Israelites raised such a loud shout that the ground shook.

⁶ The Philistines heard the sound of the war cry and asked, "What's this loud shout in the Hebrews' camp?" When the Philistines discovered that the ark of the LORD had entered the camp,

⁷ they panicked. "The gods have entered their camp!" they said. "Woe to us, nothing like this has happened before.

⁸ Woe to us, who will rescue us from the hand of these magnificent gods? These are the gods that slaughtered the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness.

⁹ Show some courage and be men, Philistines! Otherwise, you'll serve the Hebrews just like they served you. Now be men and fight!"

¹⁰ So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and each man fled to his tent. The slaughter was severe--30,000 of the Israelite foot soldiers fell.

¹¹ The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

¹² That same day, a Benjaminite man ran from the battle and came to Shiloh. His clothes were torn, and there was dirt on his head.

¹³ When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair beside the road watching, because he was anxious about the ark of God. When the man entered the city to give a report, the entire city cried out.

¹⁴ Eli heard the outcry and asked, "Why this commotion?" The man quickly came and reported to Eli.

¹⁵ At that time Eli was 98 years old, and his gaze was fixed because he couldn't see.

¹⁶ The man said to Eli, "I'm the one who came from the battle. I fled from there today." "What happened, my son?" Eli asked.

¹⁷ The messenger answered, "Israel has fled from the Philistines, and also there was a great slaughter among the people. Your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are both dead, and the ark of God has been captured."

¹⁸ When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backwards off the chair by the city gate, and since he was old and heavy, his neck broke and he died. Eli had judged Israel 40 years.

¹⁹ Eli's daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and about to give birth. When she heard the news about the capture of God's ark and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband, she collapsed and gave birth because her labor pains came on her.

²⁰ As she was dying, the women taking care of her said, "Don't be afraid. You've given birth to a son!" But she did not respond, and did not pay attention.

²¹ She named the boy Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel," referring to the capture of the ark of God and to the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband.

²² "The glory has departed from Israel," she said, "because the ark of God has been captured."

5 ¹ After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod,

² brought it into the temple of Dagon and placed it next to his statue.

³ When the people of Ashdod got up early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen with his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and returned him to his place.

⁴ But when they got up early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen with his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. This time , both Dagon's

head and the palms of his hands were broken off and lying on the threshold. Only Dagon's torso remained.

⁵ That is why, to this day, the priests of Dagon and everyone who enters the temple of Dagon in Ashdod do not step on Dagon's threshold.

⁶ The LORD severely oppressed the people of Ashdod, terrorizing and afflicting the people of Ashdod and its territory with tumors.

⁷ When the men of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, "The ark of Israel's God must not stay here with us, because His hand is severe against us and our god Dagon."

⁸ So they called all the Philistine rulers together and asked, "What should we do with the ark of Israel's God?" "The ark of Israel's God should be moved to Gath," they replied. So the men of Ashdod moved the ark.

⁹ After they had moved it, the LORD's hand was against the city of Gath, causing a great panic. He afflicted the men of the city, from the youngest to the oldest, with an outbreak of tumors.

¹⁰ The Gathites then sent the ark of God to Ekron, but when it got there, the Ekronites cried out, "They've moved the ark of Israel's God to us to kill us and our people!"

¹¹ The Ekronites called all the Philistine rulers together. They said, "Send the ark of Israel's God away. It must return to its place so it won't kill us and our people!" For the fear of death pervaded the city; God's hand was very heavy there.

¹² The men who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven.

6 ¹ When the ark of the LORD had been in the land of the Philistines for seven months,

² the Philistines summoned the priests and the diviners and pleaded, "What should we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we can send it back to its place."

³ They replied, "If you send the ark of Israel's God away, you must not send it without an offering . You must return it with a guilt offering, and you will be healed. Then the reason His hand hasn't been removed from you will be revealed."

⁴ They asked, "What guilt offering should we send back to Him?" And they answered, "Five gold tumors and five gold mice corresponding to the number of Philistine rulers, since there was one plague for both you and your rulers.

⁵ Make images of your tumors and of your mice that are destroying the land. Give glory to Israel's God, and perhaps

He will stop oppressing you, your gods, and your land.

⁶ Why harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened theirs? When He afflicted them, didn't they send Israel away, and Israel left?

⁷ "Now then, prepare one new cart and two milk cows that have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up.

⁸ Take the ark of the LORD, place it on the cart, and put the gold objects in a box beside it, which you're sending Him as a guilt offering. Send it off and let it go its way.

⁹ Then watch: If it goes up the road to its homeland toward Beth-shemesh, it is the LORD who has made this terrible trouble for us. However, if it doesn't, we will know that it was not His hand that punished us--it was just something that happened to us by chance."

¹⁰ The men did this: They took two milk cows, hitched them to the cart, and confined their calves in the pen.

¹¹ Then they put the ark of the LORD on the cart, along with the box containing the gold mice and the images of the tumors.

¹² The cows went straight up the road to Beth-shemesh. They stayed on that one highway, lowing as they went; they never strayed to the right or to the left. The Philistine rulers were walking behind them to the territory of Beth-shemesh.

¹³ The people of Beth-shemesh were harvesting wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they were overjoyed to see it.

¹⁴ The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh and stopped there near a large rock. The people of the city chopped up the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹⁵ The Levites removed the ark of the LORD, along with the box containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock. That day the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the LORD.

¹⁶ When the five Philistine rulers observed this, they returned to Ekron that same day.

¹⁷ As a guilt offering to the LORD, the Philistines had sent back one gold tumor for each city: Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron.

¹⁸ The number of gold mice also corresponded to the number of Philistine cities of the five rulers, the fortified cities and the outlying villages. The large rock on which the ark of the LORD was placed is in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh to this day.

¹⁹ God struck down the men of Beth-shemesh because they looked inside the

ark of the LORD. He struck down 70 men out of 50,000 men. The people wept because the LORD struck them with a great slaughter.

²⁰ The men of Beth-shemesh asked, "Who is able to stand in the presence of this holy LORD God? Who should the ark go to from here?"

²¹ They sent messengers to the residents of Kiriath-jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and get it."

7¹ So the men of Kiriath-jearim came for the ark of the LORD and took it to Abinadab's house on the hill. They consecrated his son Eleazar to take care of it.

² Time went by until 20 years had passed since the ark had been taken to Kiriath-jearim. Then the whole house of Israel began to seek the LORD.

³ Samuel told them, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, get rid of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths that are among you, dedicate yourselves to the LORD, and worship only Him. Then He will rescue you from the hand of the Philistines."

⁴ So the Israelites removed the Baals and the Ashtoreths and only worshiped the LORD.

⁵ Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD on your behalf."

⁶ When they gathered at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out in the LORD's presence. They fasted that day, and there they confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel began to lead the Israelites at Mizpah as their judge.

⁷ When the Philistines heard that the Israelites had gathered at Mizpah, their

rulers marched up toward Israel. When the Israelites heard about it , they were afraid because of the Philistines.

⁸ The Israelites said to Samuel, "Don't stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, so that He will save us from the hand of the Philistines."

⁹ Then Samuel took a young lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on behalf of Israel, and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰ Samuel was offering the burnt offering as the Philistines drew near to fight against Israel. The LORD thundered loudly against the Philistines that day and threw them into such confusion that they fled before Israel.

¹¹ Then the men of Israel charged out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines striking them down all the way to a place below Beth-car.

¹² Afterwards, Samuel took a stone and set it upright between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, explaining, "The LORD has helped us to this point."

¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and did not invade Israel's territory again. The LORD's hand was against the Philistines all of Samuel's life.

¹⁴ The cities from Ekron to Gath, which they had taken from Israel, were restored; Israel even rescued their surrounding territories from Philistine control. There was also peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel judged Israel throughout his life.

¹⁶ Every year he would go on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah and would judge Israel at all these locations.

¹⁷ Then he would return to Ramah because his home was there, he judged

Israel there, and he had built an altar to the LORD there.

8¹ When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges over Israel.

² His firstborn son's name was Joel and his second was Abijah. They were judges in Beer-sheba.

³ However, his sons did not walk in his ways--they turned toward dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and went to Samuel at Ramah.

⁵ They said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not follow your example. Therefore, appoint a king to judge us the same as all the other nations have."

⁶ When they said, "Give us a king to judge us," Samuel considered their demand sinful, so he prayed to the LORD.

⁷ But the LORD told him, "Listen to the people and everything they say to you. They have rejected you; they have rejected Me as their king.

⁸ They are doing the same thing to you that they have done to Me, since the day I brought them out of Egypt until this day, abandoning Me and worshiping other gods.

⁹ Listen to them, but you must solemnly warn them and tell them about the rights of the king who will rule over them."

¹⁰ Samuel told all the LORD's words to the people who were asking him for a king.

¹¹ He said, "These are the rights of the king who will rule over you: He can take your sons and put them to his use in his chariots, on his horses, or running in front of his chariots.

¹² He can appoint them for his use as commanders of thousands or commanders of fifties, to plow his ground or reap his harvest, or to make his weapons of war or the equipment for his chariots.

¹³ He can take your daughters to become perfumers, cooks, and bakers.

¹⁴ He can take your best fields, vineyards, and olive orchards and give them to his servants.

¹⁵ He can take a tenth of your grain and your vineyards and give them to his officials and servants.

¹⁶ He can take your male servants, your female servants, your best young men, and your donkeys and use them for his work.

¹⁷ He can take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves can become his servants.

¹⁸ When that day comes, you will cry out because of the king you've chosen for yourselves, but the LORD won't answer you on that day."

¹⁹ The people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We must have a king over us.

²⁰ Then we'll be like all the other nations: our king will judge us, go out before us, and fight our battles."

²¹ Samuel listened to all the people's words and then repeated them to the LORD.

²² "Listen to them," the LORD told Samuel. "Appoint a king for them." Then Samuel told the men of Israel, "Each of you, go back to your city."

9¹ There was an influential man of Benjamin named Kish son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, son of a Benjaminite.

² He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man. There was no one more impressive among the Israelites than he. He stood a head taller than anyone else.

³ One day the donkeys of Saul's father Kish wandered off. Kish said to his son Saul, "Take one of the attendants with you and go look for the donkeys."

⁴ Saul and his attendant went through the hill country of Ephraim and then through the region of Shalishah, but they didn't find them. They went through the region of Shaalim--nothing. Then they went through the Benjaminite region but still didn't find them.

⁵ When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to the attendant who was with him, "Come on, let's go back, or my father will stop worrying about the donkeys and start worrying about us."

⁶ "Look," the attendant said, "there's a man of God in this city who is highly respected; everything he says is sure to come true. Let's go there now. Maybe he'll tell us which way we should go."

⁷ "Suppose we do go," Saul said to his attendant, "what do we take the man? The food from our packs is gone, and there's no gift to take to the man of God. What do we have?"

⁸ The attendant answered Saul: "Here, I have a piece of silver. I'll give it to the man of God, and he will tell us our way."

⁹ Formerly in Israel, a man who was going to inquire of God would say, "Come, let's go to the seer," for the prophet of today was formerly called the seer.

¹⁰ "Good," Saul replied to his attendant. "Come on, let's go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

¹¹ As they were climbing the hill to the city, they found some young women coming out to draw water and asked, "Is the seer here?"

¹² The women answered, "Yes, he is ahead of you. Hurry, he just now came to the city, because there's a sacrifice for the people at the high place today.

¹³ If you go quickly, you can catch up with him before he goes to the high place to eat. The people won't eat until he comes because he must bless the sacrifice; after that, the guests can eat. Go up immediately--you can find him now."

¹⁴ So they went up toward the city. Saul and his attendant were entering the city when they saw Samuel coming toward them on his way to the high place.

¹⁵ Now the day before Saul's arrival, the LORD had informed Samuel,

¹⁶ "At this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him ruler over My people Israel. He will save them from the hand of the Philistines because I have seen the affliction of My people, for their cry has come to Me."

¹⁷ When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, "Here is the man I told you about; he will rule over My people."

¹⁸ Saul approached Samuel in the gate area and asked, "Would you please tell me where the seer's house is?"

¹⁹ "I am the seer," Samuel answered. "Go up ahead of me to the high place and eat with me today. When I send you off in the morning, I'll tell you everything that's in your heart."

²⁰ As for the donkeys that wandered away from you three days ago, don't worry about them because they've been

found. And who does all Israel desire but you and all your father's family?"

²¹ Saul responded, "Am I not a Benjaminite from the smallest of Israel's tribes and isn't my clan the least important of all the clans of the Benjaminite tribe? So why have you said something like this to me?"

²² Samuel took Saul and his attendant, brought them to the banquet hall, and gave them a place at the head of the 30 or so men who had been invited.

²³ Then Samuel said to the cook, "Get the portion of meat that I gave you and told you to set aside."

²⁴ The cook picked up the thigh and what was attached to it and set it before Saul. Then Samuel said, "Notice that the reserved piece is set before you. Eat it because it was saved for you for this solemn event at the time I said, 'I've

invited the people." So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

²⁵ Afterwards, they went down from the high place to the city, and Samuel spoke with Saul on the roof.

²⁶ They got up early, and just before dawn, Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Get up, and I'll send you on your way!" Saul got up, and both he and Samuel went outside.

²⁷ As they were going down to the edge of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the attendant to go on ahead of us, but you stay for awhile, and I'll reveal the word of God to you." So the attendant went on.

10 ¹ Samuel took the flask of oil, poured it out on Saul's head, kissed him, and said, "Hasn't the LORD anointed you ruler over His inheritance?"

² Today when you leave me, you'll find two men at Rachel's Grave at Zelzah in

the land of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you went looking for have been found, and now your father has stopped being concerned about the donkeys and is worried about you, asking: What should I do about my son?'

³ "You will proceed from there until you come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, one bringing three goats, one bringing three loaves of bread, and one bringing a skin of wine.

⁴ They will ask how you are and give you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them.

⁵ "After that you will come to the Hill of God where there are Philistine garrisons. When you arrive at the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place prophesying. They will be preceded by harps, tambourines, flutes, and lyres.

⁶ The Spirit of the LORD will control you, you will prophesy with them, and you will be transformed into a different person.

⁷ When these signs have happened to you, do whatever your circumstances require because God is with you.

⁸ Afterwards, go ahead of me to Gilgal. I will come to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice fellowship offerings. Wait seven days until I come to you and show you what to do."

⁹ When Saul turned around to leave Samuel, God changed his heart, and all the signs came about that day.

¹⁰ When Saul and his attendant arrived at Gibeah, a group of prophets met him. Then the Spirit of God took control of him, and he prophesied along with them.

¹¹ Everyone who knew him previously and saw him prophesy with the prophets

asked each other, "What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹² Then a man who was from there asked, "And who is their father?"

As a result, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" became a popular saying.

¹³ Then Saul finished prophesying and went to the high place.

¹⁴ Saul's uncle asked him and his attendant, "Where did you go?" "To look for the donkeys," Saul answered. "When we saw they weren't there, we went to Samuel."

¹⁵ "Tell me," Saul's uncle asked, "what did Samuel say to you?"

¹⁶ Saul told him, "He assured us the donkeys had been found." However, Saul did not tell him what Samuel had said about the matter of kingship.

¹⁷ Samuel summoned the people to the LORD at Mizpah

¹⁸ and said to the Israelites, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I brought Israel out of Egypt, and I rescued you from the power of the Egyptians and all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.'

¹⁹ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your troubles and afflictions. You said to Him, 'You must set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and clans."

²⁰ Samuel had all the tribes of Israel come forward, and the tribe of Benjamin was selected.

²¹ Then he had the tribe of Benjamin come forward by its clans, and the Matrite clan was selected. Finally, Saul son of Kish was selected. But when they searched for him, they could not find him.

²² They again inquired of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" The LORD replied, "There he is, hidden among the supplies."

²³ They ran and got him from there. When he stood among the people, he stood a head taller than anyone else.

²⁴ Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the one the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among the entire population." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

²⁵ Samuel proclaimed to the people the rights of kingship. He wrote them on a scroll, which he placed in the presence of the LORD. Then, Samuel sent all the people away, each to his home.

²⁶ Saul also went to his home in Gibeah, and brave men whose hearts God had touched went with him.

²⁷ But some wicked men said, "How can this guy save us?" They despised him

and did not bring him a gift, but Saul said nothing.

11 ¹ Nahash the Ammonite came up and laid siege to Jabesh-gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you."

² Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I'll make one with you on this condition: that I gouge out everyone's right eye and humiliate all Israel."

³ "Don't do anything to us for seven days," the elders of Jabesh said to him, "and let us send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. If no one saves us, we will surrender to you."

⁴ When the messengers came to Gibeah, Saul's hometown, and told the terms to the people, all wept aloud.

⁵ Just then Saul was coming in from the field behind his oxen. "What's the matter with the people? Why are they weeping?" Saul inquired, and they

repeated to him the words of the men from Jabesh.

⁶ When Saul heard these words, the Spirit of God suddenly took control of him, and his anger burned furiously.

⁷ He took a team of oxen, cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout the land of Israel by messengers who said, "This is what will be done to the ox of anyone who doesn't march behind Saul and Samuel." As a result, the terror of the LORD fell on the people, and they went out united.

⁸ Saul counted them at Bezek. There were 300,00 Israelites and 30,000 men from Judah.

⁹ He told the messengers who had come, "Tell this to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Deliverance will be yours tomorrow by the time the sun is hot.'" So the messengers told the men of Jabesh, and they rejoiced.

¹⁰ Then the men of Jabesh said to Nahash , "Tomorrow we will come out, and you can do whatever you want to us."

¹¹ The next day Saul organized the troops into three divisions. During the morning watch, they invaded the Ammonite camp and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. There were survivors, but they were so scattered that no two of them were left together.

¹² Afterwards, the people said to Samuel, "Who said that Saul should not reign over us? Give us those men so we can kill them!"

¹³ But Saul ordered, "No one will be executed this day, for today the LORD has provided deliverance in Israel."

¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let's go to Gilgal, so we can renew the kingship there."

¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there in the LORD's presence they made Saul king. There they sacrificed fellowship offerings in the LORD's presence, and Saul and all the men of Israel greatly rejoiced.

12 ¹ Then Samuel said to all Israel, "I have carefully listened to everything you said to me and placed a king over you.

² But now, you can see that the king is leading you. As for me, I'm old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have led you from my youth until today.

³ Here I am. Bring charges against me before the LORD and His anointed: Whose ox or donkey have I taken? Whom have I wronged or mistreated? From whose hand have I taken a bribe to overlook something? I will return it to you."

⁴ "You haven't wronged us, you haven't mistreated us, and you haven't taken anything from anyone's hand," they responded.

⁵ He said to them, "The LORD is a witness against you, and His anointed is a witness today that you haven't found anything in my hand." "He is a witness," they said.

⁶ Then Samuel said to the people, "The LORD, who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought your ancestors up from the land of Egypt, is a witness.

⁷ Now present yourselves, so I may judge you before the LORD about all the righteous acts He has done for you and your ancestors.

⁸ "When Jacob went to Egypt, your ancestors cried out to the LORD, and He sent them Moses and Aaron, who led your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

⁹ But they forgot the LORD their God, so He handed them over to Sisera commander of the army of Hazor, to the Philistines, and to the king of Moab. These enemies fought against them.

¹⁰ Then they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, for we abandoned the LORD and worshiped the Baals and the Ashtoreths. Now deliver us from the power of our enemies, and we will serve You.'

¹¹ So the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel. He rescued you from the power of the enemies around you, and you lived securely.

¹² But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was coming against you, you said to me, 'No, we must have a king rule over us'--even though the LORD your God is your king.

¹³ "Now here is the king you've chosen, the one you requested. Look, this is the king the LORD has placed over you.

¹⁴ If you fear the LORD, worship and obey Him, and if you don't rebel against the LORD's command, then both you and the king who rules over you will follow the LORD your God.

¹⁵ However, if you disobey the LORD and rebel against His command, the LORD's hand will be against you and against your ancestors.

¹⁶ "Now, therefore, present yourselves and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes.

¹⁷ Isn't the wheat harvest today? I will call on the LORD and He will send thunder and rain, so that you will know and see what a great evil you committed in the LORD's sight by requesting a king for yourselves."

¹⁸ Samuel called on the LORD, and on that day the LORD sent thunder and rain. As a result, all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

¹⁹ They pleaded with Samuel, "Pray to the LORD your God for your servants, so we won't die! For we have added to all our sins the evil of requesting a king for ourselves."

²⁰ Samuel replied, "Don't be afraid. Even though you have committed all this evil, don't turn away from following the LORD. Instead, worship the LORD with all your heart.

²¹ Don't turn away to follow worthless things that can't profit or deliver you; they are worthless.

²² The LORD will not abandon His people, because of His great name and because He has determined to make you His own people.

²³ "As for me, I vow that I will not sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you. I will teach you the good and right way.

²⁴ Above all, fear the LORD and worship Him faithfully with all your heart, considering the great things He has done for you.

²⁵ However, if you continue to do what is evil, both you and your king will be swept away."

13 ¹ Saul was 30 years old when he became king, and he reigned 42 years over Israel.

² He chose 3,000 men from Israel for himself: 2,000 were with Saul at Michmash and in Bethel's hill country, and 1,000 were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. He sent the rest of the troops away, each to his own tent.

³ Jonathan attacked the Philistine garrison that was in Geba, and the

Philistines heard about it. So Saul blew the ram's horn throughout the land saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!"

⁴ And all Israel heard the news, "Saul has attacked the Philistine garrison, and Israel is now repulsive to the Philistines." Then the troops were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

⁵ The Philistines also gathered to fight against Israel: 3,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and troops as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Michmash, east of Beth-aven.

⁶ The men of Israel saw that they were in trouble because the troops were in a difficult situation. They hid in caves, thickets, among rocks, and in holes and cisterns.

⁷ Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul, however, was still at Gilgal, and all his troops were gripped with fear.

⁸ He waited seven days for the appointed time that Samuel had set, but Samuel didn't come to Gilgal, and the troops were deserting him.

⁹ So Saul said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." Then he offered the burnt offering.

¹⁰ Just as he finished offering the burnt offering, Samuel arrived. So Saul went out to greet him,

¹¹ and Samuel asked, "What have you done?" Saul answered, "When I saw that the troops were deserting me and you didn't come within the appointed days and the Philistines were gathering at Michmash,

¹² I thought: The Philistines will now descend on me at Gilgal, and I haven't sought the LORD's favor. So I forced myself to offer the burnt offering."

¹³ Samuel said to Saul, "You have been foolish. You have not kept the command which the LORD your God gave you. It was at this time that the LORD would have permanently established your reign over Israel,

¹⁴ but now your reign will not endure. The LORD has found a man loyal to Him, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not done what the LORD commanded."

¹⁵ Then Samuel went from Gilgal to Gibeah in Benjamin. Saul registered the troops who were with him, about 600 men.

¹⁶ Saul, his son Jonathan, and the troops who were with them were staying in Geba of Benjamin, and the Philistines were camped at Michmash.

¹⁷ Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp in three divisions. One

division headed toward the Ophrah road leading to the land of Shual.

¹⁸ The next division headed toward the Beth-horon road, and the last division headed down the border road that looks out over the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

¹⁹ No blacksmith could be found in all the land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise, the Hebrews will make swords or spears."

²⁰ So all the Israelites went to the Philistines to sharpen their plowshares, mattocks, axes, and sickles.

²¹ The price was two-thirds of a shekel for plowshares and mattocks, and one-third of a shekel for pitchforks and axes, and for putting a point on an oxgoad.

²² So on the day of battle not a sword or spear could be found in the hand of any of the troops who were with Saul and

Jonathan; only Saul and his son Jonathan had weapons .

23

14 ¹ That same day Saul's son Jonathan said to the attendant who carried his weapons, "Come on, let's cross over to the Philistine garrison on the other side." However, he did not tell his father.

² Saul was staying under the pomegranate tree in Migron on the outskirts of Gibeah. The troops with him numbered about 600.

³ Ahijah, who was wearing an ephod, was also there . He was the son of Ahitub, the brother of Ichabod son of Phinehas, son of Eli the LORD's priest at Shiloh. But the troops did not know that Jonathan had left.

⁴ There were sharp columns of rock on both sides of the pass that Jonathan intended to cross to reach the Philistine

garrison. One was named Bozez and the other Seneh;

⁵ one stood to the north in front of Michmash and the other to the south in front of Geba.

⁶ Jonathan said to the attendant who carried his weapons, "Come on, let's cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will help us. Nothing can keep the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

⁷ His armor-bearer responded, "Do what is in your heart. You choose. I'm right here with you whatever you decide."

⁸ "All right," Jonathan replied, "we'll cross over to the men and then let them see us.

⁹ If they say, 'Wait until we reach you,' then we will stay where we are and not go up to them.

¹⁰ But if they say, 'Come on up,' then we'll go up, because the LORD has handed them over to us--that will be our sign."

¹¹ They let themselves be seen by the Philistine garrison, and the Philistines said, "Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they've been hiding!"

¹² The men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armor-bearer. "Come on up, and we'll teach you a lesson!" they said. "Follow me," Jonathan told his armor-bearer, "for the LORD has handed them over to Israel."

¹³ Jonathan went up using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer behind him. Jonathan cut them down, and his armor-bearer followed and finished them off.

¹⁴ In that first assault Jonathan and his armor-bearer struck down about 20 men in a half-acre field.

¹⁵ Terror spread through the Philistine camp and the open fields to all the troops. Even the garrison and the raiding parties were terrified. The earth shook, and terror from God spread.

¹⁶ When Saul's watchmen in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, they saw the panicking troops scattering in every direction.

¹⁷ So Saul said to the troops with him, "Call the roll and determine who has left us." They called the roll and saw that Jonathan and his armor-bearer were gone.

¹⁸ Saul told Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God," for it was with the Israelites at that time.

¹⁹ While Saul spoke to the priest, the panic in the Philistine camp increased in intensity. So Saul said to the priest, "Stop what you're doing."

²⁰ Saul and all the troops with him assembled and marched to the battle,

and there, the Philistines were fighting against each other in great confusion!

²¹ There were Hebrews from the area who had gone earlier into the camp to join the Philistines, but even they joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

²² When all the Israelite men who had been hiding in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they also joined Saul and Jonathan in the battle.

²³ So the LORD saved Israel that day. The battle extended beyond Beth-aven,

²⁴ and the men of Israel were worn out that day, for Saul had placed the troops under an oath: "Cursed is the man who eats food before evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies." So none of the troops tasted any food.

²⁵ Everyone went into the forest, and there was honey on the ground.

²⁶ When the troops entered the forest, they saw the flow of honey, but none of them ate any of it because they feared the oath.

²⁷ However, Jonathan had not heard his father make the troops swear the oath. He reached out with the end of the staff he was carrying and dipped it into the honeycomb. When he ate the honey, he had renewed energy.

²⁸ Then, one of the troops said, "Your father made the troops solemnly swear, 'Cursed is the man who eats food today,' and the troops are exhausted."

²⁹ Jonathan replied, "My father has brought trouble to the land. Just look at how I have renewed energy because I tasted a little honey.

³⁰ How much better if the troops had eaten freely today from the plunder they took from their enemies! Then the

slaughter of the Philistines would have been much greater."

³¹ The Israelites struck down the Philistines that day from Michmash all the way to Aijalon. Since the Israelites were completely exhausted,

³² they rushed to the plunder, took sheep, cattle, and calves, slaughtered them on the ground, and ate meat with the blood still in it.

³³ Some reported to Saul: "Look, the troops are sinning against the LORD by eating meat with the blood still in it." Saul said, "You have been unfaithful. Roll a large stone over here at once."

³⁴ He then said, "Go among the troops and say to them, 'Each man must bring me his ox or his sheep. Do the slaughtering here and then you can eat. Don't sin against the LORD by eating meat with the blood in it.'" So every one

of the troops brought his ox that night and slaughtered it there.

³⁵ Then Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first time he had built an altar to the LORD.

³⁶ Saul said, "Let's go down after the Philistines tonight and plunder them until morning. Don't let even one remain!" "Do whatever you want," the troops replied. But the priest said, "We must consult God here."

³⁷ So Saul inquired of God, "Should I go after the Philistines? Will You hand them over to Israel?" But God did not answer him that day.

³⁸ Saul said, "All you leaders of the troops, come here. Let us investigate how this sin has occurred today.

³⁹ As surely as the LORD lives who saves Israel, even if it is because of my son Jonathan, he must die!" Not one of the troops answered him.

⁴⁰ So he said to all Israel, "You will be on one side, and I and my son Jonathan will be on the other side." And the troops replied, "Do whatever you want."

⁴¹ So Saul said to the LORD, "God of Israel, give us the right decision ." Jonathan and Saul were selected, and the troops were cleared of the charge .

⁴² Then Saul said, "Cast the lot between me and my son Jonathan," and Jonathan was selected.

⁴³ Saul commanded him, "Tell me what you did." Jonathan told him, "I tasted a little honey with the end of the staff I was carrying. I am ready to die!"

⁴⁴ Saul declared to him, "May God punish me severely if you do not die, Jonathan!"

⁴⁵ But the people said to Saul, "Must Jonathan die, who accomplished such a great deliverance for Israel? No, as the LORD lives, not a hair of his head will

fall to the ground, for he worked with God's help today." So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.

⁴⁶ Then Saul gave up the pursuit of the Philistines, and the Philistines returned to their own territory.

⁴⁷ When Saul assumed the kingship over Israel, he fought against all his enemies in every direction: against Moab, the Ammonites, Edom, the kings of Zobah, and the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he caused havoc.

⁴⁸ He fought bravely, defeated the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hand of those who plundered them.

⁴⁹ Saul's sons were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchishua. The names of his two daughters were: Merab, his firstborn, and Michal, the younger.

⁵⁰ The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam daughter of Ahimaaz. The name of the

commander of his army was Abner son of Saul's uncle Ner.

⁵¹ Saul's father was Kish. Abner's father was Ner son of Abiel.

⁵² The conflict with the Philistines was fierce all of Saul's days, so whenever Saul noticed any strong or brave man, he enlisted him.

15 ¹ Samuel told Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you as king over His people Israel. Now, listen to the words of the LORD.

² This is what the LORD of Hosts says: 'I witnessed what the Amalekites did to the Israelites when they opposed them along the way as they were coming out of Egypt.

³ Now go and attack the Amalekites and completely destroy everything they have. Do not spare them. Kill men and women, children and infants, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys.'"

⁴ Then Saul summoned the troops and counted them at Telaim: 200,000 foot soldiers and 10,000 men from Judah.

⁵ Saul came to the city of Amalek and set up an ambush in the wadi.

⁶ He warned the Kenites, "Since you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came out of Egypt, go on and leave! Get away from the Amalekites, or I'll sweep you away with them." So the Kenites withdrew from the Amalekites.

⁷ Then Saul struck down the Amalekites from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is next to Egypt.

⁸ He captured Agag king of Amalek alive, but he completely destroyed all the rest of the people with the sword.

⁹ Saul and the troops spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, cattle, and fatlings, as well as the young rams and the best of everything else. They were not willing to destroy them, but they did

destroy all the worthless and unwanted things.

¹⁰ Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel:

¹¹ "I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned away from following Me and has not carried out My instructions." So Samuel became angry and cried out to the LORD all night.

¹² Early in the morning Samuel got up to confront Saul, but it was reported to Samuel, "Saul went to Carmel where he set up a monument for himself. Then he turned around and went down to Gilgal."

¹³ When Samuel came to him, Saul said, "May the LORD bless you. I have carried out the LORD's instructions."

¹⁴ Samuel replied, "Then what is this sound of sheep and cattle I hear?"

¹⁵ Saul answered, "The troops brought them from the Amalekites and spared the best sheep and cattle in order to

offer a sacrifice to the LORD your God, but the rest we destroyed."

¹⁶ "Stop!" exclaimed Samuel. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." "Tell me," he replied.

¹⁷ Samuel continued, "Although you once considered yourself unimportant, have you not become the leader of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel

¹⁸ and then sent you on a mission and said: 'Go and completely destroy the sinful Amalekites. Fight against them until you have annihilated them.'

¹⁹ So why didn't you obey the LORD? Why did you rush on the plunder and do what was evil in the LORD's sight?"

²⁰ "But I did obey the LORD!" Saul answered. "I went on the mission the LORD gave me: I brought back Agag, king of Amalek, and I completely destroyed the Amalekites.

²¹ The troops took sheep and cattle from the plunder--the best of what was set apart for destruction--to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

²² Then Samuel said: Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king.

²⁴ Saul answered Samuel, "I have sinned. I have transgressed the LORD's command and your words. Because I was afraid of the people, I obeyed them.

²⁵ Now therefore, please forgive my sin and return with me so I can worship the LORD."

²⁶ Samuel replied to Saul, "I will not return with you. Because you rejected the word of the LORD, the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

²⁷ When Samuel turned to go, Saul grabbed the hem of his robe, and it tore.

²⁸ Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingship of Israel away from you today and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you.

²⁹ Furthermore, the Eternal One of Israel does not lie or change His mind, for He is not man who changes his mind."

³⁰ Saul said, "I have sinned. Please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel. Come back with me so I can bow and worship the LORD your God."

³¹ Then Samuel went back, following Saul, and Saul bowed down to the LORD.

³² Samuel said, "Bring me Agag king of Amalek." Agag came to him trembling, for he thought, "Certainly the bitterness of death has come."

³³ Samuel declared: As your sword has made women childless, so your mother will be childless among women. Then he hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD at Gilgal.

³⁴ Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul.

³⁵ Even to the day of his death, Samuel never again visited Saul. Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted He had made Saul king over Israel.

16 ¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long are you going to mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem

because I have selected a king from his sons."

² Samuel asked, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me!" The LORD answered, "Take a young cow with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

³ Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for Me the one I indicate to you."

⁴ Samuel did what the LORD directed and went to Bethlehem. When the elders of the town met him, they trembled and asked, "Do you come in peace?"

⁵ "In peace," he replied. "I've come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and said, "Certainly the LORD's anointed one is here before Him."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the LORD sees, for man sees what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart."

⁸ Jesse called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. "The LORD hasn't chosen this one either," Samuel said.

⁹ Then Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, "The LORD hasn't chosen this one either."

¹⁰ After Jesse presented seven of his sons to him, Samuel told Jesse, "The LORD hasn't chosen any of these."

¹¹ Samuel asked him, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," he answered, "but right now he's tending the sheep." Samuel told

Jesse, "Send for him. We won't sit down to eat until he gets here."

¹² So Jesse sent for him. He had beautiful eyes and a healthy, handsome appearance. Then the LORD said, "Anoint him, for he is the one."

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil, anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the Spirit of the LORD took control of David from that day forward. Then Samuel set out and went to Ramah.

¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD had left Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD began to torment him,

¹⁵ so Saul's servants said to him, "You see that an evil spirit from God is tormenting you."

¹⁶ Let our lord command your servants here in your presence to look for someone who knows how to play the harp. Whenever the evil spirit from God

troubles you, that person can play the harp, and you will feel better."

¹⁷ Then Saul commanded his servants, "Find me someone who plays well and bring him to me."

¹⁸ One of the young men answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp . He is also a valiant man, a warrior, eloquent, handsome, and the LORD is with him."

¹⁹ Then Saul dispatched messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

²⁰ So Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and one young goat and sent them by his son David to Saul.

²¹ When David came to Saul and entered his service, Saul admired him greatly, and David became his armor-bearer.

²² Then Saul sent word to Jesse: "Let David remain in my service, for I am pleased with him."

²³ Whenever the spirit from God troubled Saul, David would pick up his harp and play, and Saul would then be relieved, feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.

17 ¹ The Philistines gathered their forces for war at Socoh in Judah and camped between Socoh and Azekah in Ephes-dammim.

² Saul and the men of Israel gathered and camped in the Valley of Elah; then they lined up in battle formation to face the Philistines.

³ The Philistines were standing on one hill, and the Israelites were standing on another hill with a ravine between them.

⁴ Then a champion named Goliath, from Gath, came out from the Philistine camp. He was nine feet, nine inches tall

⁵ and wore a bronze helmet and bronze scale armor that weighed 125 pounds.

⁶ There was bronze armor on his shins, and a bronze sword was slung between his shoulders.

⁷ His spear shaft was like a weaver's beam, and the iron point of his spear weighed 15 pounds. In addition, a shield-bearer was walking in front of him.

⁸ He stood and shouted to the battle formations: "Why do you come out to line up in battle formation?" He asked them, "Am I not a Philistine and are you not servants of Saul? Choose one of your men and have him come down against me.

⁹ If he wins in a fight against me and kills me, we will be your servants. But if I win against him and kill him, then you will be our servants and serve us."

¹⁰ Then the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel today. Send me a man so we can fight each other!"

¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words from the Philistine, they lost their courage and were terrified.

¹² Now David was the son of the Ephrathite from Bethlehem of Judah named Jesse. Jesse had eight sons, and during Saul's reign was already an old man.

¹³ Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war, and their names were Eliab, the firstborn, Abinadab, the next, and Shammah, the third,

¹⁴ and David was the youngest. The three oldest had followed Saul,

¹⁵ but David kept going back and forth from Saul to tend his father's flock in Bethlehem.

¹⁶ Every morning and evening for 40 days the Philistine came forward and took his stand.

¹⁷ One day , Jesse had told his son David, "Take this half-bushel of roasted grain along with these loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp.

¹⁸ Also, take these 10 portions of cheese to the field commander. Check on the welfare of your brothers and bring a confirmation from them.

¹⁹ They are with Saul and all the men of Israel are in the Valley of Elah fighting with the Philistines."

²⁰ So David got up early in the morning, left the flock with someone to keep it, loaded up, and set out as Jesse had instructed him. He arrived at the perimeter of the camp as the army was marching out to its battle formation shouting their battle cry.

²¹ Israel and the Philistines lined up in battle formation facing each other.

²² David left his supplies in the care of the quartermaster and ran to the battle line. When he arrived, he asked his brothers how they were.

²³ While he was speaking with them, suddenly the champion named Goliath, the Philistine from Gath, came forward from the Philistine battle line and shouted his usual words, which David heard.

²⁴ When all the Israelite men saw Goliath, they retreated from him terrified.

²⁵ Previously, an Israelite man had declared, "Do you see this man who keeps coming out? He comes to defy Israel. The king will make the man who kills him very rich and will give him his daughter. The king will also make the

household of that man's father exempt from paying taxes in Israel."

²⁶ David spoke to the men who were standing with him: "What will be done for the man who kills that Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Just who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

²⁷ The people told him about the offer, concluding, "That is what will be done for the man who kills him."

²⁸ David's oldest brother Eliab listened as he spoke to the men, and became angry with him. "Why did you come down here?" he asked. "Who did you leave those few sheep with in the wilderness? I know your arrogance and your evil heart--you came down to see the battle!"

²⁹ "What have I done now?" protested David. "It was just a question."

³⁰ Then he turned from those beside him to others in front of him and asked about the offer. The people gave him the same answer as before.

³¹ What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, so he had David brought to him.

³² David said to Saul, "Don't let anyone be discouraged by him; your servant will go and fight this Philistine!"

³³ But Saul replied, "You can't go fight this Philistine. You're just a youth, and he's been a warrior since he was young."

³⁴ David answered Saul, "Your servant has been tending his father's sheep. Whenever a lion or a bear came and carried off a lamb from the flock,

³⁵ I went after it, struck it down, and rescued the lamb from its mouth. If it reared up against me, I would grab it by its fur, strike it down, and kill it.

³⁶ Your servant has killed lions and bears; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

³⁷ Then David said, "The LORD who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

³⁸ Then Saul had his own military clothes put on David. He put a bronze helmet on David's head and had him put on armor.

³⁹ David strapped his sword on over the military clothes and tried to walk, but he was not used to them. "I can't walk in these," David said to Saul, "I'm not used to them." So David took them off.

⁴⁰ Instead, he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the wadi and put them in the pouch, in his

shepherd's bag. Then, with his sling in his hand, he approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ The Philistine came closer and closer to David, with the shield-bearer in front of him.

⁴² When the Philistine looked and saw David, he despised him because he was just a youth, healthy and handsome.

⁴³ He said to David, "Am I a dog that you come against me with sticks?" Then he cursed David by his gods.

⁴⁴ "Come here," the Philistine called to David, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts!"

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with a dagger, spear, and sword, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel's armies--you have defied Him.

⁴⁶ Today, the LORD will hand you over to me. Today, I'll strike you down, cut your head off, and give the corpses of

the Philistine camp to the birds of the sky and the creatures of the earth. Then all the world will know that Israel has a God,

⁴⁷ and this whole assembly will know that it is not by sword or by spear that the LORD saves, for the battle is the LORD's. He will hand you over to us."

⁴⁸ When the Philistine started forward to attack him, David ran quickly to the battle line to meet the Philistine.

⁴⁹ David put his hand in the bag, took out a stone, slung it, and hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

⁵⁰ David defeated the Philistine with a sling and a stone. Even though David had no sword, he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

⁵¹ David ran and stood over him. He grabbed the Philistine's sword, pulled

it from its sheath, and used it to kill him. Then he cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they ran.

⁵² The men of Israel and Judah rallied, shouting their battle cry, and chased the Philistines to the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. Philistine bodies were strewn all along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron.

⁵³ When the Israelites returned from the pursuit of the Philistines, they plundered their camps.

⁵⁴ David took Goliath's head and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put Goliath's weapons in his own tent.

⁵⁵ When Saul had seen David going out to confront the Philistine, he asked Abner the commander of the army, "Whose son is this youth, Abner?" "My king, as surely as you live, I don't know," Abner replied.

⁵⁶ The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is!"

⁵⁷ When David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the Philistine's head still in his hand.

⁵⁸ Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" "The son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem," David answered.

18 ¹ When David had finished speaking with Saul, Jonathan committed himself to David, and loved him as much as he loved himself.

² Saul kept David with him from that day on and did not let him return to his father's house.

³ Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as much as himself.

⁴ Then Jonathan removed the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along

with his military tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt.

⁵ David marched out with the army , and was successful in everything Saul sent him to do. Saul put him in command of the soldiers, which pleased all the people and Saul's servants as well.

⁶ As David was returning from killing the Philistine, the women came out from all the cities of Israel to meet King Saul, singing and dancing with tambourines, with shouts of joy, and with three-stringed instruments.

⁷ As they celebrated, the women sang: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands.

⁸ Saul was furious and resented this song. "They credited tens of thousands to David," he complained, "but they only credited me with thousands. What more can he have but the kingdom?"

⁹ So Saul watched David jealously from that day forward.

¹⁰ The next day an evil spirit from God took control of Saul, and he began to rave inside the palace. David was playing the harp as usual, but Saul was holding a spear,

¹¹ and he threw it, thinking, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David got away from him twice.

¹² Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with David but had left from Saul.

¹³ Therefore, Saul reassigned David and made him commander over 1,000 men. David led the troops

¹⁴ and continued to be successful in all his activities because the LORD was with him.

¹⁵ When Saul observed that David was very successful, he dreaded him.

¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David because he was leading their troops.

¹⁷ Saul told David, "Here is my oldest daughter Merab. I'll give her to you as a wife, if you will be a warrior for me and fight the LORD's battles." But Saul was thinking, "My hand doesn't need to be against him; let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

¹⁸ Then David responded, "Who am I, and what is my family or my father's clan in Israel that I should become the king's son-in-law?"

¹⁹ When it was time to give Saul's daughter Merab to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.

²⁰ Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David, and when it was reported to Saul, it pleased him.

²¹ "I'll give her to him," Saul thought. "She'll be a trap for him, and the hand of the Philistines will be against him." So

Saul said to David a second time, "You can now be my son-in-law."

²² Saul then ordered his servants, "Speak to David in private and tell him, 'Look, the king is pleased with you, and all his servants love you. Therefore, you should become the king's son-in-law.'"

²³ Saul's servants reported these words directly to David, but he replied, "Is it trivial in your sight to become the king's son-in-law? I am a poor man who is common."

²⁴ The servants reported back to Saul, "These are the words David spoke."

²⁵ Then Saul replied, "Say this to David: 'The king desires no other bride-price except 100 Philistine foreskins, to take revenge on his enemies.'" Actually, Saul intended to cause David's death at the hands of the Philistines.

²⁶ When the servants reported these terms to David, he was pleased to

become the king's son-in-law. Before the wedding day arrived,

²⁷ David and his men went out and killed 200 Philistines. He brought their foreskins and presented them as full payment to the king to become his son-in-law. Then Saul gave his daughter Michal to David as his wife.

²⁸ Saul realized that the LORD was with David and that his daughter Michal loved him,

²⁹ and he became even more afraid of David. As a result, Saul was David's enemy from then on.

³⁰ Every time the Philistine commanders came out to fight, David was more successful than all of Saul's officers. So his name became very famous.

19 ¹ Saul ordered his son Jonathan and all his servants to kill David. But Saul's son Jonathan liked David very much,

² so he told him: "My father Saul intends to kill you. Be on your guard in the morning and hide in a secret place and stay there.

³ I'll go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are and talk to him about you. When I see what he says , I'll tell you."

⁴ Jonathan spoke well of David to his father Saul. He said to him: "The king should not sin against his servant David. He hasn't sinned against you; in fact, his actions have been a great advantage to you.

⁵ He took his life in his hands when he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great victory for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced, so why would you sin against innocent blood by killing David for no reason?"

⁶ Saul listened to Jonathan's advice and swore an oath: "As surely as the LORD lives, David will not be killed."

⁷ So Jonathan summoned David and told him all these words. Then Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he served him as he did before.

⁸ When war broke out again, David went out and fought against the Philistines. He defeated them with such a great force that they fled from him.

⁹ Now an evil spirit from the LORD came on Saul as he was sitting in his palace holding a spear. David was playing the harp ,

¹⁰ and Saul tried to pin David to the wall with the spear. As the spear struck the wall, David eluded Saul and escaped. That night he ran away.

¹¹ Saul sent agents to David's house to watch for him and kill him in the morning. But his wife Michal warned

David: "If you don't escape tonight, you will be dead tomorrow!"

¹² So she lowered David from the window, and he fled and escaped.

¹³ Then Michal took the household idol and put it on the bed, placed some goats' hair on its head, and covered it with a garment.

¹⁴ When Saul sent agents to seize David, Michal said, "He's sick."

¹⁵ Saul sent the agents back to see David and said, "Bring him on his bed so I can kill him."

¹⁶ When the messengers arrived, to their surprise, the household idol was on the bed with some goats' hair on its head.

¹⁷ Saul asked Michal, "Why did you deceive me like this? You sent my enemy away, and he has escaped!" She answered him, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

¹⁸ So David fled and escaped and went to Samuel at Ramah and told him everything Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel left and stayed at Naioth.

¹⁹ When it was reported to Saul that David was at Naioth in Ramah,

²⁰ Saul sent agents to seize David. However, when they saw the group of prophets prophesying with Samuel leading them, the Spirit of God came on Saul's agents, and they also started prophesying.

²¹ When they reported to Saul, he sent other agents, and they also began prophesying. So Saul tried again and sent a third group of agents, and even they began prophesying.

²² Then Saul himself went to Ramah. He came to the large cistern at Secu, looked around, and asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" "At Naioth in Ramah," someone said.

²³ So he went to Naioth in Ramah. The Spirit of God also came on him, and as he walked along, he prophesied until he entered Naioth in Ramah.

²⁴ Saul then removed his clothes and also prophesied before Samuel; he collapsed and lay naked all that day and all that night. That is why they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

20 ¹ David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came to Jonathan and asked, "What have I done? What did I do wrong? How have I sinned against your father so that he wants to take my life?"

² Jonathan said to him, "No, you won't die. Listen, my father doesn't do anything, great or small, without telling me. So why would he hide this matter from me? This can't be true."

³ But David said, "Your father certainly knows that you have come to look favorably on me. He has said, 'Jonathan

must not know of this, or else he will be grieved.'" David also swore, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, there is but a step between me and death."

⁴ Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you say, I will do for you."

⁵ So David told him, "Look, tomorrow is the New Moon, and I'm supposed to sit down and eat with the king. Instead, let me go, and I'll hide in the field until the third night.

⁶ If your father misses me at all, say, 'David urgently requested my permission to quickly go to his town Bethlehem for an annual sacrifice there involving the whole clan.'

⁷ If he says, 'Good,' then your servant is safe, but if he becomes angry, you will know he has evil intentions.

⁸ Deal faithfully with your servant, for you have brought me into a covenant

before the LORD with you. If I have done anything wrong, then kill me yourself; why take me to your father?"

⁹ "No!" Jonathan responded. "If I ever find out my father has evil intentions against you, wouldn't I tell you about it?"

¹⁰ So David asked Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you harshly?"

¹¹ He answered David, "Come on, let's go out to the field." So both of them went out to the field.

¹² "By the LORD, the God of Israel, if I sound out my father by this time tomorrow or the next day and I find out that he is favorable toward you, and if I do not send for you and tell you,

¹³ then may God punish Jonathan and do so severely. If my father intends to bring evil on you, then I will tell you, and I will send you away, and you will go in

peace. May the LORD be with you, just as He was with my father.

¹⁴ If I continue to live, treat me with the LORD's faithful love, but if I die,

¹⁵ don't ever withdraw your faithful love from my household--not even when the LORD cuts off every one of David's enemies from the face of the earth."

¹⁶ Then Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD hold David's enemies accountable."

¹⁷ Jonathan once again swore to David in his love for him, because he loved him as he loved himself.

¹⁸ Then Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the New Moon; you'll be missed because your seat will be empty.

¹⁹ The following day hurry down and go to the place where you hid on the day this incident began and stay beside the rock Ezel.

²⁰ I will shoot three arrows beside it as if I'm aiming at a target.

²¹ Then I will send the young man and say , 'Go and find the arrows!' Now, if I expressly say to the young man, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you--get them,' then come, because as the LORD lives, it is safe for you and there is no problem.

²² But if I say this to the youth: 'Look, the arrows are beyond you!' then go, for the LORD is sending you away.

²³ As for the matter you and I have spoken about, the LORD will be a witness between you and me forever."

²⁴ So David hid in the field. At the New Moon, the king sat down to eat the meal.

²⁵ He sat at his usual place on the seat by the wall. Jonathan sat facing him and Abner took his place beside Saul, but David's place was empty.

²⁶ Saul did not say anything that day because he thought, "Something unexpected has happened; he must be ceremonially unclean--yes, that's it, he is unclean."

²⁷ However, the day after the New Moon, the second day, David's place was still empty, and Saul asked his son Jonathan, "Why didn't Jesse's son come to the meal either yesterday or today?"

²⁸ Jonathan answered, "David asked for my permission to go to Bethlehem.

²⁹ He said, 'Please let me go because our clan is holding a sacrifice in the town, and my brother has told me to be there. So now, if you are pleased with me, let me go so I can see my brothers.' That's why he didn't come to the king's table."

³⁰ Then Saul became angry with Jonathan and shouted, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman! Don't I

know that you are siding with Jesse's son to your own shame and to the disgrace of your mother?

³¹ Every day Jesse's son lives on earth you and your kingship are not secure. Now send for him and bring him to me--he deserves to die."

³² Jonathan answered his father back: "Why is he to be killed? What has he done?"

³³ Then Saul threw his spear at Jonathan to kill him, so he knew that his father was determined to kill David.

³⁴ He got up from the table in fierce anger and did not eat any food that second day of the New Moon, for he was grieved because of his father's shameful behavior toward David.

³⁵ In the morning Jonathan went out to the field for the appointed meeting with David. A small young man was with him.

³⁶ He said to the young man, "Run and find the arrows I'm shooting." As the young man ran, Jonathan shot an arrow beyond him.

³⁷ He came to the location of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, but Jonathan called to him and said, "The arrow is beyond you, isn't it?"

³⁸ Then Jonathan called to him, "Hurry up and don't stop!" Jonathan's young man picked up the arrow and returned to his master.

³⁹ He did not know anything; only Jonathan and David knew the arrangement.

⁴⁰ Then Jonathan gave his equipment to the young man who was with him and said, "Go, take it back to the city."

⁴¹ When the young man had gone, David got up from the south side of the stone Ezel, fell with his face to the ground, and bowed three times. Then

he and Jonathan kissed each other and wept with each other, though David wept more.

⁴² Jonathan then said to David, "Go in the assurance the two of us pledged in the name of the LORD when we said: The LORD will be a witness between you and me and between my offspring and your offspring forever." Then David left, and Jonathan went into the city.

21 ¹ David went to Ahimelech the priest at Nob. Ahimelech was afraid to meet David, so he said to him, "Why are you alone and no one is with you?"

² David answered Ahimelech the priest, "The king gave me a mission, but he told me, 'Don't let anyone know anything about the mission I'm sending you on or what I have ordered you to do .' I have stationed my young men at a certain place.

³ Now what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread or whatever can be found."

⁴ The priest told him, "There is no ordinary bread on hand. However, there is consecrated bread, but the young men may eat it only if they have kept themselves from women."

⁵ David answered him, "I swear that women are being kept from us, as always when I go out to battle . The young men's bodies are consecrated even on an ordinary mission, so of course their bodies are consecrated today."

⁶ So the priest gave him the consecrated bread , for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD. When the bread was removed, it had been replaced with warm bread.

⁷ One of Saul's servants, detained before the LORD, was there that day. His

name was Doeg the Edomite, chief of Saul's shepherds.

⁸ David said to Ahimelech, "Do you have a spear or sword on hand? I didn't even bring my sword or my weapons since the king's mission was urgent."

⁹ The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, is here, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want to take it for yourself, then take it, for there isn't another one here." "There's none like it!" David said. "Give it to me."

¹⁰ David fled that day from Saul's presence and went to King Achish of Gath.

¹¹ But Achish's servants said to him, "Isn't this David, the king of the land? Don't they sing about him during their dances: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands?"

¹² David took this to heart and became very afraid of King Achish of Gath,

¹³ so he pretended to be insane in their presence. He acted like a madman around them, scribbling on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

¹⁴ "Look! You can see the man is crazy," Achish said to his servants. "Why did you bring him to me?"

¹⁵ Do I have such a shortage of crazy people that you brought this one to act crazy around me? Is this one going to come into my house?"

22 ¹ So David left Gath and took refuge in the cave of Adullam. When David's brothers and his father's whole family heard, they went down and joined him there.

² In addition, every man who was desperate, in debt, or discontented

rallied around him, and he became their leader. About 400 men were with him.

³ From there David went to Mizpeh of Moab where he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother stay with you until I know what God will do for me."

⁴ So he left them in the care of the king of Moab, and they stayed with him the whole time David was in the stronghold.

⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Don't stay in the stronghold. Leave and return to the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

⁶ Saul heard that David and his men had been discovered. At that time Saul was in Gibeah, sitting under the tamarisk tree at the high place. His spear was in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him.

⁷ Saul said to his servants, "Listen, men of Benjamin: Is Jesse's son going to give

all of you fields and vineyards? Do you think he'll make all of you commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds?

⁸ That's why all of you have conspired against me! Nobody tells me when my own son makes a covenant with Jesse's son. None of you cares about me or tells me that my son has stirred up my own servant to wait in ambush for me, as is the case today."

⁹ Then Doeg the Edomite, who was in charge of Saul's servants, answered: "I saw Jesse's son come to Ahimelech son of Ahitub at Nob.

¹⁰ Ahimelech inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions. He also gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹ The king sent messengers to summon Ahimelech the priest, son of Ahitub, and his father's whole family, who were

priests in Nob. All of them came to the king.

¹² Then Saul said, "Listen, son of Ahitub!" "I'm at your service, my lord," he said.

¹³ Saul asked him, "Why did you and Jesse's son conspire against me? You gave him bread and a sword and inquired of God for him, so he could rise up against me and wait in ambush, as is the case today."

¹⁴ Ahimelech replied to the king: "Who among all your servants is as faithful as David? He is the king's son-in-law, captain of your bodyguard, and honored in your house.

¹⁵ Was today the first time I inquired of God for him? Of course not! Please don't let the king make an accusation against your servant or any of my father's household, for your servant didn't have any idea about all this."

¹⁶ But the king said, "You will die, Ahimelech--you and your father's whole family!"

¹⁷ Then the king ordered the guards standing by him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD because they sided with David. For they knew he was fleeing, but they didn't tell me." But the king's servants would not lift a hand to execute the priests of the LORD.

¹⁸ So the king said to Doeg, "Go and execute the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite went and executed the priests himself. On that day, he killed 85 men who wore linen ephods.

¹⁹ He also struck down Nob, the city of the priests, with the sword--both men and women, children and infants, oxen, donkeys, and sheep.

²⁰ However, one of the sons of Ahimelech son of Ahitub escaped. His name was Abiathar, and he fled to David.

²¹ Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.

²² Then David said to Abiathar, "I knew that Doeg the Edomite was there that day and that he was sure to report to Saul. I myself am responsible for the lives of everyone in your father's family.

²³ Stay with me. Don't be afraid, for the one who wants to take my life wants to take your life. You will be safe with me."

23 ¹ It was reported to David: "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and raiding the threshing floors."

² So David inquired of the LORD: "Should I launch an attack against these Philistines?" The LORD answered David, "Launch an attack against the Philistines and rescue Keilah."

³ But David's men said to him, "Look, we're afraid here in Judah; how much more if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces!"

⁴ Once again, David inquired of the LORD, and the LORD answered him: "Go at once to Keilah, for I will hand the Philistines over to you."

⁵ Then David and his men went to Keilah, fought against the Philistines, drove their livestock away, and inflicted heavy losses on them. So David rescued the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶ Abiathar son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, and he brought an ephod with him.

⁷ When it was reported to Saul that David had gone to Keilah, he said, "God has handed him over to me, for he has trapped himself by entering a town with barred gates."

⁸ Then Saul summoned all the troops to go to war at Keilah and besiege David and his men.

⁹ When David learned that Saul was plotting evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod."

¹⁰ Then David said, "LORD God of Israel, Your servant has heard that Saul intends to come to Keilah and destroy the town because of me.

¹¹ Will the citizens of Keilah hand me over to him? Will Saul come down as Your servant has heard? LORD God of Israel, please tell Your servant." The LORD answered, "He will come down."

¹² Then David asked, "Will the citizens of Keilah hand me and my men over to Saul?" "They will," the LORD responded.

¹³ So David and his men, numbering about 600, left Keilah at once and moved from place to place. When it was reported to Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he called off the expedition.

¹⁴ David then stayed in the wilderness strongholds and in the hill country of

the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul searched for him every day, but God did not hand David over to him.

¹⁵ David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in Horesh when he saw that Saul had come out to take his life.

¹⁶ Then Saul's son Jonathan came to David in Horesh and encouraged him in his faith in God,

¹⁷ saying, "Don't be afraid, for my father Saul will never lay a hand on you. You yourself will be king over Israel, and I'll be your second-in-command. Even my father Saul knows it is true."

¹⁸ Then the two of them made a covenant in the LORD's presence. Afterwards, David remained in Horesh, while Jonathan went home.

¹⁹ Some Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah and said, "David is hiding among us in the strongholds in Horesh on the hill of Hachilah south of Jeshimon.

²⁰ Now, whenever the king wants to come down, let him come down. Our part will be to hand him over to the king."

²¹ "May you be blessed by the LORD," replied Saul, "for you have taken pity on me.

²² Go and check again. Investigate and watch carefully where he goes and who has seen him there; they tell me he is extremely cunning.

²³ Look and find out all the places where he hides. Then come back to me with accurate information, and I'll go with you. If it turns out he really is in the region, I'll search for him among all the clans of Judah."

²⁴ So they went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the wilderness near Maon in the Arabah south of Jeshimon,

²⁵ and Saul and his men went to look for him . When David was told about it, he went down to the rock and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. Saul heard of this and pursued David there.

²⁶ Saul went along one side of the mountain and David and his men went along the other side. Even though David was hurrying to get away from Saul, Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them.

²⁷ Then a messenger came to Saul saying, "Come quickly, because the Philistines have raided the land!"

²⁸ So Saul broke off his pursuit of David and went to engage the Philistines. Therefore, that place was named the Rock of Separation.

²⁹ From there David went up and stayed in the strongholds of En-gedi.

24 ¹ When Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was

told, "David is in the wilderness near En-gedi."

² So Saul took 3,000 of Israel's choice men and went to look for David and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

³ When Saul came to the sheep pens along the road, a cave was there, and he went in to relieve himself. David and his men were staying in the back of the cave,

⁴ so they said to him, "Look, this is the day the LORD told you about: 'I will hand your enemy over to you so you can do to him whatever you desire.'" Then David got up and secretly cut off the corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ Afterwards, David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the corner of Saul's robe.

⁶ He said to his men, "I swear before the LORD: I would never do such a thing

to my lord, the LORD's anointed. I will never lift my hand against him, since he is the LORD's anointed."

⁷ With these words David persuaded his men, and he did not let them rise up against Saul. Then Saul left the cave and went on his way.

⁸ After that, David got up, went out of the cave, and called to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed to the ground in homage.

⁹ David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of people who say, 'Look, David intends to harm you'?"

¹⁰ You can see with your own eyes that the LORD handed you over to me today in the cave. Someone advised me to kill you, but I took pity on you and said: I won't lift my hand against my lord, since he is the LORD's anointed.

¹¹ See, my father! Look at the corner of your robe in my hand, for I cut it off,

but I didn't kill you. Look and recognize that there is no evil or rebellion in me. I haven't sinned against you even though you are hunting me down to take my life.

¹² "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD take vengeance on you for me, but my hand will never be against you.

¹³ As the old proverb says, 'Wickedness comes from wicked people.' My hand will never be against you.

¹⁴ Who has the king of Israel come after? What are you chasing after? A dead dog? A flea?

¹⁵ May the LORD be judge and decide between you and me. May He take notice and plead my case and deliver me from you."

¹⁶ When David finished saying these things to him, Saul replied, "Is that your voice, David my son?" Then Saul wept aloud

¹⁷ and said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have done what is good to me though I have done what is evil to you.

¹⁸ You yourself have told me today what good you did for me: when the LORD handed me over to you, you didn't kill me.

¹⁹ When a man finds his enemy, does he let him go unharmed? May the LORD repay you with good for what you've done for me today.

²⁰ "Now I know for certain you will be king, and the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.

²¹ Therefore swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."

²² So David swore to Saul. Then Saul went back home, and David and his men went up to the stronghold.

25 ¹ Samuel died, and all Israel assembled to mourn for him, and they buried him by his home in Ramah. David then went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

² A man in Maon had a business in Carmel; he was a very rich man with 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats and was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

³ The man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name, Abigail. The woman was intelligent and beautiful, but the man, a Calebite, was harsh and evil in his dealings.

⁴ While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep,

⁵ so David sent 10 young men instructing them, "Go up to Carmel, and when you come to Nabal, greet him in my name.

⁶ Then say this: 'Long life to you, and peace to you, to your family, and to all that is yours.

⁷ I hear that you are shearing. When your shepherds were with us, we did not harass them, and nothing of theirs was missing the whole time they were in Carmel.

⁸ Ask your young men, and they will tell you. So let my young men find favor with you, for we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you can afford to your servants and to your son David.'"

⁹ David's young men went and said all these things to Nabal on David's behalf, and they waited.

¹⁰ Nabal asked them, "Who is David? Who is Jesse's son? Many slaves these days are running away from their masters.

¹¹ Am I supposed to take my bread, my water, and my meat that I butchered for

my shearers and give them to men who are from I don't know where?"

¹² David's men retraced their steps. When they returned to him, they reported all these words.

¹³ He said to his men, "All of you, put on your swords!" So David and all his men put on their swords. About 400 men followed David while 200 stayed with the supplies.

¹⁴ One of Nabal's young men informed Abigail, Nabal's wife: "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, but he yelled at them.

¹⁵ The men treated us well. When we were in the field, we weren't harassed and nothing of ours was missing the whole time we were living among them.

¹⁶ They were a wall around us, both day and night, the entire time we were herding the sheep.

¹⁷ Now consider carefully what you must do, because there is certain to be trouble for our master and his entire family. He is such a worthless fool nobody can talk to him!"

¹⁸ Abigail hurried, taking 200 loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five butchered sheep, a bushel of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys.

¹⁹ Then she said to her male servants, "Go ahead of me. I will be right behind you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

²⁰ As she rode the donkey down a mountain pass hidden from view, she saw David and his men coming toward her and met them.

²¹ David had just said, "I guarded everything that belonged to this man in the wilderness for nothing. He was not

missing anything, yet he paid me back evil for good.

²² May God punish me, and even more if I let any of his men survive until morning."

²³ When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off the donkey and fell with her face to the ground in front of David.

²⁴ She fell at his feet and said, "The guilt is mine, my lord, but please let your servant speak to you directly. Listen to the words of your servant.

²⁵ My lord should pay no attention to this worthless man Nabal, for he lives up to his name: His name is Nabal, and stupidity is all he knows. I, your servant, didn't see my lord's young men whom you sent.

²⁶ Now my lord, as surely as the LORD lives and as you yourself live, it is the LORD who kept you from participating in bloodshed and avenging yourself by

your own hand. May your enemies and those who want trouble for my lord be like Nabal.

²⁷ Accept this gift your servant has brought to my lord, and let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.

²⁸ Please forgive your servant's offense, for the LORD is certain to make a lasting dynasty for my lord because he fights the LORD's battles. Throughout your life, may evil not be found in you.

²⁹ "When someone pursues you and attempts to take your life, my lord's life will be tucked safely in the place where the LORD your God protects the living. However, He will fling away your enemies' lives like stones from a sling.

³⁰ When the LORD does for my lord all the good He promised and appoints you ruler over Israel,

³¹ there will not be remorse or a troubled conscience for my lord because

of needless bloodshed or my lord's revenge. And when the LORD does good things for my lord, may you remember me your servant."

³² Then David said to Abigail, "Praise to the LORD God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today!

³³ Blessed is your discernment, and blessed are you. Today you kept me from participating in bloodshed and avenging myself by my own hand.

³⁴ Otherwise, as surely as the LORD God of Israel lives, who prevented me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, Nabal wouldn't have had any men left by morning light."

³⁵ Then David accepted what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. See, I have heard what you said and have granted your request."

³⁶ Then Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was in his house, feasting like a

king. Nabal was in a good mood and very drunk, so she didn't say anything to him until morning light.

³⁷ In the morning when Nabal sobered up, his wife told him about these events. Then he had a seizure and became paralyzed.

³⁸ About 10 days later, the LORD struck Nabal dead.

³⁹ When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Praise the LORD who championed my cause against Nabal's insults and restrained His servant from doing evil. The LORD brought Nabal's evil deeds back on his own head." Then David sent messengers to speak to Abigail about marrying him.

⁴⁰ When David's servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, "David sent us to bring you to him as a wife."

⁴¹ She bowed her face to the ground and said, "Here I am, your servant, to wash the feet of my lord's servants."

⁴² Then Abigail got up quickly, and with her five female servants accompanying her, rode on the donkey following David's messengers. And so she became his wife.

⁴³ David also married Ahinoam of Jezreel, and the two of them became his wives.

⁴⁴ But Saul gave his daughter Michal, David's wife, to Palti son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

26 ¹ Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah saying, "David is hiding on the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon."

² So Saul, accompanied by 3,000 of the choice men of Israel, went to the Wilderness of Ziph to search for David there.

³ Saul camped beside the road at the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon. David was living in the wilderness and discovered Saul had come there after him.

⁴ So David sent out spies and knew for certain that Saul had come.

⁵ Immediately, David went to the place where Saul had camped. He saw the place where Saul and Abner son of Ner, the general of his army, had lain down. Saul was lying inside the inner circle of the camp with the troops camped around him.

⁶ Then David asked Ahimelech the Hittite and Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruah, "Who will go with me into the camp to Saul?" "I'll go with you," answered Abishai.

⁷ That night, David and Abishai came to the troops, and Saul was lying there asleep in the inner circle of the camp

with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. Abner and the troops were lying around him.

⁸ Then Abishai said to David, "Today God has handed your enemy over to you. Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground just once. I won't have to strike him twice!"

⁹ But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him, for who can lift a hand against the LORD's anointed and be blameless?"

¹⁰ David added, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will certainly strike him down: either his day will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish.

¹¹ However, because of the LORD, I will never lift my hand against the LORD's anointed. Instead, take the spear and the water jug by his head, and let's go."

¹² So David took the spear and the water jug by Saul's head, and they went

their way. No one saw them, no one knew, and no one woke up; they all remained asleep because a deep sleep from the LORD came over them.

¹³ David crossed to the other side and stood on top of the mountain at a distance; there was a considerable space between them.

¹⁴ Then David shouted to the troops and to Abner son of Ner: "Aren't you going to answer, Abner?" "Who are you who calls to the king?" Abner asked.

¹⁵ David called to Abner, "You're a man, aren't you? Who in Israel is your equal? So why didn't you protect your lord the king when one of the people came to destroy him?"

¹⁶ What you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, all of you deserve to die since you didn't protect your lord, the LORD's anointed. Now look around;

where are the king's spear and water jug that were by his head?"

¹⁷ Saul recognized David's voice and asked, "Is that your voice, my son David?" "It is my voice, my lord and king," David said.

¹⁸ Then he continued, "Why is my lord pursuing his servant? What have I done? What evil is in my hand?"

¹⁹ Now, may my lord the king please hear the words of his servant: If it is the LORD who has incited you against me, then may He accept an offering. But if it is people, may they be cursed in the presence of the LORD, for today they have driven me away from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD saying, 'Go and worship other gods.'

²⁰ So don't let my blood fall to the ground far from the LORD's presence, for the king of Israel has come out to

search for a flea, like one who pursues a partridge in the mountains."

²¹ Saul responded, "I have sinned. Come back, my son David, I will never harm you again because today you considered my life precious. I have been a fool! I've committed a grave error."

²² David answered, "Here is the king's spear; have one of the young men come over and get it."

²³ May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his loyalty. I wasn't willing to lift my hand against the LORD's anointed, even though the LORD handed you over to me today.

²⁴ Just as I considered your life valuable today, so may the LORD consider my life valuable and rescue me from all trouble."

²⁵ Saul said to him, "You are blessed, my son David. You will certainly do great things and will also prevail." Then David

went on his way, and Saul returned home.

27 ¹ David said to himself, "One of these days I'll be swept away by Saul. There is nothing better for me than to escape immediately to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will stop searching for me everywhere in Israel, and I'll escape from him."

² So David set out with his 600 men and went to Achish son of Maach, the king of Gath.

³ David and his men stayed with Achish in Gath. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow.

⁴ When it was reported to Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.

⁵ Now David said to Achish, "If I have found favor with you, let me be given a

place in one of the outlying towns, so I can live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?"

⁶ That day Achish gave Ziklag to him, and it still belongs to the kings of Judah today.

⁷ The time that David stayed in the Philistine territory amounted to a year and four months.

⁸ David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. From ancient times they had been the inhabitants of the region through Shur as far as the land of Egypt.

⁹ Whenever David attacked the land, he did not leave a single person alive, either man or woman, but he took flocks, herds, donkeys, camels, and clothing. Then he came back to Achish,

¹⁰ who inquired, "Where did you raid today?" David replied, "The south country of Judah," "The south country

of the Jerahmeelites," or "Against the south country of the Kenites."

¹¹ David did not let a man or woman live to be brought to Gath, for he said, "Or they will inform on us and say, 'This is what David did.'" This was David's custom during the whole time he stayed in the Philistine territory.

¹² So Achish trusted David, thinking, "Since he has made himself detestable to his people Israel, he will be my servant forever."

28 ¹ At that time, the Philistines brought their military units together into one army to fight against Israel. So Achish said to David, "You know, of course, that you and your men must march out in the army with me."

² David replied to Achish, "Good, you will find out what your servant can do." So Achish said to David, "Very well,

I will appoint you as my permanent bodyguard."

³ By this time Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his city, and Saul had removed the mediums and spiritists from the land.

⁴ The Philistines came together and camped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel, and they camped at Gilboa.

⁵ When Saul saw the Philistine camp, he was afraid and trembled violently.

⁶ He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him in dreams or by the Urim or by the prophets.

⁷ Saul then said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I can go and consult her." His servants replied, "There is a woman at Endor who is a medium."

⁸ Saul disguised himself by putting on different clothes and set out with two

of his men. They came to the woman at night, and Saul said, "Consult a spirit for me. Bring up for me the one I tell you."

⁹ But the woman said to him, "You surely know what Saul has done, how he has killed the mediums and spiritists in the land. Why are you setting a trap for me to get me killed?"

¹⁰ Then Saul swore to her by the LORD: "As surely as the LORD lives, nothing bad will happen to you because of this."

¹¹ "Who is it that you want me to bring up for you?" the woman asked. "Bring up Samuel for me," he answered.

¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed, and then she asked Saul, "Why did you deceive me? You are Saul!"

¹³ But the king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?" "I see a spirit form coming up out of the earth," the woman answered.

¹⁴ Then Saul asked her, "What does he look like?" "An old man is coming up," she replied. "He's wearing a robe." Then Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed his face to the ground and paid homage.

¹⁵ "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Samuel asked Saul. "I'm in serious trouble," replied Saul. "The Philistines are fighting against me and God has turned away from me. He doesn't answer me any more, either through the prophets or in dreams. So I've called on you to tell me what I should do."

¹⁶ Samuel answered, "Since the LORD has turned away from you and has become your enemy, why are you asking me?"

¹⁷ The LORD has done exactly what He said through me: The LORD has torn the

kingship out of your hand and given it to your neighbor David.

¹⁸ You did not obey the LORD and did not carry out His wrath against Amalek; therefore the LORD has done this to you today.

¹⁹ The LORD will also hand Israel over to the Philistines along with you. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me, and the LORD will hand Israel's army over to the Philistines."

²⁰ Immediately, Saul fell flat on the ground. He was terrified by Samuel's words and was also weak because he hadn't had any food all day and all night.

²¹ The woman came over to Saul, and she saw that he was terrified and said to him, "Look, your servant has obeyed you. I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do .

²² Now please listen to your servant. Let me set some food in front of you. Eat

and it will give you strength so you can go on your way."

²³ He refused, saying, "I won't eat," but when his servants and the woman urged him, he listened to them. He got up off the ground and sat on the bed.

²⁴ The woman had a fattened calf at her house, and she quickly slaughtered it. She also took flour, kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread.

²⁵ She served it to Saul and his servants, and they ate. Afterwards, they got up and left that night.

29 ¹ The Philistines brought all their military units together at Aphek while Israel was camped by the spring in Jezreel.

² As the Philistine leaders were passing in review with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were passing in review behind them with Achish.

³ Then the Philistine commanders asked, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" Achish answered the Philistine commanders, "That is David, servant of King Saul of Israel. He has been with me a considerable period of time. From the day he defected until today, I've found no fault with him."

⁴ The Philistine commanders, however, were enraged with Achish and told him, "Send that man back and let him return to the place you assigned him. He must not go down with us into battle only to become our adversary during the battle. What better way could he regain his master's favor than with the heads of our men?"

⁵ Isn't this the David they sing about during their dances: Saul has killed his thousands, but David his tens of thousands?"

⁶ So Achish summoned David and told him, "As the LORD lives, you are an honorable man. I think it is good to have you working with me in the camp, because I have found no fault in you from the day you came to me until today. But the leaders don't think you are reliable.

⁷ Now go back quietly and you won't be doing anything the Philistine leaders think is wrong."

⁸ "But what have I done?" David replied to Achish. "From the first day I was with you until today, what have you found against your servant to keep me from going along to fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

⁹ Achish answered David, "I'm convinced that you are as reliable as an angel of God. But the Philistine commanders have said, 'He must not go into battle with us.'

¹⁰ So get up early in the morning, you and your masters' servants who came with you. When you've all gotten up early, go as soon as it's light."

¹¹ So David and his men got up early in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

30 ¹ David and his men arrived in Ziklag on the third day. The Amalekites had raided the Negev and attacked and burned down Ziklag.

² They also had kidnapped the women and everyone in it from the youngest to the oldest. They had killed no one but had carried them off as they went on their way.

³ When David and his men arrived at the town, they found it burned down. Their wives, sons, and daughters had been kidnapped.

⁴ David and the troops with him wept loudly until they had no strength left to weep.

⁵ David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had also been kidnapped.

⁶ David was in a difficult position because the troops talked about stoning him, for they were all very bitter over the loss of their sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

⁷ David said to Abiathar the priest, son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought it to him,

⁸ and David asked the LORD: "Should I pursue these raiders? Will I overtake them?" The LORD replied to him, "Pursue them , for you will certainly overtake them and rescue the people ."

⁹ David and the 600 men with him went as far as the Wadi Besor, where 200 who were to remain behind would stop.

¹⁰ They stopped because they were too exhausted to cross the Wadi Besor. David and 400 of the men continued in pursuit.

¹¹ They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. They gave him some bread to eat and water to drink.

¹² Then they gave him some pressed figs and two clusters of raisins. After he ate he revived, for he hadn't eaten food or drunk water for three days and three nights.

¹³ Then David said to him, "Who do you belong to? Where are you from?" "I'm an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite man," he said. "My master abandoned me when I got sick three days ago.

¹⁴ We raided the south country of the Cherethites, the territory of Judah, and

the south country of Caleb, and we burned down Ziklag."

¹⁵ David then asked him, "Will you lead me to these raiders?" He said, "Swear to me by God that you won't kill me or turn me over to my master, and I will lead you to them."

¹⁶ So he led him, and there were the Amalekites, spread out over the entire area, eating, drinking, and celebrating because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and the land of Judah.

¹⁷ David slaughtered them from twilight until the evening of the next day. None of them escaped, except 400 young men who got on camels and fled.

¹⁸ David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken; he also rescued his two wives.

¹⁹ Nothing of theirs was missing from the youngest to the oldest, including the

sons and daughters, of all the plunder the Amalekites had taken. David got everything back.

²⁰ He took all the sheep and cattle, which were driven ahead of the other livestock, and the people shouted, "This is David's plunder!"

²¹ When David came to the 200 men who had been too exhausted to go with him and had been left at the Wadi Besor, they came out to meet him and to meet the troops with him. When David approached the men, he greeted them,

²² but all the worthless men among those who had gone with David retorted, "Because they didn't go with us, we will not give any of the plunder we recovered to them except for each man's wife and children. They may take them and go."

²³ But David said, "My brothers, you must not do this with what the LORD has given us. He protected us and handed

over to us the raiders who came against us.

²⁴ Who can agree to your proposal? The share of the one who goes into battle is to be the same as the share of the one who remains with the supplies. They will share equally."

²⁵ And it has been so from that day forward. David established this policy as a law and an ordinance for Israel and it continues to this very day.

²⁶ When David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, "Here is a gift for you from the plunder of the LORD's enemies."

²⁷ He sent gifts to those in Bethel, in Ramoth of the Negev, and in Jattir;

²⁸ to those in Aroer, in Siphmoth, and in Eshtemoa;

²⁹ to those in Racal, in the towns of the Jerahmeelites, and in the towns of the Kenites;

³⁰ to those in Hormah, in Bor-ashan, and in Athach;

³¹ to those in Hebron, and to those in all the places where David and his men had roamed.

31 ¹ The Philistines fought against Israel, and Israel's men fled from them. Many were killed on Mount Gilboa.

² The Philistines overtook Saul and his sons and killed his sons, Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua.

³ When the battle intensified against Saul, the archers caught up with him and severely wounded him.

⁴ Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through with it, or these uncircumcised men will come and run me through and torture

me." But his armor-bearer would not do it because he was terrified. Then Saul took his sword and fell on it.

⁵ When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his own sword and died with him.

⁶ So on that day, Saul died together with his three sons, his armor-bearer, and all his men.

⁷ When the men of Israel on the other side of the valley and on the other side of the Jordan saw that Israel's men had run away and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned the cities and fled. So the Philistines came and settled in them.

⁸ The next day when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons dead on Mount Gilboa.

⁹ They cut off Saul's head, stripped off his armor, and sent messengers

throughout the land of the Philistines to spread the good news in the temples of their idols and among the people.

¹⁰ Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and hung his body on the wall of Beth-shan.

¹¹ When the residents of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² all their brave men set out, journeyed all night, and retrieved the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan. When they arrived at Jabesh, they burned the bodies there.

¹³ Afterwards, they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

2 Samuel

1 ¹ After the death of Saul, David returned from defeating the Amalekites and stayed at Ziklag two days.

² On the third day a man with torn clothes and dust on his head came from Saul's camp. When he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage.

³ David asked him, "Where have you come from?" He replied to him, "I've escaped from the Israelite camp."

⁴ "What was the outcome? Tell me," David asked him. "The troops fled from the battle," he answered. "Many of the troops have fallen and are dead. Also, Saul and his son Jonathan are dead."

⁵ David asked the young man who had brought him the report, "How do you

know Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

⁶ "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," he replied, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear. At that very moment the chariots and the cavalry were closing in on him.

⁷ When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, so I answered: I'm at your service.

⁸ He asked me, 'Who are you?' I told him: I'm an Amalekite.

⁹ Then he begged me, 'Stand over me and kill me, for I'm mortally wounded, but my life still lingers.'

¹⁰ So I stood over him and killed him because I knew that after he had fallen he couldn't survive. I took the crown that was on his head and the armband that was on his arm, and I've brought them here to my lord."

¹¹ Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and all the men with him did the same.

¹² They mourned, wept, and fasted until the evening for those who died by the sword--for Saul, his son Jonathan, the LORD's people, and the house of Israel.

¹³ David inquired of the young man who had brought him the report, "Where are you from?" "I'm the son of a foreigner" he said. "I'm an Amalekite."

¹⁴ David questioned him, "How is it that you were not afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

¹⁵ Then David summoned one of his servants and said, "Come here and kill him!" The servant struck him, and he died.

¹⁶ For David had said to the Amalekite, "Your blood is on your own head because your own mouth testified against you by saying, 'I killed the LORD's anointed.'"

¹⁷ David sang the following lament for Saul and his son Jonathan,

¹⁸ and he ordered that the Judahites be taught The Song of the Bow. It is written in the Book of Jashar:

¹⁹ The splendor of Israel lies slain on your heights. How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ Do not tell it in Gath, don't announce it in the streets of Ashkelon, or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, and the daughters of the uncircumcised will gloat.

²¹ Mountains of Gilboa, let no dew or rain be on you, or fields of offerings, for there the shield of the mighty was defiled--the shield of Saul, no longer anointed with oil.

²² Jonathan's bow never retreated, Saul's sword never returned unstained, from the blood of the slain, from the bodies of the mighty.

