

New King James Version

Old Testament
(Genesis – Job)

Genesis

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

² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

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

⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

⁹ Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to

its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day.

¹⁴ Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

¹⁵ "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

²⁰ Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens."

²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²² And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

²³ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

²⁴ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast

of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so.

²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

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

²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of

the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

³⁰ "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

2 ¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He

rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

⁴ This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,

⁵ before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;

⁶ but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

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

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

¹² And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush.

¹⁴ The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward

the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

¹⁷ "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

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

²³ And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

3 ¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the

LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

³ "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

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

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

¹³ And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

¹⁶ To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

²⁰ And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put

out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

4 ¹ Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.

⁴ Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,

⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

⁷ "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

⁸ Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

¹⁰ And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground.

¹¹ "So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.

¹² "When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth."

¹³ And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear!

¹⁴ "Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD

set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

¹⁶ Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

¹⁷ And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.

¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

¹⁹ Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.

²⁰ And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.

²¹ His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.

²² And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal–Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal–Cain was Naamah.

²³ Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me.

²⁴ If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy–sevenfold."

²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."

²⁶ And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.

5 ¹ This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created

man, He made him in the likeness of God.

² He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

³ And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

⁴ After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters.

⁵ So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

⁶ Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh.

⁷ After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters.

⁸ So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died.

⁹ Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan.

¹⁰ After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters.

¹¹ So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.

¹² Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel.

¹³ After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters.

¹⁴ So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

¹⁵ Mahalalel lived sixty–five years, and begot Jared.

¹⁶ After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters.

¹⁷ So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety–five years; and he died.

¹⁸ Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch.

¹⁹ After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters.

²⁰ So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

²¹ Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.

²² After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.

²³ So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.

²⁴ And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵ Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech.

²⁶ After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters.

²⁷ So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty–nine years; and he died.

²⁸ Lamech lived one hundred and eighty–two years, and had a son.

²⁹ And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD has cursed."

³⁰ After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety–five years, and had sons and daughters.

³¹ So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy–seven years; and he died.

³² And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

6¹ Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

⁴ There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

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

⁷ So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

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

¹¹ The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

¹² So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

¹³ And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them;

and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

¹⁴ "Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

¹⁵ "And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

¹⁶ "You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

¹⁷ "And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.

¹⁸ "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you,

your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

¹⁹ "And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

²⁰ "Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.

²¹ "And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them."

²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

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

² "You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female;

³ "also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.

⁴ "For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made."

⁵ And Noah did according to all that the LORD commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

⁷ So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.

⁸ Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth,

⁹ two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

¹⁰ And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On the very same day Noah and Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—

¹⁴ they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its

kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort.

¹⁵ And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life.

¹⁶ So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

¹⁷ Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.

¹⁸ The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters.

¹⁹ And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.

²⁰ The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.

²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man.

²² All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died.

²³ So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.

²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

8¹ Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.

² The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.

³ And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.

⁴ Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

⁵ And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.

⁷ Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth.

⁸ He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.

⁹ But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself.

¹⁰ And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.

¹¹ Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

¹² So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

¹³ And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the

first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

¹⁴ And in the second month, on the twenty–seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, saying,

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

¹⁷ "Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

¹⁸ So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.

¹⁹ Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the

earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

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

²¹ And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

²² "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

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

² "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth,

on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.

³ "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

⁴ "But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.

⁵ "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

⁷ And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

⁸ Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying:

⁹ "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you,

¹⁰ "and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth.

¹¹ "Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

¹³ "I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

¹⁴ "It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud;

¹⁵ "and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

¹⁶ "The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

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

¹⁸ Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan.

¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

²⁰ And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.

²¹ Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

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

²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

²⁴ So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.

²⁵ Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."

²⁶ And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.

²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant."

²⁸ And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

²⁹ So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

10 ¹ Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

² The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

³ The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

⁴ The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

⁵ From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

⁶ The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁷ The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

⁸ Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, 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 Calah (that is the principal city).

¹³ Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

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

¹⁵ Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth;

¹⁶ the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite;

¹⁷ the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

¹⁸ the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed.

¹⁹ And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

²⁰ These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according

to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.

²¹ And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder.

²² The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

²³ The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

²⁴ Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber.

²⁵ To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

²⁶ Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²⁷ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²⁸ Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

²⁹ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

³⁰ And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east.

³¹ These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.

³² These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

11 ¹ Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

⁶ And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

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

⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there

the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

¹⁰ This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood.

¹¹ After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹² Arphaxad lived thirty–five years, and begot Salah.

¹³ After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹⁴ Salah lived thirty years, and begot Eber.

¹⁵ After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹⁶ Eber lived thirty–four years, and begot Peleg.

¹⁷ After he begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters.

¹⁸ Peleg lived thirty years, and begot Reu.

¹⁹ After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters.

²⁰ Reu lived thirty–two years, and begot Serug.

²¹ After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters.

²² Serug lived thirty years, and begot Nahor.

²³ After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.

²⁴ Nahor lived twenty–nine years, and begot Terah.

²⁵ After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters.

²⁶ Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

²⁷ This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot.

²⁸ And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

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

³⁰ But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from

Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.

³² So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

12 ¹ Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.

² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy–five years old when he departed from Haran.

⁵ Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸ And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

⁹ So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.

¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.

¹² "Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.

¹³ "Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."

¹⁴ So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful.

¹⁵ The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh.

And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house.

¹⁶ He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷ But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

¹⁸ And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?"

¹⁹ "Why did you say, 'She is my sister'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way."

²⁰ So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

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

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

³ And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

⁵ Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents.

⁶ Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.

⁷ And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The

Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

⁸ So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.

⁹ "Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

¹⁰ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.

¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other.

¹² Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain

and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.

¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

¹⁴ And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

¹⁵ "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

¹⁶ "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

¹⁷ "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

¹⁸ Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of

Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

14 ¹ And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations,

² that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

³ All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).

⁴ Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

⁵ In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim,

⁶ and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness.

⁷ Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazezon Tamar.

⁸ And 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 joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim

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

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; some fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains.

¹¹ Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.

¹² They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

¹⁷ And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him.

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

¹⁹ And he blessed him and said:
"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;

²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

²¹ Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

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

²³ "that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich' —

²⁴ "except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

15 ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

³ Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

⁷ Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

⁸ And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

⁹ So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old

female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

¹¹ And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.

¹³ Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

¹⁴ "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

¹⁵ "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

¹⁶ "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

¹⁹ "the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,

²⁰ "the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

²¹ "the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

16 ¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

² So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

³ Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.

⁴ So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her

eyes. The LORD judge between you and me."

⁶ So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

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

⁸ And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

⁹ The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

¹⁰ Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

¹¹ And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you

shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction.

¹² He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

¹³ Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You–Are–the–God–Who–Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

¹⁶ Abram was eighty–six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

17 ¹ When Abram was ninety–nine years old, the LORD appeared to

Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

² "And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:

⁴ "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

⁵ "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

⁶ "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

⁷ "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant,

to be God to you and your descendants after you.

⁸ "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

⁹ And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

¹⁰ "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

¹¹ "and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

¹² "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your

house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

¹³ "He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

¹⁴ "And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

¹⁵ Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

¹⁶ "And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one

hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

¹⁹ Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

²⁰ "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

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

²² Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

²³ So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house and all

who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him.

²⁴ Abraham was ninety–nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

²⁵ And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

²⁶ That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael;

²⁷ and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

18 ¹ Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

² So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by

him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

³ and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

⁴ "Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

⁵ "And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant." They said, "Do as you have said."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes."

⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.

⁸ So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

⁹ Then they said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" So he said, "Here, in the tent."

¹⁰ And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)

¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

¹³ And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'"

¹⁴ "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

¹⁵ But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

¹⁶ Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.

¹⁷ And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

¹⁸ "since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

¹⁹ "For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness

and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

²⁰ And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

²¹ "I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

²² Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

²³ And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

²⁴ "Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?

²⁵ "Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be

as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

²⁶ So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

²⁷ Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

²⁸ "Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."

²⁹ And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty."

³⁰ Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

³¹ And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."

³² Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

³³ So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

19 ¹ Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

² And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet;

then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

³ But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

⁴ Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.

⁵ And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

⁶ So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him,

⁷ and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!

⁸ "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do

to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

⁹ And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

¹⁰ But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

¹¹ And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

¹² Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever

you have in the city—take them out of this place!

¹³ "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it."

¹⁴ So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

¹⁵ When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

¹⁶ And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

¹⁷ So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

¹⁸ Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords!

¹⁹ "Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die.

²⁰ "See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

²¹ And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.

²² "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

²³ The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

²⁴ Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.

²⁵ So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

²⁶ But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

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

²⁸ Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

²⁹ And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

³⁰ Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave.

³¹ Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth.

³² "Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

³³ So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

³⁴ It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

³⁵ Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

³⁶ Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

³⁷ The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

³⁸ And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben–Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

20 ¹ And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt

between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.

² Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

³ But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

⁴ But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?"

⁵ "Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this."

⁶ And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you

from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.

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

⁸ So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid.

⁹ And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done."

¹⁰ Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?"

¹¹ And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not

in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife.

¹² "But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

¹³ "And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

¹⁴ Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him.

¹⁵ And Abimelech said, "See, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you."

¹⁶ Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; indeed this vindicates you

before all who are with you and before everybody." Thus she was rebuked.

¹⁷ So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children;

¹⁸ for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

21 ¹ And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.

² For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

³ And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac.

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

⁵ Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me."

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

⁸ So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

⁹ And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

¹⁰ Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

¹¹ And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.

¹² But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

¹³ "Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed."

¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.

¹⁵ And the water in the skin was used up, and she placed the boy under one of the shrubs.

¹⁶ Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat

opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept.

¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.

¹⁸ "Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.

²⁰ So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

²¹ He dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

²² And it came to pass at that time that Abimelech and Phichol, the commander

of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do.

²³ "Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me, with my offspring, or with my posterity; but that according to the kindness that I have done to you, you will do to me and to the land in which you have dwelt."

²⁴ And Abraham said, "I will swear."

²⁵ Then Abraham rebuked Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized.

²⁶ And Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor had I heard of it until today."

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

²⁸ And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.

²⁹ Then Abimelech asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven

ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?"

³⁰ And he said, "You will take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness that I have dug this well."

³¹ Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there.

³² Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba. So Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines.

³³ Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

³⁴ And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.

22 ¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham,

and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

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

³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand,

and a knife, and the two of them went together.

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

⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

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

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

¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The—LORD—Will—Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

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

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

¹⁷ "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

¹⁸ "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

²⁰ Now it came to pass after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, "Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

²¹ "Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

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

²³ And Bethuel begot Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

²⁴ His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah.

23 ¹ Sarah lived one hundred and twenty–seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.

² So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

³ Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,

⁴ "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

⁵ And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him,

⁶ "Hear us, my lord: You are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead."

⁷ Then Abraham stood up and bowed himself to the people of the land, the sons of Heth.

⁸ And he spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish that I bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and meet with Ephron the son of Zohar for me,

⁹ "that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he has, which is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me at the full price, as property for a burial place among you."

¹⁰ Now Ephron dwelt among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth, all who entered at the gate of his city, saying,

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

¹² Then Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land;

¹³ and he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If you will give it, please hear me. I will give you money for the field; take it from me and I will bury my dead there."

¹⁴ And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,

¹⁵ "My lord, listen to me; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver. What is that between you and me? So bury your dead."

¹⁶ And Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out the silver for Ephron which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four

hundred shekels of silver, currency of the merchants.

¹⁷ So the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field and the cave which was in it, and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all the surrounding borders, were deeded

¹⁸ to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

¹⁹ And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

²⁰ So the field and the cave that is in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth as property for a burial place.

24 ¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

² So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,

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

⁴ "but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

⁵ And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

⁶ But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there.

⁷ "The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your

descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

⁸ "And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there."

⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.

¹¹ And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.

¹² Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success

this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

¹³ "Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

¹⁴ "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink' —let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

¹⁵ And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.

¹⁶ Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had

known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

¹⁷ And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

¹⁸ So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

¹⁹ And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

²⁰ Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

²¹ And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

²² So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a

shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold,

²³ and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?"

²⁴ So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor."

²⁵ Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

²⁶ Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD.

²⁷ And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

²⁸ So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.

²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well.

³⁰ So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well.

³¹ And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

³² Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

³³ Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told

about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

³⁴ So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

³⁵ "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

³⁶ "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has.

³⁷ "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell;

³⁸ 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.'

³⁹ "And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.'

⁴⁰ "But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with

you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house.

⁴¹ 'You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

⁴² "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go,

⁴³ 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,"

⁴⁴ 'and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also," —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

⁴⁵ "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming

out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

⁴⁶ "And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also.

⁴⁷ "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.

⁴⁸ "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

⁴⁹ "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell

me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good.

⁵¹ "Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

⁵² And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

⁵³ Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

⁵⁴ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

⁵⁵ But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."

⁵⁶ And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

⁵⁷ So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally."

⁵⁸ Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

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

⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and

followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

⁶² Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South.

⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

⁶⁴ Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel;

⁶⁵ for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.

⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

25 ¹ Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah.

² And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

³ Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

⁴ And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

⁵ And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac.

⁶ But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

⁷ This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years.

⁸ Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and

full of years, and was gathered to his people.

⁹ And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite,

¹⁰ the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried, and Sarah his wife.

¹¹ And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

¹² Now this is the genealogy of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maidservant, bore to Abraham.

¹³ And these were the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

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

¹⁶ These were the sons of Ishmael and these were their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations.

¹⁷ These were the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty–seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.

¹⁸ (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He died in the presence of all his brethren.

¹⁹ This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac.

²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.

²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and

the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

²⁴ So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.

²⁵ And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.

²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.

²⁸ And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary.

³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.

³¹ But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."

³² And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"

³³ Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose,

and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

26 ¹ There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

² Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

³ "Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

⁴ "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

⁵ "because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My

commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

⁶ So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.

⁷ And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, "She is my sister"; for he was afraid to say, "She is my wife," because he thought, "lest the men of the place kill me for Rebekah, because she is beautiful to behold."

⁸ Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked through a window, and saw, and there was Isaac, showing endearment to Rebekah his wife.

⁹ Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Quite obviously she is your wife; so how could you say, 'She is my sister'?" And Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'Lest I die on account of her.'"

¹⁰ And Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people

might soon have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us."

¹¹ So Abimelech charged all his people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

¹² Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.

¹³ The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;

¹⁴ for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

¹⁵ Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth.

¹⁶ And Abimelech said to Isaac, "Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we."

¹⁷ Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

¹⁸ And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.

¹⁹ Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.

²⁰ But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him.

²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.

²² And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

²³ Then he went up from there to Beersheba.

²⁴ And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."

²⁵ So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

²⁶ Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phichol the commander of his army.

²⁷ And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

²⁸ But they said, "We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,

²⁹ 'that you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.'"

³⁰ So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.

³¹ Then they arose early in the morning and swore an oath with one another; and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.

³² It came to pass the same day that Isaac's servants came and told him about

the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water."

³³ So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

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

³⁵ And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

27 ¹ Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, "My son." And he answered him, "Here I am."

² Then he said, "Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death.

³ "Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.

⁴ "And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it.

⁶ So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying,

⁷ 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.'

⁸ "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.

⁹ "Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.

¹⁰ "Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death."

¹¹ And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man.

¹² "Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

¹³ But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."

¹⁴ And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

¹⁶ And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

¹⁷ Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

¹⁸ So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

²⁰ But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."

²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

²⁴ Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am."

²⁵ He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

²⁶ Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

²⁷ And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed.

²⁸ Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine.

²⁹ Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"

³⁰ Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

³¹ He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."

³² And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

³³ Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, "Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed."

³⁴ When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, "Bless me—me also, O my father!"

³⁵ But he said, "Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing."

³⁶ And Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!" And he said, "Have you not reserved a blessing for me?"

³⁷ Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given

to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?"

³⁸ And Esau said to his father, "Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!" And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

³⁹ Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: "Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above.

⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck."

⁴¹ So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

⁴² And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you.

⁴³ "Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.

⁴⁴ "And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,

⁴⁵ "until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

⁴⁶ And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

28 ¹ Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

² "Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

³ "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;

⁴ And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham."

⁵ So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

⁶ Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,"

⁷ and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.

⁸ Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.

⁹ So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

¹⁰ Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

¹¹ So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones

of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

¹² Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

¹⁴ "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

¹⁵ "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you

until I have done what I have spoken to you."

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

¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!"

¹⁸ Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

¹⁹ And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

²¹ "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

²² "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

29 ¹ So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.

² And he looked, and saw a well in the field; and behold, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks. A large stone was on the well's mouth.

³ Now all the flocks would be gathered there; and they would roll the stone from the well's mouth, water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the well's mouth.

⁴ And Jacob said to them, "My brethren, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."

⁵ Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know him."

⁶ So he said to them, "Is he well?" And they said, "He is well. And look, his daughter Rachel is coming with the sheep."

⁷ Then he said, "Look, it is still high day; it is not time for the cattle to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them."

⁸ But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and they have rolled the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep."

⁹ Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

¹⁰ And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.

¹² And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So she ran and told her father.

¹³ Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things.

¹⁴ And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?"

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

¹⁷ Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

¹⁸ Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."

¹⁹ And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me."

²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."

²² And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast.

²³ Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.

²⁴ And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.

²⁵ So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

²⁶ And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

²⁷ "Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

²⁸ Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also.

²⁹ And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid.

³⁰ Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

³² So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me."

³³ Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.

³⁴ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi.

³⁵ And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

30 ¹ Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"

² And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

³ So she said, "Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, and she will bear a child on my knees, that I also may have children by her."

⁴ Then she gave him Bilhah her maid as wife, and Jacob went in to her.

⁵ And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

⁶ Then Rachel said, "God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan.

⁷ And Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

⁸ Then Rachel said, "With great wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and indeed I have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

⁹ When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as wife.

¹⁰ And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

¹¹ Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad.

¹² And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

¹³ Then Leah said, "I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher.

¹⁴ Now Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

¹⁵ But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes."

¹⁶ When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's

mandrakes." And he lay with her that night.

¹⁷ And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

¹⁸ Leah said, "God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband." So she called his name Issachar.

¹⁹ Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son.

²⁰ And Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she called his name Zebulun.

²¹ Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.

²² Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

²³ And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

²⁴ So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son."

²⁵ And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country.

²⁶ "Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you."

²⁷ And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."

²⁸ Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."

²⁹ So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me.

³⁰ "For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?"

³¹ So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep your flocks:

³² "Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there all the speckled and spotted sheep, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and these shall be my wages.

³³ "So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you: every one that is not speckled and spotted among

the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me."

³⁴ And Laban said, "Oh, that it were according to your word!"

³⁵ So he removed that day the male goats that were speckled and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had some white in it, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and gave them into the hand of his sons.

³⁶ Then he put three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

³⁷ Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, peeled white strips in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods.

³⁸ And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in

the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink.

³⁹ So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted.

⁴⁰ Then Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban; but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's flock.

⁴¹ And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.

⁴² But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

⁴³ Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female

and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

31 ¹ Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth."

² And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before.

³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."

⁴ So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock,

⁵ and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.

⁶ "And you know that with all my might I have served your father.

⁷ "Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.

⁸ "If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked.

⁹ "So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

¹⁰ "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.

¹¹ "Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'

¹² "And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and

gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

¹³ 'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'

¹⁴ Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house?"

¹⁵ "Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money.

¹⁶ "For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children's; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it."

¹⁷ Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels.

¹⁸ And he carried away all his livestock and all his possessions which he had gained, his acquired livestock which he

had gained in Padan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

¹⁹ Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father's.

²⁰ And Jacob stole away, unknown to Laban the Syrian, in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee.

²¹ So he fled with all that he had. He arose and crossed the river, and headed toward the mountains of Gilead.

²² And Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled.

²³ Then he took his brethren with him and pursued him for seven days' journey, and he overtook him in the mountains of Gilead.

²⁴ But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."

²⁵ So Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountains, and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mountains of Gilead.

²⁶ And Laban said to Jacob: "What have you done, that you have stolen away unknown to me, and carried away my daughters like captives taken with the sword?"

²⁷ "Why did you flee away secretly, and steal away from me, and not tell me; for I might have sent you away with joy and songs, with timbrel and harp?"

²⁸ "And you did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters. Now you have done foolishly in so doing.

²⁹ "It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.'

³⁰ "And now you have surely gone because you greatly long for your

father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

³¹ Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I said, 'Perhaps you would take your daughters from me by force.'

³² "With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live. In the presence of our brethren, identify what I have of yours and take it with you." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

³³ And Laban went into Jacob's tent, into Leah's tent, and into the two maids' tents, but he did not find them. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.

³⁴ Now Rachel had taken the household idols, put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. And Laban searched all about the tent but did not find them.

³⁵ And she said to her father, "Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise

before you, for the manner of women is with me." And he searched but did not find the household idols.

³⁶ Then Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban, and Jacob answered and said to Laban: "What is my trespass? What is my sin, that you have so hotly pursued me?

³⁷ "Although you have searched all my things, what part of your household things have you found? Set it here before my brethren and your brethren, that they may judge between us both!

³⁸ "These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock.

³⁹ "That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

⁴⁰ "There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes.

⁴¹ "Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

⁴² "Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night."

⁴³ And Laban answered and said to Jacob, "These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and this flock is my flock; all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?"

⁴⁴ "Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me."

⁴⁵ So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

⁴⁶ Then Jacob said to his brethren, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there on the heap.

⁴⁷ Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

⁴⁸ And Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me this day." Therefore its name was called Galeed,

⁴⁹ also Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.

⁵⁰ "If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us—see, God is witness between you and me!"

⁵¹ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.

⁵² "This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

⁵³ "The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.

⁵⁴ Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his brethren to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain.

⁵⁵ And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.

32 ¹ So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

² When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

³ Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

⁴ And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now.

⁵ "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'"

⁶ Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

⁷ So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies.

⁸ And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."

⁹ Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':

¹⁰ "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

¹¹ "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

¹² "For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

¹³ So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother:

¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

¹⁵ thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.

¹⁶ Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves."

¹⁷ And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?'

¹⁸ "then you shall say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my

lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.'"

¹⁹ So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;

²⁰ "and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

²¹ So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.

²² And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.

²³ He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.

²⁴ Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

²⁵ Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

²⁶ And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

²⁷ So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

²⁹ Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

³⁰ And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

³¹ Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

³² Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

33 ¹ Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants.

² And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last.

³ Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

⁴ But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

⁵ And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

⁶ Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down.

⁷ And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down.

⁸ Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord."

⁹ But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."

¹⁰ And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.

¹¹ "Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." So he urged him, and he took it.

¹² Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you."

¹³ But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die.

¹⁴ "Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go

before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."

¹⁵ And Esau said, "Now let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."

¹⁶ So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

¹⁷ And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

¹⁸ Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city.

¹⁹ And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

²⁰ Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.

34 ¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.

³ His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman.

⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife."

⁵ And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came.

⁶ Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

⁷ And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.

⁸ But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife.

⁹ "And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves.

¹⁰ "So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it."

¹¹ Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your

eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give.

¹² "Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife."

¹³ But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.

¹⁴ And they said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us.

¹⁵ "But on this condition we will consent to you: If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised,

¹⁶ "then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.

¹⁷ "But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone."

¹⁸ And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

¹⁹ So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was more honorable than all the household of his father.

²⁰ And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying:

²¹ "These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters.

²² "Only on this condition will the men consent to dwell with us, to be

one people: if every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised.

²³ "Will not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us."

²⁴ And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son; every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

²⁵ Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.

²⁶ And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out.

²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.

²⁸ They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field,

²⁹ and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses.

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I."

³¹ But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"

35 ¹ Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there;

and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

² And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.

³ "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."

⁴ So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.

⁵ And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

⁶ So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him.

⁷ And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother.

⁸ Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the terebinth tree. So the name of it was called Allon Bachuth.

⁹ Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him.

¹⁰ And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel.

¹¹ Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall

proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

¹² "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.

¹⁴ So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it.

¹⁵ And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.

¹⁶ Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor.

¹⁷ Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also."

¹⁸ And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

¹⁹ So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

²⁰ And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

²¹ Then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

²² And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

²³ the sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun;

²⁴ the sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin;

²⁵ the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali;

²⁶ and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Padan Aram.

²⁷ Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.

²⁸ Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.

²⁹ So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

36 ¹ Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom.

² Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite; Aholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite;

³ and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth.

⁴ Now Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel.

⁵ And Aholibamah bore Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

⁶ Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the persons of his household, his cattle and all his animals, and all his goods which he had gained in the land of Canaan, and went to a country away from the presence of his brother Jacob.

⁷ For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land where they were strangers could not support them because of their livestock.

⁸ So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom.

⁹ And this is the genealogy of Esau the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir.

¹⁰ These were the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau.

¹¹ And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

¹² Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.

¹³ These were the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

¹⁴ These were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon. And she bore to Esau: Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.

¹⁵ These were the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn

son of Esau, were Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz,

¹⁶ Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, and Chief Amalek. These were the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. They were the sons of Adah.

¹⁷ These were the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, and Chief Mizzah. These were the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

¹⁸ And these were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife: Chief Jeush, Chief Jaalam, and Chief Korah. These were the chiefs who descended from Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah.

¹⁹ These were the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these were their chiefs.

²⁰ These were the sons of Seir the Horite who inhabited the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

²¹ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom.

²² And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. Lotan's sister was Timna.

²³ These were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

²⁴ These were the sons of Zibeon: both Ajah and Anah. This was the Anah who found the water in the wilderness as he pastured the donkeys of his father Zibeon.

²⁵ These were the children of Anah: Dishon and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah.

²⁶ These were the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

²⁷ These were the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

²⁸ These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

²⁹ These were the chiefs of the Horites: Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah,

³⁰ Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer, and Chief Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir.

³¹ Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel:

³² Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

³³ And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.

³⁴ When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

³⁵ And when Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who attacked Midian in

the field of Moab, reigned in his place.
And the name of his city was Avith.

³⁶ When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.

³⁷ And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place.

³⁸ When Saul died, Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place.

³⁹ And when Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor died, Hadar reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

⁴⁰ And these were the names of the chiefs of Esau, according to their families and their places, by their names: Chief Timnah, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth,

⁴¹ Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon,

⁴² Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar,

⁴³ Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom, according to their dwelling places in the land of their possession. Esau was the father of the Edomites.

37 ¹ Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

² This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.

⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

⁶ So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:

⁷ "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

⁸ And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

⁹ Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream.

And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

¹⁰ So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

¹¹ And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

¹² Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am."

¹⁴ Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

¹⁵ Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"

¹⁶ So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."

¹⁷ And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

¹⁸ Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.

¹⁹ Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming!

²⁰ "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

²¹ But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."

²² And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him" —that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

²³ So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him.

²⁴ Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt.

²⁶ So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?"

²⁷ "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened.

²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

²⁹ Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.

³⁰ And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"

³¹ So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.

³² Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"

³³ And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

³⁵ And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

³⁶ Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

38 ¹ It came to pass at that time that Judah departed from his brothers,

and visited a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.

² And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he married her and went in to her.

³ So she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.

⁴ She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan.

⁵ And she conceived yet again and bore a son, and called his name Shelah. He was at Chezib when she bore him.

⁶ Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

⁷ But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him.

⁸ And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."

⁹ But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother.

¹⁰ And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also.

¹¹ Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

¹² Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

¹³ And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

¹⁴ So she took off her widow's garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.

¹⁵ When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face.

¹⁶ Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

¹⁷ And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give me a pledge till you send it?"

¹⁸ Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that is in your hand."

Then he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

¹⁹ So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood.

²⁰ And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her.

²¹ Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who was openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this place."

²² So he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this place."

²³ Then Judah said, "Let her take them for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her."

²⁴ And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she is with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

²⁵ When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these are —the signet and cord, and staff."

²⁶ So Judah acknowledged them and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.

²⁷ Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb.

²⁸ And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and

bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

²⁹ Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" Therefore his name was called Perez.

³⁰ Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.

39 ¹ Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

² The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

⁵ So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.

⁶ Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

⁷ And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.

⁹ "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

¹⁰ So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

¹¹ But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

¹² that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

¹³ And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,

¹⁴ that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.

¹⁵ "And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside."

¹⁶ So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.

¹⁷ Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;

¹⁸ "so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."

¹⁹ So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.

²⁰ Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

²³ The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

40 ¹ It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

² And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.

³ So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.

⁴ And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.

⁵ Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.

⁶ And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad.

⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"

⁸ And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

⁹ Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me,

¹⁰ "and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.

¹¹ "Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

¹² And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days.

¹³ "Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.

¹⁴ "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

¹⁵ "For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.

¹⁷ "In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

¹⁸ So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days.

¹⁹ "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

²⁰ Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

²¹ Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.

²² But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

²³ Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

41 ¹ Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river.

² Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.

³ Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river.

⁴ And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.

⁵ He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good.

⁶ Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.

⁷ And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, it was a dream.

⁸ Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.

⁹ Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day.

¹⁰ "When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker,

¹¹ "we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream.

¹² "Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the

captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream.

¹³ "And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him."

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.

¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it."

¹⁶ So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

¹⁷ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph:
"Behold, in my dream I stood on the
bank of the river.

¹⁸ "Suddenly seven cows came up out
of the river, fine looking and fat; and
they fed in the meadow.

¹⁹ "Then behold, seven other cows
came up after them, poor and very ugly
and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never
seen in all the land of Egypt.

²⁰ "And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up
the first seven, the fat cows.

²¹ "When they had eaten them up, no
one would have known that they had
eaten them, for they were just as ugly as
at the beginning. So I awoke.

²² "Also I saw in my dream, and
suddenly seven heads came up on one
stalk, full and good.

²³ "Then behold, seven heads,
withered, thin, and blighted by the east
wind, sprang up after them.

²⁴ "And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads. So I told this to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."

²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown 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 are one.

²⁷ "And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine.

²⁸ "This is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.

²⁹ "Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt;

³⁰ "but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land.

³¹ "So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe.

³² "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

³³ "Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.

³⁴ "Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.

³⁵ "And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of

Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

³⁶ "Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."

³⁷ So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants.

³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.

⁴⁰ "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

⁴³ And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁴ Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

⁴⁵ And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And

Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁷ Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.

⁴⁸ So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them.

⁴⁹ Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable.

⁵⁰ And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

⁵² And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

⁵³ Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended,

⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

⁵⁵ So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."

⁵⁶ The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt.

⁵⁷ So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.

42 ¹ When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"

² And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

³ So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

⁴ But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him."

⁵ And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

⁶ Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.

⁷ Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a

stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

⁸ So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

⁹ Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

¹⁰ And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

¹¹ "We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."

¹² But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

¹³ And they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the

youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."

¹⁴ But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!'

¹⁵ "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

¹⁶ "Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!"

¹⁷ So he put them all together in prison three days.

¹⁸ Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:

¹⁹ "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses.

²⁰ "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

²¹ Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

²² And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

²³ But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.

²⁴ And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

²⁵ Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them.

²⁶ So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.

²⁷ But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.

²⁸ So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!" Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

²⁹ Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying:

³⁰ "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

³¹ "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.

³² 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'

³³ "Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone.

³⁴ 'And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"

³⁵ Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's

bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

³⁶ And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

³⁷ Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

³⁸ But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

43 ¹ Now the famine was severe in the land.

² And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had

brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."

³ But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

⁴ "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

⁵ "But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

⁶ And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?"

⁷ But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we

possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

⁸ Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.

⁹ "I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

¹⁰ "For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."

¹¹ And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man—a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.

¹² "Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money

that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight.

¹³ "Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man.

¹⁴ "And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"

¹⁵ So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph.

¹⁶ When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon."

¹⁷ Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

¹⁸ Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, "It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and fall upon us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys."

¹⁹ When they drew near to the steward of Joseph's house, they talked with him at the door of the house,

²⁰ and said, "O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food;

²¹ "but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand.

²² "And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We

do not know who put our money in our sacks."

²³ But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

²⁴ So the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed.

²⁵ Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there.

²⁶ And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth.

²⁷ Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

²⁸ And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.

²⁹ Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

³⁰ Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there.

³¹ Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread."

³² So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.

³³ And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another.

³⁴ Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.

44 ¹ And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.

² "Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

³ As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.

⁴ When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?"

⁵ 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.'"

⁶ So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words.

⁷ And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing.

⁸ "Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?"

⁹ "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

¹⁰ And he said, "Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless."

¹¹ Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack.

¹² So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

¹⁴ So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground.

¹⁵ And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not

know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"

¹⁶ Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."

¹⁷ But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."

¹⁸ Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.

¹⁹ "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'

²⁰ "And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.'

²¹ "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'

²² "And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

²³ "But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'

²⁴ "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord.

²⁵ "And our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'

²⁶ "But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then

we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

²⁷ "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;

²⁸ 'and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since.

²⁹ 'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'

³⁰ "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life,

³¹ "it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

³² "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.'

³³ "Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.

³⁴ "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

45 ¹ Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

² And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

³ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But

his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

⁵ "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

⁶ "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

⁷ "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

⁸ "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his

house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

⁹ "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry.

¹⁰ "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹ "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."

¹² "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

¹³ "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

¹⁴ Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

¹⁵ Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

¹⁶ Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

¹⁷ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.

¹⁸ 'Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.

¹⁹ 'Now you are commanded—do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come.

²⁰ 'Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'

²¹ Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

²² He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.

²³ And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.

²⁴ So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

²⁵ Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

²⁶ And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

²⁷ But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

²⁸ Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

46 ¹ So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

² Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

³ So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

⁴ "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

⁵ Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

⁶ So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him.

⁷ His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

⁸ Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons,

who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn.

⁹ The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

¹⁰ The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

¹¹ The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹² The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

¹³ The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron.

¹⁴ The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

¹⁵ These were the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, were thirty-three.

¹⁶ The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

¹⁷ The sons of Asher were Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and Serah, their sister. And the sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel.

¹⁸ These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob: sixteen persons.

¹⁹ The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁰ And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

²¹ The sons of Benjamin were Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

²² These were the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: fourteen persons in all.

²³ The son of Dan was Hushim.

²⁴ The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

²⁵ These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob: seven persons in all.

²⁶ All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all.

²⁷ And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.

²⁸ Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen.

²⁹ So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him,

and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

³⁰ And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive."

³¹ Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

³² 'And the men are shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.'

³³ "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

³⁴ "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we and also our fathers,' that you may dwell in

the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

47 ¹ Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they are in the land of Goshen."

² And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.

³ Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and also our fathers."

⁴ And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to dwell in the land, because your servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."

⁵ Then Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you.

⁶ "The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know any competent men among them, then make them chief herdsman over my livestock."

⁷ Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

⁸ Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?"

⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."

¹⁰ So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.

¹¹ And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

¹² Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in their families.

¹³ Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

¹⁴ And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

¹⁵ So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed."

¹⁶ Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone."

¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year.

¹⁸ When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands."

¹⁹ "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate."

²⁰ Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's.

²¹ And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end.

²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands.

²³ Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land

this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.

²⁴ "And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones."

²⁵ So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants."

²⁶ And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's.

²⁷ So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's

life was one hundred and forty–seven years.

²⁹ When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt,

³⁰ "but let me lie with my fathers; you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said."

³¹ Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.

48 ¹ Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

² And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel

strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

³ Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,

⁴ "and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.'

⁵ "And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

⁶ "Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

⁷ "But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was

but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

⁸ Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?"

⁹ And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them."

¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"

¹² So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.

¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand

toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.

¹⁴ Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.

¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,

¹⁶ The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

¹⁷ Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove

it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for 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 also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!'" And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.

²² "Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I

took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

49 ¹ And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

² "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.

³ "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it —He went up to my couch.

⁵ "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

⁶ Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew

a man, And in their self—will they
hamstrung an ox.

⁷ Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce;
And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will
divide them in Jacob And scatter them in
Israel.

⁸ "Judah, you are he whom your
brothers shall praise; Your hand shall
be on the neck of your enemies; Your
father's children shall bow down before
you.

⁹ Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey,
my son, you have gone up. He bows
down, he lies down as a lion; And as a
lion, who shall rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from
Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his
feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him
shall be the obedience of the people.

¹¹ Binding his donkey to the vine, And
his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He

washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

¹² His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

¹³ "Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

¹⁴ "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;

¹⁵ He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.

¹⁶ "Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁷ Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.

¹⁸ I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!

¹⁹ "Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.

²⁰ "Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.

²¹ "Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.

²² "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.

²³ The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him.

²⁴ But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

²⁵ By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

²⁶ The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors,

Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

²⁷ "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."

²⁸ All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

²⁹ Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

³⁰ "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham

bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

³¹ "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

³² "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

³³ And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

50 ¹ Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

² And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.

³ Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

⁴ And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying,
⁵ 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.'"

⁶ And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

⁸ as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen.

⁹ And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering.

¹⁰ Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

¹¹ And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

¹² So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.

¹³ For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field

from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place.

¹⁴ And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."

¹⁶ So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,

¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.'" Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"

²⁰ "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

²¹ "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

²² So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.

²³ Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees.

²⁴ And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you,

and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

²⁵ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

²⁶ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus

1 ¹ Now these are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob:

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;

³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;

⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

⁵ All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt already).

⁶ And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation.

⁷ But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

⁹ And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we;

¹⁰ "come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land."

¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.

¹² But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel.

¹³ So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor.

¹⁴ And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah;

¹⁶ and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

¹⁷ But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

¹⁹ And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

²⁰ Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.

²¹ And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

²² So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, "Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive."

2¹ And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.

² So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.

³ But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.

⁴ And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.

⁵ Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.

⁶ And when she had opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."

⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"

⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.

⁹ Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So

the woman took the child and nursed him.

¹⁰ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

¹¹ Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.

¹² So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

¹³ And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?"

¹⁴ Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you

intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!"

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well.

¹⁶ Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew water, and they filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

¹⁷ Then the shepherds came and drove them away; but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

¹⁸ When they came to Reuel their father, he said, "How is it that you have come so soon today?"

¹⁹ And they said, "An Egyptian delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he also drew enough water for us and watered the flock."

²⁰ So he said to his daughters, "And where is he? Why is it that you have left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

²¹ Then Moses was content to live with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses.

²² And she bore him a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land."

²³ Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.

²⁴ So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

²⁵ And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.

3¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.

³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."

⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

⁷ And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

⁸ "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

⁹ "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

¹⁰ "Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹² So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"

¹⁴ And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to

the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'

¹⁵ Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD 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, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

¹⁶ "Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;

¹⁷ "and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey."

¹⁸ "Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'

¹⁹ "But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand.

²⁰ "So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.

²¹ "And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be, when you go, that you shall not go empty-handed.

²² "But every woman shall ask of her neighbor, namely, of her who dwells near her house, articles of silver, articles

of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

4 ¹ Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.'"

² So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod."

³ And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand),

⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

⁶ Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow.

⁷ And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his other flesh.

⁸ "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign.

⁹ "And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. And the water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."

¹⁰ Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

¹¹ So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"

¹² "Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

¹³ But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send."

¹⁴ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart."

¹⁵ "Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do.

¹⁶ "So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.

¹⁷ "And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs."

¹⁸ So Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, "Please let me go and return to my brethren who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

¹⁹ And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead."

²⁰ Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and

he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

²² "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn.

²³ "So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"

²⁴ And it came to pass on the way, at the encampment, that the LORD met him and sought to kill him.

²⁵ Then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it at Moses' feet, and said, "Surely you are a husband of blood to me!"

²⁶ So He let him go. Then she said, "You are a husband of blood!" —because of the circumcision.

²⁷ And the LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him.

²⁸ So Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him.

²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel.

³⁰ And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people.

³¹ So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.

5 ¹ Afterward Moses and Aaron went in and told Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness.'"

² And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go."

³ So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

⁴ Then the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people from their work? Get back to your labor."

⁵ And Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are many now, and you make them rest from their labor!"

⁶ So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying,

⁷ "You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves.

⁸ "And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'

⁹ "Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words."

¹⁰ And the taskmasters of the people and their officers went out and spoke to the people, saying, "Thus says Pharaoh: 'I will not give you straw.

¹¹ 'Go, get yourselves straw where you can find it; yet none of your work will be reduced.'"

¹² So the people were scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw.

¹³ And the taskmasters forced them to hurry, saying, "Fulfill your work, your daily quota, as when there was straw."

¹⁴ Also the officers of the children of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not fulfilled your task in making brick both yesterday and today, as before?"

¹⁵ Then the officers of the children of Israel came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, "Why are you dealing thus with your servants?"

¹⁶ "There is no straw given to your servants, and they say to us, 'Make brick!' And indeed your servants are beaten, but the fault is in your own people."

¹⁷ But he said, "You are idle! Idle! Therefore you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.'

¹⁸ "Therefore go now and work; for no straw shall be given you, yet you shall deliver the quota of bricks."

¹⁹ And the officers of the children of Israel saw that they were in trouble after it was said, "You shall not reduce any bricks from your daily quota."

²⁰ Then, as they came out from Pharaoh, they met Moses and Aaron who stood there to meet them.

²¹ And they said to them, "Let the LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us."

²² So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Lord, why have You brought trouble on this people? Why is it You have sent me?"

²³ "For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in Your name, he has done evil to this people; neither have You delivered Your people at all."

6 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

² And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD.

³ "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name LORD I was not known to them.

⁴ "I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers.

⁵ "And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

⁶ "Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

⁷ 'I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

⁸ 'And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.'"

⁹ So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they did not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage.

¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹¹ "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the children of Israel go out of his land."

¹² And Moses spoke before the LORD, saying, "The children of Israel have not heeded me. How then shall Pharaoh heed me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?"

¹³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, and gave them a command for the children of Israel and for Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ These are the heads of their fathers' houses: The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. These are the families of Reuben.

¹⁵ And the sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These are the families of Simeon.

¹⁶ These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. And the years of the life of Levi were one hundred and thirty–seven.

¹⁷ The sons of Gershon were Libni and Shimi according to their families.

¹⁸ And the sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. And the years of the life of Kohath were one hundred and thirty–three.

¹⁹ The sons of Merari were Mahali and Mushi. These are the families of Levi according to their generations.

²⁰ Now Amram took for himself Jochebed, his father’s sister, as wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses. And the years of the life of Amram were one hundred and thirty–seven.

²¹ The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.

²² And the sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Zithri.

²³ Aaron took to himself Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Nahshon, as wife; and she bore him Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

²⁴ And the sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. These are the families of the Korahites.

²⁵ Eleazar, Aaron's son, took for himself one of the daughters of Putiel as wife; and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites according to their families.

²⁶ These are the same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring out the children of Israel from the land of Egypt according to their armies."

²⁷ These are the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring out the children of Israel from Egypt. These are the same Moses and Aaron.

²⁸ And it came to pass, on the day the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,

²⁹ that the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "I am the LORD. Speak to Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you."

³⁰ But Moses said before the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips, and how shall Pharaoh heed me?"

7 ¹ So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet.

² "You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.

³ "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

⁴ "But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.

⁵ "And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them."

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron did so; just as the LORD commanded them, so they did.

⁷ And Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty–three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.

⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

⁹ "When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, 'Show a miracle for yourselves,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and cast it before Pharaoh, and let it become a serpent.'"

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

¹¹ But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments.

¹² For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

¹³ And Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

¹⁴ So the LORD said to Moses:
"Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go.

¹⁵ "Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet

him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand.

¹⁶ "And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear!

¹⁷ 'Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.

¹⁸ "And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.""

¹⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And

there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.'"

²⁰ And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

²¹ The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

²² Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

²³ And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this.

²⁴ So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river.

²⁵ And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.

8 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

² "But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs.

³ "So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls.

⁴ "And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants."'"

⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.'"

⁶ So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

⁷ And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt.

⁸ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD."

⁹ And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only."

¹⁰ So he said, "Tomorrow." And he said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.

¹¹ "And the frogs shall depart from you, from your houses, from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only."

¹² Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the LORD concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh.

¹³ So the LORD did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields.

¹⁴ They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank.

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt.'"

¹⁷ And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.

¹⁸ Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast.

¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.

²⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water.

Then say to him, 'Thus says the LORD:
"Let My people go, that they may serve
Me.

²¹ "Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand.

²² "And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land.

²³ "I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be."'"

²⁴ And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the

land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.

²⁵ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land."

²⁶ And Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God. If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us?"

²⁷ "We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He will command us."

²⁸ And Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me."

²⁹ Then Moses said, "Indeed I am going out from you, and I will entreat the LORD, that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow from Pharaoh, from

his servants, and from his people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD."

³⁰ So Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD.

³¹ And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained.

³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

9¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, 'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

² "For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them,

³ "behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the

oxen, and on the sheep—a very severe pestilence.

⁴ "And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel.""

⁵ Then the LORD appointed a set time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

⁶ So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died.

⁷ Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.

⁸ So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter

it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh.

⁹ "And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

¹⁰ Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast.

¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians.

¹² But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says

the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me,

¹⁴ "for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth.

¹⁵ "Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth.

¹⁶ "But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

¹⁷ "As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

¹⁸ "Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now.

¹⁹ "Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.""

²⁰ He who feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses.

²¹ But he who did not regard the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field.

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt."

²³ And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the

ground. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt.

²⁴ So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

²⁵ And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field.

²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail.

²⁷ And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I are wicked.

²⁸ "Entreat the LORD, that there may be no more mighty thundering and hail, for

it is enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."

²⁹ So Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the LORD'S.

³⁰ "But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God."

³¹ Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley was in the head and the flax was in bud.

³² But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are late crops.

³³ So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and spread out his hands to the LORD; then the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain was not poured on the earth.

³⁴ And when Pharaoh saw that the rain, the hail, and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart, he and his servants.

³⁵ So the heart of Pharaoh was hard; neither would he let the children of Israel go, as the LORD had spoken by Moses.

10 ¹ Now the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him,

² "and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and your son's son the mighty things I have done in Egypt, and My signs which I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

³ So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How

long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

⁴ 'Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory.

⁵ 'And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field.

⁶ 'They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor your fathers' fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day.'" And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

⁷ Then Pharaoh's servants said to him, "How long shall this man be a snare to

us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?"

⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, "Go, serve the LORD your God. Who are the ones that are going?"

⁹ And Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "The LORD had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you.

¹¹ "Not so! Go now, you who are men, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desired." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land

of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land—all that the hail has left."

¹³ So Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.

¹⁴ And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them.

¹⁵ For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the

plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you.

¹⁷ "Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only."

¹⁸ So he went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD.

¹⁹ And the LORD turned a very strong west wind, which took the locusts away and blew them into the Red Sea. There remained not one locust in all the territory of Egypt.

²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go.

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven,

that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt."

²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.

²³ They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

²⁴ Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you."

²⁵ But Moses said, "You must also give us sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

²⁶ "Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know

with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there."

²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go.

²⁸ Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!"

²⁹ And Moses said, "You have spoken well. I will never see your face again."

11 ¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring yet one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.

² "Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor, articles of silver and articles of gold."

³ And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants and in the sight of the people.

⁴ Then Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt;

⁵ 'and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.

⁶ 'Then there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as was not like it before, nor shall be like it again.

⁷ 'But against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know

that the LORD does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.'

⁸ "And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, and all the people who follow you!' After that I will go out." Then he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

⁹ But the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not heed you, so that My wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh; and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land.

12 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

² "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

³ "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

⁴ 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

⁵ 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

⁶ 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

⁷ 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

⁸ ‘Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

⁹ ‘Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails.

¹⁰ ‘You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

¹¹ ‘And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’S Passover.

¹² ‘For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

¹³ ‘Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when

I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ 'So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance.

¹⁵ 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses. For whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

¹⁶ 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation for you. No manner of work shall be done on them; but that which everyone must eat—that only may be prepared by you.

¹⁷ 'So you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this same

day I will have brought your armies out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as an everlasting ordinance.

¹⁸ 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.

¹⁹ 'For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses, since whoever eats what is leavened, that same person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a stranger or a native of the land.

²⁰ 'You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'"

²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb.

²² "And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.

²³ "For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

²⁴ "And you shall observe this thing as an ordinance for you and your sons forever.

²⁵ "It will come to pass when you come to the land which the LORD will give you, just as He promised, that you shall keep this service.