²³ Saul and Jonathan, loved and delightful, they were not parted in life or in death. They were swifter than eagles, stronger than lions.

²⁴ Daughters of Israel, weep for Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with luxurious things, who decked your garments with gold ornaments.

²⁵ How the mighty have fallen in the thick of battle! Jonathan lies slain on your heights.

²⁶ I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother. You were such a friend to me. Your love for me was more wonderful than the love of a woman for me .

²⁷ How the mighty have fallen and the weapons of war have perished!

2¹ Some time later, David inquired of the LORD: "Should I go to one of the towns of Judah?" The LORD answered him, "Go." Then David asked, "Where

should I go?" "To Hebron," the LORD replied.

² So David went there with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail, the widow of Nabal the Carmelite.

³ In addition, David brought the men who were with him, each one with his household, and they settled in the towns near Hebron.

⁴ Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. They told David: "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul."

⁵ David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "The LORD bless you, because you have shown this special kindness to Saul your lord when you buried him.

⁶ Now, may the LORD show special kindness and faithfulness to you, and I

will also show the same goodness to you because you have done this deed.

⁷ Therefore, be strong and courageous, for though Saul your lord is dead, the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

⁸ Abner son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Saul's son Ish-bosheth and moved him to Mahanaim.

⁹ He made him king over Gilead, Asher, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin--over all Israel.

¹⁰ Saul's son Ish-bosheth was 40 years old when he began his reign over Israel; he ruled for two years. The house of Judah, however, followed David.

¹¹ The length of time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

¹² Abner son of Ner and soldiers of Ish-bosheth son of Saul marched out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

¹³ So Joab son of Zeruah and David's soldiers marched out and met them by the pool of Gibeon. The two groups took up positions on opposite sides of the pool.

¹⁴ Then Abner said to Joab, "Let's have the young men get up and compete in front of us." "Let them get up," Joab replied.

¹⁵ So they got up and were counted off--12 for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth son of Saul, and 12 from David's soldiers.

¹⁶ Then each man grabbed his opponent by the head and thrust his sword into his opponent's side so that they all died together. So this place, which is in Gibeon, is named Field of Blades.

¹⁷ The battle that day was extremely fierce, and Abner and the men of Israel were defeated by David's soldiers.

¹⁸ The three sons of Zeruah were there: Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Asahel was a fast runner, like one of the wild gazelles.

¹⁹ He chased Abner and did not turn to the right or the left in his pursuit of him.

²⁰ Abner glanced back and said, "Is that you, Asahel?" "Yes it is," Asahel replied.

²¹ Abner said to him, "Turn to your right or left, seize one of the young soldiers, and take whatever you can get from him." But Asahel would not stop chasing him.

²² Once again, Abner warned Asahel, "Stop chasing me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How could I ever look your brother Joab in the face?"

²³ But Asahel refused to turn away, so Abner hit him in the stomach with the end of his spear. The spear went through his body, and he fell and died right there. When all who came to the

place where Asahel had fallen and died, they stopped,

²⁴ but Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. By sunset, they had gone as far as the hill of Ammah, which is opposite Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon.

²⁵ The Benjaminites rallied to Abner; they formed a single unit and took their stand on top of a hill.

²⁶ Then Abner called out to Joab: "Must the sword devour forever? Don't you realize this will only end in bitterness? How long before you tell the troops to stop pursuing their brothers?"

²⁷ "As God lives," Joab replied, "if you had not spoken up, the troops wouldn't have stopped pursuing their brothers until morning."

²⁸ Then Joab blew the ram's horn, and all the troops stopped; they no longer pursued Israel or continued to fight.

²⁹ So Abner and his men marched through the Arabah all that night. They crossed the Jordan, marched all morning, and arrived at Mahanaim.

³⁰ When Joab had turned back from pursuing Abner, he gathered all the troops. In addition to Asahel, 19 of David's soldiers were missing,

³¹ but they had killed 360 of the Benjaminites and Abner's men.

³² Afterwards, they carried Asahel to his father's tomb in Bethlehem and buried him. Then Joab and his men marched all night and reached Hebron at dawn.

3¹ The war between the house of Saul and the house of David was long and drawn out, with David growing stronger and the house of Saul becoming weaker.

² Sons were born to David in Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelite;

³ his second was Chileab, by Abigail, the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third was Absalom, son of Maacah the daughter of King Talmai of Geshur;

⁴ the fourth was Adonijah, son of Haggith; the fifth was Shephatiah, son of Abital;

⁵ the sixth was Ithream, by David's wife Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron.

⁶ During the war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner kept acquiring more power in the house of Saul.

⁷ Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah daughter of Aiah, and Ish-bosheth questioned Abner, "Why did you sleep with my father's concubine?"

⁸ Abner was very angry about Ish-bosheth's accusation. "Am I a dog's head who belongs to Judah?" he asked. "All this time I've been loyal to the house

of your father Saul, to his brothers, and to his friends and haven't handed you over to David, but now you accuse me of wrongdoing with this woman!

⁹ May God punish Abner and do so severely if I don't do for David what the LORD swore to him:

¹⁰ to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul and establish the throne of David over Israel and Judah from Dan to Beer-sheba."

¹¹ Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner because he was afraid of him.

¹² Abner sent messengers as his representatives to say to David, "Whose land is it? Make your covenant with me, and you can be certain I am on your side to hand all Israel over to you."

¹³ David replied, "Good, I will make a covenant with you. However, there's one thing I require of you: Do not appear before me unless you bring Saul's

daughter Michal here when you come to see me."

¹⁴ Then David sent messengers to say to Ish-bosheth son of Saul, "Give me back my wife, Michal. I was engaged to her for the price of 100 Philistine foreskins."

¹⁵ So Ish-bosheth sent someone to take her away from her husband, Paltiel son of Laish.

¹⁶ Her husband followed her, weeping all the way to Bahurim. Abner said to him, "Go back." So he went back.

¹⁷ Abner conferred with the elders of Israel: "In the past you wanted David to be king over you.

¹⁸ Now take action, because the LORD has spoken concerning David: 'Through My servant David I will save My people Israel from the power of the Philistines and the power of all Israel's enemies.'"

¹⁹ Abner also informed the Benjaminites and went to Hebron to inform David

about all that was agreed on by Israel and the whole house of Benjamin.

²⁰ When Abner and 20 men came to David at Hebron, David held a banquet for him and his men.

²¹ Abner said to David, "Let me now go and I will gather all Israel to my lord the king. They will make a covenant with you, and you will rule over all you desire." So David dismissed Abner, and he went in peace.

²² Just then David's soldiers and Joab returned from a raid and brought a large amount of plundered goods with them. Abner was not with David in Hebron because David had dismissed him, and he had gone in peace.

²³ When Joab and all his army arrived, Joab was informed, "Abner son of Ner came to see the king, the king dismissed him, and he went in peace."

²⁴ Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Look here, Abner came to you. Why did you dismiss him? Now he's getting away.

²⁵ You know that Abner son of Ner came to deceive you and to find out about your activities and everything you're doing."

²⁶ Then Joab left David and sent messengers after Abner. They brought him back from the well of Sirah, but David was unaware of it.

²⁷ When Abner returned to Hebron, Joab pulled him aside to the middle of the gateway, as if to speak to him privately, and there Joab stabbed him in the stomach. So Abner died in revenge for the death of Asahel, Joab's brother.

²⁸ David heard about it later and said: "I and my kingdom are forever innocent before the LORD concerning the blood of Abner son of Ner.

²⁹ May it hang over Joab's head and his father's whole house, and may the house of Joab never be without someone who has an infection or leprosy or a man who can only work a spindle or someone who falls by the sword or starves."

³⁰ Joab and his brother Abishai killed Abner because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.

³¹ David then ordered Joab and all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourn over Abner." And King David walked behind the funeral procession.

³² When they buried Abner in Hebron, the king wept aloud at Abner's tomb. All the people wept,

³³ and the king sang a lament for Abner: Should Abner die as a fool dies?

³⁴ Your hands were not bound, your feet not placed in bronze shackles . You fell like one who falls victim to criminals.

And all the people wept over him even more.

³⁵ Then they came to urge David to eat bread while it was still day, but David took an oath: "May God punish me and do so severely if I taste bread or anything else before sunset!"

³⁶ All the people took note of this, and it pleased them. In fact, everything the king did pleased them.

³⁷ On that day all the troops and all Israel were convinced that the king had no part in the killing of Abner son of Ner.

³⁸ Then the king said to his soldiers, "You must know that a great leader has fallen in Israel today.

³⁹ As for me, even though I am the anointed king, I have little power today. These men, the sons of Zeruah, are too fierce for me. May the LORD repay the evildoer according to his evil!"

4¹ When Saul's son Ish-bosheth heard that Abner had died in Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed.

² Saul's son had two men who were leaders of raiding parties: one named Baanah and the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon the Beerothite of the Benjaminites. Beeroth is also considered part of Benjamin,

³ and the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and still live there as aliens to this very day.

⁴ Saul's son Jonathan had a son whose feet were crippled. He was five years old when the report about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel. His nurse picked him up and fled, but as she was hurrying to flee, he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

⁵ Rechab and Baanah, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, set out and

arrived at Ish-bosheth's house during the heat of the day while the king was taking his midday nap.

⁶ They entered the interior of the house as if to get wheat and stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and his brother Baanah escaped.

⁷ They had entered the house while Ish-bosheth was lying on his bed in his bedroom and stabbed and killed him. Then they beheaded him, took his head, and traveled by way of the Arabah all night.

⁸ They brought Ish-bosheth's head to David at Hebron and said to the king, "Here's the head of Ish-bosheth son of Saul, your enemy who intended to take your life. Today the LORD has granted vengeance to my lord the king against Saul and his offspring."

⁹ But David answered Rechab and his brother Baanah, sons of Rimmon the

Beerothite, "As surely as the LORD lives, the One who has redeemed my life from every distress,

¹⁰ when the person told me, 'Look, Saul is dead,' he thought he was a bearer of good news, but I seized him and put him to death at Ziklag. That was my reward to him for his news!

¹¹ How much more when wicked men kill a righteous man in his own house on his own bed! So now, should I not require his blood from your hands and wipe you off the earth?"

¹² So David gave orders to the young men, and they killed Rechab and Baanah. They cut off their hands and feet and hung their bodies by the pool in Hebron, but they took Ish-bosheth's head and buried it in Abner's tomb in Hebron.

5 ¹ All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Here we are, your own flesh and blood.

² Even while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led us out to battle and brought us back. The LORD also said to you, 'You will shepherd My people Israel and be ruler over Israel.'"

³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron. King David made a covenant with them at Hebron in the LORD's presence, and they anointed David king over Israel.

⁴ David was 30 years old when he began his reign; he reigned 40 years.

⁵ In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned 33 years over all Israel and Judah.

⁶ The king and his men marched to Jerusalem against the Jebusites who inhabited the land. The Jebusites had said to David: "You will never get in here. Even the blind and lame can repel you," thinking, "David can't get in here."

⁷ Yet David did capture the stronghold of Zion, the city of David.

⁸ He said that day, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites must go through the water shaft to reach the lame and the blind who are despised by David." For this reason it is said, "The blind and the lame will never enter the house."

⁹ David took up residence in the stronghold, which he named the city of David. He built it up all the way around from the supporting terraces inward.

¹⁰ David became more and more powerful, and the LORD God of Hosts was with him.

¹¹ King Hiram of Tyre sent envoys to David; he also sent cedar logs, carpenters, and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David.

¹² Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and

had exalted his kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.

¹³ After he arrived from Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem, and more sons and daughters were born to him.

¹⁴ These are the names of those born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

¹⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,

¹⁶ Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

¹⁷ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, they all went in search of David, but he heard about it and went down to the stronghold.

¹⁸ So the Philistines came and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁹ Then David inquired of the LORD: "Should I go to war against the Philistines? Will you hand them over to me?" The LORD replied to David, "Go,

for I will certainly hand the Philistines over to you."

²⁰ So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated them there and said, "Like a bursting flood, the LORD has burst out against my enemies before me." Therefore, he named that place the Lord Bursts Out.

²¹ The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David and his men carried them off.

²² The Philistines came up again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.

²³ So David inquired of the LORD, and He answered, "Do not make a frontal assault. Circle around behind them and attack them opposite the balsam trees.

²⁴ When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, act decisively, for then the LORD will have marched out ahead of you to attack the camp of the Philistines."

²⁵ So David did exactly as the LORD commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Geba to Gezer.

6 ¹ David again assembled all the choice men in Israel, 30,000.

² He and all his troops set out to bring the ark of God from Baale-judah. The ark is called by the Name, the name of the LORD of Hosts who dwells between the cherubim.

³ They set the ark of God on a new cart and transported it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the cart

⁴ and brought it with the ark of God from Abinadab's house on the hill. Ahio walked in front of the ark.

⁵ David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD with all kinds of fir wood instruments , lyres,

harps, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.

⁶ When they came to Nacon's threshing floor, Uzzah reached out to the ark of God and took hold of it, because the oxen had stumbled.

⁷ Then the LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and God struck him dead on the spot for his irreverence, and he died there next to the ark of God.

⁸ David was angry because of the LORD's outburst against Uzzah, so he named that place an Outburst Against Uzzah, as it is today.

⁹ David feared the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?"

¹⁰ So he was not willing to move the ark of the LORD to the city of David; instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

¹¹ The ark of the LORD remained in his house three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and his whole family.

¹² It was reported to King David: "The LORD has blessed Obed-edom's family and all that belongs to him because of the ark of God." So David went and had the ark of God brought up from Obed-edom's house to the city of David with rejoicing.

¹³ When those carrying the ark of the LORD advanced six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened calf.

¹⁴ David was dancing with all his might before the LORD wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁵ He and the whole house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of the ram's horn.

¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD was entering the city of David, Saul's daughter Michal

looked down from the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent David had set up for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings in the LORD's presence.

¹⁸ When David had finished offering the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Hosts.

¹⁹ Then he distributed a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake to each one of the whole multitude of the people of Israel, both men and women. Then all the people left, each to his own home.

²⁰ When David returned home to bless his household, Saul's daughter Michal came out to meet him. "How the king of Israel honored himself today!" she said.

"He exposed himself today in the sight of the slave girls of his subjects like a vulgar person would expose himself."

²¹ David replied to Michal, "I was dancing before the LORD who chose me over your father and his whole family to appoint me ruler over the LORD's people Israel. I will celebrate before the LORD,

²² and I will humble myself even more and humiliate myself. I will be honored by the slave girls you spoke about."

²³ And Saul's daughter Michal had no child to the day of her death.

7¹ When the king had settled into his palace and the LORD had given him rest on every side from all his enemies,

² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "Look, I am living in a cedar house while the ark of God sits inside tent curtains."

³ So Nathan told the king, "Go and do all that is on your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:

⁵ "Go to My servant David and say, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you to build a house for Me to live in?'

⁶ From the time I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until today I have not lived in a house; instead, I have been moving around with the tabernacle tent.

⁷ In all My journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever asked anyone among the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel: 'Why haven't you built Me a house of cedar?'

⁸ "Now this is what you are to say to My servant David: 'This is what the LORD of Hosts says: I took you from the pasture and from following the sheep to be ruler over My people Israel.

⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your

enemies before you. I will make a name for you like that of the greatest in the land.

¹⁰ I will establish a place for My people Israel and plant them, so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evildoers will not afflict them as they have done

¹¹ ever since the day I ordered judges to be over My people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. "The LORD declares to you: The LORD Himself will make a house for you.

¹² When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ He will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to Me. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a human rod and with blows from others.

¹⁵ But My faithful love will never leave him as I removed it from Saul; I removed him from your way.

¹⁶ Your house and kingdom will endure before Me forever, and your throne will be established forever."

¹⁷ Nathan spoke all these words and this entire vision to David.

¹⁸ Then King David went in, sat in the LORD's presence, and said, "Who am I, Lord GOD, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?

¹⁹ What You have done so far was a little thing to You, Lord GOD, for You have also spoken about Your servant's house in the distant future. And this is a revelation for mankind, Lord GOD.

²⁰ What more can David say to You? You know Your servant, Lord GOD.

²¹ Because of Your word and according to Your will, You have revealed all these great things to Your servant.

²² "This is why You are great, Lord GOD. There is no one like You, and there is no God besides You, as all we have heard confirms.

²³ And who is like Your people Israel? God came to one nation on earth in order to redeem a people for Himself, to make a name for Himself, and to perform for them great and awesome acts, driving out nations and their gods before Your people You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt.

²⁴ You established Your people Israel Your own people forever, and You, LORD, have become their God.

²⁵ "Now, LORD God, fulfill the promise forever that You have made to Your

servant and his house. Do as You have promised,

²⁶ so that Your name will be exalted forever, when it is said, 'The LORD of Hosts is God over Israel.' The house of Your servant David will be established before You

²⁷ since You, LORD of Hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant when You said, 'I will build a house for you.' Therefore, Your servant has found the courage to pray this prayer to You.

²⁸ Lord GOD, You are God; Your words are true, and You have promised this grace to Your servant.

²⁹ Now, please bless Your servant's house so that it will continue before You forever. For You, Lord GOD, have spoken, and with Your blessing Your servant's house will be blessed forever."

8 ¹ After this, David defeated the Philistines, subdued them, and took Metheg-ammah from Philistine control.

² He also defeated the Moabites, and after making them lie down on the ground, he measured them off with a cord. He measured every two cord lengths of those to be put to death and one length of those to be kept alive. So the Moabites became David's subjects and brought tribute.

³ David also defeated Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah, who went to restore his control at the Euphrates River.

⁴ David captured 1,700 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers from him, and he hamstringed all the horses, and he kept 100 chariots.

⁵ When the Arameans of Damascus came to assist King Hadadezer of Zobah,

David struck down 22,000 Aramean men.

⁶ Then he placed garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Arameans became David's subjects and brought tribute. The LORD made David victorious wherever he went.

⁷ David took the gold shields of Hadadezer's officers and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸ King David also took huge quantities of bronze from Betah and Berothai, Hadadezer's cities.

⁹ When King Toi of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of Hadadezer,

¹⁰ he sent his son Joram to King David to greet him and to congratulate him because David had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Toi and Hadadezer had fought many wars. Joram

had items of silver, gold, and bronze with him.

¹¹ King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold he had dedicated from all the nations he had subdued--

¹² from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, the Amalekites, and the spoil of Hadadezer son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³ David made a reputation for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹⁴ He placed garrisons throughout Edom, and all the Edomites were subject to David. The LORD made David victorious wherever he went.

¹⁵ So David reigned over all Israel, administering justice and righteousness for all his people.

¹⁶ Joab son of Zeruah was over the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was court historian;

¹⁷ Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Seraiah was court secretary;

¹⁸ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief officials.

9 ¹ David asked, "Is there anyone remaining from Saul's family I can show kindness to because of Jonathan?"

² There was a servant of Saul's family named Ziba. They summoned him to David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" "I am your servant," he replied.

³ So the king asked, "Is there anyone left of Saul's family I can show the kindness of God to?" Ziba said to the king, "There is still Jonathan's son who is lame in both feet."

⁴ The king asked him, "Where is he?" Ziba answered the king, "You'll find him in Lo-debar at the house of Machir son of Ammiel."

⁵ So King David had him brought from the house of Machir son of Ammiel in Lo-debar.

⁶ Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, bowed down to the ground and paid homage. David said, "Mephibosheth!" "I am your servant," he replied.

⁷ "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "since I intend to show you kindness because of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all your grandfather Saul's fields, and you will always eat meals at my table."

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant that you take an interest in a dead dog like me?"

⁹ Then the king summoned Saul's attendant Ziba and said to him, "I have given to your master's grandson all that belonged to Saul and his family.

¹⁰ You, your sons, and your servants are to work the ground for him, and you are to bring in the crops so your master's grandson will have food to eat. But Mephibosheth, your master's grandson, is always to eat at my table." Now Ziba had 15 sons and 20 servants.

¹¹ Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do all my lord the king commands." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table just like one of the king's sons.

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. All those living in Ziba's house were Mephibosheth's servants.

¹³ However, Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem because he always ate at the king's table. He was lame in both feet.

10 ¹ Some time later the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun became king in his place.

² Then David said, "I'll show kindness to Hanun son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent his emissaries to console Hanun concerning his father. However, when they arrived in the land of the Ammonites,

³ the Ammonite leaders said to Hanun their lord, "Just because David has sent men with condolences for you, do you really believe he's showing respect for your father? Instead, hasn't David sent his emissaries in order to scout out the city, spy on it, and overthrow it?"

⁴ So Hanun took David's emissaries, shaved off half their beards, cut their clothes in half at the hips, and sent them away.

⁵ When this was reported to David, he sent someone to meet them, since they were deeply humiliated. The king said, "Stay in Jericho until your beards grow back; then return."

⁶ When the Ammonites realized they had become repulsive to David, they hired 20,000 foot soldiers from the Arameans of Beth-rehob and Zobah, 1,000 men from the king of Maacah, and 12,000 men from Tob.

⁷ David heard about it and sent Joab and all the fighting men.

⁸ The Ammonites marched out and lined up in battle formation at the entrance to the city gate while the Arameans of Zobah and Rehob and the men of Tob and Maacah were in the field by themselves.

⁹ When Joab saw that there was a battle line in front of him and another behind him, he chose some men out of

all the elite troops of Israel and lined up in battle formation to engage the Arameans.

¹⁰ He placed the rest of the forces under the command of his brother Abishai who lined up in battle formation to engage the Ammonites.

¹¹ "If the Arameans are too strong for me," Joab said, "then you will be my help. However, if the Ammonites are too strong for you, I'll come to help you.

¹² Be strong! We must prove ourselves strong for our people and for the cities of our God. May the LORD's will be done."

¹³ Joab and his troops advanced to fight against the Arameans, and they fled before him.

¹⁴ When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they too fled before Abishai and entered the city. So Joab withdrew from the attack against the Ammonites and went to Jerusalem.

¹⁵ When the Arameans saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they regrouped.

¹⁶ Hadadezer sent messengers to bring the Arameans who were across the Euphrates River, and they came to Helam with Shobach, commander of Hadadezer's army, leading them.

¹⁷ When this was reported to David, he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan, and went to Helam. Then the Arameans lined up in formation to engage David in battle and fought against him.

¹⁸ But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed 700 of their charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers. He also struck down Shobach commander of their army, who died there.

¹⁹ When all the kings who were Hadadezer's subjects saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became their

subjects. After this, the Arameans were afraid to ever help the Ammonites again.

11 ¹ In the spring when kings march out to war , David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah, but David remained in Jerusalem.

² One evening David got up from his bed and strolled around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing--a very beautiful woman.

³ So David sent someone to inquire about her, and he reported, "This is Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of Uriah the Hittite."

⁴ David sent messengers to get her, and when she came to him, he slept with her. Now she had just been purifying herself from her uncleanness. Afterwards, she returned home.

⁵ The woman conceived and sent word to inform David: "I am pregnant."

⁶ David sent orders to Joab: "Send me Uriah the Hittite." So Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the troops were doing and how the war was going.

⁸ Then he said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king followed him.

⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the palace with all his master's servants; he did not go down to his house.

¹⁰ When it was reported to David, "Uriah didn't go home," David questioned Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a journey? Why didn't you go home?"

¹¹ Uriah answered David, "The ark, Israel, and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my master Joab and his soldiers are camping in the open field. How can

I enter my house to eat and drink and sleep with my wife? As surely as you live and by your life, I will not do this!"

¹² "Stay here today also," David said to Uriah, "and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah stayed in Jerusalem that day and the next.

¹³ Then David invited Uriah to eat and drink with him, and David got him drunk. He went out in the evening to lie down on his cot with his master's servants, but he did not go home.

¹⁴ The next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah.

¹⁵ In the letter he wrote: Put Uriah at the front of the fiercest fighting, then withdraw from him so that he is struck down and dies.

¹⁶ When Joab was besieging the city, he put Uriah in the place where he knew the best enemy soldiers were.

¹⁷ Then the men of the city came out and attacked Joab, and some of the men from David's soldiers fell in battle ; Uriah the Hittite also died.

¹⁸ Joab sent someone to report to David all the details of the battle.

¹⁹ He commanded the messenger, "When you've finished telling the king all the details of the battle--

²⁰ if the king's anger gets stirred up and he asks you, 'Why did you get so close to the city to fight? Didn't you realize they would shoot from the top of the wall?

²¹ At Thebez, who struck Abimelech son of Jerubbesheth? Didn't a woman drop an upper millstone on him from the top of the wall so that he died? Why did you get so close to the wall?'--then say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

²² Then the messenger left. When he arrived, he reported to David all that Joab had sent him to tell .

²³ The messenger reported to David, "The men gained the advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we counterattacked right up to the entrance of the gate.

²⁴ However, the archers shot down on your soldiers from the top of the wall, and some of the king's soldiers died. Your servant Uriah the Hittite is also dead."

²⁵ David told the messenger, "Say this to Joab: 'Don't let this matter upset you because the sword devours all alike. Intensify your fight against the city and demolish it.' Encourage him."

²⁶ When Uriah's wife heard that her husband Uriah had died, she mourned for him.

²⁷ When the time of mourning ended, David had her brought to his house. She became his wife and bore him a son.

However, the LORD considered what David had done to be evil.

12 ¹ So the LORD sent Nathan to David. When he arrived, he said to him: There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor.

² The rich man had a large number of sheep and cattle,

³ but the poor man had nothing except one small ewe lamb that he had bought. It lived and grew up with him and his children. It shared his meager food and drank from his cup; it slept in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.

⁴ Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man could not bring himself to take one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for his guest.

⁵ David was infuriated with the man and said to Nathan: "As surely as the LORD

lives, the man who did this deserves to die!

⁶ Because he has done this thing and shown no pity, he must pay four lambs for that lamb."

⁷ Nathan replied to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

⁸ I gave your master's house to you and your master's wives into your arms, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah, and if that was not enough, I would have given you even more.

⁹ Why then have you despised the command of the LORD by doing what I consider evil? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife as your own wife--you murdered him with the Ammonite's sword.

¹⁰ Now therefore, the sword will never leave your house because you despised

Me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own wife.'

¹¹ "This is what the LORD says, 'I am going to bring disaster on you from your own family: I will take your wives and give them to another before your very eyes, and he will sleep with them publicly.

¹² You acted in secret, but I will do this before all Israel and in broad daylight.'"

¹³ David responded to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Then Nathan replied to David, "The LORD has taken away your sin; you will not die.

¹⁴ However, because you treated the LORD with such contempt in this matter, the son born to you will die."

¹⁵ Then Nathan went home. The LORD struck the baby that Uriah's wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

¹⁶ David pleaded with God for the boy. He fasted, went home , and spent the night lying on the ground.

¹⁷ The elders of his house stood beside him to get him up from the ground, but he was unwilling and would not eat anything with them.

¹⁸ On the seventh day the baby died. But David's servants were afraid to tell him the baby was dead. They said, "Look, while the baby was alive, we spoke to him, and he wouldn't listen to us. So how can we tell him the baby is dead? He may do something desperate."

¹⁹ When David saw that his servants were whispering to each other, he guessed that the baby was dead. So he asked his servants, "Is the baby dead?" "He is dead," they replied.

²⁰ Then David got up from the ground. He washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes, went to the LORD's house,

and worshiped. Then he went home and requested something to eat . So they served him food, and he ate.

²¹ His servants asked him, "What did you just do? While the baby was alive, you fasted and wept, but when he died, you got up and ate food."

²² He answered, "While the baby was alive, I fasted and wept because I thought, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me and let him live.'

²³ But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I'll go to him, but he will never return to me."

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba; he went and slept with her. She gave birth to a son and named him Solomon. The LORD loved him,

²⁵ and He sent a message through Nathan the prophet, who named him Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

²⁶ Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and captured the royal fortress.

²⁷ Then Joab sent messengers to David to say, "I have fought against Rabbah and have also captured the water supply.

²⁸ Now therefore, assemble the rest of the troops, lay siege to the city, and capture it. Otherwise I will be the one to capture the city, and it will be named after me.

²⁹ So David assembled all the troops and went to Rabbah; he fought against it and captured it.

³⁰ He took the crown from the head of their king, and it was placed on David's head. The crown weighed 75 pounds of gold, and it had a precious stone in it. In addition, David took away a large quantity of plunder from the city.

³¹ He removed the people who were in the city and put them to work with saws,

iron picks, and iron axes, and to labor at brickmaking. He did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then he and all his troops returned to Jerusalem.

13 ¹ Some time passed. David's son Absalom had a beautiful sister named Tamar, and David's son Amnon was infatuated with her.

² Amnon was frustrated to the point of making himself sick over his sister Tamar because she was a virgin, but it seemed impossible to do anything to her.

³ Amnon had a friend named Jonadab, a son of David's brother Shimeah. Jonadab was a very shrewd man,

⁴ and he asked Amnon, "Why are you, the king's son, so miserable every morning? Won't you tell me?" Amnon replied, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

⁵ Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend you're sick. When

your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me something to eat. Let her prepare food in my presence so I can watch and eat from her hand.'"

⁶ So Amnon lay down and pretended to be sick. When the king came to see him, Amnon said to him, "Please let my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my presence so I can eat from her hand."

⁷ David sent word to Tamar at the palace: "Please go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare a meal for him."

⁸ Then Tamar went to his house while Amnon was lying down. She took dough, kneaded it, made cakes in his presence, and baked them.

⁹ She brought the pan and set it down in front of him, but he refused to eat.

Amnon said, "Everyone leave me!" And everyone left him.

¹⁰ "Bring the meal to the bedroom," Amnon told Tamar, "so I can eat from your hand." Tamar took the cakes she had made and went to her brother Amnon's bedroom.

¹¹ When she brought them to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come sleep with me, my sister!"

¹² "Don't, my brother!" she cried. "Don't humiliate me, for such a thing should never be done in Israel. Don't do this horrible thing!

¹³ Where could I ever go with my disgrace? And you--you would be like one of the immoral men in Israel! Please, speak to the king, for he won't keep me from you."

¹⁴ But he refused to listen to her, and because he was stronger than she was, he raped her.

¹⁵ After this, Amnon hated Tamar with such intensity that the hatred he hated her with was greater than the love he had loved her with. "Get out of here!" he said.

¹⁶ "No," she cried, "sending me away is much worse than the great wrong you've already done to me!" But he refused to listen to her.

¹⁷ Instead, he called to the servant who waited on him: "Throw this woman out and bolt the door behind her!"

¹⁸ Amnon's servant threw her out and bolted the door behind her. Now Tamar was wearing a long-sleeved garment, because this is what the king's virgin daughters wore.

¹⁹ Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long-sleeved garment she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away weeping.

²⁰ Her brother Absalom said to her: "Has your brother Amnon been with you? Be quiet for now, my sister. He is your brother. Don't take this thing to heart." So Tamar lived as a desolate woman in the house of her brother Absalom.

²¹ When King David heard about all these things, he was furious.

²² Absalom didn't say anything to Amnon, either good or bad, because he hated Amnon since he disgraced his sister Tamar.

²³ Two years later, Absalom's sheepshearers were at Baal-hazor near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

²⁴ Then he went to the king and said, "Your servant has just hired sheepshearers. Will the king and his servants please come with your servant?"

²⁵ The king replied to Absalom, "No, my son, we should not all go, or we would be a burden to you." Although Absalom urged him, he wasn't willing to go, though he did bless him.

²⁶ "If not," Absalom said, "please let my brother Amnon go with us." The king asked him, "Why should he go with you?"

²⁷ But Absalom urged him, so he sent Amnon and all the king's sons.

²⁸ Now Absalom commanded his young men, "Watch Amnon until he is in a good mood from the wine. When I order you to strike Amnon, then kill him. Don't be afraid. Am I not the one who has commanded you? Be strong and courageous!"

²⁹ So Absalom's young men did to Amnon just as Absalom had commanded. Then all the rest of the

king's sons got up, and each fled on his mule.

³⁰ While they were on the way, a report reached David: "Absalom struck down all the king's sons; not even one of them survived!"

³¹ In response the king stood up, tore his clothes, and lay down on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

³² But Jonadab, son of David's brother Shimeah, spoke up: "My lord must not think they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, because only Amnon is dead. In fact, Absalom has planned this ever since the day Amnon disgraced his sister Tamar.

³³ So now, my lord the king, don't take seriously the report that says all the king's sons are dead. Only Amnon is dead."

³⁴ Meanwhile, Absalom had fled. When the young man who was standing watch looked up, there were many people coming from the road west of him from the side of the mountain.

³⁵ Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons have come! It's exactly like your servant said."

³⁶ Just as he finished speaking, the king's sons entered and wept loudly. Then the king and all his servants also wept bitterly.

³⁷ Now Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

³⁸ Absalom had fled and gone to Geshur where he stayed three years.

³⁹ Then King David longed to go to Absalom, for David had finished grieving over Amnon's death.

14 ¹ Joab son of Zeruiah observed that the king's mind was on Absalom.

² So Joab sent someone to Tekoa to bring a clever woman from there. He told her, "Pretend to be in mourning: dress in mourning clothes and don't put on any oil. Act like a woman who has been mourning for the dead for a long time.

³ Go to the king and speak these words to him." Then Joab told her exactly what to say.

⁴ When the woman from Tekoa came to the king, she fell with her face to the ground in homage and said, "Help me, my king!"

⁵ "What's the matter?" the king asked her. "To tell the truth, I am a widow; my husband died," she said.

⁶ "Your servant had two sons. They were fighting in the field with no one to

separate them, and one struck the other and killed him.

⁷ Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant and said, 'Hand over the one who killed his brother so we may put him to death for the life of the brother he murdered. We will destroy the heir!' They would extinguish my one remaining ember by not preserving my husband's name or posterity on earth."

⁸ The king told the woman, "Go home. I will issue a command on your behalf."

⁹ Then the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My lord the king, may any blame be on me and my father's house, and may the king and his throne be innocent."

¹⁰ "Whoever speaks to you," the king said, "bring him to me. He will not trouble you again!"

¹¹ She replied, "Please, may the king invoke the LORD your God, so that the

avenger of blood will not increase the loss, and they will not eliminate my son!" "As the LORD lives," he vowed, "not a hair of your son will fall to the ground."

¹² Then the woman said, "Please, may your servant speak a word to my lord the king?" "Speak," he replied.

¹³ The woman asked, "Why have you devised something similar against the people of God? When the king spoke as he did about this matter, he has pronounced his own guilt. The king has not brought back his own banished one.

¹⁴ For we will certainly die and be like water poured out on the ground, which can't be recovered. But God would not take away a life; He would devise plans so that the one banished from Him does not remain banished.

¹⁵ "Now therefore, I've come to present this matter to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. Your

servant thought: I must speak to the king. Perhaps the king will grant his servant's request.

¹⁶ The king will surely listen in order to rescue his servant from the hand of this man who would eliminate both me and my son from God's inheritance.

¹⁷ Your servant thought: May the word of my lord the king bring relief, for my lord the king is able to discern the good and the bad like the Angel of God. May the LORD your God be with you."

¹⁸ Then the king answered the woman, "I'm going to ask you something; don't conceal it from me!" "Let my lord the king speak," the woman replied.

¹⁹ The king asked, "Did Joab put you up to all this?" The woman answered. "As surely as you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right or left from all my lord the king says. Yes, your servant

Joab is the one who gave orders to me; he told your servant exactly what to say.

²⁰ Joab your servant has done this to address the issue indirectly, but my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the Angel of God, knowing everything on earth."

²¹ Then the king said to Joab, "I hereby grant this request. Go, bring back the young man Absalom."

²² Joab fell with his face to the ground in homage and praised the king. "Today," Joab said, "your servant knows I have found favor with you, my lord the king, because the king has granted the request of your servant."

²³ So Joab got up, went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

²⁴ However, the king added, "He may return to his house, but he may not see my face." So Absalom returned to his house, but he did not see the king.

²⁵ No man in all Israel was as handsome and highly praised as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the top of his head, he did not have a single flaw.

²⁶ When he shaved his head--he shaved it every year because his hair got so heavy for him that he had to shave it off--he would weigh the hair from his head and it would be five pounds according to the royal standard.

²⁷ Three sons were born to Absalom, and a daughter named Tamar, who was a beautiful woman.

²⁸ Absalom resided in Jerusalem two years but never saw the king.

²⁹ Then Absalom sent for Joab in order to send him to the king, but Joab was unwilling to come. So he sent again, a second time, but he still wouldn't come.

³⁰ Then Absalom said to his servants, "See, Joab has a field right next to mine, and he has barley there. Go and set fire

to it!" So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

³¹ Then Joab came to Absalom's house and demanded, "Why did your servants set my field on fire?"

³² "Look," Absalom explained to Joab, "I sent for you and said, 'Come here. I want to send you to the king to ask: Why have I come back from Geshur? I'd be better off if I were still there.' So now, let me see the king. If I am guilty, let him kill me."

³³ Joab went to the king and told him. So David summoned Absalom, who came to the king and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom.

15 ¹ After this, Absalom got himself a chariot, horses, and 50 men to run before him.

² He would get up early and stand beside the road leading to the city gate.

Whenever anyone had a grievance to bring before the king for settlement, Absalom called out to him and asked, "What city are you from?" If he replied, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel,"

³ Absalom said to him, "Look, your claims are good and right, but the king does not have anyone to listen to you."

⁴ He added, "If only someone would appoint me judge in the land. Then anyone who had a grievance or dispute could come to me, and I would make sure he received justice."

⁵ When a person approached to bow down to him, Absalom reached out his hand, took hold of him, and kissed him.

⁶ Absalom did this to all the Israelites who came to the king for a settlement. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷ When four years had passed, Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go to Hebron to fulfill a vow I made to the Lord.

⁸ For your servant made a vow when I lived in Geshur of Aram, saying: If the LORD really brings me back to Jerusalem, I will worship the LORD in Hebron."

⁹ "Go in peace," the king said to him. So he went to Hebron.

¹⁰ Then Absalom sent messengers throughout the tribes of Israel with this message: "When you hear the sound of the ram's horn, you are to say, 'Absalom has become king in Hebron!'"

¹¹ Two hundred men from Jerusalem went with Absalom. They had been invited and were going innocently, for they knew nothing about the whole matter.

¹² While he was offering the sacrifices, Absalom sent for David's adviser

Ahithophel the Gilonite, from his city of Giloh. So the conspiracy grew strong, and the people supporting Absalom continued to increase.

¹³ Then an informer came to David and reported, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴ David said to all the servants with him in Jerusalem, "Get up. We have to flee, or we will not escape from Absalom! Leave quickly, or he will overtake us, heap disaster on us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

¹⁵ The king's servants said to him, "Whatever my lord the king decides, we are your servants."

¹⁶ Then the king set out, and his entire household followed him. But he left behind 10 concubines to take care of the palace.

¹⁷ So the king set out, and all the people followed him. They stopped at the last house

¹⁸ while all his servants marched past him. Then all the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and the Gittites--600 men who came with him from Gath--marched past the king.

¹⁹ The king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also going with us? Go back and stay with the king since you're both a foreigner and an exile from your homeland.

²⁰ Besides, you only arrived yesterday; should I make you wander around with us today while I go wherever I can? Go back and take your brothers with you. May the LORD show you kindness and faithfulness."

²¹ But in response, Ittai vowed to the king, "As surely as the LORD lives and as my lord the king lives, wherever my

lord the king is, whether it means life or death, your servant will be there!"

²² "March on," David replied to Ittai. So Ittai the Gittite marched past with all his men and the children who were with him.

²³ Everyone in the countryside was weeping loudly while all the people were marching past. As the king was crossing the Kidron Valley, all the people were marching past on the road that leads to the desert.

²⁴ Zadok was also there, and all the Levites with him were carrying the ark of the covenant of God. They set the ark of God down, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until the people had finished marching past.

²⁵ Then the king instructed Zadok, "Return the ark of God to the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, He will

bring me back and allow me to see both it and its dwelling place.

²⁶ However, if He should say, 'I do not delight in you,' then here I am--He can do with me whatever pleases Him."

²⁷ The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Look, return to the city in peace and your two sons with you: your son Ahimaaz and Abiathar's son Jonathan.

²⁸ Remember, I'll wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me."

²⁹ So Zadok and Abiathar returned the ark of God to Jerusalem and stayed there.

³⁰ David was climbing the slope of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he ascended. His head was covered, and he was walking barefoot. Each of the people with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they ascended.

³¹ Then someone reported to David: "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." "LORD," David pleaded, "please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!"

³² When David came to the summit where he used to worship God, there to meet him was Hushai the Archite with his robe torn and dust on his head.

³³ David said to him, "If you go away with me, you'll be a burden to me,

³⁴ but if you return to the city and tell Absalom, 'I will be your servant, my king! Previously, I was your father's servant, but now I will be your servant,' then you can counteract Ahithophel's counsel for me.

³⁵ Won't Zadok and Abiathar the priests be there with you? Report everything you hear from the king's palace to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

³⁶ Take note: their two sons, Zadok's son Ahimaaz and Abiathar's son Jonathan, are there with them. Send me everything you hear through them."

³⁷ So Hushai, David's personal adviser, entered Jerusalem just as Absalom was entering the city.

16 ¹ When David had gone a little beyond the summit, Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, was right there to meet him. He had a pair of saddled donkeys loaded with 200 loaves of bread, 100 clusters of raisins, 100 bunches of summer fruit, and a skin of wine.

² The king said to Ziba, "Why do you have these?" Ziba answered, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride, the bread and summer fruit are for the young men to eat, and the wine is for those who become exhausted to drink in the desert."

³ "Where is your master's son?" the king asked. "Why, he's staying in Jerusalem," Ziba replied to the king, "for he said, 'Today, the house of Israel will restore my father's kingdom to me.'"

⁴ The king said to Ziba, "All that belongs to Mephibosheth is now yours!" "I bow before you," Ziba said. "May you look favorably on me, my lord the king!"

⁵ When King David got to Bahurim, a man belonging to the family of the house of Saul was just coming out. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he was yelling curses as he approached.

⁶ He threw stones at David and at all the royal servants, the people and the warriors on David's right and left.

⁷ Shimei said as he cursed: "Get out, get out, you worthless murderer!"

⁸ The LORD has paid you back for all the blood of the house of Saul in whose place you rule, and the LORD has handed

the kingdom over to your son Absalom. Look, you are in trouble because you're a murderer!"

⁹ Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut his head off!"

¹⁰ The king replied, "Sons of Zeruiah, do we agree on anything? He curses me this way because the LORD told him, 'Curse David!' Therefore, who can say, 'Why did you do that?'"

¹¹ Then David said to Abishai and all his servants, "Look, my own son, my own flesh and blood, intends to take my life--how much more now this Benjaminite! Leave him alone and let him curse me ; the LORD has told him to.

¹² Perhaps the LORD will see my affliction and restore goodness to me instead of Shimei's curses today."

¹³ So David and his men proceeded along the road as Shimei was going along the ridge of the hill opposite him. As Shimei went, he cursed David , and threw stones and dirt at him.

¹⁴ Finally, the king and all the people with him arrived exhausted, so they rested there.

¹⁵ Now Absalom and all the Israelites came to Jerusalem. Ahithophel was also with him.

¹⁶ When David's friend Hushai the Archite came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

¹⁷ "Is this your loyalty to your friend?" Absalom asked Hushai. "Why didn't you go with your friend?"

¹⁸ "Not at all," Hushai answered Absalom. "I am on the side of the one that the LORD, the people, and all the

men of Israel have chosen. I will stay with him.

¹⁹ Furthermore, whom will I serve if not his son? As I served in your father's presence, I will also serve in yours."

²⁰ Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give me your advice. What should we do?"

²¹ Ahithophel replied to Absalom, "Sleep with your father's concubines he left to take care of the palace. When all Israel hears that you have become repulsive to your father, everyone with you will be encouraged."

²² So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and he slept with his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

²³ Now the advice Ahithophel gave in those days was like someone asking about a word from God--such was the regard that both David and Absalom had for Ahithophel's advice.

17 ¹ Ahithophel said to Absalom,
"Let me choose 12,000 men, and
I will set out in pursuit of David tonight.

² I will attack him while he is weak and
weary, throw him into a panic, and all
the people with him will scatter. I will
strike down only the king

³ and bring all the people back to you.
When everyone returns except the man
you're seeking, all the people will be at
peace."

⁴ This proposal seemed good to
Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

⁵ Then Absalom said, "Summon Hushai
the Archite also. Let's hear what he has
to say as well."

⁶ So Hushai came to Absalom, and
Absalom told him: "Ahithophel offered
this proposal. Should we carry out his
proposal? If not, what do you say?"

⁷ Hushai replied to Absalom, "The advice Ahithophel has given this time is not good."

⁸ Hushai continued, "You know your father and his men. They are warriors and are desperate like a wild bear robbed of her cubs. Your father is an experienced soldier who won't spend the night with the people.

⁹ He's probably already hiding in one of the caves or some other place. If some of our troops fall first, someone is sure to hear and say, 'There's been a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.'

¹⁰ Then, even a brave man with the heart of a lion will melt because all Israel knows that your father and the valiant men with him are warriors.

¹¹ Instead, I advise that all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba--as numerous as the sand by the sea--be gathered to you and that you personally go into battle.

¹² Then we will attack David wherever we find him, and we will descend on him like dew on the ground. Not even one will be left of all the men with him.

¹³ If he retreats to some city, all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we will drag its stones into the valley until not even a pebble can be found there."

¹⁴ Since the LORD had decreed that Ahithophel's good advice be undermined in order to bring about Absalom's ruin, Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than Ahithophel's advice."

¹⁵ Hushai then told the priests Zadok and Abiathar, "This is what Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and this is what I advised.

¹⁶ Now send someone quickly and tell David, 'Don't spend the night at the wilderness ford of the Jordan , but be

sure to cross over, or the king and all the people with him will be destroyed.'" "

¹⁷ Jonathan and Ahimaaz were staying at En-rogel, where a servant girl would come and pass along information to them. They in turn would go and inform King David, because they dared not be seen entering the city.

¹⁸ However, a young man did see them and informed Absalom. So the two left quickly and came to the house of a man in Bahurim. He had a well in his courtyard, and they climbed down into it.

¹⁹ Then his wife took the cover, placed it over the mouth of the well, and scattered grain on it so nobody would know anything.

²⁰ Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house and asked, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" "They passed by toward the water," the

woman replied to them. The men searched but did not find them , so they returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ After they had gone, Ahimaaz and Jonathan climbed out of the well and went and informed King David. They told him, "Get up and immediately ford the river, for Ahithophel has given this advice against you."

²² So David and all the people with him got up and crossed the Jordan. By daybreak, there was no one who had not crossed the Jordan.

²³ When Ahithophel realized that his advice had not been followed, he saddled his donkey and set out for his house in his hometown. He set his affairs in order and hanged himself. So he died and was buried in his father's tomb.

²⁴ David had arrived at Mahanaim by the time Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel.

²⁵ Now Absalom had appointed Amasa over the army in Joab's place. Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra the Israelite; Ithra had married Abigail daughter of Nahash. Abigail was a sister to Zeruah, Joab's mother.

²⁶ And Israel and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

²⁷ When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, Machir son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim

²⁸ brought beds, basins, and pottery items. They also brought wheat, barley, flour, roasted grain, beans, lentils,

²⁹ honey, curds, sheep, and cheese from the herd for David and the people with him to eat. They had reasoned, "The people must be hungry, exhausted, and thirsty in the desert."

18 ¹ David reviewed his troops and appointed commanders of hundreds and of thousands over them.

² He then sent out the troops, one third under Joab, one third under Joab's brother Abishai son of Zeruah, and one third under Ittai the Gittite. The king said to the troops, "I will also march out with you."

³ "You must not go!" the people pleaded. "If we have to flee, they will not pay any attention to us. Even if half of us die, they will not pay any attention to us because you are worth 10,000 of us. Therefore, it is better if you support us from the city."

⁴ "I will do whatever you think is best," the king replied to them. So he stood beside the gate while all the troops marched out by hundreds and thousands.

⁵ The king commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, "Treat the young man Absalom gently for my sake." All the people heard the king's orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

⁶ Then David's forces marched into the field to engage Israel in battle, which took place in the forest of Ephraim.

⁷ The people of Israel were defeated by David's soldiers, and the slaughter there was vast that day--20,000 casualties .

⁸ The battle spread over the entire region, and that day the forest claimed more people than the sword.

⁹ Absalom was riding on his mule when he happened to meet David's soldiers. When the mule went under the tangled branches of a large oak tree, Absalom's head was caught fast in the tree. The mule under him kept going, so he was suspended in midair.

¹⁰ One of the men saw him and informed Joab. He said, "I just saw Absalom hanging in an oak tree!"

¹¹ "You just saw him !" Joab exclaimed. "Why didn't you strike him to the ground right there? I would have given you 10 silver pieces and a belt!"

¹² The man replied to Joab, "Even if I had the weight of 1,000 pieces of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king's son. For we heard the king command you, Abishai, and Ittai, 'Protect the young man Absalom for me.'

¹³ If I had jeopardized my own life--and nothing is hidden from the king--you would have abandoned me."

¹⁴ Joab said, "I'm not going to waste time with you!" He then took three spears in his hand and thrust them into Absalom's heart while he was still alive in the oak tree,

¹⁵ and 10 young men who were Joab's armor-bearers surrounded Absalom, struck him, and killed him.

¹⁶ Afterwards, Joab blew the ram's horn, and the troops broke off their pursuit of Israel because Joab restrained them.

¹⁷ They took Absalom, threw him into a large pit in the forest, and piled a huge mound of stones over him. And all Israel fled, each to his tent.

¹⁸ When he was alive, Absalom had erected for himself a pillar in the King's Valley, for he had said, "I have no son to preserve the memory of my name." So he gave the pillar his name. It is still called Absalom's Monument today.

¹⁹ Ahimaaz son of Zadok said, "Please let me run and tell the king the good news that the LORD has delivered him from his enemies."

²⁰ Joab replied to him, "You are not the man to take good news today. You may do it another day, but today you aren't taking good news, because the king's son is dead."

²¹ Joab then said to the Cushite, "Go tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed to Joab and took off running.

²² However, Ahimaaz son of Zadok persisted and said to Joab, "No matter what, please let me run too behind the Cushite!" Joab replied, "My son, why do you want to run since you won't get a reward?"

²³ "No matter what I want to run!" "Then run!" Joab said to him. So Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain and outran the Cushite.

²⁴ David was sitting between the two gates when the watchman went up to the roof of the gate and over to the wall.

The watchman looked out and saw a man running alone.

²⁵ He called out and told the king. The king said, "If he's alone, he bears good news." As the first runner came closer,

²⁶ the watchman saw another man running. He called out to the gatekeeper, "Look! Another man is running alone!" "This one is also bringing good news," said the king.

²⁷ The watchman said, "The way the first man runs looks to me like the way Ahimaaz son of Zadok runs." "This is a good man; he comes with good news," the king commented.

²⁸ Ahimaaz called out to the king, "All is well," and then bowed down to the king with his face to the ground. He continued, "May the LORD your God be praised! He delivered up the men who rebelled against my lord the king."

²⁹ The king asked, "Is the young man Absalom all right?" Ahimaaz replied, "When Joab sent the king's servant and your servant, I saw a big disturbance, but I don't know what it was ."

³⁰ The king said, "Move aside and stand here." So he stood to one side.

³¹ Just then the Cushite came and said, "May my lord the king hear the good news: today the LORD has delivered you from all those rising up against you!"

³² The king asked the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom all right?" The Cushite replied, "May what has become of the young man happen to the enemies of my lord the king and to all who rise up against you with evil intent."

³³ The king was deeply moved and went up to the gate chamber and wept. As he walked, he cried, "My son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died

instead of you, Absalom, my son, my son!"

19 ¹ It was reported to Joab, "The king is weeping. He's mourning over Absalom."

² That day's victory was turned into mourning for all the troops because on that day the troops heard, "The king is grieving over his son."

³ So they returned to the city quietly that day like people come in when they are humiliated after fleeing in battle.

⁴ But the king hid his face and cried out at the top of his voice, "My son Absalom! Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵ Then Joab went into the house to the king and said, "Today you have shamed all your soldiers--those who rescued your life and the lives of your sons and daughters, your wives, and your concubines.

⁶ You love your enemies and hate those who love you! Today you have made it clear that the commanders and soldiers mean nothing to you. In fact, today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead, it would be fine with you!

⁷ "Now get up! Go out and encourage your soldiers, for I swear by the LORD that if you don't go out, not a man will remain with you tonight. This will be worse for you than all the trouble that has come to you from your youth until now!"

⁸ So the king got up and sat in the gate, and all the people were told: "Look, the king is sitting in the gate." Then they all came into the king's presence. Meanwhile, each Israelite had fled to his tent.

⁹ All the people among all the tribes of Israel were arguing: "The king delivered

us from the grasp of our enemies, and he rescued us from the grasp of the Philistines, but now he has fled from the land because of Absalom.

¹⁰ But Absalom, the man we anointed over us, has died in battle. So why do you say nothing about restoring the king?"

¹¹ King David sent word to the priests, Zadok and Abiathar: "Say to the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to restore the king to his palace? The talk of all Israel has reached the king at his house.

¹² You are my brothers, my flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to restore the king?'

¹³ And tell Amasa, 'Aren't you my flesh and blood? May God punish me and do so severely if you don't become commander of the army from now on instead of Joab!'"

¹⁴ So he won over all the men of Judah, and they sent word to the king: "Come back, you and all your servants."

¹⁵ Then the king returned. When he arrived at the Jordan, Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and escort him across the Jordan.

¹⁶ Shimei son of Gera, a Benjaminite from Bahurim, hurried down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

¹⁷ There were 1,000 men from Benjamin with him. Ziba, an attendant from the house of Saul, with his 15 sons and 20 servants also rushed down to the Jordan ahead of the king.

¹⁸ They forded the Jordan to bring the king's household across and do whatever the king desired. When Shimei son of Gera crossed the Jordan, he fell down before the king

¹⁹ and said to him, "My lord, don't hold me guilty, and don't remember your

servant's wrongdoing on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king not take it to heart.

²⁰ For your servant knows that I have sinned. But look! Today I am the first one of the entire house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king."

²¹ Abishai son of Zeruiah asked, "Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this, because he ridiculed the LORD's anointed?"

²² David answered, "Sons of Zeruiah, do we agree on anything? Have you become my adversary today? Should any man be killed in Israel today? Am I not aware that today I'm king over Israel?"

²³ So the king said to Shimei, "You will not die." Then the king gave him his oath.

²⁴ Mephibosheth, Saul's grandson, also went down to meet the king. He had not taken care of his feet, trimmed his

moustache, or washed his clothes from the day the king left until the day he returned safely.

²⁵ When he came from Jerusalem to meet the king, the king asked him, "Mephibosheth, why didn't you come with me?"

²⁶ "My lord the king," he replied, "my servant Ziba betrayed me. Actually your servant said: 'I'll saddle the donkey for myself so that I may ride it and go with the king'--for your servant is lame.

²⁷ Ziba slandered your servant to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like the Angel of God, so do whatever you think best.

²⁸ For my grandfather's entire family deserves death from my lord the king, but you set your servant among those who eat at your table. So what further right do I have to keep on making appeals to the king?"

²⁹ The king said to him, "Why keep on speaking about these matters of yours? I hereby declare: you and Ziba are to divide the land."

³⁰ Mephibosheth said to the king, "Instead, since my lord the king has come to his palace safely, let Ziba take it all!"

³¹ Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim and accompanied the king to the Jordan River to see him off at the Jordan.

³² Barzillai was a very old man--80 years old--and since he was a very wealthy man, he had provided for the needs of the king while he stayed in Mahanaim.

³³ The king said to Barzillai, "Cross over with me, and I'll provide for you at my side in Jerusalem."

³⁴ Barzillai replied to the king, "How many years of my life are left that I should go up to Jerusalem with the king?"

³⁵ I'm now 80 years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or drinks? Can I still hear the voice of male and female singers? Why should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?

³⁶ Since your servant is only going with the king a little way across the Jordan, why should the king repay me with such a reward?

³⁷ Please let your servant return so that I may die in my own city near the tomb of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham: let him cross over with my lord the king. Do for him what seems good to you."

³⁸ The king replied, "Chimham will cross over with me, and I will do for him what seems good to you, and whatever you desire from me I will do for you."

³⁹ So all the people crossed the Jordan, and then the king crossed. The king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and Barzillai returned to his home.

⁴⁰ The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went with him. All the troops of Judah and half of Israel's escorted the king.

⁴¹ Suddenly, all the men of Israel came to the king. They asked him, "Why did our brothers, the men of Judah, take you away secretly and transport the king and his household across the Jordan, along with all of David's men?"

⁴² All the men of Judah responded to the men of Israel, "Because the king is our relative. Why does this make you angry? Have we ever eaten anything of the king's or been honored at all?"

⁴³ The men of Israel answered the men of Judah: "We have 10 shares in the king, so we have a greater claim to David

than you. Why then do you despise us? Weren't we the first to speak of restoring our king?" But the words of the men of Judah were harsher than those of the men of Israel.

20¹ Now a wicked man, a Benjaminite named Sheba son of Bichri, happened to be there. He blew the ram's horn and shouted: We have no portion in David, no inheritance in Jesse's son. Each man to his tent, Israel!

² So all the men of Israel deserted David and followed Sheba son of Bichri, but the men of Judah from the Jordan all the way to Jerusalem remained loyal to their king.

³ When David came to his palace in Jerusalem, he took the 10 concubines he had left to take care of the palace and placed them under guard. He provided for them, but he was not intimate with

them. They were confined until the day of their death, living as widows.

⁴ The king said to Amasa, "Summon the men of Judah to me within three days and be here yourself."

⁵ Amasa went to summon Judah, but he took longer than the time allotted him.

⁶ So David said to Abishai, "Sheba son of Bichri will do more harm to us than Absalom. Take your lord's soldiers and pursue him, or he will find fortified cities and elude us."

⁷ So Joab's men, the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the warriors marched out under Abishai's command; they left Jerusalem to pursue Sheba son of Bichri.

⁸ They were at the great stone in Gibeon when Amasa joined them. Joab was wearing his uniform and over it was a belt around his waist with a sword in its sheath. As he approached, the sword fell out.

⁹ Joab asked Amasa, "Are you well, my brother?" Then with his right hand Joab grabbed Amasa by the beard to kiss him.

¹⁰ Amasa was not on guard against the sword in Joab's hand, and Joab stabbed him in the stomach with it and spilled his intestines out on the ground. Joab did not stab him again for Amasa was dead. Joab and his brother Abishai pursued Sheba son of Bichri.

¹¹ One of Joab's young men had stood over Amasa saying, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David, follow Joab!"

¹² Now Amasa was writhing in his blood in the middle of the highway, and the man had seen that all the people stopped. So he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over him because he realized that all those who encountered Amasa were stopping.

¹³ When he was removed from the highway, all the men passed by and followed Joab to pursue Sheba son of Bichri.

¹⁴ Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah. All the Berites came together and followed him.

¹⁵ Joab's troops came and besieged Sheba in Abel of Beth-maacah. They built an assault ramp against the outer wall of the city. While all the troops with Joab were battering the wall to make it collapse,

¹⁶ a wise woman called out from the city, "Listen! Listen! Please tell Joab to come here and let me speak with him."

¹⁷ When he had come near her, the woman asked, "Are you Joab?" "I am," he replied. "Listen to the words of your servant," she said to him. He answered, "I'm listening."

¹⁸ She said, "In the past they used to say, 'Seek counsel in Abel,' and that's how they settled disputes .

¹⁹ I am a peaceful person, one of the faithful in Israel, but you're trying to destroy a city that is like a mother in Israel. Why would you devour the LORD's inheritance?"

²⁰ Joab protested: "Never! I do not want to destroy!

²¹ That is not my intention. There is a man named Sheba son of Bichri, from the hill country of Ephraim, who has rebelled against King David. Deliver this one man, and I will withdraw from the city." The woman replied to Joab, "All right. His head will be thrown over the wall to you."

²² The woman went to all the people with her wise counsel, and they cut off the head of Sheba son of Bichri and threw it to Joab. So he blew the ram's

horn, and they dispersed from the city, each to his own tent. Joab returned to the king in Jerusalem.

²³ Joab commanded the whole army of Israel; Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and Pelethites;

²⁴ Adoram was in charge of forced labor; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was court historian;

²⁵ Sheva was court secretary; Zadok and Abiathar were priests;

²⁶ and in addition, Ira the Jairite was David's priest.

21 ¹ During David's reign there was a famine for three successive years, so David inquired of the LORD. The LORD answered, "It is because of the blood shed by Saul and his family when he killed the Gibeonites."

² The Gibeonites were not Israelites but rather a remnant of the Amorites. The Israelites had taken an oath concerning

them, but Saul had tried to kill them in his zeal for the Israelites and Judah. So David summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them.

³ He asked the Gibeonites, "What should I do for you? How can I wipe out this guilt so that you will bring a blessing on the LORD's inheritance?"

⁴ The Gibeonites said to him, "We are not asking for money from Saul or his family, and we cannot put anyone to death in Israel." "Whatever you say, I will do for you," he said.

⁵ They replied to the king, "As for the man who annihilated us and plotted to exterminate us so we would not exist within the whole territory of Israel,

⁶ let seven of his male descendants be handed over to us so we may hang them in the presence of the LORD at Gibeah of Saul, the LORD's chosen." The king answered, "I will hand them over."

⁷ David spared Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the LORD that was between David and Jonathan, Saul's son.

⁸ But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, who were the two sons whom Rizpah daughter of Aiah had borne to Saul, and the five sons whom Merab daughter of Saul had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite

⁹ and handed them over to the Gibeonites. They hanged them on the hill in the presence of the LORD; the seven of them died together. They were executed in the first days of the harvest at the beginning of the barley harvest.

¹⁰ Rizpah, Aiah's daughter, took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on the rock from the beginning of the harvest until the rain poured down from heaven on the bodies. She kept the birds

of the sky from them by day and the wild animals by night.

¹¹ When it was reported to David what Saul's concubine Rizpah, daughter of Aiah, had done,

¹² he went and got the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan from the leaders of Jabesh-gilead. They had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan where the Philistines had hung them the day the Philistines killed Saul at Gilboa.

¹³ David had the bones brought from there. They also gathered up the bones of Saul's family who had been hung.

¹⁴ They also buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan at Zela in the land of Benjamin in the tomb of Saul's father Kish. They did everything the king commanded. After this, God answered prayer for the land.

¹⁵ The Philistines again waged war against Israel. David went down with his

soldiers, and they fought the Philistines, but David became exhausted.

¹⁶ Then Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants of the giant, whose bronze spear weighed about eight pounds and who wore new armor, intended to kill David.

¹⁷ But Abishai son of Zeruah came to his aid, struck the Philistine, and killed him. Then David's men swore to him: "You must never again go out with us to battle. You must not extinguish the lamp of Israel."

¹⁸ After this, there was another battle with the Philistines at Gob. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was one of the descendants of the giant.

¹⁹ Once again there was a battle with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam.

²⁰ At Gath there was still another battle. A huge man was there with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot--²⁴ in all. He, too, was descended from the giant.

²¹ When he taunted Israel, Jonathan, son of David's brother Shimei, killed him.

²² These four were descended from the giant in Gath and were killed by David and his soldiers.

22 ¹ David spoke the words of this song to the LORD on the day the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

² He said: The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,

³ my God, my mountain where I seek refuge. My shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge, and my Savior, You save me from violence.

⁴ I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I was saved from my enemies.

⁵ For the waves of death engulfed me; the torrents of destruction terrified me.

⁶ The ropes of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁷ I called to the LORD in my distress; I called to my God. From His temple He heard my voice, and my cry for help reached His ears.

⁸ Then the earth shook and quaked; the foundations of the heavens trembled; they shook because He burned with anger.

⁹ Smoke rose from His nostrils, and consuming fire came from His mouth; coals were set ablaze by it.

¹⁰ He parted the heavens and came down, a dark cloud beneath His feet.

¹¹ He rode on a cherub and flew, soaring on the wings of the wind.

¹² He made darkness a canopy around Him, a gathering of water and thick clouds.

¹³ From the radiance of His presence, flaming coals were ignited.

¹⁴ The LORD thundered from heaven; the Most High projected His voice.

¹⁵ He shot arrows and scattered them; He hurled lightning bolts and routed them.

¹⁶ The depths of the sea became visible, the foundations of the world were exposed at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

¹⁷ He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He pulled me out of deep waters.

¹⁸ He rescued me from my powerful enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.

¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my distress, but the LORD was my support.

²⁰ He brought me out to a wide-open place; He rescued me because He delighted in me.

²¹ The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; He repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands.

²² For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not turned from my God to wickedness.

²³ Indeed, I have kept all His ordinances in mind and have not disregarded His statutes.

²⁴ I was blameless before Him and kept myself from sinning.

²⁵ So the LORD repaid me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in His sight.

²⁶ With the faithful You prove Yourself faithful; with the blameless man You prove Yourself blameless;

²⁷ with the pure You prove Yourself pure, but with the crooked You prove Yourself shrewd.

²⁸ You rescue an afflicted people, but Your eyes are set against the proud--You humble them.

²⁹ LORD, You are my lamp; the LORD illuminates my darkness.

³⁰ With You I can attack a barrier, and with my God I can leap over a wall.

³¹ God--His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is pure. He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

³² For who is God besides the LORD? And who is a rock? Only our God.

³³ God is my strong refuge; He makes my way perfect.

³⁴ He makes my feet like the feet of a deer and sets me securely on the heights.

³⁵ He trains my hands for war; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁶ You have given me the shield of Your salvation; Your help exalts me.

³⁷ You widen a place beneath me for my steps, and my ankles do not give way.

³⁸ I pursue my enemies and destroy them; I do not turn back until they are wiped out.

³⁹ I wipe them out and crush them, and they do not rise; they fall beneath my feet.

⁴⁰ You have clothed me with strength for battle; You subdue my adversaries beneath me.

⁴¹ You have made my enemies retreat before me; I annihilate those who hated me.

⁴² They look, but there is no one to save them --they look to the LORD, but He does not answer them.

⁴³ I pulverize them like dust of the earth; I crush them and trample them like mud in the streets.

⁴⁴ You have freed me from the feuds among my people; You have appointed me the head of nations; a people I had not known serve me.

⁴⁵ Foreigners submit to me grudgingly; as soon as they hear, they obey me.

⁴⁶ Foreigners lose heart and come trembling from their fortifications.

⁴⁷ The LORD lives--may my rock be praised! God, the rock of my salvation, is exalted.

⁴⁸ God--He gives me vengeance and casts down peoples under me.

⁴⁹ He frees me from my enemies. You exalt me above my adversaries; You rescue me from violent men.

⁵⁰ Therefore I will praise You, LORD, among the nations; I will sing about Your name.

⁵¹ He is a tower of salvation for His king; He shows loyalty to His anointed, to David and his descendants forever.

23 ¹ These are the last words of David: The proclamation of David son of Jesse, the proclamation of the man raised on high, the one anointed by the God of Jacob, the favorite singer of Israel:

² The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me, His word was on my tongue.

³ The God of Israel spoke; the Rock of Israel said to me, "The one who rules the people with justice, who rules in the fear of God,

⁴ is like the morning light when the sun rises on a cloudless morning, the glisten of rain on sprouting grass."

⁵ Is it not true my house is with God? For He has established an everlasting covenant with me, ordered and secured in every detail . Will He not bring about my whole salvation and my every desire?

⁶ But all the wicked are like thorns raked aside; they can never be picked up by hand.

⁷ The man who touches them must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear. They will be completely burned up on the spot.

⁸ These are the names of David's warriors: Josheb-basshebeth the Tahchemonite was chief of the officers. He wielded his spear against 800 men he killed at one time.

⁹ After him, Eleazar son of Dodo son of Ahohi was among the three warriors with David when they defied the Philistines. The men of Israel retreated in the place they had gathered for battle,

¹⁰ but Eleazar stood his ground and attacked the Philistines until his hand was tired and stuck to his sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that

day. Then the troops came back to him, but only to plunder the dead.

¹¹ After him was Shammah son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had assembled in formation where there was a field full of lentils. The troops fled from the Philistines,

¹² but Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field, defended it, and struck down the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

¹³ Three of the 30 leading warriors went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam, while a company of Philistines was camping in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁴ At that time David was in the stronghold, and a Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem.

¹⁵ David was extremely thirsty and said, "If only someone would bring me water

to drink from the well at the city gate of Bethlehem!"

¹⁶ So three of the warriors broke through the Philistine camp and drew water from the well at the gate of Bethlehem. They brought it back to David, but he refused to drink it. Instead, he poured it out to the LORD.

¹⁷ David said, "LORD, I would never do such a thing! Is this not the blood of men who risked their lives?" So he refused to drink it. Such were the exploits of the three warriors.

¹⁸ Abishai, Joab's brother and son of Zeruah, was leader of the Three. He raised his spear against 300 men and killed them, gaining a reputation among the Three.

¹⁹ Was he not the most honored of the Three? He became their commander even though he did not become one of the Three.

²⁰ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was the son of a brave man from Kabzeel, a man of many exploits. Benaiah killed two sons of Ariel of Moab, and he went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

²¹ He also killed an Egyptian, a huge man. Even though the Egyptian had a spear in his hand, Benaiah went down to him with a club, snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and then killed him with his own spear.

²² These were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada, who had a reputation among the three warriors.

²³ He was the most honored of the Thirty, but he did not become one of the Three. David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

²⁴ Among the Thirty were: Joab's brother Asahel, Elhanan son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁵ Shammah the Harodite, Elika the Harodite,

²⁶ Helez the Paltite, Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

²⁷ Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

²⁸ Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

²⁹ Heleb son of Baanah the Netophahite, Ittai son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjaminites,

³⁰ Benaiah the Pirathonite, Hiddai from the Wadis of Gaash,

³¹ Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

³² Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan son of

³³ Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam son of Sharar the Hararite,

³⁴ Eliphelet son of Ahasbai son of the Maacathite, EIAM son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

³⁵ Hezro the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

³⁶ Igal son of Nathan from Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

³⁷ Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, the armor-bearer for Joab son of Zeruiah,

³⁸ Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

³⁹ and Uriah the Hittite. There were 37 in all.

24 ¹ The LORD's anger burned against Israel again, and it stirred up David against them to say: "Go, count the people of Israel and Judah."

² So the king said to Joab, the commander of his army, "Go through all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba and register the troops so I can know their number."

³ Joab replied to the king, "May the LORD your God multiply the troops 100 times more than they are--while my lord

the king looks on! But why does my lord the king want to do this?"

⁴ Yet the king's order prevailed over Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army left the king's presence to register the troops of Israel.

⁵ They crossed the Jordan and camped in Aroer, south of the town in the middle of the valley, and then proceeded toward Gad and Jazer.

⁶ They went to Gilead and to the land of the Hittites and continued on to Dan-jaan and around to Sidon.

⁷ They went to the fortress of Tyre and all the cities of the Hivites and Canaanites. Afterwards, they went to the Negev of Judah at Beer-sheba.

⁸ When they had gone through the whole land, they returned to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and 20 days.

⁹ Joab gave the king the total of the registration of the troops. There were 800,000 fighting men from Israel and 500,000 men from Judah.

¹⁰ David's conscience troubled him after he had taken a census of the troops. He said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I've done. Now, LORD, because I've been very foolish, please take away Your servant's guilt."

¹¹ When David got up in the morning, a revelation from the LORD had come to the prophet Gad, David's seer:

¹² "Go and say to David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am offering you three choices . Choose one of them, and I will do it to you.'"

¹³ So Gad went to David, told him the choices , and asked him, "Do you want three years of famine to come on your land, to flee from your foes three months while they pursue you, or to have a

plague in your land three days? Now, think it over and decide what answer I should take back to the One who sent me."

¹⁴ David answered Gad, "I have great anxiety. Please, let us fall into the LORD's hands because His mercies are great, but don't let me fall into human hands."

¹⁵ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the appointed time, and from Dan to Beer-sheba 70,000 men died.

¹⁶ Then the angel extended his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, but the LORD relented concerning the destruction and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough, withdraw your hand now!" The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁷ When David saw the angel striking the people, he said to the LORD, "Look,

I am the one who has sinned; I am the one who has done wrong. But these sheep, what have they done? Please, let Your hand be against me and my father's family."

¹⁸ Gad came to David that day and said to him, "Go up and set up an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

¹⁹ David went up in obedience to Gad's command, just as the LORD had commanded.

²⁰ Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants coming toward him, so he went out and bowed to the king with his face to the ground.

²¹ Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David replied, "To buy the threshing floor from you in order to build an altar to the LORD, so the plague on the people may be halted."

²² Araunah said to David, "My lord the king may take whatever he wants and offer it. Here are the oxen for a burnt offering and the threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood.

²³ My king, Araunah gives everything here to the king." Then he said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you."

²⁴ The king answered Araunah, "No, I insist on buying it from you for a price, for I will not offer to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for 50 ounces of silver.

²⁵ He built an altar to the LORD there and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered prayer on behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel ended.

1 Kings

1 ¹ Now King David was old and getting on in years. Although they covered him with bedclothes, he could not get warm.

² So his servants said to him: "Let us search for a young virgin for my lord the king. She is to attend the king and be his caregiver. She is to lie by your side so that my lord the king will get warm."

³ They searched for a beautiful girl throughout the territory of Israel; they found Abishag the Shunammite and brought her to the king.

⁴ The girl was of unsurpassed beauty, and she became the king's caregiver. She served him, but he was not intimate with her.

⁵ Adonijah son of Haggith kept exalting himself, saying, "I will be king!" He also assembled chariots, cavalry, and 50 men to run ahead of him.

⁶ But his father had never once reprimanded him by saying, "Why do you act this way?" In addition, he was quite handsome and was born after Absalom.

⁷ He conspired with Joab son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest. They supported Adonijah,

⁸ but Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and David's warriors did not side with Adonijah.

⁹ Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle near the stone of Zoheleth, which is next to En-rogel. He invited all his royal brothers and all the men of Judah, the servants of the king,

¹⁰ but he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the warriors, or his brother Solomon.

¹¹ Then Nathan said to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah son of Haggith has become king and our lord David does not know it ?

¹² Now please come and let me advise you. Save your life and the life of your son Solomon.

¹³ Go, approach King David and say to him, 'My lord king, did you not swear to your servant: Your son Solomon is to become king after me, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne? So why has Adonijah become king?'

¹⁴ At that moment, while you are still there speaking with the king, I'll come in after you and confirm your words."

¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to the king in his bedroom. Since the king was very old,

Abishag the Shunammite was serving him.

¹⁶ Bathsheba bowed down and paid homage to the king, and he asked, "What do you want?"

¹⁷ She replied, "My lord, you swore to your servant by the LORD your God, 'Your son Solomon is to become king after me, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne.'

¹⁸ Now look, Adonijah has become king. And, my lord king, you didn't know it .

¹⁹ He has lavishly sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep. He invited all the king's sons, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but he did not invite your servant Solomon.

²⁰ Now, my lord king, the eyes of all Israel are on you to tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

²¹ Otherwise, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, I and my son Solomon will be regarded as criminals."

²² At that moment, while she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived,

²³ and it was announced to the king, "Nathan the prophet is here." He came into the king's presence and bowed to him with his face to the ground.

²⁴ "My lord king," Nathan said, "did you say, 'Adonijah is to become king after me, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne?'

²⁵ For today he went down and lavishly sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep. He invited all the sons of the king, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And look! They're eating and drinking in his presence, and they're saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

²⁶ But he did not invite me--me, your servant--or Zadok the priest or Benaiah son of Jehoiada or your servant Solomon.

²⁷ I'm certain my lord the king would not have let this happen without letting your servant know who will sit on my lord the king's throne after him."

²⁸ King David responded by saying, "Call in Bathsheba for me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before him.

²⁹ The king swore an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every difficulty,

³⁰ just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel: Your son Solomon is to become king after me, and he is the one who is to sit on my throne in my place, that is exactly what I will do this very day."

³¹ Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground, paying homage to the king, and said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

³² King David then said, "Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada for me." So they came into the king's presence.

³³ The king said to them, "Take my servants with you, have my son Solomon ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon.

³⁴ There, Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet are to anoint him as king over Israel. You are to blow the ram's horn and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'

³⁵ You are to come up after him, and he is to come in and sit on my throne. He is the one who is to become king in my place; he is the one I have commanded to be ruler over Israel and Judah."

³⁶ "Amen," Benaiah son of Jehoiada replied to the king. "May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so affirm it.

³⁷ Just as the LORD was with my lord the king, so may He be with Solomon and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David."

³⁸ Then Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down, had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon.

³⁹ Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the ram's horn, and all the people proclaimed, "Long live King Solomon!"

⁴⁰ All the people followed him, playing flutes and rejoicing with such a great joy that the earth split open from the sound.

⁴¹ Adonijah and all the invited guests who were with him heard the noise as

they finished eating. Joab heard the sound of the ram's horn and said, "Why is the town in such an uproar?"

⁴² He was still speaking when Jonathan son of Abiathar the priest, suddenly arrived. Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are an excellent man, and you must be bringing good news."

⁴³ "Unfortunately not," Jonathan answered him. "Our lord King David has made Solomon king."

⁴⁴ And with Solomon, the king has sent Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites, and they have had him ride on the king's mule.

⁴⁵ Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king in Gihon. They have gone from there rejoicing. The town has been in an uproar; that's the noise you heard.

⁴⁶ Solomon has even taken his seat on the royal throne.

⁴⁷ "The king's servants have also gone to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.' Then the king bowed in worship on his bed.

⁴⁸ And the king went on to say this: 'May the LORD God of Israel be praised! Today He has provided one to sit on my throne, and I am a witness.'"

⁴⁹ Then all of Adonijah's guests got up trembling and went their separate ways.

⁵⁰ Adonijah was afraid of Solomon, so he got up and went to take hold of the horns of the altar.

⁵¹ It was reported to Solomon: "Look, Adonijah fears King Solomon, and he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon first swear to

me that he will not kill his servant with the sword."

⁵² Then Solomon said, "If he is a man of character, then not a single hair of his will fall to the ground, but if evil is found in him, then he dies."

⁵³ So King Solomon sent for him, and they took him down from the altar. He came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your home."

2 ¹ As the time approached for David to die, he instructed his son Solomon,
² "As for me, I am going the way of all of the earth. Be strong and brave,
³ and keep your obligation to the LORD your God to walk in His ways and to keep His statutes, commandments, judgments, and testimonies. This is written in the law of Moses, so that you will have success in everything you do and wherever you turn,

⁴ and so that the LORD will carry out His promise that He made to me: 'If your sons are careful to walk faithfully before Me with their whole mind and heart, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁵ "You also know what Joab son of Zeruah did to me and what he did to the two commanders of Israel's army, Abner son of Ner and Amasa son of Jether. He murdered them in a time of peace to avenge blood shed in war. He spilled that blood on his own waistband and on the sandals of his feet.

⁶ Act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray head descend to Sheol in peace.

⁷ "Show loyalty to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite and let them be among those who eat at your table because they supported me when I fled from your brother Absalom.

⁸ "Keep an eye on Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim who is with you. He uttered malicious curses against me the day I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan River, and I swore to him by the LORD: 'I will never kill you with the sword.'

⁹ So don't let him go unpunished, for you are a wise man. You know how to deal with him to bring his gray head down to Sheol with blood."

¹⁰ Then David rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.

¹¹ The length of time David reigned over Israel was 40 years: he reigned seven years in Hebron and 33 years in Jerusalem.

¹² Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his kingship was firmly established.

¹³ Now Adonijah son of Haggith came to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. She asked, "Do you come peacefully?"

"Peacefully," he replied,

¹⁴ and then asked, "May I talk with you?" "Go ahead," she answered.

¹⁵ "You know the kingship was mine," he said. "All Israel expected me to be king, but then the kingship was turned over to my brother, for the LORD gave it to him.

¹⁶ So now I have just one request of you; don't turn me down." She said to him, "Go on."

¹⁷ He replied, "Please speak to King Solomon since he won't turn you down. Let him give me Abishag the Shunammite as a wife."

¹⁸ "Very well," Bathsheba replied. "I will speak to the king for you."

¹⁹ So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him about Adonijah. The king

stood up to greet her, bowed to her, sat down on his throne, and had a throne placed for the king's mother. So she sat down at his right hand.

²⁰ Then she said, "I have just one small request of you. Don't turn me down." "Go ahead and ask, mother," the king replied, "for I won't turn you down."

²¹ So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to your brother Adonijah as a wife."

²² King Solomon answered his mother, "Why are you requesting Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Since he is my elder brother, you might as well ask the kingship for him, for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab son of Zeruah."

²³ Then Solomon took an oath by the LORD: "May God punish me and do so severely if Adonijah has not made this request at the cost of his life."

²⁴ And now, as the LORD lives, the One who established me, seated me on the throne of my father David, and made me a dynasty as He promised--I swear Adonijah will be put to death today!"

²⁵ Then King Solomon gave the order to Benaiah son of Jehoiada, who struck down Adonijah, and he died.

²⁶ The king said to Abiathar the priest, "Go to your fields in Anathoth. Even though you deserve to die, I will not put you to death today, since you carried the ark of the Lord GOD in the presence of my father David and you suffered through all that my father suffered."

²⁷ So Solomon banished Abiathar from being the LORD's priest, and it fulfilled the LORD's prophecy He had spoken at Shiloh against Eli's family.

²⁸ The news reached Joab. Since he had supported Adonijah but not Absalom,

Joab fled to the LORD's tabernacle and took hold of the horns of the altar.

²⁹ It was reported to King Solomon: "Joab has fled to the LORD's tabernacle and is now beside the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah son of Jehoiada and told him, "Go and strike him down!"

³⁰ So Benaiah went to the tabernacle and said to Joab, "This is what the king says: 'Come out!'" But Joab said, "No, for I will die here." So Benaiah took a message back to the king, "This is what Joab said, and this is how he answered me."

³¹ The king said to him, "Do just as he says. Strike him down and bury him in order to remove from me and from my father's house the blood that Joab shed without just cause.

³² The LORD will bring back his own blood on his own head because he struck down two men more righteous

and better than he, without my father David's knowledge. With his sword, Joab murdered Abner son of Ner, commander of Israel's army, and Amasa son of Jether, commander of Judah's army.

³³ Their blood will come back on Joab's head and on the head of his descendants forever, but for David, his descendants, his dynasty, and his throne, there will be peace from the LORD forever."

³⁴ Benaiah son of Jehoiada went up, struck down Joab, and put him to death. He was buried at his house in the wilderness.

³⁵ Then the king appointed Benaiah son of Jehoiada in Joab's place over the army, and he appointed Zadok the priest in Abiathar's place.

³⁶ Then the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build a house for yourself in Jerusalem and live there, but don't leave there and go anywhere else.

³⁷ On the day you do leave and cross the Kidron Valley, know for sure that you will certainly die. Your blood will be on your own head."

³⁸ Shimei said to the king, "The sentence is fair; your servant will do as my lord the king has spoken." And Shimei lived in Jerusalem for a long time.

³⁹ But then, at the end of three years, two of Shimei's slaves ran away to Achish son of Maacah, king of Gath. Shimei was informed, "Look, your slaves are in Gath."

⁴⁰ So Shimei saddled his donkey and set out to Achish at Gath to search for his slaves. He went and brought them back from Gath.

⁴¹ It was reported to Solomon that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had returned.

⁴² So the king summoned Shimei and said to him, "Didn't I make you swear

by the LORD and warn you, saying, 'On the day you leave and go anywhere else, know for sure that you will certainly die'? And you said to me, 'The sentence is fair; I will obey.'

⁴³ So why have you not kept the LORD's oath and the command that I gave you?"

⁴⁴ The king also said, "You yourself know all the evil that you did to my father David. Therefore, the LORD has brought back your evil on your head,

⁴⁵ but King Solomon will be blessed, and David's throne will remain established before the LORD forever."

⁴⁶ Then the king commanded Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck Shimei down, and he died. So the kingdom was established in Solomon's hand.

3 ¹ Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt by marrying Pharaoh's daughter. Solomon brought

her to the city of David until he finished building his palace, the LORD's temple, and the wall surrounding Jerusalem.

² However, the people were sacrificing on the high places, because until that time a temple for the LORD's name had not been built.

³ Solomon loved the LORD by walking in the statutes of his father David, but he also sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there because it was the most famous high place. He offered 1,000 burnt offerings on that altar.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask. What should I give you?"

⁶ And Solomon replied, "You have shown great and faithful love to Your servant, my father David, because he walked before You in faithfulness,

righteousness, and integrity. You have continued this great and faithful love for him by giving him a son to sit on his throne, as it is today.

⁷ "LORD my God, You have now made Your servant king in my father David's place. Yet I am just a youth with no experience in leadership.

⁸ Your servant is among Your people You have chosen, a people too numerous to be numbered or counted.

⁹ So give Your servant an obedient heart to judge Your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰ Now it pleased the Lord that Solomon had requested this.

¹¹ So God said to him, "Because you have requested this and did not ask for long life or riches for yourself, or the death of your enemies, but you asked

discernment for yourself to understand justice,

¹² I will therefore do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again.

¹³ In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor, so that no man in any kingdom will be your equal during your entire life.

¹⁴ If you walk in My ways and keep My statutes and commandments just as your father David did, I will give you a long life."

¹⁵ Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He went to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant, and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he held a feast for all his servants.

¹⁶ Then two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

¹⁷ One woman said, "Please my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was in the house.

¹⁸ On the third day after I gave birth, she also had a baby and we were alone. No one else was with us in the house; just the two of us were there.

¹⁹ During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him.

²⁰ She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while your servant was asleep. She laid him at her breast, and she put her dead son in my arms.

²¹ When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, I discovered he was dead. That morning, when I looked closely at

him I realized that he was not the son I gave birth to."

²² "No," the other woman said. "My son is the living one; your son is the dead one." The first woman said, "No, your son is the dead one; my son is the living one." So they argued before the king.

²³ The king replied, "This woman says, 'This is my son who is alive, and your son is dead,' but that woman says, 'No, your son is dead, and my son is alive.'"

²⁴ The king continued, "Bring me a sword." So they brought the sword to the king.

²⁵ Solomon said, "Cut the living boy in two and give half to one and half to the other."

²⁶ The woman whose son was alive spoke to the king because she felt great compassion for her son. "My lord, give her the living baby," she said, "but please don't have him killed!" But the other one

said, "He will not be mine or yours. Cut him in two !"

²⁷ The king responded, "Give the living baby to the first woman, and don't kill him. She is his mother."

²⁸ All Israel heard about the judgment the king had given, and they stood in awe of the king because they saw that God's wisdom was in him to carry out justice.

4 ¹ King Solomon ruled over Israel,
² and these were his officials:

Azariah son of Zadok, priest;

³ Elihoreph and Ahijah the sons of Shisha, secretaries; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud, historian;

⁴ Benaiah son of Jehoiada, in charge of the army; Zadok and Abiathar, priests;

⁵ Azariah son of Nathan, in charge of the deputies; Zabud son of Nathan, a priest and adviser to the king;

⁶ Ahishar, in charge of the palace; and Adoniram son of Abda, in charge of forced labor.

⁷ Solomon had 12 deputies for all Israel. They provided food for the king and his household; each one made provision for one month out of the year.

⁸ These were their names: Ben-hur, in the hill country of Ephraim;

⁹ Ben-deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh, and Elon-beth-hanan;

¹⁰ Ben-hesed, in Arubboth (he had Socoh and the whole land of Hopher);

¹¹ Ben-abinadab, in all Naphath-dor (Taphath daughter of Solomon was his wife);

¹² Baana son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth-shean which is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, as far as the other side of Jokmeam;

¹³ Ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead (he had the villages of Jair son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, and he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, 60 great cities with walls and bronze bars);

¹⁴ Ahinadab son of Iddo, in Mahanaim;

¹⁵ Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he also had married a daughter of Solomon--Basemath);

¹⁶ Baana son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth;

¹⁷ Jehoshaphat son of Paruah, in Issachar;

¹⁸ Shimei son of Ela, in Benjamin;

¹⁹ Geber son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan. There was one deputy in the land of Judah.

²⁰ Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea; they were eating, drinking, and rejoicing.

²¹ Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines and as far as the border of Egypt. They offered tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

²² Solomon's provisions for one day were 150 bushels of fine flour and 300 bushels of meal,

²³ 10 fattened oxen, 20 range oxen, and 100 sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and pen-fed poultry,

²⁴ for he had dominion over everything west of the Euphrates from Tiphseh to Gaza and over all the kings west of the Euphrates. He had peace on all his surrounding borders.

²⁵ Throughout Solomon's reign, Judah and Israel lived in safety from Dan to Beer-sheba, each man under his own vine and his own fig tree.

²⁶ Solomon had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen.

²⁷ Each of those deputies for a month in turn provided food for King Solomon and for everyone who came to King Solomon's table. They neglected nothing.

²⁸ Each man brought the barley and the straw for the chariot teams and the other horses to the required place according to his assignment.

²⁹ God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore.

³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

³¹ He was wiser than anyone--wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, sons of Mahol. His reputation extended to all the surrounding nations.

³² Solomon composed 3,000 proverbs, and his songs numbered 1,005.

³³ He described trees, from the cedar in Lebanon to the hyssop growing out of the wall. He also taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.

³⁴ People came from everywhere, sent by every king on earth who had heard of his wisdom, to listen to Solomon's wisdom.

5 ¹ Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that he had been anointed king in his father's place, for Hiram had always been friends with David.

² Solomon sent this message to Hiram:

³ "You know my father David was not able to build a temple for the name of the LORD his God. This was because of the warfare all around him until the LORD put his enemies under his feet.

⁴ The LORD my God has now given me rest all around; there is no enemy or crisis.

⁵ So I plan to build a temple for the name of the LORD my God, according to what the LORD promised my father David: 'I will put your son on your throne in your place, and he will build the temple for My name.'

⁶ "Therefore, command that cedars from Lebanon be cut down for me. My servants will be with your servants, and I will pay your servants' wages according to whatever you say, for you know that not a man among us knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."

⁷ When Hiram heard Solomon's words, he greatly rejoiced and said, "May the LORD be praised today! He has given David a wise son to be over this great people!"

⁸ Then Hiram sent a reply to Solomon, saying, "I have heard your message; I will do everything you want regarding the cedar and cypress timber.

⁹ My servants will bring the logs down from Lebanon to the sea, and I will make them into rafts to go by sea to the place you indicate. I will break them apart there, and you can take them away. You then can meet my needs by providing my household with food."

¹⁰ So Hiram provided Solomon with all the cedar and cypress timber he wanted,

¹¹ and Solomon provided Hiram with 100,000 bushels of wheat as food for his household and 110,000 gallons of beaten oil. Solomon did this for Hiram year after year.

¹² The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him. There was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

¹³ Then King Solomon drafted forced laborers from all Israel; the labor force numbered 30,000 men.

¹⁴ He sent 10,000 to Lebanon each month in shifts; one month they were in Lebanon, two months they were at home. Adoniram was in charge of the forced labor.

¹⁵ Solomon had 70,000 porters and 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains,

¹⁶ not including his 3,300 deputies in charge of the work. They ruled over the people doing the work.

¹⁷ The king commanded them to quarry large, costly stones to lay the foundation of the temple with dressed stones.

¹⁸ So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders, along with the Gebalites, quarried the stone and prepared the timber and stone for the temple's construction.

6 ¹ Solomon began to build the temple for the LORD in the four hundred eightieth year after the Israelites came out from the land of Egypt, in the fourth

year of his reign over Israel, in the second month, in the month of Ziv.

² The temple that King Solomon built for the LORD was 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high.

³ The portico in front of the temple sanctuary was 30 feet long extending across the temple's width, and 15 feet deep in front of the temple.

⁴ He also made windows with beveled frames for the temple.

⁵ He then built a chambered structure along the temple wall, encircling the walls of the temple, that is, the sanctuary and the inner sanctuary. And he made side chambers all around.

⁶ The lowest chamber was seven and a half feet wide, the middle was nine feet wide, and the third was 10 and a half feet wide. He also provided offset ledges for the temple all around the outside so

that nothing would be inserted into the temple walls.

⁷ The temple's construction used finished stones cut at the quarry so that no hammer, chisel, or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

⁸ The door for the lowest side chamber was on the right side of the temple. They went up a stairway to the middle chamber , and from the middle to the third.

⁹ When he finished building the temple, he paneled it with boards and planks of cedar.

¹⁰ He built the chambers along the entire temple, joined to the temple with cedar beams; each story was seven and a half feet high.

¹¹ The word of the LORD came to Solomon:

¹² "As for this temple you are building-
-if you walk in My statutes, execute
My ordinances, and keep all My
commandments by walking in them, I
will fulfill My promise to you, which I
made to your father David.

¹³ I will live among the Israelites and
not abandon My people Israel."

¹⁴ When Solomon finished building the
temple,

¹⁵ he paneled the interior temple walls
with cedar boards; from the temple floor
to the surface of the ceiling he overlaid
the interior with wood. He also overlaid
the floor with cypress boards.

¹⁶ Then he lined 30 feet of the rear of
the temple with cedar boards from the
floor to the surface of the ceiling, and he
built the interior as an inner sanctuary,
the most holy place.

¹⁷ The temple, that is, the sanctuary in front of the most holy place, was 60 feet long.

¹⁸ The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with ornamental gourds and flower blossoms. Everything was cedar; not a stone could be seen.

¹⁹ He prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple to put the ark of the LORD's covenant there.

²⁰ The interior of the sanctuary was 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 30 feet high; he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid the cedar altar.

²¹ Next, Solomon overlaid the interior of the temple with pure gold, and he hung gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary and overlaid it with gold.

²² So he added the gold overlay to the entire temple until everything was completely finished, including the entire altar that belongs in the inner sanctuary.

²³ In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim 15 feet high out of olive wood.

²⁴ One wing of the first cherub was seven and a half feet long, and the other wing was seven and a half feet long. The wingspan was 15 feet from tip to tip.

²⁵ The second cherub also was 15 feet; both cherubim had the same size and shape.

²⁶ The first cherub's height was 15 feet and so was the second cherub's.

²⁷ Then he put the cherubim inside the inner temple. Since their wings were spread out, the first one's wing touched one wall while the second cherub's wing touched the other wall, and in the middle of the temple their wings were touching wing to wing.

²⁸ He also overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹ He carved all the surrounding temple walls with carved engravings--cherubim,

palm trees and flower blossoms--in both the inner and outer sanctuaries.

³⁰ He overlaid the temple floor with gold in both the inner and outer sanctuaries.

³¹ For the entrance of the inner sanctuary, he made olive wood doors. The pillars of the doorposts were five-sided.

³² The two doors were made of olive wood. He carved cherubim, palm trees and flower blossoms on them and overlaid them with gold, hammering gold over the cherubim and palm trees.

³³ In the same way, he made four-sided olive wood doorposts for the sanctuary entrance.

³⁴ The two doors were made of cypress wood; the first door had two folding sides, and the second door had two folding panels.

³⁵ He carved cherubim, palm trees and flower blossoms on them and overlaid them with gold applied evenly over the carving.

³⁶ He built the inner courtyard with three rows of dressed stone and a row of trimmed cedar beams.

³⁷ The foundation of the LORD's temple was laid in Solomon's fourth year in the month of Ziv.

³⁸ In his eleventh year in the eighth month, in the month of Bul, the temple was completed in every detail and according to every specification. So he built it in seven years.

7¹ Solomon completed his entire palace-complex after 13 years of construction.

² He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon. It was 150 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high on four rows of

cedar pillars, with cedar beams on top of the pillars.

³ It was paneled above with cedar at the top of the chambers that rested on 45 pillars, fifteen per row.

⁴ There were three rows of window frames, facing each other in three tiers.

⁵ All the doors and doorposts had rectangular frames, the openings facing each other in three tiers.

⁶ He made the hall of pillars 75 feet long and 45 feet wide. A portico was in front of the pillars, and a canopy with pillars were in front of them.

⁷ He made the Hall of the Throne where he would judge--the Hall of Judgment. It was paneled with cedar from the floor to the rafters.

⁸ Solomon's own palace where he would live, in the other courtyard behind the hall, was of similar construction.

And he made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, his wife.

⁹ All of these buildings were of costly stones, cut to size and sawed with saws on the inner and outer surfaces, from foundation to coping and from the outside to the great courtyard.

¹⁰ The foundation was made of large, costly stones 12 and 15 feet long.

¹¹ Above were also costly stones, cut to size, as well as cedar wood.

¹² Around the great courtyard, as well as the inner courtyard of the LORD's temple and the portico of the temple, were three rows of dressed stone and a row of trimmed cedar beams.

¹³ King Solomon had Hiram brought from Tyre.

¹⁴ He was a widow's son from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a bronze craftsman. Hiram had great skill, understanding, and

knowledge to do every kind of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and carried out all his work.

¹⁵ He cast two hollow bronze pillars: each 27 feet high and 18 feet in circumference.

¹⁶ He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on top of the pillars; seven and a half feet was the height of the first capital, and seven and a half feet was also the height of the second capital.

¹⁷ The capitals on top of the pillars had gratings of latticework, wreaths made of chainwork--seven for the first capital and seven for the second.

¹⁸ He made the pillars with two encircling rows of pomegranates on the one grating to cover the capital on top; he did the same for the second capital.

¹⁹ And the capitals on top of the pillars in the portico were shaped like lilies, six feet high .

²⁰ The capitals on the two pillars were also immediately above the rounded surface next to the grating, and 200 pomegranates were in rows encircling each capital.

²¹ He set up the pillars at the portico of the sanctuary: he set up the right pillar and named it Jachin; then he set up the left pillar and named it Boaz.

²² The tops of the pillars were shaped like lilies. Then the work of the pillars was completed.

²³ He made the cast metal reservoir, 15 feet from brim to brim, perfectly round. It was seven and a half feet high and 45 feet in circumference.

²⁴ Ornamental gourds encircled it below the brim, 10 every half yard, completely encircling the reservoir. The gourds were cast in two rows when the reservoir was cast.

²⁵ It stood on 12 oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The reservoir was on top of them and all their hindquarters were toward the center.

²⁶ The reservoir was three inches thick, and its rim was fashioned like the brim of a cup or of a lily blossom. It held 11,000 gallons.

²⁷ Then he made 10 bronze water carts. Each water cart was six feet long, six feet wide, and four and a half feet high.

²⁸ This was the design of the carts: They had frames; the frames were between the cross-pieces,

²⁹ and on the frames between the cross-pieces were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the cross-pieces there was a pedestal above, and below the lions and oxen were wreaths of hanging work.

³⁰ Each cart had four bronze wheels with bronze axles. Underneath the four corners of the basin were cast supports, each next to a wreath.

³¹ And the water cart's opening inside the crown on top was 18 inches wide. The opening was round, made as a pedestal 27 inches wide. On it were carvings, but their frames were square, not round.

³² There were four wheels under the frames, and the wheel axles were part of the water cart; each wheel was 27 inches tall.

³³ The wheels' design was similar to that of chariot wheels: their axles, rims, spokes, and hubs were all of cast metal.

³⁴ Four supports were at the four corners of each water cart; each support was one piece with the water cart.

³⁵ At the top of the cart was a band nine inches high encircling it; also, at the

top of the cart, its braces and its frames were one piece with it.

³⁶ He engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees on the plates of its braces and on its frames, wherever each had space, with encircling wreaths.

³⁷ In this way he made the 10 water carts using the same casting, dimensions, and shape for all of them.

³⁸ Then he made 10 bronze basins--each basin holding 220 gallons and each was six feet wide--one basin for each of the 10 water carts.

³⁹ He set five water carts on the right side of the temple and five on the left side. He put the reservoir near the right side of the temple toward the southeast.

⁴⁰ Then Hiram made the basins, the shovels, and the sprinkling basins. So Hiram finished all the work that he was doing for King Solomon on the LORD's temple:

⁴¹ two pillars; bowls for the capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two gratings for covering both bowls of the capitals that were on top of the pillars;

⁴² the 400 pomegranates for the two gratings (two rows of pomegranates for each grating covering both capitals' bowls on top of the pillars);

⁴³ the 10 water carts; the 10 basins on the water carts;

⁴⁴ the reservoir; the 12 oxen underneath the reservoir;

⁴⁵ and the pots, shovels, and sprinkling basins. All the utensils that Hiram made for King Solomon at the LORD's temple were made of burnished bronze.

⁴⁶ The king had them cast in clay molds in the Jordan Valley between Succoth and Zarethan.

⁴⁷ Solomon left all the utensils unweighed because there were so

many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

⁴⁸ Solomon also made all the equipment in the LORD's temple: the gold altar; the gold table that the bread of the Presence was placed on;

⁴⁹ the pure gold lampstands in front of the inner sanctuary, five on the right and five on the left; the gold flowers, lamps, and tongs;

⁵⁰ the pure gold ceremonial bowls, wick trimmers, sprinkling basins, ladles, and firepans; and the gold hinges for the doors of the inner temple (that is, the most holy place) and for the doors of the temple sanctuary.

⁵¹ So all the work King Solomon did in the LORD's temple was completed. Then Solomon brought in the consecrated things of his father David--the silver, the gold, and the utensils--and put them in the treasuries of the LORD's temple.

8 ¹ At that time Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, all the tribal heads and the ancestral leaders of the Israelites before him at Jerusalem in order to bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the city of David.

² So all the men of Israel were assembled in the presence of King Solomon in the seventh month, the month of Ethanim at the festival.

³ All the elders of Israel came, and the priests picked up the ark.

⁴ The priests and the Levites brought the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and the holy utensils that were in the tent.

⁵ King Solomon and the entire congregation of Israel, who had gathered around him and were with him in front of the ark, were sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered, because there were so many.

⁶ The priests brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the most holy place beneath the wings of the cherubim.

⁷ For the cherubim were spreading their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim covered the ark and its poles from above.

⁸ The poles were so long that their ends were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they were not seen from outside the sanctuary ; they are there to this day.

⁹ Nothing was in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ When the priests came out of the holy place, the cloud filled the LORD's temple,

¹¹ and because of the cloud, the priests were not able to continue ministering, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

¹² Then Solomon said: The LORD said that He would dwell in thick darkness,

¹³ but I have indeed built an exalted temple for You, a place for Your dwelling forever.

¹⁴ The king turned around and blessed the entire congregation of Israel while they were standing.

¹⁵ He said: May the LORD God of Israel be praised! He spoke directly to my father David, and He has fulfilled the promise by His power. He said,

¹⁶ "Since the day I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city to build a temple in among any of the tribes of Israel, so that My name would be there. But I have chosen David to rule My people Israel."

¹⁷ It was in the desire of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁸ But the LORD said to my father David, "Since it was your desire to build a temple for My name, you have done well to have this desire.

¹⁹ Yet you are not the one to build it; instead, your son, your own offspring, will build it for My name."

²⁰ The LORD has fulfilled what He promised. I have taken the place of my father David, and I sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised. I have built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

²¹ I have provided a place there for the ark, where the LORD's covenant is that He made with our ancestors when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the entire

congregation of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven.

²³ He said: LORD God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth below, keeping the gracious covenant with Your servants who walk before You with their whole heart.

²⁴ You have kept what You promised to Your servant, my father David. You spoke directly to him and You fulfilled Your promise by Your power as it is today.

²⁵ Therefore, LORD God of Israel, keep what You promised to Your servant, my father David: You will never fail to have a man to sit before Me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons guard their walk before Me as you have walked before Me.

²⁶ Now LORD God of Israel, please confirm what You promised to Your servant, my father David.

²⁷ But will God indeed live on earth? Even heaven, the highest heaven, cannot contain You, much less this temple I have built.

²⁸ Listen to Your servant's prayer and his petition, LORD my God, so that You may hear the cry and the prayer that Your servant prays before You today,

²⁹ so that Your eyes may watch over this temple night and day, toward the place where You said: My name will be there, and so that You may hear the prayer that Your servant prays toward this place.

³⁰ Hear the petition of Your servant and Your people Israel, which they pray toward this place. May You hear in Your dwelling place in heaven. May You hear and forgive.

³¹ When a man sins against his neighbor and is forced to take an oath, and he comes to take an oath before Your altar in this temple,

³² may You hear in heaven and act. May You judge Your servants, condemning the wicked by bringing what he has done on his own head and providing justice for the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

³³ When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy, because they have sinned against You, and they return to You and praise Your name, and they pray and plead with You for mercy in this temple,

³⁴ may You hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel. May You restore them to the land You gave their ancestors.

³⁵ When the skies are shut and there is no rain, because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and praise Your name, and they turn from their sins because You are afflicting them,

³⁶ may You hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel, so that You may teach them the good way they should walk in. May You send rain on Your land that You gave Your people for an inheritance.

³⁷ When there is famine on the earth, when there is pestilence, when there is blight, mildew, locust, or grasshopper, when their enemy besieges them in the region of their fortified cities, when there is any plague or illness,

³⁸ whatever prayer or petition anyone from Your people Israel might have--each man knowing his own afflictions and spreading out his hands toward this temple--

³⁹ may You hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and may You forgive, act, and repay the man, according to all his ways, since You know his heart, for You alone know every human heart,

⁴⁰ so that they may fear You all the days they live on the land You gave our ancestors.

⁴¹ Even for the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of Your name--

⁴² for they will hear of Your great name, mighty hand, and outstretched arm, and will come and pray toward this temple--

⁴³ may You hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and do according to all the foreigner asks You for. Then all the people on earth will know Your name, to fear You as Your people Israel do and know that this temple I have built is called by Your name.

⁴⁴ When Your people go out to fight against their enemies, wherever You send them, and they pray to the LORD in the direction of the city You have chosen and the temple I have built for Your name,

⁴⁵ may You hear their prayer and petition in heaven and uphold their cause.

⁴⁶ When they sin against You--for there is no one who does not sin--and You are angry with them and hand them over to the enemy, and their captors deport them to the enemy's country--whether distant or nearby--

⁴⁷ and when they come to their senses in the land where they were deported and repent and petition You in their captors' land: "We have sinned and done wrong; we have been wicked,"

⁴⁸ and when they return to You with their whole mind and heart in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and when they pray to You in the direction of their land that You gave their ancestors, the city You have chosen, and the temple I have built for Your name,

⁴⁹ may You hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, their prayer and petition and uphold their cause.

⁵⁰ May You forgive Your people who sinned against You and all their rebellions against You, and may You give them compassion in the eyes of their captors, so that they may be compassionate to them.

⁵¹ For they are Your people and Your inheritance; You brought them out of Egypt, out of the middle of an iron furnace.

⁵² May Your eyes be open to Your servant's petition and to the petition of Your people Israel, listening to them whenever they call to You.

⁵³ For You, Lord GOD, have set them apart as Your inheritance from all the people on earth, as You spoke through Your servant Moses when You brought their ancestors out of Egypt.

⁵⁴ When Solomon finished praying this entire prayer and petition to the LORD, he got up from kneeling before the altar of the LORD, with his hands spread out toward heaven,

⁵⁵ and he stood and blessed the whole congregation of Israel with a loud voice:

⁵⁶ "May the LORD be praised! He has given rest to His people Israel according to all He has said. Not one of all the good promises He made through His servant Moses has failed.

⁵⁷ May the LORD our God be with us as He was with our ancestors. May He not abandon us or leave us.

⁵⁸ May He incline our hearts toward Him to walk in all His ways and to keep His commands, ordinances, and judgments, which He commanded our ancestors.

⁵⁹ May my words I have made my petition with before the LORD be near

the LORD our God day and night, so that He may uphold His servant's cause and the cause of His people Israel, as each day requires,

⁶⁰ and so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God. There is no other!

⁶¹ Let your heart be completely devoted to the LORD our God to walk in His ordinances and to keep His commands, as it is today."

⁶² The king and all Israel with him were offering sacrifices in the LORD's presence.

⁶³ Solomon offered a sacrifice of fellowship offerings to the LORD: 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. In this manner the king and all the Israelites dedicated the LORD's temple.

⁶⁴ On the same day, the king consecrated the middle of the courtyard that was in front of the LORD's temple

because that was where he offered the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat of the fellowship offerings since the bronze altar before the LORD was too small to accommodate the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the fellowship offerings.

⁶⁵ Solomon and all Israel with him--a great assembly, from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt--observed the festival at that time in the presence of the LORD our God, seven days, and seven more days--14 days.

⁶⁶ On the fifteenth day he sent the people away. So they blessed the king and went home to their tents rejoicing and with joyful hearts for all the goodness that the LORD had done for His servant David and for His people Israel.

9 ¹ When Solomon finished building the temple of the LORD, the royal

palace, and all that Solomon desired to do,

² the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time just as He had appeared to him at Gibeon.

³ The LORD said to him: I have heard your prayer and petition you have made before Me. I have consecrated this temple you have built, to put My name there forever; My eyes and My heart will be there at all times.

⁴ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing everything I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and ordinances,

⁵ I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised your father David: You will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.

⁶ If you or your sons turn away from following Me and do not keep My

commands--My statutes that I have set before you--and if you go and serve other gods and worship them,

⁷ I will cut off Israel from the land I gave them, and I will reject the temple I have sanctified for My name. Israel will become an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples.

⁸ Though this temple is now exalted, every passerby will be appalled and will hiss. They will say: Why did the LORD do this to this land and this temple?

⁹ Then they will say: Because they abandoned the LORD their God who brought their ancestors out of the land of Egypt. They clung to other gods and worshiped and served them. Because of this, the LORD brought all this ruin on them.

¹⁰ At the end of 20 years during which Solomon had built the two houses, the LORD's temple and the royal palace--

¹¹ Hiram king of Tyre having supplied him with cedar and cypress logs and gold for his every wish--King Solomon gave Hiram 20 towns in the land of Galilee.

¹² So Hiram went out from Tyre to look over the towns that Solomon had given him, but he was not pleased with them.

¹³ So he said, "What are these towns you've given me, my brother?" So he called them the Land of Cabul, as they are still called today.

¹⁴ Now Hiram had sent the king 9,000 pounds of gold.

¹⁵ This is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon had imposed to build the LORD's temple, his own palace, the supporting terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer.

¹⁶ Pharaoh king of Egypt had attacked and captured Gezer. He then burned it down, killed the Canaanites who lived

in the city, and gave it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.

¹⁷ Then Solomon rebuilt Gezer, Lower Beth-horon,

¹⁸ Baalath, Tamar in the Wilderness of Judah,

¹⁹ all the storage cities that belonged to Solomon, the chariot cities, the cavalry cities, and whatever Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, or anywhere else in the land of his dominion.

²⁰ As for all the peoples who remained of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not Israelites--

²¹ their descendants who remained in the land after them, those whom the Israelites were unable to annihilate-- Solomon imposed forced labor on them; it is this way until today.

²² But Solomon did not consign the Israelites to slavery; they were soldiers, his servants, his commanders, his captains, and commanders of his chariots and his cavalry.

²³ These were the deputies who were over Solomon's work: 550 who ruled over the people doing the work.

²⁴ Pharaoh's daughter moved from the city of David to the house that Solomon had built for her; he then built the terraces.

²⁵ Three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on the altar he had built for the LORD, and he burned incense with them in the LORD's presence. So he completed the temple.

²⁶ King Solomon put together a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is near Eloth on the shore of the Red Sea in the land of Edom.

²⁷ With the fleet, Hiram sent his servants, experienced seamen, along with Solomon's servants.

²⁸ They went to Ophir and acquired gold there--16 tons--and delivered it to Solomon.

10 ¹ The queen of Sheba heard about Solomon's fame connected with the name of the LORD and came to test him with difficult questions.

² She came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels bearing spices, gold in great abundance, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and spoke to him about everything that was on her mind.

³ So Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for the king to explain to her.

⁴ When the queen of Sheba observed all of Solomon's wisdom, the palace he had built,

⁵ the food at his table, his servants' residence, his attendants' service and their attire, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he offered at the LORD's temple, it took her breath away.

⁶ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your words and about your wisdom is true.

⁷ But I didn't believe the reports until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, I was not even told half. Your wisdom and prosperity far exceed the report I heard.

⁸ How happy are your men. How happy are these servants of yours, who always stand in your presence hearing your wisdom.

⁹ May the LORD your God be praised! He delighted in you and put you on the throne of Israel, because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel. He has

made you king to carry out justice and righteousness."

¹⁰ Then she gave the king four and a half tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. Never again did such a quantity of spices arrive as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹¹ In addition, Hiram's fleet that carried gold from Ophir brought from Ophir a large quantity of almug wood and precious stones.

¹² The king made the almug wood into steps for the LORD's temple and the king's palace and into harps and lyres for the singers. Never before had such almug wood come, and the like has not been seen again even to this very day.

¹³ King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba her every desire--whatever she asked--besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she, along

with her servants, returned to her own country.

¹⁴ The weight of gold that came to Solomon annually was 25 tons,

¹⁵ besides what came from merchants, traders' merchandise, and all the Arabian kings and governors of the land.

¹⁶ King Solomon made 200 large shields of hammered gold; 15 pounds of gold went into each shield.

¹⁷ He made 300 small shields of hammered gold; about four pounds of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁸ The king also made a large ivory throne and overlaid it with fine gold.

¹⁹ The throne had six steps; there was a rounded top at the back of the throne, armrests on either side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the armrests.

²⁰ Twelve lions were standing there on the six steps, one at each end. Nothing like it had ever been made in any other kingdom.

²¹ All of King Solomon's drinking cups were gold, and all the utensils of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. There was no silver, since it was considered as nothing in Solomon's time,

²² for the king had ships of Tarshish at sea with Hiram's fleet, and once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²³ King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the world in riches and in wisdom.

²⁴ The whole world wanted an audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom that God had put in his heart.

²⁵ Every man would bring his annual tribute: items of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, and horses and mules.

²⁶ Solomon accumulated 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen and stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar as abundant as sycamore in the Judean foothills.

²⁸ Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and Kue. The king's traders bought them from Kue at the going price.

²⁹ A chariot was imported from Egypt for 15 pounds of silver , and a horse for about four pounds. In the same way, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Aram through their agents.

11 ¹ King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh's daughter: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women

² from the nations that the LORD had told the Israelites about, "Do not intermarry with them, and they must not intermarry with you, because they will turn you away from Me to their gods." Solomon was deeply attached to these women and loved them .

³ He had 700 wives who were princesses and 300 concubines, and they turned his heart away from the LORD .

⁴ When Solomon was old, his wives seduced him to follow other gods. His heart was not completely with the LORD his God, as his father David's heart had been.

⁵ Solomon followed Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites.

⁶ Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight, and unlike his father David, he did not completely follow the LORD.

⁷ At that time, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the detestable idol of Moab, and for Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites on the hill across from Jerusalem.

⁸ He did the same for all his foreign wives, who were burning incense and offering sacrifices to their gods.

⁹ The LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.

¹⁰ He had commanded him about this, so that he would not follow other gods, but Solomon did not do what the LORD had commanded.

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Since you have done this and did not keep My covenant and My statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

¹² However, I will not do it during your lifetime because of your father David; I will tear it out of your son's hand.

¹³ Yet, I will not tear the entire kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son because of my servant David and because of Jerusalem that I chose."

¹⁴ So the LORD raised up Hadad the Edomite as an enemy against Solomon. He was of the royal family in Edom.

¹⁵ Earlier, when David was in Edom, Joab, the commander of the army, had gone to bury the dead and had struck down every male in Edom.

¹⁶ For Joab and all Israel had remained there six months, until he had killed every male in Edom.

¹⁷ Hadad fled to Egypt, along with some Edomites from his father's servants. At the time Hadad was a small boy.

¹⁸ Hadad and his men set out from Midian and went to Paran. They took men with them from Paran and went to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave Hadad a house, ordered that he be given food, and gave him land.

¹⁹ Pharaoh liked Hadad so much that he gave him a wife, the sister of his own wife, Queen Tahpenes.

²⁰ Tahpenes' sister gave birth to Hadad's son Genubath. Tahpenes herself weaned him in Pharaoh's palace, and Genubath lived there along with Pharaoh's sons.

²¹ When Hadad heard in Egypt that David rested with his fathers and that Joab, the commander of the army, was

dead, Hadad said to Pharaoh, "Let me leave, so I can go to my own country."

²² But Pharaoh asked him, "What do you lack here with me for you to want to go back to your own country?" "Nothing," he replied, "but please let me leave."

²³ God raised up Rezon son of Eliada as an enemy against Solomon. Rezon had fled from his master Hadadezer king of Zobah

²⁴ and gathered men to himself. He became captain of a raiding party when David killed the Zobaite. He went to Damascus, lived there, and became king in Damascus.

²⁵ Rezon was Israel's enemy throughout Solomon's reign, adding to the trouble Hadad had caused . He ruled over Aram, but he loathed Israel.

²⁶ Now Solomon's servant, Jeroboam son of Nebat, was an Ephraimite from

Zeredah. His widowed mother's name was Zeruah. Jeroboam rebelled against Solomon,

²⁷ and this is the reason he rebelled against the king: Solomon had built the supporting terraces and repaired the opening in the wall of the city of his father David.

²⁸ Now the man Jeroboam was capable, and Solomon noticed the young man because he was getting things done. So he appointed him over the entire labor force of the house of Joseph.

²⁹ During that time, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met Jeroboam on the road as Jeroboam came out of Jerusalem. Now Ahijah had wrapped himself with a new cloak, and the two of them were alone in the open field.

³⁰ Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak he had on, tore it into 12 pieces,

³¹ and said to Jeroboam, "Take 10 pieces for yourself, for this is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I am about to tear the kingdom out of Solomon's hand. I will give you 10 tribes,

³² but one tribe will remain his because of my servant David and because of Jerusalem, the city I chose out of all the tribes of Israel.

³³ For they have abandoned Me; they have bowed the knee to Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, to Chemosh, the god of Moab, and to Milcom, the god of the Ammonites. They have not walked in My ways to do right in My eyes and to carry out My statutes and My judgments as his father David did.

³⁴ "However, I will not take the whole kingdom from his hand but will let him be ruler all the days of his life because of My servant David, whom I chose and

who kept My commandments and My statutes.

³⁵ I will take 10 tribes of the kingdom from his son's hand and give them to you.

³⁶ I will give one tribe to his son, so that My servant David will always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city I chose for Myself to put My name there.

³⁷ I will appoint you, and you will reign as king over all you want, and you will be king over Israel.

³⁸ "After that, if you obey all I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight in order to keep My statutes and My commandments as My servant David did, I will be with you. I will build you a lasting dynasty just as I built for David, and I will give you Israel.

³⁹ I will humble David's descendants, because of their unfaithfulness, but not forever."

⁴⁰ Therefore, Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but he fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, where he remained until Solomon's death.

⁴¹ The rest of the events of Solomon's reign , along with all his accomplishments and his wisdom, are written about in the Book of Solomon's Events.

⁴² The length of Solomon's reign in Jerusalem over all Israel totaled 40 years.

⁴³ Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David. His son Rehoboam became king in his place.

12 ¹ Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

² When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about it , for he was still in Egypt where he had fled from King Solomon's presence, Jeroboam stayed in Egypt.

³ They summoned him, and Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam:

⁴ "Your father made our yoke harsh. You, therefore, lighten your father's harsh service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵ Rehoboam replied, "Go home for three days and then return to me." So the people left.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive, asking, "How do you advise me to respond to these people?"

⁷ They replied, "Today if you will be a servant to these people and serve them, and if you respond to them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But he rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and

consulted with the young men who had grown up with him and served him.

⁹ He asked them, "What message do you advise that we send back to these people who said to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?"

¹⁰ Then the young men who had grown up with him told him, "This is what you should say to these people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you, make it lighter on us!' This is what you should tell them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins!

¹¹ Although my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips.'"

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king had ordered: "Return to me on the third day."

¹³ Then the king answered the people harshly. He rejected the advice the elders had given him

¹⁴ and spoke to them according to the young men's advice: "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips."

¹⁵ The king did not listen to the people, because the turn of events came from the LORD to carry out His word, which the LORD had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered him: What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Israel, return to your tents; David, now look after your own house! So Israel went to their tents,

¹⁷ but Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of forced labor, but all Israel stoned him to death. King Rehoboam managed to get into the chariot and flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Israel is in rebellion against the house of David until today.

²⁰ When all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they summoned him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. No one followed the house of David except the tribe of Judah alone.

²¹ When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mobilized 180,000 choice warriors from the entire house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin to fight against the house of Israel to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam son of Solomon.

²² But a revelation from God came to Shemaiah, the man of God:

²³ "Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon, king of Judah, to the whole house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people,

²⁴ 'This is what the LORD says: You are not to march up and fight against your brothers, the Israelites. Each of you must return home, for I have done this.'" So they listened to what the LORD said and went back as He had told them.

²⁵ Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built Penuel.

²⁶ Jeroboam said to himself, "The way things are going now, the kingdom might return to the house of David.

²⁷ If these people regularly go to offer sacrifices in the LORD's temple in Jerusalem, the heart of these people will return to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will murder me and go back to the king of Judah."

²⁸ So the king sought advice. Then he made two gold calves, and he said to the people, "Going to Jerusalem is too difficult for you. Israel, here is your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt."

²⁹ He set up one in Bethel, and put the other in Dan.

³⁰ This led to sin; the people walked in procession before one of the calves all the way to Dan.

³¹ Jeroboam also built shrines on the high places and set up priests from every class of people who were not Levites.

³² Jeroboam made a festival in the eighth month on the fifteenth day of the month, like the festival in Judah. He offered sacrifices on the altar; he made this offering in Bethel to sacrifice to the calves he had set up. He also stationed in Bethel the priests for the high places he had set up.

³³ He offered sacrifices on the altar he had set up in Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, the month he had decided on his own. He made a festival for the Israelites, offered sacrifices on the altar, and burned incense.

13 ¹ A man of God came from Judah to Bethel by a revelation from the LORD while Jeroboam was standing beside the altar to burn incense.

² The man of God cried out against the altar by a revelation from the LORD: "Altar, altar, this is what the LORD says, 'A son will be born to the house of David, named Josiah, and he will sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who are burning incense on you. Human bones will be burned on you.'"

³ He gave a sign that day. He said, "This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: 'The altar will now be ripped apart, and

the ashes that are on it will be spilled out."

⁴ When the king heard the word that the man of God had cried out against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Arrest him!" But the hand he stretched out against him withered, and he could not pull it back to himself.

⁵ The altar was ripped apart, and the ashes spilled off the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

⁶ Then the king responded to the man of God, "Please plead for the favor of the LORD your God and pray for me so that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God pleaded for the favor of the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him and became as it had been at first.

⁷ Then the king declared to the man of God, "Come home with me, refresh yourself, and I'll give you a reward."

⁸ But the man of God replied, "If you were to give me half your house, I still wouldn't go with you, and I wouldn't eat bread or drink water in this place,

⁹ for this is what I was commanded by the word of the LORD: 'You must not eat bread or drink water or go back the way you came.'"

¹⁰ So he went another way; he did not go back by the way he had come to Bethel.

¹¹ Now a certain old prophet was living in Bethel. His son came and told him all the deeds that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. His sons also told their father the words that he had spoken to the king.

¹² Then their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" His sons had

seen the way taken by the man of God who had come from Judah.

¹³ Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him, and he got on it.

¹⁴ He followed the man of God and found him sitting under an oak tree. He asked him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" "I am," he said.

¹⁵ Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

¹⁶ But he answered, "I cannot go back with you, eat bread, or drink water with you in this place,

¹⁷ for a message came to me by the word of the LORD: 'You must not eat bread or drink water there or go back by the way you came.'"

¹⁸ He said to him, "I am also a prophet like you. An angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD: 'Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat

bread and drink water.'" The old prophet deceived him,

¹⁹ and the man of God went back with him, ate bread in his house, and drank water.

²⁰ While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back,

²¹ and the prophet cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, "This is what the LORD says: 'Because you rebelled against the command of the LORD and did not keep the commandment that the LORD your God commanded you,

²² but you went back and ate bread and drank water in the place that He said to you: Do not eat bread and do not drink water, your corpse will never reach the grave of your fathers.'"

²³ So after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, the old prophet

saddled the donkey for the prophet he had brought back.

²⁴ When he left, a lion met him along the way and killed him. His corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey was standing beside it; the lion was standing beside the corpse too.

²⁵ There were men passing by who saw the corpse thrown on the road and the lion standing beside it, and they went and spoke about it in the city where the old prophet lived.

²⁶ When the prophet who had brought him back from his way heard about it, he said, "He is the man of God who disobeyed the command of the LORD. The LORD has given him to the lion, and it has mauled him and killed him, according to the word of the LORD that He spoke to him."

²⁷ Then the old prophet instructed his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." They saddled it,

²⁸ and he went and found the corpse of the man of God thrown on the road with the donkey and the lion standing beside the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse or mauled the donkey.

²⁹ So the prophet lifted the corpse of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back. The old prophet came into to the city to mourn and to bury him.

³⁰ Then he laid the corpse in his own grave, and they mourned over him: "Oh, my brother!"

³¹ After he had buried him, he said to his sons, "When I die, you must bury me in the grave where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones,

³² for the word that he cried out by a revelation from the LORD against the

altar in Bethel and against all the shrines of the high places in the cities of Samaria is certain to happen."

³³ After all this Jeroboam did not repent of his evil way but again set up priests from every class of people for the high places. Whoever so desired it, he ordained, and they became priests of the high places.

³⁴ For the house of Jeroboam, this was the sin that caused it to be wiped out and annihilated from the face of the earth.

14 ¹ At that time Abijah son of Jeroboam became sick.

² Jeroboam said to his wife, "Go disguise yourself, so they won't know that you're Jeroboam's wife, and go to Shiloh. Ahijah the prophet is there; it was he who told about me becoming king over this people.

³ Take with you 10 loaves of bread, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the boy."

⁴ Jeroboam's wife did that: she went to Shiloh and arrived at Ahijah's house. Ahijah could not see; his gaze was fixed due to his age.

⁵ But the LORD had said to Ahijah, "Jeroboam's wife is coming soon to ask you about her son, for he is sick. You are to say such and such to her. When she arrives, she will be disguised."

⁶ When Ahijah heard the sound of her feet entering the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam! Why are you disguised? I have bad news for you.

⁷ Go tell Jeroboam, 'This is what the LORD God of Israel says: I raised you up from among the people, appointed you ruler over My people Israel,

⁸ tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you. But you were not like My servant David, who kept My commandments and followed Me with all of his heart, doing only what is right in My eyes.

⁹ You behaved more wickedly than all who were before you. In order to provoke Me, you have proceeded to make for yourself other gods and cast images, but you have flung Me behind your back.

¹⁰ Because of all this, I am about to bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam: I will eliminate all of Jeroboam's males, both slave and free, in Israel; I will sweep away the house of Jeroboam as one sweeps away dung until it is all gone!

¹¹ Anyone who belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and anyone who dies in the field, the birds of the sky will eat, for the LORD has said it!

¹² "As for you, get up and go to your house. When your feet enter the city, the boy will die.

¹³ All Israel will mourn for him and bury him, for this one alone out of Jeroboam's sons will come to the grave, because in him alone out of the house of Jeroboam something was found pleasing to the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁴ The LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel, who will eliminate the house of Jeroboam. This is the day, yes, even today!

¹⁵ For the LORD will strike Israel and the people will shake as a reed shakes in water. He will uproot Israel from this good soil that He gave to their forefathers. He will scatter them beyond the Euphrates because they made their Asherah poles, provoking the LORD.

¹⁶ He will give up Israel, because of Jeroboam's sins that he committed and caused Israel to commit."

¹⁷ Then Jeroboam's wife got up and left and went to Tirzah. As she was crossing the threshold of the house, the boy died.

¹⁸ He was buried, and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD He had spoken through His servant Ahijah the prophet.

¹⁹ As for the rest of the events of Jeroboam's reign , how he waged war and how he reigned, note that they are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

²⁰ The length of Jeroboam's reign was 22 years. He rested with his fathers, and his son Nadab became king in his place.

²¹ Now Rehoboam, Solomon's son, reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became king; he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city

the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel to put His name. Rehoboam's mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite.

²² Judah did what was evil in the LORD's eyes. They provoked Him to jealous anger more than all that their ancestors had done with the sins they committed.

²³ They also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree;

²⁴ there were even male shrine prostitutes in the land. They imitated all the abominations of the nations the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites.

²⁵ In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt went to war against Jerusalem.

²⁶ He seized the treasuries of the LORD's temple and the treasuries of the

royal palace. He took everything. He took all the gold shields that Solomon had made.

²⁷ King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place and committed them into the care of the captains of the royal escorts who guarded the entrance to the king's palace.

²⁸ Whenever the king entered the LORD's temple, the royal escorts would carry the shields, then they would take them back to the royal escorts' armory.

²⁹ The rest of the events of Rehoboam's reign , along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

³⁰ There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam throughout their reigns.

³¹ Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. His mother's name was

Naamah the Ammonite. His son Abijam became king in his place.

15 ¹ In the eighteenth year of Israel's King Jeroboam son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah;

² he reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah daughter of Abishalom.

³ Abijam walked in all the sins his father had done before him, and he was not completely devoted to the LORD his God as his ancestor David had been.

⁴ But because of David, the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem to raise up his son after him and to establish Jerusalem

⁵ because David did what was right in the LORD's eyes, and he did not turn aside from anything He had commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

⁶ There had been war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of Rehoboam's life.

⁷ The rest of the events of Abijam's reign, along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings. There was also war between Abijam and Jeroboam.

⁸ Abijam rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. His son Asa became king in his place.

⁹ In the twentieth year of Israel's King Jeroboam, Asa became king of Judah;

¹⁰ he reigned 41 years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Maacah daughter of Abishalom.

¹¹ Asa did what was right in the LORD's eyes, as his ancestor David had done.

¹² He banished the male shrine prostitutes from the land and removed all of the idols that his fathers had made.

¹³ He also removed his grandmother Maacah from being queen mother because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. Asa chopped down her obscene image and burned it in the Kidron Valley.

¹⁴ The high places were not taken away; but Asa's heart was completely with the LORD his entire life.

¹⁵ He brought his father's consecrated gifts and his own consecrated gifts into the LORD's temple: silver, gold, and utensils.

¹⁶ There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their reigns.

¹⁷ Israel's King Baasha went to war against Judah. He built Ramah in order to deny anyone access to Judah's King Asa.

¹⁸ So Asa withdrew all the silver and gold that remained in the treasuries of

the LORD's temple and the treasuries of the royal palace and put it into the hands of his servants. Then King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad son of Tabrimmon son of Hezion king of Aram who lived in Damascus, saying,

¹⁹ "There is a treaty between me and you, between my father and your father. Look, I have sent you a gift of silver and gold. Go and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me."

²⁰ Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel. He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah, all Chinneroth, and the whole land of Naphtali.

²¹ When Baasha heard about it, he quit building Ramah and stayed in Tirzah.

²² Then King Asa gave a command to everyone without exception in Judah,

and they carried away the stones of Ramah and the timbers Baasha had built it with. Then King Asa built Geba of Benjamin and Mizpah with them.

²³ The rest of all the events of Asa's reign , along with all his might, all his accomplishments, and the cities he built, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings. But in his old age he developed a disease in his feet.

²⁴ Then Asa rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his forefather David. His son Jehoshaphat became king in his place.

²⁵ Nadab son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Judah's King Asa; he reigned over Israel two years.

²⁶ Nadab did what was evil in the LORD's sight and followed the example of his father and the sin he had caused Israel to commit.

²⁷ Then Baasha son of Ahijah of the house of Issachar conspired against Nadab, and Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon of the Philistines while Nadab and all Israel were besieging Gibbethon.

²⁸ In the third year of Judah's King Asa, Baasha killed Nadab and reigned in his place.

²⁹ When Baasha became king, he struck down the entire house of Jeroboam. He did not leave Jeroboam anyone alive until he had destroyed his family according to the word of the LORD He had spoken through His servant Ahijah the Shilonite.

³⁰ This was because of Jeroboam's sins he had committed and had caused Israel to commit in the provocation he had provoked the LORD God of Israel with.

³¹ The rest of the events of Nadab's reign , along with all his

accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

³² There was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel throughout their reigns.

³³ In the third year of Judah's King Asa, Baasha son of Ahijah became king over all Israel at Tirzah; he reigned 24 years.

³⁴ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight and followed the example of Jeroboam and the sin he had caused Israel to commit.

16 ¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Jehu son of Hanani against Baasha:

² "Because I raised you up from the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, but you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have caused My people Israel to sin, provoking Me with their sins,

³ take note: I will sweep away Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat:

⁴ Anyone who belongs to Baasha and dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and anyone who is his and dies in the field, the birds of the sky will eat.

⁵ The rest of the events of Baasha's reign , along with all his accomplishments and might, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

⁶ Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah. His son Elah became king in his place.

⁷ Through the prophet Jehu son of Hanani the word of the LORD also came against Baasha and against his house because of all the evil he had done in the LORD's sight, provoking Him with the work of his hands and being like the

house of Jeroboam, and because Baasha had struck down the house of Jeroboam.

⁸ In the twenty-sixth year of Judah's King Asa, Elah son of Baasha became king over Israel in Tirzah; he reigned two years.

⁹ His servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him while Elah was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who was in charge of the household at Tirzah.

¹⁰ In the twenty-seventh year of Judah's King Asa, Zimri went in, struck Elah down, and killed him. Then Zimri became king in his place.

¹¹ When he became king, as soon as he was seated on his throne, Zimri struck down the entire house of Baasha. He did not leave him a single male, whether of his kinsmen or his friends.

¹² So Zimri exterminated the entire house of Baasha, according to the word

of the LORD He had spoken against Baasha through Jehu the prophet,

¹³ because of all the sins of Baasha and the sins of his son Elah, which they committed and caused Israel to commit, provoking the LORD God of Israel with their worthless idols.

¹⁴ The rest of the events of Elah's reign , along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

¹⁵ In the twenty-seventh year of Judah's King Asa, Zimri became king for seven days in Tirzah. Now the troops were encamped against Gibbethon of the Philistines.

¹⁶ When the encamped troops heard that Zimri had not only conspired but had also struck down the king, then all Israel made Omri, the army commander, king over Israel that very day in the camp.

¹⁷ Omri along with all Israel marched up from Gibbethon and besieged Tirzah.

¹⁸ When Zimri saw that the city was captured, he entered the citadel of the royal palace and burned down the royal palace over himself. He died

¹⁹ because of his sin he committed by doing what was evil in the LORD's sight and by following the example of Jeroboam and the sin he caused Israel to commit.

²⁰ The rest of the events of Zimri's reign , along with the conspiracy that he instigated, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

²¹ At that time the people of Israel were split in half: half the people followed Tibni son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri.

²² However, the people who followed Omri proved stronger than those who

followed Tibni son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri became king.

²³ In the thirty-first year of Judah's King Asa, Omri became king over Israel; he reigned 12 years. He reigned six years in Tirzah,

²⁴ then he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for 150 pounds of silver, and he built up the hill. He named the city he built Samaria based on the name Shemer, the owner of the hill.

²⁵ Omri did what was evil in the LORD's sight; he did more evil than all who were before him.

²⁶ He followed the example of Jeroboam son of Nebat and the sins he caused Israel to commit, provoking the LORD God of Israel with their worthless idols.

²⁷ The rest of the events of Omri's reign , along with his accomplishments and the might he exercised, are written

about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

²⁸ Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. His son Ahab became king in his place.

²⁹ Ahab son of Omri became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Judah's King Asa; Ahab son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria 22 years.

³⁰ But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the LORD's sight more than all who were before him.

³¹ Then, as if following the sin of Jeroboam son of Nebat were a trivial matter, he married Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and then proceeded to serve Baal and worship him.

³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he had built in Samaria.

³³ Ahab also made an Asherah pole. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

³⁴ During his reign, Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho. At the cost of Abiram his firstborn, he laid its foundation, and at the cost of Segub his youngest, he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD He had spoken through Joshua son of Nun.

17 ¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, I stand before Him, and there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!"

² Then a revelation from the LORD came to him:

³ "Leave here, turn eastward, and hide yourself at the Wadi Cherith where it enters the Jordan.

⁴ You are to drink from the wadi. I have commanded the ravens to provide for you there."

⁵ So he did what the LORD commanded. Elijah left and lived by the Wadi Cherith where it enters the Jordan.

⁶ The ravens kept bringing him bread and meat in the morning and in the evening, and he drank from the wadi.

⁷ After a while, the wadi dried up because there had been no rain in the land.

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him:

⁹ "Get up, go to Zarephath that belongs to Sidon, and stay there. Look, I have commanded a woman who is a widow to provide for you there."

¹⁰ So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. When he arrived at the city gate, there was a widow woman gathering wood. Elijah called to her and

said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup and let me drink."

¹¹ As she went to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a piece of bread in your hand."

¹² But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I don't have anything baked--only a handful of flour in the jar and a bit of oil in the jug. Just now, I am gathering a couple of sticks in order to go prepare it for myself and my son so we can eat it and die."

¹³ Then Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid; go and do as you have said. Only make me a small loaf from it and bring it out to me. Afterwards, you may make some for yourself and your son,

¹⁴ for this is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'The flour jar will not become empty and the oil jug will not run dry until the day the LORD sends rain on the surface of the land.'"

¹⁵ So she proceeded to do according to the word of Elijah. She and he and her household ate for many days.

¹⁶ The flour jar did not become empty, and the oil jug did not run dry, according to the word of the LORD He had spoken through Elijah.

¹⁷ After this, the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. His illness became very severe until no breath remained in him.

¹⁸ She said to Elijah, "Man of God, what do we have in common? Have you come to remind me of my guilt and to kill my son?"

¹⁹ But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him from her arms, brought him up to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed.

²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "My LORD God, have You also

brought tragedy on the widow I am staying with by killing her son?"

²¹ Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times. He cried out to the LORD and said, "My LORD God, please let this boy's life return to him!"

²² So the LORD listened to Elijah's voice, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived.

²³ Then Elijah took the boy, brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Look, your son is alive."

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know you are a man of God and the LORD's word in your mouth is the truth."

18 ¹ After a long time, the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year: "Go and present yourself to Ahab. I will send rain on the surface of the land."

² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. The famine was severe in Samaria.

³ Ahab called for Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace. Obadiah was a man who greatly feared the LORD

⁴ and took 100 prophets and hid them, 50 men to a cave, and provided them with food and water when Jezebel slaughtered the LORD's prophets.

⁵ Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go throughout the land to every spring of water and to every wadi. Perhaps we'll find grass so we can keep the horses and mules alive and not have to destroy any cattle."

⁶ They divided the land between them in order to cover it. Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went the other way by himself.

⁷ While Obadiah was walking along the road, Elijah suddenly met him. When Obadiah recognized him, he fell with his

face to the ground and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?"

⁸ "It is I," he replied. "Go tell your lord, 'Elijah is here!'"

⁹ But Obadiah said, "What sin have I committed, that you are handing your servant over to Ahab to put me to death?"

¹⁰ As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent someone to search for you. When they said, 'He is not here,' he made that kingdom or nation swear they had not found you.

¹¹ "Now you say, 'Go tell your lord, 'Elijah is here!'"

¹² But when I leave you, the Spirit of the LORD may carry you off to some place I don't know. Then when I go report to Ahab and he doesn't find you, he will kill me. But I, your servant, have feared the LORD from my youth.

¹³ Wasn't it reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel slaughtered the LORD's prophets? I hid 100 of the prophets of the LORD, 50 men to a cave, and I provided them with food and water.

¹⁴ Now you say, 'Go tell your lord, "Elijah is here!"' He will kill me!"

¹⁵ Then Elijah said, "As the LORD of Hosts lives, before whom I stand, today I will present myself to Ahab."

¹⁶ Obadiah went to meet Ahab and report to him. Then Ahab went to meet Elijah.

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is that you, you destroyer of Israel?"

¹⁸ He replied, "I have not destroyed Israel, but you and your father's house have, because you have abandoned the LORD's commandments and followed the Baals.

¹⁹ Now summon all Israel to meet me at Mount Carmel, along with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel.

²¹ Then Elijah approached all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him. But if Baal, follow him." But the people didn't answer him a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only remaining prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

²³ Let two bulls be given to us. They are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire.

²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of Yahweh. The God who answers with fire, He is God." All the people answered, "That sounds good."

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Since you are so numerous, choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name of your god but don't light the fire."

²⁶ So they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "Baal, answer us!" But there was no sound; no one answered. Then they did their lame dance around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, "Shout loudly, for he's a god! Maybe he's thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away; or maybe he's on the

road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!"

²⁸ They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed out on them.

²⁹ All afternoon, they kept on raving until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near me." So all the people approached him. Then he repaired the LORD's altar that had been torn down:

³¹ Elijah took 12 stones--according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel will be your name"--

³² and he built an altar with the stones in the name of Yahweh. Then he made a

trench around the altar large enough to hold about four gallons.

³³ Next, he arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood. He said, "Fill four water pots with water and pour it on the offering to be burned and on the wood."

³⁴ Then he said, "A second time!" and they did it a second time. And then he said, "A third time!" and they did it a third time.

³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; he even filled the trench with water.

³⁶ At the time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached the altar and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that at Your word I have done all these things.

³⁷ Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that You,

Yahweh, are God and that You have turned their hearts back."

³⁸ Then Yahweh's fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell facedown and said, "Yahweh, He is God! Yahweh, He is God!"

⁴⁰ Then Elijah ordered them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let even one of them escape." So they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and slaughtered them there.

⁴¹ Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a rainstorm."

⁴² So Ahab went to eat and drink, but Elijah went up to the summit of Carmel. He bowed down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

⁴³ Then he said to his servant, "Go up and look toward the sea." So he went up, looked, and said, "There's nothing." Seven times Elijah said, "Go back."

⁴⁴ On the seventh time, he reported, "There's a cloud as small as a man's hand coming from the sea." Then Elijah said, "Go and tell Ahab, 'Get your chariot ready and go down so the rain doesn't stop you.'"

⁴⁵ In a little while, the sky grew dark with clouds and wind, and there was a downpour. So Ahab got in his chariot and went to Jezreel.

⁴⁶ The power of the LORD was on Elijah, and he tucked his mantle under his belt and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

19 ¹ Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "May the gods punish me and do so severely if I don't make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow!"

³ Then Elijah became afraid and immediately ran for his life. When he came to Beer-sheba that belonged to Judah, he left his servant there,

⁴ but he went on a day's journey into the wilderness. He sat down under a broom tree and prayed that he might die. He said, "I have had enough! LORD, take my life, for I'm no better than my fathers."

⁵ Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. Suddenly, an angel touched him. The angel told him, "Get up and eat."

⁶ Then he looked, and there at his head was a loaf of bread baked over hot

stones and a jug of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

⁷ Then the angel of the LORD returned a second time and touched him. He said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

⁸ So he got up, ate, and drank. Then on the strength from that food, he walked 40 days and 40 nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

⁹ He entered a cave there and spent the night. Then the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of Hosts, but the Israelites have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are looking for me to take my life."

¹¹ Then He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the LORD's presence." At that moment, the LORD passed by. A great and mighty wind was tearing at the mountains and was shattering cliffs before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

¹² After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire there was a voice, a soft whisper.

¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Suddenly, a voice came to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of Hosts," he replied, "but the Israelites have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and

killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they're looking for me to take my life."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go and return by the way you came to the Wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive, you are to anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

¹⁶ You are to anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel and Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

¹⁷ Then Jehu will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death whoever escapes the sword of Jehu.

¹⁸ But I will leave 7,000 in Israel--every knee that has not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him."

¹⁹ Elijah left there and found Elisha son of Shaphat as he was plowing. Twelve teams of oxen were in front of him, and

he was with the twelfth team. Elijah walked by him and threw his mantle over him.

²⁰ Elisha left the oxen, ran to follow Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow you." "Go on back," he replied, "for what have I done to you?"

²¹ So he turned back from following him, took the team of oxen, and slaughtered them. With the oxen's wooden yoke and plow, he cooked the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he left, followed Elijah, and served him.

20¹ Now Ben-hadad king of Aram assembled his entire army. Thirty-two kings, along with horses and chariotry, were with him. He marched up, besieged Samaria, and fought against it.

² He sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel and said to him, "This is what Ben-hadad says:

³ 'Your silver and your gold are mine! And your best wives and children are mine as well!'"

⁴ Then the king of Israel answered, "Just as you say, my lord king: I am yours, along with all that I have."

⁵ The messengers then returned and said, "This is what Ben-hadad says: 'I have sent messengers to you, saying: Your silver, your gold, your wives, and your children you are to give to me.

⁶ But at this time tomorrow I will send my servants to you, and they will search your palace and your servants' houses. Whatever is precious to you, they will lay their hands on and take away.'"

⁷ Then the king of Israel called for all the elders of the land and said, "Think it over and you will see that this one is only

looking for trouble, for he demanded my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold, and I didn't turn him down."

⁸ All the elders and all the people said to him, "Don't listen or agree."

⁹ So he said to Ben-hadad's messengers, "Say to my lord the king, 'Everything you demanded of your servant the first time, I will do, but this thing I cannot do.'" So the messengers left and took word back to him.

¹⁰ Then Ben-hadad sent messengers to him and said, "May the gods punish me and do so severely if Samaria's dust amounts to a handful for each of the people who follow me."

¹¹ The king of Israel answered, "Say this: 'Let not him who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off.'"

¹² When Ben-hadad heard this response, while he and the kings were drinking in the tents, he said to his

servants, "Take your positions." So they took their positions against the city.

¹³ A prophet came to Ahab king of Israel and said, "This is what the LORD says: 'Do you see this entire immense horde? Watch, I am handing it over to you today so that you may know that I am the LORD.'"

¹⁴ Ahab asked, "By whom?" And the prophet said, "This is what the LORD says: 'By the young men of the provincial leaders.'" Then he asked, "Who is to start the battle?" He said, "You."

¹⁵ So Ahab counted the young men of the provincial leaders, and there were 232. After them he counted all the Israelite troops: 7,000.

¹⁶ They marched out at noon while Ben-hadad and the 32 kings who were helping him were getting drunk in the tents.

¹⁷ The young men of the provincial leaders marched out first. Then Ben-hadad sent out scouts, and they reported to him, saying, "Men are marching out of Samaria."

¹⁸ So he said, "If they have marched out in peace, take them alive, and if they have marched out for battle, take them alive."

¹⁹ The young men of the provincial leaders and the army behind them marched out from the city,

²⁰ and each one struck down his opponent. So the Arameans fled and Israel pursued them, but Ben-hadad king of Aram escaped on a horse with the cavalry.

²¹ Then the king of Israel marched out and attacked the cavalry and the chariotry. He inflicted a great slaughter on Aram.

²² The prophet approached the king of Israel and said to him, "Go and strengthen yourself, then consider what you should do, for in the spring the king of Aram will march up against you."

²³ Now the king of Aram's servants said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hill country. That's why they were stronger than we. Instead, we should fight with them on the plain; then we will certainly be stronger than they."

²⁴ Also do this: remove each king from his position and appoint captains in their place.

²⁵ Raise another army for yourself like the army you lost--horse for horse, chariot for chariot--and let's fight with them on the plain; and we will certainly be stronger than they." The king listened to them and did so.

²⁶ In the spring, Ben-hadad mobilized the Arameans and went up to Aphek to battle Israel.

²⁷ The Israelites mobilized, gathered supplies, and went to fight them. The Israelites camped in front of them like two little flocks of goats, while the Arameans filled the landscape.

²⁸ Then the man of God approached and said to the king of Israel, "This is what the LORD says: 'Because the Arameans have said: The LORD is a god of the mountains and not a god of the valleys, I will hand over this entire immense horde to you. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

²⁹ They camped opposite each other for seven days. On the seventh day, the battle took place, and the Israelites struck down the Arameans--100,000 foot soldiers in one day.

³⁰ The ones who remained fled into the city of Aphek, and the wall fell on those 27,000 remaining men. Ben-hadad also fled and went into an inner room in the city.

³¹ His servants said to him, "Consider this: we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are kings who show special kindness. So let's put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and let's go out to the king of Israel. Perhaps he will spare your life."

³² So they dressed with sackcloth around their waists and ropes around their heads, went to the king of Israel, and said, "Your servant Ben-hadad says, 'Please spare my life.'" So he said, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

³³ Now the men were looking for a sign of hope, so they quickly latched onto the hint and said, "Yes, your brother Ben-hadad." Then he said, "Go and bring

him." So Ben-hadad came out to him, and Ahab had him come up into the chariot.

³⁴ Then Ben-hadad said to him, "The cities that my father took from your father I restore to you, and you may set up marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, like my father set up in Samaria." Ahab responded, "On the basis of this treaty, I release you." So he made a treaty with him and released him.

³⁵ One of the sons of the prophets said to his fellow prophet by the word of the LORD, "Strike me!" But the man refused to strike him.

³⁶ He told him, "Because you did not listen to the voice of the LORD, mark my words: When you leave me, a lion will kill you." When he left him, a lion found him and killed him.

³⁷ The prophet found another man and said to him, "Strike me!" So the man struck him, inflicting a wound.

³⁸ Then the prophet went and waited for the king on the road. He disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes.

³⁹ As the king was passing by, he cried out to the king and said, "Your servant marched out into the midst of the battle. Suddenly, a man turned aside and brought someone to me and said, 'Guard this man! If he is ever missing, it will be your life in place of his life, or you will weigh out 75 pounds of silver.'

⁴⁰ But while your servant was busy here and there, he disappeared." The king of Israel said to him, "That will be your sentence; you yourself have decided it."

⁴¹ He quickly removed the bandage from his eyes. The king of Israel recognized that he was one of the prophets.

⁴² The prophet said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Because you released from your hand the man I had devoted to destruction, it will be your life in place of his life and your people in place of his people.'"

⁴³ The king of Israel left for home resentful and angry, and he entered Samaria.

21 ¹ Some time passed after these events. Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard; it was in Jezreel next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

² So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard so I can have it for a vegetable garden, since it is right next to my palace. I will give you a better vineyard in its place, or if you prefer, I will give you its value in silver."

³ But Naboth said to Ahab, "I will never give my fathers' inheritance to you."

⁴ So Ahab went to his palace resentful and angry, because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had told him. He had said, "I will not give you my fathers' inheritance." He lay down on his bed, turned his face away, and didn't eat any food.

⁵ Then his wife Jezebel came to him and said to him, "Why are you so upset that you refuse to eat?"

⁶ "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite," he replied. "I told him: Give me your vineyard for silver, or if you wish, I will give you a vineyard in its place. But he said, 'I won't give you my vineyard!'"

⁷ Then his wife Jezebel said to him, "Now, exercise your royal power over Israel. Get up, eat some food, and be happy. For I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal. She sent the letters to the elders and nobles who lived with Naboth in his city.

⁹ In the letters, she wrote: Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people.

¹⁰ Then seat two wicked men opposite him and have them testify against him, saying, "You have cursed God and king!" Then take him out and stone him to death.

¹¹ The men of his city, the elders and nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had commanded them, as was written in the letters she had sent them.

¹² They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people.

¹³ The two wicked men came in and sat opposite him. Then the wicked men testified against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has

cursed God and king!" So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

¹⁴ Then they sent word to Jezebel, "Naboth has been stoned to death."

¹⁵ When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, "Get up and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite who refused to give it to you for silver, since Naboth isn't alive, but dead."

¹⁶ When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite to take possession of it.

¹⁷ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite:

¹⁸ "Get up and go to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria. You'll find him in Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it.

¹⁹ Tell him, 'This is what the LORD says: Have you murdered and also taken possession?' Then tell him, 'This is what the LORD says: In the place where the dogs licked Naboth's blood, the dogs will also lick your blood!'"

²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, "So, you have caught me, my enemy." He replied, "I have caught you because you devoted yourself to do what is evil in the LORD's sight.

²¹ This is what the LORD says: 'I am about to bring disaster on you and will sweep away your descendants: I will eliminate all of Ahab's males, both slave and free, in Israel;

²² I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked My anger and caused Israel to sin.

²³ The LORD also speaks of Jezebel: The dogs will eat Jezebel in the plot of land at Jezreel:

²⁴ He who belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and he who dies in the field, the birds of the sky will eat."

²⁵ Still, there was no one like Ahab, who devoted himself to do what was evil in the LORD's sight, because his wife Jezebel incited him.

²⁶ He committed the most detestable acts by going after idols as the Amorites had, whom the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites.

²⁷ When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put sackcloth over his body, and fasted. He lay down in sackcloth and walked around subdued.

²⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite:

²⁹ "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? I will not bring the disaster during his lifetime, because he has humbled himself before Me. I will bring the disaster on his house during his son's lifetime."

22 ¹ There was a lull of three years without war between Aram and Israel.

² However, in the third year, Jehoshaphat king of Judah went to visit the king of Israel.

³ The king of Israel had said to his servants, "Don't you know that Ramoth-gilead is ours, but we have failed to take it from the hand of the king of Aram?"

⁴ So he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight Ramoth-gilead?" Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁵ But Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "First, please ask what the LORD's will is."

⁶ So the king of Israel gathered the prophets, about 400 men, and asked them, "Should I go against Ramoth-gilead for war or should I refrain?" They replied, "March up, and the Lord will hand it over to the king."

⁷ But Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of Yahweh here any more? Let's ask him."

⁸ The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man who can ask the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." "The king shouldn't say that!" Jehoshaphat replied.

⁹ So the king of Israel called an officer and said, "Hurry and get Micaiah son of Imlah!"

¹⁰ Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah, clothed in royal attire, were each sitting on his own throne. They were on the threshing floor at the entrance to Samaria's gate, and all the prophets were prophesying in front of them.

¹¹ Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made iron horns and said, "This is what the LORD says: 'You will gore the Arameans with these until they are finished off.'"

¹² And all the prophets were prophesying the same: "March up to Ramoth-gilead and succeed, for the LORD will hand it over to the king."

¹³ The messenger who went to call Micaiah instructed him, "Look, the words of the prophets are unanimously favorable for the king. So let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably."

¹⁴ But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, I will say whatever the LORD says to me."

¹⁵ So he went to the king, and the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go to Ramoth-gilead for war, or should we refrain?" Micaiah told him, "March up and succeed. The LORD will hand it over to the king."

¹⁶ But the king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear not to tell me anything but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁷ So Micaiah said: I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd. And the LORD said, 'They have no master; let everyone return home in peace.'

¹⁸ So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster?"

¹⁹ Then Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and the whole heavenly host was standing by Him at His right hand and at His left hand.

²⁰ And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' So one was saying this and another was saying that.

²¹ "Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will entice him.'

²² "The LORD asked him, 'How?' "He said, 'I will go and become a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' "Then He said, 'You will certainly entice him and prevail. Go and do that.'

²³ "You see, the LORD has put a lying spirit into the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you."

²⁴ Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up, hit Micaiah in the face, and demanded, "Did the Spirit of the LORD leave me to speak to you?"

²⁵ Micaiah replied, "You will soon see when you go to hide yourself in an inner chamber on that day."

²⁶ Then the king of Israel ordered, "Take Micaiah and return him to Amon, the governor of the city, and to Joash, the king's son,

²⁷ and say, 'This is what the king says: Put this guy in prison and feed him only bread and water until I come back safely.'"

²⁸ But Micaiah said, "If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me." Then he said, "Listen, all you people!"

²⁹ Then the king of Israel and Judah's King Jehoshaphat went up to Ramoth-gilead.

³⁰ But the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your royal attire." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

³¹ Now the king of Aram had ordered his 32 chariot commanders, "Do not fight with anyone at all except the king of Israel."

³² When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they shouted, "He must be the king of Israel!" So they turned to fight against him, but Jehoshaphat cried out.

³³ When the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³⁴ But a man drew his bow without taking special aim and struck the king of Israel through the joints of his armor. So he said to his charioteer, "Turn around

and take me out of the battle, for I am badly wounded!"

³⁵ The battle raged throughout that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Arameans. He died that evening, and blood from his wound flowed into the bottom of the chariot.

³⁶ Then the cry rang out in the army as the sun set, declaring: Each man to his own city, and each man to his own land!

³⁷ So the king died and was brought to Samaria. They buried the king in Samaria.

³⁸ Then someone washed the chariot at the pool of Samaria. The dogs licked up his blood, and the prostitutes bathed in it, according to the word of the LORD that He had spoken.

³⁹ The rest of the events of Ahab's reign, along with all his accomplishments, the ivory palace he built, and all the cities he

built, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

⁴⁰ Ahab rested with his fathers, and his son Ahaziah became king in his place.

⁴¹ Jehoshaphat son of Asa became king over Judah in the fourth year of Israel's King Ahab.

⁴² Jehoshaphat was 35 years old when he became king; he reigned 25 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi.

⁴³ He walked in all the ways of his father Asa; he did not turn away from them but did what was right in the LORD's sight. However, the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁴⁴ Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵ The rest of the events of Jehoshaphat's reign , along with the might he exercised and how he

waged war, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

⁴⁶ He removed from the land the rest of the male shrine prostitutes who were left from the days of his father Asa.

⁴⁷ There was no king in Edom; a deputy served as king.

⁴⁸ Jehoshaphat made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they did not go because the ships were wrecked at Ezion-geber.

⁴⁹ At that time, Ahaziah son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships," but Jehoshaphat was not willing.

⁵⁰ Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of his forefather David. His son Jehoram became king in his place.

⁵¹ Ahaziah son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth

year of Judah's King Jehoshaphat; he reigned over Israel two years.

⁵² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He walked in the way of his father, in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin.

⁵³ He served Baal and worshiped him. He provoked the LORD God of Israel just as his father had done.

2 Kings

1 ¹ After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel.

² Ahaziah had fallen through the latticed window of his upper room in Samaria and was injured. So he sent messengers instructing them: "Go inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, if I will recover from this injury."

³ But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Go and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron?'"

⁴ Therefore, this is what the LORD says: "You will not get up from your sickbed--you will certainly die." Then Elijah left.

⁵ The messengers returned to the king, who asked them, "Why have you come back?"

⁶ They replied, "A man came to meet us and said, 'Go back to the king who sent you and declare to him: This is what the LORD says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you're sending these men to inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore, you will not get up from your sickbed--you will certainly die.'"

⁷ The king asked them: "What sort of man came up to meet you and spoke those words to you?"

⁸ They replied, "A hairy man with a leather belt around his waist." He said, "It's Elijah the Tishbite."

⁹ So King Ahaziah sent a captain of 50 with his 50 men to Elijah. When the captain went up to him, he was sitting

on top of the hill. He announced, "Man of God, the king declares, 'Come down!'"

¹⁰ Elijah responded to the captain of the 50, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men ." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men .

¹¹ So the king sent another captain of 50 with his 50 men to Elijah. He took in the situation and announced, "Man of God, this is what the king says: 'Come down immediately!'"

¹² Elijah responded, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your 50 men ." So a divine fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his 50 men .

¹³ Then the king sent a third captain of 50 with his 50 men . The third captain of 50 went up and fell on his knees in front of Elijah and begged him, "Man of God,

please let my life and the lives of these 50 servants of yours be precious in your sight.

¹⁴ Already fire has come down from heaven and consumed the first two captains of 50 with their fifties, but this time let my life be precious in your sight."

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him. Don't be afraid of him." So he got up and went down with him to the king.

¹⁶ Then Elijah said to King Ahaziah, "This is what the LORD says: 'Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-zebul, the god of Ekron--is it because there is no God in Israel for you to inquire of His will? You will not get up from your sickbed; you will certainly die.'"

¹⁷ Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. Since

he had no son, Joram became king in his place. This happened in the second year of Judah's King Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat.

¹⁸ The rest of the events of Ahaziah's reign , along with his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

2 ¹ The time had come for the LORD to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah and Elisha were traveling from Gilgal,

² and Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD is sending me on to Bethel." But Elisha replied, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

³ Then the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha and said, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" He said, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; the LORD is sending me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

⁵ Then the sons of the prophets who were in Jericho came up to Elisha and said, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" He said, "Yes, I know. Be quiet."

⁶ Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD is sending me to the Jordan." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

⁷ Fifty men from the sons of the prophets came and stood facing them from a distance while the two of them stood by the Jordan.

⁸ Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the waters, which parted to

the right and left. Then the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹ After they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I can do for you before I am taken from you." So Elisha answered, "Please, let there be a double portion of your spirit on me."

¹⁰ Elijah replied, "You have asked for something difficult. If you see me being taken from you, you will have it. If not, you won't."

¹¹ As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind.

¹² As Elisha watched, he kept crying out, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!" Then he never saw Elijah again. He took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.

¹³ Elisha picked up the mantle that had fallen off Elijah and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

¹⁴ Then he took the mantle Elijah had dropped and struck the waters. "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" he asked. He struck the waters himself, and they parted to the right and the left, and Elisha crossed over.

¹⁵ When the sons of the prophets from Jericho, who were facing him, saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." They came to meet him and bowed down to the ground in front of him.

¹⁶ Then the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Since there are 50 strong men here with your servants, please let them go and search for your master. Maybe the Spirit of the LORD has carried him away and put him on one of the

mountains or into one of the valleys." He answered, "Don't send them ."

¹⁷ However, they urged him to the point of embarrassment, so he said, "Send them ." They sent 50 men, who looked for three days but did not find him.

¹⁸ When they returned to him in Jericho where he was staying, he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

¹⁹ Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Even though our lord can see that the city's location is good, the water is bad and the land unfruitful."

²⁰ He replied, "Bring me a new bowl and put salt in it." After they had brought him one,

²¹ Elisha went out to the spring of water, threw salt in it, and said, "This is what the LORD says: 'I have healed this water. No longer will death or unfruitfulness result from it.'"

²² Therefore, the water remains healthy to this very day according to the word that Elisha spoke.

²³ From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking up the path, some small boys came out of the city and harassed him, chanting, "Go up, baldy! Go up, baldy!"

²⁴ He turned around, looked at them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and mauled 42 of the youths.

²⁵ From there Elisha went to Mount Carmel, and then he returned to Samaria.

3 ¹ Joram son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria during the eighteenth year of Judah's King Jehoshaphat; he reigned 12 years.

² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, but not like his father and mother,

for he removed the sacred pillar of Baal his father had made.

³ Nevertheless, Joram clung to the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit. He did not turn away from them.

⁴ King Mesha of Moab was a sheep breeder. He used to pay the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams,

⁵ but when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

⁶ So King Joram marched out from Samaria at that time and mobilized all Israel.

⁷ Then he sent a message to King Jehoshaphat of Judah: "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" Jehoshaphat said, "I will go. I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁸ Then he asked, "Which route should we take?" Joram replied, "The route of the wilderness of Edom."

⁹ So the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom set out. After they had traveled their indirect route for seven days, they had no water for the army or their animals.

¹⁰ Then the king of Israel said, "Oh no, the LORD has summoned us three kings, only to hand us over to Moab."

¹¹ But Jehoshaphat said, "Isn't there a prophet of the LORD here? Let's inquire of the LORD through him." One of the servants of the king of Israel answered, "Elisha son of Shaphat, who used to pour water on Elijah's hands, is here."

¹² Jehoshaphat affirmed, "The LORD's words are with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went to him.

¹³ However, Elisha said to King Joram of Israel, "We have nothing in common. Go to the prophets of your father and your mother!" But the king of Israel replied, "No, because it is the LORD who has summoned us three kings to hand us over to Moab."

¹⁴ Elisha responded, "As the LORD of Hosts lives, I stand before Him. If I did not have respect for King Jehoshaphat of Judah, I would not look at you; I wouldn't take notice of you.

¹⁵ Now, bring me a musician." While the musician played, the LORD's hand came on Elisha.

¹⁶ Then he said, "This is what the LORD says: 'Dig ditch after ditch in this wadi.'

¹⁷ For the LORD says, 'You will not see wind or rain, but the wadi will be filled with water, and you will drink--you and your cattle and your animals.'

¹⁸ This is easy in the LORD's sight. He will also hand Moab over to you.

¹⁹ Then you must attack every fortified city and every choice city. You must cut down every good tree and stop up every spring of water. You must ruin every good piece of land with stones."

²⁰ About the time for the grain offering the next morning, water suddenly came from the direction of Edom and filled the land.

²¹ All Moab had heard that the kings had come up to fight against them. So all who could bear arms, from the youngest to the oldest, were summoned and took their stand at the border.

²² When they got up early in the morning, the sun was shining on the water, and the Moabites saw that the water across from them was red like blood.

²³ "This is blood!" they exclaimed. "The kings have clashed swords and killed each other. So, to the spoil, Moab!"

²⁴ However, when the Moabites came to Israel's camp, the Israelites attacked them, and they fled from them. So Israel went into the land and struck down the Moabites.