²⁶ "And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'

²⁷ "that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.'" So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

²⁸ Then the children of Israel went away and did so; just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

²⁹ And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of livestock.

³⁰ So Pharaoh rose in the night, he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there

was not a house where there was not one dead.

³¹ Then he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and said, "Rise, go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel. And go, serve the LORD as you have said.

³² "Also take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also."

³³ And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

³⁴ So the people took their dough before it was leavened, having their kneading bowls bound up in their clothes on their shoulders.

³⁵ Now the children of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, and they had asked from the Egyptians

articles of silver, articles of gold, and clothing.

³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they granted them what they requested. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

³⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children.

³⁸ A mixed multitude went up with them also, and flocks and herds—a great deal of livestock.

³⁹ And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they had brought out of Egypt; for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared provisions for themselves.

⁴⁰ Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years.

⁴¹ And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years—on that very same day—it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

⁴² It is a night of solemn observance to the LORD for bringing them out of the land of Egypt. This is that night of the LORD, a solemn observance for all the children of Israel throughout their generations.

⁴³ And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover: No foreigner shall eat it.

⁴⁴ "But every man's servant who is bought for money, when you have circumcised him, then he may eat it.

⁴⁵ "A sojourner and a hired servant shall not eat it.

⁴⁶ "In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.

⁴⁷ "All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

⁴⁸ "And when a stranger dwells with you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as a native of the land. For no uncircumcised person shall eat it.

⁴⁹ "One law shall be for the native-born and for the stranger who dwells among you."

⁵⁰ Thus all the children of Israel did; as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

⁵¹ And it came to pass, on that very same day, that the LORD brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt according to their armies.

13 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; it is Mine."

³ And Moses said to the people: "Remember this day in which you went out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out of this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

⁴ "On this day you are going out, in the month Abib.

⁵ "And it shall be, when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall keep this service in this month.

⁶ "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD.

⁷ "Unleavened bread shall be eaten seven days. And no leavened bread shall be seen among you, nor shall leaven be seen among you in all your quarters.

⁸ "And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, 'This is done because of what the LORD did for me when I came up from Egypt.'

⁹ "It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.

¹⁰ "You shall therefore keep this ordinance in its season from year to year.

¹¹ "And it shall be, 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 "that you shall set apart to the LORD all that open the womb, that is, every firstborn that comes from an animal which you have; the males shall be the LORD'S.

¹³ "But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb; and if you will not redeem it, then you shall break its neck. And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

¹⁴ "So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' that you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

¹⁵ 'And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open

the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

¹⁶ "It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."

¹⁷ Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt."

¹⁸ So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."

²⁰ So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness.

²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.

²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

14 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea.

³ "For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.'

⁴ "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will

gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

⁵ Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him.

⁷ Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them.

⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness.

⁹ So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook

them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.

¹⁰ And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

¹¹ Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?"

¹² "Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the

Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.

¹⁴ "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."

¹⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.

¹⁶ "But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

¹⁷ "And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.

¹⁸ "Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and

went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.

²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians.

²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen."

²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained.

²⁹ But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

³¹ Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.

15 ¹ Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!

² The LORD is my strength and song,
And He has become my salvation; He
is my God, and I will praise Him; My
father's God, and I will exalt Him.

³ The LORD is a man of war; The LORD
is His name.

⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army He
has cast into the sea; His chosen captains
also are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵ The depths have covered them; They
sank to the bottom like a stone.

⁶ "Your right hand, O LORD, has become
glorious in power; Your right hand, O
LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces.

⁷ And in the greatness of Your
excellence You have overthrown those
who rose against You; You sent forth Your
wrath; It consumed them like stubble.

⁸ And with the blast of Your nostrils
The waters were gathered together; The
floods stood upright like a heap; The
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 shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, My hand shall destroy them.'

¹⁰ You blew with Your wind, The sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?

¹² You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them.

¹³ You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.

¹⁴ "The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

¹⁶ Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them In the mountain of Your inheritance, In the place, O LORD, which You have made For Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established.

¹⁸ "The LORD shall reign forever and ever."

¹⁹ For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

²¹ And Miriam answered them: "Sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"

²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water.

²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.

²⁴ And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

²⁵ So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made

sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them,

²⁶ and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

16 ¹ And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

² Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

³ And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.

⁵ "And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall

know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt.

⁷ "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?"

⁸ Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.'"

¹⁰ Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹² "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³ So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp.

¹⁴ And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground.

¹⁵ So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

¹⁶ "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.'"

¹⁷ Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less.

¹⁸ So when they measured it by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.

¹⁹ And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning."

²⁰ Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

²¹ So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

²² And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

²³ Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.'"

²⁴ So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.

²⁵ Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.

²⁶ "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, there will be none."

²⁷ Now it happened that some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.

²⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws?"

²⁹ "See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."

³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it was like white coriander seed, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

³² Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness,

when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.'"

³³ And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations."

³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

³⁵ And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

³⁶ Now an omer is one-tenth of an ephah.

17 ¹ Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but

there was no water for the people to drink.

² Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?"

³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.

⁶ "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

⁸ Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

⁹ And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."

¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

¹¹ And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

¹² But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

¹³ So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner;

¹⁶ for he said, "Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

18 ¹ And Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people—that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back,

³ with her two sons, of whom the name of one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land")

⁴ and the name of the other was Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh");

⁵ and Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God.

⁶ Now he had said to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you

with your wife and her two sons with her."

⁷ So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, bowed down, and kissed him. And they asked each other about their well-being, and they went into the tent.

⁸ And Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had come upon them on the way, and how the LORD had delivered them.

⁹ Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the LORD had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians.

¹⁰ And Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered

the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

¹¹ "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; for in the very thing in which they behaved proudly, He was above them."

¹² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and other sacrifices to offer to God. And Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

¹³ And so it was, on the next day, that Moses sat to judge the people; and the people stood before Moses from morning until evening.

¹⁴ So when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit, and all the people stand before you from morning until evening?"

¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God.

¹⁶ "When they have a difficulty, they come to me, and I judge between one and another; and I make known the statutes of God and His laws."

¹⁷ So Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you do is not good.

¹⁸ "Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out. For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.

¹⁹ "Listen now to my voice; I will give you counsel, and God will be with you: Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God.

²⁰ "And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.

²¹ "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

²² "And let them judge the people at all times. Then it will be that every great matter they shall bring to you, but every small matter they themselves shall judge. So it will be easier for you, for they will bear the burden with you.

²³ "If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all this people will also go to their place in peace."

²⁴ So Moses heeded the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

²⁵ And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of

hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

²⁶ So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.

²⁷ Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went his way to his own land.

19 ¹ In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.

² For they had departed from Rephidim, had come to the Wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness. So Israel camped there before the mountain.

³ And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

⁵ 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

⁶ 'And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him.

⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the

people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

¹⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

¹¹ "And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

¹² "You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.

¹³ 'Not a hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot with an arrow; whether man or beast, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds long, they shall come near the mountain."

¹⁴ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

¹⁵ And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives."

¹⁶ Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

¹⁹ And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

²⁰ Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the LORD, and many of them perish.

²² "Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them."

²³ But Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai; for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds around the mountain and consecrate it.'"

²⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "Away! Get down and then come up, you and

Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest He break out against them."

²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

20 ¹ And God spoke all these words, saying:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

³ "You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third

and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

⁷ "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

¹⁰ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh

day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."

²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

²³ 'You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.

²⁴ 'An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place

where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.

²⁵ 'And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.

²⁶ 'Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.'

21 ¹ "Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them:

² "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing.

³ "If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him.

⁴ "If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself.

⁵ "But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'

⁶ "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

⁷ "And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do.

⁸ "If she does not please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her.

⁹ "And if he has betrothed her to his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters.

¹⁰ "If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights.

¹¹ "And if he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money.

¹² "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.

¹³ "However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.

¹⁴ "But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.

¹⁵ "And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

¹⁶ "He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.

17 "And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

18 "If men contend with each other, and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist, and he does not die but is confined to his bed,

19 "if he rises again and walks about outside with his staff, then he who struck him shall be acquitted. He shall only pay for the loss of his time, and shall provide for him to be thoroughly healed.

20 "And if a man beats his male or female servant with a rod, so that he dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished.

21 "Notwithstanding, if he remains alive a day or two, he shall not be punished; for he is his property.

22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's

husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.

²³ "But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life,

²⁴ "eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

²⁵ "burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

²⁶ "If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye.

²⁷ "And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female servant, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth.

²⁸ "If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, then the ox shall surely be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be acquitted.

²⁹ "But if the ox tended to thrust with its horn in times past, and it has been made known to his owner, and he has

not kept it confined, so that it has killed a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death.

³⁰ "If there is imposed on him a sum of money, then he shall pay to redeem his life, whatever is imposed on him.

³¹ "Whether it has gored a son or gored a daughter, according to this judgment it shall be done to him.

³² "If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

³³ "And if a man opens a pit, or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls in it,

³⁴ "the owner of the pit shall make it good; he shall give money to their owner, but the dead animal shall be his.

³⁵ "If one man's ox hurts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live

ox and divide the money from it; and the dead ox they shall also divide.

³⁶ "Or if it was known that the ox tended to thrust in time past, and its owner has not kept it confined, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead animal shall be his own.

22 ¹ "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.

² "If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed.

³ "If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed. He should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

⁴ "If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double.

⁵ "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed, and lets loose his animal, and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard.

⁶ "If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.

⁷ "If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep, and it is stolen out of the man's house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double.

⁸ "If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges to see whether he has put his hand into his neighbor's goods.

⁹ "For any kind of trespass, whether it concerns an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, or for any kind of lost

thing which another claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.

¹⁰ "If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies, is hurt, or driven away, no one seeing it,

¹¹ "then an oath of the LORD shall be between them both, that he has not put his hand into his neighbor's goods; and the owner of it shall accept that, and he shall not make it good.

¹² "But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it.

¹³ "If it is torn to pieces by a beast, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn.

¹⁴ "And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or

dies, the owner of it not being with it, he shall surely make it good.

¹⁵ "If its owner was with it, he shall not make it good; if it was hired, it came for its hire.

¹⁶ "If a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her to be his wife.

¹⁷ "If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride-price of virgins.

¹⁸ "You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

¹⁹ "Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.

²⁰ "He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

²¹ "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

22 "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child.

23 "If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry;

24 "and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

25 "If you lend money to any of My people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest.

26 "If you ever take your neighbor's garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down.

27 "For that is his only covering, it is his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I am gracious.

28 "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

²⁹ "You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

³⁰ "Likewise you shall do with your oxen and your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

³¹ "And you shall be holy men to Me: you shall not eat meat torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

23 ¹ "You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

² "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

³ "You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.

⁴ "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.

⁵ "If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

⁶ "You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute.

⁷ "Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

⁸ "And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.

⁹ "Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ "Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its produce,

11 "but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat. In like manner you shall do with your vineyard and your olive grove.

12 "Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.

13 "And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth.

14 "Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year:

15 "You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread (you shall eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came

out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);

¹⁶ "and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.

¹⁷ "Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord GOD.

¹⁸ "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread; nor shall the fat of My sacrifice remain until morning.

¹⁹ "The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

²⁰ "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

²¹ "Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.

²² "But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

²³ "For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.

²⁴ "You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars.

²⁵ "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

²⁶ "No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

²⁷ "I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

²⁸ "And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.

²⁹ "I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you.

³⁰ "Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.

³¹ "And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into

your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

³² "You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods.

³³ "They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

24 ¹ Now He said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar.

² "And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near; nor shall the people go up with him."

³ So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."

⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning,

and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

⁵ Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.

⁶ And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

⁸ And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

⁹ Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel,

¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity.

¹¹ But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them."

¹³ So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

¹⁴ And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.

¹⁶ Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

¹⁷ The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.

¹⁸ So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

25 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.

³ "And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze;

4 "blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair;

5 "ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood;

6 "oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense;

7 "onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

8 "And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

9 "According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

10 "And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height.

11 "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around.

12 "You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side.

13 "And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold.

14 "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.

15 "The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.

16 "And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you.

17 "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width.

18 "And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat.

19 "Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you

shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat.

²⁰ "And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

²¹ "You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you.

²² "And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.

²³ "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height.

24 "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around.

25 "You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around.

26 "And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that are at its four legs.

27 "The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table.

28 "And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them.

29 "You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold.

30 "And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.

³¹ "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece.

³² "And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

³³ "Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower—and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand.

³⁴ "On the lampstand itself four bowls shall be made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower.

³⁵ "And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand.

³⁶ "Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold.

³⁷ "You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.

³⁸ "And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold.

³⁹ "It shall be made of a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils.

⁴⁰ "And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

26 ¹ "Moreover you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of

fine woven linen and blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim you shall weave them.

² "The length of each curtain shall be twenty–eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits. And every one of the curtains shall have the same measurements.

³ "Five curtains shall be coupled to one another, and the other five curtains shall be coupled to one another.

⁴ "And you shall make loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of one set, and likewise you shall do on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.

⁵ "Fifty loops you shall make in the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain that is on the end of the second set, that the loops may be clasped to one another.

⁶ "And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, so that it may be one tabernacle.

⁷ "You shall also make curtains of goats' hair, to be a tent over the tabernacle. You shall make eleven curtains.

⁸ "The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; and the eleven curtains shall all have the same measurements.

⁹ "And you shall couple five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves, and you shall double over the sixth curtain at the forefront of the tent.

¹⁰ "You shall make fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain of the second set.

¹¹ "And you shall make fifty bronze clasps, put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together, that it may be one.

¹² "The remnant that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle.

¹³ "And a cubit on one side and a cubit on the other side, of what remains of the length of the curtains of the tent, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and on that side, to cover it.

¹⁴ "You shall also make a covering of ram skins dyed red for the tent, and a covering of badger skins above that.

¹⁵ "And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright.

¹⁶ "Ten cubits shall be the length of a board, and a cubit and a half shall be the width of each board.

17 "Two tenons shall be in each board for binding one to another. Thus you shall make for all the boards of the tabernacle.

18 "And you shall make the boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side.

19 "You shall make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons.

20 "And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, there shall be twenty boards

21 "and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards.

22 "For the far side of the tabernacle, westward, you shall make six boards.

23 "And you shall also make two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle.

²⁴ "They shall be coupled together at the bottom and they shall be coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus it shall be for both of them. They shall be for the two corners.

²⁵ "So there shall be eight boards with their sockets of silver—sixteen sockets—two sockets under each board.

²⁶ "And you shall make bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle,

²⁷ "five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the boards of the side of the tabernacle, for the far side westward.

²⁸ "The middle bar shall pass through the midst of the boards from end to end.

²⁹ "You shall overlay the boards with gold, make their rings of gold as holders for the bars, and overlay the bars with gold.

³⁰ "And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

³¹ "You shall make a veil woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen. It shall be woven with an artistic design of cherubim.

³² "You shall hang it upon the four pillars of acacia wood overlaid with gold. Their hooks shall be gold, upon four sockets of silver.

³³ "And you shall hang the veil from the clasps. Then you shall bring the ark of the Testimony in there, behind the veil. The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy.

³⁴ "You shall put the mercy seat upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy.

³⁵ "You shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand across from

the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south; and you shall put the table on the north side.

³⁶ "You shall make a screen for the door of the tabernacle, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver.

³⁷ "And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold; their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five sockets of bronze for them.

27 ¹ "You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide—the altar shall be square—and its height shall be three cubits.

² "You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze.

³ "Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze.

⁴ "You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners.

⁵ "You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar.

⁶ "And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze.

⁷ "The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it.

⁸ "You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.

⁹ "You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the south side there shall

be hangings for the court made of fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long for one side.

¹⁰ "And its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets shall be bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands shall be silver.

¹¹ "Likewise along the length of the north side there shall be hangings one hundred cubits long, with its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.

¹² "And along the width of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits, with their ten pillars and their ten sockets.

¹³ "The width of the court on the east side shall be fifty cubits.

¹⁴ "The hangings on one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.

¹⁵ "And on the other side shall be hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.

¹⁶ "For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets.

¹⁷ "All the pillars around the court shall have bands of silver; their hooks shall be of silver and their sockets of bronze.

¹⁸ "The length of the court shall be one hundred cubits, the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits, made of fine woven linen, and its sockets of bronze.

¹⁹ "All the utensils of the tabernacle for all its service, all its pegs, and all the pegs of the court, shall be of bronze.

²⁰ "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of

pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.

²¹ "In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.

28 ¹ "Now take Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister to Me as priest, Aaron and Aaron's sons: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

² "And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

³ "So you shall speak to all who are gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make

Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.

⁴ "And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

⁵ "They shall take the gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen,

⁶ "and they shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, artistically worked.

⁷ "It shall have two shoulder straps joined at its two edges, and so it shall be joined together.

⁸ "And the intricately woven band of the ephod, which is on it, shall be of the same workmanship, made of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen.

⁹ "Then you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel:

¹⁰ "six of their names on one stone, and six names on the other stone, in order of their birth.

¹¹ "With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, you shall engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall set them in settings of gold.

¹² "And you shall put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. So Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders as a memorial.

¹³ "You shall also make settings of gold,

¹⁴ "and you shall make two chains of pure gold like braided cords, and fasten the braided chains to the settings.

¹⁵ "You shall make the breastplate of judgment. Artistically woven according

to the workmanship of the ephod you shall make it: of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, you shall make it.

¹⁶ "It shall be doubled into a square: a span shall be its length, and a span shall be its width.

¹⁷ "And you shall put settings of stones in it, four rows of stones: The first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; this shall be the first row;

¹⁸ "the second row shall be 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 shall be set in gold settings.

²¹ "And the stones shall have the names of the sons of Israel, twelve according to their names, like the engravings of a

signet, each one with its own name; they shall be according to the twelve tribes.

²² "You shall make chains for the breastplate at the end, like braided cords of pure gold.

²³ "And you shall make two rings of gold for the breastplate, and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate.

²⁴ "Then you shall put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate;

²⁵ "and the other two ends of the two braided chains you shall fasten to the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod in the front.

²⁶ "You shall make two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on the edge of it, which is on the inner side of the ephod.

²⁷ "And two other rings of gold you shall make, and put them on the two

shoulder straps, underneath the ephod toward its front, right at the seam above the intricately woven band of the ephod.

²⁸ "They shall bind the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod, using a blue cord, so that it is above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and so that the breastplate does not come loose from the ephod.

²⁹ "So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually.

³⁰ "And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

³¹ "You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

³² "There shall be an opening for his head in the middle of it; it shall have a woven binding all around its opening, like the opening in a coat of mail, so that it does not tear.

³³ "And upon its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, all around its hem, and bells of gold between them all around:

³⁴ "a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe all around.

³⁵ "And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die.

³⁶ "You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

³⁷ "And you shall put it on a blue cord, that it may be on the turban; it shall be on the front of the turban.

³⁸ "So it shall be on Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.

³⁹ "You shall skillfully weave the tunic of fine linen thread, you shall make the turban of fine linen, and you shall make the sash of woven work.

⁴⁰ "For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty.

⁴¹ "So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests.

⁴² "And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.

⁴³ "They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place, that they do not incur iniquity and die. It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him.

29 ¹ "And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish,

² "and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil (you shall make them of wheat flour).

³ "You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, with the bull and the two rams.

⁴ "And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water.

⁵ "Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod.

⁶ "You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban.

⁷ "And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him.

⁸ "Then you shall bring his sons and put tunics on them.

⁹ "And you shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. The priesthood shall be theirs for a perpetual statute. So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons.

¹⁰ "You shall also have the bull brought before the tabernacle of meeting, and

Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the bull.

¹¹ "Then you shall kill the bull before the LORD, by the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

¹² "You shall take some of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour all the blood beside the base of the altar.

¹³ "And you shall take all the fat that covers the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and burn them on the altar.

¹⁴ "But the flesh of the bull, with its skin and its offal, you shall burn with fire outside the camp. It is a sin offering.

¹⁵ "You shall also take one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the ram;

¹⁶ "and you shall kill the ram, and you shall take its blood and sprinkle it all around on the altar.

¹⁷ "Then you shall cut the ram in pieces, wash its entrails and its legs, and put them with its pieces and with its head.

¹⁸ "And you shall burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD; it is a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

¹⁹ "You shall also take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands on the head of the ram.

²⁰ "Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tip of the right ear of his sons, on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot, and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar.

²¹ "And you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar, and some

of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it on Aaron and on his garments, on his sons and on the garments of his sons with him; and he and his garments shall be hallowed, and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

²² "Also you shall take the fat of the ram, the fat tail, the fat that covers the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and the fat on them, the right thigh (for it is a ram of consecration),

²³ "one loaf of bread, one cake made with oil, and one wafer from the basket of the unleavened bread that is before the LORD;

²⁴ "and you shall put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons, and you shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.

²⁵ "You shall receive them back from their hands and burn them on the altar

as a burnt offering, as a sweet aroma before the LORD. It is an offering made by fire to the LORD.

²⁶ "Then you shall take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration and wave it as a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be your portion.

²⁷ "And from the ram of the consecration you shall consecrate the breast of the wave offering which is waved, and the thigh of the heave offering which is raised, of that which is for Aaron and of that which is for his sons.

²⁸ "It shall be from the children of Israel for Aaron and his sons by a statute forever. For it is a heave offering; it shall be a heave offering from the children of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, that is, their heave offering to the LORD.

29 "And the holy garments of Aaron shall be his sons' after him, to be anointed in them and to be consecrated in them.

30 "That son who becomes priest in his place shall put them on for seven days, when he enters the tabernacle of meeting to minister in the holy place.

31 "And you shall take the ram of the consecration and boil its flesh in the holy place.

32 "Then Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket, by the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

33 "They shall eat those things with which the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them; but an outsider shall not eat them, because they are holy.

34 "And if any of the flesh of the consecration offerings, or of the bread,

remains until the morning, then you shall burn the remainder with fire. It shall not be eaten, because it is holy.

³⁵ "Thus you shall do to Aaron and his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Seven days you shall consecrate them.

³⁶ "And you shall offer a bull every day as a sin offering for atonement. You shall cleanse the altar when you make atonement for it, and you shall anoint it to sanctify it.

³⁷ "Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and sanctify it. And the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar must be holy.

³⁸ "Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs of the first year, day by day continually.

³⁹ "One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.

⁴⁰ "With the one lamb shall be one-tenth of an ephah of flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of pressed oil, and one-fourth of a hin of wine as a drink offering.

⁴¹ "And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; and you shall offer with it the grain offering and the drink offering, as in the morning, for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

⁴² "This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet you to speak with you.

⁴³ "And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory.

⁴⁴ "So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me as priests.

⁴⁵ "I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.

⁴⁶ "And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

30 ¹ "You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood.

² "A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it.

³ "And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around.

⁴ "Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it.

⁵ "You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold.

⁶ "And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.

⁷ "Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it.

⁸ "And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

⁹ "You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it.

¹⁰ "And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD."

¹¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹² "When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.

¹³ "This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs). The half-shekel shall be an offering to the LORD.

¹⁴ "Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years

old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD.

¹⁵ "The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves.

¹⁶ "And you shall take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves."

¹⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹⁸ "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it,

¹⁹ "for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.

²⁰ "When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die.

²¹ "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations."

²² Moreover the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²³ "Also take for yourself quality spices—five hundred shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty shekels), two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling cane,

²⁴ "five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.

²⁵ "And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil.

²⁶ "With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony;

²⁷ "the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense;

²⁸ "the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base.

²⁹ "You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy.

³⁰ "And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests.

³¹ "And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations.

³² 'It shall not be poured on man's flesh; nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.

³³ 'Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.'"

³⁴ And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each.

³⁵ "You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.

³⁶ "And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting

where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you.

³⁷ "But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the LORD.

³⁸ "Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people."

31 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

³ "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

⁴ "to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze,

⁵ "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.

⁶ "And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all who are gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:

⁷ "the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle—

⁸ "the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense,

⁹ "the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base—

¹⁰ "the garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests,

¹¹ "and the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy place. According to

all that I have commanded you they shall do."

¹² And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹³ "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

¹⁴ 'You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.

¹⁵ 'Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

¹⁶ ‘Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.

¹⁷ ‘It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’”

¹⁸ And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

32 ¹ Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of

Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

² And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."

³ "So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

⁵ So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD."

⁶ Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat

down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.

⁸ "They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"

⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!

¹⁰ "Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

¹¹ Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people

whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

¹² "Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

¹³ "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

¹⁴ So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

¹⁵ And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on

the one side and on the other they were written.

¹⁶ Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷ And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp."

¹⁸ But he said: "It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear."

¹⁹ So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.

²⁰ Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the

water and made the children of Israel drink it.

²¹ And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?"

²² So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.

²³ "For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'

²⁴ "And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out."

²⁵ Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies),

²⁶ then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD'S side—come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.

²⁷ And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.'"

²⁸ So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

²⁹ Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother."

³⁰ Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

³¹ Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!

³² "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

³³ And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

³⁴ "Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."

³⁵ So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

33 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Depart and go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your descendants I will give it.'

² "And I will send My Angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite and the Amorite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

³ "Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

⁴ And when the people heard this bad news, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.

⁵ For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the children of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people. I could come up into your midst in one moment and consume you. Now therefore, take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do to you.'"

⁶ So the children of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments by Mount Horeb.

⁷ Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.

⁸ So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.

⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses.

¹⁰ All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

¹¹ So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

¹² Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' But You have not let me know whom You will send with me. Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'

¹³ "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your

way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

¹⁶ "For how then will it be known that Your people and I have found grace in Your sight, except You go with us? So we shall be separate, Your people and I, from all the people who are upon the face of the earth."

¹⁷ So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name."

¹⁸ And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."

¹⁹ Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will

proclaim the name of the LORD 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 said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

²¹ And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock.

²² "So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.

²³ "Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

34 ¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke.

² "So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai,

and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain.

³ "And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain."

⁴ So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

⁷ "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon

the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

⁸ So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

⁹ Then he said, "If now I have found grace in Your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray, go among us, even though we are a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your inheritance."

¹⁰ And He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the LORD. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.

¹¹ "Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I am driving out from before you the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.

¹² "Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.

¹³ "But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images

¹⁴ '(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

¹⁵ "lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice,

¹⁶ "and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

¹⁷ "You shall make no molded gods for yourselves.

¹⁸ "The Feast of Unleavened Bread you shall keep. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, in the appointed time of the month of Abib; for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt.

¹⁹ "All that open the womb are Mine, and every male firstborn among your livestock, whether ox or sheep.

²⁰ "But the firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb. And if you will not redeem him, then you shall break his neck. All the firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed.

²¹ "Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; in plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.

²² "And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.

²³ "Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the LORD God of Israel.

²⁴ "For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year.

²⁵ "You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leaven, nor shall the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover be left until morning.

²⁶ "The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."

²⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

²⁸ So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate

bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

²⁹ Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.

³⁰ So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹ Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them.

³² Afterward all the children of Israel came near, and he gave them as commandments all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³ And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.

³⁴ But whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with Him, he would take the veil off until he came out; and he would come out and speak to the children of Israel whatever he had been commanded.

³⁵ And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.

35 ¹ Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These are the words which the LORD has commanded you to do:

² "Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the LORD.

Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.

³ "You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

⁴ And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying:

⁵ 'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze;

⁶ 'blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair;

⁷ 'ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood;

⁸ 'oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense;

⁹ 'onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate.

¹⁰ 'All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the LORD has commanded:

¹¹ 'the tabernacle, its tent, its covering, its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets;

¹² 'the ark and its poles, with the mercy seat, and the veil of the covering;

¹³ 'the table and its poles, all its utensils, and the showbread;

¹⁴ 'also the lampstand for the light, its utensils, its lamps, and the oil for the light;

¹⁵ 'the incense altar, its poles, the anointing oil, the sweet incense, and the screen for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle;

¹⁶ 'the altar of burnt offering with its bronze grating, its poles, all its utensils, and the laver and its base;

¹⁷ 'the hangings of the court, its pillars, their sockets, and the screen for the gate of the court;

¹⁸ 'the pegs of the tabernacle, the pegs of the court, and their cords;

¹⁹ 'the garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place —the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests.'"

²⁰ And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

²¹ Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.

²² They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought earrings and nose rings, rings

and necklaces, all jewelry of gold, that is, every man who made an offering of gold to the LORD.

²³ And every man, with whom was found blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair, red skins of rams, and badger skins, brought them.

²⁴ Everyone who offered an offering of silver or bronze brought the LORD'S offering. And everyone with whom was found acacia wood for any work of the service, brought it.

²⁵ All the women who were gifted artisans spun yarn with their hands, and brought what they had spun, of blue, purple, and scarlet, and fine linen.

²⁶ And all the women whose heart stirred with wisdom spun yarn of goats' hair.

²⁷ The rulers brought onyx stones, and the stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate,

²⁸ and spices and oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the sweet incense.

²⁹ The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.

³⁰ And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

³¹ "and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship,

³² "to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze,

³³ "in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship.

³⁴ "And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

³⁵ "He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker, in blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine linen, and of the weaver—those who do every work and those who design artistic works.

36 ¹ "And Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the LORD has commanded."

² Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.

³ And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning.

⁴ Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing,
⁵ and they spoke to Moses, saying, "The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do."

⁶ So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, "Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary." And the people were restrained from bringing,

⁷ for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done—indeed too much.

⁸ Then all the gifted artisans among them who worked on the tabernacle made ten curtains woven of fine linen, and of blue, purple, and scarlet thread; with artistic designs of cherubim they made them.

⁹ The length of each curtain was twenty–eight cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; the curtains were all the same size.

¹⁰ And he coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled to one another.

¹¹ He made loops of blue yarn on the edge of the curtain on the selvedge of one set; likewise he did on the outer edge of the other curtain of the second set.

¹² Fifty loops he made on one curtain, and fifty loops he made on the edge of the curtain on the end of the second set; the loops held one curtain to another.

¹³ And he made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains to one another with the clasps, that it might be one tabernacle.

¹⁴ He made curtains of goats' hair for the tent over the tabernacle; he made eleven curtains.

¹⁵ The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and the width of each curtain four cubits; the eleven curtains were the same size.

¹⁶ He coupled five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves.

¹⁷ And he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that is outermost in one set, and fifty loops he made on the edge of the curtain of the second set.

¹⁸ He also made fifty bronze clasps to couple the tent together, that it might be one.

¹⁹ Then he made a covering for the tent of ram skins dyed red, and a covering of badger skins above that.

²⁰ For the tabernacle he made boards of acacia wood, standing upright.

²¹ The length of each board was ten cubits, and the width of each board a cubit and a half.

²² Each board had two tenons for binding one to another. Thus he made for all the boards of the tabernacle.

²³ And he made boards for the tabernacle, twenty boards for the south side.

²⁴ Forty sockets of silver he made to go under the twenty boards: two sockets under each of the boards for its two tenons.

²⁵ And for the other side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made twenty boards

²⁶ and their forty sockets of silver: two sockets under each of the boards.

²⁷ For the west side of the tabernacle he made six boards.

²⁸ He also made two boards for the two back corners of the tabernacle.

²⁹ And they were coupled at the bottom and coupled together at the top by one ring. Thus he made both of them for the two corners.

³⁰ So there were eight boards and their sockets—sixteen sockets of silver—two sockets under each of the boards.

³¹ And he made bars of acacia wood: five for the boards on one side of the tabernacle,

³² five bars for the boards on the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for

the boards of the tabernacle on the far side westward.

³³ And he made the middle bar to pass through the boards from one end to the other.

³⁴ He overlaid the boards with gold, made their rings of gold to be holders for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

³⁵ And he made a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen; it was worked with an artistic design of cherubim.

³⁶ He made for it four pillars of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold, with their hooks of gold; and he cast four sockets of silver for them.

³⁷ He also made a screen for the tabernacle door, of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver,

³⁸ and its five pillars with their hooks. And he overlaid their capitals and their

rings with gold, but their five sockets were bronze.

37 ¹ Then Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height.

² He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it.

³ And he cast for it four rings of gold to be set in its four corners: two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side of it.

⁴ He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold.

⁵ And he put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark.

⁶ He also made the mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits was its length and a cubit and a half its width.

⁷ He made two cherubim of beaten gold; he made them of one piece at the two ends of the mercy seat:

⁸ one cherub at one end on this side, and the other cherub at the other end on that side. He made the cherubim at the two ends of one piece with the mercy seat.

⁹ The cherubim spread out their wings above, and covered the mercy seat with their wings. They faced one another; the faces of the cherubim were toward the mercy seat.

¹⁰ He made the table of acacia wood; two cubits was its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height.

¹¹ And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold all around it.

¹² Also he made a frame of a handbreadth all around it, and made a molding of gold for the frame all around it.

¹³ And he cast for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that were at its four legs.

¹⁴ The rings were close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table.

¹⁵ And he made the poles of acacia wood to bear the table, and overlaid them with gold.

¹⁶ He made of pure gold the utensils which were on the table: its dishes, its cups, its bowls, and its pitchers for pouring.

¹⁷ He also made the lampstand of pure gold; of hammered work he made the lampstand. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and its flowers were of the same piece.

¹⁸ And six branches came out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

¹⁹ There were three bowls made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower—and so for the six branches coming out of the lampstand.

²⁰ And on the lampstand itself were four bowls made like almond blossoms, each with its ornamental knob and flower.

²¹ There was a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the six branches extending from it.

²² Their knobs and their branches were of one piece; all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold.

²³ And he made its seven lamps, its wick-trimmers, and its trays of pure gold.

²⁴ Of a talent of pure gold he made it, with all its utensils.

²⁵ He made the incense altar of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit and its width a cubit—it was square—and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it.

²⁶ And he overlaid it with pure gold: its top, its sides all around, and its horns. He also made for it a molding of gold all around it.

²⁷ He made two rings of gold for it under its molding, by its two corners on both sides, as holders for the poles with which to bear it.

²⁸ And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold.

²⁹ He also made the holy anointing oil and the pure incense of sweet spices, according to the work of the perfumer.

38 ¹ He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood; five cubits was its length and five cubits its width—it was square—and its height was three cubits.

² He made its horns on its four corners; the horns were of one piece with it. And he overlaid it with bronze.

³ He made all the utensils for the altar: the pans, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the firepans; all its utensils he made of bronze.

⁴ And he made a grate of bronze network for the altar, under its rim, midway from the bottom.

⁵ He cast four rings for the four corners of the bronze grating, as holders for the poles.

⁶ And he made the poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with bronze.

⁷ Then he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar, with which to bear it. He made the altar hollow with boards.

⁸ He made the laver of bronze and its base of bronze, from the bronze mirrors of the serving women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁹ Then he made the court on the south side; the hangings of the court were of fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long.

¹⁰ There were twenty pillars for them, with twenty bronze sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver.

¹¹ On the north side the hangings were one hundred cubits long, with twenty pillars and their twenty bronze sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver.

¹² And on the west side there were hangings of fifty cubits, with ten pillars and their ten sockets. The hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver.

¹³ For the east side the hangings were fifty cubits.

¹⁴ The hangings of one side of the gate were fifteen cubits long, with their three pillars and their three sockets,

¹⁵ and the same for the other side of the court gate; on this side and that were hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.

¹⁶ All the hangings of the court all around were of fine woven linen.

¹⁷ The sockets for the pillars were bronze, the hooks of the pillars and their bands were silver, and the overlay of their capitals was silver; and all the pillars of the court had bands of silver.

¹⁸ The screen for the gate of the court was woven of blue, purple, and scarlet

thread, and of fine woven linen. The length was twenty cubits, and the height along its width was five cubits, corresponding to the hangings of the court.

¹⁹ And there were four pillars with their four sockets of bronze; their hooks were silver, and the overlay of their capitals and their bands was silver.

²⁰ All the pegs of the tabernacle, and of the court all around, were bronze.

²¹ This is the inventory of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the Testimony, which was counted according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest.

²² Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

²³ And with him was Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an

engraver and designer, a weaver of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine linen.

²⁴ All the gold that was used in all the work of the holy place, that is, the gold of the offering, was twenty–nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

²⁵ And the silver from those who were numbered of the congregation was one hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventy–five shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary:

²⁶ a bekah for each man (that is, half a shekel, according to the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone included in the numbering from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty men.

²⁷ And from the hundred talents of silver were cast the sockets of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil:

one hundred sockets from the hundred talents, one talent for each socket.

²⁸ Then from the one thousand seven hundred and seventy–five shekels he made hooks for the pillars, overlaid their capitals, and made bands for them.

²⁹ The offering of bronze was seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels.

³⁰ And with it he made the sockets for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, the bronze altar, the bronze grating for it, and all the utensils for the altar,

³¹ the sockets for the court all around, the bases for the court gate, all the pegs for the tabernacle, and all the pegs for the court all around.

39 ¹ Of the blue, purple, and scarlet thread they made garments of ministry, for ministering in the holy place, and made the holy garments for

Aaron, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

² He made the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen.

³ And they beat the gold into thin sheets and cut it into threads, to work it in with the blue, purple, and scarlet thread and the fine linen, into artistic designs.

⁴ They made shoulder straps for it to couple it together; it was coupled together at its two edges.

⁵ And the intricately woven band of his ephod that was on it was of the same workmanship, woven of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁶ And they set onyx stones, enclosed in settings of gold; they were engraved, as

signets are engraved, with the names of the sons of Israel.

⁷ He put them on the shoulders of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁸ And he made the breastplate, artistically woven like the workmanship of the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen.

⁹ They made the breastplate square by doubling it; a span was its length and a span its width when doubled.

¹⁰ And they set in it four rows of stones: a row with a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald was the first row;

¹¹ the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and a diamond;

¹² the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

¹³ the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in settings of gold in their mountings.

¹⁴ There were twelve stones according to the names of the sons of Israel: according to their names, engraved like a signet, each one with its own name according to the twelve tribes.

¹⁵ And they made chains for the breastplate at the ends, like braided cords of pure gold.

¹⁶ They also made two settings of gold and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate.

¹⁷ And they put the two braided chains of gold in the two rings on the ends of the breastplate.

¹⁸ The two ends of the two braided chains they fastened in the two settings, and put them on the shoulder straps of the ephod in the front.

¹⁹ And they made two rings of gold and put them on the two ends of the breastplate, on the edge of it, which was on the inward side of the ephod.

²⁰ They made two other gold rings and put them on the two shoulder straps, underneath the ephod toward its front, right at the seam above the intricately woven band of the ephod.

²¹ And they bound the breastplate by means of its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord, so that it would be above the intricately woven band of the ephod, and that the breastplate would not come loose from the ephod, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²² He made the robe of the ephod of woven work, all of blue.

²³ And there was an opening in the middle of the robe, like the opening in a coat of mail, with a woven binding all

around the opening, so that it would not tear.

²⁴ They made on the hem of the robe pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet, and of fine woven linen.

²⁵ And they made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates on the hem of the robe all around between the pomegranates:

²⁶ a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the robe to minister in, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁷ They made tunics, artistically woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons,

²⁸ a turban of fine linen, exquisite hats of fine linen, short trousers of fine woven linen,

²⁹ and a sash of fine woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet thread, made by a weaver, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁰ Then they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

³¹ And they tied to it a blue cord, to fasten it above on the turban, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³² Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished. And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did.

³³ And they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its furnishings: its clasps, its boards, its bars, its pillars, and its sockets;

³⁴ the covering of ram skins dyed red, the covering of badger skins, and the veil of the covering;

³⁵ the ark of the Testimony with its poles, and the mercy seat;

³⁶ the table, all its utensils, and the showbread;

³⁷ the pure gold lampstand with its lamps (the lamps set in order), all its utensils, and the oil for light;

³⁸ the gold altar, the anointing oil, and the sweet incense; the screen for the tabernacle door;

³⁹ the bronze altar, its grate of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the laver with its base;

⁴⁰ the hangings of the court, its pillars and its sockets, the screen for the court gate, its cords, and its pegs; all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting;

⁴¹ and the garments of ministry, to minister in the holy place: the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and his sons' garments, to minister as priests.

⁴² According to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did all the work.

⁴³ Then Moses looked over all the work, and indeed they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, just so they had done it. And Moses blessed them.

40 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

³ "You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil.

⁴ "You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps.

⁵ "You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the

Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle.

⁶ "Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

⁷ "And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

⁸ "You shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate.

⁹ "And you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it; and you shall hallow it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy.

¹⁰ "You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy.

¹¹ "And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it.

¹² "Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water.

¹³ "You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest.

¹⁴ "And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics.

¹⁵ "You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations."

¹⁶ Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

¹⁷ And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up.

¹⁸ So Moses raised up the tabernacle, fastened its sockets, set up its boards, put in its bars, and raised up its pillars.

¹⁹ And he spread out the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent on top of it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁰ He took the Testimony and put it into the ark, inserted the poles through the rings of the ark, and put the mercy seat on top of the ark.

²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the Testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²² He put the table in the tabernacle of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil;

²³ and he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁴ He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle;

²⁵ and he lit the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁶ He put the gold altar in the tabernacle of meeting in front of the veil;

²⁷ and he burned sweet incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁸ He hung up the screen at the door of the tabernacle.

²⁹ And he put the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁰ He set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing;

³¹ and Moses, Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it.

³² Whenever they went into the tabernacle of meeting, and when they came near the altar, they washed, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³³ And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.

³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Leviticus

1 ¹ Now the LORD called to Moses, and spoke to him from the tabernacle of meeting, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of the livestock—of the herd and of the flock.

³ 'If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD.

⁴ 'Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.

⁵ ‘He shall kill the bull before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron’s sons, shall bring the blood and sprinkle the blood all around on the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁶ ‘And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces.

⁷ ‘The sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar, and lay the wood in order on the fire.

⁸ ‘Then the priests, Aaron’s sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar;

⁹ ‘but he shall wash its entrails and its legs with water. And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰ ‘If his offering is of the flocks—of the sheep or of the goats—as a burnt

sacrifice, he shall bring a male without blemish.

¹¹ 'He shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD; and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar.

¹² 'And he shall cut it into its pieces, with its head and its fat; and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on the fire upon the altar;

¹³ 'but he shall wash the entrails and the legs with water. Then the priest shall bring it all and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴ 'And if the burnt sacrifice of his offering to the LORD is of birds, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or young pigeons.

¹⁵ 'The priest shall bring it to the altar, wring off its head, and burn it on the

altar; its blood shall be drained out at the side of the altar.

¹⁶ ‘And he shall remove its crop with its feathers and cast it beside the altar on the east side, into the place for ashes.

¹⁷ ‘Then he shall split it at its wings, but shall not divide it completely; and the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

2 ¹ ‘When anyone offers a grain offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour. And he shall pour oil on it, and put frankincense on it.

² ‘He shall bring it to Aaron’s sons, the priests, one of whom shall take from it his handful of fine flour and oil with all the frankincense. And the priest shall burn it as a memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

³ 'The rest of the grain offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'. It is most holy of the offerings to the LORD made by fire.

⁴ 'And if you bring as an offering a grain offering baked in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil.

⁵ 'But if your offering is a grain offering baked in a pan, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened, mixed with oil.

⁶ 'You shall break it in pieces and pour oil on it; it is a grain offering.

⁷ 'If your offering is a grain offering baked in a covered pan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil.

⁸ 'You shall bring the grain offering that is made of these things to the LORD. And when it is presented to the priest, he shall bring it to the altar.

⁹ 'Then the priest shall take from the grain offering a memorial portion, and

burn it on the altar. It is an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰ 'And what is left of the grain offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'. It is most holy of the offerings to the LORD made by fire.

¹¹ 'No grain offering which you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey in any offering to the LORD made by fire.

¹² 'As for the offering of the firstfruits, you shall offer them to the LORD, but they shall not be burned on the altar for a sweet aroma.

¹³ 'And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.

¹⁴ 'If you offer a grain offering of your firstfruits to the LORD, you shall offer for

the grain offering of your firstfruits green heads of grain roasted on the fire, grain beaten from full heads.

¹⁵ ‘And you shall put oil on it, and lay frankincense on it. It is a grain offering.

¹⁶ ‘Then the priest shall burn the memorial portion: part of its beaten grain and part of its oil, with all the frankincense, as an offering made by fire to the LORD.

3 ¹ ‘When his offering is a sacrifice of a peace offering, if he offers it of the herd, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD.

² ‘And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron’s sons, the priests, shall sprinkle the blood all around on the altar.

³ ‘Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made

by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails,

⁴ 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove;

⁵ 'and Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is on the wood that is on the fire, as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

⁶ 'If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.

⁷ 'If he offers a lamb as his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD.

⁸ 'And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons

shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar.

⁹ 'Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD, its fat and the whole fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone. And the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails,

¹⁰ 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove;

¹¹ 'and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

¹² 'And if his offering is a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD.

¹³ 'He shall lay his hand on its head and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar.

¹⁴ 'Then he shall offer from it his offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails,

¹⁵ 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove;

¹⁶ 'and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat is the LORD'S.

¹⁷ 'This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood.'"

4 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the LORD

in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them,

³ 'if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the LORD for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering.

⁴ 'He shall bring the bull to the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD, lay his hand on the bull's head, and kill the bull before the LORD.

⁵ 'Then the anointed priest shall take some of the bull's blood and bring it to the tabernacle of meeting.

⁶ 'The priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil of the sanctuary.

⁷ 'And the priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of meeting; and he shall pour

the remaining blood of the bull at the base of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁸ 'He shall take from it all the fat of the bull as the sin offering. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat which is on the entrails,

⁹ 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove,

¹⁰ 'as it was taken from the bull of the sacrifice of the peace offering; and the priest shall burn them on the altar of the burnt offering.

¹¹ 'But the bull's hide and all its flesh, with its head and legs, its entrails and offal—

¹² 'the whole bull he shall carry outside the camp to a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn it on

wood with fire; where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned.

¹³ 'Now if the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which should not be done, and are guilty;

¹⁴ 'when the sin which they have committed becomes known, then the assembly shall offer a young bull for the sin, and bring it before the tabernacle of meeting.

¹⁵ 'And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the LORD. Then the bull shall be killed before the LORD.

¹⁶ 'The anointed priest shall bring some of the bull's blood to the tabernacle of meeting.

17 'Then the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, in front of the veil.

18 'And he shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of meeting; and he shall pour the remaining blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

19 'He shall take all the fat from it and burn it on the altar.

20 'And he shall do with the bull as he did with the bull as a sin offering; thus he shall do with it. So the priest shall make atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them.

21 'Then he shall carry the bull outside the camp, and burn it as he burned the first bull. It is a sin offering for the assembly.

²² 'When a ruler has sinned, and done something unintentionally against any of the commandments of the LORD his God in anything which should not be done, and is guilty,

²³ 'or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a male without blemish.

²⁴ 'And he shall lay his hand on the head of the goat, and kill it at the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD. It is a sin offering.

²⁵ 'The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour its blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering.

²⁶ 'And he shall burn all its fat on the altar, like the fat of the sacrifice of the peace offering. So the priest shall make

atonement for him concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him.