²⁵ They destroyed the cities, and each of them threw stones to cover every good piece of land. They stopped up every spring of water and cut down every good tree. In the end, only the buildings of Kir-hareseth were left. Then men with slings surrounded the city and attacked it.

²⁶ When the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took 700 swordsmen with him to try to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not do it.

²⁷ So he took his firstborn son, who was to become king in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering on the city wall. Great wrath was on the Israelites, and they withdrew from him and returned to their land.

4 ¹ One of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant, my husband, has died. You know that your servant feared the LORD. Now the creditor is coming to take my two children as his slaves."

² Elisha asked her, "What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" She said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

³ Then he said, "Go and borrow empty containers from everyone--from all your neighbors. Do not get just a few.

⁴ Then go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour oil into all

these containers. Set the full ones to one side."

⁵ So she left. After she had shut the door behind her and her sons, they kept bringing her containers, and she kept pouring.

⁶ When they were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another container." But he replied, "There aren't any more." Then the oil stopped.

⁷ She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go sell the oil and pay your debt; you and your sons can live on the rest."

⁸ One day Elisha went to Shunem. A prominent woman who lived there persuaded him to eat some food. So whenever he passed by, he stopped there to eat.

⁹ Then she said to her husband, "I know that the one who often passes by here is a holy man of God,

¹⁰ so let's make a small room upstairs and put a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp there for him. Whenever he comes, he can stay there."

¹¹ One day he came there and stopped and went to the room upstairs to lie down.

¹² He ordered his attendant Gehazi, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her and she stood before him.

¹³ Then he said to Gehazi, "Say to her, 'Look, you've gone to all this trouble for us. What can we do for you? Can we speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I am living among my own people."

¹⁴ So he asked, "Then what should be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵ "Call her," Elisha said. So Gehazi called her, and she stood in the doorway.

¹⁶ Elisha said, "At this time next year you will have a son in your arms." Then she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not deceive your servant."

¹⁷ The woman conceived and gave birth to a son at the same time the following year, as Elisha had promised her.

¹⁸ The child grew and one day went out to his father and the harvesters.

¹⁹ Suddenly , he complained to his father, "My head! My head!" His father told his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

²⁰ So he picked him up and took him to his mother. The child sat on her lap until noon and then died.

²¹ Then she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut him in, and left.

²² She summoned her husband and said, "Please send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, so I can

hurry to the man of God and then come back."

²³ But he said, "Why go to him today? It's neither New Moon or Sabbath." She replied, "Everything is all right."

²⁴ Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Hurry, don't slow the pace for me unless I tell you."

²⁵ So she set out and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her at a distance, he said to his attendant Gehazi, "Look, there's the Shunammite woman.

²⁶ Run out to meet her and ask, 'Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your son all right?'" And she answered, "Everything's all right."

²⁷ When she came up to the man of God at the mountain, she clung to his feet. Gehazi came to push her away, but the man of God said, "Leave her alone--she is in severe anguish, and the

LORD has hidden it from me. He hasn't told me."

²⁸ Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Didn't I say, 'Do not deceive me?'"

²⁹ So Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tuck your mantle under your belt, take my staff with you, and go. If you meet anyone, don't stop to greet him, and if a man greets you, don't answer him. Then place my staff on the boy's face."

³⁰ The boy's mother said to Elisha, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he got up and followed her.

³¹ Gehazi went ahead of them and placed the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or sign of life, so he went back to meet Elisha and told him, "The boy didn't wake up."

³² When Elisha got to the house, he discovered the boy lying dead on his bed.

³³ So he went in, closed the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.

³⁴ Then he went up and lay on the boy: he put mouth to mouth, eye to eye, hand to hand. While he bent down over him, the boy's flesh became warm.

³⁵ Elisha got up, went into the house, and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him again. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

³⁶ Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite woman." He called her and she came. Then Elisha said, "Pick up your son."

³⁷ She came, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; she picked up her son and left.

³⁸ When Elisha returned to Gilgal, there was a famine in the land. The sons of the prophets were sitting at his feet. He

said to his attendant, "Put on the large pot and make stew for the sons of the prophets."

³⁹ One went out to the field to gather herbs and found a wild vine from which he gathered as many wild gourds as his garment would hold. Then he came back and cut them up into the pot of stew, but they were unaware of what they were .

⁴⁰ They served some for the men to eat, but when they ate the stew they cried out, "There's death in the pot, man of God!" And they were unable to eat it.

⁴¹ Then Elisha said, "Get some meal." He threw it into the pot and said, "Serve it for the people to eat." And there was nothing bad in the pot.

⁴² A man from Baal-shalishah came to the man of God with his sack full of 20 loaves of barley bread from the first bread of the harvest. Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat."

⁴³ But Elisha's attendant asked, "What? Am I to set 20 loaves before 100 men?" "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said, "for this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat, and they will have some left over.'"

⁴⁴ So he gave it to them, and as the LORD had promised, they ate and had some left over.

5 ¹ Naaman, commander of the army for the king of Aram, was a great man in his master's sight and highly regarded because through him, the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man was a brave warrior, but he had a skin disease.

² Aram had gone on raids and brought back from the land of Israel a young girl who served Naaman's wife.

³ She said to her mistress, "If only my master would go to the prophet who is in Samaria, he would cure him of his skin disease."

⁴ So Naaman went and told his master what the girl from the land of Israel had said.

⁵ Therefore, the king of Aram said, "Go and I will send a letter with you to the king of Israel." So he went and took with him 750 pounds of silver, 150 pounds of gold, and 10 changes of clothes.

⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel, and it read: When this letter comes to you, note that I have sent you my servant Naaman for you to cure him of his skin disease.

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and asked, "Am I God, killing and giving life that this man expects me to cure a man of his skin disease? Think it over and you will see that he is only picking a fight with me."

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel tore his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why

have you torn your clothes? Have him come to me, and he will know there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.

¹⁰ Then Elisha sent him a messenger, who said, "Go wash seven times in the Jordan and your flesh will be restored and you will be clean."

¹¹ But Naaman got angry and left, saying, "I was telling myself: He will surely come out, stand and call on the name of Yahweh his God, and will wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease.

¹² Aren't Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and left in a rage.

¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more should you do it when he tells you, 'Wash and be clean'?"

¹⁴ So Naaman went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, according to the command of the man of God. Then his skin was restored and became like the skin of a small boy, and he was clean.

¹⁵ Then Naaman and his whole company went back to the man of God, stood before him, and declared, "I know there's no God in the whole world except in Israel. Therefore, please accept a gift from your servant."

¹⁶ But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, I stand before Him. I will not accept it." Naaman urged him to accept it, but he refused.

¹⁷ Naaman responded, "If not, please let two mule-loads of dirt be given to your servant, for your servant will no longer offer a burnt offering or a sacrifice to any other god but Yahweh.

¹⁸ However, in a particular matter may the LORD pardon your servant: When my master, the king of Aram, goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship and I, as his right-hand man, bow in the temple of Rimmon--when I bow in the temple of Rimmon, may the LORD pardon your servant in this matter."

¹⁹ So he said to him, "Go in peace." After Naaman had traveled a short distance from Elisha,

²⁰ Gehazi, the attendant of Elisha the man of God, thought: My master has let this Aramean Naaman off lightly by not accepting from him what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him.

²¹ So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw someone running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him and asked, "Is everything all right?"

²² Gehazi said, "It's all right. My master has sent me to say, 'I have just now discovered that two young men from the sons of the prophets have come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them 75 pounds of silver and two changes of clothes.'"

²³ But Naaman insisted, "Please, accept 150 pounds." He urged Gehazi and then packed 150 pounds of silver in two bags with two changes of clothes. Naaman gave them to two of his young men who carried them ahead of Gehazi.

²⁴ When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the gifts from them and stored them in the house. Then he dismissed the men, and they left.

²⁵ Gehazi came and stood by his master. "Where did you go, Gehazi?" Elisha asked him. "Your servant didn't go anywhere," he replied.

²⁶ But Elisha questioned him, "Wasn't my spirit there when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is it a time to accept money and clothes, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, and male and female slaves?"

²⁷ Therefore, Naaman's skin disease will cling to you and your descendants forever." So Gehazi went out from his presence diseased--white as snow.

6 ¹ The sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "Please notice that the place where we live under your supervision is too small for us.

² Please let us go to the Jordan where we can each get a log and can build ourselves a place to live there." "Go," he said.

³ Then one said, "Please come with your servants." "I'll come," he answered.

⁴ So he went with them, and when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

⁵ As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water, and he cried out: "Oh, my master, it was borrowed!"

⁶ Then the man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, the man of God cut a stick, threw it there, and made the iron float.

⁷ Then he said, "Pick it up." So he reached out and took it.

⁸ When the king of Aram was waging war against Israel, he conferred with his servants, "My camp will be at such and such a place."

⁹ But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Be careful passing by this place, for the Arameans are going down there."

¹⁰ Consequently, the king of Israel sent word to the place the man of God had told him about. The man of God repeatedly warned the king, so the king would be on his guard.

¹¹ The king of Aram was enraged because of this matter, and he called his servants and demanded of them, "Tell me, which one of us is for the king of Israel?"

¹² One of his servants said, "No one, my lord the king. Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in your bedroom."

¹³ So the king said, "Go and see where he is, so I can send men to capture him." When he was told, "Elisha is in Dothan,"

¹⁴ he sent horses, chariots, and a massive army there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered

an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?"

¹⁶ Elisha said, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them."

¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes and let him see." So the LORD opened the servant's eyes. He looked and saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

¹⁸ When the Arameans came against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, "Please strike this nation with blindness." So He struck them with blindness, according to Elisha's word.

¹⁹ Then Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will take you to the man you're looking for." And he led them to Samaria.

²⁰ When they entered Samaria, Elisha said, "LORD, open these men's eyes and let them see." So the LORD opened their eyes. They looked and discovered they were in Samaria.

²¹ When the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, should I kill them? I will kill them."

²² Elisha replied, "Don't kill them. Do you kill those you have captured with your sword or your bow? Set food and water in front of them so they can eat and drink and go to their master."

²³ So he prepared a great feast for them. When they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. The Aramean raiders did not come into Israel's land again.

²⁴ Some time later, King Ben-hadad of Aram brought all his military units together and marched up to besiege Samaria.

²⁵ So there was a great famine in Samaria, and they continued the siege against it until a donkey's head sold for 80 silver shekels , and a cup of dove's dung sold for five silver shekels .

²⁶ As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, "My lord the king, help!"

²⁷ He answered, "If the LORD doesn't help you, where can I get help for you? From the threshing floor or the winepress?"

²⁸ Then the king asked her, "What's the matter?" She said, "This woman said to me, 'Give up your son, and we will eat him today. Then we will eat my son tomorrow.'

²⁹ So we boiled my son and ate him, and I said to her the next day, 'Give up your son, and we will eat him,' but she has hidden her son."

³⁰ When the king heard the woman's words, he tore his clothes. Then, as he was passing by on the wall, the people saw that there was sackcloth under his clothes next to his skin.

³¹ He announced, "May God punish me and do so severely if the head of Elisha son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today."

³² Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. The king sent a man ahead of him, but before the messenger got to him, Elisha said to the elders, "Do you see how this murderer has sent someone to cut off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door to keep him out. Isn't the sound of his master's feet behind him?"

³³ While Elisha was still speaking with them, the messenger came down to him. Then he said, "This disaster is from

the LORD. Why should I trust the LORD any longer?"

7¹ Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD! This is what the LORD says: 'About this time tomorrow at the gate of Samaria, six quarts of fine meal will sell for a shekel and 12 quarts of barley will sell for a shekel.'"

² Then the captain, the king's right-hand man, responded to the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?" Elisha announced, "You will in fact see it with your own eyes, but you won't eat any of it."

³ Four men with skin diseases were at the entrance to the gate. They said to each other, "Why just sit here until we die?"

⁴ If we say, 'Let's go into the city,' we will die there because the famine is in the city, but if we sit here, we will also

die. So now, come on. Let's go to the Arameans' camp. If they let us live, we will live; if they kill us, we will die."

⁵ So the diseased men got up at twilight to go to the Arameans' camp. When they came to the camp's edge, they discovered that there was not a single man there,

⁶ for the Lord had caused the Aramean camp to hear the sound of chariots, horses, and a great army. The Arameans had said to each other, "The king of Israel must have hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to attack us."

⁷ So they had gotten up and fled at twilight abandoning their tents, horses, and donkeys. The camp was intact, and they had fled for their lives.

⁸ When these men came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent to eat and drink. Then they picked up the silver, gold, and clothing and went off and

hid them. They came back and entered another tent, picked things up, and hid them.

⁹ Then they said to each other, "We're not doing what is right. Today is a day of good news. If we are silent and wait until morning light, we will be punished. Let's go tell the king's household."

¹⁰ The diseased men went and called to the city's gatekeepers and told them, "We went to the Aramean camp and no one was there--no human sounds. There was nothing but tethered horses and donkeys, and the tents were intact."

¹¹ The gatekeepers called out, and the news was reported to the king's household.

¹² So the king got up in the night and said to his servants, "Let me tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know we are starving, so they have left the camp to hide in the open

country, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we will take them alive and go into the city.'"

¹³ But one of his servants responded, "Please, let messengers take five of the horses that are left in the city. The messengers are like the whole multitude of Israelites who will die, so let's send them and see."

¹⁴ The messengers took two chariots with horses, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, "Go and see."

¹⁵ So they followed them as far as the Jordan. They saw that the whole way was littered with clothes and equipment the Arameans had thrown off in their haste. The messengers returned and told the king.

¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered the Aramean camp. It was then that six quarts of fine meal sold for a shekel and 12 quarts of barley sold for

a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁷ The king had appointed the captain, his right-hand man, to be in charge of the gate, but the people trampled him in the gateway. He died, just as the man of God had predicted when the king came to him.

¹⁸ When the man of God had said to the king, "About this time tomorrow 12 quarts of barley will sell for a shekel and six quarts of fine meal will sell for a shekel at the gate of Samaria,"

¹⁹ this captain had answered the man of God, "Look, even if the LORD were to make windows in heaven, could this really happen?" Elisha had said, "You will in fact see it with your own eyes, but you won't eat any of it."

²⁰ This is what happened to him: the people trampled him in the gateway, and he died.

8 ¹ Elisha said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Get ready, you and your household, and go and live as a foreigner wherever you can. For the LORD has announced a seven-year famine, and it has already come to the land."

² So the woman got ready and did what the man of God said. She and her household lived as foreigners in the land of the Philistines for seven years.

³ When the woman returned from the land of the Philistines at the end of seven years, she went to appeal to the king for her house and field.

⁴ The king had been speaking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me all the great things Elisha has done."

⁵ While he was telling the king how Elisha restored the dead son to life, the woman whose son he had restored to

life came to appeal to the king for her house and field. So Gehazi said, "My lord the king, this is the woman and this is the son Elisha restored to life."

⁶ When the king asked the woman, she told him the story. So the king appointed a court official for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, along with all the income from the field from the day she left the country until now."

⁷ Elisha came to Damascus while Ben-hadad king of Aram was sick, and the king was told, "The man of God has come here."

⁸ So the king said to Hazael, "Take a gift with you and go meet the man of God. Inquire of the LORD through him, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

⁹ Hazael went to meet Elisha, taking with him a gift: 40 camel-loads of all kinds of goods from Damascus. When he came and stood before him, he said,

"Your son, Ben-hadad king of Aram, has sent me to ask you, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

¹⁰ Elisha told him, "Go say to him, 'You are sure to recover.' But the LORD has shown me that he is sure to die."

¹¹ Then Elisha stared steadily at him until Hazael was ashamed. The man of God wept,

¹² and Hazael asked, "Why is my lord weeping?" He replied, "Because I know the evil you will do to the people of Israel. You will set their fortresses on fire. You will kill their young men with the sword. You will dash their little ones to pieces. You will rip open their pregnant women."

¹³ Hazael said, "How could your servant, a mere dog, do this monstrous thing?" Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you will be king over Aram."

¹⁴ Hazael left Elisha and went to his master, who asked him, "What did Elisha say to you?" He responded, "He told me you are sure to recover."

¹⁵ The next day Hazael took a heavy cloth, dipped it in water, and spread it over the king's face. Ben-hadad died, and Hazael reigned instead of him.

¹⁶ In the fifth year of Israel's King Joram son of Ahab, Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat became king of Judah, replacing his father.

¹⁷ He was 32 years old when he became king; he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's daughter was his wife. He did what was evil in the LORD's sight.

¹⁹ The LORD was unwilling to destroy Judah because of His servant David, since He had promised to give a lamp to David and to his sons forever.

²⁰ During Jehoram's reign, Edom rebelled against Judah's control and appointed their own king.

²¹ So Jehoram crossed over to Zair with all his chariots. Then at night he set out to attack the Edomites who had surrounded him and the chariot commanders, but his troops fled to their tents.

²² So Edom is still in rebellion against Judah's control today. Libnah also rebelled at that time.

²³ The rest of the events of Jehoram's reign , along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

²⁴ Jehoram rested with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and his son Ahaziah became king in his place.

²⁵ In the twelfth year of Israel's King Joram son of Ahab, Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah.

²⁶ Ahaziah was 22 years old when he became king; he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, granddaughter of Israel's King Omri.

²⁷ He walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did what was evil in the LORD's sight like the house of Ahab, for he was a son-in-law to Ahab's family.

²⁸ Ahaziah went with Joram son of Ahab to fight against Hazael king of Aram in Ramoth-gilead, and the Arameans wounded Joram.

²⁹ So King Joram returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds that the Arameans had inflicted on him in Ramoth-gilead when he fought against Aram's King Hazael. Then Judah's King Ahaziah son of Jehoram went down to

Jezreel to visit Joram son of Ahab since Joram was ill.

9¹ The prophet Elisha called one of the sons of the prophets and said, "Tuck your mantle under your belt, take this flask of oil with you, and go to Ramoth-gilead.

² When you get there, look for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. Go in, get him away from his colleagues, and take him to an inner room.

³ Then, take the flask of oil, pour it on his head, and say, 'This is what the LORD says: "I anoint you king over Israel."' Open the door and escape. Don't wait."

⁴ So the young prophet went to Ramoth-gilead.

⁵ When he arrived, the army commanders were sitting there, so he said, "I have a message for you, commander." Jehu asked, "For which

one of us?" He answered, "For you, commander."

⁶ So Jehu got up and went into the house. The young prophet poured the oil on his head and said, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I anoint you king over the LORD's people, Israel.

⁷ You are to strike down the house of your master Ahab so that I may avenge the blood shed by the hand of Jezebel--the blood of My servants the prophets and of all the servants of the LORD.

⁸ The whole house of Ahab will perish, and I will eliminate all of Ahab's males, both slave and free, in Israel.

⁹ I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah.

¹⁰ The dogs will eat Jezebel in the plot of land at Jezreel--no one will bury her."

Then the young prophet opened the door and escaped.

¹¹ When Jehu came out to his master's servants, they asked, "Is everything all right? Why did this crazy person come to you?" Then he said to them, "You know the sort and their ranting."

¹² But they replied, "That's a lie! Tell us!" So Jehu said, "He talked to me about this and that and said, 'This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.'"

¹³ Each man quickly took his garment and put it under Jehu on the bare steps. They blew the ram's horn and proclaimed, "Jehu is king!"

¹⁴ Then Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram. Joram and all Israel had been at Ramoth-gilead on guard against Hazael king of Aram.

¹⁵ But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds that the Arameans had inflicted on him when

he fought against Aram's King Hazael. Jehu said, "If you commanders wish to make me king, then don't let anyone escape from the city to go tell about it in Jezreel."

¹⁶ Jehu got into his chariot and went to Jezreel since Joram was laid up there and Ahaziah king of Judah had gone down to visit Joram.

¹⁷ Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel. He saw Jehu's troops approaching and shouted, "I see troops!" Joram responded, "Choose a rider and send him to meet them and have him ask, 'Do you come in peace?'"

¹⁸ So a horseman went to meet Jehu and said, "This is what the king asks: 'Do you come in peace?'" Jehu replied, "What do you have to do with peace? Fall in behind me." The watchman reported, "The messenger reached them but hasn't started back."

¹⁹ So he sent out a second horseman, who went to them and said, "This is what the king asks: 'Do you come in peace?'" Jehu answered, "What do you have to do with peace? Fall in behind me."

²⁰ Again the watchman reported, "He reached them but hasn't started back. Also, the driving is like that of Jehu son of Nimshi--he drives like a madman."

²¹ "Harness!" Joram shouted, and they harnessed his chariot. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah set out, each in his own chariot, and met Jehu at the plot of land of Naboth the Jezreelite.

²² When Joram saw Jehu he asked, "Do you come in peace, Jehu?" He answered, "What peace can there be as long as there is so much prostitution and witchcraft from your mother Jezebel?"

²³ Joram turned around and fled, shouting to Ahaziah, "It's treachery, Ahaziah!"

²⁴ Then Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders. The arrow went through his heart, and he slumped down in his chariot.

²⁵ Jehu said to Bidkar his aide, "Pick him up and throw him on the plot of ground belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. For remember when you and I were riding side by side behind his father Ahab, and the LORD uttered this oracle against him:

²⁶ 'As surely as I saw the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons yesterday,' this is the LORD's message, 'so will I repay you on this plot of land,' this is the LORD's message. So now, according to the word of the LORD, pick him up and throw him on the plot of land."

²⁷ When King Ahaziah of Judah saw what was happening , he fled up the road toward Beth-haggan. Jehu pursued him, shouting, "Shoot him too!" So they shot him in his chariot at Gur Pass near Ibleam, but he fled to Megiddo and died there.

²⁸ Then his servants carried him to Jerusalem in a chariot and buried him in his fathers' tomb in the city of David.

²⁹ It was in the eleventh year of Joram son of Ahab that Ahaziah had become king over Judah.

³⁰ When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard about it, so she painted her eyes, adorned her head, and looked down from the window.

³¹ As Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Do you come in peace, Zimri, killer of your master?"

³² He looked up toward the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked down at him,

³³ and he said, "Throw her down!" So they threw her down, and some of her blood splattered on the wall and on the horses, and Jehu rode over her.

³⁴ Then he went in, ate and drank, and said, "Take care of this cursed woman and bury her, since she's a king's daughter."

³⁵ But when they went out to bury her, they did not find anything but her skull, her feet, and the palms of her hands.

³⁶ So they went back and told him, and he said, "This fulfills the LORD's word that He spoke through His servant Elijah the Tishbite: 'In the plot of land at Jezreel, the dogs will eat Jezebel's flesh.

³⁷ Jezebel's corpse will be like manure on the surface of the field in the plot

of land at Jezreel so that no one will be able to say: This is Jezebel.'"

10¹ Since Ahab had 70 sons in Samaria, Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria to the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to the guardians of Ahab's sons, saying:

² When this letter arrives, since your master's sons are with you and you have chariots, horses, a fortified city, and weaponry,

³ select the most qualified of your master's sons, set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.

⁴ However, they were terrified and reasoned, "Look, two kings couldn't stand against him; how can we?"

⁵ So the overseer of the palace, the overseer of the city, the elders, and the guardians sent a message to Jehu: "We are your servants, and we will do

whatever you tell us. We will not make anyone king. Do whatever you think is right."

⁶ Then Jehu wrote them a second letter, saying: If you are on my side, and if you will obey me, bring me the heads of your master's sons at this time tomorrow at Jezreel. All 70 of the king's sons were being cared for by the city's prominent men.

⁷ When the letter came to them, they took the king's sons and slaughtered all 70, put their heads in baskets, and sent them to Jehu at Jezreel.

⁸ When the messenger came and told him, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," the king said, "Pile them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning."

⁹ The next morning when he went out and stood at the gate, he said to all the people, "You are innocent. It was I who

conspired against my master and killed him. But who struck down all these?

¹⁰ Know, then, that not a word the LORD spoke against the house of Ahab will fail, for the LORD has done what He promised through His servant Elijah."

¹¹ So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel--all his great men, close friends, and priests--leaving him no survivors.

¹² Then he set out and went on his way to Samaria. On the way, while he was at Beth-eked of the Shepherds,

¹³ Jehu met the relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah and asked, "Who are you?" They answered, "We're Ahaziah's relatives. We've come down to greet the king's sons and the queen mother's sons."

¹⁴ Then Jehu ordered, "Take them alive." So they took them alive and then slaughtered them at the pit of

Beth-eked--42 men. He didn't spare any of them.

¹⁵ When he left there, he found Jehonadab son of Rechab coming to meet him. He greeted him and then asked, "Is your heart one with mine?" "It is," Jehonadab replied. Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand, and Jehu pulled him up into the chariot with him.

¹⁶ Then he said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD!" So he let him ride with him in his chariot.

¹⁷ When Jehu came to Samaria, he struck down all who remained from the house of Ahab in Samaria until he had annihilated his house, according to the word of the LORD spoken to Elijah.

¹⁸ Then Jehu brought all the people together and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him a lot.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, summon to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. None must be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing will not live." However, Jehu was acting deceptively in order to destroy the servants of Baal.

²⁰ Jehu commanded, "Consecrate a solemn assembly for Baal." So they called one.

²¹ Then Jehu sent messengers throughout all Israel, and all the servants of Baal came; there was not a man left who did not come. They entered the temple of Baal, and it was filled from one end to the other.

²² Then he said to the custodian of the wardrobe, "Bring out the garments for all the servants of Baal." So he brought out their garments.

²³ Then Jehu and Jehonadab son of Rechab entered the temple of Baal,

and Jehu said to the servants of Baal, "Look carefully to see that there are no servants of the LORD here among you--only servants of Baal."

²⁴ Then they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had stationed 80 men outside, and he warned them, "Whoever allows any of the men I am delivering into your hands to escape will forfeit his life for theirs."

²⁵ When he finished offering the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guards and officers, "Go in and kill them. Don't let anyone out." So they struck them down with the sword. Then the guards and officers threw the bodies out and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal.

²⁶ They brought out the pillars of the temple of Baal and burned them

²⁷ and tore down the pillar of Baal. Then they tore down the temple of Baal

and made it a latrine--which it is to this day.

²⁸ Jehu eliminated Baal worship from Israel,

²⁹ but he did not turn away from the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit--worshiping the golden calves that were in Bethel and Dan.

³⁰ Nevertheless, the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in carrying out what is right in My sight and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, four generations of your sons will sit on the throne of Israel."

³¹ Yet, Jehu was not careful to follow with all his heart the law of the LORD God of Israel. He did not turn from the sins that Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit.

³² In those days the LORD began to reduce the size of Israel. Hazael defeated the Israelites throughout their territory:

³³ from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead--the Gadites, the Reubenites, and the Manassites--from Aroer which is by the Arnon Valley through Gilead to Bashan.

³⁴ Now the rest of the events of Jehu's reign , along with all his accomplishments and all his might, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

³⁵ Jehu rested with his fathers, and he was buried in Samaria. His son Jehoahaz became king in his place.

³⁶ The length of Jehu's reign over Israel in Samaria was 28 years.

11 ¹ When Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs.

² Jehosheba, who was King Jehoram's daughter and Ahaziah's sister, secretly rescued Joash son of Ahaziah from the king's sons who were being killed and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So he was hidden from Athaliah and was not killed.

³ Joash was in hiding with Jehosheba in the LORD's temple six years while Athaliah ruled over the land.

⁴ Then, in the seventh year, Jehoiada sent messengers and brought in the commanders of hundreds, the Carites, and the guards. He had them come to him in the LORD's temple, where he made a covenant with them and put them under oath. He showed them the king's son

⁵ and commanded them, "This is what you are to do: one third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath are to provide protection for the king's palace.

⁶ A third are to be at the Sur gate and a third at the gate behind the guards. You are to take turns providing protection for the palace.

⁷ Your two divisions that go off duty on the Sabbath are to provide protection for the LORD's temple.

⁸ You must completely surround the king with weapons in hand. Anyone who approaches the ranks is to be put to death. You must be with the king in all his daily tasks."

⁹ So the commanders of hundreds did everything Jehoiada the priest commanded. They each brought their men--those coming on duty on the Sabbath and those going off duty--and went to Jehoiada the priest.

¹⁰ The priest gave to the commanders of hundreds King David's spears and shields that were in the LORD's temple.

¹¹ Then the guards stood with their weapons in hand surrounding the king--from the right side of the temple to the left side, by the altar and by the temple.

¹² He brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the testimony, and made him king. They anointed him and clapped their hands and cried, "Long live the king!"

¹³ When Athaliah heard the noise from the guard and the crowd, she went out to the people at the LORD's temple.

¹⁴ As she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar according to the custom. The commanders and the trumpeters were by the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁵ Then Jehoiada the priest ordered the commanders of hundreds in charge of the army, "Take her out between the ranks, and put anyone who follows her to death by the sword," for the priest had said, "She is not to be put to death in the LORD's temple."

¹⁶ So they arrested her, and she went out by way of the Horses' Entrance to the king's palace, where she was put to death.

¹⁷ Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people that they would be the LORD's people and another one between the king and the people.

¹⁸ So all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They broke its altars and images into pieces, and they killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, at the altars. Then Jehoiada the

priest appointed guards for the LORD's temple.

¹⁹ He took with him the commanders of hundreds, the Carites, the guards, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king from the LORD's temple. They entered the king's palace by way of the guards' gate. Then Joash sat on the throne of the kings.

²⁰ All the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet, for they had put Athaliah to death by the sword in the king's palace.

21

12 ¹ In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash became king; he reigned 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah, who was from Beer-sheba.

² Throughout the time Jehoiada the priest instructed him, Joash did what was right in the LORD's sight.

³ Yet the high places were not taken away; the people continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.

⁴ Then Joash said to the priests, "All the dedicated money brought to the LORD's temple, census money, money from vows, and all money voluntarily given for the LORD's temple,

⁵ each priest is to take from his assessor and repair whatever damage to the temple is found.

⁶ But by the twenty-third year of the reign of King Joash, the priests had not repaired the damage to the temple.

⁷ So King Joash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests and said, "Why haven't you repaired the temple's damage? Since you haven't, don't take any money from your assessors; instead, hand it over for the repair of the temple."

⁸ So the priests agreed they would not take money from the people and they would not repair the temple's damage.

⁹ Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar on the right side as one enters the LORD's temple; in it the priests who guarded the threshold put all the money brought into the LORD's temple.

¹⁰ Whenever they saw there was a large amount of money in the chest, the king's secretary and the high priest would go to the LORD's temple and count the money found there and tie it up in bags.

¹¹ Then they would put the counted money into the hands of those doing the work--those who oversaw the LORD's temple. They in turn would pay it out to those working on the LORD's temple--the carpenters, the builders,

¹² the masons, and the stonecutters--and would use it to buy timber and

quarried stone to repair the damage to the LORD's temple and for all spending for temple repairs.

¹³ However, no silver bowls, wick trimmers, sprinkling basins, trumpets, or any articles of gold or silver were made for the LORD's temple from the money brought into the temple.

¹⁴ Instead, it was given to those doing the work, and they repaired the LORD's temple with it.

¹⁵ No accounting was required from the men who received the money to pay those doing the work, since they worked with integrity.

¹⁶ The money from the restitution offering and the sin offering was not brought to the LORD's temple since it belonged to the priests.

¹⁷ At that time Hazael king of Aram marched up and fought against Gath and

captured it. Then he planned to attack Jerusalem.

¹⁸ So King Joash of Judah took all the consecrated items that his ancestors--Judah's kings Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah--had consecrated, along with his own consecrated items and all the gold found in the treasuries of the LORD's temple and in the king's palace, and he sent them to Hazael king of Aram. Then Hazael withdrew from Jerusalem.

¹⁹ The rest of the events of Joash's reign , along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

²⁰ Joash's servants conspired against him and killed him at Beth-millo on the road that goes down to Silla.

²¹ His servants Jozabad son of Shimeath and Jehozabad son of Shomer struck him down, and he died. Then they buried him with his fathers in the city of David,

and his son Amaziah became king in his place.

13 ¹ In the twenty-third year of Judah's King Joash son of Ahaziah, Jehoahaz son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria; he reigned 17 years.

² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight and followed the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit; he did not turn away from them.

³ So the LORD's anger burned against Israel, and He surrendered them to the power of Hazael king of Aram and his son Ben-hadad during their reigns.

⁴ Then Jehoahaz sought the LORD's favor, and the LORD heard him, for He saw the oppression the king of Aram inflicted on Israel.

⁵ Therefore, the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, and they escaped from the

power of the Arameans. Then the people of Israel dwelt in their tents as before,

⁶ but they didn't turn away from the sins that the house of Jeroboam had caused Israel to commit. Jehoahaz walked in them, and the Asherah pole also remained standing in Samaria.

⁷ Jehoahaz did not have an army left, except for 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers, because the king of Aram had destroyed them, making them like dust at threshing.

⁸ The rest of the events of Jehoahaz's reign , along with all his accomplishments and his might, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

⁹ Jehoahaz rested with his fathers, and he was buried in Samaria. His son Jehoash became king in his place.

¹⁰ In the thirty-seventh year of Judah's King Joash, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz

became king over Israel in Samaria; he reigned 16 years.

¹¹ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He did not turn away from all the sins that Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit, but he walked in them.

¹² The rest of the events of Jehoash's reign , along with all his accomplishments and the power he had to wage war against Judah's King Amaziah, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

¹³ Jehoash rested with his fathers, and Jeroboam sat on his throne. Jehoash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

¹⁴ When Elisha became sick with the illness that he died from, Jehoash king of Israel went down and wept over him and said, "My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!"

¹⁵ Elisha responded, "Take a bow and arrows." So he got a bow and arrows.

¹⁶ Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So the king put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

¹⁷ Elisha said, "Open the east window." So he opened it. Elisha said, "Shoot!" So he shot. Then Elisha said, "The LORD's arrow of victory, yes, the arrow of victory over Aram. You are to strike down the Arameans in Aphek until you have put an end to them."

¹⁸ Then Elisha said, "Take the arrows!" So he took them, and he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground!" So he struck the ground three times and stopped.

¹⁹ The man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times. Then you would have struck down Aram until you had

put an end to them, but now you will only strike down Aram three times."

²⁰ Then Elisha died and was buried.

Now marauding bands of Moabites used to come into the land in the spring of the year.

²¹ Once, as the Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a marauding band, so they threw the man into Elisha's tomb. When he touched Elisha's bones, the man revived and stood up!

²² Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel throughout the reign of Jehoahaz,

²³ but the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them and turned toward them because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He was not willing to destroy them. Even now He has not banished them from His presence.

²⁴ King Hazael of Aram died, and his son Ben-hadad became king in his place.

²⁵ Then Jehoash son of Jehoahaz took back from Ben-hadad son of Hazael the cities that Hazael had taken in war from Jehoash's father Jehoahaz. Jehoash defeated Ben-hadad three times and recovered the cities of Israel.

14 ¹ In the second year of Israel's King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, Amaziah son of Joash became king of Judah.

² He was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan and was from Jerusalem.

³ He did what was right in the LORD's sight, but not like his ancestor David. He did everything his father Joash had done.

⁴ Yet, the high places were not taken away, and the people continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.

⁵ As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, Amaziah killed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

⁶ However, he did not put the children of the murderers to death, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses where the LORD commanded, "Fathers must not be put to death because of children, and children must not be put to death because of fathers; instead, each one will be put to death for his own sin."

⁷ Amaziah killed 10,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. He took Sela in battle and called it Joktheel, which is its name to this very day.

⁸ Amaziah then sent messengers to Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us meet face to face."

⁹ King Jehoash of Israel sent word to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon once sent

a message to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as a wife.' Then a wild animal that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

¹⁰ You have indeed defeated Edom, and you have become overconfident. Enjoy your glory and stay at home. Why should you stir up such trouble that you fall--you and Judah with you?"

¹¹ But Amaziah would not listen, so King Jehoash of Israel advanced. He and King Amaziah of Judah faced off at Beth-shemesh that belongs to Judah.

¹² Judah was routed before Israel, and Judah's men fled, each to his own tent.

¹³ King Jehoash of Israel captured Judah's King Amaziah son of Joash, son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh. Then Jehoash went to Jerusalem and broke down 200 yards of Jerusalem's wall from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.

¹⁴ He took all the gold and silver and all the utensils found in the LORD's temple and in the treasuries of the king's palace, and the hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.

¹⁵ The rest of the events of Jehoash's reign , along with his accomplishments, his might, and how he waged war against Amaziah king of Judah, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

¹⁶ Jehoash rested with his fathers, and he was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. His son Jeroboam became king in his place.

¹⁷ Judah's King Amaziah son of Joash lived 15 years after the death of Israel's King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz.

¹⁸ The rest of the events of Amaziah's reign are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

¹⁹ A conspiracy was formed against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish.

However, men were sent after him to Lachish, and they put him to death there.

²⁰ They carried him back on horses, and he was buried in Jerusalem with his fathers in the city of David.

²¹ Then all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was 16 years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.

²² He rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah after Amaziah the king rested with his fathers.

²³ In the fifteenth year of Judah's King Amaziah son of Joash, Jeroboam son of Jehoash became king of Israel in Samaria; he reigned 41 years.

²⁴ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He did not turn away from all the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.

²⁵ It was he who restored Israel's border from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of

the Arabah, according to the word the LORD, the God of Israel, had spoken through His servant, the prophet Jonah son of Amittai from Gath-hepher.

²⁶ For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter. There was no one to help Israel, neither bond nor free.

²⁷ However, the LORD had not said He would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so He delivered them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash.

²⁸ The rest of the events of Jeroboam's reign --along with all his accomplishments and the power he had to wage war and how he recovered for Israel Damascus and Hamath, which had belonged to Judah--are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

²⁹ Jeroboam rested with his fathers, the kings of Israel. His son Zechariah became king in his place.

15 ¹ In the twenty-seventh year of Israel's King Jeroboam, Azariah son of Amaziah became king of Judah.

² He was 16 years old when he became king; he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem.

³ Azariah did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his father Amaziah had done.

⁴ Yet, the high places were not taken away; the people continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places.

⁵ The LORD afflicted the king, and he had a serious skin disease until the day of his death. He lived in a separate house, while Jotham, the king's son, was over the household governing the people of the land.

⁶ The rest of the events of Azariah's reign , along with all his

accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

⁷ Azariah rested with his fathers, and he was buried with his fathers in the city of David. His son Jotham became king in his place.

⁸ In the thirty-eighth year of Judah's King Azariah, Zechariah son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in Samaria for six months.

⁹ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight as his fathers had done. He did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.

¹⁰ Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against Zechariah. He struck him down publicly, killed him, and became king in his place.

¹¹ As for the rest of the events of Zechariah's reign, they are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

¹² The word of the LORD that He spoke to Jehu was, "Four generations of your sons will sit on the throne of Israel." And it was so.

¹³ In the thirty-ninth year of Judah's King Uzziah, Shallum son of Jabesh became king; he reigned in Samaria a full month.

¹⁴ Then Menahem son of Gadi came up from Tirzah to Samaria and struck down Shallum son of Jabesh there. He killed him and became king in his place.

¹⁵ As for the rest of the events of Shallum's reign , along with the conspiracy that he formed, they are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

¹⁶ At that time, starting from Tirzah, Menahem attacked Tiphsah, all who were in it, and its territory. Because they wouldn't surrender, he attacked it and ripped open all the pregnant women.

¹⁷ In the thirty-ninth year of Judah's King Azariah, Menahem son of Gadi became king over Israel; he reigned 10 years in Samaria.

¹⁸ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. Throughout his reign, he did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.

¹⁹ Pul king of Assyria invaded the land, so Menahem gave Pul 75,000 pounds of silver so that Pul would support him to strengthen his grip on the kingdom.

²⁰ Then Menahem exacted 20 ounces of silver from each of the wealthy men of Israel to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria withdrew and did not stay there in the land.

²¹ The rest of the events of Menahem's reign , along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

²² Menahem rested with his fathers, and his son Pekahiah became king in his place.

²³ In the fiftieth year of Judah's King Azariah, Pekahiah son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria; he reigned two years.

²⁴ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight and did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.

²⁵ Then his officer, Pekah son of Remaliah, conspired against him and struck him down, as well as Argob and Arieah, in Samaria at the citadel of the king's palace. There were 50 Gileadite men with Pekah. He killed Pekahiah and became king in his place.

²⁶ As for the rest of the events of Pekahiah's reign , along with all his accomplishments, they are written

about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

²⁷ In the fifty-second year of Judah's King Azariah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria; he reigned 20 years.

²⁸ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight. He did not turn away from the sins Jeroboam son of Nebat had caused Israel to commit.

²⁹ In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee--all the land of Naphtali--and deported the people to Assyria.

³⁰ Then Hoshea son of Elah organized a conspiracy against Pekah son of Remaliah. He attacked him, killed him, and became king in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham son of Uzziah.

³¹ As for the rest of the events of Pekah's reign , along with all his accomplishments, they are written about in the Historical Record of Israel's Kings.

³² In the second year of Israel's King Pekah son of Remaliah, Jotham son of Uzziah became king of Judah.

³³ He was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok.

³⁴ He did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his father Uzziah had done.

³⁵ Yet, the high places were not taken away; the people continued sacrificing and burning incense on the high places. It was Jotham who built the Upper Gate of the LORD's temple.

³⁶ The rest of the events of Jotham's reign , along with all his

accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

³⁷ In those days the LORD began sending Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah against Judah.

³⁸ Jotham rested with his fathers, and he was buried with his fathers in the city of his ancestor David. His son Ahaz became king in his place.

16 ¹ In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham became king of Judah.

² Ahaz was 20 years old when he became king; he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem. He did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God like his ancestor David

³ but walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even made his son pass through the fire, imitating the abominations of the nations the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites.

⁴ He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵ Then Aram's King Rezin and Israel's King Pekah son of Remaliah came to wage war against Jerusalem. They besieged Ahaz but were not able to conquer him.

⁶ At that time Rezin king of Aram recovered Elath for Aram and expelled the Judahites from Elath. Then the Arameans came to Elath, and they live there until today.

⁷ So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. March up and save me from the power of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are rising up against me."

⁸ Ahaz also took the silver and gold found in the LORD's temple and in the

treasuries of the king's palace and sent them to the king of Assyria as a gift.

⁹ So the king of Assyria listened to him and marched up to Damascus and captured it. He deported its people to Kir but put Rezin to death.

¹⁰ King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria. When he saw the altar that was in Damascus, King Ahaz sent a model of the altar and complete plans for its construction to Uriah the priest.

¹¹ Uriah built the altar according to all the instructions King Ahaz sent from Damascus. Therefore, by the time King Ahaz came back from Damascus, Uriah the priest had made it.

¹² When the king came back from Damascus, he saw the altar. Then he approached the altar and ascended it.

¹³ He offered his burnt offering and his grain offering, poured out his drink

offering, and sprinkled the blood of his fellowship offerings on the altar.

¹⁴ He took the bronze altar that was before the LORD in front of the temple between his altar and the LORD's temple, and put it on the north side of his altar.

¹⁵ Then King Ahaz commanded Uriah the priest, "Offer on the great altar the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, and the king's burnt offering and his grain offering. Also offer the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings. Sprinkle on the altar all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of sacrifice. The bronze altar will be for me to seek guidance."

¹⁶ Uriah the priest did everything King Ahaz commanded.

¹⁷ Then King Ahaz cut off the frames of the water carts and removed the

bronze basin from each of them. He took the reservoir from the bronze oxen that were under it and put it on a stone pavement.

¹⁸ To satisfy the king of Assyria, he removed from the LORD's temple the Sabbath canopy they had built in the palace, and he closed the outer entrance for the king.

¹⁹ The rest of the events of Ahaz's reign, along with his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

²⁰ Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and his son Hezekiah became king in his place.

17 ¹ In the twelfth year of Judah's King Ahaz, Hoshea son of Elah became king over Israel in Samaria; he reigned nine years.

² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, but not like the kings of Israel who preceded him.

³ Shalmaneser king of Assyria attacked him, and Hoshea became his vassal and paid him tribute money.

⁴ But the king of Assyria discovered a conspiracy by Hoshea--he had sent envoys to So king of Egypt and had not paid tribute money to the king of Assyria as in previous years. Therefore, the king of Assyria arrested him and put him in prison.

⁵ Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land, marched up to Samaria, and besieged it for three years.

⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria. He deported the Israelites to Assyria and settled them in Halah and by the Habor, Gozan's river, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷ This disaster happened because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God who had brought them out of the land of Egypt from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt and because they had worshiped other gods.

⁸ They had lived according to the customs of the nations that the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites and the customs the kings of Israel had introduced.

⁹ The Israelites secretly did what was not right against the LORD their God. They built high places in all their towns from watchtower to fortified city.

¹⁰ They set up for themselves sacred pillars and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every green tree.

¹¹ They burned incense on all the high places just like those nations that the LORD had driven out before them. They did evil things, provoking the LORD.

¹² They served idols, although the LORD had told them, "You must not do this."

¹³ Still, the LORD warned Israel and Judah through every prophet and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments and statutes according to all the law I commanded your ancestors and sent to you through My servants the prophets."

¹⁴ But they would not listen. Instead, they became obstinate like their ancestors who did not believe the LORD their God.

¹⁵ They rejected His statutes and His covenant He had made with their ancestors and the warnings He had given them. They pursued worthless idols and became worthless themselves, following the surrounding nations the LORD had commanded them not to imitate.

¹⁶ They abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their

God. They made for themselves molded images--even two calves--and an Asherah pole. They worshiped the whole heavenly host and served Baal.

¹⁷ They made their sons and daughters pass through the fire and practiced divination and interpreted omens. They devoted themselves to do what was evil in the LORD's sight and provoked Him.

¹⁸ Therefore, the LORD was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His presence. Only the tribe of Judah remained.

¹⁹ Even Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God but lived according to the customs Israel had introduced.

²⁰ So the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and handed them over to plunderers until He had banished them from His presence.

²¹ When the LORD tore Israel from the house of David, Israel made Jeroboam son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam led Israel away from following the LORD and caused them to commit great sin.

²² The Israelites persisted in all the sins that Jeroboam committed and did not turn away from them.

²³ Finally, the LORD removed Israel from His presence just as He had declared through all His servants the prophets. So Israel has been exiled to Assyria from their homeland until today.

²⁴ Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and settled them in place of the Israelites in the cities of Samaria. The settlers took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

²⁵ When they first lived there, they did not fear the LORD. So the LORD sent

lions among them, which killed some of them.

²⁶ The settlers spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations that you have deported and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the custom of the God of the land. Therefore, He has sent lions among them, which are killing them because the people don't know the custom of the God of the land."

²⁷ Then the king of Assyria issued a command: "Send back one of the priests you deported. Have him go and live there so he can teach them the custom of the God of the land."

²⁸ So one of the priests they had deported came and lived in Bethel, and he began to teach them how they should fear the LORD.

²⁹ But the people of each nation, in the cities where they lived, were still making their own gods and putting them

in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made.

³⁰ The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

³¹ the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of the Sepharvaim.

³² So they feared the LORD, but they also appointed from their number, priests to serve them in the shrines of the high places.

³³ They feared the LORD, but they also worshiped their own gods according to the custom of the nations where they had been deported from.

³⁴ They are still practicing the former customs to this day. None of them fear the LORD or observe their statutes and ordinances, the law and commandments

the LORD commanded the descendants of Jacob; He renamed him Israel.

³⁵ The LORD made a covenant with them and commanded them, "Do not fear other gods; do not bow down to them; do not serve them; do not sacrifice to them.

³⁶ Instead, fear the LORD, who brought you from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm. You are to bow down to Him, and you are to sacrifice to Him.

³⁷ You are to be careful always to observe the statutes, the ordinances, the laws, and the commandment He wrote for you; do not fear other gods.

³⁸ Do not forget the covenant that I have made with you. Do not fear other gods,

³⁹ but fear the LORD your God, and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

⁴⁰ However, they would not listen but continued practicing their former custom.

⁴¹ These nations feared the LORD but also served their idols. Their children and grandchildren continue doing as their fathers did until today.

18 ¹ In the third year of Israel's King Hoshea son of Elah, Hezekiah son of Ahaz became king of Judah.

² He was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abi daughter of Zechariah.

³ He did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his ancestor David had done.

⁴ He removed the high places and shattered the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles . He broke into pieces the bronze snake that Moses made, for the Israelites burned

incense to it up to that time. He called it Nehushtan.

⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the LORD God of Israel; not one of the kings of Judah was like him, either before him or after him.

⁶ He held fast to the LORD and did not turn from following Him but kept the commandments the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁷ The LORD was with him, and wherever he went, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

⁸ He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its borders, from watchtower to fortified city.

⁹ In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Israel's King Hoshea son of Elah, Shalmaneser king of Assyria marched against Samaria and besieged it.

¹⁰ The Assyrians captured it at the end of three years. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Israel's King Hoshea, Samaria was captured.

¹¹ The king of Assyria deported the Israelites to Assyria and put them in Halah and by the Habor, Gozan's river, and in the cities of the Medes,

¹² because they did not listen to the voice of the LORD their God but violated His covenant--all He had commanded Moses the servant of the LORD. They did not listen, and they did not obey.

¹³ In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.

¹⁴ So Hezekiah king of Judah sent word to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me. Whatever you demand from me, I will

pay." The king of Assyria demanded from King Hezekiah of Judah 11 tons of silver and one ton of gold.

¹⁵ So Hezekiah gave him all the silver found in the LORD's temple and in the treasuries of the king's palace.

¹⁶ At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the LORD's sanctuary and from the doorposts he had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria.

¹⁷ Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh, along with a massive army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They advanced and came to Jerusalem, and they took their position by the aqueduct of the upper pool, which is by the highway to the Fuller's Field.

¹⁸ Then they called for the king, but Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the court

secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the court historian, came out to them.

¹⁹ Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Tell Hezekiah this is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: 'What are you relying on?

²⁰ You think mere words are strategy and strength for war. What are you now relying on so that you have rebelled against me?

²¹ Look, you now trust in Egypt, the stalk of this splintered reed, which if a man leans on it will go into his palm and pierce it. This is how Pharaoh king of Egypt is to all who trust in him.

²² Suppose you say to me: We trust in the LORD our God. Isn't He the One whose high places and altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem: You must worship at this altar in Jerusalem?'

²³ "So now make a bargain with my master the king of Assyria. I'll give you 2,000 horses if you're able to supply riders for them!

²⁴ How then can you drive back a single officer among the least of my master's servants and trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

²⁵ Have I attacked this place to destroy it without the LORD's approval? The LORD said to me, 'Attack this land and destroy it.'"

²⁶ Then Eliakim son of Hilkiyah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don't speak with us in Hebrew within earshot of the people on the wall."

²⁷ But the Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me only to your master and to you to speak these words? Hasn't he also sent me to the men who sit on

the wall, destined with you to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine?"

²⁸ The Rabshakeh stood and called out loudly in Hebrew. Then he spoke: "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria.

²⁹ This is what the king says: 'Don't let Hezekiah deceive you; he can't deliver you from my hand.

³⁰ Don't let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the LORD by saying: Certainly the LORD will deliver us! This city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.'

³¹ "Don't listen to Hezekiah, for this is what the king of Assyria says: 'Make peace with me and surrender to me. Then every one of you may eat from his own vine and his own fig tree, and every one may drink water from his own cistern

³² until I come and take you away to a land like your own land--a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey--so that you may live and not die. But don't listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you, saying: The LORD will deliver us.

³³ Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land from the power of the king of Assyria?

³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria from my hand?

³⁵ Who among all the gods of the lands has delivered his land from my power? So how is the LORD to deliver Jerusalem?"

³⁶ But the people kept silent; they answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Don't answer him."

³⁷ Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the court secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the court historian, came to Hezekiah with their clothes torn and reported to him the words of the Rabshakeh.

19 ¹ When King Hezekiah heard their report, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the LORD's temple.

² Then he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, Shebna the court secretary, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

³ They said to him, "This is what Hezekiah says: 'Today is a day of distress, rebuke, and disgrace, for children have come to the point of birth, but there is no strength to deliver them.'

⁴ Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom

his master the king of Assyria sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke him for the words that the LORD your God has heard. Therefore, offer a prayer for the surviving remnant.'" "

⁵ So the servants of King Hezekiah went to Isaiah,

⁶ who said to them, "Tell your master this, 'The LORD says: Don't be afraid because of the words you have heard, that the king of Assyria's attendants have blasphemed Me with.

⁷ I am about to put a spirit in him, and he will hear a rumor and return to his own land where I will cause him to fall by the sword.'" "

⁸ When the Rabshakeh heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish, he returned and found him fighting against Libnah.

⁹ The king had heard this about Tirhakah king of Cush: "Look, he has set

out to fight against you." So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

¹⁰ "Say this to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Don't let your God, whom you trust, deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.

¹¹ Look, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries: they destroyed them completely. Will you be rescued?

¹² Did the gods of the nations that my predecessors destroyed rescue them--nations such as Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the Edenites in Telassar?

¹³ Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, or Ivvah?'"

¹⁴ Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers, read it, then went up to the LORD's temple, and spread it out before the LORD.

¹⁵ Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD: "LORD God of Israel who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are God--You alone--of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth.

¹⁶ Listen closely, LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, LORD, and see; hear the words that Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God.

¹⁷ LORD, it is true that the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their lands.

¹⁸ They have thrown their gods into the fire, for they were not gods but made by human hands--wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.

¹⁹ Now, LORD our God, please save us from his hand so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God--You alone."

²⁰ Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "The LORD, the God of Israel says: 'I have heard your prayer to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria.'

²¹ This is the word the LORD has spoken against him: The young woman, Daughter Zion, despises you and scorns you: Daughter Jerusalem shakes her head behind your back.

²² Who is it you mocked and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? Against the Holy One of Israel!

²³ You have mocked the Lord through your messengers. You have said: With my many chariots I have gone up to the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon. I cut down its tallest cedars, its choice cypress trees. I came to its farthest outpost, its densest forest.

²⁴ I dug wells , and I drank foreign waters. I dried up all the streams of Egypt with the soles of my feet.

²⁵ Have you not heard? I designed it long ago; I planned it in days gone by. I have now brought it to pass, and you have crushed fortified cities into piles of rubble.

²⁶ Their inhabitants have become powerless, dismayed, and ashamed. They are plants of the field, tender grass, grass on the rooftops, blasted by the east wind.

²⁷ But I know your sitting down, your going out and your coming in, and your raging against Me.

²⁸ Because your raging against Me and your arrogance have reached My ears, I will put My hook in your nose and My bit in your mouth; I will make you go back the way you came.

²⁹ This will be the sign for you: This year you will eat what grows on its own, and in the second year what grows from that. But in the third year sow and reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

³⁰ The surviving remnant of the house of Israel will again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

³¹ For a remnant will go out from Jerusalem, and survivors from Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.

³² Therefore, this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow there or come before it with a shield or build up an assault ramp against it.

³³ He will go back on the road that he came and he will not enter this city, declares the LORD.

³⁴ I will defend this city and rescue it for My sake and for the sake of My servant David.

³⁵ That night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. When the people got up the next morning--there were all the dead bodies!

³⁶ So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and left. He returned home and lived in Nineveh.

³⁷ One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword and escaped to the land of Ararat. Then his son Esar-haddon became king in his place.

20¹ In those days Hezekiah became terminally ill. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Put your affairs

in order, for you are about to die; you will not recover."

² Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,

³ "Please LORD, remember how I have walked before You faithfully and wholeheartedly and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

⁴ Isaiah had not yet gone out of the inner courtyard when the word of the LORD came to him:

⁵ "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of My people, 'This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Look, I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the LORD's temple.

⁶ I will add 15 years to your life. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this

city for My sake and for the sake of My servant David."

⁷ Then Isaiah said, "Bring a lump of pressed figs." So they brought it and applied it to his infected skin, and he recovered.

⁸ Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the LORD's temple on the third day?"

⁹ Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD that He will do what He has promised: Should the shadow go ahead 10 steps or go back 10 steps?"

¹⁰ Then Hezekiah answered, "It's easy for the shadow to lengthen 10 steps. No, let the shadow go back 10 steps."

¹¹ So Isaiah the prophet called out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow back the 10 steps it had descended on Ahaz's stairway.

¹² At that time Merodach-baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah since he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³ Hezekiah gave them a hearing and showed them his whole treasure house--the silver, the gold, the spices, and the precious oil--and his armory, and everything that was found in his treasuries. There was nothing in his palace and in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.

¹⁴ Then the prophet Isaiah came to King Hezekiah and asked him, "What did these men say, and where did they come to you from?" Hezekiah replied, "They came from a distant country, from Babylon."

¹⁵ Isaiah asked, "What have they seen in your palace?" Hezekiah answered, "They have seen everything in my palace."

There isn't anything in my treasuries that I didn't show them."

¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD:

¹⁷ 'The time will certainly come when everything in your palace and all that your fathers have stored up until this day will be carried off to Babylon; nothing will be left,' says the LORD.

¹⁸ 'Some of your descendants who come from you will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'"

¹⁹ Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good," for he thought: Why not, if there will be peace and security during my lifetime?

²⁰ The rest of the events of Hezekiah's reign, along with all his might and how he made the pool and the tunnel and brought water into the city, are written

about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

²¹ Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and his son Manasseh became king in his place.

21 ¹ Manasseh was 12 years old when he became king; he reigned 55 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah.

² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, imitating the abominations of the nations that the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites.

³ He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed and reestablished the altars for Baal. He made an Asherah, as King Ahab of Israel had done; he also worshiped the whole heavenly host and served them.

⁴ He would build altars in the LORD's temple, where the LORD had said, "Jerusalem is where I will put My name."

⁵ He built altars to the whole heavenly host in both courtyards of the LORD's temple.

⁶ He made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did a great amount of evil in the LORD's sight, provoking Him .

⁷ Manasseh set up the carved image of Asherah he made in the temple that the LORD had spoken about to David and his son Solomon, "I will establish My name forever in this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel.

⁸ I will never again cause the feet of the Israelites to wander from the land I gave to their ancestors if only they will be careful to do all I have commanded them--the whole law that My servant Moses commanded them."

⁹ But they did not listen; Manasseh caused them to stray so that they did greater evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke through His servants the prophets, saying,

¹¹ "Since Manasseh king of Judah has committed all these abominations--greater evil than the Amorites who preceded him had done--and by means of his idols has also caused Judah to sin,

¹² this is what the LORD God of Israel says: 'I am about to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that everyone who hears about it will shudder.

¹³ I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line used on Samaria and the mason's level used on the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem clean as one wipes a bowl--wiping it and turning it upside down.

¹⁴ I will abandon the remnant of My inheritance and hand them over to their enemies. They will become plunder and spoil to all their enemies,

¹⁵ because they have done what is evil in My sight and have provoked Me from the day their ancestors came out of Egypt until today."

¹⁶ Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem with it from one end to another. This was in addition to his sin he caused Judah to commit so that they did what was evil in the LORD's sight.

¹⁷ The rest of the events of Manasseh's reign , along with all his accomplishments and the sin that he committed, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

¹⁸ Manasseh rested with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his own

house, the garden of Uzza. His son Amon became king in his place.

¹⁹ Amon was 22 years old when he became king; he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth daughter of Haruz; she was from Jotbah.

²⁰ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight as his father Manasseh had done.

²¹ He walked in all the ways his father had walked; he served the idols his father had served, and he worshiped them.

²² He abandoned the LORD God of his ancestors and did not walk in the way of the LORD.

²³ Amon's servants conspired against the king and killed him in his own house.

²⁴ Then the common people executed all those who had conspired against King Amon and made his son Josiah king in his place.

²⁵ The rest of the events of Amon's reign , along with his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

²⁶ He was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza, and his son Josiah became king in his place.

22 ¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king; he reigned 31 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath.

² He did what was right in the LORD's sight and walked in all the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn to the right or the left.

³ In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent the court secretary Shaphan son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, to the LORD's temple, saying,

⁴ "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest so that he may total up the money brought into the LORD's temple--the money the doorkeepers have collected from the people.

⁵ It is to be put into the hands of those doing the work--those who oversee the LORD's temple. They in turn are to give it to the workmen in the LORD's temple to repair the damage.

⁶ They are to give it to the carpenters, builders, and masons to buy timber and quarried stone to repair the temple.

⁷ But no accounting is to be required from them for the money put into their hands since they work with integrity."

⁸ Hilkiah the high priest told Shaphan the court secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the LORD's temple," and he gave the book to Shaphan, who read it.

⁹ Then Shaphan the court secretary went to the king and reported, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the temple and have put it into the hand of those doing the work--those who oversee the LORD's temple."

¹⁰ Then Shaphan the court secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book," and Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.

¹¹ When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.

¹² Then he commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the court secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah:

¹³ "Go and inquire of the LORD for me, the people, and all Judah about the instruction in this book that has been found. For great is the LORD's wrath that is kindled against us because our

ancestors have not obeyed the words of this book in order to do everything written about us."

¹⁴ So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah, wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem in the Second District. They spoke with her.

¹⁵ She said to them, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'Say to the man who sent you to Me:

¹⁶ This is what the LORD says: I am about to bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants, fulfilling all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read,

¹⁷ because they have abandoned Me and burned incense to other gods in order to provoke Me with all the work of their hands. My wrath will be kindled

against this place, and it will not be quenched.

¹⁸ Say this to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of the LORD: This is what the LORD God of Israel says: As for the words that you heard,

¹⁹ because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn your clothes and wept before Me, I Myself have heard you--declares the LORD.

²⁰ Therefore, I will indeed gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster that I am bringing on this place.'" Then they reported to the king.

23 ¹ So the king sent messengers , and they gathered to him all the elders of Jerusalem and Judah.

² Then the king went to the LORD's temple with all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the prophets--all the people from the youngest to the oldest. As they listened, he read all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the LORD's temple.

³ Next, the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant in the presence of the LORD to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments, His decrees, and His statutes with all his mind and with all his heart, and to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book; all the people agreed to the covenant.

⁴ Then the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out

of the LORD's temple all the articles made for Baal, Asherah, and the whole heavenly host. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel.

⁵ Then he did away with the idolatrous priests the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense at the high places in the cities of Judah and in the areas surrounding Jerusalem. They had burned incense to Baal, and to the sun, moon, constellations, and the whole heavenly host.

⁶ He brought out the Asherah pole from the LORD's temple to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem. He burned it at the Kidron Valley, beat it to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people.

⁷ He also tore down the houses of the male shrine prostitutes that were in the

LORD's temple, in which the women were weaving tapestries for Asherah.

⁸ Then Josiah brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and he defiled the high places from Geba to Beer-sheba, where the priests had burned incense. He tore down the high places of the gates at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city (on the left at the city gate).

⁹ The priests of the high places, however, did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem; instead, they ate unleavened bread with their fellow priests.

¹⁰ He defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of Hinnom, so that no one could make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

¹¹ He did away with the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun. They had been at the entrance of the

LORD's temple in the precincts by the chamber of Nathan-melech the court official, and he burned up the chariots of the sun.

¹² The king tore down the altars that were on the roof--Ahaz's upper chamber that the kings of Judah had made--and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courtyards of the LORD's temple. Then he smashed them there and threw their dust into the Kidron Valley.

¹³ The king also defiled the high places that were across from Jerusalem, to the south of the Mount of Destruction, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth, the detestable idol of the Sidonians; for Chemosh, the detestable idol of Moab; and for Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites.

¹⁴ He broke the sacred pillars into pieces, cut down the Asherah poles,

then filled their places with human bones.

¹⁵ He even tore down the altar at Bethel and the high place that Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin, had made. Then he burned the high place, crushed it to dust, and burned the Asherah.

¹⁶ As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mountain. He sent someone to take the bones out of the tombs, and he burned them on the altar. He defiled it according to the word of the LORD proclaimed by the man of God who proclaimed these things.

¹⁷ Then he said, "What is this monument I see?" The men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things that you have done to the altar at Bethel."

¹⁸ So he said, "Let him rest. Don't let anyone disturb his bones." So they left his bones undisturbed with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria.

¹⁹ Josiah also removed all the shrines of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the LORD . Josiah did the same things to them that he had done at Bethel.

²⁰ He slaughtered on the altars all the priests of the high places who were there, and he burned human bones on the altars. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ The king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover of the LORD your God as written in the book of the covenant."

²² No such Passover had ever been kept from the time of the judges who judged

Israel through the entire time of the kings of Israel and Judah.

²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was observed to the LORD in Jerusalem.

²⁴ In addition, Josiah removed the mediums, the spiritists, household idols, images, and all the detestable things that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem. He did this in order to carry out the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the LORD's temple.

²⁵ Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his mind and with all his heart and with all his strength according to all the law of Moses, and no one like him arose after him.

²⁶ In spite of all that, the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath and anger, which burned against

Judah because of all the provocations Manasseh had provoked Him with.

²⁷ For the LORD had said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight just as I have removed Israel. I will reject this city Jerusalem, that I have chosen, and the temple about which I said, 'My name will be there.'"

²⁸ The rest of the events of Josiah's reign , along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

²⁹ During his reign, Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt marched up to the king of Assyria at the Euphrates river. King Josiah went to confront him, and at Megiddo when Neco saw him he killed him.

³⁰ From Megiddo his servants carried his dead body in a chariot, brought him into Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. Then the common people took Jehoahaz son of Josiah, anointed

him, and made him king in place of his father.

³¹ Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he became king; he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.

³² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight just as his ancestors had done.

³³ Pharaoh Neco imprisoned him at Riblah in the land of Hamath to keep him from reigning in Jerusalem, and he imposed on the land a fine of 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold.

³⁴ Then Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and he died there.

³⁵ So Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh, but at Pharaoh's command he taxed the land to give the

money. He exacted the silver and the gold from the people of the land, each man according to his valuation, to give it to Pharaoh Neco.

³⁶ Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebidah daughter of Pedaiah; she was from Rumah.

³⁷ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight just as his ancestors had done.

24 ¹ During his reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him.

² The LORD sent Chaldean, Aramean, Moabite, and Ammonite raiders against Jehoiakim. He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD He had spoken through His servants the prophets.

³ This happened to Israel only at the LORD's command to remove them from His sight. It was because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all he had done, ⁴ and also because of all the innocent blood he had shed. He had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD would not forgive.

⁵ The rest of the events of Jehoiakim's reign , along with all his accomplishments, are written about in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings.

⁶ Jehoiakim rested with his fathers, and his son Jehoiachin became king in his place.

⁷ Now the king of Egypt did not march out of his land again, for the king of Babylon took everything that belonged to the king of Egypt, from the Brook of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

⁸ Jehoiachin was 18 years old when he became king; he reigned three months

in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta daughter of Elnathan; she was from Jerusalem.

⁹ He did what was evil in the LORD's sight as his father had done.

¹⁰ At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched up to Jerusalem, and the city came under siege.

¹¹ Then King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it.

¹² Jehoiachin king of Judah, along with his mother, his servants, his commanders, and his officials, surrendered to the king of Babylon. So the king of Babylon took him captive in the eighth year of his reign.

¹³ He also carried off from there all the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king's palace, and he cut into pieces all the gold articles that

Solomon king of Israel had made for the LORD's sanctuary, just as God had predicted.

¹⁴ Then he deported all Jerusalem and all the commanders and all the fighting men, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and metalsmiths. Except for the poorest people of the land, nobody remained.

¹⁵ Nebuchadnezzar deported Jehoiachin to Babylon. Also, he took the king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the leading men of the land into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

¹⁶ The king of Babylon also brought captive into Babylon all 7,000 fighting men and 1,000 craftsmen and metalsmiths--all strong and fit for war.

¹⁷ Then the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place and changed his name to Zedekiah.

¹⁸ Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king; he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah.

¹⁹ Zedekiah did what was evil in the LORD's sight just as Jehoiakim had done.

²⁰ Because of the LORD's anger, it came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that He finally banished them from His presence. Then, Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

25 ¹ In the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon advanced against Jerusalem with his entire army. They laid siege to the city and built a siege wall against it all around.

² The city was under siege until King Zedekiah's eleventh year.

³ By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that the people of the land had no food.

⁴ Then the city was broken into, and all the warriors fled by night by way of the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans surrounded the city. As the king made his way along the route to the Arabah,

⁵ the Chaldean army pursued him and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. Zedekiah's entire army was scattered from him.

⁶ The Chaldeans seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him.

⁷ They slaughtered Zedekiah's sons before his eyes. Finally, the king of Babylon blinded Zedekiah, bound him in bronze chains, and took him to Babylon.

⁸ On the seventh day of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, a servant of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem.

⁹ He burned the LORD's temple, the king's palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem; he burned down all the great houses.

¹⁰ The whole Chaldean army with the commander of the guards tore down the walls surrounding Jerusalem.

¹¹ Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, deported the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the population.

¹² But the commander of the guards left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and farmers.

¹³ Now the Chaldeans broke into pieces the bronze pillars of the LORD's temple, the water carts, and the bronze reservoir, which were in the LORD's temple, and carried the bronze to Babylon.

¹⁴ They also took the pots, the shovels, the wick trimmers, the dishes, and all the bronze articles used in temple service.

¹⁵ The commander of the guards took away the firepans and the sprinkling basins--whatever was gold or silver.

¹⁶ As for the two pillars, the one reservoir, and the water carts that Solomon had made for the LORD's temple, the weight of the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure.

¹⁷ One pillar was 27 feet tall and had a bronze capital on top of it. The capital, encircled by a grating and pomegranates of bronze, stood five feet high. The second pillar was the same, with its own grating.

¹⁸ The commander of the guards also took away Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the priest of the second rank, and the three doorkeepers.

¹⁹ From the city he took a court official who had been appointed over the warriors; five trusted royal aides found in the city; the secretary of the commander of the army, who enlisted the people of the land for military duty; and 60 men from the common people who were found within the city.

²⁰ Nebuzaradan, the commander of the guards, took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

²¹ The king of Babylon put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah went into exile from its land.

²² Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, over the rest of the people he left in the land of Judah.

²³ When all the commanders of the armies--they and their men--heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah. The commanders included Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan son of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah son of the Maacathite--they and their men.

²⁴ Gedaliah swore an oath to them and their men, assuring them, "Don't be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well for you."

²⁵ In the seventh month, however, Ishmael son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with 10 men and struck down Gedaliah, and he died. Also, they killed the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.

²⁶ Then all the people, from the youngest to the oldest, and the commanders of the army, left and went to Egypt, for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

²⁷ On the twenty-seventh day of the twelfth month of the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Judah's King Jehoiachin, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year he became king, pardoned King Jehoiachin of Judah and released him from prison.

²⁸ He spoke kindly to him and set his throne over the thrones of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

²⁹ So Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes, and he dined regularly in the presence of the king of Babylon for the rest of his life.

³⁰ As for his allowance, a regular allowance was given to him by the king,

a portion for each day, for the rest of his life.

1 Chronicles

1 ¹ Adam, Seth, Enosh,
² Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared,
³ Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,
⁴ Noah, Noah's sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

⁵ Japheth's sons: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

⁶ Gomer's sons: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁷ Javan's sons: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.

⁸ Ham's sons: Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁹ Cush's sons: Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama, and Sabteca. Raama's sons: Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰ Cush fathered Nimrod, who was the first to become a great warrior on earth.

¹¹ Mizraim fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

¹² Pathrusim, Casluhim (the Philistines came from them), and Caphtorim.

¹³ Canaan fathered Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth,

¹⁴ the Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites,

¹⁵ Hivites, Arkites, Sinites,

¹⁶ Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites.

¹⁷ Shem's sons: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸ Arpachshad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber.

¹⁹ Two sons were born to Eber. One of them was named Peleg, because the earth was divided during his lifetime, and the name of his brother was Joktan.

²⁰ Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²¹ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²² Ebal, Abimael, Sheba,

²³ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All of these were Joktan's sons.

²⁴ Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah,

²⁵ Eber, Peleg, Reu,

²⁶ Serug, Nahor, Terah,

²⁷ and Abram (that is, Abraham).

²⁸ Abraham's sons: Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹ These are their family records:

Nebaioth, Ishmael's firstborn, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

³⁰ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,

³¹ Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These were Ishmael's sons.

³² The sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshan's sons: Sheba and Dedan.

³³ Midian's sons: Ephah, Ephher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All of these were Keturah's sons.

³⁴ Abraham fathered Isaac. Isaac's sons: Esau and Israel.

³⁵ Esau's sons: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

³⁶ Eliphaz's sons: Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, and Kenaz; and by Timna, Amalek.

³⁷ Reuel's sons: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

³⁸ Seir's sons: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

³⁹ Lotan's sons: Hori and Homam. Timna was Lotan's sister.

⁴⁰ Shobal's sons: Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. Zibeon's sons: Aiah and Anah.

⁴¹ Anah's son: Dishon. Dishon's sons: Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

⁴² Ezer's sons: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Jaakan. Dishan's sons: Uz and Aran.

⁴³ These were the kings who ruled in the land of Edom before any king ruled

over the Israelites: Bela son of Beor.
Bela's town was named Dinhabah.

⁴⁴ When Bela died, Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah ruled in his place.

⁴⁵ When Jobab died, Husham from the land of the Temanites ruled in his place.

⁴⁶ When Husham died, Hadad son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, ruled in his place.
Hadad's town was named Avith.

⁴⁷ When Hadad died, Samlah from Masrekah ruled in his place.

⁴⁸ When Samlah died, Shaul from Rehoboth on the Euphrates River ruled in his place.

⁴⁹ When Shaul died, Baal-hanan son of Achbor ruled in his place.

⁵⁰ When Baal-hanan died, Hadad ruled in his place. Hadad's city was named Pai, and his wife's name was Mehetabel daughter of Matred, daughter of Me-zahab.

⁵¹ Then Hadad died. Edom's chiefs:
Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,
⁵² Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,
⁵³ Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,
⁵⁴ Magdiel, and Iram. These were
Edom's chiefs.

2 ¹ These were Israel's sons: Reuben,
Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar,
Zebulun,

² Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad,
and Asher.

³ Judah's sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah.
These three were born to him by
Bath-shua the Canaanite woman. Er,
Judah's firstborn, was evil in the LORD's
sight, so He put him to death.

⁴ Judah's daughter-in-law Tamar bore
him Perez and Zerah. Judah had five sons
in all.

⁵ Perez's sons: Hezron and Hamul.

⁶ Zerah's sons: Zimri, Ethan, Heman,
Calcol, and Dara--five in all.

⁷ Carmi's son: Achar, who brought trouble on Israel when he was unfaithful by taking what was devoted to destruction.

⁸ Ethan's son: Azariah.

⁹ Hezron's sons, who were born to him: Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai.

¹⁰ Ram fathered Amminadab, and Amminadab fathered Nahshon, a leader of Judah's descendants.

¹¹ Nahshon fathered Salma, and Salma fathered Boaz.

¹² Boaz fathered Obed, and Obed fathered Jesse.

¹³ Jesse fathered Eliab, his firstborn; Abinadab was born second, Shimea third,

¹⁴ Nethanel fourth, Raddai fifth,

¹⁵ Ozem sixth, and David seventh.

¹⁶ Their sisters were Zeruah and Abigail. Zeruah's three sons: Abishai, Joab, and Asahel.

¹⁷ Amasa's mother was Abigail, and his father was Jether the Ishmaelite.

¹⁸ Caleb son of Hezron had children by his wife Azubah and by Jerioth. These were Azubah's sons: Jeshur, Shobab, and Ardon.

¹⁹ When Azubah died, Caleb married Ephrath, and she bore him Hur.

²⁰ Hur fathered Uri, and Uri fathered Bezalel.

²¹ After this, Hezron slept with the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead. Hezron had married her when he was 60 years old, and she bore him Segub.

²² Segub fathered Jair, who possessed 23 towns in the land of Gilead.

²³ But Geshur and Aram captured Jair's Villages along with Kenath and its villages--60 towns. All these were the sons of Machir father of Gilead.

²⁴ After Hezron's death in Caleb-ephrathah, his wife Abijah bore him Ashhur the father of Tekoa.

²⁵ The sons of Jerahmeel, Hezron's firstborn: Ram, his firstborn, Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah.

²⁶ Jerahmeel had another wife named Atarah, who was the mother of Onam.

²⁷ The sons of Ram, Jerahmeel's firstborn: Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

²⁸ Onam's sons: Shammai and Jada. Shammai's sons: Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹ Abishur's wife was named Abihail, who bore him Ahban and Molid.

³⁰ Nadab's sons: Seled and Appaim. Seled died without children.

³¹ Appaim's son: Ishi. Ishi's son: Sheshan. Sheshan's descendant: Ahlai.

³² The sons of Jada brother of Shammai: Jether and Jonathan. Jether died without children.

³³ Jonathan's sons: Peleth and Zaza. These were the descendants of Jerahmeel.

³⁴ Sheshan had no sons, only daughters, but he did have an Egyptian servant whose name was Jarha.

³⁵ Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage to his servant Jarha, and she bore him Attai.

³⁶ Attai fathered Nathan, and Nathan fathered Zabad.

³⁷ Zabad fathered Ephlal, and Ephlal fathered Obed.

³⁸ Obed fathered Jehu, and Jehu fathered Azariah.

³⁹ Azariah fathered Helez, and Helez fathered Eleasah.

⁴⁰ Eleasah fathered Sismai, and Sismai fathered Shallum.

⁴¹ Shallum fathered Jekamiah, and Jekamiah fathered Elishama.

⁴² The sons of Caleb brother of Jerahmeel: Mesha, his firstborn, fathered Ziph, and Mareshah, his second son, fathered Hebron.

⁴³ Hebron's sons: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema.

⁴⁴ Shema fathered Raham, who fathered Jorkeam, and Rekem fathered Shammai.

⁴⁵ Shammai's son was Maon, and Maon fathered Beth-zur.

⁴⁶ Caleb's concubine Ephah was the mother of Haran, Moza, and Gazez. Haran fathered Gazez.

⁴⁷ Jahdai's sons: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸ Caleb's concubine Maacah was the mother of Sheber and Tirhanah.

⁴⁹ She was also the mother of Shaaph, Madmannah's father, and of Sheva, the father of Machbenah and Gibeon. Caleb's daughter was Achsah.

⁵⁰ These were Caleb's descendants.
The sons of Hur, Ephrathah's firstborn:
Shobal fathered Kiriath-jearim;

⁵¹ Salma fathered Bethlehem, and
Hareph fathered Beth-gader.

⁵² These were the descendants of
Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim:
Haroeh, half of the Manahathites,

⁵³ and the families of Kiriath-jearim--
the Ithrites, Puthites, Shumathites,
and Mishraites. The Zorathites and
Eshtaolites descended from these.

⁵⁴ Salma's sons: Bethlehem, the
Netophathites, Atroth-beth-joab, and
half of the Manahathites, the Zorites,

⁵⁵ and the families of scribes who lived
in Jabez--the Tirathites, Shimeathites,
and Sucathites. These are the Kenites
who came from Hammath, the father of
Rechab's family.

3 ¹ These were David's sons who
were born to him in Hebron: Amnon

was the firstborn, by Ahinoam of Jezreel; Daniel was born second, by Abigail of Carmel;

² Absalom son of Maacah, daughter of King Talmai of Geshur, was third; Adonijah son of Haggith was fourth;

³ Shephatiah, by Abital, was fifth; and Ithream, by David's wife Eglah, was sixth.

⁴ Six sons were born to David in Hebron, where he ruled seven years and six months, and he ruled in Jerusalem 33 years.

⁵ These sons were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. These four were born to him by Bath-shua daughter of Ammiel.

⁶ David's other sons : Ibhar, Elishua, Eliphelet,

⁷ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁸ Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet--nine sons.

⁹ These were all David's sons, with their sister Tamar, in addition to the sons by his concubines.

¹⁰ Solomon's son was Rehoboam; his son was Abijah, his son Asa, his son Jehoshaphat,

¹¹ his son Jehoram, his son Ahaziah, his son Joash,

¹² his son Amaziah, his son Azariah, his son Jotham,

¹³ his son Ahaz, his son Hezekiah, his son Manasseh,

¹⁴ his son Amon, and his son Josiah.

¹⁵ Josiah's sons: Johanan was the firstborn, Jehoiakim second, Zedekiah third, and Shallum fourth.

¹⁶ Jehoiakim's sons: his sons Jeconiah and Zedekiah.

¹⁷ The sons of Jeconiah the captive: his sons Shealtiel,

¹⁸ Malchiram, Pedaiiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.

¹⁹ Pedaiah's sons: Zerubbabel and Shimei. Zerubbabel's sons: Meshullam and Hananiah, with their sister Shelomith;

²⁰ and five others--Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab-hesed.

²¹ Hananiah's descendants: Pelatiah, Jeshaiiah, and the sons of Rephaiah, Arnan, Obadiah, and Shecaniah.

²² The son of Shecaniah: Shemaiah. Shemaiah's sons: Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat--six.

²³ Neariah's sons: Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam--three.

²⁴ Elioenai's sons: Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani--seven.

4 ¹ Judah's sons: Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal.

² Reaiah son of Shobal fathered Jahath, and Jahath fathered Ahumai and

Lahad. These were the families of the Zorathites.

³ These were Etam's sons: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash, and their sister was named Hazzelelponi.

⁴ Penuel fathered Gedor, and Ezer fathered Hushah. These were the sons of Hur, Ephrathah's firstborn and the father of Bethlehem:

⁵ Asshur fathered Tekoa and had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

⁶ Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hepher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were Naarah's sons.

⁷ Helah's sons: Zereth, Zohar, and Ethnan.

⁸ Koz fathered Anub, Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel son of Harum.

⁹ Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother named him Jabez and said, "I gave birth to him in pain."

¹⁰ Jabez called out to the God of Israel: "If only You would bless me, extend my border, let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm, so that I will not cause any pain." And God granted his request.

¹¹ Chelub brother of Shuhah fathered Mehir, who was the father of Eshton.

¹² Eshton fathered Beth-rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Irnash. These were the men of Recah.

¹³ Kenaz's sons: Othniel and Seraiah. Othniel's sons: Hathath and Meonothai.

¹⁴ Meonothai fathered Ophrah, and Seraiah fathered Joab, the ancestor of those in the Valley of Craftsmen, for they were craftsmen.

¹⁵ The sons of Caleb son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah, and Naam. Elah's son: Kenaz.

¹⁶ Jehallelel's sons: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

¹⁷ Ezrah's sons: Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon. Mered's wife Bithiah gave birth to Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.

¹⁸ These were the sons of Pharaoh's daughter Bithiah; Mered had married her. His Judean wife gave birth to Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.

¹⁹ The sons of Hodiah's wife, the sister of Naham: the father of Keilah the Garmite and the father of Eshtemoa the Maacathite.

²⁰ Shimon's sons: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-hanan, and Tilon. Ishi's sons: Zoheth and Ben-zoheth.

²¹ The sons of Shelah son of Judah: Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah, the families of the guild of linen workers at Beth-ashbea,

²² Jokim, the men of Cozeba; and Joash and Saraph, who married Moabites and

returned to Lehem. These names are from ancient records.

²³ They were the potters and residents of Netaim and Gederah. They lived there in the service of the king.

²⁴ Simeon's sons: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul;

²⁵ Shaul's sons: his son Shallum, his son Mibsam, and his son Mishma.

²⁶ Mishma's sons: his son Hammuel, his son Zaccur, and his son Shimei.

²⁷ Shimei had 16 sons and six daughters, but his brothers did not have many children, so their whole family did not become as numerous as the Judeans.

²⁸ They lived in Beer-sheba, Moladah, Hazar-shual,

²⁹ Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,

³⁰ Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

³¹ Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-biri, and Shaaraim. These were their cities until David became king.

³² Their villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan--five cities,
³³ and all their surrounding villages as far as Baal. These were their settlements, and they kept a genealogical record for themselves.

³⁴ Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah son of Amaziah,

³⁵ Joel, Jehu son of Joshibiah, son of Seraiah, son of Asiel,

³⁶ Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah,

³⁷ and Ziza son of Shiphi, son of Allon, son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri, son of Shemaiah--

³⁸ these mentioned by name were leaders in their families. Their ancestral houses increased greatly.

³⁹ They went to the entrance of Gedor, to the east side of the valley to seek pasture for their flocks.

⁴⁰ They found rich, good pasture, and the land was broad, peaceful, and quiet, for some Hamites had lived there previously.

⁴¹ These who were recorded by name came in the days of King Hezekiah of Judah, attacked the Hamites' tents and the Meunim who were found there, and set them apart for destruction, as they are today. Then they settled in their place because there was pasture for their flocks.

⁴² Now 500 men from these sons of Simeon went with Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi, as their leaders to Mount Seir.

⁴³ They struck down the remnant of the Amalekites who had escaped and still live there today.

5 ¹ These were the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel. He was the firstborn, but his birthright was given to

the sons of Joseph son of Israel, because Reuben defiled his father's bed. He is not listed in the genealogy according to birthright.

² Although Judah became strong among his brothers and a ruler came from him, the birthright was given to Joseph.

³ The sons of Reuben, Israel's firstborn: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

⁴ Joel's sons: his son Shemaiah, his son Gog, his son Shimei,

⁵ his son Micah, his son Reaiah, his son Baal,

⁶ and his son Beerah. Beerah was a leader of the Reubenites, and Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria took him into exile.

⁷ His relatives by their families as they are recorded in their genealogy: Jeiel the chief, Zechariah,

⁸ and Bela son of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Joel. They settled in Aroer as far as Nebo and Baal-meon.

⁹ They also settled in the east as far as the edge of the desert that extends to the Euphrates River, because their herds had increased in the land of Gilead.

¹⁰ During Saul's reign they waged war against the Hagrites, who were defeated by their power. And they lived in their tents throughout the region east of Gilead.

¹¹ The sons of Gad lived next to them in the land of Bashan as far as Salecah:

¹² Joel the chief, Shapham the second in command, Janai, and Shaphat in Bashan.

¹³ Their relatives according to their ancestral houses: Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia, and Eber--seven.

¹⁴ These were the sons of Abihail son of Huri, son of Jaroah, son of Gilead, son of

Michael, son of Jeshishai, son of Jahdo, son of Buz.

¹⁵ Ahi son of Abdiel, son of Guni, was head of their ancestral houses.

¹⁶ They lived in Gilead, in Bashan and its towns, and throughout the pasturelands of Sharon.

¹⁷ All of them were registered in the genealogies during the reigns of Judah's King Jotham and Israel's King Jeroboam.

¹⁸ The sons of Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh had 44,760 warriors who could serve in the army--men who carried shield and sword, drew the bow, and were trained for war.

¹⁹ They waged war against the Hagarites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab.

²⁰ They received help against these enemies, and the Hagarites and all their allies were handed over to them, because they cried out to God in battle.

He granted their request because they trusted in Him.

²¹ They captured the Hagarites' livestock--50,000 of their camels, 250,000 sheep, and 2,000 donkeys--as well as 100,000 people.

²² Many of the Hagarites were killed because it was God's battle. And they lived there in the Hagarites' place until the exile.

²³ The sons of half the tribe of Manasseh settled in the land from Bashan to Baal-hermon (that is, Senir or Mount Hermon). They were numerous.

²⁴ These were the heads of their ancestral houses: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were brave warriors, famous men, and heads of their patriarchal families.

²⁵ But they were unfaithful to the God of their ancestors. They prostituted

themselves with the gods of the nations God had destroyed before them.

²⁶ So the God of Israel put it into the mind of Pul (that is, Tiglath-pileser) king of Assyria to take the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh into exile. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and Gozan's river, where they are until today.

6 ¹ Levi's sons: Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.

² Kohath's sons: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

³ Amram's children: Aaron, Moses, and Miriam. Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁴ Eleazar fathered Phinehas; Phinehas fathered Abishua;

⁵ Abishua fathered Bukki; Bukki fathered Uzzi;

⁶ Uzzi fathered Zerariah; Zerariah fathered Meraioth;

⁷ Meraioth fathered Amariah; Amariah fathered Ahitub;

⁸ Ahitub fathered Zadok; Zadok fathered Ahimaaz;

⁹ Ahimaaz fathered Azariah; Azariah fathered Johanan;

¹⁰ Johanan fathered Azariah, who served as priest in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem;

¹¹ Azariah fathered Amariah; Amariah fathered Ahitub;

¹² Ahitub fathered Zadok; Zadok fathered Shallum;

¹³ Shallum fathered Hilkiah; Hilkiah fathered Azariah;

¹⁴ Azariah fathered Seraiah; and Seraiah fathered Jehozadak.

¹⁵ Jehozadak went into exile when the LORD sent Judah and Jerusalem into exile at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁶ Levi's sons: Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁷ These are the names of Gershom's sons: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸ Kohath's sons: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

¹⁹ Merari's sons: Mahli and Mushi.
These are the Levites' families according to their fathers:

²⁰ Of Gershom: his son Libni, his son Jahath, his son Zimmah,

²¹ his son Joah, his son Iddo, his son Zerah, and his son Jeatherai.

²² Kohath's sons: his son Amminadab, his son Korah, his son Assir,

²³ his son Elkanah, his son Ebiasaph, his son Assir,

²⁴ his son Tahath, his son Uriel, his son Uziah, and his son Shaul.

²⁵ Elkanah's sons: Amasai and Ahimoth,

²⁶ his son Elkanah, his son Zophai, his son Nahath,

²⁷ his son Eliab, his son Jeroham, and his son Elkanah.

²⁸ Samuel's sons: his firstborn Joel, and his second son Abijah.

²⁹ Merari's sons: Mahli, his son Libni, his son Shimei, his son Uzzah,

³⁰ his son Shimea, his son Haggiah, and his son Asaiah.

³¹ These are the men David put in charge of the music in the LORD's temple after the ark came to rest there.

³² They ministered with song in front of the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, until Solomon built the LORD's temple in Jerusalem, and they performed their task according to the regulations given to them.

³³ These are the men who served with their sons. From the Kohathites: Heman the singer, son of Joel, son of Samuel,

³⁴ son of Elkanah, son of Jeroham, son of Eliel, son of Toah,

³⁵ son of Zuph, son of Elkanah, son of Mahath, son of Amasai,

³⁶ son of Elkanah, son of Joel, son of Azariah, son of Zephaniah,

³⁷ son of Tahath, son of Assir, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah,

³⁸ son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, son of Israel.

³⁹ Heman's relative was Asaph, who stood at his right hand: Asaph son of Berechiah, son of Shimea,

⁴⁰ son of Michael, son of Baaseiah, son of Malchijah,

⁴¹ son of Ethni, son of Zerah, son of Adaiah,

⁴² son of Ethan, son of Zimmah, son of Shimei,

⁴³ son of Jahath, son of Gershom, son of Levi.

⁴⁴ On the left, their relatives were Merari's sons: Ethan son of Kishi, son of Abdi, son of Malluch,

⁴⁵ son of Hashabiah, son of Amaziah, son of Hilkiyah,

⁴⁶ son of Amzi, son of Bani, son of Shemer,

⁴⁷ son of Mahli, son of Mushi, son of Merari, son of Levi.

⁴⁸ Their relatives the Levites were assigned to all the service of the tabernacle, God's temple.

⁴⁹ But Aaron and his sons did all the work of the most holy place. They presented the offerings on the altar of burnt offerings and on the altar of incense to make atonement for Israel according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

⁵⁰ These are Aaron's sons: his son Eleazar, his son Phinehas, his son Abishua,

⁵¹ his son Bukki, his son Uzzi, his son Zerariah,

⁵² his son Meraioth, his son Amariah, his son Ahitub,

⁵³ his son Zadok, and his son Ahimaaz.

⁵⁴ These were the places assigned to Aaron's sons from the Kohathite family for their settlements in their territory, because the first lot was for them.

⁵⁵ They were given Hebron in the land of Judah and its surrounding pasturelands,

⁵⁶ but the fields and villages around the city were given to Caleb son of Jephunneh.

⁵⁷ Aaron's sons were given: Hebron (a city of refuge), Libnah and its pasturelands, Jattir, Eshtemoa and its pasturelands,

⁵⁸ Hilen and its pasturelands, Debir and its pasturelands,

⁵⁹ Ashan and its pasturelands, and Beth-shemesh and its pasturelands.

⁶⁰ From the tribe of Benjamin they were given Geba and its pasturelands, Alemeth and its pasturelands, and

Anathoth and its pasturelands. They had 13 towns in all among their families.

⁶¹ To the rest of the Kohathites, 10 towns from the half tribe of Manasseh were assigned by lot.

⁶² The Gershomites were assigned 13 towns from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Manasseh in Bashan according to their families.

⁶³ The Merarites were assigned by lot 12 towns from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun according to their families.

⁶⁴ So the Israelites gave these towns and their pasturelands to the Levites.

⁶⁵ They assigned by lot the towns named above from the tribes of the Judahites, Simeonites, and Benjaminites.

⁶⁶ Some of the families of the Kohathites were given towns from the tribe of Ephraim for their territory:

⁶⁷ Shechem (a city of refuge) with its pasturelands in the hill country of Ephraim, Gezer and its pasturelands,

⁶⁸ Jokmeam and its pasturelands, Beth-horon and its pasturelands,

⁶⁹ Aijalon and its pasturelands, and Gath-rimmon and its pasturelands.

⁷⁰ From half the tribe of Manasseh, Aner and its pasturelands, and Bileam and its pasturelands were given to the rest of the families of the Kohathites.

⁷¹ The Gershomites received : Golan in Bashan and its pasturelands, and Ashtaroth and its pasturelands from the families of half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁷² From the tribe of Issachar they received Kedesh and its pasturelands, Daberath and its pasturelands,

⁷³ Ramoth and its pasturelands, and Anem and its pasturelands.

⁷⁴ From the tribe of Asher they received Mashal and its pasturelands, Abdon and its pasturelands,

⁷⁵ Hukok and its pasturelands, and Rehob and its pasturelands.

⁷⁶ From the tribe of Naphtali they received Kedesh in Galilee and its pasturelands, Hammon and its pasturelands, and Kiriathaim and its pasturelands.

⁷⁷ The rest of the Merarites received : From the tribe of Zebulun, they received Rimmono and its pasturelands and Tabor and its pasturelands.

⁷⁸ From the tribe of Reuben across the Jordan at Jericho, to the east of the Jordan, they received Bezer in the desert and its pasturelands, Jahzah and its pasturelands,

⁷⁹ Kedemoth and its pasturelands, and Mephaath and its pasturelands.

⁸⁰ From the tribe of Gad they received Ramoth in Gilead and its pasturelands, Mahanaim and its pasturelands,

⁸¹ Heshbon and its pasturelands, and Jazer and its pasturelands.

7 ¹ Issachar's sons: Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron--four.

² Tola's sons: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Shemuel, the heads of their ancestral houses. During David's reign, 22,600 descendants of Tola were recorded as warriors in their genealogies.

³ Uzzi's son: Izrahiah. Izrahiah's sons: Michael, Obadiah, Joel, Isshiah. All five of them were chiefs.

⁴ Along with them, they had 36,000 troops for battle according to the genealogical records of their ancestral houses, for they had many wives and children.

⁵ Their tribesmen who were warriors belonging to all the families of Issachar totalled 87,000 in their genealogies.

⁶ Three of Benjamin's sons : Bela, Becher, and Jediael.

⁷ Bela's sons: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri--five. They were warriors and heads of their ancestral houses; 22,034 were listed in their genealogies.

⁸ Becher's sons: Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth; all these were Becher's sons.

⁹ Their genealogies were recorded according to the heads of their ancestral houses--20,200 warriors.

¹⁰ Jediael's son: Bilhan. Bilhan's sons: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar.

¹¹ All these sons of Jediael listed by heads of families were warriors; there

were 17,200 who could serve in the army.

¹² Shupchim and Hupchim were sons of Ir, and the Hushim were the sons of Aher.

¹³ Naphtali's sons: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shallum--Bilhah's sons.

¹⁴ Manasseh's sons through his Aramean concubine: Asriel and Machir the father of Gilead.

¹⁵ Machir took wives from Hupchim and Shupchim. The name of his sister was Maacah. Another descendant was named Zelophehad, but he had only daughters.

¹⁶ Machir's wife Maacah gave birth to a son, and she named him Peresh. His brother was named Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rekem.

¹⁷ Ulam's son: Bedan. These were the sons of Gilead son of Machir, son of Manasseh.

¹⁸ His sister Hammolecheth gave birth to Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

¹⁹ Shemida's sons: Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

²⁰ Ephraim's sons: Shuthelah, and his son Bered, his son Tahath, his son Eleadah, his son Tahath,

²¹ his son Zabad, his son Shuthelah, Ezer, and Elead. The men of Gath who were born in the land killed Ezer and Elead because they went down to raid their cattle.

²² Their father Ephraim mourned a long time, and his relatives came to comfort him.

²³ He slept with his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. So he named him Beriah, because there had been misfortune in his home.

²⁴ His daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth-horon and Uzen-sheerah,

²⁵ his son Rephah, his son Resheph, his son Telah, his son Tahan,

²⁶ his son Ladan, his son Ammihud, his son Elishama,

²⁷ his son Nun, and his son Joshua.

²⁸ Their holdings and settlements were Bethel and its villages; Naaran to the east, Gezer and its villages to the west, and Shechem and its villages as far as Ayyah and its villages,

²⁹ and along the borders of the sons of Manasseh, Beth-shean and its villages, Taanach and its villages, Megiddo and its villages, and Dor and its villages. The sons of Joseph son of Israel lived in these towns.

³⁰ Asher's sons: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, and Beriah, with their sister Serah.

³¹ Beriah's sons: Heber, and Malchiel, who fathered Birzaith.

³² Heber fathered Japhlet, Shomer, and Hotham, with their sister Shua.

³³ Japhlet's sons: Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were Japhlet's sons.

³⁴ Shemer's sons: Ahi, Rohgah, Hubbah, and Aram.

³⁵ His brother Helem's sons: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

³⁶ Zophah's sons: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah,

³⁷ Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran, and Beera.

³⁸ Jether's sons: Jephunneh, Pispa, and Ara.

³⁹ Ulla's sons: Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia.

⁴⁰ All these were Asher's sons. They were the heads of their ancestral houses, chosen men, warriors, and chiefs among the leaders. The number of men listed in their genealogies for military service was 26,000.

8 ¹ Benjamin fathered Bela, his firstborn; Ashbel was born second, Aharah third,

² Nohah fourth, and Rapha fifth.

³ Bela's sons: Addar, Gera, Abihud,

⁴ Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,

⁵ Gera, Shephuphan, and Huram.

⁶ These were Ehud's sons, who were the heads of the families living in Geba and who were deported to Manahath:

⁷ Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera. Gera deported them and was the father of Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸ Shaharaim had sons in the country of Moab after he had divorced his wives Hushim and Baara.

⁹ His sons by his wife Hodesh: Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,

¹⁰ Jeuz, Sachia, and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of families.

¹¹ He also had sons by Hushim: Abitub and Elpaal.

¹² Elpaal's sons: Eber, Misham, and Shemed who built Ono and Lod and its villages,

¹³ Beriah and Shema, who were the heads of families of Aijalon's residents and who drove out the residents of Gath,

¹⁴ Ahio, Shashak, and Jeremoth.

¹⁵ Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,

¹⁶ Michael, Ishpah, and Joha were Beriah's sons.

¹⁷ Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

¹⁸ Ishmerai, Izliah, and Jobab were Elpaal's sons.

¹⁹ Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi,

²⁰ Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel,

²¹ Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were Shimei's sons.

²² Ishpan, Eber, Eliel,

²³ Abdon, Zichri, Hanan,

²⁴ Hananiah, Elam, Anthothijah,

²⁵ Iphdeiah, and Penuel were Shashak's sons.

²⁶ Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah,

²⁷ Jaareshiah, Elijah, and Zichri were Jeroham's sons.

²⁸ These were heads of families, chiefs according to their genealogies, and lived in Jerusalem.

²⁹ Jeiel , fathered Gibeon and lived in Gibeon. His wife's name was Maacah.

³⁰ Abdon was his firstborn son, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,

³¹ Gedor, Ahio, Zecher,

³² and Mikloth who fathered Shimeah. These also lived opposite their relatives in Jerusalem, with their other relatives.

³³ Ner fathered Kish, Kish fathered Saul, and Saul fathered Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-baal.

³⁴ Jonathan's son was Merib-baal, and Merib-baal fathered Micah.

³⁵ Micah's sons: Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz.

³⁶ Ahaz fathered Jehoaddah, Jehoaddah fathered Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri, and Zimri fathered Moza.

³⁷ Moza fathered Binea. His son was Raphah, his son Eleasah, and his son Azel.

³⁸ Azel had six sons, and these were their names: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were Azel's sons.

³⁹ His brother Eshek's sons: Ulam was his firstborn, Jeush second, and Eliphelet third.

⁴⁰ Ulam's sons were warriors and archers. They had many sons and grandsons--150 of them. All these were among Benjamin's sons.

9¹ All Israel was registered in the genealogies that are written about in the Book of the Kings of Israel. But Judah was exiled to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness.

² The first to live in their towns on their own property again were Israelites, priests, Levites, and temple servants.

³ These people from the descendants of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh settled in Jerusalem:

⁴ Uthai son of Ammihud, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, a descendant of Perez son of Judah;

⁵ from the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn and his sons;

⁶ and from the sons of Zerah: Jeuel and 690 of their relatives.

⁷ The Benjaminites: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Hodaviah, son of Hassenuah;

⁸ Ibneiah son of Jeroham; Elah son of Uzzi, son of Michri; Meshullam son of Shephatiah, son of Reuel, son of Ibnijah;

⁹ and 956 of their relatives according to their genealogical records. All these men were heads of their ancestral houses.

¹⁰ The priests: Jedaiah; Jehoiarib; Jachin;

¹¹ Azariah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, the chief official of God's temple;

¹² Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pashhur, son of Malchijah; Maasai son of Adiel, son of Jahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillemith, son of Immer;

¹³ and 1,760 of their relatives, the heads of households. They were capable men employed in the ministry of God's temple.

¹⁴ The Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah of the Merarites;

¹⁵ Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah, son of Mica, son of Zichri, son of Asaph;

¹⁶ Obadiah son of Shemaiah, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun; and Berechiah

son of Asa, son of Elkanah who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

¹⁷ The gatekeepers: Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their relatives. Shallum was their chief;

¹⁸ he was previously stationed at the King's Gate on the east side. These were the gatekeepers from the camp of the Levites.

¹⁹ Shallum son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah and his relatives from his household, the Korahites, were assigned to guard the thresholds of the tent. Their ancestors had been assigned to the LORD's camp as guardians of the entrance.

²⁰ In earlier times Phinehas son of Eleazar had been their leader, and the LORD was with him.

²¹ Zechariah son of Meshelemiah was the gatekeeper at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

²² The total number of those chosen to be gatekeepers at the thresholds was 212. They were registered by genealogy in their villages. David and Samuel the seer had appointed them to their trusted positions.

²³ So they and their sons were assigned to the gates of the LORD's house, the house of the tent.

²⁴ The gatekeepers were on the four sides: east, west, north, and south.

²⁵ Their relatives came from their villages at fixed times to be with them seven days,

²⁶ but the four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted with the rooms and the treasuries of God's temple.

²⁷ They spent the night in the vicinity of God's temple, because they had guard duty and were in charge of opening it every morning.

²⁸ Some of them were in charge of the utensils used in worship. They would count them when they brought them in and when they took them out.

²⁹ Others were put in charge of the furnishings and all the utensils of the sanctuary, as well as the fine flour, wine, oil, incense, and spices.

³⁰ But some of the priests' sons mixed the spices.

³¹ A Levite called Mattithiah, the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, was entrusted with baking the bread.

³² Some of the Kohathites' relatives were responsible for preparing the rows of the bread of the Presence every Sabbath.

³³ The singers, the heads of Levite families, stayed in the temple chambers and were exempt from other tasks because they were on duty day and night.

³⁴ These were the heads of Levite families, chiefs according to their genealogies, and lived in Jerusalem.

³⁵ Jeiel fathered Gibeon and lived in Gibeon. His wife's name was Maacah.

³⁶ Abdon was his firstborn son, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab,

³⁷ Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth.

³⁸ Mikloth fathered Shimeam. These also lived opposite their relatives in Jerusalem with their other relatives.

³⁹ Ner fathered Kish, Kish fathered Saul, and Saul fathered Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-baal.

⁴⁰ Jonathan's son was Merib-baal, and Merib-baal fathered Micah.

⁴¹ Micah's sons: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz.

⁴² Ahaz fathered Jarah; Jarah fathered Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; Zimri fathered Moza.

⁴³ Moza fathered Binea. His son was Rephaiah, his son Eleasah, and his son Azel.

⁴⁴ Azel had six sons, and these were their names: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. These were Azel's sons.

10 ¹ The Philistines fought against Israel, and Israel's men fled from them and were killed on Mount Gilboa.

² The Philistines pursued Saul and his sons and killed Saul's sons Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua.

³ When the battle intensified against Saul, the archers found him and severely wounded him.

⁴ Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through with it, or these uncircumcised men will come and torture me!" But his armor-bearer wouldn't do it because he

was terrified. Then Saul took his sword and fell on it.

⁵ When his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his own sword and died.

⁶ So Saul and his three sons died--his whole house died together.

⁷ When all the men of Israel in the valley saw that the army had run away and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. So the Philistines came and settled in them.

⁸ The next day when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his sons dead on Mount Gilboa.

⁹ They stripped Saul, cut off his head, took his armor, and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to spread the good news to their idols and their people.

¹⁰ Then they put his armor in the temple of their gods and hung his skull in the temple of Dagon.

¹¹ When all Jabesh-gilead heard of everything the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² all their brave men set out and retrieved the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons and brought them to Jabesh. They buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

¹³ Saul died for his unfaithfulness to the LORD because he did not keep the LORD's word. He even consulted a medium for guidance,

¹⁴ but he did not inquire of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

11 ¹ All Israel came together to David at Hebron and said, "Here we are, your own flesh and blood.

² Even when Saul was king, you led us out to battle and brought us back. The LORD your God also said to you, 'You will shepherd My people Israel and be ruler over My people Israel.'

³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron. David made a covenant with them at Hebron in the LORD's presence, and they anointed David king over Israel, in keeping with the LORD's word through Samuel.

⁴ David and all Israel marched to Jerusalem (that is, Jebus); the Jebusites who inhabited the land were there.

⁵ The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You will never get in here." Yet David did capture the stronghold of Zion (that is, the city of David).

⁶ David said, "Whoever is the first to kill a Jebusite will become commander-in-chief." Joab son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became the chief.

⁷ Then David took up residence in the stronghold; therefore, it was called the city of David.

⁸ He built up the city all the way around, from the supporting terraces to the surrounding parts, and Joab restored the rest of the city.

⁹ David steadily grew more powerful, and the LORD of Hosts was with him.

¹⁰ The following were the chiefs of David's warriors who, together with all Israel, strongly supported him in his reign to make him king according to the LORD's word about Israel.

¹¹ This is the list of David's warriors: Jashobeam son of Hachmoni was chief of the Thirty; he wielded his spear against 300 and killed them at one time.

¹² After him, Eleazar son of Dodo the Ahohite was one of the three warriors.

¹³ He was with David at Pas-dammim when the Philistines had gathered there

for battle. A plot of ground full of barley was there, where the troops had fled from the Philistines.

¹⁴ But Eleazar and David took their stand in the middle of the plot and defended it. They killed the Philistines, and the LORD gave them a great victory.

¹⁵ Three of the 30 chief men went down to David, to the rock at the cave of Adullam, while the Philistine army was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶ At that time David was in the stronghold, and a Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem.

¹⁷ David was extremely thirsty and said, "If only someone would bring me water from the well at the city gate of Bethlehem!"

¹⁸ So the Three broke through the Philistine camp and drew water from the well at the gate of Bethlehem. They brought it back to David, but he refused

to drink it. Instead, he poured it out to the LORD.

¹⁹ David said, "I would never do such a thing in the presence of God! How can I drink the blood of these men who risked their lives?" For they brought it at the risk of their lives. So he would not drink it. Such were the exploits of the three warriors.

²⁰ Abishai, Joab's brother, was the leader of the Three. He raised his spear against 300 men and killed them, gaining a reputation among the Three.

²¹ He was the most honored of the Three and became their commander even though he did not become one of the Three.

²² Benaiah son of Jehoiada was the son of a brave man from Kabzeel, a man of many exploits. Benaiah killed two sons of Ariel of Moab, and he went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

²³ He also killed an Egyptian who was seven and a half feet tall. Even though the Egyptian had a spear in his hand like a weaver's beam, Benaiah went down to him with a club, snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and then killed him with his own spear.

²⁴ These were the exploits of Benaiah son of Jehoiada, who had a reputation among the three warriors.

²⁵ He was the most honored of the Thirty, but he did not become one of the Three. David put him in charge of his bodyguard.

²⁶ The fighting men were: Joab's brother Asahel, Elhanan son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁷ Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,

²⁸ Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite,

²⁹ Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,

³⁰ Maharai the Netophathite, Heled son of Baanah the Netophathite,

³¹ Ithai son of Ribai from Gibeah of the Benjaminites, Benaiah the Pirathonite,

³² Hurai from the wadis of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,

³³ Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,

³⁴ the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan son of Shagee the Hararite,

³⁵ Ahiam son of Sachar the Hararite, Eliphai son of Ur,

³⁶ Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,

³⁷ Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai son of Ezbai,

³⁸ Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar son of Hagri,

³⁹ Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite, the armor-bearer for Joab son of Zeruiah,

⁴⁰ Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

⁴¹ Uriah the Hittite, Zabad son of Ahlai,

⁴² Adina son of Shiza the Reubenite, chief of the Reubenites, and 30 with him,

⁴³ Hanan son of Maacah, Joshaphat the Mithnite,

⁴⁴ Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite,

⁴⁵ Jediel son of Shimri and his brother Joha the Tizite,

⁴⁶ Eliel the Mahavite, Jeribai and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, Ithmah the Moabite,

⁴⁷ Eliel, Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

12 ¹ The following were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still banned from the presence of

Saul son of Kish. They were among the warriors who helped him in battle.

² They were archers who, using either their right or left hand, could throw stones with a sling or shoot arrows with a bow. They were Saul's relatives from Benjamin:

³ Their chief was Ahiezer son of Shemaah the Gibeathite. Then there was his brother Joash; Jeziel and Pelet sons of Azmaveth; Beracah, Jehu the Anathothite;

⁴ Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a warrior among the Thirty and a leader over the Thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad the Gederathite;

⁵ Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite;

⁶ Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites;

⁷ and Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham from Gedor.

⁸ Some Gadites defected to David at his stronghold in the desert. They were fighting men, trained for battle, expert with shield and spear. Their faces were like the faces of lions, and they were as swift as gazelles on the mountains.

⁹ Ezer was the chief, Obadiah second, Eliab third,

¹⁰ Mishmannah fourth, Jeremiah fifth,

¹¹ Attai sixth, Eliel seventh,

¹² Johanan eighth, Elzabad ninth,

¹³ Jeremiah tenth, and Machbannai eleventh.

¹⁴ These Gadites were army commanders; the least of them was a match for a hundred, and the greatest of them for a thousand.

¹⁵ These are the men who crossed the Jordan in the first month when it was overflowing all its banks, and put to flight all those in the valleys to the east and to the west.

¹⁶ Other Benjaminites and men from Judah also went to David at the stronghold.

¹⁷ David went out to meet them and said to them, "If you have come in peace to help me, my heart will be united with you, but if you have come to betray me to my enemies even though my hands have done no wrong, may the God of our ancestors look on it and judge."

¹⁸ Then the Spirit took control of Amasai, chief of the Thirty, and he said : We are yours, David, we are with you, son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to him who helps you, for your God helps you. So David received them and made them leaders of his troops.

¹⁹ Some Manassites defected to David when he went with the Philistines to fight against Saul. However, they did not help the Philistines because the Philistine rulers, following consultation,

sent David away. They said, "It will be our heads if he defects to his master Saul."

²⁰ When David went to Ziklag, some men from Manasseh defected to him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, chiefs of thousands in Manasseh.

²¹ They helped David against the marauders, for they were all brave warriors and commanders in the army.

²² At that time, men came day after day to help David until there was a great army, like an army of God.

²³ The numbers of the armed troops who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul's kingdom over to him, according to the LORD's word, were as follows:

²⁴ From the Judahites: 6,800 armed troops bearing shields and spears.

²⁵ From the Simeonites: 7,100 brave warriors ready for war.

²⁶ From the Levites: 4,600

²⁷ in addition to Jehoiada, leader of the house of Aaron, with 3,700 men;

²⁸ and Zadok, a young brave warrior, with 22 commanders from his own ancestral house.

²⁹ From the Benjaminites, the relatives of Saul: 3,000 (up to that time the majority of the Benjaminites maintained their allegiance to the house of Saul).

³⁰ From the Ephraimites: 20,800 brave warriors who were famous men in their ancestral houses.

³¹ From half the tribe of Manasseh: 18,000 designated by name to come and make David king.

³² From the Issacharites, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do: 200 chiefs with all their relatives under their command.

³³ From Zebulun: 50,000 who could serve in the army, trained for battle

with all kinds of weapons of war, with singleness of purpose to help David.

³⁴ From Naphtali: 1,000 commanders accompanied by 37,000 men with shield and spear.

³⁵ From the Danites: 28,600 trained for battle.

³⁶ From Asher: 40,000 who could serve in the army, trained for battle.

³⁷ From across the Jordan--from the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh: 120,000 men equipped with all the military weapons of war.

³⁸ All these warriors, lined up in battle formation, came to Hebron with wholehearted determination to make David king over all Israel. All the rest of Israel was also of one mind to make David king.

³⁹ They were there with David for three days, eating and drinking, for their relatives had provided for them.

⁴⁰ In addition, their neighbors from as far away as Issachar, Zebulun, and Naphtali came bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules, and oxen--abundant provisions of flour, fig cakes, raisins, wine and oil, oxen, and sheep. Indeed, there was joy in Israel.

13 ¹ David consulted with all his leaders, the commanders of hundreds and of thousands.

² Then he said to the whole assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if this is from the LORD our God, let us spread out and send the message to the rest of our relatives in all the districts of Israel, including the priests and Levites in their cities with pasturelands, that they should gather together with us.

³ Then let us bring back the ark of our God, for we did not inquire of Him in Saul's days."

⁴ Since the proposal seemed right to all the people, the whole assembly agreed to do it.

⁵ So David assembled all Israel, from the Shihor of Egypt to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.

⁶ David and all Israel went to Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim), which belongs to Judah, to take from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD who dwells between the cherubim.

⁷ At Abinadab's house, they set the ark of God on a new cart. Uzzah and Ahio were guiding the cart.

⁸ David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before God with songs and with lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.

⁹ When they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzzah reached out to hold the ark, because the oxen had stumbled.

¹⁰ Then the LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and He struck him dead because he had reached out to the ark. So he died there in the presence of God.

¹¹ David was angry because of the LORD's outburst against Uzzah, so he named that place Outburst Against Uzzah, as it is still named today.

¹² David feared God that day, and said, "How can I ever bring the ark of God to me?"

¹³ So David did not move the ark of God home to the city of David; instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

¹⁴ The ark of God remained with Obed-edom's family in his house for three months, and the LORD blessed his family and all that he had.

14 ¹ King Hiram of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs,

stonemasons, and carpenters to build a palace for him.

² Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and that his kingdom had been exalted for the sake of His people Israel.

³ David took more wives in Jerusalem, and he became the father of more sons and daughters.

⁴ These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,

⁶ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁷ Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

⁸ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, they all went in search of David; when David heard of this, he went out to face them.

⁹ Now the Philistines had come and made a raid in the Valley of Rephaim,

¹⁰ so David inquired of God, "Should I go to war against the Philistines? Will You hand them over to me?" The LORD replied, "Go, and I will hand them over to you."

¹¹ So the Israelites went up to Baal-perazim, and David defeated the Philistines there. Then David said, "Like a bursting flood, God has used me to burst out against my enemies." Therefore, they named that place the Lord Bursts Out.

¹² The Philistines abandoned their idols there, and David ordered that they be burned in the fire.

¹³ Once again the Philistines made a raid in the valley.

¹⁴ So David again inquired of God, and God answered him, "Do not pursue them directly. Circle down away from them and attack them opposite the balsam trees.

¹⁵ When you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then march out to battle, for God will have marched out ahead of you to attack the camp of the Philistines."

¹⁶ So David did exactly as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer.

¹⁷ Then David's fame spread throughout the lands, and the LORD caused all the nations to be terrified of him.

15 ¹ David built houses for himself in the city of David, and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it.

² Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before Him forever."

³ David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring the ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it.

⁴ Then he gathered together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites:

⁵ From the Kohathites, Uriel the leader and 120 of his relatives;

⁶ from the Merarites, Asaiah the leader and 220 of his relatives;

⁷ from the Gershomites, Joel the leader and 130 of his relatives;

⁸ from the Elizaphanites, Shemaiah the leader and 200 of his relatives;

⁹ from the Hebronites, Eliel the leader and 80 of his relatives;

¹⁰ from the Uzzielites, Amminadab the leader and 112 of his relatives.

¹¹ David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.

¹² He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levite families. You and your relatives must consecrate yourselves so that you may bring the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it.

¹³ For the LORD our God burst out in anger against us because you Levites were not with us the first time, for we didn't inquire of Him about the proper procedures."

¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵ Then the Levites carried the ark of God the way Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD: on their shoulders with the poles.

¹⁶ Then David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their relatives as singers and to have them raise their

voices with joy accompanied by musical instruments--harps, lyres, and cymbals.

¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his relatives, Asaph son of Berechiah; and from their relatives the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah.

¹⁸ With them were their relatives second in rank: Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, and the gatekeepers Obed-edom and Jeiel.

¹⁹ The singers Heman, Asaph, and Ethan were to sound the bronze cymbals;

²⁰ Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play harps according to Alamoth;

²¹ and Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to lead the music with lyres according to the Sheminith.

²² Chenaniah, the leader of the Levites in music, was to direct the music because he was skillful.

²³ Berechiah and Elkanah were to be gatekeepers for the ark.

²⁴ The priests, Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, were to blow trumpets before the ark of God. Obed-edom and Jehiah were also to be gatekeepers for the ark.

²⁵ David, the elders of Israel, and the commanders of the thousands went with rejoicing to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-edom.

²⁶ And because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷ Now David was dressed in a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who

were carrying the ark, as well as the singers and Chenaniah, the music leader of the singers. David also wore a linen ephod.

²⁸ So all Israel was bringing the ark of the covenant of the LORD up with shouts, the sound of the ram's horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and the playing of harps and lyres.

²⁹ As the ark of the covenant of the LORD was entering the city of David, Saul's daughter Michal looked down from the window and saw King David dancing and celebrating, and she despised him in her heart.

16 ¹ They brought the ark of God and placed it inside the tent David had pitched for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings in God's presence.

² When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the fellowship

offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

³ Then he distributed to each and every Israelite, both men and women, a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake.

⁴ David appointed some of the Levites to be ministers before the ark of the LORD, to celebrate the LORD God of Israel, and to give thanks and praise to Him.

⁵ Asaph was the chief and Zechariah was second to him. Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel played the harps and lyres, while Asaph sounded the cymbals

⁶ and the priests Benaiah and Jahaziel blew the trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God.

⁷ On that day David decreed for the first time that thanks be given to the LORD by Asaph and his relatives:

⁸ Give thanks to the LORD; call on His name; proclaim His deeds among the peoples.

⁹ Sing to Him; sing praise to Him; tell about all His wonderful works!

¹⁰ Honor His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

¹¹ Search for the LORD and for His strength; seek His face always.

¹² Remember the wonderful works He has done, His wonders, and the judgments He has pronounced,

¹³ you offspring of Israel His servant, Jacob's descendants--His chosen ones.

¹⁴ He is the LORD our God; His judgments govern the whole earth.

¹⁵ Remember His covenant forever--the promise He ordained for a thousand generations,

¹⁶ the covenant He made with Abraham, swore to Isaac,

¹⁷ and confirmed to Jacob as a decree,
and to Israel as an everlasting covenant:

¹⁸ "I will give the land of Canaan to you
as your inherited portion."

¹⁹ When they were few in number, very
few indeed, and temporary residents in
Canaan

²⁰ wandering from nation to nation and
from one kingdom to another,

²¹ He allowed no one to oppress them;
He rebuked kings on their behalf:

²² "Do not touch My anointed ones or
harm My prophets."

²³ Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Proclaim His salvation from day to day.

²⁴ Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonderful works among all peoples.

²⁵ For the LORD is great and is highly
praised; He is feared above all gods.

²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are
idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

²⁷ Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and joy are in His place.

²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; bring an offering and come before Him. Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness;

³⁰ tremble before Him, all the earth. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.

³¹ Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD is King!"

³² Let the sea and everything in it resound; let the fields and all that is in them exult.

³³ Then the trees of the forest will shout for joy before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth.

³⁴ Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever.

³⁵ And say: "Save us, God of our salvation; gather us and rescue us from the nations so that we may give thanks to Your holy name and rejoice in Your praise.

³⁶ May the LORD, the God of Israel, be praised from everlasting to everlasting." Then all the people said, "Amen" and "Praise the LORD."

³⁷ So David left Asaph and his relatives there before the ark of the LORD's covenant to minister regularly before the ark according to the daily requirements.

³⁸ He also left Obed-edom and his 68 relatives. Obed-edom son of Jeduthun and Hosah were to be gatekeepers.

³⁹ David left Zadok the priest and his fellow priests before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place in Gibeon

⁴⁰ to offer burnt offerings regularly, morning and evening, to the LORD on the altar of burnt offerings and to do everything that was written in the law of the LORD, which He had commanded Israel to keep.

⁴¹ With them were Heman, Jeduthun, and the rest who were chosen and designated by name to give thanks to the LORD--for His faithful love endures forever.

⁴² Heman and Jeduthun had with them trumpets and cymbals to play and musical instruments of God. Jeduthun's sons were at the gate.

⁴³ Then all the people left for their homes, and David returned home to bless his household.

17 ¹ When David had settled into his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Look! I am living in a

cedar house while the ark of the LORD's covenant is under tent curtains."

² So Nathan told David, "Do all that is on your heart, for God is with you."

³ But that night the word of God came to Nathan:

⁴ "Go to David My servant and say, 'This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build Me a house to dwell in.

⁵ From the time I brought Israel out of Egypt until today I have not lived in a house; instead, I have moved from tent to tent and from tabernacle to tabernacle .

⁶ In all My travels throughout Israel, have I ever spoken a word to even one of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, asking: Why haven't you built Me a house of cedar?'

⁷ "Now this is what you will say to My servant David: 'This is what the LORD of Hosts says: I took you from the pasture

and from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.

⁸ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. I will make a name for you like that of the greatest in the land.

⁹ I will establish a place for My people Israel and plant them, so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evildoers will not continue to oppress them as they formerly have

¹⁰ ever since the day I ordered judges to be over My people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies. "Furthermore, I declare to you that the LORD Himself will build a house for you.

¹¹ When your time comes to be with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant, who is one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹² He will build a house for Me, and I will establish his throne forever.

¹³ I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to Me. I will not take away My faithful love from him as I took it from the one who was before you.

¹⁴ I will appoint him over My house and My kingdom forever, and his throne will be established forever."

¹⁵ Nathan recounted all these words and this entire vision to David.

¹⁶ Then King David went in, sat in the LORD's presence, and said, "Who am I, LORD God, and what is my house that You have brought me this far?

¹⁷ This was a little thing to You, God, for You have spoken about Your servant's house in the distant future. You regard me as a man of distinction, LORD God.

¹⁸ What more can David say to You for honoring Your servant? You know Your servant.

¹⁹ LORD, You have done all this greatness, making known all these great promises because of Your servant and according to Your will.

²⁰ LORD, there is no one like You, and there is no God besides You, as all we have heard confirms.

²¹ And who is like Your people Israel? God, You came to one nation on earth to redeem a people for Yourself, to make a name for Yourself through great and awesome deeds by driving out nations before Your people You redeemed from Egypt.

²² You made Your people Israel Your own people forever, and You, LORD, have become their God.

²³ "Now, LORD, let the word that You have spoken concerning Your servant and his house be confirmed forever, and do as You have promised.

²⁴ Let your name be confirmed and magnified forever in the saying, 'The LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, is God over Israel.' May the house of Your servant David be established before You.

²⁵ Since You, my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house, Your servant has found courage to pray in Your presence.

²⁶ LORD, You indeed are God, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.

²⁷ So now, You have been pleased to bless Your servant's house that it may continue before You forever. For You, LORD, have blessed it, and it is blessed forever."

18 ¹ After this, David defeated the Philistines, subdued them, and took Gath and its villages from Philistine control.

² He also defeated the Moabites, and they became David's subjects and brought tribute.

³ David also defeated King Hadadezer of Zobah at Hamath when he went to establish his control at the Euphrates River.

⁴ David captured 1,000 chariots, 7,000 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers from him and hamstringed all the horses, and he kept 100 chariots.

⁵ When the Arameans of Damascus came to assist King Hadadezer of Zobah, David struck down 22,000 Aramean men.

⁶ Then he placed garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Arameans became David's subjects and brought tribute. The LORD made David victorious wherever he went.

⁷ David took the gold shields carried by Hadadezer's officers and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸ From Tibhath and Cun, Hadadezer's cities, David also took huge quantities of bronze, from which Solomon made the bronze reservoir, the pillars, and the bronze articles.

⁹ When King Tou of Hamath heard that David had defeated the entire army of King Hadadezer of Zobah,

¹⁰ he sent his son Hadoram to King David to greet him and to congratulate him because David had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Tou and Hadadezer had fought many wars. Hadoram brought all kinds of items of gold, silver, and bronze.

¹¹ King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold he had carried off from all the nations--from Edom, Moab, the

Ammonites, the Philistines, and the Amalekites.

¹² Abishai son of Zeruiah struck down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹³ He put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites were subject to David. The LORD made David victorious wherever he went.

¹⁴ So David reigned over all Israel, administering justice and righteousness for all his people.

¹⁵ Joab son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat son of Ahilud was court historian;

¹⁶ Zadok son of Ahitub and Ahimelech son of Abiathar were priests; Shavsha was court secretary;

¹⁷ Benaiah son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were the chief officials at the king's side.

19 ¹ Some time later, King Nahash of the Ammonites died, and his son became king in his place.

² Then David said, "I'll show kindness to Hanun son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to console him concerning his father. However, when David's emissaries arrived in the land of the Ammonites to console him,

³ the Ammonite leaders said to Hanun, "Just because David has sent men with condolences for you, do you really believe he's showing respect for your father? Instead, hasn't David sent his emissaries in order to scout out, overthrow, and spy on the land?"

⁴ So Hanun took David's emissaries, shaved them, cut their clothes in half at the hips, and sent them away.

⁵ Someone came and reported to David about his men, so he sent someone

to meet them, since the men were deeply humiliated. The king said, "Stay in Jericho until your beards grow back; then return."

⁶ When the Ammonites realized they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the Ammonites sent 38 tons of silver to hire chariots and horsemen from Aram-naharaim, Aram-maacah, and Zobah.

⁷ They hired 32,000 chariots and the king of Maacah with his army, who came and camped near Medeba. The Ammonites also gathered from their cities and came for the battle.

⁸ David heard about this and sent Joab and the entire army of warriors.

⁹ The Ammonites marched out and lined up in battle formation at the entrance of the city while the kings who had come were in the field by themselves.

¹⁰ When Joab saw that there was a battle line in front of him and another behind him, he chose some men out of all the elite troops of Israel and lined up in battle formation to engage the Arameans.

¹¹ He placed the rest of the forces under the command of his brother Abishai, and they lined up in battle formation to engage the Ammonites.

¹² "If the Arameans are too strong for me," Joab said, "then you'll be my help. However, if the Ammonites are too strong for you, I'll help you.

¹³ Be strong! We must prove ourselves strong for our people and for the cities of our God. May the LORD's will be done."

¹⁴ Joab and the people with him approached the Arameans for battle, and they fled before him.

¹⁵ When the Ammonites saw that the Arameans had fled, they likewise

fled before Joab's brother Abishai and entered the city. Then Joab went to Jerusalem.

¹⁶ When the Arameans realized that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers to bring out the Arameans who were across the Euphrates with Shophach, commander of Hadadezer's army, leading them.

¹⁷ When this was reported to David, he gathered all Israel and crossed the Jordan. He came up to them and lined up in battle formation against them. When David lined up to engage the Arameans in battle, they fought against him.

¹⁸ But the Arameans fled before Israel, and David killed 7,000 of their charioteers and 40,000 foot soldiers. He also killed Shophach, commander of the army.

¹⁹ When Hadadezer's subjects saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they

made peace with David and became his subjects. After this, the Arameans were never willing to help the Ammonites again.

20 ¹ In the spring when kings march out to war , Joab led the army and destroyed the Ammonites' land. He came to Rabbah and besieged it, but David remained in Jerusalem. Joab attacked Rabbah and demolished it.

² Then David took the crown from the head of their king, and it was placed on David's head. He discovered the crown weighed 75 pounds of gold, and there was a precious stone in it. In addition, David took away a large quantity of plunder from the city.

³ He brought out the people who were in it and put them to work with saws, iron picks, and axes. David did the same to all the Ammonite cities. Then he and all his troops returned to Jerusalem.

⁴ After this, a war broke out with the Philistines at Gezer. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed Sippai, a descendant of the giants, and the Philistines were subdued.

⁵ Once again there was a battle with the Philistines, and Elhanan son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam.

⁶ There was still another battle at Gath where there was a man of extraordinary stature with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot --24 in all. He, too, was descended from the giant.

⁷ When he taunted Israel, Jonathan, son of David's brother Shimei, killed him.

⁸ These were the descendants of the giant in Gath killed by David and his soldiers.

21 ¹ Satan stood up against Israel and incited David to count the people of Israel.

² So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count Israel from Beer-sheba to Dan and bring a report to me so I can know their number."

³ Joab replied, "May the LORD multiply the number of His people a hundred times over! My lord the king, aren't they all my lord's servants? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?"

⁴ Yet the king's order prevailed over Joab. So Joab left and traveled throughout Israel and then returned to Jerusalem.

⁵ Joab gave David the total of the registration of the troops. In all Israel there were 1,100,000 swordsmen and in Judah itself 470,000 swordsmen.

⁶ But he did not include Levi and Benjamin in the count because the king's command was detestable to him.

⁷ This command was also evil in God's sight, so He afflicted Israel.

⁸ David said to God, "I have sinned greatly because I have done this thing. Now, because I've been very foolish, please take away Your servant's guilt."

⁹ Then the LORD instructed Gad, David's seer,

¹⁰ "Go and say to David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am offering you three choices . Choose one of them for yourself, and I will do it to you.'"

¹¹ So Gad went to David and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Take your choice --

¹² either three years of famine, three months of devastation by your foes with the sword of your enemy overtaking you, or three days of the sword of the

LORD--a plague on the land, the angel of the LORD bringing destruction to the whole territory of Israel.' Now decide what answer I should take back to the One who sent me."

¹³ David answered Gad, "I have great anxiety. Please, let me fall into the LORD's hands because His mercies are very great, but don't let me fall into human hands."

¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel, and 70,000 Israelite men died.

¹⁵ Then God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but when the angel was about to destroy the city, the LORD looked, relented concerning the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "Enough, withdraw your hand now!" The angel of the LORD was then standing at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁶ When David looked up and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem, David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell down with their faces to the ground .

¹⁷ David said to God, "Wasn't I the one who gave the order to count the people? I am the one who has sinned and acted very wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? My LORD God, please let Your hand be against me and against my father's family, but don't let the plague be against Your people."

¹⁸ So the angel of the LORD ordered Gad to tell David to go and set up an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁹ David went up at Gad's command spoken in the name of the LORD.

²⁰ Ornan was threshing wheat when he turned and saw the angel. His four sons, who were with him, hid themselves.

²¹ David came to Ornan, and when Ornan looked and saw David, he left the threshing floor and bowed to David with his face to the ground.

²² Then David said to Ornan, "Give me this threshing-floor plot so that I may build an altar to the LORD on it. Give it to me for the full price, so the plague on the people may be halted."

²³ Ornan said to David, "Take it! My lord the king may do whatever he wants. See, I give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering--I give it all."

²⁴ King David answered Ornan, "No, I insist on paying the full price, for I will not take for the LORD what belongs to

you or offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

²⁵ So David gave Ornan 15 pounds of gold for the plot.

²⁶ He built an altar to the LORD there and offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the LORD, and He answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

²⁷ Then the LORD spoke to the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath.

²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the LORD answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there.

²⁹ At that time the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the desert, and the altar of burnt offering were at the high place in Gibeon,

³⁰ but David could not go before it to inquire of God, because he was terrified of the sword of the LORD's angel.

22 ¹ Then David said, "This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

² So David gave orders to gather the foreigners that were in the land of Israel, and he appointed stonemasons to cut finished stones for building God's house.

³ David supplied a great deal of iron to make the nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, together with an immeasurable quantity of bronze,

⁴ and innumerable cedar logs, because the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought a large quantity of cedar logs to David.

⁵ David said, "My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly great and famous and

glorious in all the lands. Therefore, I must make provision for it." So David made lavish preparations for it before his death.

⁶ Then he summoned his son Solomon and instructed him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel.

⁷ "My son," David said to Solomon, "It was in my heart to build a house for the name of the LORD my God,

⁸ but the word of the LORD came to me: 'You have shed much blood and waged great wars. You are not to build a house for My name because you have shed so much blood on the ground before Me.

⁹ But a son will be born to you; he will be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies, for his name will be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel during his reign.

¹⁰ He is the one who will build a house for My name. He will be My son,

and I will be his father. I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

¹¹ "Now, my son, may the LORD be with you, and may you succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as He said about you.

¹² Above all, may the LORD give you insight and understanding when He puts you in charge of Israel so that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

¹³ Then you will succeed if you carefully follow the statutes and ordinances the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid or discouraged.

¹⁴ "Notice I have taken great pains to provide for the house of the LORD--3,775 tons of gold, 37,750 tons of silver, and bronze and iron that can't be weighed because there is so much of it. I have

also provided timber and stone, but you will need to add more to them.

¹⁵ You also have many workers: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and people skilled in every kind of work

¹⁶ in gold, silver, bronze, and iron-- beyond number. Now begin the work, and may the LORD be with you."

¹⁷ Then David ordered all the leaders of Israel to help his son Solomon:

¹⁸ "The LORD your God is with you, isn't He? And hasn't He given you rest on every side? For He has handed the land's inhabitants over to me, and the land has been subdued before the LORD and His people.

¹⁹ Now determine in your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Get started building the LORD God's sanctuary so that you may bring the ark of the LORD's covenant and the holy

articles of God to the temple that is to be built for the name of the LORD."

23 ¹ When David was old and full of days, he installed his son Solomon as king over Israel.

² Then he gathered all the leaders of Israel, the priests, and the Levites.

³ The Levites 30 years old and above were counted; the total number of men was 38,000 by headcount.

⁴ "Of these," David said, "24,000 are to be in charge of the work on the LORD's temple, 6,000 are to be officers and judges,

⁵ 4,000 are to be gatekeepers, and 4,000 are to praise the LORD with the instruments that I have made for worship."

⁶ Then David divided them into divisions according to Levi's sons: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

⁷ The Gershomites: Ladan and Shimei.

⁸ Ladan's sons: Jehiel was the first, then Zetham, and Joel--three.

⁹ Shimei's sons: Shelomoth, Haziël, and Haran--three. Those were the heads of the families of Ladan.

¹⁰ Shimei's sons: Jahath, Zizah, Jeush, and Beriah. Those were Shimei's sons--four.

¹¹ Jahath was the first and Zizah was the second; however, Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, so they became an ancestral house and received a single assignment.

¹² Kohath's sons: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel--four.

¹³ Amram's sons: Aaron and Moses. Aaron, along with his descendants, was set apart forever to consecrate the most holy things, to burn incense in the presence of the LORD, to minister to Him, and to pronounce blessings in His name forever.

¹⁴ As for Moses the man of God, his sons were named among the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵ Moses' sons: Gershom and Eliezer.

¹⁶ Gershom's sons: Shebuel first.

¹⁷ Eliezer's sons were Rehabiah, first; Eliezer did not have any other sons, but Rehabiah's sons were very numerous.

¹⁸ Izhar's sons: Shelomith was first.

¹⁹ Hebron's sons: Jeriah was first, Amariah second, Jahaziel third, and Jekameam fourth.

²⁰ Uzziel's sons: Micah was first, and Isshiah second.

²¹ Merari's sons: Mahli and Mushi. Mahli's sons: Eleazar and Kish.

²² Eleazar died having no sons, only daughters. Their cousins, the sons of Kish, married them.

²³ Mushi's sons: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth--three.

²⁴ These were the sons of Levi by their ancestral houses--the heads of families, according to their registration by name in the headcount--20 years old or more, who worked in the service of the LORD's temple.

²⁵ For David said, "The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, and He has come to stay in Jerusalem forever.

²⁶ Also, the Levites no longer need to carry the tabernacle or any of the equipment for its service"--

²⁷ for according to the last words of David, the Levites 20 years old or more were to be counted--

²⁸ "but their duty will be to assist the sons of Aaron with the service of the LORD's temple, being responsible for the courts and the chambers, the purification of all the holy things, and the work of the service of God's temple--

²⁹ as well as the rows of the bread of the Presence , the fine flour for the grain offering, the wafers of unleavened bread, the baking, the mixing, and all measurements of volume and length.

³⁰ They are also to stand every morning to give thanks and praise to the LORD, and likewise in the evening.

³¹ Whenever burnt offerings are offered to the LORD on the Sabbaths, New Moons, and appointed festivals, they are to do so regularly in the LORD's presence according to the number prescribed for them.

³² They are to carry out their responsibilities to the tent of meeting, to the holy place, and to their relatives, the sons of Aaron, in the service of the LORD's temple."

24 ¹ The divisions of the descendants of Aaron were as follows: Aaron's

sons were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and they had no sons, so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests.

³ Together with Zadok from the sons of Eleazar and Ahimelech from the sons of Ithamar, David divided them according to the assigned duties of their service.

⁴ Since more leaders were found among Eleazar's descendants than Ithamar's, they were divided accordingly : 16 heads of ancestral houses were from Eleazar's descendants, and eight heads of ancestral houses were from Ithamar's.

⁵ They were divided impartially by lot, for there were officers of the sanctuary and officers of God among both Eleazar's and Ithamar's descendants.

⁶ The secretary, Shemaiah son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the officers,

Zadok the priest, Ahimelech son of Abiathar, and the heads of families of the priests and the Levites. One ancestral house was taken for Eleazar, and then one for Ithamar.

⁷ The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

⁸ the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

⁹ the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

¹⁰ the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

¹¹ the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,

¹² the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,

¹³ the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

¹⁴ the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,

¹⁵ the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizez,

¹⁶ the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel,

¹⁷ the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul,

¹⁸ the twenty-third to Delaiah, and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

¹⁹ These had their assigned duties for service when they entered the LORD's temple, according to their regulations, which they received from their ancestor Aaron, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

²⁰ As for the rest of Levi's sons:from Amram's sons: Shubael;from Shubael's sons: Jehdeiah.

²¹ From Rehabiah:from Rehabiah's sons: Isshiah was the first.

²² From the Izharites: Shelomoth;from Shelomoth's sons: Jahath.

²³ Hebron's sons: Jeriah the first ,
Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third,
and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁴ From Uzziel's sons: Micah; from
Micah's sons: Shamir.

²⁵ Micah's brother: Isshiah; from
Isshiah's sons: Zechariah.

²⁶ Merari's sons: Mahli and Mushi, and
from his sons, Jaaziah his son.

²⁷ Merari's sons, by his son Jaaziah:
Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri.

²⁸ From Mahli: Eleazar, who had no
sons.

²⁹ From Kish, from Kish's sons:
Jerahmeel.

³⁰ Mushi's sons: Mahli, Eder, and
Jerimoth. Those were the sons of the
Levites according to their ancestral
houses.

³¹ They also cast lots the same way as
their relatives, the sons of Aaron did
in the presence of King David, Zadok,

Ahimelech, and the heads of the families of the priests and Levites--the family heads and their younger brothers alike.

25 ¹ David and the officers of the army also set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, who were to prophesy accompanied by lyres, harps, and cymbals. This is the list of the men who performed their service:

² From Asaph's sons: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asarelah, sons of Asaph, under Asaph's authority, who prophesied under the authority of the king.

³ From Jeduthun: Jeduthun's sons: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah--six--under the authority of their father Jeduthun, prophesying to the accompaniment of lyres, giving thanks and praise to the LORD.

⁴ From Heman: Heman's sons: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.

⁵ All these sons of Heman, the king's seer, were given by the promises of God to exalt him, for God had given Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

⁶ All these men were under their own fathers' authority for the music in the LORD's temple, with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of God's temple. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the king's authority.

⁷ Together with their relatives who were all trained and skillful in music for the LORD, they numbered 288.

⁸ They cast lots impartially for their duties, the young and old alike, the teacher along with the pupil.

⁹ The first lot for Asaph fell to Joseph, his sons, and his brothers--12 to Gedaliah the second: him, his brothers, and his sons--12

¹⁰ the third to Zaccur, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹¹ the fourth to Izri, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹² the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹³ the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹⁴ the seventh to Jesarelah, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹⁵ the eighth to Jeshaiiah, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹⁶ the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹⁷ the tenth to Shimei, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹⁸ the eleventh to Azarel, his sons, and his brothers--12

¹⁹ the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²⁰ the thirteenth to Shubael, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²¹ the fourteenth to Mattithiah, his
sons, and his brothers--12

²² the fifteenth to Jeremoth, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²³ the sixteenth to Hananiah, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²⁴ the seventeenth to Joshbekashah, his
sons, and his brothers--12

²⁵ the eighteenth to Hanani, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²⁶ the nineteenth to Mallothi, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²⁷ the twentieth to Eliathah, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²⁸ the twenty-first to Hothir, his sons,
and his brothers--12

²⁹ the twenty-second to Giddalti, his
sons, and his brothers--12

³⁰ the twenty-third to Mahazioth, his sons, and his brothers--12

³¹ and the twenty-fourth to Romamti-ezer, his sons, and his brothers--12.

26 ¹ The following were the divisions of the gatekeepers: From the Korahites: Meshelemiah son of Kore, one of the sons of Asaph.

² Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediel the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,

³ Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, and Eliehoenai the seventh.

⁴ Obed-edom also had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sachar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,

⁵ Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, and Peullethai the eighth, for God blessed him.

⁶ Also, to his son Shemaiah were born sons who ruled over their ancestral

houses because they were strong, capable men.

⁷ Shemaiah's sons: Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad; his brothers Elihu and Semachiah were also capable men.

⁸ All of these were among the sons of Obed-edom with their sons and brothers; they were capable men with strength for the work--62 from Obed-edom.

⁹ Meshelemiah also had sons and brothers who were capable men--18.

¹⁰ Hosah, from the Merarites, also had sons: Shimri the first (although he was not the firstborn, his father had appointed him as the first),

¹¹ Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, and Zechariah the fourth. The sons and brothers of Hosah were 13 in all.

¹² These divisions of the gatekeepers, under their leading men, had duties for

ministering in the LORD's temple, just as their brothers did.

¹³ They cast lots according to their ancestral houses, young and old alike, for each gate.

¹⁴ The lot for the east gate fell to Shelemiah. They also cast lots for his son Zechariah, an insightful counselor, and his lot came out for the north gate .

¹⁵ Obed-edom's was the south gate , and his sons' lot was the storehouses;

¹⁶ for Shuppim and Hosah it was the west gate and the gate of Shallecheth on the ascending highway. There were guards stationed at every watch.

¹⁷ There were six Levites each day on the east, four each day on the north, four each day on the south, and two pair at the storehouses.

¹⁸ As for the court on the west, there were four at the highway and two at the court.

¹⁹ Those were the divisions of the gatekeepers from the sons of the Korahites and Merarites.

²⁰ From the Levites, Ahijah was in charge of the treasuries of God's temple and the treasuries for what had been dedicated.

²¹ From the sons of Ladan, who were the sons of the Gershonites through Ladan and were the heads of families belonging to Ladan the Gershonite: Jehieli.

²² The sons of Jehieli, Zetham and his brother Joel, were in charge of the treasuries of the LORD's temple.

²³ From the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites:

²⁴ Shebuel, a descendant of Moses' son Gershom, was the officer in charge of the treasuries.

²⁵ His relative through Eliezer: his son Rehabiah, his son Jeshaiiah, his

son Joram, his son Zichri, and his son Shelomith.

²⁶ This Shelomith and his brothers were in charge of all the treasuries for what had been dedicated by King David, by the heads of families who were the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and by the army commanders.

²⁷ They dedicated part of the plunder from their battles for the repair of the LORD's temple.

²⁸ All that Samuel the seer, Saul son of Kish, Abner son of Ner, and Joab son of Zeruah had dedicated, along with everything else that had been dedicated, were in the care of Shelomith and his brothers.

²⁹ From the Izrahites: Chenaniah and his sons had the outside duties as officers and judges over Israel.

³⁰ From the Hebronites: Hashabiah and his relatives, 1,700 capable men, had assigned duties in Israel west of the Jordan for all the work of the LORD and for the service of the king.

³¹ From the Hebronites: Jerijah was the head of the Hebronites, according to the genealogical records of his ancestors. In the fortieth year of David's reign a search was made, and strong, capable men were found among them at Jazer in Gilead.

³² There were among Jerijah's relatives, 2,700 capable men who were heads of families. King David appointed them over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh as overseers in every matter relating to God and the king.

27 ¹ This is the list of the Israelites, the heads of families, the commanders of thousands and the

commanders of hundreds, and their officers who served the king in every matter to do with the divisions that were on rotated military duty each month throughout the year. There were 24,000 in each division:

² Jashobeam son of Zabdiel was in charge of the first division, for the first month; 24,000 were in his division.

³ He was a descendant of Perez and chief of all the army commanders for the first month.

⁴ Dodai the Ahohite was in charge of the division for the second month, and Mikloth was the leader; 24,000 were in his division.

⁵ The third army commander, as chief for the third month, was Benaiah son of Jehoiada the priest; 24,000 were in his division.

⁶ This Benaiah was a mighty man among the Thirty and over the Thirty,

and his son Ammizabad was in charge of his division.

⁷ The fourth commander , for the fourth month, was Joab's brother Asahel, and his son Zebadiah was commander after him; 24,000 were in his division.

⁸ The fifth, for the fifth month, was the commander Shamhuth the Izrahite; 24,000 were in his division.

⁹ The sixth, for the sixth month, was Ira son of Ikkesh the Tekoite; 24,000 were in his division.

¹⁰ The seventh, for the seventh month, was Helez the Pelonite from the sons of Ephraim; 24,000 were in his division.

¹¹ The eighth, for the eighth month, was Sibbecai the Hushathite, a Zerahite; 24,000 were in his division.

¹² The ninth, for the ninth month, was Abiezer the Anathothite, a Benjaminite; 24,000 were in his division.

¹³ The tenth, for the tenth month, was Maharai the Netophathite, a Zerahite; 24,000 were in his division.

¹⁴ The eleventh, for the eleventh month, was Benaiah the Pirathonite from the sons of Ephraim; 24,000 were in his division.

¹⁵ The twelfth, for the twelfth month, was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel's family; 24,000 were in his division.

¹⁶ The following were in charge of the tribes of Israel: For the Reubenites, Eliezer son of Zichri was the chief official; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah son of Maacah;

¹⁷ for the Levites, Hashabiah son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok;

¹⁸ for Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers; for Issachar, Omri son of Michael;

¹⁹ for Zebulun, Ishmaiah son of Obadiah;for Naphtali, Jerimoth son of Azriel;

²⁰ for the Ephraimites, Hoshea son of Azaziah;for half the tribe of Manasseh, Joel son of Pedaiah;

²¹ for half the tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo son of Zechariah;for Benjamin, Jaasiel son of Abner;

²² for Dan, Azarel son of Jeroham.Those were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.

²³ David didn't count the men aged 20 or under, for the LORD had said He would make Israel as numerous as the stars of heaven.

²⁴ Joab son of Zeruiah began to count them, but he didn't complete it. There was wrath against Israel because of this census , and the number was not entered in the Historical Record of King David.

²⁵ Azmaveth son of Adiel was in charge of the king's storehouses. Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the storehouses in the country, in the cities, in the villages, and in the fortresses.

²⁶ Ezri son of Chelub was in charge of those who worked in the fields tilling the soil.

²⁷ Shimei the Ramathite was in charge of the vineyards. Zabdi the Shiphmite was in charge of the produce of the vineyards for the wine cellars.

²⁸ Baal-hanan the Gederite was in charge of the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah. Joash was in charge of the stores of olive oil.

²⁹ Shitrai the Sharonite was in charge of the herds that grazed in Sharon, while Shaphat son of Adlai was in charge of the herds in the valleys.

³⁰ Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels. Jehdeiah the Meronothite was in charge of the donkeys.

³¹ Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the flocks. All these were officials in charge of King David's property.

³² David's uncle Jonathan was a counselor; he was a man of understanding and a scribe. Jehiel son of Hachmoni attended the king's sons.

³³ Ahithophel was the king's counselor. Hushai the Archite was the king's friend.

³⁴ After Ahithophel came Jehoiada son of Benaiah, then Abiathar. Joab was the commander of the king's army.

28 ¹ David assembled in Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the leaders of the tribes, the leaders of the divisions in the king's service, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and

cattle of the king and his sons, along with the court officials, the fighting men, and all the brave warriors.

² Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. It was in my heart to build a house as a resting place for the ark of the LORD's covenant and as a footstool for our God. I had made preparations to build,

³ but God said to me, 'You are not to build a house for My name because you are a man of war and have shed blood.'

⁴ "Yet the LORD God of Israel chose me out of all my father's household to be king over Israel forever. For He chose Judah as leader, and from the house of Judah, my father's household, and from my father's sons, He was pleased to make me king over all Israel.

⁵ And out of all my sons--for the LORD has given me many sons--He has chosen

my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the LORD's kingdom over Israel.

⁶ He said to me, 'Your son Solomon is the one who is to build My house and My courts, for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his father.

⁷ I will establish his kingdom forever if he perseveres in keeping My commandments and My ordinances as he is today.'

⁸ "So now in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek after all the commandments of the LORD your God so that you may possess this good land and leave it as an inheritance to your descendants forever.

⁹ "As for you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands the intention of every

thought. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

¹⁰ Realize now that the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary. Be strong, and do it."

¹¹ Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the vestibule of the temple and its buildings, treasuries, upper rooms, inner rooms, and the room for the place of atonement.

¹² The plans contained everything he had in mind for the courts of the LORD's house, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of God's house, and the treasuries for what is dedicated.

¹³ Also included were plans for the divisions of the priests and the Levites; all the work of service in the LORD's house; all the articles of service of the LORD's house;

¹⁴ the weight of gold for all the articles for every kind of service; the weight of all the silver articles for every kind of service;

¹⁵ the weight of the gold lampstands and their gold lamps, including the weight of each lampstand and its lamps; the weight of each silver lampstand and its lamps, according to the service of each lampstand;

¹⁶ the weight of gold for each table for the rows of the bread of the Presence and the silver for the silver tables;

¹⁷ the pure gold for the forks, sprinkling basins, and pitchers; the weight of each gold dish; the weight of each silver bowl;

¹⁸ the weight of refined gold for the altar of incense; and the plans for the chariot of the gold cherubim that spread out their wings and cover the ark of the LORD's covenant.

¹⁹ David concluded, "By the LORD's hand on me, He enabled me to understand everything in writing, all the details of the plan."

²⁰ Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He won't leave you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the LORD's house is finished.

²¹ Here are the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of God's house. Every willing man of any skill will be at your disposal for the work, and the leaders and all the people are at your every command."

29 ¹ Then King David said to all the assembly, "My son Solomon--God has chosen him alone--is young and inexperienced. The task is great, for the

temple will not be for man, but for the LORD God.

² So to the best of my ability I've made provision for the house of my God: gold for the gold articles, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron, and wood for the wood, as well as onyx, stones for mounting, antimony, stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and a great quantity of marble.

³ Moreover, because of my delight in the house of my God, I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the house of my God over and above all that I've provided for the holy house:

⁴ 100 tons of gold (gold of Ophir) and 250 tons of refined silver for overlaying the walls of the buildings,

⁵ the gold for the gold work and the silver for the silver, for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who will

volunteer to consecrate himself to the LORD today?"

⁶ Then the leaders of the households, the leaders of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly.

⁷ For the service of God's house they gave 185 tons of gold and 10,000 gold drachmas, 375 tons of silver, 675 tons of bronze, and 4,000 tons of iron.

⁸ Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the LORD's house under the care of Jehiel the Gershonite.

⁹ Then the people rejoiced because of their leaders' willingness to give, for they had given to the LORD with a whole heart. King David also rejoiced greatly.

¹⁰ Then David praised the LORD in the sight of all the assembly. David said,

"May You be praised, LORD God of our father Israel, from eternity to eternity.

¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the splendor and the majesty, for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to You. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom, and You are exalted as head over all.

¹² Riches and honor come from You, and You are the ruler of everything. In Your hand are power and might, and it is in Your hand to make great and to give strength to all.

¹³ Now therefore, our God, we give You thanks and praise Your glorious name.

¹⁴ "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your own hand.

¹⁵ For we are foreigners and sojourners in Your presence as were all our

ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope.

¹⁶ LORD our God, all this wealth that we've provided for building You a house for Your holy name comes from Your hand; everything belongs to You.

¹⁷ I know, my God, that You test the heart and that You are pleased with uprightness. I have willingly given all these things with an upright heart, and now I have seen Your people who are present here giving joyfully and willingly to You.

¹⁸ LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep this desire forever in the thoughts of the hearts of Your people, and confirm their hearts toward You.

¹⁹ Give my son Solomon a whole heart to keep and to carry out all Your commandments, Your decrees, and Your

statutes, and to build the temple for which I have made provision."

²⁰ Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So the whole assembly praised the LORD God of their ancestors. They bowed down and paid homage to the LORD and the king.

²¹ The following day they offered sacrifices to the LORD and burnt offerings to the LORD: 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, and 1,000 lambs, along with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

²² They ate and drank with great joy in the LORD's presence that day. Then, for a second time, they made David's son Solomon king; they anointed him as the LORD's ruler, and Zadok as the priest.

²³ Solomon sat on the LORD's throne as king in place of his father David. He prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.

²⁴ All the leaders and the mighty men, and all of King David's sons as well, pledged their allegiance to King Solomon.

²⁵ The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him such royal majesty as had not been bestowed on any king over Israel before him.

²⁶ David son of Jesse was king over all Israel.

²⁷ The length of his reign over Israel was 40 years; he reigned in Hebron for seven years and in Jerusalem for 33.

²⁸ He died at a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor, and his son Solomon became king in his place.

²⁹ As for the events of King David's reign , from beginning to end, note that they are written about in the Events of Samuel the Seer, the Events of Nathan

the Prophet, and the Events of Gad the Seer,

³⁰ along with all his reign, his might, and the incidents that affected him and Israel and all the kingdoms of the surrounding lands.

2 Chronicles

1 ¹ Solomon son of David strengthened his hold on his kingdom. The LORD his God was with him and highly exalted him.

² Then Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel--the heads of the families.

³ Solomon and the whole assembly with him went to the high place that was in Gibeon because God's tent of meeting, which the LORD's servant Moses had made in the wilderness, was there.

⁴ Now, David had brought the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place he had set up for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem,

⁵ but he put the bronze altar, which Bezalel son of Uri, son of Hur, had made, in front of the LORD's tabernacle. Solomon and the assembly inquired of Him there .

⁶ Solomon offered sacrifices there in the LORD's presence on the bronze altar at the tent of meeting; he offered 1,000 burnt offerings on it.

⁷ That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him: "Ask. What should I give you?"

⁸ And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great faithful love to my father David, and You have made me king in his place.

⁹ LORD God, let Your promise to my father David now come true. For You have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.

¹⁰ Now, grant me wisdom and knowledge so that I may lead these

people, for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

¹¹ God said to Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not requested riches, wealth, or glory, or for the life of those who hate you, and you have not even requested long life, but you have requested for yourself wisdom and knowledge that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king,

¹² wisdom and knowledge are given to you. I will also give you riches, wealth, and glory, such that it was not like this for the kings who were before you, nor will it be like this for those after you."

¹³ So Solomon went to Jerusalem from the high place that was in Gibeon in front of the tent of meeting, and he reigned over Israel.

¹⁴ Solomon accumulated 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, which he

stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ The king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar as abundant as sycamore in the Judean foothills.

¹⁶ Solomon's horses came from Egypt and Kue. The king's traders would get them from Kue at the going price.

¹⁷ A chariot could be imported from Egypt for 15 pounds of silver and a horse for about four pounds. In the same way, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and to the kings of Aram through their agents.

2 ¹ Solomon decided to build a temple for the name of the LORD and a royal palace for himself,

² so he assigned 70,000 men as porters, 80,000 men as stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600 as supervisors over them.

³ Then Solomon sent word to King Hiram of Tyre: Do for me what you did for my father David. You sent him cedars to build him a house to live in.

⁴ Now I myself am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God in order to dedicate it to Him for burning sweet incense before Him, for displaying the rows of the bread of the Presence continuously, and for sacrificing burnt offerings for the evening and the morning, the Sabbaths and the New Moons, and the appointed festivals of the LORD our God. This is ordained for Israel forever.

⁵ The temple that I am building will be great, for our God is greater than any of the gods.

⁶ But who is able to build a temple for Him, since even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain Him? Who am I then that I should build a house for Him

except as a place to burn incense before Him?

⁷ Therefore, send me a craftsman who is skilled in engraving to work with gold, silver, bronze, and iron, and with purple, crimson, and blue yarn. He will work with the craftsmen who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, appointed by my father David.

⁸ Also, send me cedar, cypress, and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut the trees of Lebanon. Note that my servants will be with your servants

⁹ to prepare logs for me in abundance because the temple I am building will be great and wonderful.

¹⁰ I will give your servants, the woodcutters who cut the trees, 100,000 bushels of wheat flour, 100,000 bushels of barley, 110,000 gallons of wine, and 110,000 gallons of oil.

¹¹ Then King Hiram of Tyre wrote a letter and sent it to Solomon: Because the LORD loves His people, He set you over them as king.

¹² Hiram also said: May the LORD God of Israel, who made the heavens and the earth, be praised! He gave King David a wise son with insight and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

¹³ I have now sent Hiram-abi, a skillful man who has understanding.

¹⁴ He is the son of a woman from the daughters of Dan. His father is a man of Tyre. He knows how to work with gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, with purple, blue, crimson yarn, and fine linen. He knows how to do all kinds of engraving and to execute any design that may be given him. I have sent him to be with your craftsmen and the craftsmen of my lord, your father David.

¹⁵ Now, let my lord send the wheat, barley, oil, and wine to his servants as promised.

¹⁶ We will cut logs from Lebanon, as many as you need, and bring them to you as rafts by sea to Joppa. You can then take them up to Jerusalem.

¹⁷ Solomon took a census of all the foreign men in the land of Israel, after the census that his father David had conducted, and the total was 153,600.

¹⁸ Solomon made 70,000 of them porters, 80,000 stonecutters in the mountains, and 3,600 supervisors to make the people work.

3 ¹ Then Solomon began to build the LORD's temple in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the site David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

² He began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

³ These are Solomon's foundations for building God's temple: the length was 90 feet, and the width 30 feet.

⁴ The portico, which was across the front extending across the width of the temple, was 30 feet wide; its height was 30 feet; he overlaid its inner surface with pure gold.

⁵ The larger room he paneled with cypress wood, overlaid with fine gold, and decorated with palm trees and chains.

⁶ He adorned the temple with precious stones for beauty, and the gold was the gold of Parvaim.

⁷ He overlaid the temple--the beams, the thresholds, its walls and doors--with gold, and he carved cherubim on the walls.

⁸ Then he made the most holy place; its length corresponded to the width of the temple, 30 feet, and its width was 30 feet. He overlaid it with 45,000 pounds of fine gold.

⁹ The weight of the nails was 20 ounces of gold, and he overlaid the ceiling with gold.

¹⁰ He made two cherubim of sculptured work, for the most holy place, and he overlaid them with gold.

¹¹ The overall length of the wings of the cherubim was 30 feet: the wing of one was seven and a half feet, touching the wall of the room; its other wing was seven and a half feet, touching the wing of the other cherub.

¹² The wing of the other cherub was seven and a half feet, touching the wall of the room; its other wing was seven and a half feet, reaching the wing of the other cherub.

¹³ The wingspan of these cherubim was 30 feet. They stood on their feet and faced the larger room.

¹⁴ He made the veil of blue, purple, and crimson yarn and fine linen, and he wove cherubim into it.

¹⁵ In front of the temple he made two pillars, each 27 feet high. The capital on top of each was seven and half feet high.

¹⁶ He had made chainwork in the inner sanctuary and also put it on top of the pillars. He made 100 pomegranates and fastened them into the chainwork.

¹⁷ Then he set up the pillars in front of the sanctuary, one on the right and one on the left. He named the one on the right Jachin and the one on the left Boaz.

4 ¹ He made a bronze altar 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet high.

² Then he made the cast metal reservoir, 15 feet from brim to brim, perfectly

round. It was seven and a half feet high, and 45 feet in circumference.

³ The likeness of oxen was below it, completely encircling it, 10 every half yard, completely surrounding the reservoir. The oxen were cast in two rows when the reservoir was cast.

⁴ It stood on 12 oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The reservoir was on top of them and all their hindquarters were toward the center.

⁵ The reservoir was three inches thick, and its rim was fashioned like the brim of a cup or a lily blossom. It could hold 11,000 gallons.

⁶ He made 10 basins for washing and he put five on the right and five on the left. The parts of the burnt offering were rinsed in them, but the reservoir was used by the priests for washing.

⁷ He made the 10 gold lampstands according to their specifications and put them in the sanctuary, five on the right and five on the left.

⁸ He made 10 tables and placed them in the sanctuary, five on the right and five on the left. He also made 100 gold bowls.

⁹ He made the courtyard of the priests and the large court, and doors for the court. He overlaid the doors with bronze.

¹⁰ He put the reservoir on the right side, toward the southeast.

¹¹ Then Hiram made the pots, the shovels, and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing the work that he was doing for King Solomon in God's temple:

¹² two pillars; the bowls and the capitals on top of the two pillars; the two gratings for covering both bowls of the capitals that were on top of the pillars;

¹³ the 400 pomegranates for the two gratings (two rows of pomegranates for each grating covering both capitals' bowls on top of the pillars).

¹⁴ He also made the water carts and the basins on the water carts.

¹⁵ The one reservoir and the 12 oxen underneath it,

¹⁶ the pots, the shovels, the forks, and all their utensils--Hiram-abi made them for King Solomon for the LORD's temple. All these were made of polished bronze.

¹⁷ The king had them cast in clay molds in the Jordan Valley between Succoth and Zeredah.

¹⁸ Solomon made all these utensils in such great abundance that the weight of the bronze was not determined.

¹⁹ Solomon also made all the equipment in God's temple: the gold altar; the tables on which to put the bread of the Presence;

²⁰ the lampstands and their lamps of pure gold to burn in front of the inner sanctuary according to specifications;

²¹ the flowers, lamps, and gold tongs--of purest gold;

²² the wick trimmers, sprinkling basins, ladles, and firepans--of purest gold; and the entryway to the temple, its inner doors to the most holy place, and the doors of the temple sanctuary--of gold.

5 ¹ So all the work Solomon did for the LORD's temple was completed. Then Solomon brought the consecrated things of his father David--the silver, the gold, and all the utensils--and put them in the treasuries of God's temple.

² At that time Solomon assembled at Jerusalem the elders of Israel--all the tribal heads, the ancestral chiefs of the Israelites--in order to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the city of David, that is, Zion.

³ So all the men of Israel were assembled in the king's presence at the festival; this was in the seventh month.

⁴ All the elders of Israel came, and the Levites picked up the ark.

⁵ They brought up the ark, the tent of meeting, and the holy utensils that were in the tent. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

⁶ King Solomon and the entire congregation of Israel who had gathered around him were in front of the ark sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered because there were so many.

⁷ The priests brought the ark of the LORD's covenant to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the most holy place, beneath the wings of the cherubim.

⁸ And the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark so that the

cherubim formed a cover above the ark and its poles.

⁹ The poles were so long that their ends were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary, but they were not seen from outside; they are there to this very day.

¹⁰ Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had put in it at Horeb, where the LORD had made a covenant with the Israelites when they came out of Egypt.

¹¹ When the priests came out of the holy place--for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves regardless of their tour of duty--

¹² the Levitical singers of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, and of their sons and their relatives, dressed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps and lyres, were standing east of the altar, and with them were 120 priests blowing trumpets.

¹³ The trumpeters and singers joined together to praise and thank the LORD with one voice. They raised their voices, accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and musical instruments, in praise to the LORD: For He is good; His faithful love endures forever; the temple, the LORD's temple, was filled with a cloud.