²⁷ 'If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally by doing something against any of the commandments of the LORD in anything which ought not to be done, and is guilty,

²⁸ 'or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, then he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he has committed.

²⁹ 'And he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and kill the sin offering at the place of the burnt offering.

³⁰ 'Then the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour all the remaining blood at the base of the altar.

³¹ 'He shall remove all its fat, as fat is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offering; and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma to the LORD. So the priest shall make atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.

³² 'If he brings a lamb as his sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish.

³³ 'Then he shall lay his hand on the head of the sin offering, and kill it as a sin offering at the place where they kill the burnt offering.

³⁴ 'The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and pour all the remaining blood at the base of the altar.

³⁵ 'He shall remove all its fat, as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of the peace offering. Then the priest shall burn it on the altar, according to the offerings made by fire to the LORD.

So the priest shall make atonement for his sin that he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him.

5¹ 'If a person sins in hearing the utterance of an oath, and is a witness, whether he has seen or known of the matter—if he does not tell it, he bears guilt.

² 'Or if a person touches any unclean thing, whether it is the carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean livestock, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and he is unaware of it, he also shall be unclean and guilty.

³ 'Or if he touches human uncleanness—whatever uncleanness with which a man may be defiled, and he is unaware of it—when he realizes it, then he shall be guilty.

⁴ 'Or if a person swears, speaking thoughtlessly with his lips to do evil or to do good, whatever it is that a man

may pronounce by an oath, and he is unaware of it—when he realizes it, then he shall be guilty in any of these matters.

⁵ ‘And it shall be, when he is guilty in any of these matters, that he shall confess that he has sinned in that thing;

⁶ ‘and he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him concerning his sin.

⁷ ‘If he is not able to bring a lamb, then he shall bring to the LORD, for his trespass which he has committed, two turtledoves or two young pigeons: one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering.

⁸ ‘And he shall bring them to the priest, who shall offer that which is for the sin offering first, and wring off its head

from its neck, but shall not divide it completely.

⁹ 'Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, and the rest of the blood shall be drained out at the base of the altar. It is a sin offering.

¹⁰ 'And he shall offer the second as a burnt offering according to the prescribed manner. So the priest shall make atonement on his behalf for his sin which he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him.

¹¹ 'But if he is not able to bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons, then he who sinned shall bring for his offering one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a sin offering. He shall put no oil on it, nor shall he put frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering.

¹² 'Then he shall bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of

it as a memorial portion, and burn it on the altar according to the offerings made by fire to the LORD. It is a sin offering.

¹³ 'The priest shall make atonement for him, for his sin that he has committed in any of these matters; and it shall be forgiven him. The rest shall be the priest's as a grain offering.'

¹⁴ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹⁵ "If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things of the LORD, then he shall bring to the LORD as his trespass offering a ram without blemish from the flocks, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering.

¹⁶ "And he shall make restitution for the harm that he has done in regard to the holy thing, and shall add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest

shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.

¹⁷ "If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity.

¹⁸ "And he shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish from the flock, with your valuation, as a trespass offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him regarding his ignorance in which he erred and did not know it, and it shall be forgiven him.

¹⁹ "It is a trespass offering; he has certainly trespassed against the LORD."

6¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "If a person sins and commits a trespass against the LORD by lying to his neighbor about what was delivered to

him for safekeeping, or about a pledge, or about a robbery, or if he has extorted from his neighbor,

³ "or if he has found what was lost and lies concerning it, and swears falsely—in any one of these things that a man may do in which he sins:

⁴ "then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found,

⁵ "or all that about which he has sworn falsely. He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering.

⁶ "And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, a ram without blemish from the flock, with your

valuation, as a trespass offering, to the priest.

⁷ "So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD, and he shall be forgiven for any one of these things that he may have done in which he trespasses."

⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁹ "Command Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the burnt offering: The burnt offering shall be on the hearth upon the altar all night until morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it.

¹⁰ 'And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen trousers he shall put on his body, and take up the ashes of the burnt offering which the fire has consumed on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.

¹¹ 'Then he shall take off his garments, put on other garments, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place.

¹² 'And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not be put out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it; and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings.

¹³ 'A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.

¹⁴ 'This is the law of the grain offering: The sons of Aaron shall offer it on the altar before the LORD.

¹⁵ 'He shall take from it his handful of the fine flour of the grain offering, with its oil, and all the frankincense which is on the grain offering, and shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma, as a memorial to the LORD.

¹⁶ 'And the remainder of it Aaron and his sons shall eat; with unleavened bread

it shall be eaten in a holy place; in the court of the tabernacle of meeting they shall eat it.

¹⁷ 'It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it as their portion of My offerings made by fire; it is most holy, like the sin offering and the trespass offering.

¹⁸ 'All the males among the children of Aaron may eat it. It shall be a statute forever in your generations concerning the offerings made by fire to the LORD. Everyone who touches them must be holy.'"

¹⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁰ "This is the offering of Aaron and his sons, which they shall offer to the LORD, beginning on the day when he is anointed: one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a daily grain offering, half of it in the morning and half of it at night.

²¹ "It shall be made in a pan with oil. When it is mixed, you shall bring it in. The baked pieces of the grain offering you shall offer for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

²² "The priest from among his sons, who is anointed in his place, shall offer it. It is a statute forever to the LORD. It shall be wholly burned.

²³ "For every grain offering for the priest shall be wholly burned. It shall not be eaten."

²⁴ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁵ "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'This is the law of the sin offering: In the place where the burnt offering is killed, the sin offering shall be killed before the LORD. It is most holy.

²⁶ 'The priest who offers it for sin shall eat it. In a holy place it shall be eaten, in the court of the tabernacle of meeting.

²⁷ ‘Everyone who touches its flesh must be holy. And when its blood is sprinkled on any garment, you shall wash that on which it was sprinkled, in a holy place.

²⁸ ‘But the earthen vessel in which it is boiled shall be broken. And if it is boiled in a bronze pot, it shall be both scoured and rinsed in water.

²⁹ ‘All the males among the priests may eat it. It is most holy.

³⁰ ‘But no sin offering from which any of the blood is brought into the tabernacle of meeting, to make atonement in the holy place, shall be eaten. It shall be burned in the fire.

7¹ ‘Likewise this is the law of the trespass offering (it is most holy):

² ‘In the place where they kill the burnt offering they shall kill the trespass offering. And its blood he shall sprinkle all around on the altar.

³ 'And he shall offer from it all its fat. The fat tail and the fat that covers the entrails,

⁴ 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove;

⁵ 'and the priest shall burn them on the altar as an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a trespass offering.

⁶ 'Every male among the priests may eat it. It shall be eaten in a holy place. It is most holy.

⁷ 'The trespass offering is like the sin offering; there is one law for them both: the priest who makes atonement with it shall have it.

⁸ 'And the priest who offers anyone's burnt offering, that priest shall have for himself the skin of the burnt offering which he has offered.

⁹ 'Also every grain offering that is baked in the oven and all that is prepared in the covered pan, or in a pan, shall be the priest's who offers it.

¹⁰ 'Every grain offering, whether mixed with oil, or dry, shall belong to all the sons of Aaron, to one as much as the other.

¹¹ 'This is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which he shall offer to the LORD:

¹² 'If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer, with the sacrifice of thanksgiving, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, or cakes of blended flour mixed with oil.

¹³ 'Besides the cakes, as his offering he shall offer leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his peace offering.

¹⁴ 'And from it he shall offer one cake from each offering as a heave offering to the LORD. It shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offering.

¹⁵ 'The flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day it is offered. He shall not leave any of it until morning.

¹⁶ 'But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offers his sacrifice; but on the next day the remainder of it also may be eaten;

¹⁷ 'the remainder of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day must be burned with fire.

¹⁸ 'And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering is eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, nor shall it be imputed to him; it shall be

an abomination to him who offers it, and the person who eats of it shall bear guilt.

¹⁹ 'The flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten. It shall be burned with fire. And as for the clean flesh, all who are clean may eat of it.

²⁰ 'But the person who eats the flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offering that belongs to the LORD, while he is unclean, that person shall be cut off from his people.

²¹ 'Moreover the person who touches any unclean thing, such as human uncleanness, an unclean animal, or any abominable unclean thing, and who eats the flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offering that belongs to the LORD, that person shall be cut off from his people.'"

²² And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²³ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'You shall not eat any fat, of ox or sheep or goat.

²⁴ 'And the fat of an animal that dies naturally, and the fat of what is torn by wild beasts, may be used in any other way; but you shall by no means eat it.

²⁵ 'For whoever eats the fat of the animal of which men offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, the person who eats it shall be cut off from his people.

²⁶ 'Moreover you shall not eat any blood in any of your dwellings, whether of bird or beast.

²⁷ 'Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people.'"

²⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁹ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'He who offers the sacrifice of his peace offering to the LORD shall bring his

offering to the LORD from the sacrifice of his peace offering.

³⁰ 'His own hands shall bring the offerings made by fire to the LORD. The fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before the LORD.

³¹ 'And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'.

³² 'Also the right thigh you shall give to the priest as a heave offering from the sacrifices of your peace offerings.

³³ 'He among the sons of Aaron, who offers the blood of the peace offering and the fat, shall have the right thigh for his part.

³⁴ 'For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel, from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and I have given them to Aaron the

priest and to his sons from the children of Israel by a statute forever.'"

³⁵ This is the consecrated portion for Aaron and his sons, from the offerings made by fire to the LORD, on the day when Moses presented them to minister to the LORD as priests.

³⁶ The LORD commanded this to be given to them by the children of Israel, on the day that He anointed them, by a statute forever throughout their generations.

³⁷ This is the law of the burnt offering, the grain offering, the sin offering, the trespass offering, the consecrations, and the sacrifice of the peace offering,

³⁸ which the LORD commanded Moses on Mount Sinai, on the day when He commanded the children of Israel to offer their offerings to the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai.

8 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;

³ "and gather all the congregation together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting."

⁴ So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. And the congregation was gathered together at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁵ And Moses said to the congregation, "This is what the LORD commanded to be done."

⁶ Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.

⁷ And he put the tunic on him, girded him with the sash, clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod on him; and he girded him with the intricately woven

band of the ephod, and with it tied the ephod on him.

⁸ Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.

⁹ And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Also Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.

¹¹ He sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, anointed the altar and all its utensils, and the laver and its base, to consecrate them.

¹² And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him, to consecrate him.

¹³ Then Moses brought Aaron's sons and put tunics on them, girded them

with sashes, and put hats on them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁴ And he brought the bull for the sin offering. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull for the sin offering,

¹⁵ and Moses killed it. Then he took the blood, and put some on the horns of the altar all around with his finger, and purified the altar. And he poured the blood at the base of the altar, and consecrated it, to make atonement for it.

¹⁶ Then he took all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, and the two kidneys with their fat, and Moses burned them on the altar.

¹⁷ But the bull, its hide, its flesh, and its offal, he burned with fire outside the camp, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁸ Then he brought the ram as the burnt offering. And Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram, ¹⁹ and Moses killed it. Then he sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.

²⁰ And he cut the ram into pieces; and Moses burned the head, the pieces, and the fat.

²¹ Then he washed the entrails and the legs in water. And Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²² And he brought the second ram, the ram of consecration. Then Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram,

²³ and Moses killed it. Also he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his

right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

²⁴ Then he brought Aaron's sons. And Moses put some of the blood on the tips of their right ears, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses sprinkled the blood all around on the altar.

²⁵ Then he took the fat and the fat tail, all the fat that was on the entrails, the fatty lobe attached to the liver, the two kidneys and their fat, and the right thigh;

²⁶ and from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened cake, a cake of bread anointed with oil, and one wafer, and put them on the fat and on the right thigh;

²⁷ and he put all these in Aaron's hands and in his sons' hands, and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD.

²⁸ Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar, on the burnt offering. They were consecration offerings for a sweet aroma. That was an offering made by fire to the LORD.

²⁹ And Moses took the breast and waved it as a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses' part of the ram of consecration, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁰ Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons, and the garments of his sons with him.

³¹ And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the flesh at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and eat it there

with the bread that is in the basket of consecration offerings, as I commanded, saying, 'Aaron and his sons shall eat it.'

³² "What remains of the flesh and of the bread you shall burn with fire.

³³ "And you shall not go outside the door of the tabernacle of meeting for seven days, until the days of your consecration are ended. For seven days he shall consecrate you.

³⁴ "As he has done this day, so the LORD has commanded to do, to make atonement for you.

³⁵ "Therefore you shall stay at the door of the tabernacle of meeting day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, so that you may not die; for so I have been commanded."

³⁶ So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.

9¹ It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel.

² And he said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the LORD.

³ "And to the children of Israel you shall speak, saying, 'Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering,

⁴ 'also a bull and a ram as peace offerings, to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the LORD will appear to you.'"

⁵ So they brought what Moses commanded before the tabernacle of meeting. And all the congregation drew near and stood before the LORD.

⁶ Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded you to do, and the glory of the LORD will appear to you."

⁷ And Moses said to Aaron, "Go to the altar, offer your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. Offer the offering of the people, and make atonement for them, as the LORD commanded."

⁸ Aaron therefore went to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which was for himself.

⁹ Then the sons of Aaron brought the blood to him. And he dipped his finger in the blood, put it on the horns of the altar, and poured the blood at the base of the altar.

¹⁰ But the fat, the kidneys, and the fatty lobe from the liver of the sin offering he

burned on the altar, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹¹ The flesh and the hide he burned with fire outside the camp.

¹² And he killed the burnt offering; and Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar.

¹³ Then they presented the burnt offering to him, with its pieces and head, and he burned them on the altar.

¹⁴ And he washed the entrails and the legs, and burned them with the burnt offering on the altar.

¹⁵ Then he brought the people's offering, and took the goat, which was the sin offering for the people, and killed it and offered it for sin, like the first one.

¹⁶ And he brought the burnt offering and offered it according to the prescribed manner.

¹⁷ Then he brought the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned it on the altar, besides the burnt sacrifice of the morning.

¹⁸ He also killed the bull and the ram as sacrifices of peace offerings, which were for the people. And Aaron's sons presented to him the blood, which he sprinkled all around on the altar,

¹⁹ and the fat from the bull and the ram—the fatty tail, what covers the entrails and the kidneys, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver;

²⁰ and they put the fat on the breasts. Then he burned the fat on the altar;

²¹ but the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved as a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses had commanded.

²² Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, blessed them, and came down from offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and peace offerings.

²³ And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, ²⁴ and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

10 ¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

² So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

³ And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace.

⁴ And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, "Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp."

⁵ So they went near and carried them by their tunics out of the camp, as Moses had said.

⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD has kindled.

⁷ "You shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die, for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you." And they did according to the word of Moses.

⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying:

⁹ "Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations,

¹⁰ "that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean,

¹¹ "and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses."

¹² And Moses spoke to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons who were left: "Take the grain offering that remains of the offerings made by fire to the LORD, and eat it without leaven beside the altar; for it is most holy.

¹³ "You shall eat it in a holy place, because it is your due and your sons' due, of the sacrifices made by fire to the LORD; for so I have been commanded.

¹⁴ "The breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering you shall eat in a clean place, you, your sons, and your daughters with you; for they are your due and your sons' due, which are given from the sacrifices of peace offerings of the children of Israel.

¹⁵ "The thigh of the heave offering and the breast of the wave offering they shall bring with the offerings of fat made by fire, to offer as a wave offering before the LORD. And it shall be yours and your sons' with you, by a statute forever, as the LORD has commanded."

¹⁶ Then Moses made careful inquiry about the goat of the sin offering, and there it was—burned up. And he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron who were left, saying,

¹⁷ "Why have you not eaten the sin offering in a holy place, since it is most holy, and God has given it to you to bear

the guilt of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD?

¹⁸ "See! Its blood was not brought inside the holy place; indeed you should have eaten it in a holy place, as I commanded."

¹⁹ And Aaron said to Moses, "Look, this day they have offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD, and such things have befallen me! If I had eaten the sin offering today, would it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD?"

²⁰ So when Moses heard that, he was content.

11 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, saying, 'These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth:

³ ‘Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, having cloven hooves and chewing the cud—that you may eat.

⁴ ‘Nevertheless these you shall not eat among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves: the camel, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you;

⁵ ‘the rock hyrax, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you;

⁶ ‘the hare, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you;

⁷ ‘and the swine, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you.

⁸ ‘Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you.

⁹ ‘These you may eat of all that are in the water: whatever in the water has

fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat.

¹⁰ ‘But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an abomination to you.

¹¹ ‘They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh, but you shall regard their carcasses as an abomination.

¹² ‘Whatever in the water does not have fins or scales—that shall be an abomination to you.

¹³ ‘And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard,

¹⁴ ‘the kite, and the falcon after its kind;

¹⁵ ‘every raven after its kind,

¹⁶ ‘the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the sea gull, and the hawk after its kind;

17 'the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl;

18 'the white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture;

19 'the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

20 'All flying insects that creep on all fours shall be an abomination to you.

21 'Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth.

22 'These you may eat: the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the cricket after its kind, and the grasshopper after its kind.

23 'But all other flying insects which have four feet shall be an abomination to you.

24 'By these you shall become unclean; whoever touches the carcass of any of them shall be unclean until evening;

²⁵ 'whoever carries part of the carcass of any of them shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening:

²⁶ 'The carcass of any animal which divides the foot, but is not cloven-hoofed or does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. Everyone who touches it shall be unclean.

²⁷ 'And whatever goes on its paws, among all kinds of animals that go on all fours, those are unclean to you. Whoever touches any such carcass shall be unclean until evening.

²⁸ 'Whoever carries any such carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. It is unclean to you.

²⁹ 'These also shall be unclean to you among the creeping things that creep on the earth: the mole, the mouse, and the large lizard after its kind;

³⁰ 'the gecko, the monitor lizard, the sand reptile, the sand lizard, and the chameleon.

³¹ 'These are unclean to you among all that creep. Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening.

³² 'Anything on which any of them falls, when they are dead shall be unclean, whether it is any item of wood or clothing or skin or sack, whatever item it is, in which any work is done, it must be put in water. And it shall be unclean until evening; then it shall be clean.

³³ 'Any earthen vessel into which any of them falls you shall break; and whatever is in it shall be unclean:

³⁴ 'in such a vessel, any edible food upon which water falls becomes unclean, and any drink that may be drunk from it becomes unclean.

³⁵ 'And everything on which a part of any such carcass falls shall be unclean; whether it is an oven or cooking stove, it shall be broken down; for they are unclean, and shall be unclean to you.

³⁶ 'Nevertheless a spring or a cistern, in which there is plenty of water, shall be clean, but whatever touches any such carcass becomes unclean.

³⁷ 'And if a part of any such carcass falls on any planting seed which is to be sown, it remains clean.

³⁸ 'But if water is put on the seed, and if a part of any such carcass falls on it, it becomes unclean to you.

³⁹ 'And if any animal which you may eat dies, he who touches its carcass shall be unclean until evening.

⁴⁰ 'He who eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. He also who carries its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.

⁴¹ ‘And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten.

⁴² ‘Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth—these you shall not eat, for they are an abomination.

⁴³ ‘You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, lest you be defiled by them.

⁴⁴ ‘For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

⁴⁵ ‘For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

⁴⁶ 'This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth,

⁴⁷ 'to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.'"

12 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her customary impurity she shall be unclean.

³ 'And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

⁴ 'She shall then continue in the blood of her purification thirty–three days. She shall not touch any hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled.

⁵ ‘But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her customary impurity, and she shall continue in the blood of her purification sixty–six days.

⁶ ‘When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁷ ‘Then he shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who has borne a male or a female.

⁸ ‘And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons—one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering.

So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean."

13 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

² "When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling, a scab, or a bright spot, and it becomes on the skin of his body like a leprous sore, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests.

³ "The priest shall examine the sore on the skin of the body; and if the hair on the sore has turned white, and the sore appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a leprous sore. Then the priest shall examine him, and pronounce him unclean.

⁴ "But if the bright spot is white on the skin of his body, and does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and its hair has not turned white, then the priest shall

isolate the one who has the sore seven days.

⁵ "And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day; and indeed if the sore appears to be as it was, and the sore has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall isolate him another seven days.

⁶ "Then the priest shall examine him again on the seventh day; and indeed if the sore has faded, and the sore has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean; it is only a scab, and he shall wash his clothes and be clean.

⁷ "But if the scab should at all spread over the skin, after he has been seen by the priest for his cleansing, he shall be seen by the priest again.

⁸ "And if the priest sees that the scab has indeed spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is leprosy.

9 "When the leprous sore is on a person, then he shall be brought to the priest.

10 "And the priest shall examine him; and indeed if the swelling on the skin is white, and it has turned the hair white, and there is a spot of raw flesh in the swelling,

11 "it is an old leprosy on the skin of his body. The priest shall pronounce him unclean, and shall not isolate him, for he is unclean.

12 "And if leprosy breaks out all over the skin, and the leprosy covers all the skin of the one who has the sore, from his head to his foot, wherever the priest looks,

13 "then the priest shall consider; and indeed if the leprosy has covered all his body, he shall pronounce him clean who has the sore. It has all turned white. He is clean.

14 "But when raw flesh appears on him, he shall be unclean.

15 "And the priest shall examine the raw flesh and pronounce him to be unclean; for the raw flesh is unclean. It is leprosy.

16 "Or if the raw flesh changes and turns white again, he shall come to the priest.

17 "And the priest shall examine him; and indeed if the sore has turned white, then the priest shall pronounce him clean who has the sore. He is clean.

18 "If the body develops a boil in the skin, and it is healed,

19 "and in the place of the boil there comes a white swelling or a bright spot, reddish–white, then it shall be shown to the priest;

20 "and if, when the priest sees it, it indeed appears deeper than the skin, and its hair has turned white, the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is a

leprous sore which has broken out of the boil.

²¹ "But if the priest examines it, and indeed there are no white hairs in it, and it is not deeper than the skin, but has faded, then the priest shall isolate him seven days;

²² "and if it should at all spread over the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is a leprous sore.

²³ "But if the bright spot stays in one place, and has not spread, it is the scar of the boil; and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

²⁴ "Or if the body receives a burn on its skin by fire, and the raw flesh of the burn becomes a bright spot, reddish–white or white,

²⁵ "then the priest shall examine it; and indeed if the hair of the bright spot has turned white, and it appears deeper than the skin, it is leprosy broken out

in the burn. Therefore the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is a leprous sore.

²⁶ "But if the priest examines it, and indeed there are no white hairs in the bright spot, and it is not deeper than the skin, but has faded, then the priest shall isolate him seven days.

²⁷ "And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day. If it has at all spread over the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is a leprous sore.

²⁸ "But if the bright spot stays in one place, and has not spread on the skin, but has faded, it is a swelling from the burn. The priest shall pronounce him clean, for it is the scar from the burn.

²⁹ "If a man or woman has a sore on the head or the beard,

³⁰ "then the priest shall examine the sore; and indeed if it appears

deeper than the skin, and there is in it thin yellow hair, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is a scaly leprosy of the head or beard.

³¹ "But if the priest examines the scaly sore, and indeed it does not appear deeper than the skin, and there is no black hair in it, then the priest shall isolate the one who has the scale seven days.

³² "And on the seventh day the priest shall examine the sore; and indeed if the scale has not spread, and there is no yellow hair in it, and the scale does not appear deeper than the skin,

³³ "he shall shave himself, but the scale he shall not shave. And the priest shall isolate the one who has the scale another seven days.

³⁴ "On the seventh day the priest shall examine the scale; and indeed if the scale has not spread over the skin, and

does not appear deeper than the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean. He shall wash his clothes and be clean.

³⁵ "But if the scale should at all spread over the skin after his cleansing,

³⁶ "then the priest shall examine him; and indeed if the scale has spread over the skin, the priest need not seek for yellow hair. He is unclean.

³⁷ "But if the scale appears to be at a standstill, and there is black hair grown up in it, the scale has healed. He is clean, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

³⁸ "If a man or a woman has bright spots on the skin of the body, specifically white bright spots,

³⁹ "then the priest shall look; and indeed if the bright spots on the skin of the body are dull white, it is a white spot that grows on the skin. He is clean.

⁴⁰ "As for the man whose hair has fallen from his head, he is bald, but he is clean.

⁴¹ "He whose hair has fallen from his forehead, he is bald on the forehead, but he is clean.

⁴² "And if there is on the bald head or bald forehead a reddish–white sore, it is leprosy breaking out on his bald head or his bald forehead.

⁴³ "Then the priest shall examine it; and indeed if the swelling of the sore is reddish–white on his bald head or on his bald forehead, as the appearance of leprosy on the skin of the body,

⁴⁴ "he is a leprous man. He is unclean. The priest shall surely pronounce him unclean; his sore is on his head.

⁴⁵ "Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'

⁴⁶ "He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

⁴⁷ "Also, if a garment has a leprous plague in it, whether it is a woolen garment or a linen garment,

⁴⁸ "whether it is in the warp or woof of linen or wool, whether in leather or in anything made of leather,

⁴⁹ "and if the plague is greenish or reddish in the garment or in the leather, whether in the warp or in the woof, or in anything made of leather, it is a leprous plague and shall be shown to the priest.

⁵⁰ "The priest shall examine the plague and isolate that which has the plague seven days.

⁵¹ "And he shall examine the plague on the seventh day. If the plague has spread in the garment, either in the warp or in the woof, in the leather or in anything

made of leather, the plague is an active leprosy. It is unclean.

⁵² "He shall therefore burn that garment in which is the plague, whether warp or woof, in wool or in linen, or anything of leather, for it is an active leprosy; the garment shall be burned in the fire.

⁵³ "But if the priest examines it, and indeed the plague has not spread in the garment, either in the warp or in the woof, or in anything made of leather,

⁵⁴ "then the priest shall command that they wash the thing in which is the plague; and he shall isolate it another seven days.

⁵⁵ "Then the priest shall examine the plague after it has been washed; and indeed if the plague has not changed its color, though the plague has not spread, it is unclean, and you shall burn it in the fire; it continues eating away, whether the damage is outside or inside.

⁵⁶ "If the priest examines it, and indeed the plague has faded after washing it, then he shall tear it out of the garment, whether out of the warp or out of the woof, or out of the leather.

⁵⁷ "But if it appears again in the garment, either in the warp or in the woof, or in anything made of leather, it is a spreading plague; you shall burn with fire that in which is the plague.

⁵⁸ "And if you wash the garment, either warp or woof, or whatever is made of leather, if the plague has disappeared from it, then it shall be washed a second time, and shall be clean.

⁵⁹ "This is the law of the leprous plague in a garment of wool or linen, either in the warp or woof, or in anything made of leather, to pronounce it clean or to pronounce it unclean."

14 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "This shall be the law of the leper for the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the priest.

³ "And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine him; and indeed, if the leprosy is healed in the leper,

⁴ "then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.

⁵ "And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water.

⁶ "As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the hyssop, and dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water.

⁷ "And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean,

and shall let the living bird loose in the open field.

⁸ "He who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, and shall stay outside his tent seven days.

⁹ "But on the seventh day he shall shave all the hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows—all his hair he shall shave off. He shall wash his clothes and wash his body in water, and he shall be clean.

¹⁰ "And on the eighth day he shall take two male lambs without blemish, one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, and one log of oil.

¹¹ "Then the priest who makes him clean shall present the man who is to

be made clean, and those things, before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

¹² "And the priest shall take one male lamb and offer it as a trespass offering, and the log of oil, and wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.

¹³ "Then he shall kill the lamb in the place where he kills the sin offering and the burnt offering, in a holy place; for as the sin offering is the priest's, so is the trespass offering. It is most holy.

¹⁴ "The priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

¹⁵ "And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and pour it into the palm of his own left hand.

16 "Then the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand, and shall sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD.

17 "And of the rest of the oil in his hand, the priest shall put some on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the blood of the trespass offering.

18 "The rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed. So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD.

19 "Then the priest shall offer the sin offering, and make atonement for him who is to be cleansed from his uncleanness. Afterward he shall kill the burnt offering.

20 "And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the

altar. So the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be clean.

²¹ "But if he is poor and cannot afford it, then he shall take one male lamb as a trespass offering to be waved, to make atonement for him, one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering, a log of oil,

²² "and two turtledoves or two young pigeons, such as he is able to afford: one shall be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.

²³ "He shall bring them to the priest on the eighth day for his cleansing, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, before the LORD.

²⁴ "And the priest shall take the lamb of the trespass offering and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.

²⁵ "Then he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall

take some of the blood of the trespass offering and put it on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

²⁶ "And the priest shall pour some of the oil into the palm of his own left hand.

²⁷ "Then the priest shall sprinkle with his right finger some of the oil that is in his left hand seven times before the LORD.

²⁸ "And the priest shall put some of the oil that is in his hand on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of the right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the place of the blood of the trespass offering.

²⁹ "The rest of the oil that is in the priest's hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before the LORD.

³⁰ "And he shall offer one of the turtledoves or young pigeons, such as he can afford—

³¹ "such as he is able to afford, the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, with the grain offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him who is to be cleansed before the LORD.

³² "This is the law for one who had a leprous sore, who cannot afford the usual cleansing."

³³ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

³⁴ "When you have come into the land of Canaan, which I give you as a possession, and I put the leprous plague in a house in the land of your possession,

³⁵ "and he who owns the house comes and tells the priest, saying, 'It seems to me that there is some plague in the house,'

³⁶ "then the priest shall command that they empty the house, before the priest goes into it to examine the plague, that all that is in the house may not be made unclean; and afterward the priest shall go in to examine the house.

³⁷ "And he shall examine the plague; and indeed if the plague is on the walls of the house with ingrained streaks, greenish or reddish, which appear to be deep in the wall,

³⁸ "then the priest shall go out of the house, to the door of the house, and shut up the house seven days.

³⁹ "And the priest shall come again on the seventh day and look; and indeed if the plague has spread on the walls of the house,

⁴⁰ "then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which is the plague, and they shall cast them into an unclean place outside the city.

41 "And he shall cause the house to be scraped inside, all around, and the dust that they scrape off they shall pour out in an unclean place outside the city.

42 "Then they shall take other stones and put them in the place of those stones, and he shall take other mortar and plaster the house.

43 "Now if the plague comes back and breaks out in the house, after he has taken away the stones, after he has scraped the house, and after it is plastered,

44 "then the priest shall come and look; and indeed if the plague has spread in the house, it is an active leprosy in the house. It is unclean.

45 "And he shall break down the house, its stones, its timber, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall carry them outside the city to an unclean place.

⁴⁶ "Moreover he who goes into the house at all while it is shut up shall be unclean until evening.

⁴⁷ "And he who lies down in the house shall wash his clothes, and he who eats in the house shall wash his clothes.

⁴⁸ "But if the priest comes in and examines it, and indeed the plague has not spread in the house after the house was plastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the plague is healed.

⁴⁹ "And he shall take, to cleanse the house, two birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.

⁵⁰ "Then he shall kill one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water;

⁵¹ "and he shall take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet, and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times.

⁵² "And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird and the running water and the living bird, with the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet.

⁵³ "Then he shall let the living bird loose outside the city in the open field, and make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean.

⁵⁴ "This is the law for any leprous sore and scale,

⁵⁵ "for the leprosy of a garment and of a house,

⁵⁶ "for a swelling and a scab and a bright spot,

⁵⁷ "to teach when it is unclean and when it is clean. This is the law of leprosy."

15 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When any man has a

discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean.

³ ‘And this shall be his uncleanness in regard to his discharge—whether his body runs with his discharge, or his body is stopped up by his discharge, it is his uncleanness.

⁴ ‘Every bed is unclean on which he who has the discharge lies, and everything on which he sits shall be unclean.

⁵ ‘And whoever touches his bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

⁶ ‘He who sits on anything on which he who has the discharge sat shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

⁷ ‘And he who touches the body of him who has the discharge shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

⁸ 'If he who has the discharge spits on him who is clean, then he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

⁹ 'Any saddle on which he who has the discharge rides shall be unclean.

¹⁰ 'Whoever touches anything that was under him shall be unclean until evening. He who carries any of those things shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

¹¹ 'And whomever the one who has the discharge touches, and has not rinsed his hands in water, he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

¹² 'The vessel of earth that he who has the discharge touches shall be broken, and every vessel of wood shall be rinsed in water.

¹³ 'And when he who has a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he

shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe his body in running water; then he shall be clean.

¹⁴ 'On the eighth day he shall take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and come before the LORD, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and give them to the priest.

¹⁵ 'Then the priest shall offer them, the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD because of his discharge.

¹⁶ 'If any man has an emission of semen, then he shall wash all his body in water, and be unclean until evening.

¹⁷ 'And any garment and any leather on which there is semen, it shall be washed with water, and be unclean until evening.

¹⁸ 'Also, when a woman lies with a man, and there is an emission of semen, they

shall bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

¹⁹ 'If a woman has a discharge, and the discharge from her body is blood, she shall be set apart seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening.

²⁰ 'Everything that she lies on during her impurity shall be unclean; also everything that she sits on shall be unclean.

²¹ 'Whoever touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

²² 'And whoever touches anything that she sat on shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

²³ 'If anything is on her bed or on anything on which she sits, when he touches it, he shall be unclean until evening.

²⁴ 'And if any man lies with her at all, so that her impurity is on him, he shall be unclean seven days; and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean.

²⁵ 'If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity. She shall be unclean.

²⁶ 'Every bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her as the bed of her impurity; and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her impurity.

²⁷ 'Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

²⁸ 'But if she is cleansed of her discharge, then she shall count for

herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean.

²⁹ 'And on the eighth day she shall take for herself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and bring them to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

³⁰ 'Then the priest shall offer the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for her before the LORD for the discharge of her uncleanness.

³¹ 'Thus you shall separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness when they defile My tabernacle that is among them.

³² 'This is the law for one who has a discharge, and for him who emits semen and is unclean thereby,

³³ 'and for her who is indisposed because of her customary impurity, and for one who has a discharge, either man

or woman, and for him who lies with her who is unclean.'"

16 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered profane fire before the LORD, and died;

² and the LORD said to Moses: "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat.

³ "Thus Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with the blood of a young bull as a sin offering, and of a ram as a burnt offering.

⁴ "He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall

wash his body in water, and put them on.

⁵ "And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering.

⁶ "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house.

⁷ "He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁸ "Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.

⁹ "And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.

¹⁰ "But the goat on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement

upon it, and to let it go as the scapegoat into the wilderness.

¹¹ "And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is for himself.

¹² "Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil.

¹³ "And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die.

¹⁴ "He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵ "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat.

¹⁶ "So he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the tabernacle of meeting which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

¹⁷ "There shall be no man in the tabernacle of meeting when he goes in to make atonement in the Holy Place, until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself, for his household, and for all the assembly of Israel.

¹⁸ "And he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD, and make atonement

for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around.

¹⁹ "Then he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, cleanse it, and consecrate it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

²⁰ "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat.

²¹ "Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

22 "The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

23 "Then Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of meeting, shall take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the Holy Place, and shall leave them there.

24 "And he shall wash his body with water in a holy place, put on his garments, come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people, and make atonement for himself and for the people.

25 "The fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar.

26 "And he who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

27 "The bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood

was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. And they shall burn in the fire their skins, their flesh, and their offal.

²⁸ "Then he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

²⁹ "This shall be a statute forever for you: In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether a native of your own country or a stranger who dwells among you.

³⁰ "For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

³¹ "It is a sabbath of solemn rest for you, and you shall afflict your souls. It is a statute forever.

³² "And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments;

³³ "then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

³⁴ "This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year." And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

17 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to Aaron, to his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them, 'This is the thing which the LORD has commanded, saying:

³ "Whatever man of the house of Israel who kills an ox or lamb or goat in the camp, or who kills it outside the camp,

⁴ "and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting to offer an offering to the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD, the guilt of bloodshed shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people,

⁵ "to the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices which they offer in the open field, that they may bring them to the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to the priest, and offer them as peace offerings to the LORD.

⁶ "And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and burn the fat for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

⁷ "They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations."

⁸ "Also you shall say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice,

⁹ 'and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to offer it to the LORD, that man shall be cut off from among his people.

¹⁰ 'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

¹¹ 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your

souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

¹² "Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'

¹³ "Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with dust;

¹⁴ "for it is the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.'

¹⁵ "And every person who eats what died naturally or what was torn by beasts, whether he is a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both

wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean.

¹⁶ "But if he does not wash them or bathe his body, then he shall bear his guilt."

18 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the LORD your God.

³ 'According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.

⁴ 'You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God.

⁵ 'You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

⁶ ‘None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD.

⁷ ‘The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness.

⁸ ‘The nakedness of your father’s wife you shall not uncover; it is your father’s nakedness.

⁹ ‘The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

¹⁰ ‘The nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness.

¹¹ ‘The nakedness of your father’s wife’s daughter, begotten by your father—she

is your sister—you shall not uncover her nakedness.

¹² ‘You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s sister; she is near of kin to your father.

¹³ ‘You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother’s sister, for she is near of kin to your mother.

¹⁴ ‘You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.

¹⁵ ‘You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she is your son’s wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness.

¹⁶ ‘You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother’s wife; it is your brother’s nakedness.

¹⁷ ‘You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter, to uncover her

nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness.

¹⁸ 'Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

¹⁹ 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity.

²⁰ 'Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.

²¹ 'And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

²² 'You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

²³ 'Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

²⁴ 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.

²⁵ 'For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

²⁶ 'You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you

²⁷ '(for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled),

²⁸ 'lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you.

²⁹ 'For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit

them shall be cut off from among their people.

³⁰ 'Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the LORD your God.'

19 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

³ 'Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

⁴ 'Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molded gods: I am the LORD your God.

⁵ 'And if you offer a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, you shall offer it of your own free will.

⁶ 'It shall be eaten the same day you offer it, and on the next day. And if any remains until the third day, it shall be burned in the fire.

⁷ 'And if it is eaten at all on the third day, it is an abomination. It shall not be accepted.

⁸ 'Therefore everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned the hallowed offering of the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from his people.

⁹ 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.

¹⁰ 'And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave

them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ 'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.

¹² 'And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³ 'You shall not cheat your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning.

¹⁴ 'You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵ 'You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

¹⁶ 'You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a

stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ 'You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him.

¹⁸ 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

¹⁹ 'You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.

²⁰ 'Whoever lies carnally with a woman who is betrothed to a man as a concubine, and who has not at all been redeemed nor given her freedom, for this there shall be scourging; but they shall not be put to death, because she was not free.

²¹ 'And he shall bring his trespass offering to the LORD, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, a ram as a trespass offering.

²² 'The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the LORD for his sin which he has committed. And the sin which he has committed shall be forgiven him.

²³ 'When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten.

²⁴ 'But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD.

²⁵ 'And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the LORD your God.

²⁶ 'You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying.

²⁷ 'You shall not shave around the sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard.

²⁸ 'You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD.

²⁹ 'Do not prostitute your daughter, to cause her to be a harlot, lest the land fall into harlotry, and the land become full of wickedness.

³⁰ 'You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.

³¹ 'Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

³² 'You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.

³³ ‘And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him.

³⁴ ‘The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

³⁵ ‘You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume.

³⁶ ‘You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

³⁷ ‘Therefore you shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them: I am the LORD.’”

20 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² “Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel,

who gives any of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.

³ 'I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given some of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name.

⁴ 'And if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives some of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him,

⁵ 'then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and I will cut him off from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech.

⁶ 'And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.

⁷ ‘Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

⁸ ‘And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

⁹ ‘For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood shall be upon him.

¹⁰ ‘The man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.

¹¹ ‘The man who lies with his father’s wife has uncovered his father’s nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

¹² ‘If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to

death. They have committed perversion. Their blood shall be upon them.

¹³ 'If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

¹⁴ 'If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is wickedness. They shall be burned with fire, both he and they, that there may be no wickedness among you.

¹⁵ 'If a man mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal.

¹⁶ 'If a woman approaches any animal and mates with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood is upon them.

¹⁷ 'If a man takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, and sees her nakedness and she sees his

nakedness, it is a wicked thing. And they shall be cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness. He shall bear his guilt.

¹⁸ 'If a man lies with a woman during her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he has exposed her flow, and she has uncovered the flow of her blood. Both of them shall be cut off from their people.

¹⁹ 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister nor of your father's sister, for that would uncover his near of kin. They shall bear their guilt.

²⁰ 'If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness. They shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.

²¹ 'If a man takes his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall be childless.

22 'You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out.

23 'And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them.

24 'But I have said to you, "You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples.

25 'You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.

²⁶ 'And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

²⁷ 'A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them.'"

21 ¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: 'None shall defile himself for the dead among his people,

² 'except for his relatives who are nearest to him: his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, and his brother;

³ 'also his virgin sister who is near to him, who has had no husband, for her he may defile himself.

⁴ 'Otherwise he shall not defile himself, being a chief man among his people, to profane himself.

⁵ 'They shall not make any bald place on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any cuttings in their flesh.

⁶ 'They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, for they offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy.

⁷ 'They shall not take a wife who is a harlot or a defiled woman, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for the priest is holy to his God.

⁸ 'Therefore you shall consecrate him, for he offers the bread of your God. He shall be holy to you, for I the LORD, who sanctify you, am holy.

⁹ 'The daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by playing the harlot,

she profanes her father. She shall be burned with fire.

¹⁰ 'He who is the high priest among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes;

¹¹ 'nor shall he go near any dead body, nor defile himself for his father or his mother;

¹² 'nor shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is upon him: I am the LORD.

¹³ 'And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

¹⁴ 'A widow or a divorced woman or a defiled woman or a harlot—these he shall not marry; but he shall take a virgin of his own people as wife.

¹⁵ 'Nor shall he profane his posterity among his people, for I the LORD sanctify him.'

¹⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁷ "Speak to Aaron, saying: 'No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach to offer the bread of his God.

¹⁸ 'For any man who has a defect shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long,

¹⁹ 'a man who has a broken foot or broken hand,

²⁰ 'or is a hunchback or a dwarf, or a man who has a defect in his eye, or eczema or scab, or is a eunuch.

²¹ 'No man of the descendants of Aaron the priest, who has a defect, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the LORD. He has a defect; he shall

not come near to offer the bread of his God.

²² 'He may eat the bread of his God, both the most holy and the holy;

²³ 'only he shall not go near the veil or approach the altar, because he has a defect, lest he profane My sanctuaries; for I the LORD sanctify them.'

²⁴ And Moses told it to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel.

22 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to Aaron and his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they do not profane My holy name by what they dedicate to Me: I am the LORD.

³ "Say to them: 'Whoever of all your descendants throughout your generations, who goes near the holy things which the children of Israel

dedicate to the LORD, while he has uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from My presence: I am the LORD.

⁴ ‘Whatever man of the descendants of Aaron, who is a leper or has a discharge, shall not eat the holy offerings until he is clean. And whoever touches anything made unclean by a corpse, or a man who has had an emission of semen,

⁵ ‘or whoever touches any creeping thing by which he would be made unclean, or any person by whom he would become unclean, whatever his uncleanness may be—

⁶ ‘the person who has touched any such thing shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat the holy offerings unless he washes his body with water.

⁷ ‘And when the sun goes down he shall be clean; and afterward he may eat the holy offerings, because it is his food.

⁸ 'Whatever dies naturally or is torn by beasts he shall not eat, to defile himself with it: I am the LORD.

⁹ 'They shall therefore keep My ordinance, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby, if they profane it: I the LORD sanctify them.

¹⁰ 'No outsider shall eat the holy offering; one who dwells with the priest, or a hired servant, shall not eat the holy thing.

¹¹ 'But if the priest buys a person with his money, he may eat it; and one who is born in his house may eat his food.

¹² 'If the priest's daughter is married to an outsider, she may not eat of the holy offerings.

¹³ 'But if the priest's daughter is a widow or divorced, and has no child, and has returned to her father's house as in her youth, she may eat her father's food; but no outsider shall eat it.

¹⁴ 'And if a man eats the holy offering unintentionally, then he shall restore a holy offering to the priest, and add one-fifth to it.

¹⁵ 'They shall not profane the holy offerings of the children of Israel, which they offer to the LORD,

¹⁶ 'or allow them to bear the guilt of trespass when they eat their holy offerings; for I the LORD sanctify them.'"

¹⁷ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁸ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, who offers his sacrifice for any of his vows or for any of his freewill offerings, which they offer to the LORD as a burnt offering—

¹⁹ 'you shall offer of your own free will a male without blemish from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats.

²⁰ 'Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf.

²¹ 'And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.

²² 'Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the LORD.

²³ 'Either a bull or a lamb that has any limb too long or too short you may offer as a freewill offering, but for a vow it shall not be accepted.

²⁴ 'You shall not offer to the LORD what is bruised or crushed, or torn or cut; nor shall you make any offering of them in your land.

²⁵ 'Nor from a foreigner's hand shall you offer any of these as the bread of your God, because their corruption is in them, and defects are in them. They shall not be accepted on your behalf.'

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²⁷ "When a bull or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall be seven days with its mother; and from the eighth day and thereafter it shall be accepted as an offering made by fire to the LORD.

²⁸ "Whether it is a cow or ewe, do not kill both her and her young on the same day.

²⁹ "And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer it of your own free will.

³⁰ "On the same day it shall be eaten; you shall leave none of it until morning: I am the LORD.

³¹ "Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the LORD.

³² "You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you,

³³ "who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD."

23 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'The feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts.

³ 'Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the LORD in all your dwellings.

⁴ 'These are the feasts of the LORD, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at their appointed times.

⁵ 'On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the LORD'S Passover.

⁶ 'And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

⁷ 'On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.

⁸ 'But you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD for seven days. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it.'"

⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁰ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf

of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest.

¹¹ 'He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

¹² 'And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹³ 'Its grain offering shall be two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering shall be of wine, one-fourth of a hin.

¹⁴ 'You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

¹⁵ ‘And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed.

¹⁶ ‘Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD.

¹⁷ ‘You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD.

¹⁸ ‘And you shall offer with the bread seven lambs of the first year, without blemish, one young bull, and two rams. They shall be as a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹⁹ ‘Then you shall sacrifice one kid of the goats as a sin offering, and two male

lambs of the first year as a sacrifice of a peace offering.

²⁰ 'The priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits as a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs. They shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.

²¹ 'And you shall proclaim on the same day that it is a holy convocation to you. You shall do no customary work on it. It shall be a statute forever in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

²² 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.'

²³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁴ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath—rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

²⁵ 'You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.'

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²⁷ "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

²⁸ "And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

²⁹ "For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.

³⁰ "And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

³¹ "You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

³² "It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."

³³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

³⁴ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the LORD.

³⁵ 'On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it.

³⁶ 'For seven days you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. On

the eighth day you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. It is a sacred assembly, and you shall do no customary work on it.