¹⁴ And because of the cloud, the priests were not able to continue ministering, for the glory of the LORD filled God's temple.

6 ¹ Then Solomon said: The LORD said He would dwell in thick darkness,
² but I have built an exalted temple for You, a place for Your residence forever.

³ Then the king turned and blessed the entire congregation of Israel while they were standing.

⁴ He said: May the LORD God of Israel be praised! He spoke directly to my

father David, and He has fulfilled the promise by His power. He said,

⁵ "Since the day I brought My people Israel out of the land of Egypt, I have not chosen a city to build a temple in among any of the tribes of Israel, so that My name would be there, and I have not chosen a man to be ruler over My people Israel.

⁶ But I have chosen Jerusalem so that My name will be there, and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel."

⁷ Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

⁸ However, the LORD said to my father David, "Since it was your desire to build a temple for My name, you have done well to have this desire.

⁹ Yet, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, your own

offspring, will build the temple for My name."

¹⁰ So the LORD has fulfilled what He promised. I have taken the place of my father David and I sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised. I have built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

¹¹ I have put the ark there, where the LORD's covenant is that He made with the Israelites.

¹² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the entire congregation of Israel and spread out his hands.

¹³ For Solomon had made a bronze platform seven and a half feet long, seven and a half feet wide, and four and a half feet high and put it in the court. He stood on it, knelt down in front of the entire congregation of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven.

¹⁴ He said: LORD God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven or on earth, keeping His gracious covenant with Your servants who walk before You with their whole heart.

¹⁵ You have kept what You promised to Your servant, my father David. You spoke directly to him , and You fulfilled Your promise by Your power, as it is today.

¹⁶ Therefore, LORD God of Israel, keep what You promised to Your servant, my father David: You will never fail to have a man to sit before Me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons guard their way to walk in My Law as you have walked before Me.

¹⁷ Now, LORD God of Israel, please confirm what You promised to Your servant David.

¹⁸ But will God indeed live on earth with man? Even heaven, the highest

heaven, cannot contain You, much less this temple I have built.

¹⁹ Listen to Your servant's prayer and his petition, LORD my God, so that You may hear the cry and the prayer that Your servant prays before You,

²⁰ so that Your eyes watch over this temple day and night, toward the place where You said You would put Your name; and so that You may hear the prayer Your servant prays toward this place.

²¹ Hear the petitions of Your servant and Your people Israel, which they pray toward this place. May You hear in Your dwelling place in heaven. May You hear and forgive.

²² If a man sins against his neighbor and is forced to take an oath and he comes to take an oath before Your altar in this temple,

²³ may You hear in heaven and act. May You judge Your servants, condemning the wicked by bringing what he has done on his own head and providing justice for the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

²⁴ If Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy, because they have sinned against You, and they return to You and praise Your name, and they pray and plead for mercy before You in this temple,

²⁵ may You hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel. May You restore them to the land You gave them and their ancestors.

²⁶ When the skies are shut and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, and they pray toward this place and praise Your name, and they turn from their sins because You are afflicting them,

²⁷ may You hear in heaven and forgive the sin of Your servants and Your people Israel, so that You may teach them the good way they should walk in. May You send rain on Your land that You gave Your people for an inheritance.

²⁸ When there is famine on the earth, when there is pestilence, when there is blight, mildew, locust, or grasshopper, when their enemies besiege them in the region of their fortified cities, when there is any plague or illness,

²⁹ whatever prayer or petition anyone from your people Israel might have--each man knowing his own affliction and suffering, and spreading out his hands toward this temple--

³⁰ may You hear in heaven, Your dwelling place, and may You forgive and repay the man according to all his ways, since You know his heart, for You alone know the human heart,

³¹ so that they may fear You and walk in Your ways all the days they live on the land You gave our ancestors.

³² Even for the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of Your great name and Your mighty hand and outstretched arm: when he comes and prays toward this temple,

³³ may You hear in heaven in Your dwelling place, and do all the foreigner asks You for. Then all the peoples of the earth will know Your name, to fear You as Your people Israel do and know that this temple I have built is called by Your name.

³⁴ When Your people go out to fight against their enemies, wherever You send them, and they pray to You in the direction of this city You have chosen and the temple that I have built for Your name,

³⁵ may You hear their prayer and petition in heaven and uphold their cause.

³⁶ When they sin against You--for there is no one who does not sin--and You are angry with them and hand them over to the enemy, and their captors deport them to a distant or nearby country,

³⁷ and when they come to their senses in the land where they were deported and repent and petition You in their captors' land, saying: "We have sinned and done wrong; we have been wicked,"

³⁸ and when they return to You with their whole mind and heart in the land of their captivity where they were taken captive, and when they pray in the direction of their land that You gave their ancestors, and the city You have chosen, and toward the temple I have built for Your name,

³⁹ may You hear in heaven, in Your dwelling place, their prayer and petitions and uphold their cause. May You forgive Your people who sinned against You.

⁴⁰ Now, my God, please let Your eyes be open and Your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.

⁴¹ Now therefore: Arise, LORD God, come to Your resting place, You and the ark that shows Your strength. May Your priests, LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and may Your godly people rejoice in goodness.

⁴² LORD God, do not reject Your anointed one; remember the loyalty of Your servant David.

7 ¹ When Solomon finished praying, fire descended from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

² The priests were not able to enter the LORD's temple because the glory of the LORD filled the temple of the LORD.

³ All the Israelites were watching when the fire descended and the glory of the LORD came on the temple. They bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement. They worshiped and praised the LORD: For He is good, for His faithful love endures forever.

⁴ The king and all the people were offering sacrifices in the LORD's presence.

⁵ King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 cattle and 120,000 sheep. In this manner the king and all the people dedicated God's temple.

⁶ The priests were standing at their stations, as were the Levites with the musical instruments of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD--"for His faithful love endures

forever"--when David offered praise with them. Across from them, the priests were blowing trumpets, and all the people were standing.

⁷ Solomon consecrated the middle of the courtyard that was in front of the LORD's temple because that was where he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the fellowship offerings since the bronze altar that Solomon had made could not accommodate the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the fat of the fellowship offerings .

⁸ So Solomon and all Israel with him--a very great assembly, from the entrance to Hamath to the Brook of Egypt--observed the festival at that time for seven days.

⁹ On the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for the dedication of the altar lasted seven days and the festival seven days.

¹⁰ On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, rejoicing and with happy hearts for the goodness the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel.

¹¹ So Solomon finished the LORD's temple and the royal palace. Everything that had entered Solomon's heart to do for the LORD's temple and for his own palace succeeded.

¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him: I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a temple of sacrifice.

¹³ If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the grasshopper to consume the land, or if I send pestilence on My people,

¹⁴ and My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways,

then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

¹⁵ My eyes will now be open and My ears attentive to prayer from this place.

¹⁶ And I have now chosen and consecrated this temple so that My name may be there forever; My eyes and My heart will be there at all times.

¹⁷ As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, doing everything I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and ordinances,

¹⁸ I will establish your royal throne, as I promised your father David: You will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.

¹⁹ However, if you turn away and abandon My statutes and My commands that I have set before you and if you go and serve other gods and worship them,

²⁰ then I will uproot Israel from the soil that I gave them, and this temple

that I have sanctified for My name I will banish from My presence; I will make it an object of scorn and ridicule among all the peoples.

²¹ As for this temple, which was exalted, every passerby will be appalled and will say: Why did the LORD do this to this land and this temple?

²² Then they will say: Because they abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors who brought them out of the land of Egypt. They clung to other gods and worshiped and served them. Because of this, He brought all this ruin on them.

8 ¹ At the end of 20 years during which Solomon had built the LORD's temple and his own palace--

² Solomon having rebuilt the cities Hiram gave him and having settled the Israelites there--

³ Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and seized it.

⁴ He built Tadmor in the wilderness along with all the storage cities that he built in Hamath.

⁵ He built Upper Beth-horon and Lower Beth-horon--fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars--

⁶ Baalath, all the storage cities that belonged to Solomon, all the chariot cities, the cavalry cities, and everything Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, Lebanon, or anywhere else in the land of his dominion.

⁷ As for all the peoples who remained of the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not from Israel--

⁸ their descendants who remained in the land after them, those whom the Israelites had not completely

destroyed--Solomon imposed forced labor on them; it is this way today.

⁹ But Solomon did not consign the Israelites to be slaves for his work; they were soldiers, commanders of his captains, and commanders of his chariots and his cavalry.

¹⁰ These were King Solomon's deputies: 250 who ruled over the people.

¹¹ Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh from the city of David to the house he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the house of David king of Israel because the places to which the ark of the LORD has come are holy."

¹² At that time Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the LORD's altar he had made in front of the vestibule

¹³ following the daily requirement for offerings according to the commandment of Moses for Sabbaths,

New Moons, and the three annual appointed festivals: the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths.

¹⁴ According to the ordinances of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests over their service, of the Levites over their responsibilities to offer praise and to minister before the priests following the daily requirement, and of the gatekeepers by their divisions with respect to each gate, for this had been the command of David, the man of God.

¹⁵ They did not turn aside from the king's command regarding the priests and the Levites concerning any matter or concerning the treasuries.

¹⁶ All of Solomon's work was carried out from the day the foundation was laid for the LORD's temple until it was finished. So the LORD's temple was completed.

¹⁷ At that time Solomon went to Eziongeber and to Eloth on the seashore in the land of Edom.

¹⁸ So through his servants, Hiram sent him ships with crews of experienced seamen. They went with Solomon's servants to Ophir, took from there 17 tons of gold, and delivered it to King Solomon.

9 ¹ The queen of Sheba heard of Solomon's fame, so she came to test Solomon with difficult questions at Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels bearing spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and spoke with him about everything that was on her mind.

² So Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too difficult for Solomon to explain to her.

³ When the queen of Sheba observed Solomon's wisdom, the palace he had built,

⁴ the food at his table, his servants' residence, his attendants' service and their attire, his cupbearers and their attire, and the burnt offerings he offered at the LORD's temple, it took her breath away.

⁵ She said to the king, "The report I heard in my own country about your words and about your wisdom is true.

⁶ But I didn't believe their reports until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, I was not even told half of your great wisdom! You far exceed the report I heard.

⁷ How happy are your men. How happy are these servants of yours, who always stand in your presence hearing your wisdom.

⁸ May the LORD your God be praised! He delighted in you and put you on his throne as king for the LORD your God. Because Your God loved Israel enough to establish them forever, He has set you over them as king to carry out justice and righteousness."

⁹ Then she gave the king four and a half tons of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones. There never were such spices as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹⁰ In addition, Hiram's servants and Solomon's servants who brought gold from Ophir also brought algum wood and precious stones.

¹¹ The king made the algum wood into walkways for the LORD's temple and for the king's palace and into harps and lyres for the singers. Never before had anything like them been seen in the land of Judah.

¹² King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba her every desire, whatever she asked--far more than she had brought the king. Then she, along with her servants, returned to her own country.

¹³ The weight of gold that came to Solomon annually was 25 tons,

¹⁴ besides what was brought by the merchants and traders. All the Arabian kings and governors of the land also brought gold and silver to Solomon.

¹⁵ King Solomon made 200 large shields of hammered gold; 15 pounds of hammered gold went into each shield.

¹⁶ He made 300 small shields of hammered gold; about eight pounds of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷ The king also made a large ivory throne and overlaid it with pure gold.

¹⁸ The throne had six steps; there was a footstool covered in gold for the throne, armrests on either side of the seat, and two lions standing beside the armrests.

¹⁹ Twelve lions were standing there on the six steps, one at each end. Nothing like it had ever been made in any other kingdom.

²⁰ All of King Solomon's drinking cups were gold, and all the utensils of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. There was no silver, since it was considered as nothing in Solomon's time,

²¹ for the king's ships kept going to Tarshish with Hiram's servants, and once every three years the ships of Tarshish would arrive bearing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²² King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the world in riches and wisdom.

²³ All the kings of the world wanted an audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart.

²⁴ Each of them would bring his own gift--items of silver and gold, clothing, weapons, spices, and horses and mules--as an annual tribute.

²⁵ Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. He stationed them in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

²⁶ He ruled over all the kings from the Euphrates River to the land of the Philistines and as far as the border of Egypt.

²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar as abundant as sycamore in the Judean foothills.

²⁸ They were bringing horses for Solomon from Egypt and from all the countries.

²⁹ The remaining events of Solomon's reign , from beginning to end, are written about in the Events of Nathan the Prophet, the Prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and the Visions of Iddo the Seer concerning Jeroboam son of Nebat.

³⁰ Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel for 40 years.

³¹ Solomon rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of his father David. His son Rehoboam became king in his place.

10 ¹ Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

² When Jeroboam son of Nebat heard about it --for he was in Egypt where he had fled from King Solomon's presence--Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

³ So they summoned him. Then Jeroboam and all Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam:

⁴ "Your father made our yoke harsh. Therefore, lighten your father's harsh service and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵ Rehoboam replied, "Return to me in three days." So the people left.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam consulted with the elders who had served his father Solomon when he was alive, asking, "How do you advise me to respond to this people?"

⁷ They replied, "If you will be kind to these people and please them by speaking kind words to them, they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But he rejected the advice of the elders who had advised him and consulted with the young men who had

grown up with him, the ones serving him.

⁹ He asked them, "What message do you advise we send back to this people who said to me, 'Lighten the yoke your father put on us'?"

¹⁰ Then the young men who had grown up with him told him, "This is what you should say to the people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you, make it lighter on us!' This is what you should say to them: 'My little finger is thicker than my father's loins.

¹¹ Now therefore, my father burdened you with a heavy yoke, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I, with barbed whips.'"

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, just as the king had ordered, saying, "Return to me on the third day."

¹³ Then the king answered them harshly. King Rehoboam rejected the elders' advice

¹⁴ and spoke to them according to the young men's advice, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it; my father disciplined you with whips, but I, with barbed whips."

¹⁵ The king did not listen to the people because the turn of events came from God, in order that the LORD might carry out His word that He had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat.

¹⁶ When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered the king: What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Israel, each man to your tent; David, look after your own house now! So all Israel went to their tents.

¹⁷ But as for the Israelites living in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was in charge of the forced labor, but the Israelites stoned him to death. However, King Rehoboam managed to get up into the chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Israel is in rebellion against the house of David until today.

11 ¹ When Rehoboam arrived in Jerusalem, he mobilized the house of Judah and Benjamin--180,000 choice warriors--to fight against Israel to restore the reign to Rehoboam.

² But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, the man of God:

³ "Say to Rehoboam son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people:

⁴ 'This is what the LORD says: You are not to march up and fight against your brothers. Each of you must return home, for this incident has come from Me.'" So they listened to what the LORD said and turned back from going against Jeroboam.

⁵ Rehoboam stayed in Jerusalem, and he fortified cities in Judah.

⁶ He built up Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

⁷ Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam,

⁸ Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

⁹ Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

¹⁰ Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, which are fortified cities in Judah and in Benjamin.

¹¹ He strengthened their fortifications and put leaders in them with supplies of food, oil, and wine.

¹² He also put large shields and spears in each and every city to make them very strong. So Judah and Benjamin were his.

¹³ The priests and Levites from all their regions throughout Israel took their stand with Rehoboam,

¹⁴ for the Levites left their pasturelands and their possessions and went to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons refused to let them serve as priests of the LORD.

¹⁵ Jeroboam appointed his own priests for the high places, the goat-demons, and the gold calves he had made.

¹⁶ Those from every tribe of Israel who had determined in their hearts to seek the LORD their God followed the Levites to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their ancestors.

¹⁷ So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah and supported Rehoboam son of Solomon for three years, because they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.

¹⁸ Rehoboam married Mahalath, daughter of David's son Jerimoth and of Abihail daughter of Jesse's son Eliab.

¹⁹ She bore him sons: Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham.

²⁰ After her, he married Maacah daughter of Absalom. She bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.

²¹ Rehoboam loved Maacah daughter of Absalom more than all his wives and concubines. He acquired 18 wives and 60 concubines and was the father of 28 sons and 60 daughters.

²² Rehoboam appointed Abijah son of Maacah as chief, leader among his brothers, intending to make him king.

²³ Rehoboam also showed discernment by dispersing some of his sons to all the regions of Judah and Benjamin and to all the fortified cities. He gave them plenty of provisions and sought many wives for them.

12 ¹ When Rehoboam had established his sovereignty and royal power, he abandoned the law of the LORD--he and all Israel with him.

² Because they were unfaithful to the LORD, in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt went to war against Jerusalem

³ with 1,200 chariots, 60,000 cavalrymen, and countless people who came with him from Egypt--Libyans, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians.

⁴ He captured the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

⁵ Then Shemaiah the prophet went to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah who were gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak. He said to them: "This is what the LORD says: 'You have abandoned Me; therefore, I have abandoned you into the hand of Shishak.'"

⁶ So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous."

⁷ When the LORD saw that they had humbled themselves, the LORD's message came to Shemaiah: "They have humbled themselves; I will not destroy them but will grant them a little deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak.

⁸ However, they will become his servants so that they may recognize the difference between serving Me and serving the kingdoms of the land."

⁹ So King Shishak of Egypt went to war against Jerusalem. He seized the treasuries of the LORD's temple and the treasuries of the royal palace. He took everything. He took the gold shields that Solomon had made.

¹⁰ King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place and committed them into

the care of the captains of the royal escorts who guarded the entrance to the king's palace.

¹¹ Whenever the king entered the LORD's temple, the royal escorts would carry the shields and take them back to the royal escorts' armory.

¹² When Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD's anger turned away from him, and He did not destroy him completely. Besides that, conditions were good in Judah.

¹³ King Rehoboam established his royal power in Jerusalem. Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became king; he reigned 17 years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen from all the tribes of Israel to put His name. Rehoboam's mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite.

¹⁴ Rehoboam did what was evil, because he did not determine in his heart to seek the LORD.

¹⁵ The events of Rehoboam's reign, from beginning to end, are written about in the Events of Shemaiah the Prophet and of Iddo the Seer concerning genealogies. There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam throughout their reigns.

¹⁶ Rehoboam rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. His son Abijah became king in his place.

13 ¹ In the eighteenth year of Israel's King Jeroboam, Abijah became king over Judah;

² he reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Micaiah daughter of Uriel; she was from Gibeah. There was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

³ Abijah set his army of warriors in order with 400,000 choice men. Jeroboam arranged his mighty army of 800,000 choice men in battle formation against him.

⁴ Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, and said, "Jeroboam and all Israel, hear me.

⁵ Don't you know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel to David and his descendants forever by a covenant of salt?

⁶ But Jeroboam son of Nebat, a servant of Solomon son of David, rose up and rebelled against his lord.

⁷ Then worthless and wicked men gathered around him to resist Rehoboam son of Solomon when Rehoboam was young, inexperienced, and unable to assert himself against them.

⁸ "And now you are saying you can assert yourselves against the LORD's kingdom in the hand of one of David's sons. You are a vast multitude and have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made for you as gods.

⁹ Didn't you banish the priests of the LORD, the descendants of Aaron and the Levites, and make your own priests like the peoples of other lands do? Whoever comes to ordain himself with a young bull and seven rams may become a priest of what are not gods.

¹⁰ "But as for us, the LORD is our God. We have not abandoned Him; the priests ministering to the LORD are descendants of Aaron, and the Levites serve at their tasks.

¹¹ They offer a burnt offering and fragrant incense to the LORD every morning and every evening, and they set the rows of the bread of the Presence

on the ceremonially clean table. They light the lamps of the gold lampstand every evening. We are carrying out the requirements of the LORD our God, while you have abandoned Him.

¹² Look, God and His priests are with us at our head. The trumpets are ready to sound the charge against you. Israelites, don't fight against the LORD God of your ancestors, for you will not succeed."

¹³ Now Jeroboam had sent an ambush around to advance from behind them. So they were in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.

¹⁴ Judah turned and discovered that the battle was in front of them and behind them, so they cried out to the LORD. Then the priests blew the trumpets,

¹⁵ and the men of Judah raised the battle cry. When the men of Judah raised the battle cry, God routed Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶ So the Israelites fled before Judah, and God handed them over to them.

¹⁷ Then Abijah and his people struck them with a mighty blow, and 500,000 choice men of Israel were killed.

¹⁸ The Israelites were subdued at that time. The Judahites succeeded because they depended on the LORD, the God of their ancestors.

¹⁹ Abijah pursued Jeroboam and captured some cities from him: Bethel and its villages, Jeshanah and its villages, and Ephron and its villages.

²⁰ Jeroboam no longer retained his power during Abijah's reign; ultimately, the LORD struck him and he died.

²¹ However, Abijah grew strong, acquired 14 wives, and fathered 22 sons and 16 daughters.

²² The rest of the events of Abijah's reign , along with his ways and his

sayings, are written about in the Writing of the Prophet Iddo.

14 ¹ Abijah rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. His son Asa became king in his place. During his reign the land experienced peace for 10 years.

² Asa did what was good and right in the sight of the LORD his God.

³ He removed the pagan altars and the high places. He shattered their sacred pillars and chopped down their Asherah poles.

⁴ He told the people of Judah to seek the LORD God of their ancestors and to carry out the instruction and the command.

⁵ He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom experienced peace under him.

⁶ Because the land experienced peace, Asa built fortified cities in Judah. No one made war with him in those days because the LORD gave him rest.

⁷ So he said to the people of Judah, "Let's build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, with doors and bars. The land is still ours because we sought the LORD our God. We sought Him and He gave us rest on every side." So they built and succeeded.

⁸ Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah bearing large shields and spears, and 280,000 from Benjamin bearing regular shields and drawing the bow. All these were brave warriors.

⁹ Then Zerah the Cushite came against them with an army of one million men and 300 chariots. They came as far as Mareshah.

¹⁰ So Asa marched out against him and lined up in battle formation in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

¹¹ Then Asa cried out to the LORD his God: "LORD, there is no one besides You to help the mighty and those without strength. Help us, LORD our God, for we depend on You, and in Your name we have come against this multitude. LORD, You are our God. Do not let a mere mortal hinder You."

¹² So the LORD routed the Cushites before Asa and before Judah, and the Cushites fled.

¹³ Then Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar. The Cushites fell until they had no survivors, for they were crushed before the LORD and before His army. So the people of Judah carried off a great supply of loot.

¹⁴ Then they attacked all the cities around Gerar because the terror of the LORD was on them. They also plundered all the cities, since there was a great deal of plunder in them.

¹⁵ They also attacked the tents of the herdsmen and captured many sheep and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

15 ¹ The Spirit of God came on Azariah son of Oded.

² So he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Asa and all Judah and Benjamin, hear me. The LORD is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you abandon Him, He will abandon you.

³ For many years Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law,

⁴ but when they turned to the LORD God of Israel in their distress and sought Him, He was found by them.

⁵ In those times there was no peace for those who went about their daily activities because the residents of the lands had many conflicts.

⁶ Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every possible distress.

⁷ But as for you, be strong; don't be discouraged, for your work has a reward."

⁸ When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage and removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities he had captured in the hill country of Ephraim. He renovated the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the LORD's temple .

⁹ Then he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, as well as those from the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who had settled among them, for they had defected to him from Israel in great numbers when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

¹⁰ They were gathered in Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of Asa's reign.

¹¹ At that time they sacrificed to the LORD 700 cattle and 7,000 sheep from all the plunder they had brought.

¹² Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their ancestors with all their mind and all their heart.

¹³ Whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel would be put to death, young or old, man or woman.

¹⁴ They took an oath to the LORD in a loud voice, with shouting, with trumpets, and with rams' horns.

¹⁵ All Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn it with all their mind. They had sought Him with all their heart, and He was found by them. So the LORD gave them rest on every side.

¹⁶ King Asa also removed Maacah, his grandmother, from being queen mother because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. Asa chopped down her obscene image, then crushed it and burned it in the Kidron Valley.

¹⁷ The high places were not taken away from Israel; nevertheless, Asa was wholehearted his entire life.

¹⁸ He brought his father's consecrated gifts and his own consecrated gifts into God's temple: silver, gold, and utensils.

¹⁹ There was no war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign.

16 ¹ In the thirty-sixth year of Asa, Israel's King Baasha went to war against Judah. He built Ramah in

order to deny anyone's access--going or coming--to Judah's King Asa.

² So Asa brought out the silver and gold from the treasuries of the LORD's temple and the royal palace and sent it to Aram's King Ben-hadad, who lived in Damascus, saying,

³ "There's a treaty between me and you, between my father and your father. Look, I have sent you silver and gold. Go break your treaty with Israel's King Baasha so that he will withdraw from me."

⁴ Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies to the cities of Israel. They attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali.

⁵ When Baasha heard about it , he quit building Ramah and stopped his work.

⁶ Then King Asa brought all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah

and the timbers Baasha had built it with. Then he built Geba and Mizpah with them.

⁷ At that time, Hanani the seer came to King Asa of Judah and said to him, "Because you depended on the king of Aram and have not depended on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.

⁸ Were not the Cushites and Libyans a vast army with very many chariots and horsemen? When you depended on the LORD, He handed them over to you.

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His. You have been foolish in this matter, for from now on, you will have wars."

¹⁰ Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison because of his anger over

this. And Asa mistreated some of the people at that time.

¹¹ Note that the events of Asa's reign , from beginning to end, are written about in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

¹² In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a disease in his feet, and his disease became increasingly severe. Yet even in his disease he didn't seek the LORD but the physicians.

¹³ Asa died in the forty-first year of his reign and rested with his fathers.

¹⁴ He was buried in his own tomb that he had hewn out for himself in the city of David. They laid him out in a coffin that was full of spices and various mixtures of prepared ointments; then they made a great fire in his honor.

17 ¹ His son Jehoshaphat became king in his place and strengthened himself against Israel.

² He stationed troops in every fortified city of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim that his father Asa had captured.

³ Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the former ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals

⁴ but sought the God of his father and walked by His commands, not according to the practices of Israel.

⁵ So the LORD established the kingdom in his hand. Then all Judah brought him tribute, and he had riches and honor in abundance.

⁶ His mind rejoiced in the LORD's ways, and he again removed the high places and Asherah poles from Judah.

⁷ In the third year of his reign, Jehoshaphat sent his officials--Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah--to teach in the cities of Judah.

⁸ The Levites with them were Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tob-adonijah; the priests, Elishama and Jehoram, were with these Levites.

⁹ They taught throughout Judah, having the book of the LORD's instruction with them. They went throughout the towns of Judah and taught the people.

¹⁰ The terror of the LORD was on all the kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah, so they didn't fight against Jehoshaphat.

¹¹ Some of the Philistines also brought gifts and silver as tribute to Jehoshaphat, and the Arabs brought him flocks: 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

¹² Jehoshaphat grew stronger and stronger. He built fortresses and storage cities in Judah

¹³ and carried out great works in the towns of Judah. He had fighting men, brave warriors, in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ These are their numbers according to their ancestral families. For Judah, the commanders of thousands: Adnah the commander and 300,000 brave warriors with him;

¹⁵ next to him, Jehohanan the commander and 280,000 with him;

¹⁶ next to him, Amasiah son of Zichri, the volunteer of the LORD, and 200,000 brave warriors with him;

¹⁷ from Benjamin, Eliada, a brave warrior, and 200,000 with him armed with bow and shield;

¹⁸ next to him, Jehozabad and 180,000 with him equipped for war.

¹⁹ These were the ones who served the king, besides those he stationed in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

18 ¹ Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance, and he made an alliance with Ahab through marriage.

² Then after some years, he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria. Ahab sacrificed many sheep and cattle for him and for the people who were with him. Then he persuaded him to march up to Ramoth-gilead,

³ for Israel's King Ahab asked Judah's King Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead?" He replied to him, "I am as you are, my people as your people; we will be with you in the battle."

⁴ But Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "First, please ask what the LORD's will is."

⁵ So the king of Israel gathered the prophets, 400 men, and asked them, "Should we go to Ramoth-gilead for

war or should I refrain?" They replied, "March up, and God will hand it over to the king."

⁶ But Jehoshaphat asked, "Isn't there a prophet of Yahweh here any more? Let's ask him."

⁷ The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man who can ask the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." "The king shouldn't say that," Jehoshaphat replied.

⁸ So the king of Israel called an officer and said, "Hurry and get Micaiah son of Imlah!"

⁹ Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah, clothed in royal attire, were each sitting on his own throne. They were sitting on the threshing floor at the entrance to

Samaria's gate, and all the prophets were prophesying in front of them.

¹⁰ Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made iron horns and said, "This is what the LORD says: 'You will gore the Arameans with these until they are finished off.'"

¹¹ And all the prophets were prophesying the same, saying, "March up to Ramoth-gilead and succeed, for the LORD will hand it over to the king."

¹² The messenger who went to call Micaiah instructed him, "Look, the words of the prophets are unanimously favorable for the king. So let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably."

¹³ But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, I will say whatever my God says."

¹⁴ So he went to the king, and the king asked him, "Micaiah, should we go to Ramoth-gilead for war, or should I refrain?" Micaiah said, "March up and

succeed, for they will be handed over to you."

¹⁵ But the king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear not to tell me anything but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁶ So Micaiah said: I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd. And the LORD said, 'They have no master; let each return home in peace.'

¹⁷ So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster?"

¹⁸ Then Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and the whole heavenly host was standing at His right hand and at His left hand.

¹⁹ And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to march up and fall

at Ramoth-gilead?' So one was saying this and another was saying that.

²⁰ "Then a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will entice him.' "The LORD asked him, 'How?'

²¹ "So he said, 'I will go and become a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' "Then He said, 'You will entice him and also prevail. Go and do that.'

²² "Now, you see, the LORD has put a lying spirit into the mouth of these prophets of yours, and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you."

²³ Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up, hit Micaiah in the face, and demanded, "Did the Spirit of the LORD leave me to speak to you?"

²⁴ Micaiah replied, "You will soon see when you go to hide yourself in an inner chamber on that day."

²⁵ Then the king of Israel ordered, "Take Micaiah and return him to Amon, the

governor of the city, and to Joash, the king's son,

²⁶ and say, 'This is what the king says: Put this guy in prison and feed him only bread and water until I come back safely.'"

²⁷ But Micaiah said, "If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me." Then he said, "Listen, all you people!"

²⁸ Then the king of Israel and Judah's King Jehoshaphat went up to Ramoth-gilead.

²⁹ But the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your royal attire." So the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle.

³⁰ Now the king of Aram had ordered his chariot commanders, "Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel."

³¹ When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they shouted, "He must be the king of Israel!" So they turned to attack him, but Jehoshaphat cried out and the LORD helped him. God drew them away from him.

³² When the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³³ But a man drew his bow without taking special aim and struck the king of Israel through the joints of his armor. So he said to the charioteer, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am badly wounded!"

³⁴ The battle raged throughout that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening. Then he died at sunset.

19 ¹ Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned to his home in Jerusalem in peace.

² Then Jehu son of Hanani the seer went out to confront him and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Do you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the LORD's wrath is on you.

³ However, some good is found in you, for you have removed the Asherah poles from the land and have decided to seek God."

⁴ Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and once again he went out among the people from Beer-sheba to the hill country of Ephraim and brought them back to the LORD God of their ancestors.

⁵ He appointed judges in all the fortified cities of the land of Judah, city by city.

⁶ Then he said to the judges, "Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the matter of judgment.

⁷ And now, may the terror of the LORD be on you. Watch what you do, for there is no injustice or partiality or taking bribes with the LORD our God."

⁸ Jehoshaphat also appointed in Jerusalem some of the Levites and priests and some of the heads of the Israelite families for rendering the LORD's judgments and for settling disputes of the residents of Jerusalem.

⁹ He commanded them, saying, "In the fear of the LORD, with integrity, and with a whole heart, you are to do the following:

¹⁰ for every dispute that comes to you from your brothers who dwell in their cities--whether it regards differences of bloodguilt, law, commandment, statutes, or judgments--you are to warn them, so they will not incur guilt before the LORD and wrath will not come on

you and your brothers. Do this, and you will not incur guilt.

¹¹ "Note that Amariah, the chief priest, is over you in all matters related to the LORD, and Zebadiah son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, in all matters related to the king, and the Levites are officers in your presence. Be strong; may the LORD be with those who do what is good."

20 ¹ After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, together with some of the Meunites, came to fight against Jehoshaphat.

² People came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast multitude from beyond the Dead Sea and from Edom has come to fight against you; they are already in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, En-ge-di).

³ Jehoshaphat was afraid, so he resolved to seek the LORD. So he proclaimed a fast for all Judah,

⁴ who gathered to seek the LORD. They even came from all the cities of Judah to seek Him.

⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the LORD's temple before the new courtyard.

⁶ He said: LORD God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You.

⁷ Are You not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and who gave it forever to the descendants of Abraham Your friend?

⁸ They have lived in the land and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name and have said,

⁹ "If disaster comes on us--sword or judgment, pestilence or famine--we will stand before this temple and before You, for Your name is in this temple. We will cry out to You because of our distress, and You will hear and deliver."

¹⁰ Now here are the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. You did not let Israel invade them when Israel came out of the land of Egypt, but Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them.

¹¹ Look how they repay us by coming to drive us out of Your possession that You gave us as an inheritance.

¹² Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast multitude that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You.

¹³ All Judah was standing before the LORD with their infants, their wives, and their children.

¹⁴ In the midst of the congregation, the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel (son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite from Asaph's descendants),

¹⁵ and he said, "Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the LORD says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

¹⁶ Tomorrow, go down against them. You will see them coming up the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel.

¹⁷ You do not have to fight this battle . Position yourselves, stand still, and see

the salvation of the LORD. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for the LORD is with you."

¹⁸ Then Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD to worship Him.

¹⁹ Then the Levites from the sons of the Kohathites and the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel shouting in a loud voice.

²⁰ In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed."

²¹ Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the LORD

and some to praise the splendor of His holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing: Give thanks to the LORD, for His faithful love endures forever.

²² The moment they began their shouts and praises, the LORD set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who came to fight against Judah, and they were defeated.

²³ The Ammonites and Moabites turned against the inhabitants of Mount Seir and completely annihilated them. When they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped destroy each other.

²⁴ When Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and there were corpses lying on the ground; nobody had escaped.

²⁵ Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to gather the plunder. They found among them an abundance of goods on the bodies and valuable items. So they stripped them until nobody could carry any more. They were gathering the plunder for three days because there was so much.

²⁶ They assembled in the Valley of Beracah on the fourth day, for there they praised the LORD. Therefore, that place is still called the Valley of Beracah today.

²⁷ Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem turned back with Jehoshaphat at their head, returning joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD enabled them to rejoice over their enemies.

²⁸ So they came into Jerusalem to the LORD's temple with harps, lyres, and trumpets.

²⁹ The terror of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard

that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

³⁰ Then Jehoshaphat's kingdom was quiet, for his God gave him rest on every side.

³¹ Jehoshaphat became king over Judah. He was 35 years old when he became king; he reigned 25 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi.

³² He walked in the way of Asa his father; he did not turn away from it but did what was right in the LORD's sight.

³³ However, the high places were not taken away; the people had not yet determined in their hearts to worship the God of their ancestors.

³⁴ The rest of the events of Jehoshaphat's reign from beginning to end are written about in the Events of Jehu son of Hanani, which is recorded in the Book of Israel's Kings.

³⁵ After this, Judah's King Jehoshaphat made an alliance with Israel's King Ahaziah, who was guilty of wrongdoing.

³⁶ Jehoshaphat formed an alliance with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion-geber.

³⁷ Then Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you formed an alliance with Ahaziah, the LORD has broken up what you have made." So the ships were wrecked and were not able to go to Tarshish.

21 ¹ Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. His son Jehoram became king in his place.

² He had brothers, sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah; all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.

³ Their father had given them many gifts of silver, gold, and valuable things, along with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the firstborn.

⁴ When Jehoram had established himself over his father's kingdom, he strengthened his position by killing with the sword all his brothers as well as some of the princes of Israel.

⁵ Jehoram was 32 years old when he became king; he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

⁶ He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's daughter was his wife. He did what was evil in the LORD's sight,

⁷ but because of the covenant the LORD had made with David, He was unwilling to destroy the house of David since the LORD had promised to give a lamp to David and to his sons forever.

⁸ During Jehoram's reign, Edom rebelled against Judah's domination and appointed their own king.

⁹ So Jehoram crossed into Edom with his commanders and all his chariots. Then at night he set out to attack the Edomites who had surrounded him and the chariot commanders.

¹⁰ So Edom is still in rebellion against Judah's domination today. Libnah also rebelled at that time against his domination because he had abandoned the LORD God of his ancestors.

¹¹ Jehoram also built high places in the hills of Judah, and he caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves, and he led Judah astray.

¹² Then a letter came to Jehoram from Elijah the prophet, saying: This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: "Because you have not walked in

the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or in the ways of Asa king of Judah

¹³ but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, have caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves like the house of Ahab prostituted itself, and also have killed your brothers, your father's family, who were better than you,

¹⁴ the LORD is now about to strike your people, your sons, your wives, and all your possessions with a horrible affliction.

¹⁵ You yourself will be struck with many illnesses, including a disease of the intestines, until your intestines come out day after day because of the disease."

¹⁶ The LORD put it into the mind of the Philistines and the Arabs who live near the Cushites to attack Jehoram.

¹⁷ So they went to war against Judah and invaded it. They carried off all the

possessions found in the king's palace and also his sons and wives; not a son was left to him except Jehoahaz, his youngest son.

¹⁸ After all these things, the LORD afflicted him in his intestines with an incurable disease.

¹⁹ This continued day after day until two full years passed. Then his intestines came out because of his disease, and he died from severe illnesses. But his people did not hold a fire in his honor like the fire in honor of his fathers.

²⁰ Jehoram was 32 years old when he became king; he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. He died to no one's regret and was buried in the city of David but not in the tombs of the kings.

22 ¹ Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place, because the troops that had come with the Arabs

to the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah.

² Ahaziah was 22 years old when he became king; he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, granddaughter of Omri.

³ He walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother gave him evil advice.

⁴ So he did what was evil in the LORD's sight like the house of Ahab, for they were his advisers after the death of his father, to his destruction.

⁵ He also followed their advice and went with Joram son of Israel's King Ahab to fight against Hazael, king of Aram, in Ramoth-gilead. The Arameans wounded Joram,

⁶ so he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they inflicted on him in Ramoth-gilead when he fought against

Aram's King Hazael. Then Judah's King Ahaziah son of Jehoram went down to Jezreel to visit Joram son of Ahab since Joram was ill.

⁷ With his going to Joram, Ahaziah's downfall was from God, for when Ahaziah went, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab.

⁸ So it happened when Jehu executed judgment on the house of Ahab, he found the rulers of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who were serving Ahaziah, and he killed them.

⁹ Then Jehu looked for Ahaziah, and Jehu's soldiers captured him (he was hiding in Samaria). Then they brought him to Jehu, and they killed him. They buried him, for they said, "He is the grandson of Jehoshaphat who sought the LORD with all his heart." So the

house of Ahaziah had no one to exercise power over the kingdom.

¹⁰ When Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to annihilate all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.

¹¹ Jehoshabeath, the king's daughter, rescued Joash son of Ahaziah from the king's sons who were being killed and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Now Jehoshabeath was the daughter of King Jehoram and the wife of Jehoiada the priest. Since she was Ahaziah's sister, she hid Joash from Athaliah so that she did not kill him.

¹² While Athaliah ruled over the land, he was hiding with them in God's temple six years.

23 ¹ Then, in the seventh year, Jehoiada summoned his courage and took the commanders of hundreds into a covenant with him: Azariah son

of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zichri.

² They made a circuit throughout Judah. They gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah and the heads of the families of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

³ Then the whole assembly made a covenant with the king in God's temple. Jehoiada said to them, "Here is the king's son! He must reign, just as the LORD promised concerning David's sons.

⁴ This is what you are to do: one third of you, priests and Levites who are coming on duty on the Sabbath, are to be gatekeepers.

⁵ A third are to be at the king's palace, and a third are to be at the Foundation Gate, and all the troops will be in the courtyards of the LORD's temple.

⁶ No one is to enter the LORD's temple but the priests and those Levites who serve; they may enter because they are holy, but all the people are to obey the requirement of the LORD.

⁷ You must completely surround the king with weapons in hand. Anyone who enters the temple is to be put to death. You must be with the king in all his daily tasks."

⁸ So the commanders of hundreds did everything Jehoiada the priest commanded. They each brought their men--those coming on duty on the Sabbath and those going off duty on the Sabbath--for Jehoiada the priest did not release the divisions.

⁹ Jehoiada the priest gave to the commanders of hundreds King David's spears, shields, and quivers that were in God's temple.

¹⁰ Then he stationed all the troops with their weapons in hand surrounding the king--from the right side of the temple to the left side, by the altar and by the temple.

¹¹ They brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the testimony, and made him king. Jehoiada and his sons anointed him and cried, "Long live the king!"

¹² When Athaliah heard the noise from the troops, the guards, and those praising the king, she went to the troops in the LORD's temple.

¹³ As she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance. The commanders and the trumpeters were by the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets while the singers with musical instruments were leading the praise.

Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, "Treason, treason!"

¹⁴ Then Jehoiada the priest sent out the commanders of hundreds, those in charge of the army, saying, "Take her out between the ranks, and put anyone who follows her to death by the sword," for the priest had said, "Don't put her to death in the LORD's temple."

¹⁵ So they arrested her, and she went by the entrance of the Horses' Gate to the king's palace, where they put her to death.

¹⁶ Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the king, and the people that they would be the LORD's people.

¹⁷ So all the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They broke its altars and images into pieces and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, at the altars.

¹⁸ Then Jehoiada put the oversight of the LORD's temple into the hands of the Levitical priests, whom David had appointed over the LORD's temple, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and song ordained by David.

¹⁹ He stationed gatekeepers at the gates of the LORD's temple so that nothing unclean could enter for any reason.

²⁰ Then he took with him the commanders of hundreds, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land and brought the king down from the LORD's temple. They entered the king's palace through the upper gate and seated the king on the throne of the kingdom.

²¹ All the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet, for they had put Athaliah to death by the sword.

24 ¹ Joash was seven years old when he became king; he reigned 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beer-sheba.

² Throughout the time of Jehoiada the priest, Joash did what was right in the LORD's sight.

³ Jehoiada acquired two wives for him, and he was the father of sons and daughters.

⁴ Afterwards, Joash took it to heart to renovate the LORD's temple.

⁵ So he gathered the priests and Levites and said, "Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all Israel to repair the temple of your God as needed year by year, and do it quickly." However, the Levites did not hurry.

⁶ So the king called Jehoiada the high priest and said, "Why haven't you required the Levites to bring from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed by the

LORD's servant Moses and the assembly of Israel for the tent of the testimony?

⁷ For the sons of that wicked Athaliah broke into the LORD's temple and even used the sacred things of the LORD's temple for the Baals."

⁸ At the king's command a chest was made and placed outside the gate of the LORD's temple.

⁹ Then a proclamation was issued in Judah and Jerusalem that the tax God's servant Moses imposed on Israel in the wilderness be brought to the LORD.

¹⁰ All the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought the tax, and put it in the chest until it was full.

¹¹ Whenever the chest was brought by the Levites to the king's overseers, and when they saw that there was a large amount of money, the king's secretary and the high priest's deputy came and emptied the chest, picked it up, and

returned it to its place. They did this daily and gathered the money in abundance.

¹² Then the king and Jehoiada gave it to those in charge of the labor on the LORD's temple, who were hiring masons and carpenters to renovate the LORD's temple, also blacksmiths and coppersmiths to repair the LORD's temple.

¹³ The workmen did their work, and through them the repairs progressed. They restored God's temple to its specifications and reinforced it.

¹⁴ When they finished, they presented the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, who made articles for the LORD's temple with it--articles for ministry and for making burnt offerings, and ladles and articles of gold and silver. They regularly offered burnt offerings in the LORD's temple throughout Jehoiada's life.

¹⁵ Jehoiada died when he was old and full of days; he was 130 years old at his death.

¹⁶ He was buried in the city of David with the kings because he had done what was good in Israel with respect to God and His temple.

¹⁷ However, after Jehoiada died, the rulers of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them,

¹⁸ and they abandoned the temple of the LORD God of their ancestors and served the Asherah poles and the idols. So there was wrath against Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.

¹⁹ Nevertheless, He sent them prophets to bring them back to the LORD; they admonished them, but they would not listen.

²⁰ The Spirit of God took control of Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest.

He stood above the people and said to them, "This is what God says: 'Why are you transgressing the LORD's commands and you do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the LORD, He has abandoned you.'"

²¹ But they conspired against him and stoned him at the king's command in the courtyard of the LORD's temple.

²² King Joash didn't remember the kindness that Zechariah's father Jehoiada had extended to him, but killed his son. While he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and demand an account."

²³ At the turn of the year, an Aramean army went to war against Joash. They entered Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the leaders of the people among them and sent all the plunder to the king of Damascus.

²⁴ Although the Aramean army came with only a few men, the LORD handed over a vast army to them because the people of Judah had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors. So they executed judgment on Joash.

²⁵ When the Arameans saw that Joash had many wounds, they left him. His servants conspired against him, and killed him on his bed, because he had shed the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

²⁶ Those who conspired against him were Zabad, son of the Ammonite woman Shimeath, and Jehozabad, son of the Moabite woman Shimrith.

²⁷ Concerning his sons, the many oracles about him, and the restoration of the LORD's temple, they are recorded in

the Writing of the Book of the Kings. His son Amaziah became king in his place.

25 ¹ Amaziah became king when he was 25 years old; he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem.

² He did what was right in the LORD's sight but not completely.

³ As soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

⁴ However, he did not put their children to death, because--as it is written in the Law, in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded--"Fathers must not die because of children, and children must not die because of fathers, but each one will die for his own sin."

⁵ Then Amaziah gathered Judah and assembled them according to patriarchal family, according to commanders of thousands, and according to

commanders of hundreds. He numbered those 20 years old or more for all Judah and Benjamin. He found there to be 300,000 choice men who could serve in the army, bearing spear and shield.

⁶ Then for 7,500 pounds of silver he hired 100,000 brave warriors from Israel.

⁷ However, a man of God came to him and said, "King, do not let Israel's army go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel--all the Ephraimites.

⁸ But if you go with them , do it! Be strong for battle! But God will make you stumble before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to make one stumble.

⁹ Then Amaziah said to the man of God, "What should I do about the 7,500 pounds of silver I gave to Israel's division?" The man of God replied, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this."

¹⁰ So Amaziah released the division that came to him from Ephraim to go home. But they got very angry with Judah and returned home in a fierce rage.

¹¹ Amaziah strengthened his position and led his people to the Valley of Salt. He struck down 10,000 Seirites,

¹² and the Judahites captured 10,000 alive. They took them to the top of a cliff where they threw them off, and all of them were dashed to pieces.

¹³ As for the men of the division that Amaziah sent back so they would not go with him into battle, they raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth-horon, struck down 3,000 of their people, and took a great deal of plunder.

¹⁴ After Amaziah came from the attack on the Edomites, he brought the gods of the Seirites and set them up as his gods. He worshiped before them and burned incense to them.

¹⁵ So the LORD's anger was against Amaziah, and He sent a prophet to him, who said, "Why have you sought a people's gods that could not deliver their own people from your hand?"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking to him, the king asked, "Have we made you the king's counselor? Stop, why should you lose your life?" So the prophet stopped, but he said, "I know that God intends to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my advice."

¹⁷ King Amaziah of Judah took counsel and sent word to Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us meet face to face."

¹⁸ King Jehoash of Israel sent word to King Amaziah of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent a message to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as a wife.' Then a wild animal

that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

¹⁹ You have said, 'Look, I have defeated Edom,' and you have become overconfident that you will get glory. Now stay at home. Why stir up such trouble so that you fall and Judah with you?"

²⁰ But Amaziah would not listen, for this turn of events was from God in order to hand them over to their enemies because they went after the gods of Edom.

²¹ So King Jehoash of Israel advanced. He and King Amaziah of Judah faced off at Beth-shemesh in Judah.

²² Judah was routed before Israel, and each fled to his own tent.

²³ King Jehoash of Israel captured Judah's King Amaziah son of Joash, son of Jehoahaz, at Beth-shemesh. Then Jehoash took him to Jerusalem and

broke down 200 yards of Jerusalem's wall from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.

²⁴ He took all the gold, silver, all the utensils that were found with Obededom in God's temple, the treasures of the king's palace, and the hostages. Then he returned to Samaria.

²⁵ Judah's King Amaziah son of Joash lived 15 years after the death of Israel's King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz.

²⁶ The rest of the events of Amaziah's reign , from beginning to end, are written about in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷ From the time Amaziah turned from following the LORD, a conspiracy was formed against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. However, men were sent after him to Lachish, and they put him to death there.

²⁸ They carried him back on horses and buried him with his fathers in the city of Judah.

26 ¹ All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was 16 years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah.

² He rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah after Amaziah the king rested with his fathers.

³ Uzziah was 16 years old when he became king; he reigned 52 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah; she was from Jerusalem.

⁴ He did what was right in the LORD's sight as his father Amaziah had done.

⁵ He sought God throughout the lifetime of Zechariah, the teacher of the fear of God. During the time that he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

⁶ Uzziah went out to wage war against the Philistines, and he tore down the

wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod. Then he built cities in the vicinity of Ashdod and among the Philistines.

⁷ God helped him against the Philistines, the Arabs that live in Gur-baal, and the Meunites.

⁸ The Ammonites gave Uzziah tribute money, and his fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for God made him very powerful.

⁹ Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, the Valley Gate, and the corner buttress, and he fortified them.

¹⁰ Since he had many cattle both in the lowlands and the plain, he built towers in the desert and dug many wells. And since he was a lover of the soil, he had farmers and vinedressers in the hills and in the fertile lands.

¹¹ Uzziah had an army equipped for combat that went out to war by division

according to their assignments, as recorded by Jeiel the court secretary and Maaseiah the officer under the authority of Hananiah, one of the king's commanders.

¹² The total number of heads of families was 2,600 brave warriors.

¹³ Under their authority was an army of 307,500 equipped for combat, a powerful force to help the king against the enemy.

¹⁴ Uzziah provided the entire army with shields, spears, helmets, armor, bows and slingstones.

¹⁵ He made skillfully designed devices in Jerusalem to shoot arrows and catapult large stones for use on the towers and on the corners. So his fame spread even to distant places, for he was marvelously helped until he became strong.

¹⁶ But when he became strong, he grew arrogant and it led to his own

destruction. He acted unfaithfully against the LORD his God by going into the LORD's sanctuary to burn incense on the incense altar.

¹⁷ Azariah the priest, along with 80 brave priests of the LORD, went in after him.

¹⁸ They took their stand against King Uzziah and said, "Uzziah, you have no right to offer incense to the LORD--only the consecrated priests, the descendants of Aaron, have the right to offer incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have acted unfaithfully! You will not receive honor from the LORD God."

¹⁹ Uzziah, with a censer in his hand to offer incense, was enraged. But when he became enraged with the priests, in the presence of the priests in the LORD's temple beside the altar of incense, a skin disease broke out on his forehead.

²⁰ Then Azariah the chief priest and all the priests turned to him and saw that he was diseased on his forehead. They rushed him out of there. He himself also hurried to get out because the LORD had afflicted him.

²¹ So King Uzziah was diseased to the time of his death. He lived in quarantine with a serious skin disease and was excluded from access to the LORD's temple, while his son Jotham was over the king's household governing the people of the land.

²² Now the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz wrote about the rest of the events of Uzziah's reign , from beginning to end.

²³ Uzziah rested with his fathers, and he was buried with his fathers in the burial ground of the kings' cemetery, for they said, "He has a skin disease." His son Jotham became king in his place.

27 ¹ Jotham was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah daughter of Zadok.

² He did what was right in the LORD's sight as his father Uzziah had done, except that he didn't enter the LORD's sanctuary. However, the people still behaved corruptly.

³ Jotham built the Upper Gate of the LORD's temple, and he built extensively on the wall of Ophel.

⁴ He also built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests.

⁵ He waged war against the king of the Ammonites. He overpowered the Ammonites, and that year they gave him 7,500 pounds of silver, 50,000 bushels of wheat, and 50,000 bushels of barley. They paid him the same in the second and third years.

⁶ So Jotham strengthened himself because he did not waver in obeying the LORD his God.

⁷ As for the rest of the events of Jotham's reign , along with all his wars and his ways, note that they are written about in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

⁸ He was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem.

⁹ Jotham rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. His son Ahaz became king in his place.

28 ¹ Ahaz was 20 years old when he became king; he reigned 16 years in Jerusalem. He did not do what was right in the LORD's sight like his forefather David,

² for he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and made cast images of the Baals.

³ He burned incense in the Valley of Hinnom and burned his children in the fire, imitating the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites.

⁴ He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵ So the LORD his God handed Ahaz over to the king of Aram. He attacked him and took many captives to Damascus. Ahaz was also handed over to the king of Israel, who struck him with great force:

⁶ Pekah son of Remaliah killed 120,000 in Judah in one day--all brave men--because they had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors.

⁷ An Ephraimite warrior named Zichri killed the king's son Maaseiah, Azrikam governor of the palace, and Elkanah who was second to the king.

⁸ Then the Israelites took 200,000 captives from their brothers--women, sons, and daughters. They also took a great deal of plunder from them and brought it to Samaria.

⁹ A prophet of the LORD named Oded was there. He went out to meet the army that came to Samaria and said to them, "Look, the LORD God of your ancestors handed them over to you because of His wrath against Judah, but you slaughtered them in a rage that has reached heaven.

¹⁰ Now you plan to reduce the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, to slavery. Are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?

¹¹ Listen to me and return the captives you took from your brothers, for the LORD's fierce wrath is on you."

¹² So some men who were leaders of the Ephraimites--Azariah son of Johanan,

Berechiah son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai--stood in opposition to those coming from the war.

¹³ They said to them, "You must not bring the captives here, for you plan to bring guilt on us from the LORD to add to our sins and our guilt. For we have much guilt, and fierce wrath is on Israel."

¹⁴ The army left the captives and the plunder in the presence of the officers and the congregation.

¹⁵ Then the men who were designated by name took charge of the captives and provided clothes for their naked ones from the plunder. They clothed them, gave them sandals, food and drink, dressed their wounds, and provided donkeys for all the feeble. The Israelites brought them to Jericho, the City of Palms, among their brothers. Then they returned to Samaria.

¹⁶ At that time King Ahaz asked the king of Assyria for help.

¹⁷ The Edomites came again, attacked Judah, and took captives.

¹⁸ The Philistines also raided the cities of the Judean foothills and the Negev of Judah and captured Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco and its villages, Timnah and its villages, Gimzo and its villages, and they lived there.

¹⁹ For the LORD humbled Judah because of King Ahaz of Judah, who threw off restraint in Judah and was unfaithful to the LORD.

²⁰ Then Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came against Ahaz; he oppressed him and did not give him support.

²¹ Although Ahaz plundered the LORD's temple and the palace of the king and of the rulers and gave the plunder to the king of Assyria, it did not help him.

²² At the time of his distress, King Ahaz himself became more unfaithful to the LORD.

²³ He sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him; he said, "Since the gods of the kings of Aram are helping them, I will sacrifice to them so that they will help me." But they were the downfall of him and of all Israel.

²⁴ Then Ahaz gathered up the utensils of God's temple, cut them into pieces, shut the doors of the LORD's temple, and made himself altars on every street corner in Jerusalem.

²⁵ He made high places in every city of Judah to offer incense to other gods, and he provoked the God of his ancestors.

²⁶ As for the rest of his deeds and all his ways, from beginning to end, they are written about in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷ Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in the city, in Jerusalem, and his son Hezekiah became king in his place.

29 ¹ Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah.

² He did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his ancestor David had done.

³ In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the LORD's temple and repaired them.

⁴ Then he brought in the priests and Levites and gathered them in the eastern public square.

⁵ He said to them, "Hear me, Levites. Consecrate yourselves now and consecrate the temple of the LORD God of your ancestors. Remove everything detestable from the holy place.

⁶ For our fathers were unfaithful and did what is evil in the sight of the LORD our

God. They abandoned Him, turned their faces away from the LORD's tabernacle, and turned their backs on Him.

⁷ They also closed the doors of the vestibule, extinguished the lamps, did not burn incense, and did not offer burnt offerings in the holy place of the God of Israel.

⁸ Therefore, the wrath of the LORD was on Judah and Jerusalem, and He made them an object of terror, horror, and hissing, as you see with your own eyes.

⁹ Our fathers fell by the sword, and our sons, our daughters, and our wives are in captivity because of this.

¹⁰ It is in my heart now to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel so that His fierce wrath may turn away from us.

¹¹ My sons, don't be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand in His

presence, to serve Him, and to be His ministers and burners of incense."

¹² Then the Levites stood up: Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah from the Kohathites; Kish son of Abdi and Azariah son of Jehallelel from the Merarites; Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah from the Gershonites;

¹³ Shimri and Jeuel from the Elizaphanites; Zechariah and Mattaniah from the Asaphites;

¹⁴ Jehiel and Shimei from the Hemanites; Shemaiah and Uzziel from the Jeduthunites.

¹⁵ They gathered their brothers together, consecrated themselves, and went according to the king's command by the words of the LORD to cleanse the LORD's temple.

¹⁶ The priests went to the entrance of the LORD's temple to cleanse it. They took all the detestable things they found

in the LORD's sanctuary to the courtyard of the LORD's temple. Then the Levites received them and took them outside to the Kidron Valley.

¹⁷ They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD's temple . They consecrated the LORD's temple for eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished.

¹⁸ Then they went inside to King Hezekiah and said, "We have cleansed the whole temple of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the rows of the bread of the Presence and all its utensils.

¹⁹ All the utensils that King Ahaz rejected during his reign when he became unfaithful we have set up and consecrated. They are in front of the altar of the LORD."

²⁰ King Hezekiah got up early, gathered the city officials, and went up to the LORD's temple.

²¹ They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. Then he told the descendants of Aaron, the priests, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

²² So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests received the blood and sprinkled it on the altar. They slaughtered the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar. They slaughtered the lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar.

²³ Then they brought the sin offering goats right into the presence of the king and the congregation, who laid their hands on them.

²⁴ The priests slaughtered the goats and put their blood on the altar for a

sin offering, to make atonement for all Israel, for the king said that the burnt offering and sin offering were for all Israel.

²⁵ Hezekiah stationed the Levites in the LORD's temple with cymbals, harps, and lyres according to the command of David, Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet. For the command was from the LORD through His prophets.

²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷ Then Hezekiah ordered that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. When the burnt offerings began, the song of the LORD and the trumpets began, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel.

²⁸ The whole assembly was worshiping, singing the song, and blowing the

trumpets--all of this continued until the burnt offering was completed.

²⁹ When the burnt offerings were completed, the king and all those present with him bowed down and worshiped.

³⁰ Then King Hezekiah and the officials told the Levites to sing praise to the LORD in the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with rejoicing and bowed down and worshiped.

³¹ Hezekiah concluded, "Now you are consecrated to the LORD. Come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the LORD's temple." So the congregation brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all those with willing hearts brought burnt offerings.

³² The number of burnt offerings the congregation brought was 70 bulls, 100

rams, and 200 lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

³³ Six hundred bulls and 3,000 sheep were consecrated.

³⁴ However, since there were not enough priests, they weren't able to skin all the burnt offerings, so their Levite brothers helped them until the work was finished and until the priests consecrated themselves. For the Levites were more conscientious to consecrate themselves than the priests were.

³⁵ Furthermore, the burnt offerings were abundant, along with the fat of the fellowship offerings and with the drink offerings for the burnt offering. So the service of the LORD's temple was established.

³⁶ Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced over how God had prepared the people, for it had come about suddenly.

30 ¹ Then Hezekiah sent word throughout all Israel and Judah, and he also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh to come to the LORD's temple in Jerusalem to observe the Passover of the LORD God of Israel.

² For the king and his officials and the entire congregation in Jerusalem decided to observe the Passover of the LORD in the second month

³ because they were not able to observe it at the appropriate time, since not enough of the priests had consecrated themselves and the people hadn't been gathered together in Jerusalem.

⁴ The proposal pleased the king and the congregation,

⁵ so they affirmed the proposal and spread the message throughout all Israel, from Beer-sheba to Dan, to come to observe the Passover of the LORD God

of Israel in Jerusalem, for they hadn't observed it often, as prescribed.

⁶ So the couriers went throughout Israel and Judah with letters from the hand of the king and his officials, and according to the king's command, saying, "Israelites, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel so that He may return to those of you who remain, who have escaped from the grasp of the kings of Assyria.

⁷ Don't be like your fathers and your brothers who were unfaithful to the LORD God of their ancestors so that He made them an object of horror as you yourselves see.

⁸ Don't become obstinate now like your fathers did. Give your allegiance to the LORD, and come to His sanctuary that He has consecrated forever. Serve the LORD your God so that He may turn His fierce wrath away from you,

⁹ for when you return to the LORD, your brothers and your sons will receive mercy in the presence of their captors and will return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful; He will not turn His face away from you if you return to Him."

¹⁰ The couriers traveled from city to city in the land of Ephraim and Manasseh as far as Zebulun, but the inhabitants laughed at them and mocked them.

¹¹ But some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

¹² Also, the hand of God was in Judah to give them one heart to carry out the command of the king and his officials by the word of the LORD.

¹³ A very large assembly of people was gathered in Jerusalem to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month.

¹⁴ They proceeded to take away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and they took away the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley.

¹⁵ They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and Levites were ashamed, and they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the LORD's temple.

¹⁶ They stood at their prescribed posts, according to the law of Moses the man of God. The priests sprinkled the blood received from the hand of the Levites,

¹⁷ for there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves, and so the Levites were in charge of slaughtering the Passover lambs for every unclean person to consecrate the lambs to the LORD.

¹⁸ For a large number of the people-- many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar,

and Zebulun--were unclean, yet they had eaten the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah had interceded for them, saying, "May the good LORD provide atonement on behalf of

¹⁹ whoever sets his whole heart on seeking God, the LORD God of his ancestors, even though not according to the purification rules of the sanctuary."

²⁰ So the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

²¹ The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread seven days with great joy, and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day after day with loud instruments.

²² Then Hezekiah encouraged all the Levites who performed skillfully before the LORD. They ate the appointed feast for seven days, sacrificing fellowship

offerings and giving thanks to the LORD God of their ancestors.

²³ The whole congregation decided to observe seven more days, so they observed seven days with joy,

²⁴ for Hezekiah king of Judah contributed 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for the congregation. Also, the officials contributed 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep for the congregation, and many priests consecrated themselves.

²⁵ Then the whole assembly of Judah with the priests and Levites, the whole assembly that came from Israel, the foreigners who came from the land of Israel, and those who were living in Judah, rejoiced.

²⁶ Such rejoicing had not been seen in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon son of David, the king of Israel.

²⁷ Then the priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God

heard their voice, and their prayer came into His holy dwelling place in heaven.

31 ¹ When all this was completed, all Israel who had attended went out to the cities of Judah and broke up the sacred pillars, chopped down the Asherah poles, and tore down the high places and altars throughout Judah and Benjamin, as well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, to the last one. Then all the Israelites returned to their cities, each to his own possession.

² Hezekiah reestablished the divisions of the priests and Levites for the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, for ministry, for giving thanks, and for praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD, each division corresponding to his service among the priests and Levites.

³ The king contributed from his own possessions for the regular morning and evening burnt offerings, the burnt

offerings of the Sabbaths, of the New Moons, and of the appointed feasts, as written in the law of the LORD.

⁴ He told the people who lived in Jerusalem to give a contribution for the priests and Levites so that they could devote their energy to the law of the LORD.

⁵ When the word spread, the Israelites gave liberally of the best of the grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field, and they brought an abundant tenth of everything.

⁶ As for the Israelites and Judahites who lived in the cities of Judah, they also brought a tenth of the cattle and sheep, and a tenth of the dedicated things that were consecrated to the LORD their God. They gathered them into large piles.

⁷ In the third month they began building up the piles, and they finished in the seventh month.

⁸ When Hezekiah and his officials came and viewed the piles, they praised the LORD and His people Israel.

⁹ Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the piles.

¹⁰ Azariah, the chief priest of the household of Zadok, answered him, "Since they began bringing the offering to the LORD's temple, we eat and are satisfied and there is plenty left over because the LORD has blessed His people; this abundance is what is left over."

¹¹ Hezekiah told them to prepare chambers in the LORD's temple, and they prepared them .

¹² The offering, the tenth, and the dedicated things were brought faithfully. Conaniah the Levite was the officer in charge of them, and his brother Shimei was second.

¹³ Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were deputies under the authority of Conaniah and his brother Shimei by appointment of King Hezekiah and of Azariah the ruler of God's temple.

¹⁴ Kore son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of the East Gate, was over the freewill offerings to God to distribute the contribution to the LORD and the consecrated things.

¹⁵ Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah in the cities of the priests were to faithfully distribute it under his authority to their brothers by divisions, whether large or small.

¹⁶ In addition, they distributed it to males registered by genealogy three years old and above; to all who would enter the LORD's temple for their daily duty, for their service in their

responsibilities according to their divisions.

¹⁷ They distributed also to those recorded by genealogy of the priests by their ancestral families and the Levites 20 years old and above, by their responsibilities in their divisions;

¹⁸ to those registered by genealogy--with all their infants, wives, sons, and daughters--of the whole assembly (for they had faithfully consecrated themselves as holy);

¹⁹ and to the descendants of Aaron, the priests, in the common fields of their cities, in each and every city. There were men who were registered by name to distribute a portion to every male among the priests and to every Levite recorded by genealogy.

²⁰ Hezekiah did this throughout all Judah. He did what was good and upright and true before the LORD his God.

²¹ He was diligent in every deed that he began in the service of God's temple, in the law and in the commandment, in order to seek his God, and he prospered.

32 ¹ After these faithful deeds, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities and intended to break into them.

² Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he planned war on Jerusalem,

³ so he consulted with his officials and his warriors about stopping up the waters of the springs that were outside the city, and they helped him.

⁴ Many people gathered and stopped up all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land; they said, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?"

⁵ Then Hezekiah strengthened his position by rebuilding the entire broken-down wall and heightening the towers and the other outside wall. He repaired the supporting terraces of the city of David, and made an abundance of weapons and shields.

⁶ He set military commanders over the people and gathered the people in the square of the city gate. Then he encouraged them, saying,

⁷ "Be strong and courageous! Don't be afraid or discouraged before the king of Assyria or before all the multitude with him, for there are more with us than with him.

⁸ He has only human strength, but we have the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." So the people relied on the words of King Hezekiah of Judah.

⁹ After this, while Sennacherib king of Assyria with all his armed forces

besieged Lachish, he sent his servants to Jerusalem against King Hezekiah of Judah and against all those of Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying,

¹⁰ "This is what King Sennacherib of Assyria says: 'What are you trusting in, you who remain under the siege of Jerusalem?'

¹¹ Isn't Hezekiah misleading you to give you over to death by famine and thirst when he says, "The LORD our God will deliver us from the power of the king of Assyria"?

¹² Didn't Hezekiah himself remove His high places and His altars and say to Judah and Jerusalem: "You must worship before one altar, and you must burn incense on it"?

¹³ "'Don't you know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of the lands? Have any of the national gods

of the lands been able to deliver their land from my power?

¹⁴ Who among all the gods of these nations that my fathers utterly destroyed was able to deliver his people from my power, that your God should be able to do the same for you?

¹⁵ So now, don't let Hezekiah deceive you, and don't let him mislead you like this. Don't believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to deliver his people from my power or the power of my fathers. How much less will your gods deliver you from my power!"

¹⁶ His servants said more against the LORD God and against His servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷ He also wrote letters to mock the LORD God of Israel, saying against Him: Just like the national gods of the lands that did not deliver their people from my

power, so Hezekiah's God will not deliver His people from my power.

¹⁸ Then they called out loudly in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall to frighten and discourage them in order that he might capture the city.

¹⁹ They spoke against the God of Jerusalem like they had spoken against the gods of the peoples of the land, which were made by human hands.

²⁰ King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz prayed about this and cried out to heaven,

²¹ and the LORD sent an angel who annihilated every brave warrior, leader, and commander in the camp of the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria returned with shame to his land. He went to the temple of his god, and there some of his own children cut him down with the sword.

²² So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the power of King Sennacherib of Assyria and from the power of all others. He gave them rest on every side.

²³ Many were bringing an offering to the LORD to Jerusalem and valuable gifts to King Hezekiah of Judah, and he was exalted in the eyes of all the nations after that.

²⁴ In those days Hezekiah became sick to the point of death, so he prayed to the LORD, and He spoke to him and gave him a miraculous sign.

²⁵ However, because his heart was proud, Hezekiah didn't respond according to the benefit that had come to him. So there was wrath upon him, upon Judah, and upon Jerusalem.

²⁶ Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart--he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem--so the LORD's

wrath didn't come on them during Hezekiah's lifetime.

²⁷ Hezekiah had abundant riches and glory, and he made himself treasuries for silver, gold, precious stones, spices, shields, and every desirable item.

²⁸ He made warehouses for the harvest of grain, wine, and oil, and stalls for all kinds of cattle, and pens for flocks.

²⁹ He made cities for himself, and he acquired herds of sheep and cattle in abundance, for God gave him abundant possessions.

³⁰ This same Hezekiah blocked the outlet of the water of the Upper Gihon and channeled it smoothly downward and westward to the city of David. Hezekiah succeeded in everything he did.

³¹ When the ambassadors of Babylon's rulers were sent to him to inquire about the miraculous sign that happened in

the land, God left him to test him and discover what was in his heart.

³² As for the rest of the events of Hezekiah's reign and his deeds of faithful love, note that they are written about in the Visions of the Prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, and in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

³³ Hezekiah rested with his fathers and was buried on the ascent to the tombs of David's descendants. All Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem paid him honor at his death. His son Manasseh became king in his place.

33 ¹ Manasseh was 12 years old when he became king; he reigned 55 years in Jerusalem.

² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, imitating the detestable practices of the nations that the LORD had dispossessed before the Israelites.

³ He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had torn down and reestablished the altars for the Baals. He made Asherah poles, and he worshiped the whole heavenly host and served them.

⁴ He built altars in the LORD's temple, where the LORD had said: "Jerusalem is where My name will remain forever."

⁵ He built altars to the whole heavenly host in both courtyards of the LORD's temple.

⁶ He passed his sons through the fire in the Valley of Hinnom. He practiced witchcraft, divination, and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did a great deal of evil in the LORD's sight, provoking Him.

⁷ Manasseh set up a carved image of the idol he had made, in God's temple, about which God had said to David and his son Solomon: "I will establish

My name forever in this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel.

⁸ I will never again remove the feet of the Israelites from upon the land where I stationed your ancestors, if only they will be careful to do all that I have commanded them through Moses--all the law, statutes, and judgments."

⁹ So Manasseh caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to stray so that they did worse evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they didn't listen.

¹¹ So He brought against them the military commanders of the king of Assyria. They captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon.

¹² When he was in distress, he sought the favor of the LORD his God and earnestly humbled himself before the God of his ancestors.

¹³ He prayed to Him, so He heard his petition and granted his request, and brought him back to Jerusalem, to his kingdom. So Manasseh came to know that the LORD is God.

¹⁴ After this, he built the outer wall of the city of David from west of Gihon in the valley to the entrance of the Fish Gate; he brought it around the Ophel, and he heightened it considerably. He also placed military commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah.

¹⁵ He removed the foreign gods and the idol from the LORD's temple, along with all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the LORD's temple and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside the city.

¹⁶ He built the altar of the LORD and offered fellowship and thank offerings on it. Then he told Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁷ However, the people still sacrificed at the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

¹⁸ The rest of the events of Manasseh's reign , along with his prayer to his God and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, are written about in the Events of Israel's Kings.

¹⁹ His prayer and how God granted his request, and all his sin and unfaithfulness and the sites where he built high places and set up Asherah poles and carved images before he humbled himself, they are written about in the Records of Hozai.

²⁰ Manasseh rested with his fathers, and he was buried in his own house. His son Amon became king in his place.

²¹ Amon was 22 years old when he became king; he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

²² He did what was evil in the LORD's sight just as his father Manasseh had done. Amon sacrificed to all the carved images that his father Manasseh had made, and he served them.

²³ But he did not humble himself before the LORD like his father Manasseh humbled himself; instead, Amon increased his guilt.

²⁴ So his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his own house.

²⁵ Then the common people executed all those who conspired against King Amon and made his son Josiah king in his place.

34 ¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king; he reigned 31 years in Jerusalem.

² He did what was right in the LORD's sight and walked in the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn aside to the right or the left.

³ In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still a youth, Josiah began to seek the God of his ancestor David, and in the twelfth year he began to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherah poles, the carved images, and the cast images.

⁴ Then in his presence the altars of the Baals were torn down, and the incense altars that were above them he chopped down. The Asherah poles, the carved images, and the cast images he shattered, crushed to dust, and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

⁵ He burned the bones of the priests on their altars. So he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

⁶ He did the same in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali and on their surrounding mountain shrines.

⁷ He tore down the altars, and he smashed the Asherah poles and the carved images to powder. He chopped down all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel and returned to Jerusalem.

⁸ In the eighteenth year of his reign, in order to cleanse the land and the temple, Josiah sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, along with Maaseiah the governor of the city and the recorder Joah son of Joahaz, to repair the temple of the LORD his God.

⁹ So they went to Hilkiah the high priest, and gave him the money brought

into God's temple. The Levites and the doorkeepers had collected money from Manasseh, Ephraim, and from the entire remnant of Israel, and from all Judah, Benjamin, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁰ They put it into the hands of those doing the work--those who oversaw the LORD's temple. They in turn gave it to the workmen who were working in the LORD's temple, to repair and restore the temple;

¹¹ they gave it to the carpenters and builders and also used it to buy quarried stone and timbers--for joining and to make beams--for the buildings that Judah's Kings had destroyed.

¹² The men were doing the work with integrity. Their overseers were Jahath and Obadiah the Levites from the Merarites, and Zechariah and Meshullam from the Kohathites as supervisors.

The Levites were all skilled on musical instruments.

¹³ They were also over the porters and were supervising all those doing the work task by task. Some of the Levites were secretaries, officers, and gatekeepers.

¹⁴ When they brought out the money that had been deposited in the LORD's temple, Hilkiah the priest found the book of the law of the LORD written by the hand of Moses.

¹⁵ Consequently, Hilkiah told Shaphan the court secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the LORD's temple," and he gave the book to Shaphan.

¹⁶ Shaphan took the book to the king, and also reported, "Your servants are doing all that was placed in their hands.

¹⁷ They have emptied out the money that was found in the LORD's temple and have put it into the hand of the

overseers and the hand of those doing the work."

¹⁸ Then Shaphan the court secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest gave me a book," and Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.

¹⁹ When the king heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes.

²⁰ Then he commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, Shaphan the court secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah,

²¹ "Go. Inquire of the LORD for me and for those remaining in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that was found. For great is the LORD's wrath that is poured out on us because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD in order to do everything written in this book."

²² So Hilkiah and those the king had designated went to the prophetess

Huldah, the wife of Shallum son of Tokhath, son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem in the Second District. They spoke with her about this.

²³ She said to them, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says: Say to the man who sent you to Me,

²⁴ 'This is what the LORD says: I am about to bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants, fulfilling all the curses written in the book that they read in the presence of the king of Judah,

²⁵ because they have abandoned Me and burned incense to other gods in order to provoke Me with all the works of their hands. My wrath will be poured out on this place, and it will not be quenched.'

²⁶ Say this to the king of Judah who sent you to inquire of the LORD: 'This is what

the LORD God of Israel says: As for the words that you heard,

²⁷ because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and because you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I Myself have heard'--this is the LORD speaking.

²⁸ 'I will indeed gather you to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster that I am bringing on this place and on its inhabitants.'" Then they reported to the king.

²⁹ So the king sent messengers and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

³⁰ Then the king went up to the LORD's temple with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as well

as the priests and the Levites--all the people from great to small. He read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the LORD's temple.

³¹ Next the king stood at his post and made a covenant in the LORD's presence to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments, His decrees, and His statutes with all his heart and with all his soul in order to carry out the words of the covenant written in this book.

³² Then he had all those present in Jerusalem and Benjamin enter the covenant . So all the inhabitants of Jerusalem carried out the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors.

³³ So Josiah removed everything that was detestable from all the lands belonging to the Israelites, and he required all who were present in Israel to serve the LORD their God.

Throughout his reign they did not turn aside from following the LORD God of their ancestors.

35 ¹ Josiah observed the LORD's Passover and slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the first month.

² He appointed the priests to their responsibilities and encouraged them to serve in the LORD's temple.

³ He said to the Levites who taught all Israel the holy things of the LORD, "Put the holy ark in the temple built by Solomon son of David king of Israel. Since you do not have to carry it on your shoulders, now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.

⁴ "Organize your ancestral houses by your divisions according to the written instruction of David king of Israel and that of his son Solomon.

⁵ Serve in the holy place by the divisions of the ancestral houses for your brothers, the lay people, and the distribution of the tribal household of the Levites.

⁶ Slaughter the Passover lambs , consecrate yourselves, and make preparations for your brothers to carry out the word of the LORD through Moses."

⁷ Then Josiah donated 30,000 sheep, lambs, and kid goats, plus 3,000 bulls from his own possessions, for the Passover sacrifices for all the lay people who were present.

⁸ His officials also donated willingly for the people, the priests, and the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, leaders of God's temple, gave 2,600 Passover sacrifices and 300 bulls for the priests.

⁹ Conaniah and his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, and Hashabiah, Jeiel, and

Jozabad, officers of the Levites, donated 5,000 Passover sacrifices for the Levites, plus 500 bulls.

¹⁰ So the service was established; the priests stood at their posts and the Levites in their divisions according to the king's command.

¹¹ Then they slaughtered the Passover lambs , and while the Levites were skinning the animals , the priests sprinkled the blood they had been given.

¹² They removed the burnt offerings so that they might be given to the divisions of the ancestral houses of the lay people to offer to the LORD, according to what is written in the book of Moses; they did the same with the bulls.

¹³ They roasted the Passover lambs with fire according to regulation. They boiled the holy sacrifices in pots, in kettles, and in bowls; and they quickly brought them to the lay people.

¹⁴ Afterwards, they made preparations for themselves and for the priests, since the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were busy offering up burnt offerings and fat until night. So the Levites made preparations for themselves and for the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

¹⁵ The singers, the descendants of Asaph, were at their stations according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer. Also, the gatekeepers were at each gate. Because their Levite brothers had made preparations for them, none of them left their tasks.

¹⁶ So all the service of the LORD was established that day for observing the Passover and for offering burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, according to the command of King Josiah.

¹⁷ The Israelites who were present in Judah also observed the Passover at that

time and the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days.

¹⁸ No Passover had been observed like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel ever observed a Passover like the one that Josiah observed with the priests, the Levites, all Judah, the Israelites who were present in Judah , and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, this Passover was observed.

²⁰ After all this that Josiah had prepared for the temple, Neco king of Egypt marched up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates, and Josiah went out to confront him.

²¹ But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, "What is the issue between you and me, king of Judah? I have not come against you today but to the dynasty I am fighting. God told me to hurry. Stop

opposing God who is with me; don't make Him destroy you!"

²² But Josiah did not turn away from him; instead, in order to fight with him he disguised himself. He did not listen to Neco's words from the mouth of God, but went to the Valley of Megiddo to fight.

²³ The archers shot King Josiah, and he said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded!"

²⁴ So his servants took him out of the war chariot, carried him in his second chariot, and brought him to Jerusalem. Then he died, and they buried him in the tomb of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵ Jeremiah chanted a dirge over Josiah, and all the singing men and singing women still speak of Josiah in their dirges to this very day. They established

them as a statute for Israel, and indeed they are written in the Dirges.

²⁶ The rest of the events of Josiah's reign , along with his deeds of faithful love according to what is written in the law of the LORD,

²⁷ and his words, from beginning to end, are written about in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

36 ¹ Then the common people took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and made him king in Jerusalem in place of his father.

² Jehoahaz was 23 years old when he became king; he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

³ The king of Egypt deposed him in Jerusalem and fined the land 7,500 pounds of silver and 75 pounds of gold.

⁴ Then Neco king of Egypt made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem and changed

Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took his brother Jehoahaz and brought him to Egypt.

⁵ Jehoiakim was 25 years old when he became king; he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

⁶ Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked him and bound him in bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.

⁷ Also Nebuchadnezzar took some of the utensils of the LORD's temple to Babylon and put them in his temple in Babylon.

⁸ The rest of the deeds of Jehoiakim, the detestable things he did, and what was found against him, are written about in the Book of Israel's Kings. His brother Jehoiachin became king in his place.

⁹ Jehoiachin was 18 years old when he became king; he reigned three months

and 10 days in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the LORD's sight.

¹⁰ In the spring Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him to Babylon along with the valuable utensils of the LORD's temple. Then he made Jehoiachin's brother Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

¹¹ Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king; he reigned 11 years in Jerusalem.

¹² He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet at the LORD's command.

¹³ He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear allegiance by God. He became obstinate and hardened his heart against returning to the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁴ All the leaders of the priests and the people multiplied their unfaithful deeds,

imitating all the detestable practices of the nations, and they defiled the LORD's temple that He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ But the LORD God of their ancestors sent word against them by the hand of his messengers, sending them time and time again, for He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

¹⁶ But they kept ridiculing God's messengers, despising His words, and scoffing at His prophets, until the LORD's wrath was so stirred up against His people that there was no remedy.

¹⁷ So He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their choice young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary. He had no pity on young man and virgin or elderly and aged; He handed them all over to him.

¹⁸ He took everything to Babylon--all the articles of God's temple, large

and small, the treasures of the LORD's temple, and the treasures of the king and his officials.

¹⁹ Then the Chaldeans burned God's temple. They tore down Jerusalem's wall, burned down all its palaces, and destroyed all its valuable utensils.

²⁰ Those who escaped from the sword he deported to Babylon, and they became servants to him and his sons until the rise of the Persian kingdom.

²¹ This fulfilled the word of the LORD through Jeremiah and the land enjoyed its Sabbath rest all the days of the desolation until 70 years were fulfilled.

²² In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, the word of the LORD spoken through Jeremiah was fulfilled. The LORD put it into the mind of King Cyrus of Persia to issue a proclamation throughout his entire kingdom and also to put it in writing:

²³ This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and has appointed me to build Him a temple at Jerusalem in Judah. Whoever among you of His people may go up, and may the LORD his God be with him.

Ezra

1 ¹ In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, the word of the LORD spoken through Jeremiah was fulfilled. The LORD put it into the mind of King Cyrus to issue a proclamation throughout his entire kingdom and to put it in writing:

² This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and has appointed me to build Him a house at Jerusalem in Judah.

³ Whoever is among His people, may his God be with him, and may he go to Jerusalem in Judah and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem.

⁴ Let every survivor, wherever he lives, be assisted by the men of that region

with silver, gold, goods, and livestock, along with a freewill offering for the house of God in Jerusalem."

⁵ So the family leaders of Judah and Benjamin, along with the priests and Levites--everyone God had motivated--prepared to go up and rebuild the LORD's house in Jerusalem.

⁶ All their neighbors supported them with silver articles, gold, goods, livestock, and valuables, in addition to all that was given as a freewill offering.

⁷ King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the LORD's house that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and had placed in the house of his gods.

⁸ King Cyrus of Persia had them brought out under the supervision of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹ This was the inventory: 30 gold basins, 1,000 silver basins, 29 silver knives,

¹⁰ 30 gold bowls, 410 various silver bowls, and 1,000 other articles.

¹¹ The gold and silver articles totaled 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought all of them when the exiles went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2 ¹ These now are the people of the province who came from those captive exiles King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had deported to Babylon. Each of them returned to his hometown Jerusalem and Judah.

² They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the Israelite men included :

³ Parosh's descendants 2,172

⁴ Shephatiah's descendants 372

⁵ Arah's descendants 775

- ⁶ Pahath-moab's descendants: Jeshua's and Joab's descendants 2,812
- ⁷ Elam's descendants 1,254
- ⁸ Zattu's descendants 945
- ⁹ Zaccai's descendants 760
- ¹⁰ Bani's descendants 642
- ¹¹ Bebai's descendants 623
- ¹² Azgad's descendants 1,222
- ¹³ Adonikam's descendants 666
- ¹⁴ Bigvai's descendants 2,056
- ¹⁵ Adin's descendants 454
- ¹⁶ Ater's descendants: Hezekiah's 98
- ¹⁷ Bezai's descendants 323
- ¹⁸ Jorah's descendants 112
- ¹⁹ Hashum's descendants 223
- ²⁰ Gibbar's descendants 95
- ²¹ Bethlehem's people 123
- ²² Netophah's men 56
- ²³ Anathoth's men 128
- ²⁴ Azmaveth's people 42
- ²⁵ Kiriatharim's, Chephirah's, and Beeroth's people 743

- 26 Ramah's and Geba's people 621
- 27 Michmas's men 122
- 28 Bethel's and Ai's men 223
- 29 Nebo's people 52
- 30 Magbish's people 156
- 31 the other Elam's people 1,254
- 32 Harim's people 320
- 33 Lod's, Hadid's, and Ono's people 725
- 34 Jericho's people 345
- 35 Senaah's people 3,630
- 36 The priests included : Jedaiah's
descendants of the house of Jeshua 973
- 37 Immer's descendants 1,052
- 38 Pashhur's descendants 1,247
- 39 and Harim's descendants 1,017
- 40 The Levites included : Jeshua's and
Kadmiel's descendants from Hodaviah's
descendants 74
- 41 The singers included : Asaph's
descendants 128
- 42 The gatekeepers' descendants
included : Shallum's descendants, Ater's

descendants, Talmon's descendants,
Akkub's descendants, Hatita's
descendants, Shobai's descendants, in
all 139

⁴³ The temple servants included : Ziha's
descendants, Hasupha's descendants,
Tabbaoth's descendants,

⁴⁴ Keros's descendants, Siaha's
descendants, Padon's descendants,

⁴⁵ Lebanah's descendants, Hagabah's
descendants, Akkub's descendants,

⁴⁶ Hagab's descendants, Shalmal's
descendants, Hanan's descendants,

⁴⁷ Giddel's descendants, Gahar's
descendants, Reaiah's descendants,

⁴⁸ Rezin's descendants, Nekoda's
descendants, Gazzam's descendants,

⁴⁹ Uzza's descendants, Paseah's
descendants, Besai's descendants,

⁵⁰ Asnah's descendants, Meunim's
descendants, Nephusim's descendants,

⁵¹ Bakbuk's descendants, Hakupha's descendants, Harhur's descendants,

⁵² Bazluth's descendants, Mehida's descendants, Harsha's descendants,

⁵³ Barkos's descendants, Sisera's descendants, Temah's descendants,

⁵⁴ Neziah's descendants, and Hatipha's descendants.

⁵⁵ The descendants of Solomon's servants included : Sotai's descendants, Hassophereth's descendants, Peruda's descendants,

⁵⁶ Jaalah's descendants, Darkon's descendants, Giddel's descendants,

⁵⁷ Shephatiah's descendants, Hattil's descendants, Pochereth-hazzebaim's descendants, and Ami's descendants.

⁵⁸ All the temple servants and the descendants of Solomon's servants 392

⁵⁹ The following are those who came from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer but were unable to

prove that their families and ancestry were Israelite:

⁶⁰ Delaiah's descendants, Tobiah's descendants, Nekoda's descendants ⁶⁵²

⁶¹ and from the descendants of the priests: the descendants of Habaiah, the descendants of Hakkoz, the descendants of Barzillai--who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name.

⁶² These searched for their entries in the genealogical records, but they could not be found, so they were disqualified from the priesthood.

⁶³ The governor ordered them not to eat the most holy things until there was a priest who could consult the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴ The whole combined assembly numbered 42,360

⁶⁵ not including their 7,337 male and female slaves, and their 200 male and female singers.

⁶⁶ They had 736 horses, 245 mules,

⁶⁷ 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

⁶⁸ After they arrived at the LORD's house in Jerusalem, some of the family leaders gave freewill offerings for the house of God in order to have it rebuilt on its original site.

⁶⁹ Based on what they could give, they gave 61,000 gold coins, 6,250 pounds of silver, and 100 priestly garments to the treasury for the project.

⁷⁰ The priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants, and some of the people settled in their towns, and the rest of Israel settled in their towns.

3 ¹ By the seventh month, the Israelites had settled in their towns, and the people gathered together in Jerusalem.

² Jeshua son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests along with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his brothers began to build the altar of Israel's God in order to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

³ They set up the altar on its foundation and offered burnt offerings for the morning and evening on it to the LORD even though they feared the surrounding peoples.

⁴ They celebrated the Festival of Booths as prescribed, and offered burnt offerings each day, based on the number specified by ordinance for each festival day.

⁵ After that, they offered the regular burnt offering and the offerings for the beginning of each month and for all the LORD's appointed holy occasions, as well as the freewill offerings brought to the LORD.

⁶ On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, even though the foundation of the LORD's temple had not yet been laid.

⁷ They gave money to the stonecutters and artisans, and gave food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre, so they could bring cedar wood from Lebanon to Joppa by sea, according to the authorization given them by King Cyrus of Persia.

⁸ In the second month of the second year after they arrived at God's house in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Jeshua son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brothers, including the priests, the Levites, and all who had returned to Jerusalem from the captivity, began to build . They appointed the Levites who were 20 years old or more to supervise the work on the LORD's house.

⁹ Jeshua with his sons and brothers, Kadmiel with his sons, and the sons of Judah and of Henadad, with their sons and brothers, the Levites, joined together to supervise those working on the house of God.

¹⁰ When the builders had laid the foundation of the LORD's temple, the priests, dressed in their robes and holding trumpets, and the Levites descended from Asaph, holding cymbals, took their positions to praise the LORD, as King David of Israel had instructed.

¹¹ They sang with praise and thanksgiving to the LORD: "For He is good; His faithful love to Israel endures forever." Then all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD because the foundation of the LORD's house had been laid.

¹² But many of the older priests, Levites, and family leaders, who had seen the

first temple, wept loudly when they saw the foundation of this house, but many others shouted joyfully.

¹³ The people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shouting from that of the weeping, because the people were shouting so loudly. And the sound was heard far away.

4 ¹ When the enemies of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple for the LORD, the God of Israel,

² they approached Zerubbabel and the leaders of the families and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we also worship your God and have been sacrificing to Him since the time King Esar-haddon of Assyria brought us here."

³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the other leaders of Israel's families answered them, "You may have no part with us in building a house for our God, since

we alone must build it for the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia has commanded us."

⁴ Then the people who were already in the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build.

⁵ They also bribed officials to act against them to frustrate their plans throughout the reign of King Cyrus of Persia and until the reign of King Darius of Persia.

⁶ At the beginning of the reign of Ahasuerus, the people who were already in the land wrote an accusation against the residents of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷ During the time of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel and the rest of his colleagues wrote to King Artaxerxes. The letter was written in Aramaic and translated.

⁸ Rehum the chief deputy and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter to King

Artaxerxes concerning Jerusalem as follows:

⁹ From Rehum the chief deputy, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their colleagues--the judges and magistrates from Tripolis, Persia, Erech, Babylon, Susa (that is, the people of Elam),

¹⁰ and the rest of the peoples whom the great and illustrious Ashurbanipal deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and the region west of the Euphrates River.

¹¹ This is the text of the letter they sent to him: To King Artaxerxes from your servants, the men from the region west of the Euphrates River:

¹² Let it be known to the king that the Jews who came from you have returned to us at Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and evil city, finishing its walls, and repairing its foundations.

¹³ Let it now be known to the king that if that city is rebuilt and its walls are finished, they will not pay tribute, duty, or land tax, and the royal revenue will suffer.

¹⁴ Since we have taken an oath of loyalty to the king, and it is not right for us to witness his dishonor, we have sent to inform the king

¹⁵ that a search should be made in your fathers' record books. In these record books you will discover and verify that the city is a rebellious city, harmful to kings and provinces. There have been revolts in it since ancient times. That is why this city was destroyed.

¹⁶ We advise the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are finished, you will not have any possession west of the Euphrates.

¹⁷ The king sent a reply to his chief deputy Rehum, Shimshai the scribe,

and the rest of their colleagues living in Samaria and elsewhere in the region west of the Euphrates River: Greetings.

¹⁸ The letter you sent us has been translated and read in my presence.

¹⁹ I issued a decree and a search was conducted. It was discovered that this city has had uprisings against kings since ancient times, and there have been rebellions and revolts in it.

²⁰ Powerful kings have also ruled over Jerusalem and exercised authority over the whole region, and tribute, duty, and land tax were paid to them.

²¹ Therefore, issue an order for these men to stop, so that this city will not be rebuilt until a further decree has been pronounced by me.

²² See that you not neglect this matter. Otherwise, the damage will increase and the royal interests will suffer.

²³ As soon as the text of King Artaxerxes' letter was read to Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their colleagues, they immediately went to the Jews in Jerusalem and forcibly stopped them.

²⁴ Now the construction of God's house in Jerusalem had stopped and remained at a standstill until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.

5 ¹ But when the prophets Haggai and Zechariah son of Iddo prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them,

² Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak began to rebuild God's house in Jerusalem. The prophets of God were with them, helping them.

³ At that time Tattenai the governor of the region west of the Euphrates River, Shethar-bozenai, and their colleagues came to the Jews and asked, "Who gave

you the order to rebuild this temple and finish this structure?"

⁴ They also asked them, "What are the names of the workers who are constructing this building?"

⁵ But God was watching over the Jewish elders. These men wouldn't stop them until a report was sent to Darius, so that they could receive written instructions about this matter .

⁶ This is the text of the letter that Tattenai the governor of the region west of the Euphrates River, Shethar-bozenai, and their colleagues, the officials in the region, sent to King Darius.

⁷ They sent him a report, written as follows: To King Darius: All greetings.

⁸ Let it be known to the king that we went to the house of the great God in the province of Judah. It is being built with cut stones, and its beams are being set in the walls. This work is being done

diligently and succeeding through the people's efforts.

⁹ So we questioned the elders and asked, "Who gave you the order to rebuild this temple and finish this structure?"

¹⁰ We also asked them for their names, so that we could write down the names of their leaders for your information.

¹¹ This is the reply they gave us: We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth and are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.

¹² But since our fathers angered the God of heaven, He handed them over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this temple and deported the people to Babylon.

¹³ However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, he issued a decree to rebuild this house of God.

¹⁴ He also took from the temple in Babylon the gold and silver articles of God's house that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem and carried them to the temple in Babylon. He released them from the temple in Babylon to a man named Sheshbazzar, the governor by the appointment of King Cyrus.

¹⁵ He told him, 'Take these articles, put them in the temple in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its original site.'

¹⁶ Then this same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundation of God's house in Jerusalem. It has been under construction from that time until now, yet it has not been completed.

¹⁷ So if it pleases the king, let a search of the royal archives in Babylon be conducted to see if it is true that a decree was issued by King Cyrus to

rebuild this house of God in Jerusalem. Let the king's decision regarding this matter be sent to us.

6 ¹ King Darius gave the order, and they searched in the library of Babylon in the archives.

² But it was in the fortress of Ecbatana in the province of Media that a scroll was found with this record written on it:

³ In the first year of King Cyrus, he issued a decree concerning the house of God in Jerusalem: Let the house be rebuilt as a place for offering sacrifices, and let its original foundations be retained. Its height is to be 90 feet and its width 90 feet,

⁴ with three layers of cut stones and one of timber. The cost is to be paid from the royal treasury.

⁵ The gold and silver articles of God's house that Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem and carried to

Babylon must also be returned. They are to be brought to the temple in Jerusalem, where they belong, and put into the house of God.

⁶ Therefore, you must stay away from that place, Tattenai governor of the region west of the Euphrates River, Shethar-bozenai, and your colleagues, the officials in the region.

⁷ Leave the construction of this house of God alone. Let the governor and elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its original site.

⁸ I hereby issue a decree concerning what you must do, so that the elders of the Jews can rebuild this house of God: The cost is to be paid in full to these men out of the royal revenues from the taxes of the region west of the Euphrates River, so that the work will not stop.

⁹ Whatever is needed--young bulls, rams, and lambs for burnt offerings to

the God of heaven, or wheat, salt, wine, and oil, as requested by the priests in Jerusalem--let it be given to them every day without fail,

¹⁰ so that they can offer sacrifices of pleasing aroma to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹ I also issue a decree concerning any man who interferes with this directive: Let a beam be torn from his house and raised up; he will be impaled on it, and his house will be made into a garbage dump because of this offense .

¹² May the God who caused His name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who dares to harm or interfere with this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have issued the decree. Let it be carried out diligently.

¹³ Then Tattenai governor of the region west of the Euphrates River,

Shethar-bozenai, and their colleagues diligently carried out what King Darius had decreed.

¹⁴ So the Jewish elders continued successfully with the building under the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah son of Iddo. They finished the building according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius, and King Artaxerxes of Persia.

¹⁵ This house was completed on the third day of the month of Adar in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

¹⁶ Then the Israelites, including the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

¹⁷ For the dedication of God's house they offered 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 lambs, as well as 12 male goats as

a sin offering for all Israel--one for each Israelite tribe.

¹⁸ They also appointed the priests by their divisions and the Levites by their groups to the service of God in Jerusalem, according to what is written in the book of Moses.

¹⁹ The exiles observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

²⁰ All of the priests and Levites were ceremonially clean, because they had purified themselves. They killed the Passover lamb for themselves, their priestly brothers, and all the exiles.

²¹ The Israelites who had returned from exile ate it , together with all who had separated themselves from the uncleanness of the Gentiles of the land in order to worship the LORD, the God of Israel.

²² They observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with

joy, because the LORD had made them joyful, having changed the Assyrian king's attitude toward them, so that he supported them in the work on the house of the God of Israel.

7 ¹ After these events, during the reign of King Artaxerxes of Persia, Ezra--Seraiah's son, Azariah's son, Hilkiah's son,

² Shallum's son, Zadok's son, Ahitub's son,

³ Amariah's son, Azariah's son, Meraioth's son,

⁴ Zerariah's son, Uzzi's son, Bukki's son,

⁵ Abishua's son, Phinehas's son, Eleazar's son, Aaron the chief priest's son

⁶ --came up from Babylon. He was a scribe skilled in the law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given. The king had granted him everything he

requested because the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

⁷ Some of the Israelites, priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and temple servants accompanied him to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁸ Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, during the seventh year of the king.

⁹ He began the journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month and arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month. The gracious hand of his God was on him,

¹⁰ because Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.

¹¹ This is the text of the letter King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest and scribe, an expert in matters of the LORD's commandments and statutes for Israel:

¹² Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, an expert in the law of the God of heaven: Greetings to you .

¹³ I issue a decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including their priests and Levites, who want to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

¹⁴ You are sent by the king and his seven counselors to evaluate Judah and Jerusalem according to the law of your God, which is in your possession.

¹⁵ You are also to bring the silver and gold the king and his counselors have willingly given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem,

¹⁶ and all the silver and gold you receive throughout the province of Babylon, together with the freewill offerings given by the people and the priests to the house of their God in Jerusalem.

¹⁷ Then, you are to buy with this money as many bulls, rams, and lambs as

needed, along with their grain and drink offerings, and offer them on the altar at the house of your God in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ You may do whatever seems best to you and your brothers with the rest of the silver and gold, according to the will of your God.

¹⁹ You must deliver to the God of Jerusalem all the articles given to you for the service of the house of your God.

²⁰ You may use the royal treasury to pay for anything else you have to supply to meet the needs of the house of your God.

²¹ I, King Artaxerxes, issue a decree to all the treasurers in the region west of the Euphrates River: Whatever Ezra the priest and expert in the law of the God of heaven asks of you must be provided promptly,

²² up to 7,500 pounds of silver, 500 bushels of wheat, 550 gallons of wine, 550 gallons of oil, and salt without limit.

²³ Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven must be done diligently for the house of the God of heaven, so that wrath will not fall on the realm of the king and his sons.

²⁴ Be advised that tribute, duty, and land tax must not be imposed on any priests, Levites, singers, doorkeepers, temple servants, or other servants of this house of God.

²⁵ And you, Ezra, according to God's wisdom that you possess, appoint magistrates and judges to judge all the people in the region west of the Euphrates who know the laws of your God and to teach anyone who does not know them .

²⁶ Anyone who does not keep the law of your God and the law of the king, let

a fair judgment be executed against him, whether death, banishment, confiscation of property, or imprisonment.

²⁷ Praise the LORD God of our fathers, who has put it into the king's mind to glorify the house of the LORD in Jerusalem,

²⁸ and who has shown favor to me before the king, his counselors, and all his powerful officers. So I took courage because I was strengthened by the LORD my God, and I gathered Israelite leaders to return with me.

8 ¹ These are the family leaders and the genealogical records of those who returned with me from Babylon during the reign of King Artaxerxes:

² Gershom, from Phinehas's descendants; Daniel, from Ithamar's descendants; Hattush, from David's descendants,

³ who was of Shecaniah's descendants; Zechariah, from Parosh's descendants, and 150 men with him who were registered by genealogy;

⁴ Eliehoenai son of Zerariah from Pahath-moab's descendants, and 200 men with him;

⁵ Shecaniah son of Jahaziel from Zattu's descendants, and 300 men with him;

⁶ Ebed son of Jonathan from Adin's descendants, and 50 men with him;

⁷ Jeshaiiah son of Athaliah from Elam's descendants, and 70 men with him;

⁸ Zebadiah son of Michael from Shephatiah's descendants, and 80 men with him;

⁹ Obadiah son of Jehiel from Joab's descendants, and 218 men with him;

¹⁰ Shelomith son of Josiphiah from Bani's descendants, and 160 men with him;

¹¹ Zechariah son of Bebai from Bebai's descendants, and 28 men with him;

¹² Johanan son of Hakkatan from Azgad's descendants, and 110 men with him;

¹³ these are the last ones, from Adonikam's descendants, and their names are: Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah, and 60 men with them;

¹⁴ Uthai and Zaccur from Bigvai's descendants, and 70 men with them.

¹⁵ I gathered them at the river that flows to Ahava, and we camped there for three days. I searched among the people and priests, but found no Levites there.

¹⁶ Then I summoned the leaders: Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, as well as the teachers Joiarib and Elnathan.

¹⁷ I sent them to Iddo, the leader at Casiphia, with a message for him and

his brothers, the temple servants at Casiphia, that they should bring us ministers for the house of our God.

¹⁸ Since the gracious hand of our God was on us, they brought us Sherebiah--a man of insight from the descendants of Mahli, a descendant of Levi son of Israel--along with his sons and brothers, 18 men,

¹⁹ plus Hashabiah, along with Jeshaiiah, from the descendants of Merari, and his brothers and their sons, 20 men.

²⁰ There were also 220 of the temple servants, who had been appointed by David and the leaders for the work of the Levites. All were identified by name.

²¹ I proclaimed a fast by the Ahava River, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask Him for a safe journey for us, our children, and all our possessions.

²² I did this because I was ashamed to ask the king for infantry and cavalry to protect us from enemies during the journey, since we had told him, "The hand of our God is gracious to all who seek Him, but His great anger is against all who abandon Him."

²³ So we fasted and pleaded with our God about this, and He granted our request.

²⁴ I selected 12 of the leading priests, along with Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and 10 of their brothers.

²⁵ I weighed out to them the silver, the gold, and the articles--the contribution for the house of our God that the king, his counselors, his leaders, and all the Israelites who were present had offered.

²⁶ I weighed out to them 24 tons of silver, silver articles weighing 7,500 pounds, 7,500 pounds of gold,

²⁷ 20 gold bowls worth 1,000 gold coins, and two articles of fine gleaming bronze, as valuable as gold.

²⁸ Then I said to them, "You are holy to the LORD, and the articles are holy. The silver and gold are a freewill offering to the LORD God of your fathers.

²⁹ Guard them carefully until you weigh them out in the chambers of the LORD's house before the leading priests, Levites, and heads of the Israelite families in Jerusalem."

³⁰ So the priests and Levites took charge of the silver, the gold, and the articles that had been weighed out, to bring them to the house of our God in Jerusalem.

³¹ We set out from the Ahava River on the twelfth day of the first month to go to Jerusalem. We were strengthened by our God, and He protected us from the

power of the enemy and from ambush along the way.

³² So we arrived at Jerusalem and rested there for three days.

³³ On the fourth day the silver, the gold, and the articles were weighed out in the house of our God into the care of Meremoth the priest, son of Uriah. Eleazar son of Phinehas was with him. The Levites Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui were also with them.

³⁴ Everything was verified by number and weight, and the total weight was recorded at that time.

³⁵ The exiles who had returned from the captivity offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel: 12 bulls for all Israel, 96 rams, and 77 lambs, along with 12 male goats as a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering for the LORD.

³⁶ They also delivered the king's edicts to the royal satraps and governors of the region west of the Euphrates, so that they would support the people and the house of God.

9¹ After these things had been done, the leaders approached me and said: "The people of Israel, the priests, and the Levites have not separated themselves from the surrounding peoples whose detestable practices are like those of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians, and Amorites.

² Indeed, they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy people has become mixed with the surrounding peoples. The leaders and officials have taken the lead in this unfaithfulness!"

³ When I heard this report, I tore my tunic and robe, pulled out some of the

hair from my head and beard, and sat down devastated.

⁴ Everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me, because of the unfaithfulness of the exiles, while I sat devastated until the evening offering.

⁵ At the evening offering, I got up from my humiliation, with my tunic and robe torn. Then I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God.

⁶ And I said: My God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift my face toward You, my God, because our iniquities are higher than our heads and our guilt is as high as the heavens.

⁷ Our guilt has been terrible from the days of our fathers until the present. Because of our iniquities we have been handed over, along with our kings and priests, to the surrounding kings, and

to the sword, captivity, plundering, and open shame, as it is today.

⁸ But now, for a brief moment, grace has come from the LORD our God to preserve a remnant for us and give us a stake in His holy place. Even in our slavery, God has given us new life and light to our eyes.

⁹ Though we are slaves, our God has not abandoned us in our slavery. He has extended grace to us in the presence of the Persian kings, giving us new life, so that we can rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Now, our God, what can we say in light of this? For we have abandoned the commandments

¹¹ You gave through Your servants the prophets, saying: "The land you are entering to possess is an impure land. The surrounding peoples have

filled it from end to end with their uncleanness by their impurity and detestable practices.

¹² So do not give your daughters to their sons in marriage or take their daughters for your sons. Never seek their peace or prosperity, so that you will be strong, eat the good things of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your sons forever."

¹³ After all that has happened to us because of our evil deeds and terrible guilt--though You, our God, have punished us less than our sins deserve and have allowed us to survive--

¹⁴ should we break Your commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who commit these detestable practices? Wouldn't You become so angry with us that You would destroy us, leaving no survivors?

¹⁵ LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we survive as a remnant today. Here

we are before You with our guilt, though no one can stand in Your presence because of this.

10¹ While Ezra prayed and confessed, weeping and falling facedown before the house of God, an extremely large assembly of Israelite men, women, and children gathered around him. The people also wept bitterly.

² Then Shecaniah son of Jehiel, an Elamite, responded to Ezra: "We have been unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women from the surrounding peoples, but there is still hope for Israel in spite of this.

³ Let us therefore make a covenant before our God to send away all the foreign wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the

commandment of our God. Let it be done according to the law.

⁴ Get up, for this matter is your responsibility, and we support you. Be strong and take action!"

⁵ Then Ezra got up and made the leading priests, Levites, and all Israel take an oath to do what had been said; so they took the oath.

⁶ Ezra then went from the house of God, walked to the chamber of Jehohanan son of Eliashib, where he spent the night. He did not eat food or drink water, because he was mourning over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.

⁷ They circulated a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem that all the exiles should gather at Jerusalem.

⁸ Whoever did not come within three days would forfeit all his possessions, according to the decision of the leaders

and elders, and would be excluded from the assembly of the exiles.

⁹ So all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered in Jerusalem within the three days. On the twentieth day of the ninth month, all the people sat in the square at the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain.

¹⁰ Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have been unfaithful by marrying foreign women, adding to Israel's guilt.

¹¹ Therefore, make a confession to the LORD God of your fathers and do His will. Separate yourselves from the surrounding peoples and your foreign wives."

¹² Then all the assembly responded with a loud voice: "Yes, we will do as you say!"

¹³ But there are many people, and it is the rainy season. We don't have the stamina to stay out in the open. This isn't something that can be done in a day or two, for we have rebelled terribly in this matter.

¹⁴ Let our leaders represent the entire assembly. Then let all those in our towns who have married foreign women come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of each town, in order to avert the fierce anger of our God concerning this matter."

¹⁵ Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah opposed this, with Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supporting them.

¹⁶ The exiles did what had been proposed. Ezra the priest selected men who were family leaders, all identified by name, to represent their ancestral houses. They convened on the first day

of the tenth month to investigate the matter,

¹⁷ and by the first day of the first month they had dealt with all the men who had married foreign women.

¹⁸ The following were found to have married foreign women from the descendants of the priests: from the descendants of Jeshua son of Jozadak and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah.

¹⁹ They pledged to send their wives away, and being guilty, they offered a ram from the flock for their guilt;

²⁰ Hanani and Zebadiah from Immer's descendants;

²¹ Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uziah from Harim's descendants;

²² Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah from Pashhur's descendants.

²³ The Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

²⁴ The singers: Eliashib. The gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri.

²⁵ The Israelites: Parosh's descendants: Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchijah, and Benaiah;

²⁶ Elam's descendants: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah;

²⁷ Zattu's descendants: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza;

²⁸ Bebai's descendants: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai;

²⁹ Bani's descendants: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth;

³⁰ Pahath-moab's descendants: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh;

³¹ Harim's descendants: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

³² Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah;

³³ Hashum's descendants: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei;

³⁴ Bani's descendants: Maadai, Amram, Uel,

³⁵ Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi,

³⁶ Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷ Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasu,

³⁸ Bani, Binnui, Shimei,

³⁹ Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,

⁴⁰ Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,

⁴¹ Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,

⁴² Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph;

⁴³ Nebo's descendants: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel, and Benaiah.

⁴⁴ All of these had married foreign women, and some of the wives had borne children.

Nehemiah

1 ¹ The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa,

² Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had returned from exile.

³ They said to me, "The survivors in the province, who returned from the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem's wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned down."

⁴ When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

⁵ I said, LORD God of heaven, the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps His gracious covenant with those who love Him and keep His commands,

⁶ let Your eyes be open and Your ears be attentive to hear Your servant's prayer that I now pray to You day and night for Your servants, the Israelites. I confess the sins we have committed against You. Both I and my father's house have sinned.

⁷ We have acted corruptly toward You and have not kept the commands, statutes, and ordinances You gave Your servant Moses.

⁸ Please remember what You commanded Your servant Moses: "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples.

⁹ But if you return to Me and carefully observe My commands, even though your exiles were banished to the ends

of the earth, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I chose to have My name dwell."

¹⁰ They are Your servants and Your people. You redeemed them by Your great power and strong hand.

¹¹ Please, Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and to that of Your servants who delight to revere Your name. Give Your servant success today, and have compassion on him in the presence of this man. At the time, I was the king's cupbearer.

2 ¹ During the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was set before him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had never been sad in his presence,

² so the king said to me, "Why are you sad, when you aren't sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." I was overwhelmed with fear

³ and replied to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should I not be sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

⁴ Then the king asked me, "What is your request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven

⁵ and answered the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it."

⁶ The king, with the queen seated beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you return?" So I gave him a definite time, and it pleased the king to send me.

⁷ I also said to the king: "If it pleases the king, let me have letters written to the governors of the region west of the

Euphrates River, so that they will grant me safe passage until I reach Judah.

⁸ And let me have a letter written to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so that he will give me timber to rebuild the gates of the temple's fortress, the city wall, and the home where I will live." The king granted my requests , for I was graciously strengthened by my God.

⁹ I went to the governors of the region west of the Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king had also sent officers of the infantry and cavalry with me.

¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard that someone had come to seek the well-being of the Israelites, they were greatly displeased.

¹¹ After I arrived in Jerusalem and had been there three days,

¹² I got up at night and took a few men with me. I didn't tell anyone what my God had laid on my heart to do for Jerusalem. The only animal I took was the one I was riding.

¹³ I went out at night through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent's Well and the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that had been broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

¹⁴ I went on to the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but farther down it became too narrow for my animal to go through.

¹⁵ So I went up at night by way of the valley and inspected the wall. Then heading back, I entered through the Valley Gate and returned.

¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, for I had not yet told the Jews, priests, nobles,

officials, or the rest of those who would be doing the work.

¹⁷ So I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned down. Come, let's rebuild Jerusalem's wall, so that we will no longer be a disgrace."

¹⁸ I told them how the gracious hand of my God had been on me, and what the king had said to me. They said, "Let's start rebuilding," and they were encouraged to do this good work.

¹⁹ When Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about this, they mocked and despised us, and said, "What is this you're doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"

²⁰ I gave them this reply, "The God of heaven is the One who will grant us success. We, His servants, will start

building, but you have no share, right, or historic claim in Jerusalem."

3¹ Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests began rebuilding the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and installed its doors. After building the wall to the Tower of the Hundred and the Tower of Hananel, they dedicated it.

² The men of Jericho built next to Eliashib, and next to them Zaccur son of Imri built.

³ The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They built it with beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.

⁴ Next to them Meremoth son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz, made repairs. Beside them Meshullam son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok son of Baana made repairs.

⁵ Beside them the Tekoites made repairs, but their nobles did not lift a finger to help their supervisors.

⁶ Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate. They built it with beams and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.

⁷ Next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, and the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, who were under the authority of the governor of the region west of the Euphrates River.

⁸ After him Uzziel son of Harhaiah, the goldsmith, made repairs, and next to him Hananiah son of the perfumer made repairs. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹ Next to them Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler over half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

¹⁰ After them Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs across from his house. Next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.

¹¹ Malchijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-moab made repairs to another section, as well as to the Tower of the Ovens.

¹² Beside him Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler over half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs--he and his daughters.

¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and installed its doors, bolts, and bars, and repaired 500 yards of the wall to the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ Malchijah son of Rechab, ruler over the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and installed its doors, bolts, and bars.

¹⁵ Shallun son of Col-hozeh, ruler over the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and roofed it. Then he installed its doors, bolts, and bars. He also made repairs to the wall of the Pool of Shelah near the king's

garden, as far as the stairs that descend from the city of David.

¹⁶ After him Nehemiah son of Azbuk, ruler over half the district of Beth-zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Warriors.

¹⁷ Next to him the Levites made repairs under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him Hashabiah, ruler over half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.

¹⁸ After him their fellow Levites made repairs under Binnui son of Henadad, ruler over half the district of Keilah.

¹⁹ Next to him Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler over Mizpah, made repairs to another section opposite the ascent to the armory at the Angle.

²⁰ After him Baruch son of Zabbai diligently repaired another section, from the Angle to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

²¹ Beside him Meremoth son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz, made repairs to another section, from the door of Eliashib's house to the end of his house.

²² And next to him the priests from the surrounding area made repairs.

²³ After them Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house. Beside them Azariah son of Maaseiah, son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house.

²⁴ After him Binnui son of Henadad made repairs to another section, from the house of Azariah to the Angle and the corner.

²⁵ Palal son of Uzai made repairs opposite the Angle and tower that juts out from the upper palace of the king, by the courtyard of the guard. Beside him Pedaiah son of Parosh,

²⁶ and the temple servants living on Ophel made repairs opposite the Water

Gate toward the east and the tower that juts out.

²⁷ Next to him the Tekoites made repairs to another section from a point opposite the great tower that juts out, as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Each of the priests made repairs above the Horse Gate, each opposite his own house.

²⁹ After them Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. And beside him Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, guard of the East Gate, made repairs.

³⁰ Next to him Hananiah son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph made repairs to another section. After them Meshullam son of Berechiah made repairs opposite his room.

³¹ Next to him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs to the house of the temple servants and the merchants,

opposite the Inspection Gate, and as far as the upper room of the corner.

³² The goldsmiths and merchants made repairs between the upper room of the corner and the Sheep Gate.

4 ¹ When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious. He mocked the Jews

² before his colleagues and the powerful men of Samaria, and said, "What are these pathetic Jews doing? Can they restore it by themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they ever finish it? Can they bring these burnt stones back to life from the mounds of rubble?"

³ Then Tobiah the Ammonite, who was beside him, said, "Indeed, even if a fox climbed up what they are building, he would break down their stone wall!"

⁴ Listen, our God, for we are despised. Make their insults return on their own

heads and let them be taken as plunder to a land of captivity.

⁵ Do not cover their guilt or let their sin be erased from Your sight, because they have provoked the builders.

⁶ So we rebuilt the wall until the entire wall was joined together up to half its height , for the people had the will to keep working.

⁷ When Sanballat, Tobiah, and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they became furious.

⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw it into confusion.

⁹ So we prayed to our God and stationed a guard because of them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah, it was said: The strength of the laborer fails, since there is so much

rubble. We will never be able to rebuild the wall.

¹¹ And our enemies said, "They won't know or see anything until we're among them and can kill them and stop the work."

¹² When the Jews who lived nearby arrived, they said to us time and again, "Everywhere you turn, they attack us."

¹³ So I stationed people behind the lowest sections of the wall, at the vulnerable areas. I stationed them by families with their swords, spears, and bows.

¹⁴ After I made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the great and awe-inspiring Lord, and fight for your countrymen, your sons and daughters, your wives and homes."

¹⁵ When our enemies realized that we knew their scheme and that God had frustrated it, every one of us returned to his own work on the wall.

¹⁶ From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers supported all the people of Judah,

¹⁷ who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other.

¹⁸ Each of the builders had his sword strapped around his waist while he was building, and the trumpeter was beside me.

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people: "The work is enormous and spread out, and we are separated far from one another along the wall.

²⁰ Wherever you hear the trumpet sound, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us!"

²¹ So we continued the work, while half of the men were holding spears from daybreak until the stars came out.

²² At that time, I also said to the people, "Let everyone and his servant spend the night inside Jerusalem, so that they can stand guard by night and work by day."

²³ And I, my brothers, my men, and the guards with me never took off our clothes. Each carried his weapon, even when washing.

5 ¹ There was a widespread outcry from the people and their wives against their Jewish countrymen.

² Some were saying, "We, our sons, and our daughters are numerous. Let us get grain so that we can eat and live."

³ Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, vineyards, and homes to get grain during the famine."

⁴ Still others were saying, "We have borrowed money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards.

⁵ We and our children are just like our countrymen and their children, yet we are subjecting our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters are already enslaved, but we are powerless because our fields and vineyards belong to others."

⁶ I became extremely angry when I heard their outcry and these complaints.

⁷ After seriously considering the matter, I accused the nobles and officials, saying to them, "Each of you is charging his countrymen interest." So I called a large assembly against them

⁸ and said, "We have done our best to buy back our Jewish countrymen who

were sold to foreigners, but now you sell your own countrymen, and we have to buy them back." They remained silent and could not say a word.

⁹ Then I said, "What you are doing isn't right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God and not invite the reproach of our foreign enemies?"

¹⁰ Even I, as well as my brothers and my servants, have been lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop charging this interest.

¹¹ Return their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and houses to them immediately, along with the percentage of the money, grain, new wine, and olive oil that you have been assessing them."

¹² They responded: "We will return these things and require nothing more from them. We will do as you say." So I summoned the priests and made everyone take an oath to do this.

¹³ I also shook the folds of my robe and said, "May God likewise shake from his house and property everyone who doesn't keep this promise. May he be shaken out and have nothing!" The whole assembly said, "Amen," and they praised the LORD. Then the people did as they had promised.

¹⁴ Furthermore, from the day King Artaxerxes appointed me to be their governor in the land of Judah--from the twentieth year until his thirty-second year, 12 years--I and my associates never ate from the food allotted to the governor.

¹⁵ The governors who preceded me had heavily burdened the people, taking food and wine from them, as well as a pound of silver. Their subordinates also oppressed the people, but I didn't do this, because of the fear of God.

¹⁶ Instead, I devoted myself to the construction of the wall, and all my subordinates were gathered there for the work. We didn't buy any land.

¹⁷ There were 150 Jews and officials, as well as guests from the surrounding nations at my table.

¹⁸ Each day, one ox, six choice sheep, and some fowl were prepared for me. An abundance of all kinds of wine was provided every 10 days. But I didn't demand the food allotted to the governor, because the burden on the people was so heavy.

¹⁹ Remember me favorably, my God, for all that I have done for this people.

6 ¹ When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and that no gap was left in it--though at that time I had not installed the doors in the gates--

² Sanballat and Geshem sent me a message: "Come, let's meet together in the villages of the Ono Valley." But they were planning to harm me.

³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

⁴ Four times they sent me the same proposal, and I gave them the same reply.

⁵ Sanballat sent me this same message a fifth time by his aide, who had an open letter in his hand.

⁶ In it was written: It is reported among the nations--and Geshem agrees--that you and the Jews plan to rebel. This is the reason you are building the wall. According to these reports, you are to become their king

⁷ and have even set up the prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim on your behalf:

"There is a king in Judah." These rumors will be heard by the king. So come, let's confer together.

⁸ Then I replied to him, "There is nothing to these rumors you are spreading; you are inventing them in your own mind."

⁹ For they were all trying to intimidate us, saying, "They will become discouraged in the work, and it will never be finished." But now, my God, strengthen me.

¹⁰ I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was restricted to his house. He said: Let us meet at the house of God inside the temple. Let us shut the temple doors because they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you tonight!

¹¹ But I said, "Should a man like me run away? How can I enter the temple and live? I will not go."

¹² I realized that God had not sent him, because of the prophecy he spoke against me. Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³ He was hired, so that I would be intimidated, do as he suggested, sin, and get a bad reputation, in order that they could discredit me.

¹⁴ My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat for what they have done, and also Noadiah the prophetess and the other prophets who wanted to intimidate me.

¹⁵ The wall was completed in 52 days, on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul.

¹⁶ When all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence, for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God.

¹⁷ During those days, the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them.

¹⁸ For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, since he was a son-in-law of Shecaniah son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam son of Berechiah.

¹⁹ These nobles kept mentioning Tobiah's good deeds to me, and they reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.

7 ¹ When the wall had been rebuilt and I had the doors installed, the gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed.

² Then I put my brother Hanani in charge of Jerusalem, along with Hananiah, commander of the fortress, because he was a faithful man who feared God more than most.

³ I said to them, "Do not open the gates of Jerusalem until the sun is hot, and let the doors be shut and securely fastened while the guards are on duty. Station the citizens of Jerusalem as guards, some at their posts and some at their homes."

⁴ The city was large and spacious, but there were few people in it, and no houses had been built yet.

⁵ Then my God put it into my mind to assemble the nobles, the officials, and the people to be registered by genealogy. I found the genealogical record of those who came back first, and I found the following written in it:

⁶ These are the people of the province who went up from among the captive exiles deported by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Each of them returned to his own town in Jerusalem and Judah.

⁷ They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani,

Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah. The number of the Israelite men included :

⁸ Parosh's descendants 2,172

⁹ Shephatiah's descendants 372

¹⁰ Arah's descendants 652

¹¹ Pahath-moab's descendants:

Jeshua's and Joab's descendants 2,818

¹² Elam's descendants 1,254

¹³ Zattu's descendants 845

¹⁴ Zaccai's descendants 760

¹⁵ Binnui's descendants 648

¹⁶ Bebai's descendants 628

¹⁷ Azgad's descendants 2,322

¹⁸ Adonikam's descendants 667

¹⁹ Bigvai's descendants 2,067

²⁰ Adin's descendants 655

²¹ Ater's descendants: of Hezekiah 98

²² Hashum's descendants 328

²³ Bezai's descendants 324

²⁴ Hariph's descendants 112

²⁵ Gibeon's descendants 95

- ²⁶ Bethlehem's and Netophah's men
188
- ²⁷ Anathoth's men 128
- ²⁸ Beth-azmaveth's men 42
- ²⁹ Kiriath-jearim's, Chephirah's, and
Beeroth's men 743
- ³⁰ Ramah's and Geba's men 621
- ³¹ Michmas's men 122
- ³² Bethel's and Ai's men 123
- ³³ the other Nebo's men 52
- ³⁴ the other Elam's people 1,254
- ³⁵ Harim's people 320
- ³⁶ Jericho's people 345
- ³⁷ Lod's, Hadid's, and Ono's people 721
- ³⁸ Senaah's people 3,930
- ³⁹ The priests included : Jedaiah's
descendants of the house of Jeshua 973
- ⁴⁰ Immer's descendants 1,052
- ⁴¹ Pashhur's descendants 1,247
- ⁴² Harim's descendants 1,017

⁴³ The Levites included : Jeshua's descendants: of Kadmiel Hodevah's descendants 74

⁴⁴ The singers included : Asaph's descendants 148

⁴⁵ The gatekeepers included : Shallum's descendants, Ater's descendants, Talmon's descendants, Akkub's descendants, Hatita's descendants, Shobai's descendants 138

⁴⁶ The temple servants included : Ziha's descendants, Hasupha's descendants, Tabbaoth's descendants,

⁴⁷ Keros's descendants, Sia's descendants, Padon's descendants,

⁴⁸ Lebana's descendants, Hagaba's descendants, Shalmal's descendants,

⁴⁹ Hanan's descendants, Giddel's descendants, Gahar's descendants,

⁵⁰ Reaiah's descendants, Rezin's descendants, Nekoda's descendants,

⁵¹ Gazzam's descendants, Uzza's descendants, Paseah's descendants,

⁵² Besai's descendants, Meunim's descendants, Nephishesim's descendants,

⁵³ Bakbuk's descendants, Hakupha's descendants, Harhur's descendants,

⁵⁴ Bazlith's descendants, Mehida's descendants, Harsha's descendants,

⁵⁵ Barkos's descendants, Sisera's descendants, Temah's descendants,

⁵⁶ Neziah's descendants, Hatipha's descendants.

⁵⁷ The descendants of Solomon's servants included : Sotai's descendants, Sophereth's descendants, Perida's descendants,

⁵⁸ Jaala's descendants, Darkon's descendants, Giddel's descendants,

⁵⁹ Shephatiah's descendants, Hattil's descendants, Pochereth-hazzebaim's descendants, Amon's descendants.

⁶⁰ All the temple servants and the descendants of Solomon's servants 392

⁶¹ The following are those who came from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, but were unable to prove that their families and ancestry were Israelite:

⁶² Delaiah's descendants, Tobiah's descendants, and Nekoda's descendants 642

⁶³ and from the priests: the descendants of Hobaiah, the descendants of Hakkoz, and the descendants of Barzillai--who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name.

⁶⁴ These searched for their entries in the genealogical records, but they could not be found, so they were disqualified from the priesthood.

⁶⁵ The governor ordered them not to eat the most holy things until there was

a priest who could consult the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁶ The whole combined assembly numbered 42,360

⁶⁷ not including their 7,337 male and female slaves, as well as their 245 male and female singers.

⁶⁸ They had 736 horses, 245 mules,

⁶⁹ 435 camels, and 6,720 donkeys.

⁷⁰ Some of the family leaders gave to the project. The governor gave 1,000 gold drachmas, 50 bowls, and 530 priestly garments to the treasury.

⁷¹ Some of the family leaders gave 20,000 gold drachmas and 2,200 silver minas to the treasury for the project.

⁷² The rest of the people gave 20,000 gold drachmas, 2,000 silver minas, and 67 priestly garments.

⁷³ So the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, temple singers, some of the people,

temple servants, and all Israel settled in their towns.

8¹ all the people gathered together at the square in front of the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses that the LORD had given Israel.

² On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women, and all who could listen with understanding.

³ While he was facing the square in front of the Water Gate, he read out of it from daybreak until noon before the men, the women, and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively to the book of the law.

⁴ Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform made for this purpose. Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah stood beside him on his right; to his left

were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

⁵ Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people, since he was elevated above everyone. As he opened it, all the people stood up.

⁶ Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and with their hands uplifted all the people said, "Amen, Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah, who were Levites, explained the law to the people as they stood in their places.

⁸ They read the book of the law of God, translating and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was read.

⁹ Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all of them, "This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go and eat what is rich, drink what is sweet, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because your strength comes from rejoicing in the LORD."

¹¹ And the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, since today is holy. Do not grieve."

¹² Then all the people began to eat and drink, send portions, and have a great celebration, because they had understood the words that were explained to them.

¹³ On the second day, the family leaders of all the people, along with the priests and Levites, assembled before Ezra the scribe to study the words of the law.

¹⁴ They found written in the law how the LORD had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should dwell in booths during the festival of the seventh month.

¹⁵ So they proclaimed and spread this news throughout all their towns and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the hill country and bring back branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, just as it is written."

¹⁶ The people went out, brought back branches, and made booths for themselves on each of their rooftops, and courtyards, the court of the house of God, the square by the Water Gate, and the square by the Gate of Ephraim.

¹⁷ The whole community that had returned from exile made booths and lived in them. They had not celebrated like this from the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day. And there was tremendous joy.

¹⁸ Ezra read out of the book of the law of God every day, from the first day to the last. The Israelites celebrated the feast for seven days, and on the eighth day there was an assembly, according to the ordinance.

9 ¹ On the twenty-fourth day of this month the Israelites assembled; they were fasting, wearing sackcloth, and had put dust on their heads.

² Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners, and they stood and confessed their sins and the guilt of their fathers.

³ While they stood in their places, they read from the book of the law of the

LORD their God for a fourth of the day and spent another fourth of the day in confession and worship of the LORD their God.

⁴ Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the raised platform built for the Levites and cried out loudly to the LORD their God.

⁵ Then the Levites--Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah--said:Stand up. Bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Praise Your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.

⁶ You alone are the LORD. You created the heavens, the highest heavens with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and the heavenly host worships You.

⁷ You are the LORD God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, and changed his name to Abraham.

⁸ You found his heart faithful in Your sight, and made a covenant with him to give the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Girgashites--to give it to his descendants. You have kept Your promise, for You are righteous.

⁹ You saw the oppression of our ancestors in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea.

¹⁰ You performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, all his officials, and all the people of his land, for You knew how arrogantly they treated our ancestors. You made a name for Yourself that endures to this day.

¹¹ You divided the sea before them, and they crossed through it on dry ground.

You hurled their pursuers into the depths like a stone into churning waters.

¹² You led them with a pillar of cloud by day, and with a pillar of fire by night, to illuminate the way they should go.

¹³ You came down on Mount Sinai, and spoke to them from heaven. You gave them impartial ordinances, reliable instructions, and good decrees and commandments.

¹⁴ You revealed Your holy Sabbath to them, and gave them commandments, statutes, and a law through Your servant Moses.

¹⁵ You provided bread from heaven for their hunger; You brought them water from the rock for their thirst. You told them to go in and possess the land You had sworn to give them.

¹⁶ But our ancestors acted arrogantly; they became stiff-necked and did not listen to Your commands.

¹⁷ They refused to listen and did not remember Your wonders You performed among them. They became stiff-necked and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But You are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in faithful love, and You did not abandon them.

¹⁸ Even after they had cast an image of a calf for themselves and said, "This is your God who brought you out of Egypt," and they had committed terrible blasphemies,

¹⁹ You did not abandon them in the wilderness because of Your great compassion. During the day the pillar of cloud never turned away from them, guiding them on their journey. And during the night the pillar of fire illuminated the way they should go.

²⁰ You sent Your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold Your manna

from their mouths, and You gave them water for their thirst.

²¹ You provided for them in the wilderness 40 years and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell.

²² You gave them kingdoms and peoples and assigned them to be a boundary. They took possession of the land of Sihon king of Heshbon and of the land of Og king of Bashan.

²³ You multiplied their descendants like the stars of heaven and brought them to the land You told their ancestors to go in and take possession of it .

²⁴ So their descendants went in and possessed the land: You subdued the Canaanites who inhabited the land before them and handed their kings and the surrounding peoples over to them, to do as they pleased with them.

²⁵ They captured fortified cities and fertile land and took possession of well-supplied houses, rock-hewn cisterns, vineyards, olive groves, and fruit trees in abundance. They ate, were filled, became prosperous, and delighted in Your great goodness.

²⁶ But they were disobedient and rebelled against You. They flung Your law behind their backs and killed Your prophets who warned them to turn them back to You. They committed terrible blasphemies.

²⁷ So You handed them over to their enemies, who oppressed them. In their time of distress, they cried out to You, and You heard from heaven. In Your abundant compassion You gave them deliverers, who rescued them from the power of their enemies.

²⁸ But as soon as they had relief, they again did what was evil in Your sight. So

You abandoned them to the power of their enemies, who dominated them. When they cried out to You again, You heard from heaven and rescued them many times in Your compassion.

²⁹ You warned them to turn back to Your law, but they acted arrogantly and would not obey Your commandments. They sinned against Your ordinances, by which a person will live if he does them. They stubbornly resisted, stiffened their necks, and would not obey.

³⁰ You were patient with them for many years, and Your Spirit warned them through Your prophets, but they would not listen. Therefore, You handed them over to the surrounding peoples.

³¹ However, in Your abundant compassion, You did not destroy them or abandon them, for You are a gracious and compassionate God.

³² So now, our God--the great, mighty, and awe-inspiring God who keeps His gracious covenant--do not view lightly all the hardships that have afflicted us, our kings and leaders, our priests and prophets, our ancestors and all Your people, from the days of the Assyrian kings until today.

³³ You are righteous concerning all that has come on us, because You have acted faithfully, while we have acted wickedly.

³⁴ Our kings, leaders, priests, and ancestors did not obey Your law or listen to Your commandments and warnings You gave them.

³⁵ When they were in their kingdom, with Your abundant goodness You gave them, and in the spacious and fertile land You set before them, they would not serve You or turn from their wicked ways.

³⁶ Here we are today, slaves in the land You gave our ancestors so that they could enjoy its fruit and its goodness. Here we are--slaves in it!

³⁷ Its abundant harvest goes to the kings You have set over us, because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and our livestock as they please. We are in great distress.

³⁸ In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement in writing on a sealed document containing the names of our leaders, Levites, and priests.

10 ¹ Those whose seals were on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah,

² Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah,

³ Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah,

⁴ Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch,

⁵ Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah,

⁶ Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch,

⁷ Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin,

⁸ Maaziah, Bilgai, and Shemaiah. These were the priests.

⁹ The Levites were: Jeshua son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel,

¹⁰ and their brothers Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,

¹¹ Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,

¹² Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,

¹³ Hodiah, Bani, and Beninu.

¹⁴ The leaders of the people were: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,

¹⁵ Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,

¹⁶ Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,

¹⁷ Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,

¹⁸ Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,

¹⁹ Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,

²⁰ Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,

²¹ Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,

²² Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,

²³ Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,

²⁴ Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,

²⁵ Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,

²⁶ Ahiah, Hanan, Anan,

²⁷ Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

²⁸ The rest of the people--the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, and temple servants, along with their wives, sons, and daughters, everyone who is able to understand and who has separated themselves from the surrounding peoples to obey the law of God--

²⁹ join with their noble brothers and commit themselves with a sworn oath to follow the law of God given through God's servant Moses and to carefully obey all the commands, ordinances, and statutes of the LORD our Lord.

³⁰ We will not give our daughters in marriage to the surrounding peoples and will not take their daughters as wives for our sons.

³¹ When the surrounding peoples bring merchandise or any kind of grain to sell

on the Sabbath day, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or a holy day. We will also leave the land uncultivated in the seventh year and will cancel every debt.

³² We will impose the following commandments on ourselves: To give an eighth of an ounce of silver yearly for the service of the house of our God:

³³ the bread displayed before the LORD, the daily grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbath and New Moon offerings, the appointed festivals, the holy things, the sin offerings to atone for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

³⁴ We have cast lots among the priests, Levites, and people for the donation of wood by our ancestral houses at the appointed times each year. They are to bring the wood to our God's house to

burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the law.

³⁵ We will bring the firstfruits of our land and of every fruit tree to the LORD's house year by year.

³⁶ We will also bring the firstborn of our sons and our livestock, as prescribed by the law, and will bring the firstborn of our herds and flocks to the house of our God, to the priests who serve in our God's house.

³⁷ We will bring a loaf from our first batch of dough to the priests at the storerooms of the house of our God. We will also bring the firstfruits of our grain offerings, of every fruit tree, and of the new wine and oil. A tenth of our land's produce from our lands belongs to the Levites, for the Levites are to collect the one-tenth offering in all our agricultural towns.

³⁸ A priest of Aaronic descent must accompany the Levites when they collect the tenth, and the Levites must take a tenth of this offering to the storerooms of the treasury in the house of our God.

³⁹ For the Israelites and the Levites are to bring the contributions of grain, new wine, and oil to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are kept and where the priests, gatekeepers, and singers serve. We will not neglect the house of our God.

11 ¹ Now the leaders of the people stayed in Jerusalem, and the rest of the people cast lots for one out of ten to come and live in Jerusalem, the holy city, while the other nine-tenths remained in their towns.

² The people praised all the men who volunteered to live in Jerusalem.

³ These are the heads of the province who stayed in Jerusalem (but in the

villages of Judah each lived on his own property in their towns--the Israelites, priests, Levites, temple servants, and descendants of Solomon's servants--

⁴ while some of the descendants of Judah and Benjamin settled in Jerusalem):Judah's descendants:

Athaiah son of Uzziah, son of Zechariah, son of Amariah, son of Shephatiah, son of Mahalalel, of Perez's descendants;

⁵ and Maaseiah son of Baruch, son of Col-hozeh, son of Hazaiah, son of Adaiah, son of Joiarib, son of Zechariah, a descendant of the Shilonite.

⁶ The total number of Perez's descendants, who settled in Jerusalem, was 468 capable men.

⁷ These were Benjamin's descendants: Sallu son of Meshullam, son of Joed, son of Pedaiah, son of Kolaiah, son of Maaseiah, son of Ithiel, son of Jeshaiiah,

⁸ and after him Gabbai and Sallai: 928.

⁹ Joel son of Zichri was the officer over them, and Judah son of Hassenuah was second in command over the city.

¹⁰ The priests: Jedaiah son of Joiarib, Jachin, and

¹¹ Seraiah son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, the chief official of God's house,

¹² and their relatives who did the work at the temple: 822. Adaiah son of Jeroham, son of Pelaliah, son of Amzi, son of Zechariah, son of Pashhur, son of Malchijah

¹³ and his relatives, the leaders of families: 242. Amashsai son of Azarel, son of Ahzai, son of Meshillemoth, son of Immer,

¹⁴ and their relatives, capable men: 128. Zabdiel son of Haggadolim, was their chief.

¹⁵ The Levites: Shemaiah son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, son of Bunni;

¹⁶ and Shabbethai and Jozabad, from the leaders of the Levites, who supervised the work outside the house of God;

¹⁷ Mattaniah son of Mica, son of Zabdi, son of Asaph, the leader who began the thanksgiving in prayer; Bakbukiah, second among his relatives; and Abda son of Shammua, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun.

¹⁸ All the Levites in the holy city: 284.

¹⁹ The gatekeepers: Akkub, Talmon, and their relatives, who guarded the gates: 172.

²⁰ The rest of Israel, the priests, and the Levites were in all the villages of Judah, each on his own inherited property.

²¹ The temple servants lived on Ophel; Ziha and Gishpa supervised the temple servants.

²² The leader of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani, son of Hashabiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Mica, of the descendants of Asaph, who were singers for the service of God's house.

²³ For there was a command of the king regarding them, and an ordinance regulating the singers' daily tasks.

²⁴ Pethahiah son of Meshezabel, of the descendants of Zerah son of Judah, was the king's agent in every matter concerning the people.

²⁵ As for the farming settlements with their fields: Some of Judah's descendants lived in Kiriath-arba and its villages, Dibon and its villages, and Jekabzeel and its villages,

²⁶ in Jeshua, Moladah, Beth-pelet,

²⁷ Hazar-shual, and Beer-sheba and its villages;

²⁸ in Ziklag and Meconah and its villages,

²⁹ in En-rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth, and

³⁰ Zanoah and Adullam with their villages; in Lachish with its fields and Azekah and its villages. So they settled from Beer-sheba to the Valley of Hinnom.

³¹ Benjamin's descendants: from Geba, Michmash, Aija, and Bethel--and its villages,

³² Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

³³ Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

³⁴ Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

³⁵ Lod, and Ono, the valley of the craftsmen.

³⁶ Some of the Judean divisions of Levites were in Benjamin.

12 ¹ These are the priests and Levites who went up with Zerubbabel

son of Shealtiel and with Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,

² Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,

³ Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

⁴ Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,

⁵ Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,

⁶ Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,

⁷ Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the leaders of the priests and their relatives in the days of Jeshua.

⁸ The Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah--he and his relatives were in charge of the praise songs.

⁹ Bakbukiah, Unni, and their relatives stood opposite them in the services.

¹⁰ Jeshua fathered Joiakim, Joiakim fathered Eliashib, Eliashib fathered Joiada,

¹¹ Joiada fathered Jonathan, and Jonathan fathered Jaddua.

¹² In the days of Joiakim, the leaders of the priestly families were: Meraiah of Seraiah, Hananiah of Jeremiah,

¹³ Meshullam of Ezra, Jehohanan of Amariah,

¹⁴ Jonathan of Malluchi, Joseph of Shebaniah,

¹⁵ Adna of Harim, Helkai of Meraioth,

¹⁶ Zechariah of Iddo, Meshullam of Ginnethon,

¹⁷ Zichri of Abijah, Piltai of Moadiah, of Miniamin,

¹⁸ Shammua of Bilgah, Jehonathan of Shemaiah,

¹⁹ Mattenai of Joiarib, Uzzi of Jedaiah,

²⁰ Kallai of Sallai, Eber of Amok,

²¹ Hashabiah of Hilkiah, and Nethanel of Jedaiah.

²² In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, the leaders of the families of the Levites and priests were recorded while Darius the Persian ruled.

²³ Levi's descendants, the leaders of families, were recorded in the Book of the Historical Records during the days of Johanan son of Eliashib.

²⁴ The leaders of the Levites-- Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua son of Kadmiel, along with their relatives opposite them--gave praise and thanks, division by division, as David the man of God had prescribed.

²⁵ This included Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, and Obadiah. Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers who guarded the storerooms at the gates.

²⁶ These served in the days of Joiakim son of Jeshua, son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe.

²⁷ At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, they sent for the Levites wherever they lived and brought them to Jerusalem to celebrate the joyous

dedication with thanksgiving and singing accompanied by cymbals, harps, and lyres.

²⁸ The singers gathered from the region around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites,

²⁹ from Beth-gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth, for they had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem.

³⁰ After the priests and Levites had purified themselves, they purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

³¹ Then I brought the leaders of Judah up on top of the wall, and I appointed two large processions that gave thanks. One went to the right on the wall, toward the Dung Gate.

³² Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah followed:

³³ Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

³⁴ Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah.

³⁵ Some of the priests' sons had trumpets: Zechariah son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph,
³⁶ and his relatives: Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David, the man of God. Ezra the scribe went in front of them.

³⁷ At the Fountain Gate they climbed the steps of the city of David on the ascent of the wall and went above the house of David to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸ The second thanksgiving procession went to the left, and I followed it with half the people along the top of the wall, past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall,

³⁹ above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Old Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate. They stopped at the Gate of the Guard.

⁴⁰ The two thanksgiving processions stood in the house of God. So did I and half of the officials accompanying me, as well as

⁴¹ the priests: Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

⁴² and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. Then the singers sang, with Jezrahiah as the leader.

⁴³ On that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy. The women and children also celebrated, and Jerusalem's rejoicing was heard far away.

⁴⁴ On that same day men were placed in charge of the rooms that housed the supplies, contributions, firstfruits, and tenths. The legally required portions for the priests and Levites were gathered from the village fields, because Judah was grateful to the priests and Levites who were serving.

⁴⁵ They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, along with the singers and gatekeepers, as David and his son Solomon had prescribed.

⁴⁶ For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there were leaders of the singers and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷ So in the days of Zerubbabel and Nehemiah, all Israel contributed the daily portions for the singers and gatekeepers. They also set aside daily portions for the

Levites, and the Levites set aside daily portions for the descendants of Aaron.

13 ¹ At that time the book of Moses was read publicly to the people.

The command was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God,

² because they did not meet the Israelites with food and water. Instead, they hired Balaam against them to curse them, but our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³ When they heard the law, they separated all those of mixed descent from Israel.

⁴ Now before this, Eliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of our God. He was a relative of Tobiah

⁵ and had prepared a large room for him where they had previously stored the grain offerings, the frankincense, the

articles, and the tenths of grain, new wine, and oil prescribed for the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, along with the contributions for the priests.

⁶ While all this was happening, I was not in Jerusalem, because I had returned to King Artaxerxes of Babylon in the thirty-second year of his reign . It was only later that I asked the king for a leave of absence

⁷ so I could return to Jerusalem. Then I discovered the evil that Eliashib had done on behalf of Tobiah by providing him a room in the courts of God's house.

⁸ I was greatly displeased and threw all of Tobiah's household possessions out of the room.

⁹ I ordered that the rooms be purified, and I had the articles of the house of God restored there, along with the grain offering and frankincense.

¹⁰ I also found out that because the portions for the Levites had not been given, each of the Levites and the singers performing the service had gone back to his own field.

¹¹ Therefore, I rebuked the officials, saying, "Why has the house of God been neglected?" I gathered the Levites and singers together and stationed them at their posts.

¹² Then all Judah brought a tenth of the grain, new wine, and oil into the storehouses.

¹³ I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, with Hanan son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah to assist them, because they were considered trustworthy. They were responsible for the distribution to their colleagues.

¹⁴ Remember me for this, my God, and don't erase the good deeds I have done for the house of my God and for its services.

¹⁵ At that time I saw people in Judah treading wine presses on the Sabbath. They were also bringing in stores of grain and loading them on donkeys, along with wine, grapes, and figs. All kinds of goods were being brought to Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. So I warned them against selling food on that day.

¹⁶ The Tyrians living there were importing fish and all kinds of merchandise and selling them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah in Jerusalem.

¹⁷ I rebuked the nobles of Judah and said to them: "What is this evil you are doing--profaning the Sabbath day?"

¹⁸ Didn't your ancestors do the same, so that our God brought all this disaster

on us and on this city? And now you are rekindling His anger against Israel by profaning the Sabbath!"

¹⁹ When shadows began to fall on the gates of Jerusalem just before the Sabbath, I gave orders that the gates be closed and not opened until after the Sabbath. I posted some of my men at the gates, so that no goods could enter during the Sabbath day.

²⁰ Once or twice the merchants and those who sell all kinds of goods camped outside Jerusalem,

²¹ but I warned them, "Why are you camping in front of the wall? If you do it again, I'll use force against you." After that they did not come again on the Sabbath.

²² Then I instructed the Levites to purify themselves and guard the gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember me for this also, my God, and look on me

with compassion in keeping with Your abundant, faithful love.

²³ In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.

²⁴ Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or of one of the other peoples but could not speak Hebrew.

²⁵ I rebuked them, cursed them, beat some of their men, and pulled out their hair. I forced them to take an oath before God and said: "You must not give your daughters in marriage to their sons or take their daughters as wives for your sons or yourselves!

²⁶ Didn't King Solomon of Israel sin in matters like this? There was not a king like him among many nations. He was loved by his God and God made him king over all Israel, yet foreign women drew him into sin.

²⁷ Why then should we hear about you doing all this terrible evil and acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?"

²⁸ Even one of the sons of Jehoiada, son of Eliashib the high priest, had become a son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. So I drove him away from me.

²⁹ Remember them, my God, for defiling the priesthood as well as the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

³⁰ So I purified them from everything foreign and assigned specific duties to each of the priests and Levites.

³¹ I also arranged for the donation of wood at the appointed times and for the firstfruits. Remember me, my God, with favor.

Esther

1 ¹ These events took place during the days of Ahasuerus, who ruled 127 provinces from India to Cush.

² In those days King Ahasuerus reigned from his royal throne in the fortress at Susa.

³ He held a feast in the third year of his reign for all his officials and staff, the army of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the officials from the provinces.

⁴ He displayed the glorious wealth of his kingdom and the magnificent splendor of his greatness for a total of 180 days.

⁵ At the end of this time, the king held a week-long banquet in the garden courtyard of the royal palace for all the people, from the greatest to the least, who were present in the fortress of Susa.

⁶ White and violet linen hangings were fastened with fine white and purple linen cords to silver rods on marble columns. Gold and silver couches were arranged on a mosaic pavement of red feldspar, marble, mother-of-pearl, and precious stones.

⁷ Beverages were served in an array of gold goblets, each with a different design. Royal wine flowed freely, according to the king's bounty

⁸ and no restraint was placed on the drinking. The king had ordered every wine steward in his household to serve as much as each person wanted.

⁹ Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women of King Ahasuerus' palace.

¹⁰ On the seventh day, when the king was feeling good from the wine, Ahasuerus commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha,

Zethar, and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who personally served him,

¹¹ to bring Queen Vashti before him with her royal crown. He wanted to show off her beauty to the people and the officials, because she was very beautiful.

¹² But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command that was delivered by his eunuchs. The king became furious and his anger burned within him.

¹³ The king consulted the wise men who understood the times, for it was his normal procedure to confer with experts in law and justice.

¹⁴ The most trusted ones were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan. They were the seven officials of Persia and Media who had personal access to the king and occupied the highest positions in the kingdom.

¹⁵ The king asked, "According to the law, what should be done with Queen Vashti, since she refused to obey King Ahasuerus' command that was delivered by the eunuchs?"

¹⁶ Memucan said in the presence of the king and his officials, "Queen Vashti has defied not only the king, but all the officials and the peoples who are in every one of King Ahasuerus' provinces.

¹⁷ For the queen's action will become public knowledge to all the women and cause them to despise their husbands and say, 'King Ahasuerus ordered Queen Vashti brought before him, but she did not come.'

¹⁸ Before this day is over , the noble women of Persia and Media who hear about the queen's act will say the same thing to all the king's officials, resulting in more contempt and fury.

¹⁹ "If it meets the king's approval, he should personally issue a royal decree. Let it be recorded in the laws of Persia and Media, so that it cannot be revoked: Vashti is not to enter King Ahasuerus' presence, and her royal position is to be given to another woman who is more worthy than she.

²⁰ The decree the king issues will be heard throughout his vast kingdom, so all women will honor their husbands, from the least to the greatest."

²¹ The king and his counselors approved the proposal, and he followed Memucan's advice.

²² He sent letters to all the royal provinces, to each province in its own script and to each ethnic group in its own language, that every man should be master of his own house and speak in the language of his own people.

2 ¹ Some time later, when King Ahasuerus' rage had cooled down, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what was decided against her.

² The king's personal attendants suggested, "Let a search be made for beautiful young virgins for the king.

³ Let the king appoint commissioners in each province of his kingdom, so that they may assemble all the beautiful young virgins to the harem at the fortress of Susa. Put them under the care of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women, and give them the required beauty treatments.

⁴ Then the young woman who pleases the king will reign in place of Vashti." This suggestion pleased the king, and he did accordingly.

⁵ A Jewish man was in the fortress of Susa named Mordecai son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite.

⁶ He had been taken into exile from Jerusalem with the other captives when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon took King Jeconiah of Judah into exile.

⁷ Mordecai was the legal guardian of his cousin Hadassah (that is, Esther), because she didn't have a father or mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was extremely good-looking. When her father and mother died, Mordecai had adopted her as his own daughter.

⁸ When the king's command and edict became public knowledge, many young women gathered at the fortress of Susa under Hegai's care. Esther was also taken to the palace and placed under the care of Hegai, who was in charge of the women.

⁹ The young woman pleased him and gained his favor so that he accelerated the process of the beauty treatments

and the special diet that she received. He assigned seven hand-picked female servants to her from the palace and transferred her and her servants to the harem's best quarters.

¹⁰ Esther did not reveal her ethnic background or her birthplace, because Mordecai had ordered her not to.

¹¹ Every day Mordecai took a walk in front of the harem's courtyard to learn how Esther was doing and to see what was happening to her.

¹² During the year before each young woman's turn to go to King Ahasuerus, the harem regulation required her to receive beauty treatments with oil of myrrh for six months and then with perfumes and cosmetics for another six months.

¹³ When the young woman would go to the king, she was given whatever she

requested to take with her from the harem to the palace.

¹⁴ She would go in the evening, and in the morning she would return to a second harem under the supervision of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch in charge of the concubines. She never went to the king again, unless he desired her and summoned her by name.

¹⁵ Esther was the daughter of Abihail, the uncle of Mordecai who had adopted her as his own daughter. When her turn came to go to the king, she did not ask for anything except what Hegai, the king's trusted official in charge of the harem, suggested. Esther won approval in the sight of everyone who saw her.

¹⁶ Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus in the royal palace in the tenth month, the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

¹⁷ The king loved Esther more than all the other women. She won more favor and approval from him than did any of the other virgins. He placed the royal crown on her head and made her queen in place of Vashti.

¹⁸ The king held a great banquet for all his officials and staff. It was Esther's banquet. He freed his provinces from tax payments and gave gifts worthy of the king's bounty.

¹⁹ When the young women were assembled together for a second time, Mordecai was sitting at the King's Gate.

²⁰ Esther still had not revealed her birthplace or her ethnic background, as Mordecai had directed. She obeyed Mordecai's orders, as she always had while he raised her.

²¹ During those days while Mordecai was sitting at the King's Gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two eunuchs who guarded

the king's entrance, became infuriated and tried to assassinate King Ahasuerus.

²² When Mordecai learned of the plot, he reported it to Queen Esther, and she told the king on Mordecai's behalf.

²³ When the report was investigated and verified, both men were hanged on the gallows. This event was recorded in the court records of daily events in the king's presence.

3 ¹ After all this took place, King Ahasuerus honored Haman, son of Hammedatha the Agagite. He promoted him in rank and gave him a higher position than all the other officials.

² The entire royal staff at the King's Gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, because the king had commanded this to be done for him. But Mordecai would not bow down or pay homage.

³ The members of the royal staff at the King's Gate asked Mordecai, "Why are you disobeying the king's command?"

⁴ When they had warned him day after day and he still would not listen to them, they told Haman to see if Mordecai's actions would be tolerated, since he had told them he was a Jew.

⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai was not bowing down or paying him homage, he was filled with rage.

⁶ And when he learned of Mordecai's ethnic identity, Haman decided not to do away with Mordecai alone. He set out to destroy all of Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout Ahasuerus' kingdom.

⁷ In the first month, the month of Nisan, in King Ahasuerus' twelfth year, Pur (that is, the lot) was cast before Haman for each day in each month, and it fell on the twelfth month, the month Adar.

⁸ Then Haman informed King Ahasuerus, "There is one ethnic group, scattered throughout the peoples in every province of your kingdom, yet living in isolation. Their laws are different from everyone else's, so that they defy the king's laws. It is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them.

⁹ If the king approves, let an order be drawn up authorizing their destruction, and I will pay 375 tons of silver to the accountants for deposit in the royal treasury."

¹⁰ The king removed his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jewish people.

¹¹ Then the king told Haman, "The money and people are given to you to do with as you see fit."

¹² The royal scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month,

and the order was written exactly as Haman commanded. It was intended for the royal satraps, the governors of each of the provinces, and the officials of each ethnic group and written for each province in its own script and to each ethnic group in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the royal signet ring.

¹³ Letters were sent by couriers to each of the royal provinces telling the officials to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jewish people--young and old, women and children--and plunder their possessions on a single day, the thirteenth day of Adar, the twelfth month.

¹⁴ A copy of the text, issued as law throughout every province, was distributed to all the peoples so that they might get ready for that day.

¹⁵ The couriers left, spurred on by royal command, and the law was issued in the fortress of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, while the city of Susa was in confusion.

4 ¹ When Mordecai learned all that had occurred, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, went into the middle of the city, and cried loudly and bitterly.

² He only went as far as the King's Gate, since the law prohibited anyone wearing sackcloth from entering the King's Gate.

³ There was great mourning among the Jewish people in every province where the king's command and edict came. They fasted, wept, and lamented, and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

⁴ Esther's female servants and her eunuchs came and reported the news to her, and the queen was overcome with fear. She sent clothes for Mordecai to

wear so he could take off his sackcloth, but he did not accept them .

⁵ Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to her, and dispatched him to Mordecai to learn what he was doing and why.

⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square in front of the King's Gate.

⁷ Mordecai told him everything that had happened as well as the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay the royal treasury for the slaughter of the Jews.

⁸ Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa ordering their destruction, so that Hathach might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and instruct her to approach the king, implore his favor, and plead with him personally for her people.

⁹ Hathach came and repeated Mordecai's response to Esther.

¹⁰ Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to tell Mordecai,

¹¹ "All the royal officials and the people of the royal provinces know that one law applies to every man or woman who approaches the king in the inner courtyard and who has not been summoned--the death penalty . Only if the king extends the golden scepter will that person live. I have not been summoned to appear before the king for the last 30 days."

¹² Esther's response was reported to Mordecai.

¹³ Mordecai told the messenger to reply to Esther, "Don't think that you will escape the fate of all the Jews because you are in the king's palace.

¹⁴ If you keep silent at this time, liberation and deliverance will come to

the Jewish people from another place, but you and your father's house will be destroyed. Who knows, perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

¹⁵ Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

¹⁶ "Go and assemble all the Jews who can be found in Susa and fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, night and day. I and my female servants will also fast in the same way. After that, I will go to the king even if it is against the law. If I perish, I perish."

¹⁷ So Mordecai went and did everything Esther had ordered him.

5 ¹ On the third day, Esther dressed up in her royal clothing and stood in the inner courtyard of the palace facing it. The king was sitting on his royal throne in the royal courtroom, facing its entrance.

² As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard, she won his

approval. The king extended the golden scepter in his hand toward Esther, and she approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

³ "What is it, Queen Esther?" the king asked her. "Whatever you want, even to half the kingdom, will be given to you."

⁴ "If it pleases the king," Esther replied, "may the king and Haman come today to the banquet I have prepared for them."

⁵ The king commanded, "Hurry, and get Haman so we can do as Esther has requested." So the king and Haman went to the banquet Esther had prepared.

⁶ While drinking the wine, the king asked Esther, "Whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you want, even to half the kingdom, will be done."

⁷ Esther answered, "This is my petition and my request:

⁸ If the king approves of me and if it pleases the king to grant my petition

and perform my request, may the king and Haman come to the banquet I will prepare for them. Tomorrow I will do what the king has asked."

⁹ That day Haman left full of joy and in good spirits. But when Haman saw Mordecai at the King's Gate, and Mordecai didn't rise or tremble in fear at his presence, Haman was filled with rage toward Mordecai.

¹⁰ Yet Haman controlled himself and went home. He sent for his friends and his wife Zeresh to join him.

¹¹ Then Haman described for them his glorious wealth and his many sons. He told them all how the king had promoted him in rank and given him a high position over the other officials and the royal staff.

¹² "What's more," Haman added, "Queen Esther invited no one but me to join the king at the banquet she had

prepared. I am invited again tomorrow to join her with the king.

¹³ Still, none of this satisfies me since I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the King's Gate all the time."

¹⁴ His wife Zeresh and all his friends told him, "Have them build a gallows 75 feet high. Ask the king in the morning to hang Mordecai on it. Then go to the banquet with the king and enjoy yourself." The advice pleased Haman, so he had the gallows constructed.

6 ¹ That night sleep escaped the king, so he ordered the book recording daily events to be brought and read to the king.

² They found the written report of how Mordecai had informed on Bigthana and Teresh, two eunuchs who guarded the king's entrance, when they planned to assassinate King Ahasuerus.

³ The king inquired, "What honor and special recognition have been given to Mordecai for this act?" The king's personal attendants replied, "Nothing has been done for him."

⁴ The king asked, "Who's in the court?" Now Haman was just entering the outer court of the palace to ask the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows he had prepared for him.

⁵ The king's attendants answered him, "See, Haman is standing in the court." "Have him enter," the king ordered.

⁶ Haman entered, and the king asked him, "What should be done for the man the king wants to honor?" Haman thought to himself, "Who is it the king would want to honor more than me?"

⁷ Haman told the king, "For the man the king wants to honor:

⁸ Have them bring a royal garment that the king himself has worn and a horse

the king himself has ridden, which has a royal diadem on its head.

⁹ Put the garment and the horse under the charge of one of the king's most noble officials. Have them clothe the man the king wants to honor, parade him on the horse through the city square, and proclaim before him, 'This is what is done for the man the king wants to honor.'"

¹⁰ The king told Haman, "Hurry, and do just as you proposed. Take a garment and a horse for Mordecai the Jew, who is sitting at the King's Gate. Do not leave out anything you have suggested."

¹¹ So Haman took the garment and the horse. He clothed Mordecai and paraded him through the city square, crying out before him, "This is what is done for the man the king wants to honor."

¹² Then Mordecai returned to the King's Gate, but Haman, overwhelmed, hurried off for home with his head covered.

¹³ Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened. His advisers and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is Jewish, you won't overcome him, because your downfall is certain."

¹⁴ While they were still speaking with him, the eunuchs of the king arrived and rushed Haman to the banquet Esther had prepared.

7 ¹ The king and Haman came to feast with Esther the queen.

² Once again, on the second day while drinking wine, the king asked Esther, "Queen Esther, whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you seek, even to half the kingdom, will be done."

³ Queen Esther answered, "If I have obtained your approval, my king, and if the king is pleased, spare my life--this is my request; and spare my people--this is my desire.

⁴ For my people and I have been sold out to destruction, death, and extermination. If we had merely been sold as male and female slaves, I would have kept silent. Indeed, the trouble wouldn't be worth burdening the king."

⁵ King Ahasuerus spoke up and asked Queen Esther, "Who is this, and where is the one who would devise such a scheme?"

⁶ Esther answered, "The adversary and enemy is this evil Haman." Haman stood terrified before the king and queen.

⁷ Angered by this, the king arose from where they were drinking wine and went to the palace garden. Haman remained to beg Queen Esther for his

life because he realized the king was planning something terrible for him.

⁸ Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the house of wine drinking, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Would he actually violate the queen while I am in the palace?" As soon as the statement left the king's mouth, Haman's face was covered.

⁹ Harbona, one of the royal eunuchs, said: "There is a gallows 75 feet tall at Haman's house that he made for Mordecai, who gave the report that saved the king." The king commanded, "Hang him on it."

¹⁰ They hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's anger subsided.

8 ¹ That same day King Ahasuerus awarded Queen Esther the estate of Haman, the enemy of the Jews.

Mordecai entered the king's presence because Esther had revealed her relationship to Mordecai.

² The king removed his signet ring he had recovered from Haman and gave it to Mordecai, and Esther put him in charge of Haman's estate.

³ Then Esther addressed the king again. She fell at his feet, wept, and begged him to revoke the evil of Haman the Agagite, and his plot he had devised against the Jews.

⁴ The king extended the golden scepter toward Esther, so she got up and stood before the king.

⁵ She said, "If it pleases the king, and I have found approval before him, if the matter seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let a royal edict be written. Let it revoke the documents the scheming Haman son of Hammedatha

the Agagite, wrote to destroy the Jews who reside in all the king's provinces.

⁶ For how could I bear to see the evil that would come on my people? How could I bear to see the destruction of my relatives?"

⁷ King Ahasuerus said to Esther the Queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "Look, I have given Haman's estate to Esther, and he was hanged on the gallows because he attacked the Jews.

⁸ You may write in the king's name whatever pleases you concerning the Jews, and seal it with the royal signet ring. A document written in the king's name and sealed with the royal signet ring cannot be revoked."

⁹ On the twenty-third day of the third month (that is, the month Sivan), the royal scribes were summoned. Everything was written exactly as Mordecai ordered for the Jews, to the

satraps, the governors, and the officials of the 127 provinces from India to Cush. The edict was written for each province in its own script, for each ethnic group in its own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

¹⁰ Mordecai wrote in King Ahasuerus' name and sealed the edicts with the royal signet ring. He sent the documents by mounted couriers, who rode fast horses bred from the royal racing mares.

¹¹ The king's edict gave the Jews in each and every city the right to assemble and defend themselves, to destroy, kill, and annihilate every ethnic and provincial army hostile to them, including women and children, and to take their possessions as spoils of war.

¹² This would take place on a single day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar.

¹³ A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province. It was to be published for every ethnic group so the Jews could be ready to avenge themselves against their enemies on that day.

¹⁴ On their royal horses, the couriers rode out in haste, at the king's urgent command. The law was also issued in the fortress of Susa.

¹⁵ Mordecai went out from the king's presence clothed in royal purple and white, with a great golden crown and a purple robe of fine linen. The city of Susa shouted and rejoiced,

¹⁶ and the Jews celebrated with gladness, joy and honor.