³⁷ 'These are the feasts of the LORD which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering and a grain offering, a sacrifice and drink offerings, everything on its day—

³⁸ 'besides the Sabbaths of the LORD, besides your gifts, besides all your vows, and besides all your freewill offerings which you give to the LORD.

³⁹ 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land, you shall keep the feast of the LORD for seven days; on the first day there shall be a sabbath—rest , and on the eighth day a sabbath—rest .

⁴⁰ ‘And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

⁴¹ ‘You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

⁴² ‘You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

⁴³ ‘that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.’”

⁴⁴ So Moses declared to the children of Israel the feasts of the LORD.

24 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.

³ "Outside the veil of the Testimony, in the tabernacle of meeting, Aaron shall be in charge of it from evening until morning before the LORD continually; it shall be a statute forever in your generations.

⁴ "He shall be in charge of the lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD continually.

⁵ "And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two—tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake.

⁶ "You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD.

⁷ "And you shall put pure frankincense on each row, that it may be on the bread

for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

⁸ "Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

⁹ "And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute."

¹⁰ Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel; and this Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought each other in the camp.

¹¹ And the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the name of the LORD and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses. (His mother's name was Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.)

¹² Then they put him in custody, that the mind of the LORD might be shown to them.

¹³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁴ "Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

¹⁵ "Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin.

¹⁶ 'And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death.

¹⁷ 'Whoever kills any man shall surely be put to death.

¹⁸ ‘Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, animal for animal.

¹⁹ ‘If a man causes disfigurement of his neighbor, as he has done, so shall it be done to him—

²⁰ ‘fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.

²¹ ‘And whoever kills an animal shall restore it; but whoever kills a man shall be put to death.

²² ‘You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the LORD your God.’”

²³ Then Moses spoke to the children of Israel; and they took outside the camp him who had cursed, and stoned him with stones. So the children of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses.

25 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD.

³ 'Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit;

⁴ 'but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.

⁵ 'What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land.

⁶ 'And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you,

⁷ 'for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—all its produce shall be for food.

⁸ ‘And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty–nine years.

⁹ ‘Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land.

¹⁰ ‘And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.

¹¹ ‘That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine.

¹² 'For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field.

¹³ 'In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession.

¹⁴ 'And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you shall not oppress one another.

¹⁵ 'According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you.

¹⁶ 'According to the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you according to the number of the years of the crops.

¹⁷ 'Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the LORD your God.

18 'So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety.

19 'Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety.

20 'And if you say, "What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?"

21 'Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years.

22 'And you shall sow in the eighth year, and eat old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you shall eat of the old harvest.

23 'The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.

24 'And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land.

²⁵ 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.

²⁶ 'Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it,

²⁷ 'then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession.

²⁸ 'But if he is not able to have it restored to himself, then what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.

²⁹ 'If a man sells a house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; within a full year he may redeem it.

³⁰ 'But if it is not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong permanently to him who bought it, throughout his generations. It shall not be released in the Jubilee.

³¹ 'However the houses of villages which have no wall around them shall be counted as the fields of the country. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the Jubilee.

³² 'Nevertheless the cities of the Levites, and the houses in the cities of their possession, the Levites may redeem at any time.

³³ 'And if a man purchases a house from the Levites, then the house that was sold in the city of his possession shall be released in the Jubilee; for the houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel.

³⁴ 'But the field of the common-land of their cities may not be sold, for it is their perpetual possession.

³⁵ 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.

³⁶ 'Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you.

³⁷ 'You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a 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 'And if one of your brethren who dwells by you becomes poor, and sells himself to you, you shall not compel him to serve as a slave.

⁴⁰ 'As a hired servant and a sojourner he shall be with you, and shall serve you until the Year of Jubilee.

⁴¹ 'And then he shall depart from you—he and his children with him—and shall return to his own family. He shall return to the possession of his fathers.

⁴² 'For they are My servants, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; they shall not be sold as slaves.

⁴³ 'You shall not rule over him with rigor, but you shall fear your God.

⁴⁴ 'And as for your male and female slaves whom you may have—from the nations that are around you, from them you may buy male and female slaves.

⁴⁵ 'Moreover you may buy the children of the strangers who dwell among you, and their families who are with you, which they beget in your land; and they shall become your property.

⁴⁶ 'And you may take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them as a possession; they shall be your permanent slaves. But regarding your brethren, the children of Israel, you shall not rule over one another with rigor.

⁴⁷ 'Now if a sojourner or stranger close to you becomes rich, and one of your brethren who dwells by him becomes poor, and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner close to you, or to a member of the stranger's family,

⁴⁸ 'after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him;

⁴⁹ 'or his uncle or his uncle's son may redeem him; or anyone who is near of kin to him in his family may redeem him; or if he is able he may redeem himself.

⁵⁰ 'Thus he shall reckon with him who bought him: The price of his release

shall be according to the number of years, from the year that he was sold to him until the Year of Jubilee; it shall be according to the time of a hired servant for him.

⁵¹ 'If there are still many years remaining, according to them he shall repay the price of his redemption from the money with which he was bought.

⁵² 'And if there remain but a few years until the Year of Jubilee, then he shall reckon with him, and according to his years he shall repay him the price of his redemption.

⁵³ 'He shall be with him as a yearly hired servant, and he shall not rule with rigor over him in your sight.

⁵⁴ 'And if he is not redeemed in these years, then he shall be released in the Year of Jubilee—he and his children with him.

⁵⁵ ‘For the children of Israel are servants to Me; they are My servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

26 ¹ ‘You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.

² You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD.

³ ‘If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,

⁴ then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

⁵ Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

⁷ You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.

⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

⁹ 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you.

¹⁰ You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.

¹¹ I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you.

¹² I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.

¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

¹⁴ 'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments,

¹⁵ and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant,

¹⁶ I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

¹⁷ I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

¹⁸ 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

¹⁹ I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

²⁰ And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

²¹ 'Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.

²² I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate.

²³ 'And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me,

²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

²⁵ And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

²⁶ When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.

²⁷ 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me,

²⁸ then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

²⁹ You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.

³⁰ I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you.

³¹ I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas.

³² I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it.

³³ I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.

³⁴ Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its sabbaths.

³⁵ As long as it lies desolate it shall rest—for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.

³⁶ 'And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; the sound of a shaken leaf shall cause them to flee; they shall flee as though fleeing from a sword, and they shall fall when no one pursues.

³⁷ They shall stumble over one another, as it were before a sword, when no one pursues; and you shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

³⁸ You shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

³⁹ And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; also in their fathers' iniquities, which are with them, they shall waste away.

⁴⁰ 'But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were

unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me,

⁴¹ and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt—

⁴² then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.

⁴³ The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.

⁴⁴ Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My

covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God.

⁴⁵ But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.'"

⁴⁶ These are the statutes and judgments and laws which the LORD made between Himself and the children of Israel on Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

27 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When a man consecrates by a vow certain persons to the LORD, according to your valuation,

³ 'if your valuation is of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old, then your valuation shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

⁴ 'If it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty shekels;

⁵ 'and if from five years old up to twenty years old, then your valuation for a male shall be twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels;

⁶ 'and if from a month old up to five years old, then your valuation for a male shall be five shekels of silver, and for a female your valuation shall be three shekels of silver;

⁷ 'and if from sixty years old and above, if it is a male, then your valuation shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

⁸ 'But if he is too poor to pay your valuation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall set a value for him; according to the ability of him who vowed, the priest shall value him.

⁹ 'If it is an animal that men may bring as an offering to the LORD, all that anyone gives to the LORD shall be holy.

¹⁰ 'He shall not substitute it or exchange it, good for bad or bad for good; and if he at all exchanges animal for animal, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy.

¹¹ 'If it is an unclean animal which they do not offer as a sacrifice to the LORD, then he shall present the animal before the priest;

¹² 'and the priest shall set a value for it, whether it is good or bad; as you, the priest, value it, so it shall be.

¹³ 'But if he wants at all to redeem it, then he must add one-fifth to your valuation.

¹⁴ 'And when a man dedicates his house to be holy to the LORD, then the priest shall set a value for it, whether it is good

or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall stand.

¹⁵ 'If he who dedicated it wants to redeem his house, then he must add one-fifth of the money of your valuation to it, and it shall be his.

¹⁶ 'If a man dedicates to the LORD part of a field of his possession, then your valuation shall be according to the seed for it. A homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver.

¹⁷ 'If he dedicates his field from the Year of Jubilee, according to your valuation it shall stand.

¹⁸ 'But if he dedicates his field after the Jubilee, then the priest shall reckon to him the money due according to the years that remain till the Year of Jubilee, and it shall be deducted from your valuation.

¹⁹ 'And if he who dedicates the field ever wishes to redeem it, then he must

add one-fifth of the money of your valuation to it, and it shall belong to him.

²⁰ 'But if he does not want to redeem the field, or if he has sold the field to another man, it shall not be redeemed anymore;

²¹ 'but the field, when it is released in the Jubilee, shall be holy to the LORD, as a devoted field; it shall be the possession of the priest.

²² 'And if a man dedicates to the LORD a field which he has bought, which is not the field of his possession,

²³ 'then the priest shall reckon to him the worth of your valuation, up to the Year of Jubilee, and he shall give your valuation on that day as a holy offering to the LORD.

²⁴ 'In the Year of Jubilee the field shall return to him from whom it was bought, to the one who owned the land as a possession.

²⁵ 'And all your valuations shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary: twenty gerahs to the shekel.

²⁶ 'But the firstborn of the animals, which should be the LORD'S firstborn, no man shall dedicate; whether it is an ox or sheep, it is the LORD'S.

²⁷ 'And if it is an unclean animal, then he shall redeem it according to your valuation, and shall add one-fifth to it; or if it is not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your valuation.

²⁸ 'Nevertheless no devoted offering that a man may devote to the LORD of all that he has, both man and beast, or the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed; every devoted offering is most holy to the LORD.

²⁹ 'No person under the ban, who may become doomed to destruction among men, shall be redeemed, but shall surely be put to death.

³⁰ 'And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S. It is holy to the LORD.

³¹ 'If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it.

³² 'And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.

³³ 'He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.'"

³⁴ These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

Numbers

1 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying:

² "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male individually,

³ "from twenty years old and above—all who are able to go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

⁴ "And with you there shall be a man from every tribe, each one the head of his father's house.

⁵ "These are the names of the men who shall stand with you: from Reuben, Elizur the son of Shedeur;

⁶ "from Simeon, Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai;

⁷ "from Judah, Nahshon the son of Amminadab;

⁸ "from Issachar, Nethanel the son of Zuar;

⁹ "from Zebulun, Eliab the son of Helon;

¹⁰ "from the sons of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama the son of Ammihud; from Manasseh, Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur;

¹¹ "from Benjamin, Abidan the son of Gideoni;

¹² "from Dan, Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai;

¹³ "from Asher, Pagiel the son of Ocran;

¹⁴ "from Gad, Eliasaph the son of Deuel;

¹⁵ "from Naphtali, Ahira the son of Enan."

¹⁶ These were chosen from the congregation, leaders of their fathers' tribes, heads of the divisions in Israel.

¹⁷ Then Moses and Aaron took these men who had been mentioned by name,

¹⁸ and they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month; and they recited their ancestry by families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, each one individually.

¹⁹ As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the Wilderness of Sinai.

²⁰ Now the children of Reuben, Israel's oldest son, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

²¹ those who were numbered of the tribe of Reuben were forty–six thousand five hundred.

²² From the children of Simeon, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, of those who were numbered, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

²³ those who were numbered of the tribe of Simeon were fifty–nine thousand three hundred.

²⁴ From the children of Gad, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

²⁵ those who were numbered of the tribe of Gad were forty–five thousand six hundred and fifty.

²⁶ From the children of Judah, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

²⁷ those who were numbered of the tribe of Judah were seventy–four thousand six hundred.

²⁸ From the children of Issachar, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

²⁹ those who were numbered of the tribe of Issachar were fifty–four thousand four hundred.

³⁰ From the children of Zebulun, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

³¹ those who were numbered of the tribe of Zebulun were fifty–seven thousand four hundred.

³² From the sons of Joseph, the children of Ephraim, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

³³ those who were numbered of the tribe of Ephraim were forty thousand five hundred.

³⁴ From the children of Manasseh, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

³⁵ those who were numbered of the tribe of Manasseh were thirty–two thousand two hundred.

³⁶ From the children of Benjamin, their genealogies by their families, by their

fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

³⁷ those who were numbered of the tribe of Benjamin were thirty–five thousand four hundred.

³⁸ From the children of Dan, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

³⁹ those who were numbered of the tribe of Dan were sixty–two thousand seven hundred.

⁴⁰ From the children of Asher, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

⁴¹ those who were numbered of the tribe of Asher were forty–one thousand five hundred.

⁴² From the children of Naphtali, their genealogies by their families, by their fathers' house, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war:

⁴³ those who were numbered of the tribe of Naphtali were fifty–three thousand four hundred.

⁴⁴ These are the ones who were numbered, whom Moses and Aaron numbered, with the leaders of Israel, twelve men, each one representing his father's house.

⁴⁵ So all who were numbered of the children of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war in Israel—

⁴⁶ all who were numbered were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

⁴⁷ But the Levites were not numbered among them by their fathers' tribe;

⁴⁸ for the LORD had spoken to Moses, saying:

⁴⁹ "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor take a census of them among the children of Israel;

⁵⁰ "but you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it; they shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they shall attend to it and camp around the tabernacle.

⁵¹ "And when the tabernacle is to go forward, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall set it up. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death.

⁵² "The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp,

everyone by his own standard, according to their armies;

⁵³ "but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony."

⁵⁴ Thus the children of Israel did; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they did.

2 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

² "Everyone of the children of Israel shall camp by his own standard, beside the emblems of his father's house; they shall camp some distance from the tabernacle of meeting.

³ "On the east side, toward the rising of the sun, those of the standard of the forces with Judah shall camp according to their armies; and Nahshon the son of

Amminadab shall be the leader of the children of Judah."

⁴ And his army was numbered at seventy-four thousand six hundred.

⁵ "Those who camp next to him shall be the tribe of Issachar, and Nethanel the son of Zuar shall be the leader of the children of Issachar."

⁶ And his army was numbered at fifty-four thousand four hundred.

⁷ "Then comes the tribe of Zebulun, and Eliab the son of Helon shall be the leader of the children of Zebulun."

⁸ And his army was numbered at fifty-seven thousand four hundred.

⁹ "All who were numbered according to their armies of the forces with Judah, one hundred and eighty-six thousand four hundred—these shall break camp first.

¹⁰ "On the south side shall be the standard of the forces with Reuben

according to their armies, and the leader of the children of Reuben shall be Elizur the son of Shedeur."

¹¹ And his army was numbered at forty–six thousand five hundred.

¹² "Those who camp next to him shall be the tribe of Simeon, and the leader of the children of Simeon shall be Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai."

¹³ And his army was numbered at fifty–nine thousand three hundred.

¹⁴ "Then comes the tribe of Gad, and the leader of the children of Gad shall be Eliasaph the son of Reuel."

¹⁵ And his army was numbered at forty–five thousand six hundred and fifty.

¹⁶ "All who were numbered according to their armies of the forces with Reuben, one hundred and fifty–one thousand four hundred and fifty—they shall be the second to break camp.

¹⁷ "And the tabernacle of meeting shall move out with the camp of the Levites in the middle of the camps; as they camp, so they shall move out, everyone in his place, by their standards.

¹⁸ "On the west side shall be the standard of the forces with Ephraim according to their armies, and the leader of the children of Ephraim shall be Elishama the son of Ammihud."

¹⁹ And his army was numbered at forty thousand five hundred.

²⁰ "Next to him comes the tribe of Manasseh, and the leader of the children of Manasseh shall be Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur."

²¹ And his army was numbered at thirty-two thousand two hundred.

²² "Then comes the tribe of Benjamin, and the leader of the children of Benjamin shall be Abidan the son of Gideoni."

²³ And his army was numbered at thirty–five thousand four hundred.

²⁴ "All who were numbered according to their armies of the forces with Ephraim, one hundred and eight thousand one hundred—they shall be the third to break camp.

²⁵ "The standard of the forces with Dan shall be on the north side according to their armies, and the leader of the children of Dan shall be Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai."

²⁶ And his army was numbered at sixty–two thousand seven hundred.

²⁷ "Those who camp next to him shall be the tribe of Asher, and the leader of the children of Asher shall be Pagiel the son of Ocran."

²⁸ And his army was numbered at forty–one thousand five hundred.

²⁹ "Then comes the tribe of Naphtali, and the leader of the children of Naphtali shall be Ahira the son of Enan."

³⁰ And his army was numbered at fifty–three thousand four hundred.

³¹ "All who were numbered of the forces with Dan, one hundred and fifty–seven thousand six hundred—they shall break camp last, with their standards."

³² These are the ones who were numbered of the children of Israel by their fathers' houses. All who were numbered according to their armies of the forces were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

³³ But the Levites were not numbered among the children of Israel, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁴ Thus the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses; so they camped by their standards and so they broke camp,

each one by his family, according to their fathers' houses.

3¹ Now these are the records of Aaron and Moses when the LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai.

² And these are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

³ These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he consecrated to minister as priests.

⁴ Nadab and Abihu had died before the LORD when they offered profane fire before the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai; and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests in the presence of Aaron their father.

⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁶ "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may serve him.

⁷ "And they shall attend to his needs and the needs of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of meeting, to do the work of the tabernacle.

⁸ "Also they shall attend to all the furnishings of the tabernacle of meeting, and to the needs of the children of Israel, to do the work of the tabernacle.

⁹ "And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are given entirely to him from among the children of Israel.

¹⁰ "So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall attend to their priesthood; but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death."

¹¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹² "Now behold, I Myself have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens

the womb among the children of Israel. Therefore the Levites shall be Mine,
¹³ "because all the firstborn are Mine. On the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine: I am the LORD."

¹⁴ Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, saying:

¹⁵ "Number the children of Levi by their fathers' houses, by their families; you shall number every male from a month old and above."

¹⁶ So Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded.

¹⁷ These were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁸ And these are the names of the sons of Gershon by their families: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁹ And the sons of Kohath by their families: Amram, Izehar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

²⁰ And the sons of Merari by their families: Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites by their fathers' houses.

²¹ From Gershon came the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimites; these were the families of the Gershonites.

²² Those who were numbered, according to the number of all the males from a month old and above—of those who were numbered there were seven thousand five hundred.

²³ The families of the Gershonites were to camp behind the tabernacle westward.

²⁴ And the leader of the fathers' house of the Gershonites was Eliasaph the son of Lael.

²⁵ The duties of the children of Gershon in the tabernacle of meeting included the tabernacle, the tent with its covering, the screen for the door of the tabernacle of meeting,

²⁶ the screen for the door of the court, the hangings of the court which are around the tabernacle and the altar, and their cords, according to all the work relating to them.

²⁷ From Kohath came the family of the Amramites, the family of the Izharites, the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites; these were the families of the Kohathites.

²⁸ According to the number of all the males, from a month old and above, there were eight thousand six hundred keeping charge of the sanctuary.

²⁹ The families of the children of Kohath were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle.

³⁰ And the leader of the fathers' house of the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.

³¹ Their duty included the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the utensils of the sanctuary with which they ministered, the screen, and all the work relating to them.

³² And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest was to be chief over the leaders of the Levites, with oversight of those who kept charge of the sanctuary.

³³ From Merari came the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites; these were the families of Merari.

³⁴ And those who were numbered, according to the number of all the males from a month old and above, were six thousand two hundred.

³⁵ The leader of the fathers' house of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son

of Abihail. These were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle.

³⁶ And the appointed duty of the children of Merari included the boards of the tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, its utensils, all the work relating to them,

³⁷ and the pillars of the court all around, with their sockets, their pegs, and their cords.

³⁸ Moreover those who were to camp before the tabernacle on the east, before the tabernacle of meeting, were Moses, Aaron, and his sons, keeping charge of the sanctuary, to meet the needs of the children of Israel; but the outsider who came near was to be put to death.

³⁹ All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, by their families, all the males

from a month old and above, were twenty-two thousand.

⁴⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses:

"Number all the firstborn males of the children of Israel from a month old and above, and take the number of their names.

⁴¹ "And you shall take the Levites for Me—I am the LORD—instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the livestock of the children of Israel."

⁴² So Moses numbered all the firstborn among the children of Israel, as the LORD commanded him.

⁴³ And all the firstborn males, according to the number of names from a month old and above, of those who were numbered of them, were twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three.

⁴⁴ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁴⁵ "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites instead of their livestock. The Levites shall be Mine: I am the LORD.

⁴⁶ "And for the redemption of the two hundred and seventy–three of the firstborn of the children of Israel, who are more than the number of the Levites,

⁴⁷ "you shall take five shekels for each one individually; you shall take them in the currency of the shekel of the sanctuary, the shekel of twenty gerahs.

⁴⁸ "And you shall give the money, with which the excess number of them is redeemed, to Aaron and his sons."

⁴⁹ So Moses took the redemption money from those who were over and above those who were redeemed by the Levites.

⁵⁰ From the firstborn of the children of Israel he took the money, one thousand three hundred and sixty–five shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

⁵¹ And Moses gave their redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

4 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

² "Take a census of the sons of Kohath from among the children of Levi, by their families, by their fathers' house,

³ "from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tabernacle of meeting.

⁴ "This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of meeting, relating to the most holy things:

⁵ "When the camp prepares to journey, Aaron and his sons shall come, and they

shall take down the covering veil and cover the ark of the Testimony with it.

⁶ "Then they shall put on it a covering of badger skins, and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue; and they shall insert its poles.

⁷ "On the table of showbread they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the dishes, the pans, the bowls, and the pitchers for pouring; and the showbread shall be on it.

⁸ "They shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover the same with a covering of badger skins; and they shall insert its poles.

⁹ "And they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light, with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its trays, and all its oil vessels, with which they service it.

¹⁰ "Then they shall put it with all its utensils in a covering of badger skins, and put it on a carrying beam.

¹¹ "Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of badger skins; and they shall insert its poles.

¹² "Then they shall take all the utensils of service with which they minister in the sanctuary, put them in a blue cloth, cover them with a covering of badger skins, and put them on a carrying beam.

¹³ "Also they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it.

¹⁴ "They shall put on it all its implements with which they minister there—the firepans, the forks, the shovels, the basins, and all the utensils of the altar—and they shall spread on it a covering of badger skins, and insert its poles.

¹⁵ "And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.

¹⁶ "The appointed duty of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is the oil for the light, the sweet incense, the daily grain offering, the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle, of all that is in it, with the sanctuary and its furnishings."

¹⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

¹⁸ "Do not cut off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites;

¹⁹ "but do this in regard to them, that they may live and not die when they

approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and appoint each of them to his service and his task.

²⁰ "But they shall not go in to watch while the holy things are being covered, lest they die."

²¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²² "Also take a census of the sons of Gershon, by their fathers' house, by their families.

²³ "From thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall number them, all who enter to perform the service, to do the work in the tabernacle of meeting.

²⁴ "This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, in serving and carrying:

²⁵ "They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tabernacle of meeting with its covering, the covering of badger skins that is on it, the screen

for the door of the tabernacle of meeting,

²⁶ "the screen for the door of the gate of the court, the hangings of the court which are around the tabernacle and altar, and their cords, all the furnishings for their service and all that is made for these things: so shall they serve.

²⁷ "Aaron and his sons shall assign all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, all their tasks and all their service. And you shall appoint to them all their tasks as their duty.

²⁸ "This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of meeting. And their duties shall be under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

²⁹ "As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their families and by their fathers' house.

³⁰ "From thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall number them, everyone who enters the service to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting.

³¹ "And this is what they must carry as all their service for the tabernacle of meeting: the boards of the tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets,

³² "and the pillars around the court with their sockets, pegs, and cords, with all their furnishings and all their service; and you shall assign to each man by name the items he must carry.

³³ "This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, as all their service for the tabernacle of meeting, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest."

³⁴ And Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the congregation numbered the sons

of the Kohathites by their families and by their fathers' house,

³⁵ from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tabernacle of meeting;

³⁶ and those who were numbered by their families were two thousand seven hundred and fifty.

³⁷ These were the ones who were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all who might serve in the tabernacle of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

³⁸ And those who were numbered of the sons of Gershon, by their families and by their fathers' house,

³⁹ from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who entered

the service for work in the tabernacle of meeting—

⁴⁰ those who were numbered by their families, by their fathers' house, were two thousand six hundred and thirty.

⁴¹ These are the ones who were numbered of the families of the sons of Gershon, of all who might serve in the tabernacle of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the LORD.

⁴² Those of the families of the sons of Merari who were numbered, by their families, by their fathers' house,

⁴³ from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tabernacle of meeting—

⁴⁴ those who were numbered by their families were three thousand two hundred.

⁴⁵ These are the ones who were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

⁴⁶ All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered, by their families and by their fathers' houses,

⁴⁷ from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who came to do the work of service and the work of bearing burdens in the tabernacle of meeting—

⁴⁸ those who were numbered were eight thousand five hundred and eighty.

⁴⁹ According to the commandment of the LORD they were numbered by the hand of Moses, each according to his service and according to his task; thus were they numbered by him, as the LORD commanded Moses.

5 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Command the children of Israel that they put out of the camp every leper, everyone who has a discharge, and whoever becomes defiled by a corpse.

³ "You shall put out both male and female; you shall put them outside the camp, that they may not defile their camps in the midst of which I dwell."

⁴ And the children of Israel did so, and put them outside the camp; as the LORD spoke to Moses, so the children of Israel did.

⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁶ "Speak to the children of Israel: 'When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the LORD, and that person is guilty,

⁷ 'then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution

for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give it to the one he has wronged.

⁸ 'But if the man has no relative to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for the wrong must go to the LORD for the priest, in addition to the ram of the atonement with which atonement is made for him.

⁹ 'Every offering of all the holy things of the children of Israel, which they bring to the priest, shall be his.

¹⁰ 'And every man's holy things shall be his; whatever any man gives the priest shall be his.'"

¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'If any man's wife goes astray and behaves unfaithfully toward him,

¹³ 'and a man lies with her carnally, and it is hidden from the eyes of her

husband, and it is concealed that she has defiled herself, and there was no witness against her, nor was she caught—

¹⁴ ‘if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him and he becomes jealous of his wife, who has defiled herself; or if the spirit of jealousy comes upon him and he becomes jealous of his wife, although she has not defiled herself—

¹⁵ ‘then the man shall bring his wife to the priest. He shall bring the offering required for her, one-tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he shall pour no oil on it and put no frankincense on it, because it is a grain offering of jealousy, an offering for remembering, for bringing iniquity to remembrance.

¹⁶ ‘And the priest shall bring her near, and set her before the LORD.

¹⁷ ‘The priest shall take holy water in an earthen vessel, and take some of the

dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle and put it into the water.

¹⁸ 'Then the priest shall stand the woman before the LORD, uncover the woman's head, and put the offering for remembering in her hands, which is the grain offering of jealousy. And the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that brings a curse.

¹⁹ 'And the priest shall put her under oath, and say to the woman, "If no man has lain with you, and if you have not gone astray to uncleanness while under your husband's authority, be free from this bitter water that brings a curse.

²⁰ "But if you have gone astray while under your husband's authority, and if you have defiled yourself and some man other than your husband has lain with you" —

²¹ 'then the priest shall put the woman under the oath of the curse, and he shall

say to the woman—"the LORD make you a curse and an oath among your people, when the LORD makes your thigh rot and your belly swell;

²² "and may this water that causes the curse go into your stomach, and make your belly swell and your thigh rot." Then the woman shall say, "Amen, so be it."

²³ 'Then the priest shall write these curses in a book, and he shall scrape them off into the bitter water.

²⁴ 'And he shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings the curse shall enter her to become bitter.

²⁵ 'Then the priest shall take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand, shall wave the offering before the LORD, and bring it to the altar;

²⁶ 'and the priest shall take a handful of the offering, as its memorial portion,

burn it on the altar, and afterward make the woman drink the water.

²⁷ 'When he has made her drink the water, then it shall be, if she has defiled herself and behaved unfaithfully toward her husband, that the water that brings a curse will enter her and become bitter, and her belly will swell, her thigh will rot, and the woman will become a curse among her people.

²⁸ 'But if the woman has not defiled herself, and is clean, then she shall be free and may conceive children.

²⁹ 'This is the law of jealousy, when a wife, while under her husband's authority, goes astray and defiles herself,

³⁰ 'or when the spirit of jealousy comes upon a man, and he becomes jealous of his wife; then he shall stand the woman before the LORD, and the priest shall execute all this law upon her.

³¹ 'Then the man shall be free from iniquity, but that woman shall bear her guilt.'

6 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When either a man or woman consecrates an offering to take the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD,

³ 'he shall separate himself from wine and similar drink; he shall drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from similar drink; neither shall he drink any grape juice, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins.

⁴ 'All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin.

⁵ 'All the days of the vow of his separation no razor shall come upon his head; until the days are fulfilled for

which he separated himself to the LORD, he shall be holy. Then he shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

⁶ 'All the days that he separates himself to the LORD he shall not go near a dead body.

⁷ 'He shall not make himself unclean even for his father or his mother, for his brother or his sister, when they die, because his separation to God is on his head.

⁸ 'All the days of his separation he shall be holy to the LORD.

⁹ 'And if anyone dies very suddenly beside him, and he defiles his consecrated head, then he shall shave his head on the day of his cleansing; on the seventh day he shall shave it.

¹⁰ 'Then on the eighth day he shall bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting;

¹¹ 'and the priest shall offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and make atonement for him, because he sinned in regard to the corpse; and he shall sanctify his head that same day.

¹² 'He shall consecrate to the LORD the days of his separation, and bring a male lamb in its first year as a trespass offering; but the former days shall be lost, because his separation was defiled.

¹³ 'Now this is the law of the Nazirite: When the days of his separation are fulfilled, he shall be brought to the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

¹⁴ 'And he shall present his offering to the LORD: one male lamb in its first year without blemish as a burnt offering, one ewe lamb in its first year without blemish as a sin offering, one ram without blemish as a peace offering,

15 'a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mixed with oil, unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and their grain offering with their drink offerings.

16 'Then the priest shall bring them before the LORD and offer his sin offering and his burnt offering;

17 'and he shall offer the ram as a sacrifice of peace offering to the LORD, with the basket of unleavened bread; the priest shall also offer its grain offering and its drink offering.

18 'Then the Nazirite shall shave his consecrated head at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and shall take the hair from his consecrated head and put it on the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offering.

19 'And the priest shall take the boiled shoulder of the ram, one unleavened cake from the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and put them

upon the hands of the Nazirite after he has shaved his consecrated hair,

²⁰ 'and the priest shall wave them as a wave offering before the LORD; they are holy for the priest, together with the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering. After that the Nazirite may drink wine.'

²¹ "This is the law of the Nazirite who vows to the LORD the offering for his separation, and besides that, whatever else his hand is able to provide; according to the vow which he takes, so he must do according to the law of his separation."

²² And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

²⁴ "The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

²⁷ "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

7 ¹ Now it came to pass, when Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle, that he anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings, and the altar and all its utensils; so he anointed them and consecrated them.

² Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of their fathers' houses, who were the leaders of the tribes and over those who were numbered, made an offering.

³ And they brought their offering before the LORD, six covered carts and twelve oxen, a cart for every two of the leaders, and for each one an ox; and they presented them before the tabernacle.

⁴ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁵ "Accept these from them, that they may be used in doing the work of the tabernacle of meeting; and you shall give them to the Levites, to every man according to his service."

⁶ So Moses took the carts and the oxen, and gave them to the Levites.

⁷ Two carts and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service;

⁸ and four carts and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

⁹ But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because theirs was the service of the holy things, which they carried on their shoulders.

¹⁰ Now the leaders offered the dedication offering for the altar when

it was anointed; so the leaders offered their offering before the altar.

¹¹ For the LORD said to Moses, "They shall offer their offering, one leader each day, for the dedication of the altar."

¹² And the one who offered his offering on the first day was Nahshon the son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah.

¹³ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

¹⁴ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

¹⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

¹⁶ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

¹⁷ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male

goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

¹⁸ On the second day Nethanel the son of Zuar, leader of Issachar, presented an offering.

¹⁹ For his offering he offered one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

²⁰ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

²¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

²² one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

²³ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first

year. This was the offering of Nethanel the son of Zuar.

²⁴ On the third day Eliab the son of Helon, leader of the children of Zebulun, presented an offering.

²⁵ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

²⁶ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

²⁷ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

²⁸ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

²⁹ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliab the son of Helon.

³⁰ On the fourth day Elizur the son of Shedeur, leader of the children of Reuben, presented an offering.

³¹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

³² one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

³³ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

³⁴ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

³⁵ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elizur the son of Shedeur.

³⁶ On the fifth day Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai, leader of the children of Simeon, presented an offering.

³⁷ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

³⁸ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

³⁹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁴⁰ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁴¹ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

⁴² On the sixth day Eliasaph the son of Deuel, leader of the children of Gad, presented an offering.

⁴³ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

⁴⁴ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

⁴⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁴⁶ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁴⁷ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

⁴⁸ On the seventh day Elishama the son of Ammihud, leader of the children of Ephraim, presented an offering.

⁴⁹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

⁵⁰ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

⁵¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁵² one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁵³ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elishama the son of Ammihud.

⁵⁴ On the eighth day Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur, leader of the children of Manasseh, presented an offering.

⁵⁵ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

⁵⁶ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

⁵⁷ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁵⁸ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁵⁹ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

⁶⁰ On the ninth day Abidan the son of Gideoni, leader of the children of Benjamin, presented an offering.

⁶¹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

⁶² one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

⁶³ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁶⁴ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁶⁵ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Abidan the son of Gideoni.

⁶⁶ On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, leader of the children of Dan, presented an offering.

⁶⁷ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

⁶⁸ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

⁶⁹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁷⁰ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁷¹ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

⁷² On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ocran, leader of the children of Asher, presented an offering.

⁷³ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

⁷⁴ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

⁷⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁷⁶ one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁷⁷ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Pagiel the son of Ocran.

⁷⁸ On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, leader of the children of Naphtali, presented an offering.

⁷⁹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

⁸⁰ one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;

⁸¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;

⁸² one kid of the goats as a sin offering;

⁸³ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahira the son of Enan.

⁸⁴ This was the dedication offering for the altar from the leaders of Israel, when

it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve silver bowls, and twelve gold pans.

⁸⁵ Each silver platter weighed one hundred and thirty shekels and each bowl seventy shekels. All the silver of the vessels weighed two thousand four hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

⁸⁶ The twelve gold pans full of incense weighed ten shekels apiece, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; all the gold of the pans weighed one hundred and twenty shekels.

⁸⁷ All the oxen for the burnt offering were twelve young bulls, the rams twelve, the male lambs in their first year twelve, with their grain offering, and the kids of the goats as a sin offering twelve.

⁸⁸ And all the oxen for the sacrifice of peace offerings were twenty-four bulls, the rams sixty, the male goats sixty, and

the lambs in their first year sixty. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed.

⁸⁹ Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him.

8 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Speak to Aaron, and say to him, 'When you arrange the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand.'"

³ And Aaron did so; he arranged the lamps to face toward the front of the lampstand, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴ Now this workmanship of the lampstand was hammered gold; from

its shaft to its flowers it was hammered work. According to the pattern which the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁶ "Take the Levites from among the children of Israel and cleanse them ceremonially.

⁷ "Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purification on them, and let them shave all their body, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean.

⁸ "Then let them take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you shall take another young bull as a sin offering.

⁹ "And you shall bring the Levites before the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall gather together the whole congregation of the children of Israel.

¹⁰ "So you shall bring the Levites before the LORD, and the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites;

¹¹ "and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD, like a wave offering from the children of Israel, that they may perform the work of the LORD.

¹² "Then the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the young bulls, and you shall offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites.

¹³ "And you shall stand the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them like a wave offering to the LORD.

¹⁴ "Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the children of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine.

¹⁵ "After that the Levites shall go in to service the tabernacle of meeting. So

you shall cleanse them and offer them, like a wave offering.

¹⁶ "For they are wholly given to Me from among the children of Israel; I have taken them for Myself instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the children of Israel.

¹⁷ "For all the firstborn among the children of Israel are Mine, both man and beast; on the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them to Myself.

¹⁸ "I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the children of Israel.

¹⁹ "And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague among the children of Israel

when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary."

²⁰ Thus Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel did to the Levites; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so the children of Israel did to them.

²¹ And the Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes; then Aaron presented them, like a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them.

²² After that the Levites went in to do their work in the tabernacle of meeting before Aaron and his sons; as the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

²³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁴ "This is what pertains to the Levites: From twenty–five years old and above

one may enter to perform service in the work of the tabernacle of meeting;

²⁵ "and at the age of fifty years they must cease performing this work, and shall work no more.

²⁶ "They may minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of meeting, to attend to needs, but they themselves shall do no work. Thus you shall do to the Levites regarding their duties."

9 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying:

² "Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time.

³ "On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time. According to all its rites and ceremonies you shall keep it."

⁴ So Moses told the children of Israel that they should keep the Passover.

⁵ And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, at twilight, in the Wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did.

⁶ Now there were certain men who were defiled by a human corpse, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day; and they came before Moses and Aaron that day.

⁷ And those men said to him, "We became defiled by a human corpse. Why are we kept from presenting the offering of the LORD at its appointed time among the children of Israel?"

⁸ And Moses said to them, "Stand still, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you."

⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁰ "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the LORD'S Passover.

¹¹ 'On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

¹² 'They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it.

¹³ 'But the man who is clean and is not on a journey, and ceases to keep the Passover, that same person shall be cut off from among his people, because he did not bring the offering of the LORD at its appointed time; that man shall bear his sin.

¹⁴ 'And if a stranger dwells among you, and would keep the LORD'S Passover, he

must do so according to the rite of the Passover and according to its ceremony; you shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger and the native of the land.'"

¹⁵ Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire.

¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night.

¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents.

¹⁸ At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they

would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped.

¹⁹ Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not journey.

²⁰ So it was, when the cloud was above the tabernacle a few days: according to the command of the LORD they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the LORD they would journey.

²¹ So it was, when the cloud remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey.

²² Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of

Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey.

²³ At the command of the LORD they remained encamped, and at the command of the LORD they journeyed; they kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

10 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.

³ "When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁴ "But if they blow only one, ⁴ then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you.

⁵ "When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey.

⁶ "When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys.

⁷ "And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance.

⁸ "The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations.

⁹ "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.

¹⁰ "Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."

¹¹ Now it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony.

¹² And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai on their journeys; then the cloud settled down in the Wilderness of Paran.

¹³ So they started out for the first time according to the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

¹⁴ The standard of the camp of the children of Judah set out first according

to their armies; over their army was Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

¹⁵ Over the army of the tribe of the children of Issachar was Nethanel the son of Zuar.

¹⁶ And over the army of the tribe of the children of Zebulun was Eliab the son of Helon.

¹⁷ Then the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set out, carrying the tabernacle.

¹⁸ And the standard of the camp of Reuben set out according to their armies; over their army was Elizur the son of Shedeur.

¹⁹ Over the army of the tribe of the children of Simeon was Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

²⁰ And over the army of the tribe of the children of Gad was Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

²¹ Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy things. (The tabernacle would be prepared for their arrival.)

²² And the standard of the camp of the children of Ephraim set out according to their armies; over their army was Elishama the son of Ammihud.

²³ Over the army of the tribe of the children of Manasseh was Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

²⁴ And over the army of the tribe of the children of Benjamin was Abidan the son of Gideoni.

²⁵ Then the standard of the camp of the children of Dan (the rear guard of all the camps) set out according to their armies; over their army was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

²⁶ Over the army of the tribe of the children of Asher was Pagiel the son of Ocran.

²⁷ And over the army of the tribe of the children of Naphtali was Ahira the son of Enan.

²⁸ Thus was the order of march of the children of Israel, according to their armies, when they began their journey.

²⁹ Now Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place of which the LORD said, '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 And he said to him, "I will not go, but I will depart to my own land and to my relatives."

³¹ So Moses said, "Please do not leave, inasmuch as you know how we are to camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes.

³² "And it shall be, if you go with us—indeed it shall be—that whatever

good the LORD will do to us, the same we will do to you."

³³ So they departed from the mountain of the LORD on a journey of three days; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them for the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them.

³⁴ And the cloud of the LORD was above them by day when they went out from the camp.

³⁵ So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said: "Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You."

³⁶ And when it rested, he said: "Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel."

11 ¹ Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of

the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.

² Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched.

³ So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the LORD had burned among them.

⁴ Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?"

⁵ "We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;

⁶ "but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"

⁷ Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium.

⁸ The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil.

⁹ And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.

¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased.

¹¹ So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me?"

¹² "Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me,

‘Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,’ to the land which You swore to their fathers?

¹³ "Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’

¹⁴ "I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me.

¹⁵ "If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—if I have found favor in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!"

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you.

¹⁷ "Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is

upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

¹⁸ "Then you shall say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat.

¹⁹ 'You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,

²⁰ 'but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?"'"

²¹ And Moses said, "The people whom I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.'

²² "Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?"

²³ And the LORD said to Moses, "Has the LORD'S arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not."

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle.

²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the

same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.

²⁶ But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

²⁸ So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!"

²⁹ Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD'S people were prophets and that

the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

³⁰ And Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

³¹ Now a wind went out from the LORD, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground.

³² And the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers); and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp.

³³ But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was aroused against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very great plague.

³⁴ So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.

³⁵ From Kibroth Hattaavah the people moved to Hazeroth, and camped at Hazeroth.

12 ¹ Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

² So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.

³ (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

⁴ Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!" So the three came out.

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward.

⁶ Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream.

⁷ Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.

⁸ I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"

⁹ So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed.

¹⁰ And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper.

¹¹ So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned.

¹² "Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!"

¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!"

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again."

¹⁵ So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in again.

¹⁶ And afterward the people moved from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran.

13 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them."

³ So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the children of Israel.

⁴ Now these were their names: from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur;

⁵ from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori;

⁶ from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh;

⁷ from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph;

⁸ from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun;

⁹ from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu;

¹⁰ from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi;

¹¹ from the tribe of Joseph, that is, from the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi;

¹² from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli;

¹³ from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael;

¹⁴ from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi;

¹⁵ from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

¹⁶ These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua.

¹⁷ Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains,

¹⁸ "and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many;

¹⁹ "whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds;

²⁰ "whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

²¹ So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath.

²² And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

²³ Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried

it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs.

²⁴ The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there.

²⁵ And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

²⁷ Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

²⁸ "Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are

fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ "The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature.

³³ "There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

14 ¹ So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

³ "Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

⁶ But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;

⁷ and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.

⁸ "If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'

⁹ "Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

¹⁰ And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory

of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?"

¹² "I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

¹³ And Moses said to the LORD: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them,

¹⁴ "and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go

before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

¹⁵ "Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying,

¹⁶ 'Because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.'

¹⁷ "And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying,

¹⁸ 'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.'

¹⁹ "Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

²⁰ Then the LORD said: "I have pardoned, according to your word;

²¹ "but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD—

²² "because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,

²³ "they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.

²⁴ "But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

²⁵ "Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea."

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

²⁷ "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.

²⁸ "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:

²⁹ 'The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

³⁰ 'Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.

³¹ 'But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and

they shall know the land which you have despised.

³² 'But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.

³³ 'And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.

³⁴ 'According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.

³⁵ 'I the LORD have spoken this; I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.'"

³⁶ Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain

against him by bringing a bad report of the land,

³⁷ those very men who brought the evil report about the land, died by the plague before the LORD.

³⁸ But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land.

³⁹ Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly.

⁴⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the LORD has promised, for we have sinned!"

⁴¹ And Moses said, "Now why do you transgress the command of the LORD? For this will not succeed.

⁴² "Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD is not among you.

⁴³ "For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you."

⁴⁴ But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop; nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp.

⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.

15 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving to you,

³ 'and you make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering

or in your appointed feasts, to make a sweet aroma to the LORD, from the herd or the flock,

⁴ 'then he who presents his offering to the LORD shall bring a grain offering of one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of oil;

⁵ 'and one-fourth of a hin of wine as a drink offering you shall prepare with the burnt offering or the sacrifice, for each lamb.

⁶ 'Or for a ram you shall prepare as a grain offering two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-third of a hin of oil;

⁷ 'and as a drink offering you shall offer one-third of a hin of wine as a sweet aroma to the LORD.

⁸ 'And when you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering, or as a sacrifice to fulfill a vow, or as a peace offering to the LORD,

⁹ ‘then shall be offered with the young bull a grain offering of three–tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with half a hin of oil;

¹⁰ ‘and you shall bring as the drink offering half a hin of wine as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹¹ ‘Thus it shall be done for each young bull, for each ram, or for each lamb or young goat.

¹² ‘According to the number that you prepare, so you shall do with everyone according to their number.

¹³ ‘All who are native–born shall do these things in this manner, in presenting an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴ ‘And if a stranger dwells with you, or whoever is among you throughout your generations, and would present an

offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD, just as you do, so shall he do.

¹⁵ 'One ordinance shall be for you of the assembly and for the stranger who dwells with you, an ordinance forever throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD.

¹⁶ 'One law and one custom shall be for you and for the stranger who dwells with you.'"

¹⁷ Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁸ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land to which I bring you,

¹⁹ 'then it will be, when you eat of the bread of the land, that you shall offer up a heave offering to the LORD.

²⁰ 'You shall offer up a cake of the first of your ground meal as a heave offering; as a heave offering of the threshing floor, so shall you offer it up.

²¹ 'Of the first of your ground meal you shall give to the LORD a heave offering throughout your generations.

²² 'If you sin unintentionally, and do not observe all these commandments which the LORD has spoken to Moses—

²³ 'all that the LORD has commanded you by the hand of Moses, from the day the LORD gave commandment and onward throughout your generations—

²⁴ 'then it will be, if it is unintentionally committed, without the knowledge of the congregation, that the whole congregation shall offer one young bull as a burnt offering, as a sweet aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering and its drink offering, according to the ordinance, and one kid of the goats as a sin offering.

²⁵ 'So the priest shall make atonement for the whole congregation of the children of Israel, and it shall be forgiven

them, for it was unintentional; they shall bring their offering, an offering made by fire to the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD, for their unintended sin.

²⁶ 'It shall be forgiven the whole congregation of the children of Israel and the stranger who dwells among them, because all the people did it unintentionally.

²⁷ 'And if a person sins unintentionally, then he shall bring a female goat in its first year as a sin offering.

²⁸ 'So the priest shall make atonement for the person who sins unintentionally, when he sins unintentionally before the LORD, to make atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.

²⁹ 'You shall have one law for him who sins unintentionally, for him who is native-born among the children of Israel

and for the stranger who dwells among them.

³⁰ 'But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.

³¹ 'Because he has despised the word of the LORD, and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be upon him.'"

³² Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day.

³³ And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation.

³⁴ They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him.

³⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

³⁶ So, as the LORD commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died.

³⁷ Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

³⁸ "Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners.

³⁹ "And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined,

⁴⁰ "and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for 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 the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men;

² and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown.

³ They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why

then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

⁴ So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face;

⁵ and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.

⁶ "Do this: Take censers, Korah and all your company;

⁷ "put fire in them and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow, and it shall be that the man whom the LORD chooses is the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!"

⁸ Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi:

⁹ "Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from

the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them;

¹⁰ "and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also?"

¹¹ "Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?"

¹² And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up!"

¹³ "Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us?"

¹⁴ "Moreover you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey,

nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!"

¹⁵ Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them."

¹⁶ And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the LORD—you and they, as well as Aaron.

¹⁷ "Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each with his censer."

¹⁸ So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron.

¹⁹ And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door

of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

²⁰ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

²¹ "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."

²² Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"

²³ So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁴ "Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.'"

²⁵ Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

²⁶ And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of

theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."

²⁷ So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.

²⁸ And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will.

²⁹ "If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me.

³⁰ "But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD."

³¹ Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them,

³² and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods.

³³ So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

³⁴ Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!"

³⁵ And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.

³⁶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

³⁷ "Tell Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, to pick up the censers out of the

blaze, for they are holy, and scatter the fire some distance away.

³⁸ "The censers of these men who sinned against their own souls, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar. Because they presented them before the LORD, therefore they are holy; and they shall be a sign to the children of Israel."

³⁹ So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which those who were burned up had presented, and they were hammered out as a covering on the altar,

⁴⁰ to be a memorial to the children of Israel that no outsider, who is not a descendant of Aaron, should come near to offer incense before the LORD, that he might not become like Korah and his companions, just as the LORD had said to him through Moses.

⁴¹ On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured

against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD."

⁴² Now it happened, when the congregation had gathered against Moses and Aaron, that they turned toward the tabernacle of meeting; and suddenly the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

⁴³ Then Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting.

⁴⁴ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁴⁵ "Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces.

⁴⁶ So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the LORD. The plague has begun."

⁴⁷ Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people.

⁴⁸ And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.

⁴⁹ Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the Korah incident.

⁵⁰ So Aaron returned to Moses at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, for the plague had stopped.

17 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Speak to the children of Israel, and get from them a rod from each father's house, all their leaders according to their fathers' houses—twelve rods. Write each man's name on his rod.

³ "And you shall write Aaron's name on the rod of Levi. For there shall be one rod for the head of each father's house.

⁴ "Then you shall place them in the tabernacle of meeting before the Testimony, where I meet with you.

⁵ "And it shall be that the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you."

⁶ So Moses spoke to the children of Israel, and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods; and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.

⁷ And Moses placed the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

⁸ Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and

put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds.

⁹ Then Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod.

¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die."

¹¹ Thus did Moses; just as the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

¹² So the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, "Surely we die, we perish, we all perish!

¹³ "Whoever even comes near the tabernacle of the LORD must die. Shall we all utterly die?"

18 ¹ Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You and your sons and your father's house with you shall bear the

iniquity related to the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity associated with your priesthood.

² "Also bring with you your brethren of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may be joined with you and serve you while you and your sons are with you before the tabernacle of witness.

³ "They shall attend to your needs and all the needs of the tabernacle; but they shall not come near the articles of the sanctuary and the altar, lest they die—they and you also.

⁴ "They shall be joined with you and attend to the needs of the tabernacle of meeting, for all the work of the tabernacle; but an outsider shall not come near you.

⁵ "And you shall attend to the duties of the sanctuary and the duties of the altar,

that there may be no more wrath on the children of Israel.

⁶ "Behold, I Myself have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel; they are a gift to you, given by the LORD, to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁷ "Therefore you and your sons with you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service, but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death."

⁸ And the LORD spoke to Aaron: "Here, I Myself have also given you charge of My heave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever.

⁹ "This shall be yours of the most holy things reserved from the fire: every

offering of theirs, every grain offering and every sin offering and every trespass offering which they render to Me, shall be most holy for you and your sons.

¹⁰ "In a most holy place you shall eat it; every male shall eat it. It shall be holy to you.

¹¹ "This also is yours: the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel; I have given them to you, and your sons and daughters with you, as an ordinance forever. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.

¹² "All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the LORD, I have given them to you.

¹³ "Whatever first ripe fruit is in their land, which they bring to the LORD, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.

¹⁴ "Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours.

¹⁵ "Everything that first opens the womb of all flesh, which they bring to the LORD, whether man or beast, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of man you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem.

¹⁶ "And those redeemed of the devoted things you shall redeem when one month old, according to your valuation, for five shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

¹⁷ "But the firstborn of a cow, the firstborn of a sheep, or the firstborn of a goat you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar, and burn their fat as an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹⁸ "And their flesh shall be yours, just as the wave breast and the right thigh are yours.

¹⁹ "All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you and your sons and daughters with you as an ordinance forever; it is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD with you and your descendants with you."

²⁰ Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.

²¹ "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.

²² "Hereafter the children of Israel shall not come near the tabernacle of meeting, lest they bear sin and die.

²³ "But the Levites shall perform the work of the tabernacle of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a statute forever, throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

²⁴ "For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.'"

²⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁶ "Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then

you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the LORD, a tenth of the tithe.

²⁷ 'And your heave offering shall be reckoned to you as though it were the grain of the threshing floor and as the fullness of the winepress.

²⁸ 'Thus you shall also offer a heave offering to the LORD from all your tithes which you receive from the children of Israel, and you shall give the LORD'S heave offering from it to Aaron the priest.

²⁹ 'Of all your gifts you shall offer up every heave offering due to the LORD, from all the best of them, the consecrated part of them.'

³⁰ "Therefore you shall say to them: 'When you have lifted up the best of it, then the rest shall be accounted to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor and as the produce of the winepress.

³¹ 'You may eat it in any place, you and your households, for it is your reward for your work in the tabernacle of meeting.

³² 'And you shall bear no sin because of it, when you have lifted up the best of it. But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the children of Israel, lest you die.'"

19 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

² "This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying: 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come.

³ 'You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, that he may take it outside the camp, and it shall be slaughtered before him;

⁴ 'and Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood seven times directly in front of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁵ 'Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight: its hide, its flesh, its blood, and its offal shall be burned.

⁶ 'And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet, and cast them into the midst of the fire burning the heifer.

⁷ 'Then the priest shall wash his clothes, he shall bathe in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp; the priest shall be unclean until evening.

⁸ 'And the one who burns it shall wash his clothes in water, bathe in water, and shall be unclean until evening.

⁹ 'Then a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and store them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for the water of purification; it is for purifying from sin.

¹⁰ 'And the one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until evening. It shall be a statute forever to the children of Israel and to the stranger who dwells among them.

¹¹ 'He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days.

¹² 'He shall purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean.

¹³ 'Whoever touches the body of anyone who has died, and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of the LORD. That person shall be cut off from Israel. He shall be unclean, because the water of purification was not sprinkled on him; his uncleanness is still on him.

¹⁴ 'This is the law when a man dies in a tent: All who come into the tent and all who are in the tent shall be unclean seven days;

¹⁵ 'and every open vessel, which has no cover fastened on it, is unclean.

¹⁶ 'Whoever in the open field touches one who is slain by a sword or who has died, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

¹⁷ 'And for an unclean person they shall take some of the ashes of the heifer burnt for purification from sin, and running water shall be put on them in a vessel.

¹⁸ 'A clean person shall take hyssop and dip it in the water, sprinkle it on the tent, on all the vessels, on the persons who were there, or on the one who touched a bone, the slain, the dead, or a grave.

¹⁹ 'The clean person shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the

seventh day; and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, wash his clothes, and bathe in water; and at evening he shall be clean.

²⁰ 'But the man who is unclean and does not purify himself, that person shall be cut off from among the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water of purification has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean.

²¹ 'It shall be a perpetual statute for them. He who sprinkles the water of purification shall wash his clothes; and he who touches the water of purification shall be unclean until evening.

²² 'Whatever the unclean person touches shall be unclean; and the person who touches it shall be unclean until evening.'

20 ¹ Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into

the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died there and was buried there.

² Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron.

³ And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

⁴ "Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here?

⁵ "And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell

on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁸ "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."

⁹ So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him.

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?"

¹¹ Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

¹² Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

¹³ This was the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them.

¹⁴ Now Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom. "Thus says your brother Israel: 'You know all the hardship that has befallen us,

¹⁵ 'how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians afflicted us and our fathers.

¹⁶ 'When we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt; now here we

are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border.

¹⁷ 'Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King's Highway; we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory.'

¹⁸ Then Edom said to him, "You shall not pass through my land, lest I come out against you with the sword."

¹⁹ So the children of Israel said to him, "We will go by the Highway, and if I or my livestock drink any of your water, then I will pay for it; let me only pass through on foot, nothing more."

²⁰ Then he said, "You shall not pass through." So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand.

²¹ Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory; so Israel turned away from him.

²² Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor.

²³ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying:

²⁴ "Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah.

²⁵ "Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up to Mount Hor;

²⁶ "and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; for Aaron shall be gathered to his people and die there."

²⁷ So Moses did just as the LORD commanded, and they went up to

Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation.

²⁸ Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain.

²⁹ Now when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, all the house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.

21 ¹ The king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South, heard that Israel was coming on the road to Atharim, then he fought against Israel and took some of them prisoners.

² So Israel made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities."

³ And the LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and

their cities. So the name of that place was called Hormah.

⁴ Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."

⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away

the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."

⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

¹⁰ Now the children of Israel moved on and camped in Oboth.

¹¹ And they journeyed from Oboth and camped at Ije Abarim, in the wilderness which is east of Moab, toward the sunrise.

¹² From there they moved and camped in the Valley of Zered.

¹³ From there they moved and camped on the other side of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites; for the Arnon is

the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites.

¹⁴ Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the LORD: "Waheb in Suphah, The brooks of the Arnon,

¹⁵ And the slope of the brooks That reaches to the dwelling of Ar, And lies on the border of Moab."

¹⁶ From there they went to Beer, which is the well where the LORD said to Moses, "Gather the people together, and I will give them water."

¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song: "Spring up, O well! All of you sing to it—

¹⁸ The well the leaders sank, Dug by the nation's nobles, By the lawgiver, with their staves." And from the wilderness they went to Mattanah,

¹⁹ from Mattanah to Nahaliel, from Nahaliel to Bamoth,

²⁰ and from Bamoth, in the valley that is in the country of Moab, to the top

of Pisgah which looks down on the wasteland.

²¹ Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,

²² "Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into fields or vineyards; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the King's Highway until we have passed through your territory."

²³ But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together and went out against Israel in the wilderness, and he came to Jahaz and fought against Israel.

²⁴ Then Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword, and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the people of Ammon; for the border of the people of Ammon was fortified.

²⁵ So Israel took all these cities, and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon and in all its villages.

²⁶ For Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and had taken all his land from his hand as far as the Arnon.

²⁷ Therefore those who speak in proverbs say: "Come to Heshbon, let it be built; Let the city of Sihon be repaired.

²⁸ "For fire went out from Heshbon, A flame from the city of Sihon; It consumed Ar of Moab, The lords of the heights of the Arnon.

²⁹ Woe to you, Moab! You have perished, O people of Chemosh! He has given his sons as fugitives, And his daughters into captivity, To Sihon king of the Amorites.

³⁰ "But we have shot at them; Heshbon has perished as far as Dibon. Then we laid waste as far as Nophah, Which reaches to Medeba."

³¹ Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites.

³² Then Moses sent to spy out Jazer; and they took its villages and drove out the Amorites who were there.

³³ And they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. So Og king of Bashan went out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

³⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Do not fear him, for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon."

³⁵ So they defeated him, his sons, and all his people, until there was no survivor

left him; and they took possession of his land.

22 ¹ Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho.

² Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

³ And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel.

⁴ So Moab said to the elders of Midian, "Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field." And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

⁵ Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the sons of his people, to call him, saying: "Look, a

people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me!

⁶ "Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed."

⁷ So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner's fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak.

⁸ And he said to them, "Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me." So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

⁹ Then God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"

¹⁰ So Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying,

¹¹ 'Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.'

¹² And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

¹³ So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you."

¹⁴ And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."

¹⁵ Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they.

¹⁶ And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me;

¹⁷ 'for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.'"

¹⁸ Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

¹⁹ "Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me."

²⁰ And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, "If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do."

²¹ So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

²² Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

²³ Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road.

²⁴ Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

²⁵ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against

the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again.

²⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

²⁷ And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

²⁸ Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

³⁰ So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this

day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?" And he said, "No."

³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

³² And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me.

³³ "The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

³⁴ And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

³⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

³⁶ Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory.

³⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?"

³⁸ And Balaam said to Balak, "Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak."

³⁹ So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth.

⁴⁰ Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent some to Balaam and to the princes who were with him.

⁴¹ So it was the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.

23 ¹ Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build seven altars for me here, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams."

² And Balak did just as Balaam had spoken, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

³ Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stand by your burnt offering, and I will go; perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever He shows me I will tell you." So he went to a desolate height.

⁴ And God met Balaam, and he said to Him, "I have prepared the seven altars,

and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram."

⁵ Then the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak."

⁶ So he returned to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, he and all the princes of Moab.

⁷ And he took up his oracle and said: "Balak the king of Moab has brought me from Aram, From the mountains of the east. 'Come, curse Jacob for me, And come, denounce Israel!'

⁸ "How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?

⁹ For from the top of the rocks I see him, And from the hills I behold him; There! A people dwelling alone, Not reckoning itself among the nations.

¹⁰ "Who can count the dust of Jacob, Or number one-fourth of Israel? Let me die

the death of the righteous, And let my end be like his!"

¹¹ Then Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and look, you have blessed them bountifully!"

¹² So he answered and said, "Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD has put in my mouth?"

¹³ Then Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there."

¹⁴ So he brought him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

¹⁵ And he said to Balak, "Stand here by your burnt offering while I meet the LORD over there."

¹⁶ Then the LORD met Balaam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, "Go back to Balak, and thus you shall speak."

¹⁷ So he came to him, and there he was, standing by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab were with him. And Balak said to him, "What has the LORD spoken?"

¹⁸ Then he took up his oracle and said: "Rise up, Balak, and hear! Listen to me, son of Zippor!

¹⁹ "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

²⁰ Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.

²¹ "He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, Nor has He seen wickedness in

Israel. The LORD his God is with him, And the shout of a King is among them.

²² God brings them out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox.

²³ "For there is no sorcery against Jacob, Nor any divination against Israel. It now must be said of Jacob And of Israel, 'Oh, what God has done!'

²⁴ Look, a people rises like a lioness, And lifts itself up like a lion; It shall not lie down until it devours the prey, And drinks the blood of the slain."

²⁵ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all!"

²⁶ So Balaam answered and said to Balak, "Did I not tell you, saying, 'All that the LORD speaks, that I must do'?"

²⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Please come, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there."

²⁸ So Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, that overlooks the wasteland.

²⁹ Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me here seven altars, and prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams."

³⁰ And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on every altar.

24 ¹ Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery, but he set his face toward the wilderness.

² And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him.

³ Then he took up his oracle and said: "The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor, The utterance of the man whose eyes are opened,

⁴ The utterance of him who hears the words of God, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

⁵ "How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel!

⁶ Like valleys that stretch out, Like gardens by the riverside, Like aloes planted by the LORD, Like cedars beside the waters.

⁷ He shall pour water from his buckets, And his seed shall be in many waters. "His king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted.

⁸ "God brings him out of Egypt; He has strength like a wild ox; He shall consume the nations, his enemies; He shall break their bones And pierce them with his arrows.

⁹ 'He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?'

"Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you."

¹⁰ Then Balak's anger was aroused against Balaam, and he struck his hands together; and Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and look, you have bountifully blessed them these three times!

¹¹ "Now therefore, flee to your place. I said I would greatly honor you, but in fact, the LORD has kept you back from honor."

¹² So Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not also speak to your messengers whom you sent to me, saying,

¹³ 'If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD, to do good or bad of my own will. What the LORD says, that I must speak'?

¹⁴ "And now, indeed, I am going to my people. Come, I will advise you what

this people will do to your people in the latter days."

¹⁵ So he took up his oracle and said:
"The utterance of Balaam the son of Beor,
And the utterance of the man whose eyes are opened;

¹⁶ The utterance of him who hears the words of God,
And has the knowledge of the Most High,
Who sees the vision of the Almighty,
Who falls down, with eyes wide open:

¹⁷ "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob;
A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,
And batter the brow of Moab,
And destroy all the sons of tumult.

¹⁸ "And Edom shall be a possession;
Seir also, his enemies, shall be a possession,
While Israel does valiantly.

¹⁹ Out of Jacob One shall have dominion,
And destroy the remains of the city."

²⁰ Then he looked on Amalek, and he took up his oracle and said: "Amalek was first among the nations, But shall be last until he perishes."

²¹ Then he looked on the Kenites, and he took up his oracle and said: "Firm is your dwelling place, And your nest is set in the rock;

²² Nevertheless Kain shall be burned. How long until Asshur carries you away captive?"

²³ Then he took up his oracle and said: "Alas! Who shall live when God does this?"

²⁴ But ships shall come from the coasts of Cyprus, And they shall afflict Asshur and afflict Eber, And so shall Amalek, until he perishes."

²⁵ So Balaam rose and departed and returned to his place; Balak also went his way.

25 ¹ Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab.

² They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

³ So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel."

⁵ So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor."

⁶ And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the

congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

⁷ Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand;

⁸ and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel.

⁹ And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁰ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹¹ "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal

among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.

¹² "Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace;

¹³ 'and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.'" "

¹⁴ Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father's house among the Simeonites.

¹⁵ And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a father's house in Midian.

¹⁶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹⁷ "Harass the Midianites, and attack them;

¹⁸ "for they harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Peor and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Peor."

26 ¹ And it came to pass, after the plague, that the LORD spoke to Moses and Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying:

² "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel from twenty years old and above, by their fathers' houses, all who are able to go to war in Israel."

³ So Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying:

⁴ "Take a census of the people from twenty years old and above, just as the LORD commanded Moses and the

children of Israel who came out of the land of Egypt."

⁵ Reuben was the firstborn of Israel. The children of Reuben were: of Hanoch, the family of the Hanochites; of Pallu, the family of the Palluites;

⁶ of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the family of the Carmites.

⁷ These are the families of the Reubenites: those who were numbered of them were forty–three thousand seven hundred and thirty.

⁸ And the son of Pallu was Eliab.

⁹ The sons of Eliab were Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These are the Dathan and Abiram, representatives of the congregation, who contended against Moses and Aaron in the company of Korah, when they contended against the LORD;

¹⁰ and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up together with Korah when that company died, when the fire devoured two hundred and fifty men; and they became a sign.

¹¹ Nevertheless the children of Korah did not die.

¹² The sons of Simeon according to their families were: of Nemuel, the family of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the family of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the family of the Jachinites;

¹³ of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites; of Shaul, the family of the Shaulites.

¹⁴ These are the families of the Simeonites: twenty–two thousand two hundred.

¹⁵ The sons of Gad according to their families were: of Zephon, the family of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the family of the Haggites; of Shuni, the family of the Shunites;

¹⁶ of Ozni, the family of the Oznites; of Eri, the family of the Erites;

¹⁷ of Arod, the family of the Arodites; of Areli, the family of the Arelites.

¹⁸ These are the families of the sons of Gad according to those who were numbered of them: forty thousand five hundred.

¹⁹ The sons of Judah were Er and Onan; and Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan.

²⁰ And the sons of Judah according to their families were: of Shelah, the family of the Shelanites; of Perez, the family of the Parzites; of Zerah, the family of the Zarhites.

²¹ And the sons of Perez were: of Hezron, the family of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the family of the Hamulites.

²² These are the families of Judah according to those who were numbered

of them: seventy–six thousand five hundred.

²³ The sons of Issachar according to their families were: of Tola, the family of the Tolaites; of Puah, the family of the Punites;

²⁴ of Jashub, the family of the Jashubites; of Shimron, the family of the Shimronites.

²⁵ These are the families of Issachar according to those who were numbered of them: sixty–four thousand three hundred.

²⁶ The sons of Zebulun according to their families were: of Sered, the family of the Sardites; of Elon, the family of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the family of the Jahleelites.

²⁷ These are the families of the Zebulunites according to those who were numbered of them: sixty thousand five hundred.

²⁸ The sons of Joseph according to their families, by Manasseh and Ephraim, were:

²⁹ The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the family of the Machirites; and Machir begot Gilead; of Gilead, the family of the Gileadites.

³⁰ These are the sons of Gilead: of Jeezer, the family of the Jeezerites; of Helek, the family of the Helekites;

³¹ of Asriel, the family of the Asrielites; of Shechem, the family of the Shechemites;

³² of Shemida, the family of the Shemidaites; of Hephher, the family of the Hephherites.

³³ Now Zelophehad the son of Hephher had no sons, but daughters; and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

³⁴ These are the families of Manasseh; and those who were numbered of them were fifty–two thousand seven hundred.

³⁵ These are the sons of Ephraim according to their families: of Shuthelah, the family of the Shuthalhites; of Becher, the family of the Bachrites; of Tahan, the family of the Tahanites.

³⁶ And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the family of the Eranites.

³⁷ These are the families of the sons of Ephraim according to those who were numbered of them: thirty–two thousand five hundred. These are the sons of Joseph according to their families.

³⁸ The sons of Benjamin according to their families were: of Bela, the family of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the family of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the family of the Ahiramites;

³⁹ of Shupham, the family of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the family of the Huphamites.

⁴⁰ And the sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: of Ard, the family of the Ardites; of Naaman, the family of the Naamites.

⁴¹ These are the sons of Benjamin according to their families; and those who were numbered of them were forty–five thousand six hundred.

⁴² These are the sons of Dan according to their families: of Shuham, the family of the Shuhamites. These are the families of Dan according to their families.

⁴³ All the families of the Shuhamites, according to those who were numbered of them, were sixty–four thousand four hundred.

⁴⁴ The sons of Asher according to their families were: of Jimna, the family of the Jimnites; of Jesui, the family of the

Jesuites; of Beriah, the family of the Beriites.

⁴⁵ Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the family of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the family of the Malchielites.

⁴⁶ And the name of the daughter of Asher was Serah.

⁴⁷ These are the families of the sons of Asher according to those who were numbered of them: fifty–three thousand four hundred.

⁴⁸ The sons of Naphtali according to their families were: of Jahzeel, the family of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the family of the Gunites;

⁴⁹ of Jezer, the family of the Jezerites; of Shillem, the family of the Shillemites.

⁵⁰ These are the families of Naphtali according to their families; and those who were numbered of them were forty–five thousand four hundred.

⁵¹ These are those who were numbered of the children of Israel: six hundred and one thousand seven hundred and thirty.

⁵² Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁵³ "To these the land shall be divided as an inheritance, according to the number of names.

⁵⁴ "To a large tribe you shall give a larger inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a smaller inheritance. Each shall be given its inheritance according to those who were numbered of them.

⁵⁵ "But the land shall be divided by lot; they shall inherit according to the names of the tribes of their fathers.

⁵⁶ "According to the lot their inheritance shall be divided between the larger and the smaller."

⁵⁷ And these are those who were numbered of the Levites according to their families: of Gershon, the family of

the Gershonites; of Kohath, the family of the Kohathites; of Merari, the family of the Merarites.

⁵⁸ These are the families of the Levites: the family of the Libnites, the family of the Hebronites, the family of the Mahlites, the family of the Mushites, and the family of the Korathites. And Kohath begot Amram.

⁵⁹ The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt; and to Amram she bore Aaron and Moses and their sister Miriam.

⁶⁰ To Aaron were born Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

⁶¹ And Nadab and Abihu died when they offered profane fire before the LORD.

⁶² Now those who were numbered of them were twenty-three thousand, every male from a month old and above;

for they were not numbered among the other children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given to them among the children of Israel.

⁶³ These are those who were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

⁶⁴ But among these there was not a man of those who were numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they numbered the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Sinai.

⁶⁵ For the LORD had said of them, "They shall surely die in the wilderness." So there was not left a man of them, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

27 ¹ Then came the daughters of Zelophehad the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir,

the son of Manasseh, from the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph; and these were the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

² And they stood before Moses, before Eleazar the priest, and before the leaders and all the congregation, by the doorway of the tabernacle of meeting, saying:

³ "Our father died in the wilderness; but he was not in the company of those who gathered together against the LORD, in company with Korah, but he died in his own sin; and he had no sons.

⁴ "Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers."

⁵ So Moses brought their case before the LORD.

⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

⁷ "The daughters of Zelophehad speak what is right; you shall surely give them a possession of inheritance among their father's brothers, and cause the inheritance of their father to pass to them.

⁸ "And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a man dies and has no son, then you shall cause his inheritance to pass to his daughter.

⁹ 'If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.

¹⁰ 'If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

¹¹ 'And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the relative closest him in his family, and he shall possess it.'" And it shall be to the children of Israel a statute of judgment, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹² Now the LORD said to Moses: "Go up into this Mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the children of Israel.

¹³ "And when you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was gathered.

¹⁴ "For in the Wilderness of Zin, during the strife of the congregation, you rebelled against My command to hallow Me at the waters before their eyes."
(These are the waters of Meribah, at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.)

¹⁵ Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying:

¹⁶ "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation,

¹⁷ "who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation

of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

¹⁸ And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

¹⁹ "set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight.

²⁰ "And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.

²¹ "He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the LORD for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him—all the congregation."

²² So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and

set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation.

²³ And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.

28 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Command the children of Israel, and say to them, 'My offering, My food for My offerings made by fire as a sweet aroma to Me, you shall be careful to offer to Me at their appointed time.'

³ "And you shall say to them, 'This is the offering made by fire which you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs in their first year without blemish, day by day, as a regular burnt offering.

⁴ 'The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, the other lamb you shall offer in the evening,

⁵ ‘and one–tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering mixed with one–fourth of a hin of pressed oil.

⁶ ‘It is a regular burnt offering which was ordained at Mount Sinai for a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

⁷ ‘And its drink offering shall be one–fourth of a hin for each lamb; in a holy place you shall pour out the drink to the LORD as an offering.

⁸ ‘The other lamb you shall offer in the evening; as the morning grain offering and its drink offering, you shall offer it as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

⁹ ‘And on the Sabbath day two lambs in their first year, without blemish, and two–tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, with its drink offering—

¹⁰ 'this is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering with its drink offering.

¹¹ 'At the beginnings of your months you shall present a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish;

¹² 'three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, for each bull; two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with oil, for the one ram;

¹³ 'and one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with oil, as a grain offering for each lamb, as a burnt offering of sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

¹⁴ 'Their drink offering shall be half a hin of wine for a bull, one-third of a hin for a ram, and one-fourth of a hin for a lamb; this is the burnt offering for each

month throughout the months of the year.

¹⁵ 'Also one kid of the goats as a sin offering to the LORD shall be offered, besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

¹⁶ 'On the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD.

¹⁷ 'And on the fifteenth day of this month is the feast; unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days.

¹⁸ 'On the first day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

¹⁹ 'And you shall present an offering made by fire as a burnt offering to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year. Be sure they are without blemish.

²⁰ 'Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of

an ephah you shall offer for a bull, and two-tenths for a ram;

²¹ 'you shall offer one-tenth of an ephah for each of the seven lambs;

²² 'also one goat as a sin offering, to make atonement for you.

²³ 'You shall offer these besides the burnt offering of the morning, which is for a regular burnt offering.

²⁴ 'In this manner you shall offer the food of the offering made by fire daily for seven days, as a sweet aroma to the LORD; it shall be offered besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

²⁵ 'And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

²⁶ 'Also on the day of the firstfruits, when you bring a new grain offering to the LORD at your Feast of Weeks, you

shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work.

²⁷ ‘You shall present a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year,

²⁸ ‘with their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil: three–tenths of an ephah for each bull, two–tenths for the one ram,

²⁹ ‘and one–tenth for each of the seven lambs;

³⁰ ‘also one kid of the goats, to make atonement for you.

³¹ ‘Be sure they are without blemish. You shall present them with their drink offerings, besides the regular burnt offering with its grain offering.

29 ¹ ‘And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall

do no customary work. For you it is a day of blowing the trumpets.

² 'You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the LORD: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year, without blemish.

³ 'Their grain offering shall be fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram,

⁴ 'and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs;

⁵ 'also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, to make atonement for you;

⁶ 'besides the burnt offering with its grain offering for the New Moon, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings, according to their ordinance, as a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

⁷ 'On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation.

You shall afflict your souls; you shall not do any work.

⁸ 'You shall present a burnt offering to the LORD as a sweet aroma: one young bull, one ram, and seven lambs in their first year. Be sure they are without blemish.

⁹ 'Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the one ram,

¹⁰ 'and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs;

¹¹ 'also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the sin offering for atonement, the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings.

¹² 'On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work, and

you shall keep a feast to the LORD seven days.

¹³ 'You shall present a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a sweet aroma to the LORD: thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year. They shall be without blemish.

¹⁴ 'Their grain offering shall be of fine flour mixed with oil: three-tenths of an ephah for each of the thirteen bulls, two-tenths for each of the two rams,

¹⁵ 'and one-tenth for each of the fourteen lambs;

¹⁶ 'also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

¹⁷ 'On the second day present twelve young bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

¹⁸ 'and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams,

and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

¹⁹ 'also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering with its grain offering, and their drink offerings.

²⁰ 'On the third day present eleven bulls, two rams, fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

²¹ 'and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

²² 'also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

²³ 'On the fourth day present ten bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year, without blemish,

²⁴ 'and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams,

and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

²⁵ 'also one kid of the goats as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

²⁶ 'On the fifth day present nine bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

²⁷ 'and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

²⁸ 'also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

²⁹ 'On the sixth day present eight bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

³⁰ 'and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams,

and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

³¹ 'also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³² 'On the seventh day present seven bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs in their first year without blemish,

³³ 'and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

³⁴ 'also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³⁵ 'On the eighth day you shall have a sacred assembly. You shall do no customary work.

³⁶ 'You shall present a burnt offering, an offering made by fire as a sweet aroma to the LORD: one bull, one ram, seven lambs in their first year without blemish,

³⁷ ‘and their grain offering and their drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, by their number, according to the ordinance;

³⁸ ‘also one goat as a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³⁹ ‘These you shall present to the LORD at your appointed feasts (besides your vowed offerings and your freewill offerings) as your burnt offerings and your grain offerings, as your drink offerings and your peace offerings.’”

⁴⁰ So Moses told the children of Israel everything, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

30 ¹ Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded:

² "If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some

agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

³ "Or if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by some agreement while in her father's house in her youth,

⁴ "and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand.

⁵ "But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will release her, because her father overruled her.

⁶ "If indeed she takes a husband, while bound by her vows or by a rash utterance from her lips by which she bound herself,

⁷ "and her husband hears it, and makes no response to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her agreements by which she bound herself shall stand.

⁸ "But if her husband overrules her on the day that he hears it, he shall make void her vow which she took and what she uttered with her lips, by which she bound herself, and the LORD will release her.

⁹ "Also any vow of a widow or a divorced woman, by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her.

¹⁰ "If she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an agreement with an oath,

¹¹ "and her husband heard it, and made no response to her and did not overrule her, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement by which she bound herself shall stand.

¹² "But if her husband truly made them void on the day he heard them, then whatever proceeded from her lips concerning her vows or concerning the agreement binding her, it shall not stand; her husband has made them void, and the LORD will release her.

¹³ "Every vow and every binding oath to afflict her soul, her husband may confirm it, or her husband may make it void.

¹⁴ "Now if her husband makes no response whatever to her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all the agreements that bind her; he confirms them, because he made no response to her on the day that he heard them.

¹⁵ "But if he does make them void after he has heard them, then he shall bear her guilt."

¹⁶ These are the statutes which the LORD commanded Moses, between a

man and his wife, and between a father and his daughter in her youth in her father's house.

31 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² "Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people."

³ So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian.

⁴ "A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war."

⁵ So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

⁶ Then Moses sent them to the war, one thousand from each tribe; he sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of

Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand.

⁷ And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males.

⁸ They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of those who were killed—Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. Balaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.

⁹ And the children of Israel took the women of Midian captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their cattle, all their flocks, and all their goods.

¹⁰ They also burned with fire all the cities where they dwelt, and all their forts.

¹¹ And they took all the spoil and all the booty—of man and beast.

¹² Then they brought the captives, the booty, and the spoil to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of

the children of Israel, to the camp in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

¹³ And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp.

¹⁴ But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, with the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, who had come from the battle.

¹⁵ And Moses said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive?

¹⁶ "Look, these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

¹⁷ "Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately.

¹⁸ "But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately.

¹⁹ "And as for you, remain outside the camp seven days; whoever has killed any person, and whoever has touched any slain, purify yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day.

²⁰ "Purify every garment, everything made of leather, everything woven of goats' hair, and everything made of wood."

²¹ Then Eleazar the priest said to the men of war who had gone to the battle, "This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD commanded Moses:

²² Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead,

²³ "everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the fire, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified with the

water of purification. But all that cannot endure fire you shall put through water.

²⁴ "And you shall wash your clothes on the seventh day and be clean, and afterward you may come into the camp."

²⁵ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²⁶ "Count up the plunder that was taken—of man and beast—you and Eleazar the priest and the chief fathers of the congregation;

²⁷ "and divide the plunder into two parts, between those who took part in the war, who went out to battle, and all the congregation.

²⁸ "And levy a tribute for the LORD on the men of war who went out to battle: one of every five hundred of the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep;

²⁹ "take it from their half, and give it to Eleazar the priest as a heave offering to the LORD.

³⁰ "And from the children of Israel's half you shall take one of every fifty, drawn from the persons, the cattle, the donkeys, and the sheep, from all the livestock, and give them to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle of the LORD."

³¹ So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

³² The booty remaining from the plunder, which the men of war had taken, was six hundred and seventy-five thousand sheep,

³³ seventy-two thousand cattle,

³⁴ sixty-one thousand donkeys,

³⁵ and thirty-two thousand persons in all, of women who had not known a man intimately.

³⁶ And the half, the portion for those who had gone out to war, was in number three hundred and thirty–seven thousand five hundred sheep;

³⁷ and the LORD’S tribute of the sheep was six hundred and seventy–five.

³⁸ The cattle were thirty–six thousand, of which the LORD’S tribute was seventy–two.

³⁹ The donkeys were thirty thousand five hundred, of which the LORD’S tribute was sixty–one.

⁴⁰ The persons were sixteen thousand, of which the LORD’S tribute was thirty–two persons.

⁴¹ So Moses gave the tribute which was the LORD’S heave offering to Eleazar the priest, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴² And from the children of Israel’s half, which Moses separated from the men who fought—

⁴³ now the half belonging to the congregation was three hundred and thirty—seven thousand five hundred sheep,

⁴⁴ thirty—six thousand cattle,

⁴⁵ thirty thousand five hundred donkeys,

⁴⁶ and sixteen thousand persons—

⁴⁷ and from the children of Israel's half Moses took one of every fifty, drawn from man and beast, and gave them to the Levites, who kept charge of the tabernacle of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴⁸ Then the officers who were over thousands of the army, the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, came near to Moses;

⁴⁹ and they said to Moses, "Your servants have taken a count of the men of war who are under our command, and not a man of us is missing.

⁵⁰ "Therefore we have brought an offering for the LORD, what every man found of ornaments of gold: armlets and bracelets and signet rings and earrings and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD."

⁵¹ So Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from them, all the fashioned ornaments.

⁵² And all the gold of the offering that they offered to the LORD, from the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels.

⁵³ (The men of war had taken spoil, every man for himself.)

⁵⁴ And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of meeting as a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD.

32 ¹ Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of livestock; and when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that indeed the region was a place for livestock,

² the children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying,

³ "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Shebam, Nebo, and Beon,

⁴ "the country which the LORD defeated before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock."

⁵ Therefore they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan."

⁶ And Moses said to the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben: "Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here?"

⁷ "Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD has given them?"

⁸ "Thus your fathers did when I sent them away from Kadesh Barnea to see the land.

⁹ "For when they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, so that they did not go into the land which the LORD had given them.

¹⁰ "So the LORD'S anger was aroused on that day, and He swore an oath, saying,

¹¹ 'Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

because they have not wholly followed Me,

¹² 'except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.'

¹³ "So the LORD'S anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone.

¹⁴ "And look! You have risen in your father's place, a brood of sinful men, to increase still more the fierce anger of the LORD against Israel.

¹⁵ "For if you turn away from following Him, He will once again leave them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all these people."

¹⁶ Then they came near to him and said: "We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones,

¹⁷ "but we ourselves will be armed, ready to go before the children of Israel until we have brought them to their place; and our little ones will dwell in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land.

¹⁸ "We will not return to our homes until every one of the children of Israel has received his inheritance.

¹⁹ "For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has fallen to us on this eastern side of the Jordan."

²⁰ Then Moses said to them: "If you do this thing, if you arm yourselves before the LORD for the war,

²¹ "and all your armed men cross over the Jordan before the LORD until He has driven out His enemies from before Him,

²² "and the land is subdued before the LORD, then afterward you may return and be blameless before the LORD and

before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.

²³ "But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

²⁴ "Build cities for your little ones and folds for your sheep, and do what has proceeded out of your mouth."

²⁵ And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spoke to Moses, saying: "Your servants will do as my lord commands.

²⁶ "Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our livestock will be there in the cities of Gilead;

²⁷ "but your servants will cross over, every man armed for war, before the LORD to battle, just as my lord says."

²⁸ So Moses gave command concerning them to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel.

²⁹ And Moses said to them: "If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben cross over the Jordan with you, every man armed for battle before the LORD, and the land is subdued before you, then you shall give them the land of Gilead as a possession.

³⁰ "But if they do not cross over armed with you, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan."

³¹ Then the children of Gad and the children of Reuben answered, saying: "As the LORD has said to your servants, so we will do.

³² "We will cross over armed before the LORD into the land of Canaan, but the possession of our inheritance shall remain with us on this side of the Jordan."

³³ So Moses gave to the children of Gad, to the children of Reuben, and to half the tribe of Manasseh the son of

Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, the land with its cities within the borders, the cities of the surrounding country.

³⁴ And the children of Gad built Dibon and Ataroth and Aroer,

³⁵ Atroth and Shophan and Jazer and Jogbehah,

³⁶ Beth Nimrah and Beth Haran, fortified cities, and folds for sheep.

³⁷ And the children of Reuben built Heshbon and Elealeh and Kirjathaim,

³⁸ Nebo and Baal Meon (their names being changed) and Shibmah; and they gave other names to the cities which they built.

³⁹ And the children of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead and took it, and dispossessed the Amorites who were in it.

⁴⁰ So Moses gave Gilead to Machir the son of Manasseh, and he dwelt in it.

⁴¹ Also Jair the son of Manasseh went and took its small towns, and called them Havoth Jair.

⁴² Then Nobah went and took Kenath and its villages, and he called it Nobah, after his own name.

33 ¹ These are the journeys of the children of Israel, who went out of the land of Egypt by their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron.

² Now Moses wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the command of the LORD. And these are their journeys according to their starting points:

³ They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.

⁴ For the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had killed among them. Also on their gods the LORD had executed judgments.

⁵ Then the children of Israel moved 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 moved from Etham and turned back to Pi Hahiroth, which is east of Baal Zephon; and they camped near Migdol.

⁸ They departed from before Hahiroth and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, went three days' journey in the Wilderness of Etham, and camped at Marah.

⁹ They moved from Marah and came to Elim. At Elim were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there.

¹⁰ They moved from Elim and camped by the Red Sea.

¹¹ They moved from the Red Sea and camped in the Wilderness of Sin.

¹² They journeyed from the Wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah.

¹³ They departed from Dophkah and camped at Alush.

¹⁴ They moved 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 moved 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 moved from Libnah and camped at Rissah.

²² They journeyed from Rissah and camped at Kehelathah.

²³ They went from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher.

²⁴ They moved from Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.

²⁵ They moved from Haradah and camped at Makheloth.

²⁶ They moved from Makheloth and camped at Tahath.

²⁷ They departed from Tahath and camped at Terah.

²⁸ They moved from Terah and camped at Mithkah.

²⁹ They went 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 moved from Bene Jaakan and camped at Hor Hapidgad.

³³ They went from Hor Hapidgad and camped at Jotbathah.

³⁴ They moved from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.

³⁵ They departed from Abronah and camped at Ezion Geber.

³⁶ They moved from Ezion Geber and camped in the Wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh.

³⁷ They moved from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, on the boundary of the land of Edom.

³⁸ Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the LORD, and died there in the fortieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, on the first day of the fifth month.

³⁹ Aaron was one hundred and twenty-three years old when he died on Mount Hor.

⁴⁰ Now the king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the children of Israel.

⁴¹ So 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 Ije Abarim, at the border of Moab.

⁴⁵ They departed from Ijim and camped at Dibon Gad.

⁴⁶ They moved from Dibon Gad and camped at Almon Diblathaim.

⁴⁷ They moved from Almon Diblathaim and camped in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo.

⁴⁸ They departed from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

⁴⁹ They camped by the Jordan, from Beth Jesimoth as far as the Abel Acacia Grove in the plains of Moab.

⁵⁰ Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying,

⁵¹ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

⁵² 'then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places;

⁵³ ‘you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.

⁵⁴ ‘And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone’s inheritance shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

⁵⁵ ‘But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.

⁵⁶ ‘Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.’”

34 ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Command the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance—the land of Canaan to its boundaries.

³ 'Your southern border shall be from the Wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom; then your southern border shall extend eastward to the end of the Salt Sea;

⁴ 'your border shall turn from the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, continue to Zin, and be on the south of Kadesh Barnea; then it shall go on to Hazar Addar, and continue to Azmon;

⁵ 'the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and it shall end at the Sea.

⁶ 'As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea for a border; this shall be your western border.

⁷ 'And this shall be your northern border: From the Great Sea you shall mark out your border line to Mount Hor;

⁸ 'from Mount Hor you shall mark out your border to the entrance of Hamath; then the direction of the border shall be toward Zedad;

⁹ 'the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and it shall end at Hazar Enan. This shall be your northern border.

¹⁰ 'You shall mark out your eastern border from Hazar Enan to Shepham;

¹¹ 'the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain; the border shall go down and reach to the eastern side of the Sea of Chinnereth;

¹² 'the border shall go down along the Jordan, and it shall end at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land with its surrounding boundaries.'"

¹³ Then Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying: "This is the land which you shall inherit by lot, which the LORD has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe.

¹⁴ "For the tribe of the children of Reuben according to the house of their fathers, and the tribe of the children of Gad according to the house of their fathers, have received their inheritance; and the half-tribe of Manasseh has received its inheritance.

¹⁵ "The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance on this side of the Jordan, across from Jericho eastward, toward the sunrise."

¹⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁷ "These are the names of the men who shall divide the land among you as an inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun.

¹⁸ "And you shall take one leader of every tribe to divide the land for the inheritance.

¹⁹ "These are the names of the men: from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh;

²⁰ "from the tribe of the children of Simeon, Shemuel the son of Ammihud;

²¹ "from the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the son of Chislon;

²² "a leader from the tribe of the children of Dan, Bukki the son of Jogli;

²³ "from the sons of Joseph: a leader from the tribe of the children of Manasseh, Hanniel the son of Ephod,

²⁴ "and a leader from the tribe of the children of Ephraim, Kemuel the son of Shiphtan;

²⁵ "a leader from the tribe of the children of Zebulun, Elizaphan the son of Parnach;

²⁶ "a leader from the tribe of the children of Issachar, Paltiel the son of Azzan;

²⁷ "a leader from the tribe of the children of Asher, Ahihud the son of Shelomi;

²⁸ "and a leader from the tribe of the children of Naphtali, Pedahel the son of Ammihud."

²⁹ These are the ones the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance among the children of Israel in the land of Canaan.

35 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, saying:

² "Command the children of Israel that they give the Levites cities to dwell in from the inheritance of their possession, and you shall also give the Levites common-land around the cities.

³ "They shall have the cities to dwell in; and their common-land shall be for their cattle, for their herds, and for all their animals.

⁴ "The common-land of the cities which you shall give the Levites shall extend from the wall of the city outward a thousand cubits all around.

⁵ "And you shall measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits, on the south side two thousand cubits, on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits. The city shall be in the middle. This shall belong to them as common-land for the cities.

⁶ "Now among the cities which you will give to the Levites you shall appoint six cities of refuge, to which a manslayer may flee. And to these you shall add forty-two cities.

⁷ "So all the cities you will give to the Levites shall be forty-eight; these you shall give with their common-land.

⁸ "And the cities which you will give shall be from the possession of the children of Israel; from the larger tribe you shall give many, from the smaller you shall give few. Each shall give some of its cities to the Levites, in proportion to the inheritance that each receives."

⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁰ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

¹¹ 'then you shall appoint cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person accidentally may flee there.

¹² 'They shall be cities of refuge for you from the avenger, that the manslayer

may not die until he stands before the congregation in judgment.

¹³ 'And of the cities which you give, you shall have six cities of refuge.

¹⁴ 'You shall appoint three cities on this side of the Jordan, and three cities you shall appoint in the land of Canaan, which will be cities of refuge.

¹⁵ 'These six cities shall be for refuge for the children of Israel, for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them, that anyone who kills a person accidentally may flee there.

¹⁶ 'But if he strikes him with an iron implement, so that he dies, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

¹⁷ 'And if he strikes him with a stone in the hand, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

18 'Or if he strikes him with a wooden hand weapon, by which one could die, and he does die, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death.

19 'The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.

20 'If he pushes him out of hatred or, while lying in wait, hurls something at him so that he dies,

21 'or in enmity he strikes him with his hand so that he dies, the one who struck him shall surely be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.

22 'However, if he pushes him suddenly without enmity, or throws anything at him without lying in wait,

23 'or uses a stone, by which a man could die, throwing it at him without

seeing him, so that he dies, while he was not his enemy or seeking his harm,

²⁴ 'then the congregation shall judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood according to these judgments.

²⁵ 'So the congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall return him to the city of refuge where he had fled, and he shall remain there until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

²⁶ 'But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled,

²⁷ 'and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood,

²⁸ 'because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the

high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.

²⁹ 'And these things shall be a statute of judgment to you throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

³⁰ 'Whoever kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the testimony of witnesses; but one witness is not sufficient testimony against a person for the death penalty.

³¹ 'Moreover you shall take no ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.

³² 'And you shall take no ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to dwell in the land before the death of the priest.

³³ 'So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for

the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.

³⁴ 'Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell; for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.'

36 ¹ Now the chief fathers of the families of the children of Gilead the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of the sons of Joseph, came near and spoke before Moses and before the leaders, the chief fathers of the children of Israel.

² And they said: "The LORD commanded my lord Moses to give the land as an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.

³ "Now if they are married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then their inheritance

will be taken from the inheritance of our fathers, and it will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry; so it will be taken from the lot of our inheritance.

⁴ "And when the Jubilee of the children of Israel comes, then their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry; so their inheritance will be taken away from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers."

⁵ Then Moses commanded the children of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying: "What the tribe of the sons of Joseph speaks is right.

⁶ "This is what the LORD commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, 'Let them marry whom they think best, but they may marry only within the family of their father's tribe.'