¹⁷ In every province and every city, wherever the king's command and his law reached, rejoicing and jubilation took place among the Jews. There was a celebration and a holiday. And, many of

the ethnic groups of the land professed themselves to be Jews because fear of the Jews had overcome them.

9¹ The king's command and law went into effect on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month Adar. On the day when the Jews' enemies had hoped to overpower them, just the opposite happened. The Jews overpowered those who hated them.

² In each of King Ahasuerus' provinces the Jews assembled in their cities to attack those who intended to harm them. Not a single person could withstand them; terror of them fell on every nationality.

³ All the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and the royal civil administrators aided the Jews because they were afraid of Mordecai.

⁴ For Mordecai exercised great power in the palace, and his fame spread

throughout the provinces as he became more and more powerful.

⁵ The Jews put all their enemies to the sword, killing and destroying them. They did what they pleased to those who hated them.

⁶ In the fortress of Susa the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men,

⁷ including Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

⁸ Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

⁹ Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha.

¹⁰ They killed these 10 sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews. However, they did not seize any plunder.

¹¹ On that day the number of people killed in the fortress of Susa was reported to the king.

¹² The king said to Queen Esther, "In the fortress of Susa the Jews have killed and

destroyed 500 men, including Haman's 10 sons. What have they done in the rest of the royal provinces? Whatever you ask will be given to you. Whatever you seek will also be done."

¹³ Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, may the Jews who are in Susa also have tomorrow to carry out today's law, and may the bodies of Haman's 10 sons be hung on the gallows."

¹⁴ The king gave the orders for this to be done, so a law was announced in Susa, and they hung the bodies of Haman's 10 sons.

¹⁵ The Jews in Susa assembled again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed 300 men in Susa, but they did not seize any plunder.

¹⁶ The rest of the Jews in the royal provinces assembled, defended themselves, and got rid of their enemies.

They killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they did not seize any plunder.

¹⁷ They fought on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar and rested on the fourteenth, and it became a day of feasting and rejoicing.

¹⁸ But the Jews in Susa had assembled on the thirteenth and the fourteenth days of the month. They rested on the fifteenth day of the month, and it became a day of feasting and rejoicing.

¹⁹ This explains why the rural Jews who live in villages observe the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a time of rejoicing and feasting. It is a holiday when they send gifts to one another.

²⁰ Mordecai recorded these events and sent letters to all the Jews in all of King Ahasuerus' provinces, both near and far.

²¹ He ordered them to celebrate the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month Adar every year

²² because during those days the Jews got rid of their enemies. That was the month when their sorrow was turned into rejoicing and their mourning into a holiday. They were to be days of feasting, rejoicing, and of sending gifts to one another and the poor.

²³ So the Jews agreed to continue the practice they had begun, as Mordecai had written them to do.

²⁴ For Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them. He cast the Pur (that is, the lot) to crush and destroy them.

²⁵ But when the matter was brought before the king, he commanded by letter that the evil plan Haman had devised against the Jews return on his own head and that he should be hanged with his sons on the gallows.

²⁶ For this reason these days are called Purim, from the word Pur. Because of all the instructions in this letter as well as what they had witnessed and what had happened to them,

²⁷ the Jews bound themselves, their descendants, and all who joined with them to a commitment that they would not fail to celebrate these two days each and every year according to the written instructions and according to the time appointed.

²⁸ These days are remembered and celebrated by every generation, family, province, and city, so that these days of Purim will not lose their significance in Jewish life and their memory will not fade from their descendants.

²⁹ Queen Esther daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote this second letter with full authority to confirm the letter about Purim.

³⁰ He sent letters with messages of peace and faithfulness to all the Jews who were in the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus,

³¹ in order to confirm these days of Purim at their proper time just as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had established them and just as they had committed themselves and their descendants to the practices of fasting and lamentation.

³² So Esther's command confirmed these customs of Purim, which were then written into the record.

10 ¹ King Ahasuerus imposed a tax throughout the land even to the farthest shores.

² All of his powerful and magnificent accomplishments and the detailed account of Mordecai's great rank to which the king had promoted him, have they not been written in the court record

of daily events of the kings of Media and Persia?

³ Mordecai the Jew was second only to King Ahasuerus, famous among the Jews, and highly popular with many of his relatives. He continued to seek good for his people and to speak for the welfare of all his kindred.

Job

1 ¹ There was a man in the country of Uz named Job. He was a man of perfect integrity, who feared God and turned away from evil.

² He had seven sons and three daughters.

³ His estate included 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a very large number of servants. Job was the greatest man among all the people of the east.

⁴ His sons used to have banquets, each at his house in turn. They would send an invitation to their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵ Whenever a round of banqueting was over, Job would send for his children and purify them, rising early in the morning

to offer burnt offerings for all of them. For Job thought: Perhaps my children have sinned, having cursed God in their hearts. This was Job's regular practice.

⁶ One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.

⁷ The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" "From roaming through the earth," Satan answered Him, "and walking around on it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away from evil."

⁹ Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

¹⁰ Haven't You placed a hedge around him, his household, and everything he owns? You have blessed the work of his

hands, and his possessions are spread out in the land.

¹¹ But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he owns, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

¹² "Very well," the LORD told Satan, "everything he owns is in your power. However, you must not lay a hand on Job himself ." So Satan went out from the LORD's presence.

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and reported: "While the oxen were plowing and the donkeys grazing nearby,

¹⁵ the Sabeans swooped down and took them away. They struck down the servants with the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ He was still speaking when another messenger came and reported: "A

lightning storm struck from heaven. It burned up the sheep and the servants, and devoured them, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷ That messenger was still speaking when yet another came and reported: "The Chaldeans formed three bands, made a raid on the camels, and took them away. They struck down the servants with the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ He was still speaking when another messenger came and reported: "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house.

¹⁹ Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on the young people so that they died, and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

²⁰ Then Job stood up, tore his robe and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped,

²¹ saying: Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will leave this life. The LORD gives, and the LORD takes away. Praise the name of the LORD.

²² Throughout all this Job did not sin or blame God for anything.

2¹ One day the sons of God came again to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before the LORD.

² The LORD asked Satan, "Where have you come from?" "From roaming through the earth," Satan answered Him, "and walking around on it."

³ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? No one else on earth is like him, a man of perfect integrity, who fears God and turns away

from evil. He still retains his integrity, even though you incited Me against him, to destroy him without just cause."

⁴ "Skin for skin!" Satan answered the LORD. "A man will give up everything he owns in exchange for his life.

⁵ But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

⁶ "Very well," the LORD told Satan, "he is in your power; only spare his life."

⁷ So Satan left the LORD's presence and infected Job with incurable boils from the sole of his foot to the top of his head.

⁸ Then Job took a piece of broken pottery to scrape himself while he sat among the ashes.

⁹ His wife said to him, "Do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die!"

¹⁰ "You speak as a foolish woman speaks," he told her. "Should we accept

only good from God and not adversity?" Throughout all this Job did not sin in what he said.

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends-- Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite--heard about all this adversity that had happened to him, each of them came from his home. They met together to go and offer sympathy and comfort to him.

¹² When they looked from a distance, they could barely recognize him. They wept aloud, and each man tore his robe and threw dust into the air and on his head.

¹³ Then they sat on the ground with him seven days and nights, but no one spoke a word to him because they saw that his suffering was very intense.

3 ¹ After this Job began to speak and cursed the day he was born.

² He said:

³ May the day I was born perish, and the night when they said, "A boy is conceived."

⁴ If only that day had turned to darkness! May God above not care about it, or light shine on it.

⁵ May darkness and gloom reclaim it, and a cloud settle over it. May an eclipse of the sun terrify it.

⁶ If only darkness had taken that night away! May it not appear among the days of the year or be listed in the calendar.

⁷ Yes, may that night be barren; may no joyful shout be heard in it.

⁸ Let those who curse certain days cast a spell on it, those who are skilled in rousing Leviathan.

⁹ May its morning stars grow dark. May it wait for daylight but have none; may it not see the breaking of dawn.

¹⁰ For that night did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, and hide sorrow from my eyes.

¹¹ Why was I not stillborn; why didn't I die as I came from the womb?

¹² Why did the knees receive me, and why were there breasts for me to nurse?

¹³ For then I would have laid down in peace; I would be asleep. Then I would be at rest

¹⁴ with the kings and counselors of the earth, who rebuilt ruined cities for themselves,

¹⁵ or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver.

¹⁶ Or why was I not hidden like a miscarried child, like infants who never see daylight?

¹⁷ There the wicked cease to make trouble, and there the weary find rest.

¹⁸ The captives are completely at ease; they do not hear the voice of their oppressor.

¹⁹ Both the small and the great are there, and the slave is set free from his master.

²⁰ Why is light given to one burdened with grief, and life to those whose existence is bitter,

²¹ who wait for death, but it does not come, and search for it more than for hidden treasure,

²² who are filled with much joy and are glad when they reach the grave?

²³ Why is life given to a man whose path is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

²⁴ I sigh when food is put before me, and my groans pour out like water.

²⁵ For the thing I feared has overtaken me, and what I dreaded has happened to me.

²⁶ I cannot relax or be still; I have no rest, for trouble comes.

4 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:
² Should anyone try to speak with you when you are exhausted? Yet who can keep from speaking?

³ Look! You have instructed many and have strengthened weak hands.

⁴ Your words have steadied the one who was stumbling, and braced the knees that were buckling.

⁵ But now that this has happened to you, you have become exhausted. It strikes you, and you are dismayed.

⁶ Isn't your piety your confidence, and the integrity of your life your hope?

⁷ Consider: who has perished when he was innocent? Where have the honest been destroyed?

⁸ In my experience, those who plow injustice and those who sow trouble reap the same.

⁹ They perish at a single blast from God and come to an end by the breath of His nostrils.

¹⁰ The lion may roar and the fierce lion growl, but the fangs of young lions are broken.

¹¹ The strong lion dies if it catches no prey, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.

¹² A word was brought to me in secret; my ears caught a whisper of it.

¹³ Among unsettling thoughts from visions in the night, when deep sleep descends on men,

¹⁴ fear and trembling came over me and made all my bones shake.

¹⁵ A wind passed by me, and I shuddered with fear.

¹⁶ A figure stood there, but I could not recognize its appearance; a form loomed before my eyes. I heard a quiet voice:

¹⁷ "Can a person be more righteous than God, or a man more pure than his Maker?"

¹⁸ If God puts no trust in His servants and He charges His angels with foolishness,

¹⁹ how much more those who dwell in clay houses, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed like a moth!

²⁰ They are smashed to pieces from dawn to dusk; they perish forever while no one notices.

²¹ Are their tent cords not pulled up? They die without wisdom.

5 ¹ Call out if you please. Will anyone answer you? Which of the holy ones will you turn to?

² For anger kills a fool, and jealousy slays the gullible.

³ I have seen a fool taking root, but I immediately pronounced a curse on his home.

⁴ His children are far from safety. They are crushed at the city gate, with no one to defend them .

⁵ The hungry consume his harvest, even taking it out of the thorns. The thirsty pant for his children's wealth.

⁶ For distress does not grow out of the soil, and trouble does not sprout from the ground.

⁷ But mankind is born for trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.

⁸ However, if I were you, I would appeal to God and would present my case to Him.

⁹ He does great and unsearchable things, wonders without number.

¹⁰ He gives rain to the earth and sends water to the fields.

¹¹ He sets the lowly on high, and mourners are lifted to safety.

¹² He frustrates the schemes of the crafty so that they achieve no success.

¹³ He traps the wise in their craftiness so that the plans of the deceptive are quickly brought to an end.

¹⁴ They encounter darkness by day, and they grope at noon as if it were night.

¹⁵ He saves the needy from their sharp words and from the clutches of the powerful.

¹⁶ So the poor have hope, and injustice shuts its mouth.

¹⁷ See how happy the man is God corrects; so do not reject the discipline of the Almighty.

¹⁸ For He crushes but also binds up; He strikes, but His hands also heal.

¹⁹ He will rescue you from six calamities; no harm will touch you in seven.

²⁰ In famine He will redeem you from death, and in battle, from the power of the sword.

²¹ You will be safe from slander and not fear destruction when it comes.

²² You will laugh at destruction and hunger and not fear the animals of the earth.

²³ For you will have a covenant with the stones of the field, and the wild animals will be at peace with you.

²⁴ You will know that your tent is secure, and nothing will be missing when you inspect your home.

²⁵ You will also know that your offspring will be many and your descendants like the grass of the earth.

²⁶ You will approach the grave in full vigor, as a stack of sheaves is gathered in its season.

²⁷ We have investigated this, and it is true! Hear it and understand it for yourself.

6 ¹ Then Job answered:
² If only my grief could be weighed and my devastation placed with it on a scale.

³ For then it would outweigh the sand of the seas! That is why my words are rash.

⁴ Surely the arrows of the Almighty have pierced me; my spirit drinks their poison. God's terrors are arrayed against me.

⁵ Does a wild donkey bray over fresh grass or an ox low over its fodder?

⁶ Is bland food eaten without salt? Is there flavor in an egg white?

⁷ I refuse to touch them ; they are like contaminated food.

⁸ If only my request would be granted and God would provide what I hope for:

⁹ that He would decide to crush me, to unleash His power and cut me off!

¹⁰ It would still bring me comfort, and I would leap for joy in unrelenting pain that I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

¹¹ What strength do I have that I should continue to hope? What is my future, that I should be patient?

¹² Is my strength that of stone, or my flesh made of bronze?

¹³ Since I cannot help myself, the hope for success has been banished from me.

¹⁴ A despairing man should receive loyalty from his friends, even if he abandons the fear of the Almighty.

¹⁵ My brothers are as treacherous as a wadi, as seasonal streams that overflow

¹⁶ and become darkened because of ice, and the snow melts into them.

¹⁷ The wadis evaporate in warm weather; they disappear from their channels in hot weather.

¹⁸ Caravans turn away from their routes, go up into the desert, and perish.

¹⁹ The caravans of Tema look for these streams . The traveling merchants of Sheba hope for them.

²⁰ They are ashamed because they had been confident of finding water . When they arrive there, they are frustrated.

²¹ So this is what you have now become to me . When you see something dreadful, you are afraid.

²² Have I ever said: Give me something or Pay a bribe for me from your wealth

²³ or Deliver me from the enemy's power or Redeem me from the grasp of the ruthless?

²⁴ Teach me, and I will be silent. Help me understand what I did wrong.

²⁵ How painful honest words can be! But what does your rebuke prove?

²⁶ Do you think that you can disprove my words or that a despairing man's words are mere wind?

²⁷ No doubt you would cast lots for a fatherless child and negotiate a price to sell your friend.

²⁸ But now, please look at me; would I lie to your face?

²⁹ Reconsider; don't be unjust. Reconsider; my righteousness is still the issue.

³⁰ Am I lying, or can I not recognize lies?

7 ¹ Isn't mankind consigned to forced labor on earth? Are not his days like those of a hired hand?

² Like a slave he longs for shade; like a hired man he waits for his pay.

³ So I have been made to inherit months of futility, and troubled nights have been assigned to me.

⁴ When I lie down I think: When will I get up? But the evening drags on endlessly, and I toss and turn until dawn.

⁵ My flesh is clothed with maggots and encrusted with dirt. My skin forms scabs and then oozes.

⁶ My days pass more swiftly than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope.

⁷ Remember that my life is but a breath. My eye will never again see anything good.

⁸ The eye of anyone who looks on me will no longer see me. Your eyes will look for me, but I will be gone.

⁹ As a cloud fades away and vanishes, so the one who goes down to Sheol will never rise again.

¹⁰ He will never return to his house; his hometown will no longer remember him.

¹¹ Therefore I will not restrain my mouth. I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

¹² Am I the sea or a sea monster, that You keep me under guard?

¹³ When I say: My bed will comfort me,
and my couch will ease my complaint,

¹⁴ then You frighten me with dreams,
and terrify me with visions,

¹⁵ so that I prefer strangling, death
rather than life in this body.

¹⁶ I give up! I will not live forever. Leave
me alone, for my days are a breath.

¹⁷ What is man, that You think so highly
of him and pay so much attention to
him?

¹⁸ You inspect him every morning, and
put him to the test every moment.

¹⁹ Will You ever look away from me, or
leave me alone until I swallow my saliva?

²⁰ If I have sinned, what have I done
to You, Watcher of mankind? Why have
You made me Your target, so that I have
become a burden to You?

²¹ Why not forgive my sin and pardon
my transgression? For soon I will lie

down in the grave. You will eagerly seek me, but I will be gone.

8 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:
² How long will you go on saying these things? Your words are a blast of wind.

³ Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right?

⁴ Since your children sinned against Him, He gave them over to their rebellion.

⁵ But if you earnestly seek God and ask the Almighty for mercy,

⁶ if you are pure and upright, then He will move even now on your behalf and restore the home where your righteousness dwells.

⁷ Then, even if your beginnings were modest, your final days will be full of prosperity.

⁸ For ask the previous generation,
and pay attention to what their fathers
discovered,

⁹ since we were born only yesterday
and know nothing. Our days on earth
are but a shadow.

¹⁰ Will they not teach you and tell you
and speak from their understanding?

¹¹ Does papyrus grow where there is no
marsh? Do reeds flourish without water?

¹² While still uncut shoots, they would
dry up quicker than any other plant.

¹³ Such is the destiny of all who forget
God; the hope of the godless will perish.

¹⁴ His source of confidence is fragile;
what he trusts in is a spider's web.

¹⁵ He leans on his web, but it doesn't
stand firm. He grabs it, but it does not
hold up.

¹⁶ He is an amply watered plant in the
sunshine; his shoots spread out over his
garden.

¹⁷ His roots are intertwined around a pile of rocks. He looks for a home among the stones.

¹⁸ If he is uprooted from his place, it will deny knowing him, saying, "I never saw you."

¹⁹ Surely this is the joy of his way of life; yet others will sprout from the dust.

²⁰ Look, God does not reject a person of integrity, and He will not support evildoers.

²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with a shout of joy.

²² Your enemies will be clothed with shame; the tent of the wicked will exist no longer.

9 ¹ Then Job answered:

² Yes, I know what you've said is true, but how can a person be justified before God?

³ If one wanted to take Him to court, he could not answer God once in a thousand times .

⁴ God is wise and all-powerful. Who has opposed Him and come out unharmed?

⁵ He removes mountains without their knowledge, overturning them in His anger.

⁶ He shakes the earth from its place so that its pillars tremble.

⁷ He commands the sun not to shine and seals off the stars.

⁸ He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea.

⁹ He makes the stars : the Bear, Orion, the Pleiades, and the constellations of the southern sky.

¹⁰ He performs great and unsearchable things, wonders without number.

¹¹ If He passes by me, I wouldn't see Him; if He goes right by, I wouldn't recognize Him.

¹² If He snatches something , who can stop Him? Who can ask Him, "What are You doing?"

¹³ God does not hold back His anger; Rahab's assistants cringe in fear beneath Him!

¹⁴ How then can I answer Him or choose my arguments against Him?

¹⁵ Even if I were in the right, I could not answer. I could only beg my judge for mercy.

¹⁶ If I summoned Him and He answered me, I do not believe He would pay attention to what I said.

¹⁷ He batters me with a whirlwind and multiplies my wounds without cause.

¹⁸ He doesn't let me catch my breath but soaks me with bitter experiences.

¹⁹ If it is a matter of strength, look, He is the Mighty One! If it is a matter of justice, who can summon Him?

²⁰ Even if I were in the right, my own mouth would condemn me; if I were blameless, my mouth would declare me guilty.

²¹ Though I am blameless, I no longer care about myself; I renounce my life.

²² It is all the same. Therefore I say, "He destroys both the blameless and the wicked."

²³ When disaster brings sudden death, He mocks the despair of the innocent.

²⁴ The earth is handed over to the wicked; He blindfolds its judges. If it isn't He, then who is it?

²⁵ My days fly by faster than a runner; they flee without seeing any good.

²⁶ They sweep by like boats made of papyrus, like an eagle swooping down on its prey.

²⁷ If I said, "I will forget my complaint, change my expression, and smile,"

²⁸ I would still live in terror of all my pains. I know You will not acquit me.

²⁹ Since I will be found guilty, why should I labor in vain?

³⁰ If I wash myself with snow, and cleanse my hands with lye,

³¹ then You dip me in a pit of mud , and my own clothes despise me!

³² For He is not a man like me, that I can answer Him, that we can take each other to court.

³³ There is no one to judge between us, to lay his hand on both of us.

³⁴ Let Him take His rod away from me so His terror will no longer frighten me.

³⁵ Then I would speak and not fear Him. But that is not the case; I am on my own.

10¹ I am disgusted with my life. I will express my complaint and speak in the bitterness of my soul.

² I will say to God: Do not declare me guilty! Let me know why You prosecute me.

³ Is it good for You to oppress, to reject the work of Your hands, and favor the plans of the wicked?

⁴ Do You have eyes of flesh, or do You see as a human sees?

⁵ Are Your days like those of a human, or Your years like those of a man,

⁶ that You look for my wrongdoing and search for my sin,

⁷ even though You know that I am not wicked and that there is no one who can deliver from Your hand?

⁸ Your hands shaped me and formed me. Will You now turn around and destroy me?

⁹ Please remember that You formed me like clay. Will You now return me to dust?

¹⁰ Did You not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese?

¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh,
and wove me together with bones and
tendons.

¹² You gave me life and faithful love,
and Your care has guarded my life.

¹³ Yet You concealed these thoughts in
Your heart; I know that this was Your
hidden plan:

¹⁴ if I sin, You would notice, and would
not acquit me of my wrongdoing.

¹⁵ If I am wicked, woe to me! And even
if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my
head. I am filled with shame and aware
of my affliction.

¹⁶ If I am proud, You hunt me like a lion
and again display Your miraculous power
against me.

¹⁷ You produce new witnesses against
me and multiply Your anger toward me.
Hardships assault me, wave after wave.

¹⁸ Why did You bring me out of the womb? I should have died and never been seen.

¹⁹ I wish I had never existed but had been carried from the womb to the grave.

²⁰ Are my days not few? Stop it ! Leave me alone, so that I can smile a little

²¹ before I go to a land of darkness and gloom, never to return.

²² It is a land of blackness like the deepest darkness, gloomy and chaotic, where even the light is like the darkness.

11 ¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

² Should this stream of words go unanswered and such a talker be acquitted?

³ Should your babbling put others to silence, so that you can keep on ridiculing with no one to humiliate you?

⁴ You have said, "My teaching is sound, and I am pure in Your sight."

⁵ But if only God would speak and declare His case against you,

⁶ He would show you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know then that God has chosen to overlook some of your sin.

⁷ Can you fathom the depths of God or discover the limits of the Almighty?

⁸ They are higher than the heavens-- what can you do? They are deeper than Sheol--what can you know?

⁹ Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea.

¹⁰ If He passes by and throws someone in prison or convenes a court, who can stop Him?

¹¹ Surely He knows which people are worthless. If He sees iniquity, will He not take note of it ?

¹² But a stupid man will gain understanding as soon as a wild donkey is born a man!

¹³ As for you, if you redirect your heart and lift up your hands to Him in prayer --

¹⁴ if there is iniquity in your hand, remove it, and don't allow injustice to dwell in your tents--

¹⁵ then you will hold your head high, free from fault. You will be firmly established and unafraid.

¹⁶ For you will forget your suffering, recalling it only as waters that have flowed by.

¹⁷ Your life will be brighter than noonday; its darkness will be like the morning.

¹⁸ You will be confident, because there is hope. You will look carefully about and lie down in safety.

¹⁹ You will lie down without fear, and many will seek your favor.

²⁰ But the sight of the wicked will fail. Their way of escape will be cut off, and their only hope will be to die.

12 ¹ Then Job answered:
² No doubt you are the people, and wisdom will die with you!

³ But I also have a mind; I am not inferior to you. Who doesn't know the things you are talking about?

⁴ I am a laughingstock to my friends, by calling on God, who answers me. The righteous and upright man is a laughingstock.

⁵ The one who is at ease holds calamity in contempt and thinks it is prepared for those whose feet are slipping.

⁶ The tents of robbers are safe, and those who provoke God are secure; God's power provides this.

⁷ But ask the animals, and they will instruct you; ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you.

⁸ Or speak to the earth, and it will instruct you; let the fish of the sea inform you.

⁹ Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?

¹⁰ The life of every living thing is in His hand, as well as the breath of all mankind.

¹¹ Doesn't the ear test words as the palate tastes food?

¹² Wisdom is found with the elderly, and understanding comes with long life.

¹³ Wisdom and strength belong to God; counsel and understanding are His.

¹⁴ Whatever He tears down cannot be rebuilt; whoever He imprisons cannot be released.

¹⁵ When He withholds the waters, everything dries up, and when He releases them, they destroy the land.

¹⁶ True wisdom and power belong to Him. The deceived and the deceiver are His.

¹⁷ He leads counselors away barefoot and makes judges go mad.

¹⁸ He releases the bonds put on by kings and ties a cloth around their waists.

¹⁹ He leads priests away barefoot and overthrows established leaders.

²⁰ He deprives trusted advisers of speech and takes away the elders' good judgment.

²¹ He pours out contempt on nobles and disarms the strong.

²² He reveals mysteries from the darkness and brings the deepest darkness into the light.

²³ He makes nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges nations, then leads them away.

²⁴ He deprives the world's leaders of reason, and makes them wander in a trackless wasteland.

²⁵ They grope around in darkness without light; He makes them stagger like drunken men.

13 ¹ Look, my eyes have seen all this; my ears have heard and understood it.

² Everything you know, I also know; I am not inferior to you.

³ Yet I prefer to speak to the Almighty and argue my case before God.

⁴ But you coat the truth with lies; you are all worthless doctors.

⁵ If only you would shut up and let that be your wisdom!

⁶ Hear now my argument, and listen to my defense.

⁷ Would you testify unjustly on God's behalf or speak deceitfully for Him?

⁸ Would you show partiality to Him or argue the case in His defense?

⁹ Would it go well if He examined you? Could you deceive Him as you would deceive a man?

¹⁰ Surely He would rebuke you if you secretly showed partiality.

¹¹ Would God's majesty not terrify you? Would His dread not fall on you?

¹² Your memorable sayings are proverbs of ash; your defenses are made of clay.

¹³ Be quiet, and I will speak. Let whatever comes happen to me.

¹⁴ Why do I put myself at risk and take my life in my own hands?

¹⁵ Even if He kills me, I will hope in Him. I will still defend my ways before Him.

¹⁶ Yes, this will result in my deliverance, for no godless person can appear before Him.

¹⁷ Pay close attention to my words; let my declaration ring in your ears.

¹⁸ Now then, I have prepared my case; I know that I am right.

¹⁹ Can anyone indict me? If so, I will be silent and die.

²⁰ Only grant these two things to me, God, so that I will not have to hide from Your presence:

²¹ remove Your hand from me, and do not let Your terror frighten me.

²² Then call, and I will answer, or I will speak, and You can respond to me.

²³ How many iniquities and sins have I committed? Reveal to me my transgression and sin.

²⁴ Why do You hide Your face and consider me Your enemy?

²⁵ Will You frighten a wind-driven leaf? Will You chase after dry straw?

²⁶ For You record bitter accusations against me and make me inherit the iniquities of my youth.

²⁷ You put my feet in the stocks and stand watch over all my paths, setting a limit for the soles of my feet.

²⁸ Man wears out like something rotten, like a moth-eaten garment.

14 ¹ Man born of woman is short of days and full of trouble.

² He blossoms like a flower, then withers; he flees like a shadow and does not last.

³ Do You really take notice of one like this? Will You bring me into judgment against You?

⁴ Who can produce something pure from what is impure? No one!

⁵ Since man's days are determined and the number of his months depends on You, and since You have set limits he cannot pass,

⁶ look away from him and let him rest so that he can enjoy his day like a hired hand.

⁷ There is hope for a tree: If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its shoots will not die.

⁸ If its roots grow old in the ground and its stump starts to die in the soil,

⁹ the smell of water makes it thrive and produce twigs like a sapling.

¹⁰ But a man dies and fades away; he breathes his last--where is he?

¹¹ As water disappears from the sea and a wadi becomes parched and dry,

¹² so man lies down never to rise again. They will not wake up until the heavens are no more; they will not stir from their sleep.

¹³ If only You would hide me in Sheol and conceal me until Your anger passes, that You would appoint a time for me and then remember me.

¹⁴ When a man dies, will he come back to life? If so, I would wait all the days of my struggle until my relief comes.

¹⁵ You would call, and I would answer You. You would long for the work of Your hands.

¹⁶ For then You would count my steps but would not take note of my sin.

¹⁷ My rebellion would be sealed up in a bag, and You would cover over my iniquity.

¹⁸ But as a mountain collapses and crumbles and a rock is dislodged from its place,

¹⁹ as water wears away stones and torrents wash away the soil from the land, so You destroy a man's hope.

²⁰ You completely overpower him, and he passes on; You change his appearance and send him away.

²¹ If his sons receive honor, he does not know it; if they become insignificant, he is unaware of it.

²² He feels only the pain of his own body and mourns only for himself.

15 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

² Does a wise man answer with empty counsel or fill himself with the hot east wind?

³ Should he argue with useless talk or with words that serve no good purpose?

⁴ But you even undermine the fear of God and hinder meditation before Him.

⁵ Your iniquity teaches you what to say, and you choose the language of the crafty.

⁶ Your own mouth condemns you, not I; your own lips testify against you.

⁷ Were you the first person ever born, or were you brought forth before the hills?

⁸ Do you listen in on the council of God, or have a monopoly on wisdom?

⁹ What do you know that we don't? What do you understand that is not clear to us?

¹⁰ Both the gray-haired and the elderly are with us, men older than your father.

¹¹ Are God's consolations not enough for you, even the words that deal gently with you?

¹² Why has your heart misled you, and why do your eyes flash

¹³ as you turn your anger against God and allow such words to leave your mouth?

¹⁴ What is man, that he should be pure, or one born of woman, that he should be righteous?

¹⁵ If God puts no trust in His holy ones and the heavens are not pure in His sight,

¹⁶ how much less one who is revolting and corrupt, who drinks injustice like water?

¹⁷ Listen to me and I will inform you. I will describe what I have seen,

¹⁸ what was declared by wise men and was not suppressed by their ancestors,

¹⁹ the land was given to them alone when no foreigner passed among them.

²⁰ A wicked man writhes in pain all his days; few years are stored up for the ruthless.

²¹ Dreadful sounds fill his ears; when he is at peace, a robber attacks him.

²² He doesn't believe he will return from darkness; he is destined for the sword.

²³ He wanders about for food, saying, "Where is it?" He knows the day of darkness is at hand.

²⁴ Trouble and distress terrify him, overwhelming him like a king prepared for battle.

²⁵ For he has stretched out his hand against God and has arrogantly opposed the Almighty.

²⁶ He rushes headlong at Him with his thick, studded shields.

²⁷ Though his face is covered with fat and his waistline bulges with it,

²⁸ he will dwell in ruined cities, in abandoned houses destined to become piles of rubble.

²⁹ He will no longer be rich; his wealth will not endure. His possessions will not spread over the land.

³⁰ He will not escape from the darkness; flames will wither his shoots, and he will depart by the breath of God's mouth.

³¹ Let him not put trust in worthless things, being led astray, for what he gets in exchange will prove worthless.

³² It will be accomplished before his time, and his branch will not flourish.

³³ He will be like a vine that drops its unripe grapes and like an olive tree that sheds its blossoms.

³⁴ For the company of the godless will be barren, and fire will consume the tents of those who offer bribes.

³⁵ They conceive trouble and give birth to evil; their womb prepares deception.

16 ¹ Then Job answered:

² I have heard many things like these. You are all miserable comforters.

³ Is there no end to your empty words? What provokes you that you continue testifying?

⁴ If you were in my place I could also talk like you. I could string words together against you and shake my head at you, but I wouldn't .

⁵ I would encourage you with my mouth, and the consolation from my lips would bring relief.

⁶ Even if I speak, my suffering is not relieved, and if I hold back, what have I lost?

⁷ Surely He has now exhausted me. You have devastated my entire family.

⁸ You have shriveled me up--it has become a witness; My frailty rises up against me and testifies to my face.

⁹ His anger tears at me , and He harasses me. He gnashes His teeth at me. My enemy pierces me with His eyes.

¹⁰ They open their mouths against me and strike my cheeks with contempt; they join themselves together against me.

¹¹ God hands me over to unjust men; He throws me into the hands of the wicked.

¹² I was at ease, but He shattered me; He seized me by the scruff of the neck and smashed me to pieces. He set me up as His target;

¹³ His archers surround me. He pierces my kidneys without mercy and pours my bile on the ground.

¹⁴ He breaks through my defenses again and again; He charges at me like a warrior.

¹⁵ I have sewn sackcloth over my skin; I have buried my strength in the dust.

¹⁶ My face has grown red with weeping, and the shadow of death covers my eyes,

¹⁷ although my hands are free from violence and my prayer is pure.

¹⁸ Earth, do not cover my blood; may my cry for help find no resting place.

¹⁹ Even now my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is in the heights!

²⁰ My friends scoff at me as I weep before God.

²¹ I wish that someone might arbitrate between a man and God just as a man pleads for his friend.

²² For only a few years will pass before I go the way of no return.

17¹ My spirit is broken. My days are extinguished. A graveyard awaits me.

² Surely mockers surround me and my eyes must gaze at their rebellion.

³ Make arrangements! Put up security for me. Who else will be my sponsor?

⁴ You have closed their minds to understanding, therefore You will not honor them .

⁵ If a man informs on his friends for a price, the eyes of his children will fail.

⁶ He has made me an object of scorn to the people; I have become a man people spit at.

⁷ My eyes have grown dim from grief, and my whole body has become but a shadow.

⁸ The upright are appalled at this, and the innocent are roused against the godless.

⁹ Yet the righteous person will hold to his way, and the one whose hands are clean will grow stronger.

¹⁰ But come back and try again, all of you. I will not find a wise man among you.

¹¹ My days have slipped by; my plans have been ruined, even the things dear to my heart.

¹² They turned night into day and made light seem near in the face of darkness.

¹³ If I await Sheol as my home, spread out my bed in darkness,

¹⁴ and say to the Pit: You are my father, and to the worm: My mother or my sister,

¹⁵ where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?

¹⁶ Will it go down to the gates of Sheol, or will we descend together to the dust?

18 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:
² How long until you stop talking? Show some sense, and then we can talk.

³ Why are we regarded as cattle, as stupid in your sight?

⁴ You who tear yourself in anger--should the earth be abandoned on your account, or a rock be removed from its place?

⁵ Yes, the light of the wicked is extinguished; the flame of his fire does not glow.

⁶ The light in his tent grows dark, and the lamp beside him is put out.

⁷ His powerful stride is shortened, and his own schemes trip him up.

⁸ For his own feet lead him into a net, and he strays into its mesh.

⁹ A trap catches him by the heel; a noose seizes him.

¹⁰ A rope lies hidden for him on the ground, and a snare waits for him along the path.

¹¹ Terrors frighten him on every side and harass him at every step.

¹² His strength is depleted; disaster lies ready for him to stumble.

¹³ Parts of his skin are eaten away; death's firstborn consumes his limbs.

¹⁴ He is ripped from the security of his tent and marched away to the king of terrors.

¹⁵ Nothing he owned remains in his tent. Burning sulfur is scattered over his home.

¹⁶ His roots below dry up, and his branches above wither away.

¹⁷ All memory of him perishes from the earth; he has no name abroad.

¹⁸ He is driven from light to darkness and chased from the inhabited world.

¹⁹ He has no children or descendants among his people, no survivor where he used to live.

²⁰ Those in the west are appalled at his fate, while those in the east tremble in horror.

²¹ Indeed, such is the dwelling of the wicked, and this is the place of the one who does not know God.

19 ¹ Then Job answered:
² How long will you torment me and crush me with words?

³ You have humiliated me ten times now, and you mistreat me without shame.

⁴ Even if it is true that I have sinned, my mistake concerns only me.

⁵ If you really want to appear superior to me and would use my disgrace as evidence against me,

⁶ then understand that it is God who has wronged me and caught me in His net.

⁷ I cry out: Violence! but get no response; I call for help, but there is no justice.

⁸ He has blocked my way so that I cannot pass through; He has veiled my paths with darkness.

⁹ He has stripped me of my honor and removed the crown from my head.

¹⁰ He tears me down on every side so that I am ruined. He uproots my hope like a tree.

¹¹ His anger burns against me, and He regards me as one of His enemies.

¹² His troops advance together; they construct a ramp against me and camp around my tent.

¹³ He has removed my brothers from me; my acquaintances have abandoned me.

¹⁴ My relatives stop coming by, and my close friends have forgotten me.

¹⁵ My house guests and female servants regard me as a stranger; I am a foreigner in their sight.

¹⁶ I call for my servant, but he does not answer, even if I beg him with my own mouth.

¹⁷ My breath is offensive to my wife, and my own children find me repulsive.

¹⁸ Even young boys scorn me. When I stand up, they mock me.

¹⁹ All of my best friends despise me, and those I love have turned against me.

²⁰ My skin and my flesh cling to my bones; I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.

²¹ Have mercy on me, my friends, have mercy, for God's hand has struck me.

²² Why do you persecute me as God does ? Will you never get enough of my flesh?

²³ I wish that my words were written down, that they were recorded on a scroll

²⁴ or were inscribed in stone forever by an iron stylus and lead!

²⁵ But I know my living Redeemer, and He will stand on the dust at last.

²⁶ Even after my skin has been destroyed, yet I will see God in my flesh.

²⁷ I will see Him myself; my eyes will look at Him , and not as a stranger. My heart longs within me.

²⁸ If you say, "How will we pursue him, since the root of the problem lies with him?"

²⁹ be afraid of the sword, because wrath brings punishment by the sword, so that you may know there is a judgment.

20 ¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite replied:

² This is why my unsettling thoughts compel me to answer, because I am upset!

³ I have heard a rebuke that insults me, and my understanding makes me reply.

⁴ Don't you know that ever since antiquity, from the time man was placed on earth,

⁵ the joy of the wicked has been brief and the happiness of the godless has lasted only a moment?

⁶ Though his arrogance reaches heaven, and his head touches the clouds,

⁷ he will vanish forever like his own dung. Those who know him will ask, "Where is he?"

⁸ He will fly away like a dream and never be found; he will be chased away like a vision in the night.

⁹ The eye that saw him will see him no more, and his household will no longer see him.

¹⁰ His children will beg from the poor, for his own hands must give back his wealth.

¹¹ His bones may be full of youthful vigor, but it will lie down with him in the grave.

¹² Though evil tastes sweet in his mouth and he conceals it under his tongue,

¹³ though he cherishes it and will not let it go but keeps it in his mouth,

¹⁴ yet the food in his stomach turns into cobras' venom inside him.

¹⁵ He swallows wealth but must vomit it up; God will force it from his stomach.

¹⁶ He will suck the poison of cobras; a viper's fangs will kill him.

¹⁷ He will not enjoy the streams, the rivers flowing with honey and cream.

¹⁸ He must return the fruit of his labor without consuming it ; he doesn't enjoy the profits from his trading.

¹⁹ For he oppressed and abandoned the poor; he seized a house he did not build.

²⁰ Because his appetite is never satisfied, he does not escape his desires.

²¹ Nothing is left for him to consume; therefore, his prosperity will not last.

²² At the height of his success distress will come to him; the full weight of misery will crush him.

²³ When he fills his stomach, God will send His burning anger against him, raining it down on him while he is eating.

²⁴ If he flees from an iron weapon, an arrow from a bronze bow will pierce him.

²⁵ He pulls it out of his back, the flashing tip out of his liver. Terrors come over him.

²⁶ Total darkness is reserved for his treasures. A fire unfanned by human hands will consume him; it will feed on what is left in his tent.

²⁷ The heavens will expose his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him.

²⁸ The possessions in his house will be removed, flowing away on the day of God's anger.

²⁹ This is the wicked man's lot from God, the inheritance God ordained for him.

21 ¹ Then Job answered:
² Pay close attention to my words; let this be the consolation you offer.

³ Bear with me while I speak; then after I have spoken, you may continue mocking.

⁴ As for me, is my complaint against a man? Then why shouldn't I be impatient?

⁵ Look at me and shudder; put your hand over your mouth.

⁶ When I think about it, I am terrified and my body trembles in horror.

⁷ Why do the wicked continue to live, growing old and becoming powerful?

⁸ Their children are established while they are still alive, and their descendants, before their eyes.

⁹ Their homes are secure and free of fear; no rod from God strikes them.

¹⁰ Their bulls breed without fail; their cows calve and do not miscarry.

¹¹ They let their little ones run around like lambs; their children skip about,

¹² singing to the tambourine and lyre and rejoicing at the sound of the flute.

¹³ They spend their days in prosperity and go down to Sheol in peace.

¹⁴ Yet they say to God: "Leave us alone! We don't want to know Your ways.

¹⁵ Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him, and what will we gain by pleading with Him?"

¹⁶ But their prosperity is not of their own doing. The counsel of the wicked is far from me!

¹⁷ How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? Does disaster come on them? Does He apportion destruction in His anger?

¹⁸ Are they like straw before the wind, like chaff a storm sweeps away?

¹⁹ God reserves a person's punishment for his children. Let God repay the person himself, so that he may know it .

²⁰ Let his own eyes see his demise; let him drink from the Almighty's wrath!

²¹ For what does he care about his family once he is dead, when the number of his months has run out?

²² Can anyone teach God knowledge, since He judges the exalted ones?

²³ One person dies in excellent health, completely secure and at ease.

²⁴ His body is well-fed, and his bones are full of marrow.

²⁵ Yet another person dies with a bitter soul, having never tasted prosperity.

²⁶ But they both lie in the dust, and worms cover them.

²⁷ Look, I know your thoughts, the schemes you would wrong me with.

²⁸ For you say, "Where now is the nobleman's house?" and "Where are the tents the wicked lived in?"

²⁹ Have you never consulted those who travel the roads? Don't you accept their reports?

³⁰ Indeed, the evil man is spared from the day of disaster, rescued from the day of wrath.

³¹ Who would denounce his behavior to his face? Who would repay him for what he has done?

³² He is carried to the grave, and someone keeps watch over his tomb.

³³ The dirt on his grave is sweet to him. Everyone follows behind him, and those who go before him are without number.

³⁴ So how can you offer me such futile comfort? Your answers are deceptive.

22 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite replied:

² Can a man be of any use to God? Can even a wise man be of use to Him?

³ Does it delight the Almighty if you are righteous? Does He profit if you perfect your behavior?

⁴ Does He correct you and take you to court because of your piety?

⁵ Isn't your wickedness abundant and aren't your iniquities endless?

⁶ For you took collateral from your brothers without cause, stripping off their clothes and leaving them naked.

⁷ You gave no water to the thirsty and withheld food from the famished,

⁸ while the land belonged to a powerful man and an influential man lived on it.

⁹ You sent widows away empty-handed, and the strength of the fatherless was crushed.

¹⁰ Therefore snares surround you, and sudden dread terrifies you,

¹¹ or darkness, so you cannot see, and a flood of water covers you.

¹² Isn't God as high as the heavens? And look at the highest stars--how lofty they are!

¹³ Yet you say: "What does God know? Can He judge through thick darkness?"

¹⁴ Clouds veil Him so that He cannot see, as He walks on the circle of the sky."

¹⁵ Will you continue on the ancient path that wicked men have walked?

¹⁶ They were snatched away before their time, and their foundations were washed away by a river.

¹⁷ They were the ones who said to God, "Leave us alone!" and "What can the Almighty do to us?"

¹⁸ But it was He who filled their houses with good things. The counsel of the wicked is far from me!

¹⁹ The righteous see this and rejoice; the innocent mock them, saying ,

²⁰ "Surely our opponents are destroyed, and fire has consumed what they left behind."

²¹ Come to terms with God and be at peace; in this way good will come to you.

²² Receive instruction from His mouth, and place His sayings in your heart.

²³ If you return to the Almighty, you will be renewed. If you banish injustice from your tent

²⁴ and consign your gold to the dust, the gold of Ophir to the stones in the wadis,

²⁵ the Almighty will be your gold and your finest silver.

²⁶ Then you will delight in the Almighty and lift up your face to God.

²⁷ You will pray to Him, and He will hear you, and you will fulfill your vows.

²⁸ When you make a decision, it will be carried out, and light will shine on your ways.

²⁹ When others are humiliated and you say, "Lift them up," God will save the humble.

³⁰ He will even rescue the guilty one, who will be rescued by the purity of your hands.

23 ¹ Then Job answered:

² Today also my complaint is bitter. His hand is heavy despite my groaning.

³ If only I knew how to find Him, so that I could go to His throne.

⁴ I would plead my case before Him and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would learn how He would answer me; and understand what He would say to me.

⁶ Would He prosecute me forcefully? No, He will certainly pay attention to me.

⁷ There an upright man could reason with Him, and I would escape from my Judge forever.

⁸ If I go east, He is not there, and if I go west, I cannot perceive Him.

⁹ When He is at work to the north, I cannot see Him; when He turns south, I cannot find Him.

¹⁰ Yet He knows the way I have taken; when He has tested me, I will emerge as pure gold.

¹¹ My feet have followed in His tracks; I have kept to His way and not turned aside.

¹² I have not departed from the commands of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily food.

¹³ But He is unchangeable; who can oppose Him? He does what He desires.

¹⁴ He will certainly accomplish what He has decreed for me, and He has many more things like these in mind.

¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified in His presence; when I consider this , I am afraid of Him.

¹⁶ God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me.

¹⁷ Yet I am not destroyed by the darkness, by the thick darkness that covers my face.

24 ¹ Why does the Almighty not reserve times for judgment? Why do those who know Him never see His days?

² The wicked displace boundary markers. They steal a flock and provide pasture for it .

³ They drive away the donkeys owned by the fatherless and take the widow's ox as collateral.

⁴ They push the needy off the road; the poor of the land are forced into hiding.

⁵ Like wild donkeys in the desert, the poor go out to their task of foraging for food; the wilderness provides nourishment for their children.

⁶ They gather their fodder in the field and glean the vineyards of the wicked.

⁷ Without clothing, they spend the night naked, having no covering against the cold.

⁸ Drenched by mountain rains, they huddle against the rocks, shelterless.

⁹ The fatherless infant is snatched from the breast; the nursing child of the poor is seized as collateral.

¹⁰ Without clothing, they wander about naked. They carry sheaves but go hungry.

¹¹ They crush olives in their presses; they tread the winepresses, but go thirsty.

¹² From the city, men groan; the mortally wounded cry for help, yet God pays no attention to this crime.

¹³ The wicked are those who rebel against the light. They do not recognize its ways or stay on its paths.

¹⁴ The murderer rises at dawn to kill the poor and needy, and by night he becomes a thief.

¹⁵ The adulterer's eye watches for twilight, thinking: No eye will see me, he covers his face.

¹⁶ In the dark they break into houses; by day they lock themselves in, never experiencing the light.

¹⁷ For the morning is like death's shadow to them. Surely they are familiar with the terrors of death's shadow!

¹⁸ They float on the surface of the water. Their section of the land is cursed, so that they never go to their vineyards.

¹⁹ As dry ground and heat snatch away the melted snow, so Sheol steals those who have sinned.

²⁰ The womb forgets them; worms feed on them; they are remembered no more. So injustice is broken like a tree.

²¹ They prey on the barren, childless woman and do not deal kindly with the widow.

²² Yet God drags away the mighty by His power; when He rises up, they have no assurance of life.

²³ He gives them a sense of security, so they can rely on it , but His eyes watch over their ways.

²⁴ They are exalted for a moment, then they are gone; they are brought low and shrivel up like everything else. They wither like heads of grain.

²⁵ If this is not true, then who can prove me a liar and show that my speech is worthless?

25 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:
² Dominion and dread belong to Him, the One who establishes harmony in the heavens.

³ Can His troops be numbered? Does His light not shine on everyone?

⁴ How can a person be justified before God? How can one born of woman be pure?

⁵ If even the moon does not shine and the stars are not pure in His sight,

⁶ how much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm!

26 ¹ Then Job answered:

² How you have helped the powerless and delivered the arm that is weak!

³ How you have counseled the unwise and thoroughly explained the path to success!

⁴ Who did you speak these words to? Whose breath came out of your mouth?

⁵ The departed spirits tremble beneath the waters and all that inhabit them.

⁶ Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering.

⁷ He stretches the northern skies over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

⁸ He enfolds the waters in His clouds, yet the clouds do not burst beneath their weight.

⁹ He obscures the view of His throne, spreading His cloud over it.

¹⁰ He laid out the horizon on the surface of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness.

¹¹ The pillars that hold up the sky tremble, astounded at His rebuke.

¹² By His power He stirred the sea, and by His understanding He crushed Rahab.

¹³ By His breath the heavens gained their beauty; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

¹⁴ These are but the fringes of His ways; how faint is the word we hear of Him! Who can understand His mighty thunder?

27 ¹ Job continued his discourse, saying:

² As God lives, who has deprived me of justice, and the Almighty who has made me bitter,

³ as long as my breath is still in me and the breath from God remains in my nostrils,

⁴ my lips will not speak unjustly, and my tongue will not utter deceit.

⁵ I will never affirm that you are right. I will maintain my integrity until I die.

⁶ I will cling to my righteousness and never let it go. My conscience will not accuse me as long as I live!

⁷ May my enemy be like the wicked and my opponent like the unjust.

⁸ For what hope does the godless man have when he is cut off, when God takes away his life?

⁹ Will God hear his cry when distress comes on him?

¹⁰ Will he delight in the Almighty? Will he call on God at all times?

¹¹ I will teach you about God's power. I will not conceal what the Almighty has planned.

¹² All of you have seen this for yourselves, why do you keep up this empty talk?

¹³ This is a wicked man's lot from God, the inheritance the ruthless receive from the Almighty.

¹⁴ Even if his children increase, they are destined for the sword; his descendants will never have enough food.

¹⁵ Those who survive him will be buried by the plague, yet their widows will not weep for them .

¹⁶ Though he piles up silver like dust and heaps up a wardrobe like clay--

¹⁷ he may heap it up, but the righteous will wear it , and the innocent will divide up his silver.

¹⁸ The house he built is like a moth's cocoon or a booth set up by a watchman.

¹⁹ He lies down wealthy, but will do so no more; when he opens his eyes, it is gone.

²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood; a storm wind sweeps him away at night.

²¹ An east wind picks him up, and he is gone; it carries him away from his place.

²² It blasts at him without mercy, while he flees desperately from its grasp.

²³ It claps its hands at him and scorns him from its place.

28 ¹ Surely there is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined.

² Iron is taken from the ground, and copper is smelted from ore.

³ A miner puts an end to the darkness; he probes the deepest recesses for ore in the gloomy darkness.

⁴ He cuts a shaft far from human habitation, in places unknown to those who walk above ground. Suspended far away from people, the miners swing back and forth.

⁵ Food may come from the earth, but below the surface the earth is transformed as by fire.

⁶ Its rocks are a source of sapphire,
containing flecks of gold.

⁷ No bird of prey knows that path; no
falcon's eye has seen it.

⁸ Proud beasts have never walked on it;
no lion has ever prowled over it.

⁹ The miner strikes the flint and
transforms the mountains at their
foundations.

¹⁰ He cuts out channels in the rocks,
and his eyes spot every treasure.

¹¹ He dams up the streams from flowing
so that he may bring to light what is
hidden.

¹² But where can wisdom be found, and
where is understanding located?

¹³ No man can know its value, since it
cannot be found in the land of the living.

¹⁴ The ocean depths say, "It's not in
me," while the sea declares, "I don't
have it."

¹⁵ Gold cannot be exchanged for it, and silver cannot be weighed out for its price.

¹⁶ Wisdom cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire.

¹⁷ Gold and glass do not compare with it, and articles of fine gold cannot be exchanged for it.

¹⁸ Coral and quartz are not worth mentioning. The price of wisdom is beyond pearls.

¹⁹ Topaz from Cush cannot compare with it, and it cannot be valued in pure gold.

²⁰ Where then does wisdom come from, and where is understanding located?

²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing and concealed from the birds of the sky.

²² Abaddon and Death say, "We have heard news of it with our ears."

²³ But God understands the way to wisdom, and He knows its location.

²⁴ For He looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

²⁵ When God fixed the weight of the wind and limited the water by measure,

²⁶ when He established a limit for the rain and a path for the lightning,

²⁷ He considered wisdom and evaluated it; He established it and examined it.

²⁸ He said to mankind, "Look! The fear of the Lord--that is wisdom, and to turn from evil is understanding."

29 ¹ Job continued his discourse, saying:

² If only I could be as in months gone by, in the days when God watched over me,

³ when His lamp shone above my head, and I walked through darkness by His light!

⁴ I would be as I was in the days of my youth when God's friendship rested on my tent,

⁵ when the Almighty was still with me and my children were around me,

⁶ when my feet were bathed in cream and the rock poured out streams of oil for me!

⁷ When I went out to the city gate and took my seat in the town square,

⁸ the young men saw me and withdrew, while older men stood to their feet.

⁹ City officials stopped talking and covered their mouths with their hands.

¹⁰ The noblemen's voices were hushed, and their tongues stuck to the roof of their mouths.

¹¹ When they heard me, they blessed me, and when they saw me, they spoke well of me.

¹² For I rescued the poor man who cried out for help, and the fatherless child who had no one to support him.

¹³ The dying man blessed me, and I made the widow's heart rejoice.

¹⁴ I clothed myself in righteousness, and it enveloped me; my just decisions were like a robe and a turban.

¹⁵ I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.

¹⁶ I was a father to the needy, and I examined the case of the stranger.

¹⁷ I shattered the fangs of the unjust and snatched the prey from his teeth.

¹⁸ So I thought: I will die in my own nest and multiply my days as the sand.

¹⁹ My roots will have access to water, and the dew will rest on my branches all night.

²⁰ My strength will be refreshed within me, and my bow will be renewed in my hand.

²¹ Men listened to me with expectation, waiting silently for my advice.

²² After a word from me they did not speak again; my speech settled on them like dew .

²³ They waited for me as for the rain and opened their mouths as for spring showers.

²⁴ If I smiled at them, they couldn't believe it ; they were thrilled at the light of my countenance.

²⁵ I directed their course and presided as chief. I lived as a king among his troops, like one who comforts those who mourn.

30 ¹ But now they mock me, men younger than I am, whose fathers I would have refused to put with my sheep dogs.

² What use to me was the strength of their hands? Their vigor had left them.

³ Emaciated from poverty and hunger, they gnawed the dry land, the desolate wasteland by night.

⁴ They plucked mallow among the shrubs, and the roots of the broom tree were their food.

⁵ They were expelled from human society; people shouted at them as if they were thieves.

⁶ They are living on the slopes of the wadis, among the rocks and in holes in the ground.

⁷ They bray among the shrubs; they huddle beneath the thistles.

⁸ Foolish men, without even a name! They were forced to leave the land.

⁹ Now I am mocked by their songs; I have become an object of scorn to them.

¹⁰ They despise me and keep their distance from me; they do not hesitate to spit in my face.

¹¹ Because God has loosened my bowstring and oppressed me, they have cast off restraint in my presence.

¹² The rabble rise up at my right; they trap my feet and construct their siege ramp against me.

¹³ They tear up my path; they contribute to my destruction, without anyone to help them.

¹⁴ They advance as through a gaping breach; they keep rolling in through the ruins.

¹⁵ Terrors are turned loose against me; they chase my dignity away like the wind, and my prosperity has passed by like a cloud.

¹⁶ Now my life is poured out before my eyes, and days of suffering have seized me.

¹⁷ Night pierces my bones, and my gnawing pains never abate.

¹⁸ My clothing is distorted with great force; He chokes me by the neck of my garment.

¹⁹ He throws me into the mud, and I have become like dust and ashes.

²⁰ I cry out to You for help, but You do not answer me; when I stand up, You merely look at me.

²¹ You have turned against me with cruelty; You harass me with Your strong hand.

²² You lift me up on the wind and make me ride it ; You scatter me in the storm.

²³ Yes, I know that You will lead me to death--the place appointed for all who live.

²⁴ Yet no one would stretch out his hand against a ruined man when he cries out to him for help because of his distress.

²⁵ Have I not wept for those who have fallen on hard times? Has my soul not grieved for the needy?

²⁶ But when I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, darkness came.

²⁷ I am churning within and cannot rest; days of suffering confront me.

²⁸ I walk about blackened, but not by the sun. I stood in the assembly and cried out for help.

²⁹ I have become a brother to jackals and a companion of ostriches.

³⁰ My skin blackens and flakes off, and my bones burn with fever.

³¹ My lyre is used for mourning and my flute for the sound of weeping.

31 ¹ I have made a covenant with my eyes. How then could I look at a young woman?

² For what portion would I have from God above, or what inheritance from the Almighty on high?

³ Doesn't disaster come to the wicked and misfortune to evildoers?

⁴ Does He not see my ways and number all my steps?

⁵ If I have walked in falsehood or my foot has rushed to deceit,

⁶ let God weigh me with an accurate balance, and He will recognize my integrity.

⁷ If my step has turned from the way, my heart has followed my eyes, or impurity has stained my hands,

⁸ let someone else eat what I have sown, and let my crops be uprooted.

⁹ If my heart has been seduced by my neighbor's wife or I have lurked at his door,

¹⁰ let my own wife grind grain for another man, and let other men sleep with her.

¹¹ For that would be a disgrace; it would be a crime deserving punishment.

¹² For it is a fire that consumes down to Abaddon; it would destroy my entire harvest.

¹³ If I have dismissed the case of my male or female servants when they made a complaint against me,

¹⁴ what could I do when God stands up to judge ? How should I answer Him when He calls me to account?

¹⁵ Did not the One who made me in the womb also make them? Did not the same God form us both in the womb?

¹⁶ If I have refused the wishes of the poor or let the widow's eyes go blind,

¹⁷ if I have eaten my few crumbs alone without letting the fatherless eat any of it--

¹⁸ for from my youth, I raised him as his father, and since the day I was born I guided the widow--

¹⁹ if I have seen anyone dying for lack of clothing or a needy person without a cloak,

²⁰ if he did not bless me while warming himself with the fleece from my sheep,

²¹ if I ever cast my vote against a fatherless child when I saw that I had support in the city gate,

²² then let my shoulder blade fall from my back, and my arm be pulled from its socket.

²³ For disaster from God terrifies me, and because of His majesty I could not do these things .

²⁴ If I placed my confidence in gold or called fine gold my trust,

²⁵ if I have rejoiced because my wealth is great or because my own hand has acquired so much,

²⁶ if I have gazed at the sun when it was shining or at the moon moving in splendor,

²⁷ so that my heart was secretly enticed
and I threw them a kiss,

²⁸ this would also be a crime deserving
punishment, for I would have denied
God above.

²⁹ Have I rejoiced over my enemy's
distress, or become excited when
trouble came his way?

³⁰ I have not allowed my mouth to sin
by asking for his life with a curse.

³¹ Haven't the members of my
household said, "Who is there who has
not had enough to eat at Job's table?"

³² No stranger had to spend the night
on the street, for I opened my door to
the traveler.

³³ Have I covered my transgressions as
others do by hiding my guilt in my heart,

³⁴ because I greatly feared the crowds,
and the contempt of the clans terrified
me, so I grew silent and would not go
outside?

³⁵ If only I had someone to hear my case
! Here is my signature; let the Almighty
answer me. Let my Opponent compose
His indictment.

³⁶ I would surely carry it on my shoulder
and wear it like a crown.

³⁷ I would give Him an account of all
my steps; I would approach Him like a
prince.

³⁸ If my land cries out against me and
its furrows join in weeping,

³⁹ if I have consumed its produce
without payment or shown contempt for
its tenants,

⁴⁰ then let thorns grow instead of
wheat and stinkweed instead of barley.
The words of Job are concluded.

32 ¹ So these three men quit
answering Job, because he was
righteous in his own eyes.

² Then Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite
from the family of Ram became angry.

He was angry at Job because he had justified himself rather than God.

³ He was also angry at Job's three friends because they had failed to refute him , and yet had condemned him.

⁴ Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were all older than he.

⁵ But when he saw that the three men could not answer Job, he became angry.

⁶ So Elihu son of Barachel the Buzite replied: I am young in years, while you are old; therefore I was timid and afraid to tell you what I know.

⁷ I thought that age should speak and maturity should teach wisdom.

⁸ But it is a spirit in man and the breath of the Almighty that give him understanding.

⁹ It is not only the old who are wise or the elderly who understand how to judge.

¹⁰ Therefore I say, "Listen to me. I too will declare what I know."

¹¹ Look, I waited for your conclusions; I listened to your insights as you sought for words.

¹² I paid close attention to you. Yet no one proved Job wrong; not one of you refuted his arguments.

¹³ So do not claim, "We have found wisdom; let God deal with him, not man."

¹⁴ But Job has not directed his argument to me, and I will not respond to him with your arguments.

¹⁵ Job's friends are dismayed and can no longer answer; words have left them.

¹⁶ Should I continue to wait now that they are silent, now that they stand there and no longer answer?

¹⁷ I too will answer; yes, I will tell what I know.

¹⁸ For I am full of words, and my spirit compels me to speak .

¹⁹ My heart is like unvented wine; it is about to burst like new wineskins.

²⁰ I must speak so that I can find relief; I must open my lips and respond.

²¹ I will be partial to no one, and I will not give anyone an undeserved title.

²² For I do not know how to give such titles; otherwise, my Maker would remove me in an instant.

33 ¹ But now, Job, pay attention to my speech, and listen to all my words.

² I am going to open my mouth; my tongue will form words on my palate.

³ My words come from my upright heart, and my lips speak what they know with sincerity.

⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

⁵ Refute me if you can. Prepare your case against me; take your stand.

⁶ I am just like you before God; I was also pinched off from a piece of clay.

⁷ Fear of me should not terrify you; the pressure I exert against you will be light.

⁸ Surely you have spoken in my hearing, and I have heard these very words:

⁹ "I am pure, without transgression; I am clean and have no guilt.

¹⁰ But He finds reasons to oppose me; He regards me as his enemy.

¹¹ He puts my feet in the stocks; He stands watch over all my paths."

¹² But I tell you that you are wrong in this matter , since God is greater than man.

¹³ Why do you take Him to court for not answering anything a person asks?

¹⁴ For God speaks time and again, but a person may not notice it.

¹⁵ In a dream, a vision in the night,
when deep sleep falls on people as they
slumber on their beds,

¹⁶ He uncovers their ears at that time
and terrifies them with warnings,

¹⁷ in order to turn a person from his
actions and suppress his pride.

¹⁸ God spares his soul from the Pit, his
life from crossing the river of death .

¹⁹ A person may be disciplined on his
bed with pain and constant distress in
his bones,

²⁰ so that he detests bread, and his soul
despises his favorite food.

²¹ His flesh wastes away to nothing, and
his unseen bones stick out.

²² He draws near the Pit, and his life to
the executioners.

²³ If there is an angel on his side, one
mediator out of a thousand, to tell a
person what is right for him

²⁴ and to be gracious to him and say, "Spare him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom,"

²⁵ then his flesh will be healthier than in his youth, and he will return to the days of his youthful vigor.

²⁶ He will pray to God, and God will delight in him. That man will behold His face with a shout of joy, and God will restore his righteousness to him.

²⁷ He will look at men and say, "I have sinned and perverted what was right; yet I did not get what I deserved.

²⁸ He redeemed my soul from going down to the Pit, and I will continue to see the light."

²⁹ God certainly does all these things two or three times to a man

³⁰ in order to turn him back from the Pit, so he may shine with the light of life.

³¹ Pay attention, Job, and listen to me. Be quiet, and I will speak.

³² But if you have something to say, answer me; speak, for I would like to justify you.

³³ If not, then listen to me; be quiet, and I will teach you wisdom.

34 ¹ Then Elihu continued, saying:
² Hear my words, you wise men, and listen to me, you knowledgeable ones.

³ Doesn't the ear test words as the palate tastes food?

⁴ Let us judge for ourselves what is right; let us decide together what is good.

⁵ For Job has declared, "I am righteous, yet God has deprived me of justice.

⁶ Would I lie about my case? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression."

⁷ What man is like Job? He drinks derision like water.

⁸ He keeps company with evildoers and walks with wicked men.

⁹ For he has said, "A man gains nothing when he becomes God's friend."

¹⁰ Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding. It is impossible for God to do wrong, and for the Almighty to act unjustly.

¹¹ For He repays a person according to his deeds, and He bring his ways on him.

¹² Indeed, it is true that God does not act wickedly and the Almighty does not pervert justice.

¹³ Who gave Him authority over the earth? Who put Him in charge of the entire world?

¹⁴ If He put His mind to it and withdrew the spirit and breath He gave ,

¹⁵ every living thing would perish together and mankind would return to the dust.

¹⁶ If you have understanding, hear this; listen to what I have to say.

¹⁷ Could one who hates justice govern the world ? Will you condemn the mighty Righteous One,

¹⁸ who says to a king, "Worthless man!" and to nobles, "Wicked men!"?

¹⁹ God is not partial to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of His hands.

²⁰ They die suddenly in the middle of the night; people shudder, then pass away. Even the mighty are removed without effort.

²¹ For His eyes watch over a man's ways, and He observes all his steps.

²² There is no darkness, no deep darkness, where evildoers can hide themselves.

²³ God does not need to examine a person further, that one should approach Him in court.

²⁴ He shatters the mighty without an investigation and sets others in their place.

²⁵ Therefore, He recognizes their deeds and overthrows them by night, and they are crushed.

²⁶ In full view of the public, He strikes them for their wickedness,

²⁷ because they turned aside from following Him and did not understand any of His ways

²⁸ but caused the poor to cry out to Him, and He heard the outcry of the afflicted.

²⁹ But when God is silent, who can declare Him guilty? When He hides His face, who can see Him? Yet He watches over both individuals and nations,

³⁰ so that godless men should not rule or ensnare the people.

³¹ Suppose someone says to God, "I have endured my punishment ; I will no longer act wickedly.

³² Teach me what I cannot see; if I have done wrong, I won't do it again."

³³ Should God repay you on your terms when you have rejected His ? You must choose, not I! So declare what you know.

³⁴ Reasonable men will say to me, along with the wise men who hear me,

³⁵ "Job speaks without knowledge; his words are without insight."

³⁶ If only Job were tested to the limit, because his answers are like those of wicked men.

³⁷ For he adds rebellion to his sin; he scornfully claps in our presence, while multiplying his words against God.

35 ¹ Then Elihu continued, saying:
² Do you think it is just when you say, "I am righteous before God"?

³ For you ask, "What does it profit You, and what benefit comes to me, if I do not sin?"

⁴ I will answer you and your friends with you.

⁵ Look at the heavens and see; gaze at the clouds high above you.

⁶ If you sin, how does it affect God? If you multiply your transgressions, what does it do to Him?

⁷ If you are righteous, what do you give Him, or what does He receive from your hand?

⁸ Your wickedness affects a person like yourself, and your righteousness another human being.

⁹ People cry out because of severe oppression; they shout for help from the arm of the mighty.

¹⁰ But no one asks, "Where is God my Maker, who provides us with songs in the night,

¹¹ who gives us more understanding than the animals of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the sky?"

¹² There they cry out, but He does not answer, because of the pride of evil men.

¹³ Indeed, God does not listen to empty cries, and the Almighty does not take note of it--

¹⁴ how much less when you complain that you do not see Him, that your case is before Him and you are waiting for Him.

¹⁵ But now, because God's anger does not punish and He does not pay attention to transgression,

¹⁶ Job opens his mouth in vain and multiplies words without knowledge.

36 ¹ Then Elihu continued, saying:
² Be patient with me a little longer, and I will inform you, for there is still more to be said on God's behalf.

³ I will get my knowledge from afar and ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

⁴ For my arguments are without flaw; one who has perfect knowledge is with you.

⁵ Yes, God is mighty, but He despises no one ; He understands all things.

⁶ He does not keep the wicked alive, but He gives justice to the afflicted.

⁷ He does not remove His gaze from the righteous, but He seats them forever with enthroned kings, and they are exalted.

⁸ If people are bound with chains and trapped by the cords of affliction,

⁹ God tells them what they have done and how arrogantly they have transgressed.

¹⁰ He opens their ears to correction and insists they repent from iniquity.

¹¹ If they serve Him obediently, they will end their days in prosperity and their years in happiness.

¹² But if they do not obey, they will cross the river of death and die without knowledge.

¹³ Those who have a godless heart harbor anger; even when God binds them, they do not cry for help.

¹⁴ They die in their youth; their life ends among male cult prostitutes.

¹⁵ God rescues the afflicted by afflicting them; He instructs them by means of their torment.

¹⁶ Indeed, He lured you from the jaws of distress to a spacious and unconfined place. Your table was spread with choice food.

¹⁷ Yet now you are obsessed with the judgment due the wicked; judgment and justice have seized you.

¹⁸ Be careful that no one lures you with riches; do not let a large ransom lead you astray.

¹⁹ Can your wealth or all your physical exertion keep you from distress?

²⁰ Do not long for the night when nations will disappear from their places.

²¹ Be careful that you do not turn to iniquity, for that is why you have been tested by affliction.

²² Look, God shows Himself exalted by His power. Who is a teacher like Him?

²³ Who has appointed His way for Him, and who has declared, "You have done wrong"?

²⁴ Remember that you should praise His work, which people have sung about.

²⁵ All mankind has seen it; people have looked at it from a distance.

²⁶ Look, God is exalted beyond our knowledge; the number of His years cannot be counted.

²⁷ For He makes waterdrops evaporate;
they distill the rain into its mist,

²⁸ which the clouds pour out and
shower abundantly on mankind.

²⁹ Can anyone understand how the
clouds spread out or how the thunder
roars from God's pavilion?

³⁰ Look, He spreads His lightning around
Him and covers the depths of the sea.

³¹ For He judges the nations with these;
He gives food in abundance.

³² He covers His hands with lightning
and commands it to hit its mark.

³³ The thunder declares His presence;
the cattle also, the approaching storm .

37 ¹ My heart pounds at this and
leaps from my chest.

² Just listen to His thunderous voice
and the rumbling that comes from His
mouth.

³ He lets it loose beneath the entire sky;
His lightning to the ends of the earth.

⁴ Then there comes a roaring sound;
God thunders with His majestic voice.
He does not restrain the lightning when
His rumbling voice is heard.

⁵ God thunders marvelously with His
voice; He does great things that we
cannot comprehend.

⁶ For He says to the snow, "Fall to the
earth," and the torrential rains, His
mighty torrential rains,

⁷ serve as His signature to all mankind,
so that all men may know His work.

⁸ The wild animals enter their lairs and
stay in their dens.

⁹ The windstorm comes from its
chamber, and the cold from the driving
north winds.

¹⁰ Ice is formed by the breath of God,
and watery expanses are frozen.

¹¹ He saturates clouds with moisture;
He scatters His lightning through them.

¹² They swirl about, turning round and round at His direction, accomplishing everything He commands them over the surface of the inhabited world.

¹³ He causes this to happen for punishment, for His land, or for His faithful love.

¹⁴ Listen to this, Job. Stop and consider God's wonders.

¹⁵ Do you know how God directs His clouds or makes their lightning flash?

¹⁶ Do you understand how the clouds float, those wonderful works of Him who has perfect knowledge?

¹⁷ You whose clothes get hot when the south wind brings calm to the land,

¹⁸ can you help God spread out the skies as hard as a cast metal mirror?

¹⁹ Teach us what we should say to Him; we cannot prepare our case because of our darkness.

²⁰ Should He be told that I want to speak? Can a man speak when he is confused?

²¹ Now men cannot even look at the sun when it is in the skies, after a wind has swept through and cleared them away.

²² Yet out of the north He comes, shrouded in a golden glow ; awesome majesty surrounds Him.

²³ The Almighty--we cannot reach Him--He is exalted in power! In His justice and righteousness, He will not oppress.

²⁴ Therefore, men fear Him. He does not look favorably on any who are wise in heart.

38 ¹ Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind. He said:

² Who is this who obscures My counsel with ignorant words?

³ Get ready to answer Me like a man;
when I question you, you will inform Me.

⁴ Where were you when I established
the earth? Tell Me , if you have
understanding.

⁵ Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly
you know! Who stretched a measuring
line across it?

⁶ What supports its foundations? Or
who laid its cornerstone

⁷ while the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ Who enclosed the sea behind doors
when it burst from the womb,

⁹ when I made the clouds its garment
and thick darkness its blanket,

¹⁰ when I determined its boundaries
and put its bars and doors in place,

¹¹ when I declared: "You may come this
far, but no farther; your proud waves
stop here"?

¹² Have you ever in your life
commanded the morning or assigned
the dawn its place,

¹³ so it may seize the edges of the earth
and shake the wicked out of it?

¹⁴ The earth is changed as clay is by a
seal; its hills stand out like the folds of a
garment.

¹⁵ Light is withheld from the wicked,
and the arm raised in violence is broken.

¹⁶ Have you traveled to the sources of
the sea or walked in the depths of the
oceans?

¹⁷ Have the gates of death been
revealed to you? Have you seen the
gates of death's shadow?

¹⁸ Have you comprehended the extent
of the earth? Tell Me , if you know all
this.

¹⁹ Where is the road to the home of
light? Do you know where darkness
lives,

²⁰ so you can lead it back to its border?
Are you familiar with the paths to its
home?

²¹ Don't you know? You were already
born; you have lived so long!

²² Have you entered the place where
the snow is stored? Or have you seen
the storehouses of hail,

²³ which I hold in reserve for times
of trouble, for the day of warfare and
battle?

²⁴ What road leads to the place where
light is dispersed? Where is the source
of the east wind that spreads across the
earth?

²⁵ Who cuts a channel for the flooding
rain or clears the way for lightning,

²⁶ to bring rain on an uninhabited land,
on a desert with no human life,

²⁷ to satisfy the parched wasteland and
cause the grass to sprout?

²⁸ Does the rain have a father? Who fathered the drops of dew?

²⁹ Whose womb did the ice come from? Who gave birth to the frost of heaven

³⁰ when water becomes as hard as stone, and the surface of the watery depths is frozen?

³¹ Can you fasten the chains of the Pleiades or loosen the belt of Orion?

³² Can you bring out the constellations in their season and lead the Bear and her cubs?

³³ Do you know the laws of heaven? Can you impose its authority on earth?

³⁴ Can you command the clouds so that a flood of water covers you?

³⁵ Can you send out lightning bolts, and they go? Do they report to you: "Here we are"?

³⁶ Who put wisdom in the heart or gave the mind understanding?

³⁷ Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the water jars of heaven

³⁸ when the dust hardens like cast metal and the clods of dirt stick together?

³⁹ Can you hunt prey for a lioness or satisfy the appetite of young lions

⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens and lie in wait within their lairs?

⁴¹ Who provides the raven's food when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food?

39 ¹ Do you know when mountain goats give birth? Have you watched the deer in labor?

² Can you count the months they are pregnant so you can know the time they give birth?

³ They crouch down to give birth to their young; they deliver their newborn.

⁴ Their offspring are healthy and grow up in the open field. They leave and do not return.

⁵ Who set the wild donkey free? Who released the swift donkey from its harness?

⁶ I made the wilderness its home, and the salty wasteland its dwelling.

⁷ It scoffs at the noise of the village and never hears the shouts of a driver.

⁸ It roams the mountains for its pastureland, searching for anything green.

⁹ Would the wild ox be willing to serve you? Would it spend the night by your feeding trough?

¹⁰ Can you hold the wild ox by its harness to the furrow? Will it plow the valleys behind you?

¹¹ Can you depend on it because of its strength? Would you leave it to do your hard work?

¹² Can you trust the wild ox to harvest your grain and bring it to your threshing floor?

¹³ The wings of the ostrich flap joyfully, but are her feathers and plumage like the stork's?

¹⁴ She abandons her eggs on the ground and lets them be warmed in the sand.

¹⁵ She forgets that a foot may crush them or that some wild animal may trample them.

¹⁶ She treats her young harshly, as if they were not her own, with no fear that her labor may have been in vain.

¹⁷ For God has deprived her of wisdom; He has not endowed her with understanding.

¹⁸ When she proudly spreads her wings, she laughs at the horse and its rider.

¹⁹ Do you give strength to the horse? Do you adorn his neck with a mane?

²⁰ Do you make him leap like a locust?
His proud snorting fills one with terror.

²¹ He paws in the valley and rejoices in
his strength; He charges into battle.

²² He laughs at fear, since he is afraid
of nothing; he does not run from the
sword.

²³ A quiver rattles at his side, along with
a flashing spear and a lance.

²⁴ He charges ahead with trembling
rage; he cannot stand still at the
trumpet's sound.

²⁵ When the trumpet blasts, he snorts
defiantly. He smells the battle from a
distance; he hears the officers' shouts
and the battle cry.

²⁶ Does the hawk take flight by your
understanding and spread its wings to
the south?

²⁷ Does the eagle soar at your command
and make its nest on high?

²⁸ It lives on a cliff where it spends the night; its stronghold is on a rocky crag.

²⁹ From there it searches for prey; its eyes penetrate the distance.

³⁰ Its brood gulps down blood, and wherever corpses lie, it is there.

40 ¹ The LORD answered Job:

² Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? Let him who argues with God give an answer.

³ Then Job answered the LORD:

⁴ I am so insignificant. How can I answer You? I place my hand over my mouth.

⁵ I have spoken once, and I will not reply; twice, but now I can add nothing.

⁶ Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:

⁷ Get ready to answer Me like a man; When I question you, you will inform Me.

⁸ Would you really challenge My justice? Would you declare Me guilty to justify yourself?

⁹ Do you have an arm like God's? Can you thunder with a voice like His?

¹⁰ Adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and clothe yourself with honor and glory.

¹¹ Unleash your raging anger; look on every proud person and humiliate him.

¹² Look on every proud person and humble him; trample the wicked where they stand.

¹³ Hide them together in the dust; imprison them in the grave.

¹⁴ Then I will confess to you that your own right hand can deliver you.

¹⁵ Look at Behemoth, which I made along with you. He eats grass like an ox.

¹⁶ Look at the strength of his loins and the power in the muscles of his belly.

¹⁷ He stiffens his tail like a cedar tree; the tendons of his thighs are woven firmly together.

¹⁸ His bones are bronze tubes; his limbs are like iron rods.

¹⁹ He is the foremost of God's works; only his Maker can draw the sword against him.

²⁰ The hills yield food for him, while all sorts of wild animals play there.

²¹ He lies under the lotus plants, hiding in the protection of marshy reeds.

²² Lotus plants cover him with their shade; the willows by the brook surround him.

²³ Though the river rages, Behemoth is unafraid; he remains confident, even if the Jordan surges up to his mouth.

²⁴ Can anyone capture him while he looks on, or pierce his nose with snares?

41 ¹ Can you pull in Leviathan with a hook or tie his tongue down with a rope?

² Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook?

³ Will he beg you for mercy or speak softly to you?

⁴ Will he make a covenant with you so that you can take him as a slave forever?

⁵ Can you play with him like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls?

⁶ Will traders bargain for him or divide him among the merchants?

⁷ Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?

⁸ Lay a hand on him. You will remember the battle and never repeat it!

⁹ Any hope of capturing him proves false. Does a person not collapse at the very sight of him?

¹⁰ No one is ferocious enough to rouse Leviathan; who then can stand against Me?

¹¹ Who confronted Me, that I should repay him? Everything under heaven belongs to Me.

¹² I cannot be silent about his limbs, his power, and his graceful proportions.

¹³ Who can strip off his outer covering? Who can penetrate his double layer of armor?

¹⁴ Who can open his jaws, surrounded by those terrifying teeth?

¹⁵ His pride is in his rows of scales, closely sealed together.

¹⁶ One scale is so close to another that no air can pass between them.

¹⁷ They are joined to one another, so closely connected they cannot be separated.

¹⁸ His snorting flashes with light, while his eyes are like the rays of dawn.

¹⁹ Flaming torches shoot from his mouth; fiery sparks fly out!

²⁰ Smoke billows from his nostrils as from a boiling pot or burning reeds.

²¹ His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames pour out of his mouth.

²² Strength resides in his neck, and dismay dances before him.

²³ The folds of his flesh are joined together, solid as metal and immovable.

²⁴ His heart is as hard as a rock, as hard as a lower millstone!

²⁵ When Leviathan rises, the mighty are terrified; they withdraw because of his thrashing.

²⁶ The sword that reaches him will have no effect, nor will a spear, dart, or arrow.

²⁷ He regards iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood.

²⁸ No arrow can make him flee; slingstones become like stubble to him.

²⁹ A club is regarded as stubble, and he laughs at the whirring of a javelin.

³⁰ His undersides are jagged potsherds, spreading the mud like a threshing sledge.

³¹ He makes the depths seethe like a caldron; he makes the sea like an ointment jar.

³² He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair!

³³ He has no equal on earth--a creature devoid of fear!

³⁴ He surveys everything that is haughty; he is king over all the proud beasts.

42 ¹ Then Job replied to the LORD:
² I know that You can do anything and no plan of Yours can be thwarted.

³ You asked, "Who is this who conceals My counsel with ignorance?" Surely I

spoke about things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴ You said, "Listen now, and I will speak. When I question you, you will inform Me."

⁵ I had heard rumors about You, but now my eyes have seen You.

⁶ Therefore I take back my words and repent in dust and ashes.

⁷ After the LORD had finished speaking to Job, He said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "I am angry with you and your two friends, for you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has.

⁸ Now take seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer a burnt offering for yourselves. Then My servant Job will pray for you. I will surely accept his prayer and not deal with you as your folly deserves. For you have not spoken the truth about Me, as My servant Job has."

⁹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer .

¹⁰ After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD restored his prosperity and doubled his previous possessions.

¹¹ All his brothers, sisters, and former acquaintances came to his house and dined with him in his house. They offered him sympathy and comfort concerning all the adversity the LORD had brought on him. Each one gave him a qesitah, and a gold earring.

¹² So the LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the earlier. He owned 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.

¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴ He named his first daughter Jemimah, his second Keziah, and his third Keren-happuch.

¹⁵ No women as beautiful as Job's daughters could be found in all the land, and their father granted them an inheritance with their brothers.

¹⁶ Job lived 140 years after this and saw his children and their children to the fourth generation.

¹⁷ Then Job died, old and full of days.

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