⁷ "So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe

to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

⁸ "And every daughter who possesses an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel shall be the wife of one of the family of her father's tribe, so that the children of Israel each may possess the inheritance of his fathers.

⁹ "Thus no inheritance shall change hands from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance."

¹⁰ Just as the LORD commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad;

¹¹ for Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married to the sons of their father's brothers.

¹² They were married into the families of the children of Manasseh the son of

Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of their father's family.

¹³ These are the commandments and the judgments which the LORD commanded the children of Israel by the hand of Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

Deuteronomy

1 ¹ These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

² It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea.

³ Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them,

⁴ after he had killed Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who dwelt at Ashtaroth in Edrei.

⁵ On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying,

⁶ "The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: 'You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.

⁷ 'Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates.

⁸ 'See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.'

⁹ "And I spoke to you at that time, saying: 'I alone am not able to bear you.

¹⁰ 'The LORD your God has multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude.

¹¹ 'May the LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you!

¹² 'How can I alone bear your problems and your burdens and your complaints?

¹³ 'Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.'

¹⁴ "And you answered me and said, 'The thing which you have told us to do is good.'

¹⁵ "So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes.

¹⁶ "Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him.

¹⁷ 'You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.'

¹⁸ "And I commanded you at that time all the things which you should do.

¹⁹ "So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the LORD our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea.

²⁰ "And I said to you, 'You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

²¹ 'Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.'

²² "And everyone of you came near to me and said, 'Let us send men before us, and let them search out the land for us, and bring back word to us of the way by which we should go up, and of the cities into which we shall come.'

²³ "The plan pleased me well; so I took twelve of your men, one man from each tribe.

²⁴ "And they departed and went up into the mountains, and came to the Valley of Eshcol, and spied it out.

²⁵ "They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us; and they brought back word to us, saying, 'It is a good land which the LORD our God is giving us.'

²⁶ "Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God;

²⁷ "and you complained in your tents, and said, 'Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

²⁸ 'Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."

²⁹ "Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified, or afraid of them.

³⁰ 'The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

³¹ 'and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as

a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.'

³² "Yet, for all that, you did not believe the LORD your God,

³³ "who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day.

³⁴ "And the LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, and took an oath, saying,

³⁵ 'Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers,

³⁶ 'except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the LORD.'

³⁷ "The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes, saying, 'Even you shall not go in there;

³⁸ 'Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

³⁹ 'Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.

⁴⁰ 'But as for you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.'

⁴¹ "Then you answered and said to me, 'We have sinned against the LORD; we will go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us.' And when everyone of you had girded on his weapons of war, you were ready to go up into the mountain.

⁴² "And the LORD said to me, 'Tell them, "Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; lest you be defeated before your enemies.'"

⁴³ "So I spoke to you; yet you would not listen, but rebelled against the command of the LORD, and presumptuously went up into the mountain.

⁴⁴ "And the Amorites who dwelt in that mountain came out against you and chased you as bees do, and drove you back from Seir to Hormah.

⁴⁵ "Then you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD would not listen to your voice nor give ear to you.

⁴⁶ "So you remained in Kadesh many days, according to the days that you spent there.

2¹ "Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness of the Way of the Red Sea, as the LORD spoke to me, and we skirted Mount Seir for many days.

² "And the LORD spoke to me, saying:

³ 'You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward.

⁴ 'And command the people, saying, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully.

⁵ "Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.

⁶ "You shall buy food from them with money, that you may eat; and you shall also buy water from them with money, that you may drink.

⁷ "For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD

your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing."

⁸ "And when we passed beyond our brethren, the descendants of Esau who dwell in Seir, away from the road of the plain, away from Elath and Ezion Geber, we turned and passed by way of the Wilderness of Moab.

⁹ "Then the LORD said to me, 'Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.'

¹⁰ (The Emim had dwelt there in times past, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim.

¹¹ They were also regarded as giants, like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim.

¹² The Horites formerly dwelt in Seir, but the descendants of Esau dispossessed

them and destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their place, just as Israel did to the land of their possession which the LORD gave them.)

¹³ "'Now rise and cross over the Valley of the Zered.' So we crossed over the Valley of the Zered.

¹⁴ "And the time we took to come from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was thirty–eight years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the LORD had sworn to them.

¹⁵ "For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from the midst of the camp until they were consumed.

¹⁶ "So it was, when all the men of war had finally perished from among the people,

¹⁷ "that the LORD spoke to me, saying:

¹⁸ 'This day you are to cross over at Ar, the boundary of Moab.

¹⁹ 'And when you come near the people of Ammon, do not harass them or meddle with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession.'

²⁰ (That was also regarded as a land of giants; giants formerly dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim,

²¹ a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. But the LORD destroyed them before them, and they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place,

²² just as He had done for the descendants of Esau, who dwelt in Seir, when He destroyed the Horites from before them. They dispossessed them and dwelt in their place, even to this day.

²³ And the Avim, who dwelt in villages as far as Gaza—the Caphtorim, who came from Caphtor, destroyed them and dwelt in their place.)

²⁴ "Rise, take your journey, and cross over the River Arnon. Look, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to possess it, and engage him in battle.

²⁵ 'This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the nations under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.'

²⁶ "And I sent messengers from the Wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon king of Heshbon, with words of peace, saying,

²⁷ 'Let me pass through your land; I will keep strictly to the road, and I will turn neither to the right nor to the left.

²⁸ 'You shall sell me food for money, that I may eat, and give me water for

money, that I may drink; only let me pass through on foot,

²⁹ 'just as the descendants of Esau who dwell in Seir and the Moabites who dwell in Ar did for me, until I cross the Jordan to the land which the LORD our God is giving us.'

³⁰ "But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through, for the LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as it is this day.

³¹ "And the LORD said to me, 'See, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you. Begin to possess it, that you may inherit his land.'

³² "Then Sihon and all his people came out against us to fight at Jahaz.

³³ "And the LORD our God delivered him over to us; so we defeated him, his sons, and all his people.

³⁴ "We took all his cities at that time, and we utterly destroyed the men, women, and little ones of every city; we left none remaining.

³⁵ "We took only the livestock as plunder for ourselves, with the spoil of the cities which we took.

³⁶ "From Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and from the city that is in the ravine, as far as Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us; the LORD our God delivered all to us.

³⁷ "Only you did not go near the land of the people of Ammon—anywhere along the River Jabbok, or to the cities of the mountains, or wherever the LORD our God had forbidden us.

3¹ "Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan; and Og king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

² "And the LORD said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand; you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.'

³ "So the LORD our God also delivered into our hands Og king of Bashan, with all his people, and we attacked him until he had no survivors remaining.

⁴ "And we took all his cities at that time; there was not a city which we did not take from them: sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

⁵ "All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides a great many rural towns.

⁶ "And we utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city.

⁷ "But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as booty for ourselves.

⁸ "And at that time we took the land from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were on this side of the Jordan, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon

⁹ '(the Sidonians call Hermon Sirion, and the Amorites call it Senir),

¹⁰ "all the cities of the plain, all Gilead, and all Bashan, as far as Salcah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

¹¹ "For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead. (Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width, according to the standard cubit.

¹² "And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon, and half the mountains

of Gilead and its cities, I gave to the Reubenites and the Gadites.

¹³ "The rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, the kingdom of Og, I gave to half the tribe of Manasseh. (All the region of Argob, with all Bashan, was called the land of the giants.

¹⁴ "Jair the son of Manasseh took all the region of Argob, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and called Bashan after his own name, Havoth Jair, to this day.)

¹⁵ "Also I gave Gilead to Machir.

¹⁶ "And to the Reubenites and the Gadites I gave from Gilead as far as the River Arnon, the middle of the river as the border, as far as the River Jabbok, the border of the people of Ammon;

¹⁷ "the plain also, with the Jordan as the border, from Chinnereth as far as the east side of the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), below the slopes of Pisgah.

¹⁸ "Then I commanded you at that time, saying: 'The LORD your God has given you this land to possess. All you men of valor shall cross over armed before your brethren, the children of Israel.

¹⁹ 'But your wives, your little ones, and your livestock (I know that you have much livestock) shall stay in your cities which I have given you,

²⁰ 'until the LORD has given rest to your brethren as to you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God is giving them beyond the Jordan. Then each of you may return to his possession which I have given you.'

²¹ "And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass.

22 'You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.'

23 "Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying:

24 'O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?

25 'I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'

26 "But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.'

27 'Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.'

²⁸ 'But command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.'

²⁹ "So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

4 ¹ "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.

² "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

³ "Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.

⁴ "But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.

⁵ "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.

⁶ "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

⁷ "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?

⁸ "And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

⁹ "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,

¹⁰ "especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

¹¹ "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness.

¹² "And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the

sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.

¹³ "So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

¹⁴ "And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.

¹⁵ "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

¹⁶ "lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,

¹⁷ "the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,

¹⁸ "the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth.

¹⁹ "And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

²⁰ "But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.

²¹ "Furthermore the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan, and that I would not enter the good land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

²² "But I must die in this land, I must not cross over the Jordan; but you shall cross over and possess that good land.

²³ "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you.

²⁴ "For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

²⁵ "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger,

²⁶ "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you

will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.

²⁷ "And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you.

²⁸ "And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

²⁹ "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

³⁰ "When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice

³¹ '(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

³² "For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard.

³³ "Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live?

³⁴ "Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

³⁵ "To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.

³⁶ "Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire.

³⁷ "And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,

³⁸ "driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day.

³⁹ "Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

⁴⁰ "You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after

you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

⁴¹ Then Moses set apart three cities on this side of the Jordan, toward the rising of the sun,

⁴² that the manslayer might flee there, who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without having hated him in time past, and that by fleeing to one of these cities he might live:

⁴³ Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau for the Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites.

⁴⁴ Now this is the law which Moses set before the children of Israel.

⁴⁵ These are the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which Moses spoke to the children of Israel after they came out of Egypt,

⁴⁶ on this side of the Jordan, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon, whom Moses and the children of Israel defeated after they came out of Egypt.

⁴⁷ And they took possession of his land and the land of Og king of Bashan, two kings of the Amorites, who were on this side of the Jordan, toward the rising of the sun,

⁴⁸ from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, even to Mount Sion (that is, Hermon),

⁴⁹ and all the plain on the east side of the Jordan as far as the Sea of the Arabah, below the slopes of Pisgah.

5 ¹ And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them.

² "The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

³ "The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive.

⁴ "The LORD talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.

⁵ "I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. He said:

⁶ "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

⁷ "You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁸ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the

earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

⁹ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

¹⁰ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

¹¹ 'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

¹² 'Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

¹⁴ but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do

no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

¹⁵ And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶ 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷ 'You shall not murder.

¹⁸ 'You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹ 'You shall not steal.

²⁰ 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

²¹ 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

²² "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

²³ "So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders.

²⁴ "And you said: 'Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His

greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.

²⁵ 'Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die.

²⁶ 'For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?

²⁷ 'You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'

²⁸ "Then the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me: 'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.

²⁹ 'Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

³⁰ 'Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."

³¹ 'But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.'

³² "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³³ "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong

your days in the land which you shall possess.

6¹ "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,

² "that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

³ "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.'

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

⁵ "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

⁷ "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

⁸ "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

⁹ "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰ "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,

¹¹ "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—

¹² "then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

¹³ "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

¹⁴ "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you

¹⁵ '(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

¹⁶ "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.

¹⁷ "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

¹⁸ "And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers,

¹⁹ "to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.

²⁰ "When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?'

²¹ "then you shall say to your son: 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand;

²² 'and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and

severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household.

²³ 'Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.

²⁴ 'And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

²⁵ 'Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.'

7¹ "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,

² "and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

³ "Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.

⁴ "For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

⁵ "But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

⁶ "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a

special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

⁷ "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

⁸ "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹ "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

¹⁰ "and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

¹¹ "Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them.

¹² "Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.

¹³ "And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you.

¹⁴ "You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock.

¹⁵ "And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.

¹⁶ "And you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

¹⁷ "If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?' —

¹⁸ "you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:

¹⁹ "the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

²⁰ "Moreover the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed.

²¹ "You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, is among you.

²² "And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.

²³ "But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, and will inflict defeat upon them until they are destroyed.

²⁴ "And He will deliver their kings into your hand, and you will destroy their name from under heaven; no one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.

²⁵ "You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet

the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.

²⁶ "Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.

8 ¹ "Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.

² "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

³ "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which

you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

⁴ "Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

⁵ "You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

⁶ "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

⁷ "For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;

⁸ "a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;

⁹ "a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

¹⁰ "When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.

¹¹ "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

¹² "lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;

¹³ "and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;

¹⁴ "when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought

you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

¹⁵ "who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;

¹⁶ "who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end—

¹⁷ "then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'

¹⁸ "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

¹⁹ "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow

other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

²⁰ "As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

9 ¹ "Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven,

² "a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, 'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?'

³ "Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out

and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you.

⁴ "Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you.

⁵ "It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

⁶ "Therefore 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! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

⁸ "Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you.

⁹ "When I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

¹⁰ "Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on

the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

¹¹ "And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

¹² "Then the LORD said to me, 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly; they have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made themselves a molded image.'

¹³ "Furthermore the LORD spoke to me, saying, 'I have seen this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people.

¹⁴ 'Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'

¹⁵ "So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned

with fire; and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands.

¹⁶ "And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God—had made for yourselves a molded calf! You had turned aside quickly from the way which the LORD had commanded you.

¹⁷ "Then I took the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.

¹⁸ "And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

¹⁹ "For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also.

²⁰ "And the LORD was very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

²¹ "Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it and ground it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

²² "Also at Taberah and Massah and Kibroth Hattaavah you provoked the LORD to wrath.

²³ "Likewise, when the LORD sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, 'Go up and possess the land which I have given you,' then you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and you did not believe Him nor obey His voice.

²⁴ "You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

²⁵ "Thus I prostrated myself before the LORD; forty days and forty nights I kept prostrating myself, because the LORD had said He would destroy you.

²⁶ "Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said: 'O Lord GOD, do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

²⁷ 'Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; do not look on the stubbornness of this people, or on their wickedness or their sin,

²⁸ 'lest the land from which You brought us should say, "Because the LORD was not able to bring them to the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness."

²⁹ 'Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out

by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.'

10¹ "At that time the LORD said to me, 'Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of wood.

² 'And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.'

³ "So I made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand.

⁴ "And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the LORD had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me.

⁵ "Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the LORD commanded me."

⁶ (Now the children of Israel journeyed from the wells of Bene Jaakan to Moserah, where Aaron died, and where he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered as priest in his stead.

⁷ From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land of rivers of water.

⁸ At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to Him and to bless in His name, to this day.

⁹ Therefore Levi has no portion nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, just as the LORD your God promised him.)

¹⁰ "As at the first time, I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights; the LORD also heard me at that time, and the LORD chose not to destroy you.

¹¹ "Then the LORD said to me, 'Arise, begin your journey before the people, that they may go in and possess the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.'

¹² "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹³ "and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

¹⁴ "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.

15 "The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

16 "Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer.

17 "For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.

18 "He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.

19 "Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

20 "You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, 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 things which your eyes have seen.

²² "Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of heaven in multitude.

11 ¹ "Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.

² "Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the LORD your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm—

³ "His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land;

⁴ "what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow

them as they pursued you, and how the LORD has destroyed them to this day;

⁵ "what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place;

⁶ "and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel—

⁷ "but your eyes have seen every great act of the LORD which He did.

⁸ "Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess,

⁹ "and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD swore to give your fathers, to them and their

descendants, 'a land flowing with milk and honey.'

¹⁰ "For the land which you go to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and watered it by foot, as a vegetable garden;

¹¹ "but the land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven,

¹² "a land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

¹³ 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹⁴ 'then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the

latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

¹⁵ 'And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock, that you may eat and be filled.'

¹⁶ "Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them,

¹⁷ "lest the LORD'S anger be aroused against you, and He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain, and the land yield no produce, and you perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

¹⁸ "Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

¹⁹ "You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the

way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

²⁰ "And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,

²¹ "that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

²² "For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—

²³ "then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves.

²⁴ "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the

river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.

²⁵ "No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.

²⁶ "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse:

²⁷ "the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today;

²⁸ "and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

²⁹ "Now it shall be, when the LORD your God has brought you into the land which you go to possess, that you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal.

³⁰ "Are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of the Canaanites who dwell in the plain opposite Gilgal, beside the terebinth trees of Moreh?

³¹ "For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and you will possess it and dwell in it.

³² "And you shall be careful to observe all the statutes and judgments which I set before you today.

12 ¹ "These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.

² "You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high

mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

³ "And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place.

⁴ "You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things.

⁵ "But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.

⁶ "There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

⁷ "And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you

and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.

⁸ "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—

⁹ "for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁰ "But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety,

¹¹ "then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD.

¹² "And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you.

¹³ "Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see;

¹⁴ "but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.

¹⁵ "However, you may slaughter and eat meat within all your gates, whatever your heart desires, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike.

¹⁶ "Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it on the earth like water.

¹⁷ "You may not eat within your gates the tithe of your grain or your new wine or your oil, of the firstborn of your herd or your flock, of any of your offerings which you vow, of your freewill offerings, or of the heave offering of your hand.

¹⁸ "But you must eat them before the LORD your God in the place which the LORD your God chooses, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all to which you put your hands.

¹⁹ "Take heed to yourself that you do not forsake the Levite as long as you live in your land.

²⁰ "When the LORD your God enlarges your border as He has promised you, and you say, 'Let me eat meat,' because

you long to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your heart desires.

²¹ "If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your herd and from your flock which the LORD has given you, just as I have commanded you, and you may eat within your gates as much as your heart desires.

²² "Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them.

²³ "Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat.

²⁴ "You shall not eat it; you shall pour it on the earth like water.

²⁵ "You shall not eat it, that it may go well with you and your children after you, when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.

²⁶ "Only the holy things which you have, and your vowed offerings, you shall take and go to the place which the LORD chooses.

²⁷ "And you shall offer your burnt offerings, the meat and the blood, on the altar of the LORD your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the LORD your God, and you shall eat the meat.

²⁸ "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

²⁹ "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

³⁰ "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and

that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.’

³¹ "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

³² "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

13 ¹ "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,

² "and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’ —which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’

³ "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams,

for the LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

⁵ "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

⁶ "If your brother, the son of your mother, your son or your daughter, the wife of your bosom, or your friend who is as your own soul, secretly entices you,

saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, neither you nor your fathers,

⁷ "of the gods of the people which are all around you, near to you or far off from you, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth,

⁸ "you shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him;

⁹ "but you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

¹⁰ "And you shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

¹¹ "So all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness as this among you.

¹² "If you hear someone in one of your cities, which the LORD your God gives you to dwell in, saying,

¹³ 'Corrupt men have gone out from among you and enticed the inhabitants of their city, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods"' —which you have not known—

¹⁴ "then you shall inquire, search out, and ask diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination was committed among you,

¹⁵ "you shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword—utterly destroying it, all that is in it and its livestock, with the edge of the sword.

¹⁶ "And you shall gather all its plunder into the middle of the street, and completely burn with fire the city and all its plunder, for the LORD your God. It

shall be a heap forever; it shall not be built again.

¹⁷ "So none of the accursed things shall remain in your hand, that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of His anger and show you mercy, have compassion on you and multiply you, just as He swore to your fathers,

¹⁸ "because you have listened to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep all His commandments which I command you today, to do what is right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

14 ¹ "You are the children of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave the front of your head for the dead.

² "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

³ "You shall not eat any detestable thing.

⁴ "These are the animals which you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,

⁵ "the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the mountain goat, the antelope, and the mountain sheep.

⁶ "And you may eat every animal with cloven hooves, having the hoof split into two parts, and that chews the cud, among the animals.

⁷ "Nevertheless, of those that chew the cud or have cloven hooves, you shall not eat, such as these: the camel, the hare, and the rock hyrax; for they chew the cud but do not have cloven hooves; they are unclean for you.

⁸ "Also the swine is unclean for you, because it has cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud; you shall not eat their flesh or touch their dead carcasses.

9 "These you may eat of all that are in the waters: you may eat all that have fins and scales.

10 "And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you.

11 "All clean birds you may eat.

12 "But these you shall not eat: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard,

13 "the red kite, the falcon, and the kite after their kinds;

14 "every raven after its kind;

15 "the ostrich, the short-eared owl, the seagull, and the hawk after their kinds;

16 "the little owl, the screech owl, the white owl,

17 "the jackdaw, the carrion vulture, the fisher owl,

18 "the stork, the heron after its kind, and the hoopoe and the bat.

19 "Also every creeping thing that flies is unclean for you; they shall not be eaten.

20 "You may eat all clean birds.

21 "You shall not eat anything that dies of itself; you may give it to the alien who is within your gates, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you are a holy people to the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

22 "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.

23 "And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.

24 "But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry

the tithe, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you,

²⁵ "then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.

²⁶ "And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.

²⁷ "You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.

²⁸ "At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates.

²⁹ "And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

15 ¹ "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts.

² "And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD'S release.

³ "Of a foreigner you may require it; but you shall give up your claim to what is owed by your brother,

⁴ "except when there may be no poor among you; for the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance—

⁵ "only if you carefully obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today.

⁶ "For the LORD your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.

⁷ "If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,

⁸ "but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

⁹ "Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at

hand,' and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you.

¹⁰ "You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand.

¹¹ "For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.'

¹² "If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.

¹³ "And when you send him away free from you, you shall not let him go away empty-handed;

¹⁴ "you shall supply him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. From what the LORD your God has blessed you with, you shall give to him.

¹⁵ "You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing today.

¹⁶ "And if it happens that he says to you, 'I will not go away from you,' because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you,

¹⁷ "then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.

¹⁸ "It shall not seem hard to you when you send him away free from you; for he has been worth a double hired servant

in serving you six years. Then the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

¹⁹ "All the firstborn males that come from your herd and your flock you shall sanctify to the LORD your God; you shall do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock.

²⁰ "You and your household shall eat it before the LORD your God year by year in the place which the LORD chooses.

²¹ "But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

²² "You may eat it within your gates; the unclean and the clean person alike may eat it, as if it were a gazelle or a deer.

²³ "Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it on the ground like water.

16 ¹ "Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the

LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

² "Therefore you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put His name.

³ "You shall eat no leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, that is, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), that you may remember the day in which you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life.

⁴ "And no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the meat which you sacrifice the first day at twilight remain overnight until morning.

⁵ "You may not sacrifice the Passover within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you;

⁶ "but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide, there you shall sacrifice the Passover at twilight, at the going down of the sun, at the time you came out of Egypt.

⁷ "And you shall roast and eat it in the place which the LORD your God chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.

⁸ "Six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a sacred assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it.

⁹ "You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain.

¹⁰ "Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.

¹¹ "You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your gates, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are among you, at the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

¹² "And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

¹³ "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress.

¹⁴ "And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates.

¹⁵ "Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.

¹⁶ "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

¹⁷ "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

¹⁸ "You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment.

¹⁹ "You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

²⁰ "You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

²¹ "You shall not plant for yourself any tree, as a wooden image, near the altar which you build for yourself to the LORD your God.

²² "You shall not set up a sacred pillar, which the LORD your God hates.

17 ¹ "You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.

² "If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or a woman who

has been wicked in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing His covenant,

³ "who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded,

⁴ "and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel,

⁵ "then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.

⁶ "Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

⁷ "The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the

people. So you shall put away the evil from among you.

⁸ "If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge, between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, matters of controversy within your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses.

⁹ "And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.

¹⁰ "You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the LORD chooses. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you.

¹¹ "According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you, according

to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the sentence which they pronounce upon you.

¹² "Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.

¹³ "And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.

¹⁴ "When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,'

¹⁵ "you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set

a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

¹⁶ "But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.'

¹⁷ "Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself.

¹⁸ "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.

¹⁹ "And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,

²⁰ "that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

18 ¹ "The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and His portion.

² "Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the LORD is their inheritance, as He said to them.

³ "And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether it is bull or sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach.

⁴ "The firstfruits of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and the first of

the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.

⁵ "For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever.

⁶ "So if a Levite comes from any of your gates, from where he dwells among all Israel, and comes with all the desire of his mind to the place which the LORD chooses,

⁷ "then he may serve in the name of the LORD his God as all his brethren the Levites do, who stand there before the LORD.

⁸ "They shall have equal portions to eat, besides what comes from the sale of his inheritance.

⁹ "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.

¹⁰ "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

¹¹ "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

¹² "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

¹³ "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.

¹⁴ "For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

¹⁶ "according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'

¹⁷ "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good.

¹⁸ 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

¹⁹ 'And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

²⁰ 'But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

²¹ "And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' —

²² "when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

19 ¹ "When the LORD your God has cut off the nations whose land the LORD your God is giving you, and you dispossess them and dwell in their cities and in their houses,

² "you shall separate three cities for yourself in the midst of your land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

³ "You shall prepare roads for yourself, and divide into three parts the territory of your land which the LORD your God is

giving you to inherit, that any manslayer may flee there.

⁴ "And this is the case of the manslayer who flees there, that he may live: Whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally, not having hated him in time past—

⁵ "as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies—he shall flee to one of these cities and live;

⁶ "lest the avenger of blood, while his anger is hot, pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and kill him, though he was not deserving of death, since he had not hated the victim in time past.

⁷ "Therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall separate three cities for yourself.'

⁸ "Now if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as He swore to your fathers, and gives you the land which He promised to give to your fathers,

⁹ "and if you keep all these commandments and do them, which I command you today, to love the LORD your God and to walk always in His ways, then you shall add three more cities for yourself besides these three,

¹⁰ "lest innocent blood be shed in the midst of your land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and thus guilt of bloodshed be upon you.

¹¹ "But if anyone hates his neighbor, lies in wait for him, rises against him and strikes him mortally, so that he dies, and he flees to one of these cities,

12 "then the elders of his city shall send and bring him from there, and deliver him over to the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die.

13 "Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with you.

14 "You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

15 "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

16 "If a false witness rises against any man to testify against him of wrongdoing,

¹⁷ "then both men in the controversy shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days.

¹⁸ "And the judges shall make careful inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother,

¹⁹ "then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.

²⁰ "And those who remain shall hear and fear, and hereafter they shall not again commit such evil among you.

²¹ "Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

20¹ "When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid

of them; for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.

² "So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people.

³ "And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them;

⁴ 'for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'

⁵ "Then the officers shall speak to the people, saying: 'What man is there who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it.'

⁶ 'Also what man is there who has planted a vineyard and has not eaten of it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man eat of it.

⁷ 'And what man is there who is betrothed to a woman and has not married her? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man marry her.'

⁸ "The officers shall speak further to the people, and say, 'What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brethren faint like his heart.'

⁹ "And so it shall be, when the officers have finished speaking to the people, that they shall make captains of the armies to lead the people.

¹⁰ "When you go near a city to fight against it, then proclaim an offer of peace to it.

¹¹ "And it shall be that if they accept your offer of peace, and open to you, then all the people who are found in it shall be placed under tribute to you, and serve you.

¹² "Now if the city will not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

¹³ "And when the LORD your God delivers it into your hands, you shall strike every male in it with the edge of the sword.

¹⁴ "But the women, the little ones, the livestock, and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall plunder for yourself; and you shall eat the enemies' plunder which the LORD your God gives you.

¹⁵ "Thus you shall do to all the cities which are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations.

¹⁶ "But of the cities of these peoples which the LORD your God gives you as

an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive,

¹⁷ "but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you,

¹⁸ "lest they teach you to do according to all their abominations which they have done for their gods, and you sin against the LORD your God.

¹⁹ "When you besiege a city for a long time, while making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them; if you can eat of them, do not cut them down to use in the siege, for the tree of the field is man's food.

²⁰ "Only the trees which you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, to build siegeworks against

the city that makes war with you, until it is subdued.

21 ¹ "If anyone is found slain, lying in the field in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess, and it is not known who killed him,

² "then your elders and your judges shall go out and measure the distance from the slain man to the surrounding cities.

³ "And it shall be that the elders of the city nearest to the slain man will take a heifer which has not been worked and which has not pulled with a yoke.

⁴ "The elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with flowing water, which is neither plowed nor sown, and they shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley.

⁵ "Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister to Him and

to bless in the name of the LORD; by their word every controversy and every assault shall be settled.

⁶ "And all the elders of that city nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley.

⁷ "Then they shall answer and say, 'Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it.

⁸ 'Provide atonement, O LORD, for Your people Israel, whom You have redeemed, and do not lay innocent blood to the charge of Your people Israel.' And atonement shall be provided on their behalf for the blood.

⁹ "So you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁰ "When you go out to war against your enemies, and the LORD your God

delivers them into your hand, and you take them captive,

¹¹ "and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and desire her and would take her for your wife,

¹² "then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and trim her nails.

¹³ "She shall put off the clothes of her captivity, remain in your house, and mourn her father and her mother a full month; after that you may go in to her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife.

¹⁴ "And it shall be, if you have no delight in her, then you shall set her free, but you certainly shall not sell her for money; you shall not treat her brutally, because you have humbled her.

¹⁵ "If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and they have borne him children, both the loved and

the unloved, and if the firstborn son is of her who is unloved,

¹⁶ "then it shall be, on the day he bequeaths his possessions to his sons, that he must not bestow firstborn status on the son of the loved wife in preference to the son of the unloved, the true firstborn.

¹⁷ "But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

¹⁸ "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them,

¹⁹ "then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city.

²⁰ "And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

²¹ "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

²² "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,

²³ "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.

22 ¹ "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray, and hide yourself from them; you shall certainly bring them back to your brother.

² "And if your brother is not near you, or if you do not know him, then you shall bring it to your own house, and it shall remain with you until your brother seeks it; then you shall restore it to him.

³ "You shall do the same with his donkey, and so shall you do with his garment; with any lost thing of your brother's, which he has lost and you have found, you shall do likewise; you must not hide yourself.

⁴ "You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fall down along the road, and hide yourself from them; you shall surely help him lift them up again.

⁵ "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God.

⁶ "If a bird's nest happens to be before you along the way, in any tree or on the

ground, with young ones or eggs, with the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young;

⁷ "you shall surely let the mother go, and take the young for yourself, that it may be well with you and that you may prolong your days.

⁸ "When you build a new house, then you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring guilt of bloodshed on your household if anyone falls from it.

⁹ "You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled.

¹⁰ "You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

¹¹ "You shall not wear a garment of different sorts, such as wool and linen mixed together.

¹² "You shall make tassels on the four corners of the clothing with which you cover yourself.

¹³ "If any man takes a wife, and goes in to her, and detests her,

¹⁴ "and charges her with shameful conduct, and brings a bad name on her, and says, 'I took this woman, and when I came to her I found she was not a virgin,'

¹⁵ "then the father and mother of the young woman shall take and bring out the evidence of the young woman's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate.

¹⁶ "And the young woman's father shall say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter to this man as wife, and he detests her.

¹⁷ 'Now he has charged her with shameful conduct, saying, "I found your daughter was not a virgin," and yet these are the evidences of my daughter's

virginity.' And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.

¹⁸ "Then the elders of that city shall take that man and punish him;

¹⁹ "and they shall fine him one hundred shekels of silver and give them to the father of the young woman, because he has brought a bad name on a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

²⁰ "But if the thing is true, and evidences of virginity are not found for the young woman,

²¹ "then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done a disgraceful thing in Israel, to play the harlot in her father's house. So you shall put away the evil from among you.

²² "If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them

shall die—the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.

²³ "If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her,

²⁴ "then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife; so you shall put away the evil from among you.

²⁵ "But if a man finds a betrothed young woman in the countryside, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die.

²⁶ "But you shall do nothing to the young woman; there is in the young woman no sin deserving of death, for just as when a man rises against his

neighbor and kills him, even so is this matter.

²⁷ "For he found her in the countryside, and the betrothed young woman cried out, but there was no one to save her.

²⁸ "If a man finds a young woman who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and he seizes her and lies with her, and they are found out,

²⁹ "then the man who lay with her shall give to the young woman's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife because he has humbled her; he shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days.

³⁰ "A man shall not take his father's wife, nor uncover his father's bed.

23 ¹ "He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the LORD.

² "One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even

to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

³ "An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever,

⁴ "because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

⁵ "Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

⁶ "You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.

7 "You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land.

8 "The children of the third generation born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD.

9 "When the army goes out against your enemies, then keep yourself from every wicked thing.

10 "If there is any man among you who becomes unclean by some occurrence in the night, then he shall go outside the camp; he shall not come inside the camp.

11 "But it shall be, when evening comes, that he shall wash with water; and when the sun sets, he may come into the camp.

12 "Also you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out;

13 "and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse.

14 "For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.

15 "You shall not give back to his master the slave who has escaped from his master to you.

16 "He may dwell with you in your midst, in the place which he chooses within one of your gates, where it seems best to him; you shall not oppress him.

17 "There shall be no ritual harlot of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted one of the sons of Israel.

18 "You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the

house of the LORD your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

¹⁹ "You shall not charge interest to your brother—interest on money or food or anything that is lent out at interest.

²⁰ "To a foreigner you may charge interest, but to your brother you shall not charge interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land which you are entering to possess.

²¹ "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you.

²² "But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.

²³ "That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your

God what you have promised with your mouth.

²⁴ "When you come into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes at your pleasure, but you shall not put any in your container.

²⁵ "When you come into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor's standing grain.

24 ¹ "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house,

² "when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's wife,

³ "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts

it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,

⁴ "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

⁵ "When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.

⁶ "No man shall take the lower or the upper millstone in pledge, for he takes one's living in pledge.

⁷ "If a man is found kidnapping any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and mistreats him or sells him, then that

kidnapper shall die; and you shall put away the evil from among you.

⁸ "Take heed in an outbreak of leprosy, that you carefully observe and do according to all that the priests, the Levites, shall teach you; just as I commanded them, so you shall be careful to do.

⁹ "Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the way when you came out of Egypt.

¹⁰ "When you lend your brother anything, you shall not go into his house to get his pledge.

¹¹ "You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you lend shall bring the pledge out to you.

¹² "And if the man is poor, you shall not keep his pledge overnight.

¹³ "You shall in any case return the pledge to him again when the sun goes down, that he may sleep in his own

garment and bless you; and it shall be righteousness to you before the LORD your God.

¹⁴ "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether one of your brethren or one of the aliens who is in your land within your gates.

¹⁵ "Each day you shall give him his wages, and not let the sun go down on it, for he is poor and has set his heart on it; lest he cry out against you to the LORD, and it be sin to you.

¹⁶ "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.

¹⁷ "You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow's garment as a pledge.

¹⁸ "But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you from there;

therefore I command you to do this thing.

¹⁹ "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

²⁰ "When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

²¹ "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.

²² "And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.

25 ¹ "If there is a dispute between men, and they come to court,

that the judges may judge them, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked,

² "then it shall be, if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, that the judge will cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence, according to his guilt, with a certain number of blows.

³ "Forty blows he may give him and no more, lest he should exceed this and beat him with many blows above these, and your brother be humiliated in your sight.

⁴ "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.

⁵ "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

⁶ "And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

⁷ "But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'

⁸ "Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,'

⁹ "then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'

¹⁰ "And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

¹¹ "If two men fight together, and the wife of one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of the one attacking him, and puts out her hand and seizes him by the genitals,

¹² "then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not pity her.

¹³ "You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light.

¹⁴ "You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small.

¹⁵ "You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁶ "For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.

¹⁷ "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt,

¹⁸ "how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

¹⁹ "Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

26 ¹ "And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it,

² "that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the

LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide.

³ "And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.'

⁴ "Then the priest shall take the basket out of your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵ "And you shall answer and say before the LORD your God: 'My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

⁶ 'But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us.

⁷ 'Then we cried out to the LORD God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our

voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression.

⁸ 'So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.

⁹ 'He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey";

¹⁰ 'and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O LORD, have given me.' Then you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God.

¹¹ "So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.

¹² "When you have finished laying aside all the tithe of your increase in the third year—the year of tithing—and have

given it to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled,

¹³ "then you shall say before the LORD your God: 'I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them.

¹⁴ 'I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed any of it for an unclean use, nor given any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me.

¹⁵ 'Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our

fathers, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

¹⁶ "This day the LORD your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹⁷ "Today you have proclaimed the LORD to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.

¹⁸ "Also today the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments,

¹⁹ "and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken."

27 ¹ Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: "Keep all the commandments which I command you today.

² "And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime.

³ "You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the LORD your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the LORD God of your fathers promised you.

⁴ "Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime.

⁵ "And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them.

⁶ "You shall build with whole stones the altar of the LORD your God, and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God.

⁷ "You shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God.

⁸ "And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law."

⁹ Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

¹⁰ "Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."

¹¹ And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying,

¹² "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin;

¹³ "and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

¹⁴ "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel:

¹⁵ 'Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen!'

¹⁶ 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

¹⁷ 'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

¹⁸ 'Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

¹⁹ 'Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

²⁰ 'Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

²¹ 'Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

²² 'Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

²³ ‘Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’

²⁴ ‘Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’

²⁵ ‘Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’

²⁶ ‘Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen!’

28¹ "Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.

² "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

³ "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

⁴ "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

⁵ "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

⁶ "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

⁷ "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

⁸ "The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to

which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

⁹ "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

¹⁰ "Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

¹¹ "And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

¹² "The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all

the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

¹³ "And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

¹⁴ "So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

¹⁵ "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

¹⁶ "Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.

17 "Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

18 "Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

19 "Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

20 "The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.

21 "The LORD will make the plague cling to you until He has consumed you from the land which you are going to possess.

22 "The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with

mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish.

²³ "And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.

²⁴ "The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

²⁵ "The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them; and you shall become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth.

²⁶ "Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away.

²⁷ "The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the

scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.

²⁸ "The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart.

²⁹ "And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.

³⁰ "You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but shall not gather its grapes.

³¹ "Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them.

³² "Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all day long; and there shall be no strength in your hand.

³³ "A nation whom you have not known shall eat the fruit of your land and the produce of your labor, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually.

³⁴ "So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see.

³⁵ "The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.

³⁶ "The LORD will bring you and the king whom you set over you to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods—wood and stone.

³⁷ "And you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword

among all nations where the LORD will drive you.

³⁸ "You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it.

³⁹ "You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

⁴⁰ "You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.

⁴¹ "You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.

⁴² "Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.

⁴³ "The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.

44 "He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

45 "Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

46 "And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.

47 "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,

48 "therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

⁴⁹ "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand,

⁵⁰ "a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.

⁵¹ "And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.

⁵² "They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.

⁵³ "You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you.

⁵⁴ "The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind,

⁵⁵ "so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

⁵⁶ "The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband

of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter,

⁵⁷ "her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

⁵⁸ "If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD,

⁵⁹ "then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues—great and prolonged plagues—
—and serious and prolonged sicknesses.

⁶⁰ "Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.

⁶¹ "Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book

of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed.

⁶² "You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

⁶³ "And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.

⁶⁴ "Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone.

⁶⁵ "And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the

LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

⁶⁶ "Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.

⁶⁷ "In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

⁶⁸ "And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you."

29 ¹ These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab,

besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.

² Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land—

³ "the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders.

⁴ "Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

⁵ "And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet.

⁶ "You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or similar drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

⁷ "And when you came to this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of

Bashan came out against us to battle, and we conquered them.

⁸ "We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁹ "Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

¹⁰ "All of you stand today before the LORD your God: your leaders and your tribes and your elders and your officers, all the men of Israel,

¹¹ "your little ones and your wives— also the stranger who is in your camp, from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water—

¹² "that you may enter into covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today,

¹³ "that He may establish you today as a people for Himself, and that He may be God to you, just as He has spoken to you, and just as He has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

¹⁴ "I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone,

¹⁵ "but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today

¹⁶ (for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by,

¹⁷ and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold);

¹⁸ "so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods

of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood;

¹⁹ "and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart' —as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

²⁰ "The LORD would not spare him; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven.

²¹ "And the LORD would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law,

²² "so that the coming generation of your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, would say, when they see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the LORD has laid on it:

²³ 'The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'

²⁴ "All nations would say, 'Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?'

²⁵ "Then people would say: 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt;

²⁶ 'for they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did

not know and that He had not given to them.

²⁷ 'Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book.

²⁸ 'And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.'

²⁹ "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

30 ¹ "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you,

² "and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all

that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,

³ "that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.

⁴ "If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

⁵ "Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.

⁶ "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

⁷ "Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

⁸ "And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today.

⁹ "The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,

¹⁰ "if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ "For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.

¹² "It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

¹³ "Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

¹⁴ "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,

¹⁶ "in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD

your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.

¹⁷ "But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,

¹⁸ "I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.

¹⁹ "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

²⁰ "that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

31 ¹ Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

² And he said to them: "I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the LORD has said to me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.'

³ "The LORD your God Himself crosses over before you; He will destroy these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua himself crosses over before you, just as the LORD has said.

⁴ "And the LORD will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites and their land, when He destroyed them.

⁵ "The LORD will give them over to you, that you may do to them according to every commandment which I have commanded you.

⁶ "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

⁷ Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it.

⁸ "And the LORD, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

⁹ So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of every seven years,

at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles,

¹¹ "when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

¹² "Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who is within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law,

¹³ "and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die; call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of meeting, that I may inaugurate him." So Moses

and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tabernacle of meeting.

¹⁵ Now the LORD appeared at the tabernacle in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood above the door of the tabernacle.

¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses:
"Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

¹⁷ "Then My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured. And many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?'

¹⁸ "And I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.

¹⁹ "Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.

²⁰ "When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant.

²¹ "Then it shall be, when many evils and troubles have come upon them, that this song will testify against them as a witness; for it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants, for I know the inclination of their behavior today,

even before I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them."

²² Therefore Moses wrote this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel.

²³ Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you."

²⁴ So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished,

²⁵ that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying:

²⁶ "Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;

²⁷ "for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. If today, while I am yet alive

with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD, then how much more after my death?

²⁸ "Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them.

²⁹ "For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands."

³⁰ Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel the words of this song until they were ended:

32 ¹ "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

² Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.

³ For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.

⁴ He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

⁵ "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.

⁶ Do you thus deal with the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?

⁷ "Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you:

⁸ When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.

⁹ For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

¹⁰ "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.

¹¹ As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,

¹² So the LORD alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him.

¹³ "He made him ride in the heights of the earth, That he might eat the produce of the fields; He made him draw honey from the rock, And oil from the flinty rock;

¹⁴ Curds from the cattle, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs; And rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the choicest wheat; And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes.

¹⁵ "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

¹⁶ They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger.

¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.

¹⁸ Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.

¹⁹ "And when the LORD saw it, He spurned them, Because of the

provocation of His sons and His daughters.

²⁰ And He said: 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, Children in whom is no faith.

²¹ They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

²² For a fire is kindled by my anger, And shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall consume the earth with her increase, And set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

²³ 'I will heap disasters on them; I will spend My arrows on them.

²⁴ They shall be wasted with hunger, Devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction; I will also send against them

the teeth of beasts, With the poison of
serpents of the dust.

²⁵ The sword shall destroy outside;
There shall be terror within For the
young man and virgin, The nursing child
with the man of gray hairs.

²⁶ I would have said, "I will dash them in
pieces, I will make the memory of them
to cease from among men,"

²⁷ Had I not feared the wrath of the
enemy, Lest their adversaries should
misunderstand, Lest they should say,
"Our hand is high; And it is not the LORD
who has done all this."

²⁸ "For they are a nation void of counsel,
Nor is there any understanding in them.

²⁹ Oh, that they were wise, that they
understood this, That they would
consider their latter end!

³⁰ How could one chase a thousand,
And two put ten thousand to flight,

Unless their Rock had sold them, And
the LORD had surrendered them?

³¹ For their rock is not like our Rock,
Even our enemies themselves being
judges.

³² For their vine is of the vine of Sodom
And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their
grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters
are bitter.

³³ Their wine is the poison of serpents,
And the cruel venom of cobras.

³⁴ 'Is this not laid up in store with Me,
Sealed up among My treasures?

³⁵ Vengeance is Mine, and recompense;
Their foot shall slip in due time; For the
day of their calamity is at hand, And the
things to come hasten upon them.'

³⁶ "For the LORD will judge His people
And have compassion on His servants,
When He sees that their power is gone,
And there is no one remaining, bond or
free.

³⁷ He will say: 'Where are their gods,
The rock in which they sought refuge?

³⁸ Who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
And drank the wine of their drink
offering? Let them rise and help you,
And be your refuge.

³⁹ 'Now see that I, even I, am He, And
there is no God besides Me; I kill and
I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor
is there any who can deliver from My
hand.

⁴⁰ For I raise My hand to heaven, And
say, "As I live forever,

⁴¹ If I whet My glittering sword, And
My hand takes hold on judgment, I will
render vengeance to My enemies, And
repay those who hate Me.

⁴² I will make My arrows drunk with
blood, And My sword shall devour flesh,
With the blood of the slain and the
captives, From the heads of the leaders
of the enemy."

⁴³ "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people."

⁴⁴ So Moses came with Joshua the son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.

⁴⁵ Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel,

⁴⁶ and He said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law.

⁴⁷ "For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."

⁴⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Moses that very same day, saying:

⁴⁹ "Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, across from Jericho; view the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel as a possession;

⁵⁰ "and die on the mountain which you ascend, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people;

⁵¹ "because you trespassed against Me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Zin, because you did not hallow Me in the midst of the children of Israel.

⁵² "Yet you shall see the land before you, though you shall not go there, into the land which I am giving to the children of Israel."

33 ¹ Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God

blessed the children of Israel before his death.

² And he said: "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them.

³ Yes, He loves the people; All His saints are in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words.

⁴ Moses commanded a law for us, A heritage of the congregation of Jacob.

⁵ And He was King in Jeshurun, When the leaders of the people were gathered, All the tribes of Israel together.

⁶ "Let Reuben live, and not die, Nor let his men be few."

⁷ And this he said of Judah: "Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah, And bring him to his people; Let his hands be sufficient

for him, And may You be a help against his enemies."

⁸ And of Levi he said: "Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,

⁹ Who says of his father and mother, 'I have not seen them'; Nor did he acknowledge his brothers, Or know his own children; For they have observed Your word And kept Your covenant.

¹⁰ They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar.

¹¹ Bless his substance, LORD, And accept the work of his hands; Strike the loins of those who rise against him, And of those who hate him, that they rise not again."

¹² Of Benjamin he said: "The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by Him, Who shelters him all the day long; And he shall dwell between His shoulders."

¹³ And of Joseph he said: "Blessed of the LORD is his land, With the precious things of heaven, with the dew, And the deep lying beneath,

¹⁴ With the precious fruits of the sun, With the precious produce of the months,

¹⁵ With the best things of the ancient mountains, With the precious things of the everlasting hills,

¹⁶ With the precious things of the earth and its fullness, And the favor of Him who dwelt in the bush. Let the blessing come 'on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.'

¹⁷ His glory is like a firstborn bull, And his horns like the horns of the wild ox;

Together with them He shall push the peoples To the ends of the earth; They are the ten thousands of Ephraim, And they are the thousands of Manasseh."

¹⁸ And of Zebulun he said: "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, And Issachar in your tents!

¹⁹ They shall call the peoples to the mountain; There they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness; For they shall partake of the abundance of the seas And of treasures hidden in the sand."

²⁰ And of Gad he said: "Blessed is he who enlarges Gad; He dwells as a lion, And tears the arm and the crown of his head.

²¹ He provided the first part for himself, Because a lawgiver's portion was reserved there. He came with the heads of the people; He administered the justice of the LORD, And His judgments with Israel."

²² And of Dan he said: "Dan is a lion's whelp; He shall leap from Bashan."

²³ And of Naphtali he said: "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, And full of the blessing of the LORD, Possess the west and the south."

²⁴ And of Asher he said: "Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil.

²⁵ Your sandals shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be.

²⁶ "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, Who rides the heavens to help you, And in His excellency on the clouds.

²⁷ The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, 'Destroy!'

²⁸ Then Israel shall dwell in safety, The fountain of Jacob alone, In a land of

grain and new wine; His heavens shall also drop dew.

²⁹ Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places."

34 ¹ Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan,

² all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea,

³ the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to

your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there."

⁵ So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

⁶ And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.

⁷ Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.

⁸ And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.

⁹ Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

¹¹ in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land,

¹² and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

Joshua

1 ¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

² "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel.

³ "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

⁴ "From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.

⁵ "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

⁶ "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

⁷ "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

⁸ "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

⁹ "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

¹⁰ Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

¹¹ "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"

¹² And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying,

¹³ "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.'

¹⁴ "Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land

which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them,

¹⁵ "until the LORD has given your brethren rest, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

¹⁶ So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go."

¹⁷ "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses."

¹⁸ "Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him,

shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

2¹ Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there.

² And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, "Behold, men have come here tonight from the children of Israel to search out the country."

³ So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."

⁴ Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."

⁵ "And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them."

⁶ (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)

⁷ Then the men pursued them by the road to the Jordan, to the fords. And as soon as those who pursued them had gone out, they shut the gate.

⁸ Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof,

⁹ and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.

¹⁰ "For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for

you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

¹¹ "And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

¹² "Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the LORD, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token,

¹³ "and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death."

¹⁴ So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD

has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall; she dwelt on the wall.

¹⁶ And she said to them, "Get to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you. Hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned. Afterward you may go your way."

¹⁷ So the men said to her: "We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear,

¹⁸ "unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home.

¹⁹ "So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his

own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.

²⁰ "And if you tell this business of ours, then we will be free from your oath which you made us swear."

²¹ Then she said, "According to your words, so be it." And she sent them away, and they departed. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window.

²² They departed and went to the mountain, and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. The pursuers sought them all along the way, but did not find them.

²³ So the two men returned, descended from the mountain, and crossed over; and they came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told him all that had befallen them.

²⁴ And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our

hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us."

3¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over.

² So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp;

³ and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.

⁴ "Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before."

⁵ And Joshua said to the people, "Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

⁶ Then Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, "Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

⁷ And the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

⁸ "You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.'"

⁹ So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the LORD your God."

¹⁰ And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you,

and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites:

¹¹ "Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.

¹² "Now therefore, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe.

¹³ "And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap."

¹⁴ So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan,

with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,

¹⁵ and as those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),

¹⁶ that the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

¹⁷ Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

4 ¹ And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying:

² "Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe,
³ "and command them, saying, 'Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood firm. You shall carry them over with you and leave them in the lodging place where you lodge tonight.'"

⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men whom he had appointed from the children of Israel, one man from every tribe;

⁵ and Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder,

according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel,

⁶ "that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?'

⁷ "Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever."

⁸ And the children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

⁹ Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

¹⁰ So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over.

¹¹ Then it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.

¹² And the men of Reuben, the men of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh crossed over armed before the children of Israel, as Moses had spoken to them.

¹³ About forty thousand prepared for war crossed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho.

¹⁴ On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they had feared Moses, all the days of his life.

¹⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying,

¹⁶ "Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan."

¹⁷ Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan."

¹⁸ And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.

¹⁹ Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Jericho.

²⁰ And those twelve stones which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up in Gilgal.

²¹ Then he spoke to the children of Israel, saying: "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?'

²² "then you shall let your children know, saying, 'Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land';

²³ "for the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed over,

²⁴ "that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is

mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

5¹ So it was, when all the kings of the Amorites who were on the west side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the children of Israel until we had crossed over, that their heart melted; and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel.

² At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time."

³ So Joshua made flint knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at the hill of the foreskins.

⁴ And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt who were males,

all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt.

⁵ For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised.

⁶ For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD—to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

⁷ Then Joshua circumcised their sons whom He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

⁸ So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho.

¹¹ And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and parched grain, on the very same day.

¹² Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

¹³ And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?"

¹⁴ So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?"

¹⁵ Then the Commander of the LORD'S army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.

6 ¹ Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

² And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

³ "You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days.

⁴ "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

⁵ "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

⁶ Then Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."

⁷ And he said to the people, "Proceed, and march around the city, and let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD."

⁸ So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

⁹ The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

¹⁰ Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

¹¹ So he had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once. Then they

came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

¹² And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

¹³ Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

¹⁴ And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days.

¹⁵ But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times.

¹⁶ And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!

¹⁷ "Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

¹⁸ "And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

¹⁹ "But all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron, are consecrated to the LORD; they shall come into the treasury of the LORD."

²⁰ So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the

sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

²¹ And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.

²² But Joshua had said to the two men who had spied out the country, "Go into the harlot's house, and from there bring out the woman and all that she has, as you swore to her."

²³ And the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father, her mother, her brothers, and all that she had. So they brought out all her relatives and left them outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴ But they burned the city and all that was in it with fire. Only the silver and

gold, and the vessels of bronze and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

²⁵ And Joshua spared Rahab the harlot, her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwells in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

²⁶ Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout all the country.

7 ¹ But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed

things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel.

² Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, "Go up and spy out the country." So the men went up and spied out Ai.

³ And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not let all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few."

⁴ So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.

⁵ And the men of Ai struck down about thirty–six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.

⁷ And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!

⁸ "O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?

⁹ "For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?"

¹⁰ So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?

¹¹ "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I

commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff.

¹² "Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.

¹³ "Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."

¹⁴ 'In the morning therefore you shall be brought according to your tribes. And it shall be that the tribe which the LORD takes shall come according to

families; and the family which the LORD takes shall come by households; and the household which the LORD takes shall come man by man.

¹⁵ 'Then it shall be that he who is taken with the accursed thing shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done a disgraceful thing in Israel.'

¹⁶ So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.

¹⁷ He brought the clan of Judah, and he took the family of the Zarhites; and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

¹⁸ Then he brought his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

¹⁹ Now Joshua said to Achan, "My son, I beg you, give glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession to Him, and tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua and said, "Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I have done:

²¹ "When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver under it.

²³ And they took them from the midst of the tent, brought them to Joshua and

to all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.

²⁴ Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the garment, the wedge of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor.

²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.

²⁶ Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day.

8 ¹ Now the LORD said to Joshua: "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; take

all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.

² "And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king. Only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves. Lay an ambush for the city behind it."

³ So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor and sent them away by night.

⁴ And he commanded them, saying: "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind the city. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you be ready.

⁵ "Then I and all the people who are with me will approach the city; and it will come about, when they come out against us as at the first, that we shall flee before them.

⁶ "For they will come out after us till we have drawn them from the city, for they will say, 'They are fleeing before us as at the first.' Therefore we will flee before them.

⁷ "Then you shall rise from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand.

⁸ "And it will be, when you have taken the city, that you shall set the city on fire. According to the commandment of the LORD you shall do. See, I have commanded you."

⁹ Joshua therefore sent them out; and they went to lie in ambush, and stayed between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of Ai; but Joshua lodged that night among the people.

¹⁰ Then Joshua rose up early in the morning and mustered the people, and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai.

¹¹ And all the people of war who were with him went up and drew near; and they came before the city and camped on the north side of Ai. Now a valley lay between them and Ai.

¹² So he took about five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, on the west side of the city.

¹³ And when they had set the people, all the army that was on the north of the city, and its rear guard on the west of the city, Joshua went that night into the midst of the valley.

¹⁴ Now it happened, when the king of Ai saw it, that the men of the city hurried and rose early and went out against Israel to battle, he and all his people, at an appointed place before the plain. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city.

¹⁵ And Joshua and all Israel made as if they were beaten before them, and fled by the way of the wilderness.

¹⁶ So all the people who were in Ai were called together to pursue them. And they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city.

¹⁷ There was not a man left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. So they left the city open and pursued Israel.

¹⁸ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the spear that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the spear that was in his hand toward the city.

¹⁹ So those in ambush arose quickly out of their place; they ran as soon as he had stretched out his hand, and they entered the city and took it, and hurried to set the city on fire.

²⁰ And when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, the smoke of the city ascended to heaven. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers.

²¹ Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.

²² Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were caught in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape.

²³ But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.

²⁴ And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the

inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword.

²⁵ So it was that all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand—all the people of Ai.

²⁶ For Joshua did not draw back his hand, with which he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.

²⁷ Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua.

²⁸ So Joshua burned Ai and made it a heap forever, a desolation to this day.

²⁹ And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening. And as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that

they should take his corpse down from the tree, cast it at the entrance of the gate of the city, and raise over it a great heap of stones that remains to this day.

³⁰ Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal,

³¹ as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: "an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.

³² And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

³³ Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was

born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel.

³⁴ And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

9¹ And it came to pass when all the kings who were on this side of the Jordan, in the hills and in the lowland and in all the coasts of the Great Sea toward Lebanon—the Hittite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite,

the Hivite, and the Jebusite—heard about it,

² that they gathered together to fight with Joshua and Israel with one accord.

³ But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,

⁴ they worked craftily, and went and pretended to be ambassadors. And they took old sacks on their donkeys, old wineskins torn and mended,

⁵ old and patched sandals on their feet, and old garments on themselves; and all the bread of their provision was dry and moldy.

⁶ And they went to Joshua, to the camp at Gilgal, and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a far country; now therefore, make a covenant with us."

⁷ Then the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you dwell among us; so how can we make a covenant with you?"

⁸ But they said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you, and where do you come from?"

⁹ So they said to him: "From a very far country your servants have come, because of the name 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 kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan—to Sihon king of Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who was at Ashtaroth.

¹¹ "Therefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spoke to us, saying, 'Take provisions with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say

to them, "We are your servants; now therefore, make a covenant with us."

¹² "This bread of ours we took hot for our provision from our houses on the day we departed to come to you. But now look, it is dry and moldy.

¹³ "And these wineskins which we filled were new, and see, they are torn; and these our garments and our sandals have become old because of the very long journey."

¹⁴ Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.

¹⁵ So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.

¹⁶ And it happened at the end of three days, after they had made a covenant with them, that they heard that they

were their neighbors who dwelt near them.

¹⁷ Then the children of Israel journeyed and came to their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kirjath Jearim.

¹⁸ But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers.

¹⁹ Then all the rulers said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel; now therefore, we may not touch them.

²⁰ "This we will do to them: We will let them live, lest wrath be upon us because of the oath which we swore to them."

²¹ And the rulers said to them, "Let them live, but let them be woodcutters and water carriers for all

the congregation, as the rulers had promised them."

²² Then Joshua called for them, and he spoke to them, saying, "Why have you deceived us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell near us?"

²³ "Now therefore, you are cursed, and none of you shall be freed from being slaves—woodcutters and water carriers for the house of my God."

²⁴ So they answered Joshua and said, "Because your servants were clearly told that the LORD your God commanded His servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you; therefore we were very much afraid for our lives because of you, and have done this thing.

²⁵ "And now, here we are, in your hands; do with us as it seems good and right to do to us."

²⁶ So he did to them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, so that they did not kill them.

²⁷ And that day Joshua made them woodcutters and water carriers for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, in the place which He would choose, even to this day.

10 ¹ Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it—as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king—and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them,

² that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty.

³ Therefore Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of

Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, saying,

⁴ "Come up to me and help me, that we may attack Gibeon, for it has made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel."

⁵ Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered together and went up, they and all their armies, and camped before Gibeon and made war against it.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying, "Do not forsake your servants; come up to us quickly, save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the mountains have gathered together against us."

⁷ So Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

⁸ And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them into your hand; not a man of them shall stand before you."

⁹ Joshua therefore came upon them suddenly, having marched all night from Gilgal.

¹⁰ So the LORD routed them before Israel, killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them along the road that goes to Beth Horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

¹¹ And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the LORD cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more

who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.

¹² Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

¹³ So the sun stood still, And the moon stopped, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.

¹⁴ And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.

¹⁵ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

¹⁶ But these five kings had fled and hidden themselves in a cave at Makkedah.

¹⁷ And it was told Joshua, saying, "The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah."

¹⁸ So Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and set men by it to guard them."

¹⁹ "And do not stay there yourselves, but pursue your enemies, and attack their rear guard. Do not allow them to enter their cities, for the LORD your God has delivered them into your hand."

²⁰ Then it happened, while Joshua and the children of Israel made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they had finished, that those who escaped entered fortified cities.

²¹ And all the people returned to the camp, to Joshua at Makkedah, in peace.

No one moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel.

²² Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings to me from the cave."

²³ And they did so, and brought out those five kings to him from the cave: the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

²⁴ So it was, when they brought out those kings to Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said to the captains of the men of war who went with him, "Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings." And they drew near and put their feet on their necks.

²⁵ Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

²⁶ And afterward Joshua struck them and killed them, and hanged them on five trees; and they were hanging on the trees until evening.

²⁷ So it was at the time of the going down of the sun that Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees, cast them into the cave where they had been hidden, and laid large stones against the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

²⁸ On that day Joshua took Makkedah, and struck it and its king with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them—all the people who were in it. He let none remain. He also did to the king of Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.

²⁹ Then Joshua passed from Makkedah, and all Israel with him, to Libnah; and they fought against Libnah.

³⁰ And the LORD also delivered it and its king into the hand of Israel; he struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword. He let none remain in it, but did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

³¹ Then Joshua passed from Libnah, and all Israel with him, to Lachish; and they encamped against it and fought against it.

³² And the LORD delivered Lachish into the hand of Israel, who took it on the second day, and struck it and all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, according to all that he had done to Libnah.

³³ Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish; and Joshua struck him and his people, until he left him none remaining.

³⁴ From Lachish Joshua passed to Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they

encamped against it and fought against it.

³⁵ They took it on that day and struck it with the edge of the sword; all the people who were in it he utterly destroyed that day, according to all that he had done to Lachish.

³⁶ So Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, to Hebron; and they fought against it.

³⁷ And they took it and struck it with the edge of the sword—its king, all its cities, and all the people who were in it; he left none remaining, according to all that he had done to Eglon, but utterly destroyed it and all the people who were in it.

³⁸ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and they fought against it.

³⁹ And he took it and its king and all its cities; they struck them with the edge

of the sword and utterly destroyed all the people who were in it. He left none remaining; as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir and its king, as he had done also to Libnah and its king.

⁴⁰ So Joshua conquered all the land: the mountain country and the South and the lowland and the wilderness slopes, and all their kings; he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded.

⁴¹ And Joshua conquered them from Kadesh Barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even as far as Gibeon.

⁴² All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.

⁴³ Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

11 ¹ And it came to pass, when Jabin king of Hazor heard these things, that he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaph,

² and to the kings who were from the north, in the mountains, in the plain south of Chinneroth, in the lowland, and in the heights of Dor on the west,

³ to the Canaanites in the east and in the west, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite in the mountains, and the Hivite below Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

⁴ So they went out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.

⁵ And when all these kings had met together, they came and camped

together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

⁶ But the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

⁷ So Joshua and all the people of war with him came against them suddenly by the waters of Merom, and they attacked them.

⁸ And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who defeated them and chased them to Greater Sidon, to the Brook Misrephoth, and to the Valley of Mizpah eastward; they attacked them until they left none of them remaining.

⁹ So Joshua did to them as the LORD had told him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

¹⁰ Joshua turned back at that time and took Hazor, and struck its king with the sword; for Hazor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms.

¹¹ And they struck all the people who were in it with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them. There was none left breathing. Then he burned Hazor with fire.

¹² So all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua took and struck with the edge of the sword. He utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.

¹³ But as for the cities that stood on their mounds, Israel burned none of them, except Hazor only, which Joshua burned.

¹⁴ And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the children of Israel took as booty for themselves; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword

until they had destroyed them, and they left none breathing.

¹⁵ As the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁶ Thus Joshua took all this land: the mountain country, all the South, all the land of Goshen, the lowland, and the Jordan plain—the mountains of Israel and its lowlands,

¹⁷ from Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, even as far as Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings, and struck them down and killed them.

¹⁸ Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.

¹⁹ There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, except the

Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. All the others they took in battle.

²⁰ For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²¹ And at that time Joshua came and cut off the Anakim from the mountains: from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities.

²² None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.

²³ So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had said to Moses; and Joshua gave it as an

inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Then the land rested from war.

12 ¹ These are the kings of the land whom the children of Israel defeated, and whose land they possessed on the other side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the River Arnon to Mount Hermon, and all the eastern Jordan plain:

² One king was Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon and ruled half of Gilead, from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, from the middle of that river, even as far as the River Jabbok, which is the border of the Ammonites,

³ and the eastern Jordan plain from the Sea of Chinneroth as far as the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea), the road to Beth Jeshimoth, and southward below the slopes of Pisgah.

⁴ The other king was Og king of Bashan and his territory, who was of the remnant of the giants, who dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

⁵ and reigned over Mount Hermon, over Salcah, over all Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and over half of Gilead to the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

⁶ These Moses the servant of the LORD and the children of Israel had conquered; and Moses the servant of the LORD had given it as a possession to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁷ And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel conquered on this side of the Jordan, on the west, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon as far as Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, which Joshua gave to the

tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions,

⁸ in the mountain country, in the lowlands, in the Jordan plain, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the South—the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites:

⁹ the king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside 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 the heights of Dor, one; the king of the people of Gilgal, one;

²⁴ the king of Tirzah, one—all the kings, thirty-one.

13 ¹ Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: "You are old, advanced in years,

and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

² "This is the land that yet remains: all the territory of the Philistines and all that of the Geshurites,

³ "from Sihor, which is east of Egypt, as far as the border of Ekron northward (which is counted as Canaanite); the five lords of the Philistines—the Gazites, the Ashdodites, the Ashkelonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites;

⁴ "from the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, to the border of the Amorites;

⁵ "the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from Baal Gad below Mount Hermon as far as the entrance to Hamath;

⁶ "all the inhabitants of the mountains from Lebanon as far as the Brook

Misrephoth, and all the Sidonians— them I will drive out from before the children of Israel; only divide it by lot to Israel as an inheritance, as I have commanded you.

⁷ "Now therefore, divide this land as an inheritance to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh."

⁸ With the other half tribe the Reubenites and the Gadites received their inheritance, which Moses had given them, beyond the Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant of the LORD had given them:

⁹ from Aroer which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and the town that is in the midst of the ravine, and all the plain of Medeba as far as Dibon;

¹⁰ all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the border of the children of Ammon;

¹¹ Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salcah;
¹² all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants; for Moses had defeated and cast out these.

¹³ Nevertheless the children of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maachathites, but the Geshurites and the Maachathites dwell among the Israelites until this day.

¹⁴ Only to the tribe of Levi he had given no inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as He said to them.

¹⁵ And Moses had given to the tribe of the children of Reuben an inheritance according to their families.

¹⁶ Their territory was from Aroer, which is on the bank of the River Arnon, and

the city that is in the midst of the ravine,
and all the plain by Medeba;

¹⁷ Heshbon and all its cities that are in
the plain: Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal
Meon,

¹⁸ Jahaza, Kedemoth, Mephaath,

¹⁹ Kirjathaim, Sibmah, Zereth Shahar on
the mountain of the valley,

²⁰ Beth Peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and
Beth Jeshimoth—

²¹ all the cities of the plain and all the
kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites,
who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses
had struck with the princes of Midian:
Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, who
were princes of Sihon dwelling in the
country.

²² The children of Israel also killed with
the sword Balaam the son of Beor, the
soothsayer, among those who were
killed by them.

²³ And the border of the children of Reuben was the bank of the Jordan. This was the inheritance of the children of Reuben according to their families, the cities and their villages.

²⁴ Moses also had given an inheritance to the tribe of Gad, to the children of Gad according to their families.

²⁵ Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites as far as Aroer, which is before Rabbah,

²⁶ and from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the border of Debir,

²⁷ and in the valley Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, with the Jordan as its border, as far as the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth, on the other side of the Jordan eastward.

²⁸ This is the inheritance of the children of Gad according to their families, the cities and their villages.

²⁹ Moses also had given an inheritance to half the tribe of Manasseh; it was for half the tribe of the children of Manasseh according to their families:

³⁰ Their territory was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair which are in Bashan, sixty cities;

³¹ half of Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were for the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, for half of the children of Machir according to their families.

³² These are the areas which Moses had distributed as an inheritance in the plains of Moab on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward.

³³ But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.

14 ¹ These are the areas which the children of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel distributed as an inheritance to them.

² Their inheritance was by lot, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses, for the nine tribes and the half-tribe.

³ For Moses had given the inheritance of the two tribes and the half-tribe on the other side of the Jordan; but to the Levites he had given no inheritance among them.

⁴ For the children of Joseph were two tribes: Manasseh and Ephraim. And

they gave no part to the Levites in the land, except cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for their livestock and their property.

⁵ As the LORD had commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did; and they divided the land.

⁶ Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

⁷ "I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.

⁸ "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

⁹ "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'

¹⁰ "And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

¹¹ "As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.

¹² "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and

I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

¹³ And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

¹⁴ Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵ And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.

15 ¹ So this was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families: The border of Edom at the Wilderness of Zin southward was the extreme southern boundary.

² And their southern border began at the shore of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward.

³ Then it went out to the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, passed along to Zin, ascended on the south side of Kadesh Barnea, passed along to Hezron, went up to Adar, and went around to Karkaa.

⁴ From there it passed toward Azmon and went out to the Brook of Egypt; and the border ended at the sea. This shall be your southern border.

⁵ The east border was the Salt Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan. And the border on the northern quarter began at the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

⁶ The border went up to Beth Hoglah and passed north of Beth Arabah; and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben.

⁷ Then the border went up toward Debir from the Valley of Achor, and it turned northward toward Gilgal, which

is before the Ascent of Adummim, which is on the south side of the valley. The border continued toward the waters of En Shemesh and ended at En Rogel.

⁸ And the border went up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to the southern slope of the Jebusite city (which is Jerusalem). The border went up to the top of the mountain that lies before the Valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the Valley of Rephaim northward.

⁹ Then the border went around from the top of the hill to the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and extended to the cities of Mount Ephron. And the border went around to Baalah (which is Kirjath Jearim).

¹⁰ Then the border turned westward from Baalah to Mount Seir, passed along to the side of Mount Jearim on the north

(which is Chesalon), went down to Beth Shemesh, and passed on to Timnah.

¹¹ And the border went out to the side of Ekron northward. Then the border went around to Shicron, passed along to Mount Baalah, and extended to Jabneel; and the border ended at the sea.

¹² The west border was the coastline of the Great Sea. This is the boundary of the children of Judah all around according to their families.

¹³ Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).

¹⁴ Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.

¹⁵ Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher).

¹⁶ And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."

¹⁷ So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

¹⁸ Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?"

¹⁹ She answered, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

²⁰ This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families:

²¹ The cities at the limits of the tribe of the children of Judah, toward the border of Edom in the South, were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,

²² Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

²³ Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,

²⁴ Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,

²⁵ Hazor, Hadattah, Keriioth, Hezron (which is Hazor),

²⁶ Amam, Shema, Moladah,

²⁷ Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon, Beth Pelet,

²⁸ Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Bizjothjah,

²⁹ Baalah, Ijim, Ezem,

³⁰ Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,

³¹ Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

³² Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon: all the cities are twenty–nine, with their villages.

³³ In the lowland: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,

³⁴ Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam,

³⁵ Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,

³⁶ Sharaim, Adithaim, Gederah, and Gederothaim: fourteen cities with their villages;

³⁷ Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad,

³⁸ Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel,

³⁹ Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,

⁴⁰ Cabbon, Lahmas, Kithlish,

⁴¹ Gederoth, Beth Dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah: sixteen cities with their villages;

⁴² Libnah, Ether, Ashan,

⁴³ Jiphtah, 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 that lay near Ashdod, with their villages;

⁴⁷ Ashdod with its towns and villages, Gaza with its towns and villages—as far as the Brook of Egypt and the Great Sea with its coastline.

⁴⁸ And in the mountain country: Shamir,
Jattir, Sochoh,

⁴⁹ Dannah, Kirjath Sannah (which is
Debir),

⁵⁰ Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,

⁵¹ Goshen, Holon, and Giloh: eleven
cities with their villages;

⁵² Arab, Dumah, Eshean,

⁵³ Janum, Beth Tappuah, Aphekah,

⁵⁴ Humtah, Kirjath Arba (which is
Hebron), and Zior: nine cities with their
villages;

⁵⁵ Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,

⁵⁶ Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,

⁵⁷ Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah: ten cities
with their villages;

⁵⁸ Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor,

⁵⁹ Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon:
six cities with their villages;

⁶⁰ Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim)
and Rabbah: two cities with their
villages.

⁶¹ In the wilderness: Beth Arabah,
Middin, Secacah,

⁶² Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En
Gedi: six cities with their villages.

⁶³ As for the Jebusites, the inhabitants
of Jerusalem, the children of Judah could
not drive them out; but the Jebusites
dwell with the children of Judah at
Jerusalem to this day.

16 ¹ The lot fell to the children
of Joseph from the Jordan, by
Jericho, to the waters of Jericho on the
east, to the wilderness that goes up
from Jericho through the mountains to
Bethel,

² then went out from Bethel to Luz,
passed along to the border of the
Archites at Ataroth,

³ and went down westward to the
boundary of the Japhletites, as far as the
boundary of Lower Beth Horon to Gezer;
and it ended at the sea.

⁴ So the children of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, took their inheritance.

⁵ The border of the children of Ephraim, according to their families, was thus: The border of their inheritance on the east side was Ataroth Addar as far as Upper Beth Horon.

⁶ And the border went out toward the sea on the north side of Michmethath; then the border went around eastward to Taanath Shiloh, and passed by it on the east of Janohah.

⁷ Then it went down from Janohah to Ataroth and Naarah, reached to Jericho, and came out at the Jordan.

⁸ The border went out from Tappuah westward to the Brook Kanah, and it ended at the sea. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Ephraim according to their families.

⁹ The separate cities for the children of Ephraim were among the inheritance of

the children of Manasseh, all the cities with their villages.

¹⁰ And they did not drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites to this day and have become forced laborers.

17 ¹ There was also a lot for the tribe of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph: namely for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was a man of war; therefore he was given Gilead and Bashan.

² And there was a lot for the rest of the children of Manasseh according to their families: for the children of Abiezer, the children of Helek, the children of Asriel, the children of Shechem, the children of Hopher, and the children of Shemida; these were the male children

of Manasseh the son of Joseph according to their families.

³ But Zelophehad the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters. And these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

⁴ And they came near before Eleazar the priest, before Joshua the son of Nun, and before the rulers, saying, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." Therefore, according to the commandment of the LORD, he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers.

⁵ Ten shares fell to Manasseh, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which were on the other side of the Jordan,

⁶ because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons;

and the rest of Manasseh's sons had the land of Gilead.

⁷ And the territory of Manasseh was from Asher to Michmethath, that lies east of Shechem; and the border went along south to the inhabitants of En Tappuah.

⁸ Manasseh had the land of Tappuah, but Tappuah on the border of Manasseh belonged to the children of Ephraim.

⁹ And the border descended to the Brook Kanah, southward to the brook. These cities of Ephraim are among the cities of Manasseh. The border of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook; and it ended at the sea.

¹⁰ Southward it was Ephraim's, northward it was Manasseh's, and the sea was its border. Manasseh's territory was adjoining Asher on the north and Issachar on the east.

¹¹ And in Issachar and in Asher, Manasseh had Beth Shean and its towns, Ibleam and its towns, the inhabitants of Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of En Dor and its towns, the inhabitants of Taanach and its towns, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its towns—three hilly regions.

¹² Yet the children of Manasseh could not drive out the inhabitants of those cities, but the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.

¹³ And it happened, when the children of Israel grew strong, that they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.

¹⁴ Then the children of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given us only one lot and one share to inherit, since we are a great people, inasmuch as the LORD has blessed us until now?"

¹⁵ So Joshua answered them, "If you are a great people, then go up to the forest country and clear a place for yourself there in the land of the Perizzites and the giants, since the mountains of Ephraim are too confined for you."

¹⁶ But the children of Joseph said, "The mountain country is not enough for us; and all the Canaanites who dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both those who are of Beth Shean and its towns and those who are of the Valley of Jezreel."

¹⁷ And Joshua spoke to the house of Joseph—to Ephraim and Manasseh—saying, "You are a great people and have great power; you shall not have only one lot,

¹⁸ "but the mountain country shall be yours. Although it is wooded, you shall cut it down, and its farthest extent shall be yours; for you shall drive out

the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots and are strong."

18 ¹ Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them.

² But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.

³ Then Joshua said to the children of Israel: "How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers has given you?"

⁴ "Pick out from among you three men for each tribe, and I will send them; they shall rise and go through the land, survey it according to their inheritance, and come back to me.

⁵ "And they shall divide it into seven parts. Judah shall remain in their territory on the south, and the house of

Joseph shall remain in their territory on the north.

⁶ "You shall therefore survey the land in seven parts and bring the survey here to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.

⁷ "But the Levites have no part among you, for the priesthood of the LORD is their inheritance. And Gad, Reuben, and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan on the east, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them."

⁸ Then the men arose to go away; and Joshua charged those who went to survey the land, saying, "Go, walk through the land, survey it, and come back to me, that I may cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh."

⁹ So the men went, passed through the land, and wrote the survey in a book in

seven parts by cities; and they came to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh.

¹⁰ Then Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions.

¹¹ Now the lot of the tribe of the children of Benjamin came up according to their families, and the territory of their lot came out between the children of Judah and the children of Joseph.

¹² Their border on the north side began at the Jordan, and the border went up to the side of Jericho on the north, and went up through the mountains westward; it ended at the Wilderness of Beth Aven.

¹³ The border went over from there toward Luz, to the side of Luz (which is Bethel) southward; and the border descended to Ataroth Addar, near the

hill that lies on the south side of Lower Beth Horon.

¹⁴ Then the border extended around the west side to the south, from the hill that lies before Beth Horon southward; and it ended at Kirjath Baal (which is Kirjath Jearim), a city of the children of Judah. This was the west side.

¹⁵ The south side began at the end of Kirjath Jearim, and the border extended on the west and went out to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah.

¹⁶ Then the border came down to the end of the mountain that lies before the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is in the Valley of the Rephaim on the north, descended to the Valley of Hinnom, to the side of the Jebusite city on the south, and descended to En Rogel.

¹⁷ And it went around from the north, went out to En Shemesh, and extended toward Geliloth, which is before the

Ascent of Adummim, and descended to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben.

¹⁸ Then it passed along toward the north side of Arabah, and went down to Arabah.

¹⁹ And the border passed along to the north side of Beth Hoglah; then the border ended at the north bay at the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan. This was the southern boundary.

²⁰ The Jordan was its border on the east side. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin, according to its boundaries all around, according to their families.

²¹ Now the cities of the tribe of the children of Benjamin, according to their families, were Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz,

²² Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,

²³ Avim, Parah, Ophrah,

²⁴ Chephar Haammoni, Ophni, and Gaba: twelve cities with their villages;

²⁵ Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,

²⁶ Mizpah, Chephirah, Mozah,

²⁷ Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,

²⁸ Zelah, Eleph, Jebus (which is Jerusalem), Gibeath, and Kirjath: fourteen cities with their villages. This was the inheritance of the children of Benjamin according to their families.

19 ¹ The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. And their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah.

² They had in their inheritance Beersheba (Sheba), Moladah,

³ Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem,

⁴ Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,

⁵ Ziklag, Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susah,

⁶ Beth Lebaath, and Sharuhem: thirteen cities and their villages;

⁷ Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan: four cities and their villages;

⁸ and all the villages that were all around these cities as far as Baalath Beer, Ramah of the South. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families.

⁹ The inheritance of the children of Simeon was included in the share of the children of Judah, for the share of the children of Judah was too much for them. Therefore the children of Simeon had their inheritance within the inheritance of that people.

¹⁰ The third lot came out for the children of Zebulun according to their families, and the border of their inheritance was as far as Sarid.

¹¹ Their border went toward the west and to Maralah, went to Dabbasheth,

and extended along the brook that is east of Jokneam.

¹² Then from Sarid it went eastward toward the sunrise along the border of Chisloth Tabor, and went out toward Daberath, bypassing Japhia.

¹³ And from there it passed along on the east of Gath Hepher, toward Eth Kazin, and extended to Rimmon, which borders on Neah.

¹⁴ Then the border went around it on the north side of Hannathon, and it ended in the Valley of Jiphthah El.

¹⁵ Included were Kattath, Nahallal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem: twelve cities with their villages.

¹⁶ This was the inheritance of the children of Zebulun according to their families, these cities with their villages.

¹⁷ The fourth lot came out to Issachar, for the children of Issachar according to their families.

¹⁸ And their territory went to Jezreel, and included Chesulloth, Shunem,

¹⁹ Haphraim, Shion, Anaharath,

²⁰ Rabbith, Kishion, Abez,

²¹ Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pазzez.

²² And the border reached to Tabor, Shahazimah, and Beth Shemesh; their border ended at the Jordan: sixteen cities with their villages.

²³ This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Issachar according to their families, the cities and their villages.

²⁴ The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families.

²⁵ And their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph,

²⁶ Alammelech, Amad, and Mishal; it reached to Mount Carmel westward, along the Brook Shihor Libnath.

²⁷ It turned toward the sunrise to Beth Dagon; and it reached to Zebulun and to the Valley of Jiphthah El, then northward beyond Beth Emek and Neiel, bypassing Cabul which was on the left,

²⁸ including Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon.

²⁹ And the border turned to Ramah and to the fortified city of Tyre; then the border turned to Hosah, and ended at the sea by the region of Achzib.

³⁰ Also Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob were included: twenty–two cities with their villages.

³¹ This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Asher according to their families, these cities with their villages.

³² The sixth lot came out to the children of Naphtali, for the children of Naphtali according to their families.

³³ And their border began at Heleph, enclosing the territory from the terebinth tree in Zaananim, Adami Nekeb, and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum; it ended at the Jordan.

³⁴ From Heleph the border extended westward to Aznoth Tabor, and went out from there toward Hukkok; it adjoined Zebulun on the south side and Asher on the west side, and ended at Judah by the Jordan toward the sunrise.

³⁵ And the fortified cities are Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,

³⁶ Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,

³⁷ Kedesh, Edrei, En Hazor,

³⁸ Iron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemesh: nineteen cities with their villages.

³⁹ This was the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Naphtali according to their families, the cities and their villages.

⁴⁰ The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families.

⁴¹ And the territory of their inheritance was Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh,

⁴² Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Jethlah,

⁴³ Elon, Timnah, Ekron,

⁴⁴ Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,

⁴⁵ Jehud, Bene Berak, Gath Rimmon,

⁴⁶ Me Jarkon, and Rakkon, with the region near Joppa.

⁴⁷ And the border of the children of Dan went beyond these, because the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem and took it; and they struck it with the edge of the sword, took possession of it, and dwelt in it. They called Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their father.

⁴⁸ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the children of Dan according to their families, these cities with their villages.

⁴⁹ When they had made an end of dividing the land as an inheritance according to their borders, the children of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun.

⁵⁰ According to the word of the LORD they gave him the city which he asked for, Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim; and he built the city and dwelt in it.

⁵¹ These were the inheritances which Eleazar the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel divided as an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the LORD, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. So they made an end of dividing the country.

20 ¹ The LORD also spoke to Joshua, saying,

² "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'Appoint for yourselves cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, ³ 'that the slayer who kills a person accidentally or unintentionally may flee there; and they shall be your refuge from the avenger of blood.

⁴ 'And when he flees to one of those cities, and stands at the entrance of the gate of the city, and declares his case in the hearing of the elders of that city, they shall take him into the city as one of them, and give him a place, that he may dwell among them.

⁵ 'Then if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not deliver the slayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unintentionally, but did not hate him beforehand.

⁶ 'And he shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the one

who is high priest in those days. Then the slayer may return and come to his own city and his own house, to the city from which he fled.'"

⁷ So they appointed Kedesh in Galilee, in the mountains of Naphtali, Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and Kirjath Arba (which is Hebron) in the mountains of Judah.

⁸ And on the other side of the Jordan, by Jericho eastward, they assigned Bezer in the wilderness on the plain, from the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh.

⁹ These were the cities appointed for all the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwelt among them, that whoever killed a person accidentally might flee there, and not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until he stood before the congregation.

21 ¹ Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came near to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua the son of Nun, and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel.

² And they spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, saying, "The LORD commanded through Moses to give us cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for our livestock."

³ So the children of Israel gave to the Levites from their inheritance, at the commandment of the LORD, these cities and their common-lands:

⁴ Now the lot came out for the families of the Kohathites. And the children of Aaron the priest, who were of the Levites, had thirteen cities by lot from the tribe of Judah, from the tribe of Simeon, and from the tribe of Benjamin.

⁵ The rest of the children of Kohath had ten cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Ephraim, from the tribe of Dan, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh.

⁶ And the children of Gershon had thirteen cities by lot from the families of the tribe of Issachar, from the tribe of Asher, from the tribe of Naphtali, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

⁷ The children of Merari according to their families had twelve cities from the tribe of Reuben, from the tribe of Gad, and from the tribe of Zebulun.

⁸ And the children of Israel gave these cities with their common-lands by lot to the Levites, as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses.

⁹ So they gave from the tribe of the children of Judah and from the tribe of the children of Simeon these cities which are designated by name,

¹⁰ which were for the children of Aaron, one of the families of the Kohathites, who were of the children of Levi; for the lot was theirs first.

¹¹ And they gave them Kirjath Arba (Arba was the father of Anak), which is Hebron, in the mountains of Judah, with the common-land surrounding it.

¹² But the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession.

¹³ Thus to the children of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), Libnah with its common-land,

¹⁴ Jattir with its common-land, Eshtemoa with its common-land,

¹⁵ Holon with its common-land, Debir with its common-land,

¹⁶ Ain with its common-land, Juttah with its common-land, and Beth

Shemesh with its common-land: nine cities from those two tribes;

¹⁷ and from the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with its common-land, Geba with its common-land,

¹⁸ Anathoth with its common-land, and Almon with its common-land: four cities.

¹⁹ All the cities of the children of Aaron, the priests, were thirteen cities with their common-lands.

²⁰ And the families of the children of Kohath, the Levites, the rest of the children of Kohath, even they had the cities of their lot from the tribe of Ephraim.

²¹ For they gave them Shechem with its common-land in the mountains of Ephraim (a city of refuge for the slayer), Gezer with its common-land,

²² Kibzaim with its common-land, and Beth Horon with its common-land: four cities;

²³ and from the tribe of Dan, Eltekeh with its common-land, Gibbethon with its common-land,

²⁴ Aijalon with its common-land, and Gath Rimmon with its common-land: four cities;

²⁵ and from the half-tribe of Manasseh, Tanach with its common-land and Gath Rimmon with its common-land: two cities.

²⁶ All the ten cities with their common-lands were for the rest of the families of the children of Kohath.

²⁷ Also to the children of Gershon, of the families of the Levites, from the other half-tribe of Manasseh, they gave Golan in Bashan with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), and Be

Eshterah with its common-land: two cities;

²⁸ and from the tribe of Issachar, Kishion with its common-land, Daberath with its common-land,

²⁹ Jarmuth with its common-land, and En Gannim with its common-land: four cities;

³⁰ and from the tribe of Asher, Mishal with its common-land, Abdon with its common-land,

³¹ Helkath with its common-land, and Rehob with its common-land: four cities;

³² and from the tribe of Naphtali, Kedesh in Galilee with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), Hammoth Dor with its common-land, and Kartan with its common-land: three cities.

³³ All the cities of the Gershonites according to their families were thirteen cities with their common-lands.

³⁴ And to the families of the children of Merari, the rest of the Levites, from the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam with its common-land, Kartah with its common-land,

³⁵ Dimnah with its common-land, and Nahalal with its common-land: four cities;

³⁶ and from the tribe of Reuben, Bezer with its common-land, Jahaz with its common-land,

³⁷ Kedemoth with its common-land, and Mephaath with its common-land: four cities;

³⁸ and from the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead with its common-land (a city of refuge for the slayer), Mahanaim with its common-land,

³⁹ Heshbon with its common-land, and Jazer with its common-land: four cities in all.

⁴⁰ So all the cities for the children of Merari according to their families, the rest of the families of the Levites, were by their lot twelve cities.

⁴¹ All the cities of the Levites within the possession of the children of Israel were forty–eight cities with their common–lands.

⁴² Every one of these cities had its common–land surrounding it; thus were all these cities.

⁴³ So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it.

⁴⁴ The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.

⁴⁵ Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

22 ¹ Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh,

² and said to them: "You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you.

³ "You have not left your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God.

⁴ "And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brethren, as He promised them; now therefore, return and go to your tents and to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

⁵ "But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

⁶ So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

⁷ Now to half the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half of it Joshua gave a possession among their brethren on this side of the Jordan, westward. And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them,

⁸ and spoke to them, saying, "Return with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very

much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren."

⁹ So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

¹⁰ And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar.

¹¹ Now the children of Israel heard someone say, "Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan,

in the region of the Jordan—on the children of Israel's side."

¹² And when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

¹³ Then the children of Israel sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead,

¹⁴ and with him ten rulers, one ruler each from the chief house of every tribe of Israel; and each one was the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel.

¹⁵ Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying,

¹⁶ "Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD: 'What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the LORD?

¹⁷ 'Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD,

¹⁸ 'but that you must turn away this day from following the LORD? And it shall be, if you rebel today against the LORD, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.

¹⁹ 'Nevertheless, if the land of your possession is unclean, then cross over to the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD'S tabernacle stands, and take possession among us; but do not rebel against the LORD, nor rebel

against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the LORD our God.

²⁰ 'Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.'

²¹ Then the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered and said to the heads of the divisions of Israel:

²² "The LORD God of gods, the LORD God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know—if it is in rebellion, or if in treachery against the LORD, do not save us this day.

²³ "If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the LORD, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings

on it, let the LORD Himself require an account.

²⁴ "But in fact we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying, 'In time to come your descendants may speak to our descendants, saying, "What have you to do with the LORD God of Israel?"

²⁵ "For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between you and us, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. You have no part in the LORD." So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the LORD.'

²⁶ "Therefore we said, 'Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice,

²⁷ 'but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the LORD before Him with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that

your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, "You have no part in the LORD."

²⁸ "Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, 'Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.'

²⁹ "Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which is before His tabernacle."

³⁰ Now when Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the children

of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them.

³¹ Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, "This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the LORD. Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD."

³² And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, returned from the children of Reuben and the children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought back word to them.

³³ So the thing pleased the children of Israel, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the

land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.

³⁴ The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, Witness, "For it is a witness between us that the LORD is God."

23 ¹ Now it came to pass, a long time after the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies round about, that Joshua was old, advanced in age.

² And Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers, and said to them: "I am old, advanced in age.

³ "You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you.

⁴ "See, I have divided to you by lot these nations that remain, to be an inheritance for your tribes, from the Jordan, with all

the nations that I have cut off, as far as the Great Sea westward.

⁵ "And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

⁶ "Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,

⁷ "and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them,

⁸ "but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day.

⁹ "For the LORD has driven out from before you great and strong nations; but

as for you, no one has been able to stand against you to this day.

¹⁰ "One man of you shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He promised you.

¹¹ "Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.

¹² "Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—these that remain among you—and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you,

¹³ "know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁴ "Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all

your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.

¹⁵ "Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all the good things have come upon you which the LORD your God promised you, so the LORD will bring upon you all harmful things, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁶ "When you have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you."

24 ¹ Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and

called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.

³ 'Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.

⁴ 'To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

⁵ 'Also I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to what I did

among them. Afterward I brought you out.

⁶ 'Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea; and the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea.

⁷ 'So they cried out to the LORD; and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians, brought the sea upon them, and covered them. And your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. Then you dwelt in the wilderness a long time.

⁸ 'And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, who dwelt on the other side of the Jordan, and they fought with you. But I gave them into your hand, that you might possess their land, and I destroyed them from before you.

⁹ 'Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose to make war against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you.

¹⁰ 'But I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he continued to bless you. So I delivered you out of his hand.

¹¹ 'Then you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the men of Jericho fought against you—also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I delivered them into your hand.

¹² 'I sent the hornet before you which drove them out from before you, also the two kings of the Amorites, but not with your sword or with your bow.

¹³ 'I have given you a land for which you did not labor, and cities which you did not build, and you dwell in them; you eat of the vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.'

¹⁴ "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served

on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

¹⁵ "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶ So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

¹⁷ "for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.

¹⁸ "And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites

who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God."

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

²⁰ "If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good."

²¹ And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD!"

²² So Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses!"

²³ "Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel."

²⁴ And the people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!"

²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

²⁶ Then Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God."

²⁸ So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.

²⁹ Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the

servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old.

³⁰ And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

³¹ Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

³² The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

³³ And Eleazar the son of Aaron died. They buried him in a hill belonging to

Phinehas his son, which was given to him in the mountains of Ephraim.

Judges

1 ¹ Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, "Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?"

² And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up. Indeed I have delivered the land into his hand."

³ So Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him.

⁴ Then Judah went up, and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek.

⁵ And they found Adoni–Bezek in Bezek, and fought against him; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

⁶ Then Adoni–Bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes.

⁷ And Adoni–Bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and big toes cut off used to gather scraps under my table; as I have done, so God has repaid me." Then they brought him to Jerusalem, and there he died.

⁸ Now the children of Judah fought against Jerusalem and took it; they struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

⁹ And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who dwelt in the mountains, in the South, and in the lowland.

¹⁰ Then Judah went against the Canaanites who dwelt in Hebron. (Now the name of Hebron was formerly Kirjath Arba.) And they killed Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi.

¹¹ From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. (The name of Debir was formerly Kirjath Sepher.)

¹² Then Caleb said, "Whoever attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give my daughter Achsah as wife."

¹³ And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as wife.

¹⁴ Now it happened, when she came to him, that she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?"

¹⁵ So she said to him, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of

water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

¹⁶ Now the children of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the City of Palms with the children of Judah into the Wilderness of Judah, which lies in the South near Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people.

¹⁷ And Judah went with his brother Simeon, and they attacked the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath, and utterly destroyed it. So the name of the city was called Hormah.

¹⁸ Also Judah took Gaza with its territory, Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

¹⁹ So the LORD was with Judah. And they drove out the mountaineers, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the lowland, because they had chariots of iron.

²⁰ And they gave Hebron to Caleb, as Moses had said. Then he expelled from there the three sons of Anak.

²¹ But the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who inhabited Jerusalem; so the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

²² And the house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them.

²³ So the house of Joseph sent men to spy out Bethel. (The name of the city was formerly Luz.)

²⁴ And when the spies saw a man coming out of the city, they said to him, "Please show us the entrance to the city, and we will show you mercy."

²⁵ So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they struck the city with the edge of the sword; but they let the man and all his family go.

²⁶ And the man went to the land of the Hittites, built a city, and called its name Luz, which is its name to this day.

²⁷ However, Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in that land.

²⁸ And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites under tribute, but did not completely drive them out.

²⁹ Nor did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them.

³⁰ Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron or the inhabitants of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt

among them, and were put under tribute.

³¹ Nor did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco or the inhabitants of Sidon, or of Ahlab, Achzib, Helbah, Aphik, or Rehob.

³² So the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

³³ Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh or the inhabitants of Beth Anath; but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless the inhabitants of Beth Shemesh and Beth Anath were put under tribute to them.

³⁴ And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, for they would not allow them to come down to the valley;

³⁵ and the Amorites were determined to dwell in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and

in Shaalbim; yet when the strength of the house of Joseph became greater, they were put under tribute.

³⁶ Now the boundary of the Amorites was from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upward.

2 ¹ Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you.

² 'And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?

³ "Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.'"

⁴ So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.

⁵ Then they called the name of that place Bochim; and they sacrificed there to the LORD.

⁶ And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

⁷ So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

⁸ Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.

⁹ And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in

the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰ When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

¹¹ Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;

¹² and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.

¹³ They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.

¹⁴ And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled

them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies.

¹⁵ Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed.

¹⁶ Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

¹⁷ Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.

¹⁸ And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of

their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them.

¹⁹ And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.

²⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice,

²¹ "I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

²² "so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways

of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not."

²³ Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

3 ¹ Now these are the nations which the LORD left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan

² (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it),

³ namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.

⁴ And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the

LORD, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

⁵ Thus the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁶ And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons; and they served their gods.

⁷ So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.

⁸ Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and He sold them into the hand of Cushan–Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served Cushan–Rishathaim eight years.

⁹ When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel,

who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan–Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed over Cushan–Rishathaim.

¹¹ So the land had rest for forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

¹² And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹³ Then he gathered to himself the people of Ammon and Amalek, went and defeated Israel, and took possession of the City of Palms.

¹⁴ So the children of Israel served Eglon king of Moab eighteen years.

¹⁵ But when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them: Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. By him the children of Israel sent tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

¹⁶ Now Ehud made himself a dagger (it was double-edged and a cubit in length) and fastened it under his clothes on his right thigh.

¹⁷ So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. (Now Eglon was a very fat man.)

¹⁸ And when he had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who had carried the tribute.

¹⁹ But he himself turned back from the stone images that were at Gilgal, and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." He said, "Keep silence!" And all who attended him went out from him.

²⁰ And Ehud came to him (now he was sitting upstairs in his cool private chamber). Then Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." So he arose from his seat.

²¹ Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly.

²² Even the hilt went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out of his belly; and his entrails came out.

²³ Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the upper room behind him and locked them.

²⁴ When he had gone out, Eglon's servants came to look, and to their surprise, the doors of the upper room were locked. So they said, "He is probably attending to his needs in the cool chamber."

²⁵ So they waited till they were embarrassed, and still he had not opened the doors of the upper room. Therefore they took the key and opened them. And there was their master, fallen dead on the floor.

²⁶ But Ehud had escaped while they delayed, and passed beyond the stone images and escaped to Seirah.

²⁷ And it happened, when he arrived, that he blew the trumpet in the mountains of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mountains; and he led them.

²⁸ Then he said to them, "Follow me, for the LORD has delivered your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him, seized the fords of the Jordan leading to Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross over.

²⁹ And at that time they killed about ten thousand men of Moab, all stout men of valor; not a man escaped.

³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

³¹ After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed six hundred men of the Philistines with an ox goad; and he also delivered Israel.

4 ¹ When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.

² So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim.

³ And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he harshly oppressed the children of Israel.

⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

⁵ And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

⁶ Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;

⁷ 'and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will deliver him into your hand'?"

⁸ And Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!"

⁹ So she said, "I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.

¹⁰ And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under his command, and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite, of the children of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, had separated himself from the Kenites and pitched his tent near the terebinth tree at Zaanaim, which is beside Kedesh.

¹² And they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.

¹³ So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon.

¹⁴ Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

¹⁵ And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.

¹⁶ But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

¹⁷ However, Sisera had fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber

the Kenite; for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

¹⁸ And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord, turn aside to me; do not fear." And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket.

¹⁹ Then he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a jug of milk, gave him a drink, and covered him.

²⁰ And he said to her, "Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man comes and inquires of you, and says, 'Is there any man here?' you shall say, 'No.'"

²¹ Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and took a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went down into the ground; for he was fast asleep and weary. So he died.

²² And then, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him, and said to him, "Come, I will show you the man whom you seek." And when he went into her tent, there lay Sisera, dead with the peg in his temple.

²³ So on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel.

²⁴ And the hand of the children of Israel grew stronger and stronger against Jabin king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

5 ¹ Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:

² "When leaders lead in Israel, When the people willingly offer themselves, Bless the LORD!

³ "Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I, even I, will sing to the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel.

⁴ "LORD, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth trembled and the heavens poured, The clouds also poured water;

⁵ The mountains gushed before the LORD, This Sinai, before the LORD God of Israel.

⁶ "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, In the days of Jael, The highways were deserted, And the travelers walked along the byways.

⁷ Village life ceased, it ceased in Israel, Until I, Deborah, arose, Arose a mother in Israel.

⁸ They chose new gods; Then there was war in the gates; Not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel.

⁹ My heart is with the rulers of Israel Who offered themselves willingly with the people. Bless the LORD!

¹⁰ "Speak, you who ride on white donkeys, Who sit in judges' attire, And who walk along the road.

¹¹ Far from the noise of the archers, among the watering places, There they shall recount the righteous acts of the LORD, The righteous acts for His villagers in Israel; Then the people of the LORD shall go down to the gates.

¹² "Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, sing a song! Arise, Barak, and lead your captives away, O son of Abinoam!

¹³ "Then the survivors came down, the people against the nobles; The LORD came down for me against the mighty.

¹⁴ From Ephraim were those whose roots were in Amalek. After you, Benjamin, with your peoples, From Machir rulers came down, And from Zebulun those who bear the recruiter's staff.

¹⁵ And the princes of Issachar were
with Deborah; As Issachar, so was Barak
Sent into the valley under his command;
Among the divisions of Reuben There
were great resolves of heart.

¹⁶ Why did you sit among the
sheepfolds, To hear the pipings for the
flocks? The divisions of Reuben have
great searchings of heart.

¹⁷ Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan,
And why did Dan remain on ships? Asher
continued at the seashore, And stayed
by his inlets.

¹⁸ Zebulun is a people who jeopardized
their lives to the point of death, Naphtali
also, on the heights of the battlefield.

¹⁹ "The kings came and fought, Then
the kings of Canaan fought In Taanach,
by the waters of Megiddo; They took no
spoils of silver.

²⁰ They fought from the heavens; The stars from their courses fought against Sisera.

²¹ The torrent of Kishon swept them away, That ancient torrent, the torrent of Kishon. O my soul, march on in strength!

²² Then the horses' hooves pounded, The galloping, galloping of his steeds.

²³ 'Curse Meroz,' said the angel of the LORD, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly, Because they did not come to the help of the LORD, To the help of the LORD against the mighty.'

²⁴ "Most blessed among women is Jael, The wife of Heber the Kenite; Blessed is she among women in tents.

²⁵ He asked for water, she gave milk; She brought out cream in a lordly bowl.

²⁶ She stretched her hand to the tent peg, Her right hand to the workmen's hammer; She pounded Sisera, she

pierced his head, She split and struck through his temple.

²⁷ At her feet he sank, he fell, he lay still; At her feet he sank, he fell; Where he sank, there he fell dead.

²⁸ "The mother of Sisera looked through the window, And cried out through the lattice, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why tarries the clatter of his chariots?'

²⁹ Her wisest ladies answered her, Yes, she answered herself,

³⁰ 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoil: To every man a girl or two; For Sisera, plunder of dyed garments, Plunder of garments embroidered and dyed, Two pieces of dyed embroidery for the neck of the looter?'

³¹ "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! But let those who love Him be like the sun When it comes out in full

strength." So the land had rest for forty years.

6¹ Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,

² and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.

³ So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

⁴ Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.

⁵ For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as

numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.

⁶ So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

⁷ And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites,

⁸ that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;

⁹ 'and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.

¹⁰ 'Also I said to you, "I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice.'"

¹¹ Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

¹² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

¹³ Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

¹⁴ Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

¹⁵ So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

¹⁷ Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me."

¹⁸ "Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

¹⁹ So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.

²⁰ The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and

lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

²¹ Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

²² Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face."

²³ Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die."

²⁴ So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

²⁵ Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your

father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;

²⁶ "and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."

²⁷ So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.

²⁸ And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built.

²⁹ So they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they had inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing."

³⁰ Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it."

³¹ But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!"

³² Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar."

³³ Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed

over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.

³⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.

³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

³⁶ So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—

³⁷ "look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said."

³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece

together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.

³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew."

⁴⁰ And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

7 ¹ Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

² And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself

against Me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'

³ "Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.'" And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

⁴ But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go."

⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set

apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."

⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place."

⁸ So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹ It happened on the same night that the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.

¹⁰ "But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant,

¹¹ "and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp." Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp.

¹² Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.

¹³ And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed."

¹⁴ Then his companion answered and said, "This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp."

¹⁵ And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, "Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand."

¹⁶ Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

¹⁷ And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do:

¹⁸ "When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow

the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!'"

¹⁹ So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands.

²⁰ Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing—and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!"

²¹ And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

²² When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout

the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath.

²³ And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

²⁴ Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.

²⁵ And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

8¹ Now the men of Ephraim said to him, "Why have you done this to us by not calling us when you went to fight with the Midianites?" And they reprimanded him sharply.

² So he said to them, "What have I done now in comparison with you? Is not the gleaning of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?"

³ "God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. And what was I able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger toward him subsided when he said that.

⁴ When Gideon came to the Jordan, he and the three hundred men who were with him crossed over, exhausted but still in pursuit.

⁵ Then he said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people who follow me, for they are

exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian."

⁶ And the leaders of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"

⁷ So Gideon said, "For this cause, when the LORD has delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briars!"

⁸ Then he went up from there to Penuel and spoke to them in the same way. And the men of Penuel answered him as the men of Succoth had answered.

⁹ So he also spoke to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I come back in peace, I will tear down this tower!"

¹⁰ Now Zebah and Zalmunna were at Karkor, and their armies with them, about fifteen thousand, all who were left of all the army of the people of the East;

for one hundred and twenty thousand men who drew the sword had fallen.

¹¹ Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah; and he attacked the army while the camp felt secure.

¹² When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and routed the whole army.

¹³ Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle, from the Ascent of Heres.

¹⁴ And he caught a young man of the men of Succoth and interrogated him; and he wrote down for him the leaders of Succoth and its elders, seventy–seven men.

¹⁵ Then he came to the men of Succoth and said, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you ridiculed me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna

now in your hand, that we should give bread to your weary men?"

¹⁶ And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth.

¹⁷ Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.

¹⁸ And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?" So they answered, "As you are, so were they; each one resembled the son of a king."

¹⁹ Then 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 And he said to Jether his firstborn, "Rise, kill them!" But the youth would not draw his sword; for he was afraid, because he was still a youth.

²¹ So Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise yourself, and kill us; for as a man is, so is his strength." So Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and took the crescent ornaments that were on their camels' necks.

²² Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, and your grandson also; for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian."

²³ But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you."

²⁴ Then Gideon said to them, "I would like to make a request of you, that each of you would give me the earrings from his plunder." For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.

²⁵ So they answered, "We will gladly give them." And they spread out a

garment, and each man threw into it the earrings from his plunder.

²⁶ Now the weight of the gold earrings that he requested was one thousand seven hundred shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments, pendants, and purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, and besides the chains that were around their camels' necks.

²⁷ Then Gideon made it into an ephod and set it up in his city, Ophrah. And all Israel played the harlot with it there. It became a snare to Gideon and to his house.

²⁸ Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.

²⁹ Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.

³⁰ Gideon had seventy sons who were his own offspring, for he had many wives.

³¹ And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, whose name he called Abimelech.

³² Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

³³ So it was, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel again played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal–Berith their god.

³⁴ Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;

³⁵ nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon) in accordance with the good he had done for Israel.

9¹ Then Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem, to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

² "Please speak in the hearing of all the men of Shechem: 'Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or that one reign over you?' Remember that I am your own flesh and bone."

³ And his mother's brothers spoke all these words concerning him in the hearing of all the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

⁴ So they gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless men; and they followed him.

⁵ Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, because he hid himself.

⁶ And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all of Beth Millo, and they went and made Abimelech king beside the terebinth tree at the pillar that was in Shechem.

⁷ Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and cried out. And he said to them: "Listen to me, you men of Shechem, That God may listen to you!

⁸ "The trees once went forth to anoint a king over them. And they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us!'

⁹ But the olive tree said to them, 'Should I cease giving my oil, With which

they honor God and men, And go to
sway over trees?’

¹⁰ "Then the trees said to the fig tree,
‘You come and reign over us!’

¹¹ But the fig tree said to them, ‘Should
I cease my sweetness and my good fruit,
And go to sway over trees?’

¹² "Then the trees said to the vine, ‘You
come and reign over us!’

¹³ But the vine said to them, ‘Should
I cease my new wine, Which cheers
both God and men, And go to sway over
trees?’

¹⁴ "Then all the trees said to the
bramble, ‘You come and reign over us!’

¹⁵ And the bramble said to the trees,
‘If in truth you anoint me as king over
you, Then come and take shelter in my
shade; But if not, let fire come out of
the bramble And devour the cedars of
Lebanon!’

¹⁶ "Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves—

¹⁷ "for my father fought for you, risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;

¹⁸ "but you have risen up against my father's house this day, and killed his seventy sons on one stone, and made Abimelech, the son of his female servant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother—

¹⁹ "if then you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.

²⁰ "But if not, let fire come from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth Millo; and let fire

come from the men of Shechem and from Beth Millo and devour Abimelech!"

²¹ And Jotham ran away and fled; and he went to Beer and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

²² After Abimelech had reigned over Israel three years,

²³ God sent a spirit of ill will between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

²⁴ that the crime done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might be settled and their blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him in the killing of his brothers.

²⁵ And the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who passed by them along that way; and it was told Abimelech.

²⁶ Now Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers and went over to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.

²⁷ So they went out into the fields, and gathered grapes from their vineyards and trod them, and made merry. And they went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.

²⁸ Then Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, and is not Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem; but why should we serve him?"

²⁹ "If only this people were under my authority! Then I would remove Abimelech." So he said to Abimelech, "Increase your army and come out!"

³⁰ When Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was aroused.

³¹ And he sent messengers to Abimelech secretly, saying, "Take note! Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and here they are, fortifying the city against you.

³² "Now therefore, get up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field.

³³ "And it shall be, as soon as the sun is up in the morning, that you shall rise early and rush upon the city; and when he and the people who are with him come out against you, you may then do to them as you find opportunity."

³⁴ So Abimelech and all the people who were with him rose by night, and lay in wait against Shechem in four companies.

³⁵ When Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood in the entrance to the city

gate, Abimelech and the people who were with him rose from lying in wait.

³⁶ And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains!" But Zebul said to him, "You see the shadows of the mountains as if they were men."

³⁷ So Gaal spoke again and said, "See, people are coming down from the center of the land, and another company is coming from the Diviners' Terebinth Tree."

³⁸ Then Zebul said to him, "Where indeed is your mouth now, with which you said, 'Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?' Are not these the people whom you despised? Go out, if you will, and fight with them now."

³⁹ So Gaal went out, leading the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

⁴⁰ And Abimelech chased him, and he fled from him; and many fell wounded, to the very entrance of the gate.

⁴¹ Then Abimelech dwelt at Arumah, and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers, so that they would not dwell in Shechem.

⁴² And it came about on the next day that the people went out into the field, and they told Abimelech.

⁴³ So he took his people, divided them into three companies, and lay in wait in the field. And he looked, and there were the people, coming out of the city; and he rose against them and attacked them.

⁴⁴ Then Abimelech and the company that was with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the gate of the city; and the other two companies rushed upon all who were in the fields and killed them.

⁴⁵ So Abimelech fought against the city all that day; he took the city and killed the people who were in it; and he demolished the city and sowed it with salt.

⁴⁶ Now when all the men of the tower of Shechem had heard that, they entered the stronghold of the temple of the god Berith.

⁴⁷ And it was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

⁴⁸ Then Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him. And Abimelech took an ax in his hand and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it and laid it on his shoulder; then he said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, make haste and do as I have done."

⁴⁹ So each of the people likewise cut down his own bough and followed Abimelech, put them against the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire above them, so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died, about a thousand men and women.

⁵⁰ Then Abimelech went to Thebez, and he encamped against Thebez and took it.

⁵¹ But there was a strong tower in the city, and all the men and women—all the people of the city—fled there and shut themselves in; then they went up to the top of the tower.

⁵² So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

⁵³ But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull.

⁵⁴ Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his young man thrust him through, and he died.

⁵⁵ And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed, every man to his place.

⁵⁶ Thus God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he had done to his father by killing his seventy brothers.

⁵⁷ And all the evil of the men of Shechem God returned on their own heads, and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

10¹ After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim.

² He judged Israel twenty–three years; and he died and was buried in Shamir.

³ After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty–two years.

⁴ Now he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys; they also had thirty towns, which are called "Havoth Jair" to this day, which are in the land of Gilead.

⁵ And Jair died and was buried in Camon.

⁶ Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.

⁷ So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon.

⁸ From that year they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years—all the children of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead.

⁹ Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah also, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed.

¹⁰ And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!"

¹¹ So the LORD said to the children of Israel, "Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines?"

¹² "Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you

cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand.

¹³ "Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more.

¹⁴ "Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress."

¹⁵ And the children of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray."

¹⁶ So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.

¹⁷ Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah.

¹⁸ And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, "Who is the

man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

11 ¹ Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah.

² Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, "You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."

³ Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out raiding with him.

⁴ It came to pass after a time that the people of Ammon made war against Israel.

⁵ And so it was, when the people of Ammon made war against Israel, that

the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶ Then they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our commander, that we may fight against the people of Ammon."

⁷ So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me, and expel me from my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?"

⁸ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is why we have turned again to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the people of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

⁹ So Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you take me back home to fight against the people of Ammon, and the LORD delivers them to me, shall I be your head?"

¹⁰ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be a witness between us, if we do not do according to your words."

¹¹ Then Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and commander over them; and Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD in Mizpah.

¹² Now Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon, saying, "What do you have against me, that you have come to fight against me in my land?"

¹³ And the king of the people of Ammon answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel took away my land when they came up out of Egypt, from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok, and to the Jordan. Now therefore, restore those lands peaceably."

¹⁴ So Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the people of Ammon,

¹⁵ and said to him, "Thus says Jephthah: 'Israel did not take away the land of Moab, nor the land of the people of Ammon;

¹⁶ 'for when Israel came up from Egypt, they walked through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea and came to Kadesh.

¹⁷ 'Then Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, "Please let me pass through your land." But the king of Edom would not heed. And in like manner they sent to the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained in Kadesh.

¹⁸ 'And they went along through the wilderness and bypassed the land of Edom and the land of Moab, came to the east side of the land of Moab, and encamped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the border

of Moab, for the Arnon was the border of Moab.

¹⁹ 'Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon; and Israel said to him, "Please let us pass through your land into our place."

²⁰ 'But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together, encamped in Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

²¹ 'And the LORD God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. Thus Israel gained possession of all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited 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 'And now the LORD God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from

before His people Israel; should you then possess it?

²⁴ 'Will you not possess whatever Chemosh your god gives you to possess? So whatever the LORD our God takes possession of before us, we will possess.

²⁵ 'And now, are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever strive against Israel? Did he ever fight against them?

²⁶ 'While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and its villages, in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities along the banks of the Arnon, for three hundred years, why did you not recover them within that time?

²⁷ 'Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you wronged me by fighting against me. May the LORD, the Judge, render judgment this day between the children of Israel and the people of Ammon.'"

²⁸ However, the king of the people of Ammon did not heed the words which Jephthah sent him.

²⁹ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.

³⁰ And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver the people of Ammon into my hands,

³¹ "then it will be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the people of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering."

³² So Jephthah advanced toward the people of Ammon to fight against them,

and the LORD delivered them into his hands.

³³ And he defeated them from Aroer as far as Minnith—twenty cities—and to Abel Keramim, with a very great slaughter. Thus the people of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel.

³⁴ When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with timbrels and dancing; and she was his only child. Besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

³⁵ And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he tore his clothes, and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low! You are among those who trouble me! For I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot go back on it."

³⁶ So she said to him, "My father, if you have given your word to the LORD,

do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, because the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the people of Ammon."

³⁷ Then she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: let me alone for two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains and bewail my virginity, my friends and I."

³⁸ So he said, "Go." And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains.

³⁹ And it was so at the end of two months that she returned to her father, and he carried out his vow with her which he had vowed. She knew no man. And it became a custom in Israel

⁴⁰ that the daughters of Israel went four days each year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite.

12 ¹ Then the men of Ephraim gathered together, crossed over toward Zaphon, and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house down on you with fire!"

² And Jephthah said to them, "My people and I were in a great struggle with the people of Ammon; and when I called you, you did not deliver me out of their hands.

³ "So when I saw that you would not deliver me, I took my life in my hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the LORD delivered them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?"

⁴ Now Jephthah gathered together all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated Ephraim, because they said,

"You Gileadites are fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among the Manassites."

⁵ The Gileadites seized the fords of the Jordan before the Ephraimites arrived. And when any Ephraimite who escaped said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" If he said, "No,"

⁶ then they would say to him, "Then say, 'Shibboleth'!" And he would say, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they would take him and kill him at the fords of the Jordan. There fell at that time forty–two thousand Ephraimites.

⁷ And Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in among the cities of Gilead.

⁸ After him, Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

⁹ He had thirty sons. And he gave away thirty daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty daughters from elsewhere for his sons. He judged Israel seven years.

¹⁰ Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.

¹¹ After him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. He judged Israel ten years.

¹² And Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the country of Zebulun.

¹³ After him, Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel.

¹⁴ He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy young donkeys. He judged Israel eight years.

¹⁵ Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried in Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the mountains of the Amalekites.

13 ¹ Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

² Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.

³ And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

⁴ "Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean.

⁵ "For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

⁶ So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name.

⁷ "And He said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"

⁸ Then Manoah prayed to the LORD, and said, "O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born."

⁹ And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in

the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her.

¹⁰ Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, "Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!"

¹¹ So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, "Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?" And He said, "I am."

¹² Manoah said, "Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy's rule of life, and his work?"

¹³ So the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful.

¹⁴ "She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe."

¹⁵ Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain You, and we will prepare a young goat for You."

¹⁶ And the Angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "Though you detain Me, I will not eat your food. But if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know He was the Angel of the LORD.)

¹⁷ Then Manoah said to the Angel of the LORD, "What is Your name, that when Your words come to pass we may honor You?"

¹⁸ And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?"

¹⁹ So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the LORD. And He did a wondrous thing while Manoah and his wife looked on—

²⁰ it happened as the flame went up toward heaven from the altar—the Angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.

²¹ When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD.

²² And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"

²³ But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time."

²⁴ So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

²⁵ And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14 ¹ Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines.

² So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."

³ Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his

father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."

⁴ But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

⁵ So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him.

⁶ And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.

⁷ Then he went down and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

⁸ After some time, when he returned to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the carcass of the lion.

⁹ He took some of it in his hands and went along, eating. When he came to his father and mother, he gave some to them, and they also ate. But he did not tell them that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

¹⁰ So his father went down to the woman. And Samson gave a feast there, for young men used to do so.

¹¹ And it happened, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him.

¹² Then Samson said to them, "Let me pose a riddle to you. If you can correctly solve and explain it to me within the seven days of the feast, then I will give

you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing.

¹³ "But if you cannot explain it to me, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothing." And they said to him, "Pose your riddle, that we may hear it."

¹⁴ So he said to them: "Out of the eater came something to eat, And out of the strong came something sweet." Now for three days they could not explain the riddle.

¹⁵ But it came to pass on the seventh day that they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband, that he may explain the riddle to us, or else we will burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us in order to take what is ours? Is that not so?"

¹⁶ Then Samson's wife wept on him, and said, "You only hate me! You do not love me! You have posed a riddle

to the sons of my people, but you have not explained it to me." And he said to her, "Look, I have not explained it to my father or my mother; so should I explain it to you?"

¹⁷ Now she had wept on him the seven days while their feast lasted. And it happened on the seventh day that he told her, because she pressed him so much. Then she explained the riddle to the sons of her people.

¹⁸ So the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down: "What is sweeter than honey? And what is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them: "If you had not plowed with my heifer, You would not have solved my riddle!"

¹⁹ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty of their men, took their apparel, and gave the changes

of clothing to those who had explained the riddle. So his anger was aroused, and he went back up to his father's house.

²⁰ And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

15 ¹ After a while, in the time of wheat harvest, it happened that Samson visited his wife with a young goat. And he said, "Let me go in to my wife, into her room." But her father would not permit him to go in.

² Her father said, "I really thought that you thoroughly hated her; therefore I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister better than she? Please, take her instead."

³ And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be blameless regarding the Philistines if I harm them!"

⁴ Then Samson went and caught three hundred foxes; and he took torches,

turned the foxes tail to tail, and put a torch between each pair of tails.

⁵ When he had set the torches on fire, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up both the shocks and the standing grain, as well as the vineyards and olive groves.

⁶ Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." So the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.

⁷ Samson said to them, "Since you would do a thing like this, I will surely take revenge on you, and after that I will cease."

⁸ So he attacked them hip and thigh with a great slaughter; then he went down and dwelt in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

⁹ Now the Philistines went up, encamped in Judah, and deployed themselves against Lehi.

¹⁰ And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" So they answered, "We have come up to arrest Samson, to do to him as he has done to us."

¹¹ Then three thousand men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us? What is this you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so I have done to them."

¹² But they said to him, "We have come down to arrest you, that we may deliver you into the hand of the Philistines." Then Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not kill me yourselves."

¹³ So they spoke to him, saying, "No, but we will tie you securely and deliver

you into their hand; but we will surely not kill you." And they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.

¹⁵ He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it.

¹⁶ Then Samson said: "With the jawbone of a donkey, Heaps upon heaps, With the jawbone of a donkey I have slain a thousand men!"

¹⁷ And so it was, when he had finished speaking, that he threw the jawbone from his hand, and called that place Ramath Lehi.

¹⁸ Then he became very thirsty; so he cried out to the LORD and said, "You have given this great deliverance by the hand of Your servant; and now shall I die of thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

¹⁹ So God split the hollow place that is in Lehi, and water came out, and he drank; and his spirit returned, and he revived. Therefore he called its name En Hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

²⁰ And he judged Israel twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

16 ¹ Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

² When the Gazites were told, "Samson has come here!" they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the gate of the city. They were quiet all night, saying, "In the morning, when it is daylight, we will kill him."

³ And Samson lay low till midnight; then he arose at midnight, took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two gateposts, pulled them up, bar and all, put them on his shoulders, and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

⁴ Afterward it happened that he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

⁵ And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and find out where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to afflict him; and every one of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver."

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and with what you may be bound to afflict you."

⁷ And Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

⁸ So the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings, not yet dried, and she bound him with them.

⁹ Now men were lying in wait, staying with her in the room. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he broke the bowstrings as a strand of yarn breaks when it touches fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Look, you have mocked me and told me lies. Now, please tell me what you may be bound with."

¹¹ So he said to her, "If they bind me securely with new ropes that have never been used, then I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

¹² Therefore Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And men were lying in wait, staying in the room. But he broke them off his arms like a thread.

¹³ Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me what you may be bound with." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head into the web of the loom" —

¹⁴ So she wove it tightly with the batten of the loom, and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep, and pulled out the batten and the web from the loom.

¹⁵ Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and have not told me where your great strength lies."

¹⁶ And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death,

¹⁷ that he told her all his heart, and said to her, "No razor has ever come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If I am shaven, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man."

¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up once more, for he has told me all his heart." So the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hand.

¹⁹ Then she lulled him to sleep on her knees, and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head.

Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him.

²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the LORD had departed from him.

²¹ Then the Philistines took him and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison.

²² However, the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaven.

²³ Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!"

²⁴ When the people saw him, they praised their god; for they said: "Our god has delivered into our hands our enemy, The destroyer of our land, And the one who multiplied our dead."

²⁵ So it happened, when their hearts were merry, that they said, "Call for Samson, that he may perform for us." So they called for Samson from the prison, and he performed for them. And they stationed him between the pillars.

²⁶ Then Samson said to the lad who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars which support the temple, so that I can lean on them."

²⁷ Now the temple was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there—about three thousand men and women on the roof watching while Samson performed.

²⁸ Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "O Lord GOD, remember me, I

pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"

²⁹ And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left.

³⁰ Then Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.

³¹ And his brothers and all his father's household came down and took him, and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of his father Manoah. He had judged Israel twenty years.

17 ¹ Now there was a man from the mountains of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.

² And he said to his mother, "The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and on which you put a curse, even saying it in my ears—here is the silver with me; I took it." And his mother said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my son!"

³ So when he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, "I had wholly dedicated the silver from my hand to the LORD for my son, to make a carved image and a molded image; now therefore, I will return it to you."

⁴ Thus he returned the silver to his mother. Then his mother took two hundred shekels of silver and gave them to the silversmith, and he made it into a

carved image and a molded image; and they were in the house of Micah.

⁵ The man Micah had a shrine, and made an ephod and household idols; and he consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

⁷ Now there was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah; he was a Levite, and was staying there.

⁸ The man departed from the city of Bethlehem in Judah to stay wherever he could find a place. Then he came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

⁹ And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" So he said to him, "I am a Levite from Bethlehem in Judah, and I am on my way to find a place to stay."

¹⁰ Micah said to him, "Dwell with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes, and your sustenance." So the Levite went in.

¹¹ Then the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man became like one of his sons to him.

¹² So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and lived in the house of Micah.

¹³ Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will be good to me, since I have a Levite as priest!"

18 ¹ In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking an inheritance for itself to dwell in; for until that day their inheritance among the tribes of Israel had not fallen to them.

² So the children of Dan sent five men of their family from their territory, men

of valor from Zorah and Eshtaol, to spy out the land and search it. They said to them, "Go, search the land." So they went to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.

³ While they were at the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. They turned aside and said to him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What do you have here?"

⁴ He said to them, "Thus and so Micah did for me. He has hired me, and I have become his priest."

⁵ So they said to him, "Please inquire of God, that we may know whether the journey on which we go will be prosperous."

⁶ And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. The presence of the LORD be with you on your way."

⁷ So the five men departed and went to Laish. They saw the people who were there, how they dwelt safely, in the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and secure. There were no rulers in the land who might put them to shame for anything. They were far from the Sidonians, and they had no ties with anyone.

⁸ Then the spies came back to their brethren at Zorah and Eshtaol, and their brethren said to them, "What is your report?"

⁹ So they said, "Arise, let us go up against them. For we have seen the land, and indeed it is very good. Would you do nothing? Do not hesitate to go, and enter to possess the land.

¹⁰ "When you go, you will come to a secure people and a large land. For God has given it into your hands, a place

where there is no lack of anything that is on the earth."

¹¹ And six hundred men of the family of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol, armed with weapons of war.

¹² Then they went up and encamped in Kirjath Jearim in Judah. (Therefore they call that place Mahaneh Dan to this day. There it is, west of Kirjath Jearim.)

¹³ And they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

¹⁴ Then the five men who had gone to spy out the country of Laish answered and said to their brethren, "Do you know that there are in these houses an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image? Now therefore, consider what you should do."

¹⁵ So they turned aside there, and came to the house of the young Levite

man—to the house of Micah—and greeted him.

¹⁶ The six hundred men armed with their weapons of war, who were of the children of Dan, stood by the entrance of the gate.

¹⁷ Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land went up. Entering there, they took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image. The priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred men who were armed with weapons of war.

¹⁸ When these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

¹⁹ And they said to him, "Be quiet, put your hand over your mouth, and come with us; be a father and a priest to us. Is it better for you to be a priest to the

household of one man, or that you be a priest to a tribe and a family in Israel?"

²⁰ So the priest's heart was glad; and he took the ephod, the household idols, and the carved image, and took his place among the people.

²¹ Then they turned and departed, and put the little ones, the livestock, and the goods in front of them.

²² When they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house gathered together and overtook the children of Dan.

²³ And they called out to the children of Dan. So they turned around and said to Micah, "What ails you, that you have gathered such a company?"

²⁴ So he said, "You have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and you have gone away. Now what more do

I have? How can you say to me, 'What ails you?'"

²⁵ And the children of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry men fall upon you, and you lose your life, with the lives of your household!"

²⁶ Then the children of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his house.

²⁷ So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who had belonged to him, and went to Laish, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire.

²⁸ There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon, and they had no ties with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth Rehob. So they rebuilt the city and dwelt there.

²⁹ And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born to Israel. However, the name of the city formerly was Laish.

³⁰ Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

³¹ So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

19 ¹ And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel, that there was a certain Levite staying in the remote mountains of Ephraim. He took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

² But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem

in Judah, and was there four whole months.

³ Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back, having his servant and a couple of donkeys with him. So she brought him into her father's house; and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.

⁴ Now his father-in-law, the young woman's father, detained him; and he stayed with him three days. So they ate and drank and lodged there.

⁵ Then it came to pass on the fourth day that they arose early in the morning, and he stood to depart; but the young woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a morsel of bread, and afterward go your way."

⁶ So they sat down, and the two of them ate and drank together. Then the young woman's father said to the man,

"Please be content to stay all night, and let your heart be merry."

⁷ And when the man stood to depart, his father-in-law urged him; so he lodged there again.

⁸ Then he arose early in the morning on the fifth day to depart, but the young woman's father said, "Please refresh your heart." So they delayed until afternoon; and both of them ate.

⁹ And when the man stood to depart—he and his concubine and his servant—his father-in-law, the young woman's father, said to him, "Look, the day is now drawing toward evening; please spend the night. See, the day is coming to an end; lodge here, that your heart may be merry. Tomorrow go your way early, so that you may get home."

¹⁰ However, the man was not willing to spend that night; so he rose and departed, and came to opposite Jebus

(that is, Jerusalem). With him were the two saddled donkeys; his concubine was also with him.

¹¹ They were near Jebus, and the day was far spent; and the servant said to his master, "Come, please, and let us turn aside into this city of the Jebusites and lodge in it."

¹² But his master said to him, "We will not turn aside here into a city of foreigners, who are not of the children of Israel; we will go on to Gibeah."

¹³ So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and spend the night in Gibeah or in Ramah."

¹⁴ And they passed by and went their way; and the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin.

¹⁵ They turned aside there to go in to lodge in Gibeah. And when he went in, he sat down in the open square of the

city, for no one would take them into his house to spend the night.

¹⁶ Just then an old man came in from his work in the field at evening, who also was from the mountains of Ephraim; he was staying in Gibeah, whereas the men of the place were Benjamites.

¹⁷ And when he raised his eyes, he saw the traveler in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going, and where do you come from?"

¹⁸ So he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah toward the remote mountains of Ephraim; I am from there. I went to Bethlehem in Judah; now I am going to the house of the LORD. But there is no one who will take me into his house,

¹⁹ "although we have both straw and fodder for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, for your female servant,

and for the young man who is with your servant; there is no lack of anything."

²⁰ And the old man said, "Peace be with you! However, let all your needs be my responsibility; only do not spend the night in the open square."

²¹ So he brought him into his house, and gave fodder to the donkeys. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

²² As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!"

²³ But the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brethren! I beg you, do not act so wickedly! Seeing this man has

come into my house, do not commit this outrage.

²⁴ "Look, here is my virgin daughter and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now. Humble them, and do with them as you please; but to this man do not do such a vile thing!"

²⁵ But the men would not heed him. So the man took his concubine and brought her out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until morning; and when the day began to break, they let her go.

²⁶ Then the woman came as the day was dawning, and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, till it was light.

²⁷ When her master arose in the morning, and opened the doors of the house and went out to go his way, there was his concubine, fallen at the door

of the house with her hands on the threshold.

²⁸ And he said to her, "Get up and let us be going." But there was no answer. So the man lifted her onto the donkey; and the man got up and went to his place.

²⁹ When he entered his house he took a knife, laid hold of his concubine, and divided her into twelve pieces, limb by limb, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

³⁰ And so it was that all who saw it said, "No such deed has been done or seen from the day that the children of Israel came up from the land of Egypt until this day. Consider it, confer, and speak up!"

20¹ So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the LORD at Mizpah.

² And the leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand foot soldiers who drew the sword.

³ (Now the children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) Then the children of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this wicked deed happen?"

⁴ So the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "My concubine and I went into Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, to spend the night.

⁵ "And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. They intended to kill me, but instead they ravished my concubine so that she died.

⁶ "So I took hold of my concubine, cut her in pieces, and sent her throughout all

the territory of the inheritance of Israel, because they committed lewdness and outrage in Israel.

⁷ "Look! All of you are children of Israel; give your advice and counsel here and now!"

⁸ So all the people arose as one man, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, nor will any turn back to his house;

⁹ "but now this is the thing which we will do to Gibeah: We will go up against it by lot.

¹⁰ "We will take ten men out of every hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, a hundred out of every thousand, and a thousand out of every ten thousand, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel."

¹¹ So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, united together as one man.

¹² Then the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What is this wickedness that has occurred among you?

¹³ "Now therefore, deliver up the men, the perverted men who are in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and remove the evil from Israel!" But the children of Benjamin would not listen to the voice of their brethren, the children of Israel.

¹⁴ Instead, the children of Benjamin gathered together from their cities to Gibeah, to go to battle against the children of Israel.

¹⁵ And from their cities at that time the children of Benjamin numbered twenty–six thousand men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of

Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred select men.

¹⁶ Among all this people were seven hundred select men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair's breadth and not miss.

¹⁷ Now besides Benjamin, the men of Israel numbered four hundred thousand men who drew the sword; all of these were men of war.

¹⁸ Then the children of Israel arose and went up to the house of God to inquire of God. They said, "Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin?" The LORD said, "Judah first!"

¹⁹ So the children of Israel rose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah.

²⁰ And the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin, and the men of Israel put themselves in battle array to fight against them at Gibeah.

²¹ Then the children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and on that day cut down to the ground twenty-two thousand men of the Israelites.

²² And the people, that is, the men of Israel, encouraged themselves and again formed the battle line at the place where they had put themselves in array on the first day.

²³ Then the children of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until evening, and asked counsel of the LORD, saying, "Shall I again draw near for battle against the children of my brother Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Go up against him."

²⁴ So the children of Israel approached the children of Benjamin on the second day.

²⁵ And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day, and cut down to the ground eighteen thousand

more of the children of Israel; all these drew the sword.

²⁶ Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening; and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

²⁷ So the children of Israel inquired of the LORD (the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days,

²⁸ and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before it in those days), saying, "Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."

²⁹ Then Israel set men in ambush all around Gibeah.

³⁰ And the children of Israel went up against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and put themselves in battle array against Gibeah as at the other times.

³¹ So the children of Benjamin went out against the people, and were drawn away from the city. They began to strike down and kill some of the people, as at the other times, in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah) and in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

³² And the children of Benjamin said, "They are defeated before us, as at first." But the children of Israel said, "Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways."

³³ So all the men of Israel rose from their place and put themselves in battle array at Baal Tamar. Then Israel's men in

ambush burst forth from their position in the plain of Geba.

³⁴ And ten thousand select men from all Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce. But the Benjamites did not know that disaster was upon them.

³⁵ The LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel. And the children of Israel destroyed that day twenty-five thousand one hundred Benjamites; all these drew the sword.

³⁶ So the children of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of Israel had given ground to the Benjamites, because they relied on the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah.

³⁷ And the men in ambush quickly rushed upon Gibeah; the men in ambush spread out and struck the whole city with the edge of the sword.

³⁸ Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city,

³⁹ whereupon the men of Israel would turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty of the men of Israel. For they said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle."

⁴⁰ But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up in smoke to heaven.

⁴¹ And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin panicked, for they saw that disaster had come upon them.

⁴² Therefore they turned their backs before the men of Israel in the direction of the wilderness; but the battle overtook them, and whoever came out

of the cities they destroyed in their midst.

⁴³ They surrounded the Benjamites, chased them, and easily trampled them down as far as the front of Gibeah toward the east.

⁴⁴ And eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell; all these were men of valor.

⁴⁵ Then they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and they cut down five thousand of them on the highways. Then they pursued them relentlessly up to Gidom, and killed two thousand of them.

⁴⁶ So all who fell of Benjamin that day were twenty–five thousand men who drew the sword; all these were men of valor.

⁴⁷ But six hundred men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of

Rimmon, and they stayed at the rock of Rimmon for four months.

⁴⁸ And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword—from every city, men and beasts, all who were found. They also set fire to all the cities they came to.

21 ¹ Now the men of Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah, saying, "None of us shall give his daughter to Benjamin as a wife."

² Then the people came to the house of God, and remained there before God till evening. They lifted up their voices and wept bitterly,

³ and said, "O LORD God of Israel, why has this come to pass in Israel, that today there should be one tribe missing in Israel?"

⁴ So it was, on the next morning, that the people rose early and built an altar

there, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

⁵ The children of Israel said, "Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come up with the assembly to the LORD?" For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who had not come up to the LORD at Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

⁶ And the children of Israel grieved for Benjamin their brother, and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel today.

⁷ "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, seeing we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them our daughters as wives?"

⁸ And they said, "What one is there from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to Mizpah to the LORD?" And, in fact, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh Gilead to the assembly.

⁹ For when the people were counted, indeed, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead was there.

¹⁰ So the congregation sent out there twelve thousand of their most valiant men, and commanded them, saying, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead with the edge of the sword, including the women and children.

¹¹ "And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately."

¹² So they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead four hundred young virgins who had not known a man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

¹³ Then the whole congregation sent word to the children of Benjamin

who were at the rock of Rimmon, and announced peace to them.

¹⁴ So Benjamin came back at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh Gilead; and yet they had not found enough for them.

¹⁵ And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the LORD had made a void in the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶ Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?"

¹⁷ And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe may not be destroyed from Israel.

¹⁸ "However, we cannot give them wives from our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath,

saying, 'Cursed be the one who gives a wife to Benjamin.'

¹⁹ Then they said, "In fact, there is a yearly feast of the LORD in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah."

²⁰ Therefore they instructed the children of Benjamin, saying, "Go, lie in wait in the vineyards,

²¹ "and watch; and just when the daughters of Shiloh come out to perform their dances, then come out from the vineyards, and every man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then go to the land of Benjamin.

²² "Then it shall be, when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, that we will say to them, 'Be kind to them for our sakes, because we did not take a wife for any of them in the war; for it is not as though you have given

the women to them at this time, making yourselves guilty of your oath.'"

²³ And the children of Benjamin did so; they took enough wives for their number from those who danced, whom they caught. Then they went and returned to their inheritance, and they rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.

²⁴ So the children of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family; they went out from there, every man to his inheritance.

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Ruth

1 ¹ Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

² The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

³ Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

⁴ Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

⁷ Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

⁸ And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

⁹ "The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

¹⁰ And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?"

¹² "Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,

¹³ "would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!"

¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people

and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

¹⁶ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."

¹⁸ When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

¹⁹ Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

²⁰ But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

²¹ "I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

2¹ There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.

² So Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

³ Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

⁴ Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

⁵ Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

⁶ So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

⁷ "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

⁹ "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

¹⁰ So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and

have come to a people whom you did not know before.

¹² "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

¹³ Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

¹⁴ Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

¹⁵ And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

¹⁶ "Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

¹⁸ Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the

living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

²¹ Ruth the Moabite said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"

²² And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

²³ So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

3 ¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

² "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact,

he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

³ "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

⁴ "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

⁵ And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

⁹ And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

¹⁰ Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

¹¹ "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

¹² "Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

¹³ "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him

do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

¹⁵ Also he said, "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.

¹⁶ So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

¹⁷ And she said, "These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"

¹⁸ Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

4 ¹ Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

² And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

³ Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

⁴ "And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if

you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

⁶ And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

⁸ Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

⁹ And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

¹⁰ "Moreover, Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."

¹¹ And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of

Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

¹² "May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

¹⁵ "And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.

¹⁷ Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron;

¹⁹ Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab;

²⁰ Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon;

²¹ Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed;

²² Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

1 Samuel

1 ¹ Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

² And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

⁴ And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would

give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

⁵ But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.

⁶ And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb.

⁷ So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?"

⁹ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD.

¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish.

¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."

¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth.

¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

¹⁴ So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

¹⁵ And Hannah answered and said, "No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful

spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

¹⁶ "Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now."

¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."

¹⁸ And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

¹⁹ Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

²⁰ So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying,

"Because I have asked for him from the LORD."

²¹ Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow.

²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever."

²³ And Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word." So the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

²⁴ Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child was young.

²⁵ Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

²⁶ And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD.

²⁷ "For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.

²⁸ "Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD." So they worshiped the LORD there.

2 ¹ And Hannah prayed and said:
"My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation.

² "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

³ "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For

the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.

⁴ "The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength.

⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble.

⁶ "The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.

⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.

⁸ He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, And He has set the world upon them.

⁹ He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness.

"For by strength no man shall prevail.

¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. "He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."

¹¹ Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.

¹² Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.

¹³ And the priests' custom with the people was that when any man offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fleshhook in his hand while the meat was boiling.

¹⁴ Then he would thrust it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; and the priest would take for himself all that

the fleshhook brought up. So they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

¹⁵ Also, before they burned the fat, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who sacrificed, "Give meat for roasting to the priest, for he will not take boiled meat from you, but raw."

¹⁶ And if the man said to him, "They should really burn the fat first; then you may take as much as your heart desires," he would then answer him, "No, but you must give it now; and if not, I will take it by force."

¹⁷ Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

¹⁸ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁹ Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year

by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

²⁰ And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the LORD." Then they would go to their own home.

²¹ And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

²² Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

²³ So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people.

²⁴ "No, my sons! For it is not a good report that I hear. You make the LORD'S people transgress.

²⁵ "If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.

²⁶ And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.

²⁷ Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?'"

²⁸ 'Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire?'"

²⁹ 'Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?'

³⁰ "Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

³¹ 'Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.

³² 'And you will see an enemy in My dwelling place, despite all the good which God does for Israel. And there shall not be an old man in your house forever.

³³ 'But any of your men whom I do not cut off from My altar shall consume your eyes and grieve your heart. And all the descendants of your house shall die in the flower of their age.

³⁴ 'Now this shall be a sign to you that will come upon your two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die, both of them.

³⁵ 'Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.

³⁶ 'And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread."'"

3 ¹ Then the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.

² And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see,

³ and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down,

⁴ that the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!"

⁵ So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down.

⁶ Then the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called

me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

⁷ (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)

⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy.

⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at

which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

¹² "In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

¹³ "For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

¹⁴ "And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵ So Samuel lay down until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli the vision.

¹⁶ Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son!" And he answered, "Here I am."

¹⁷ And he said, "What is the word that the LORD spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the things that He said to you."

¹⁸ Then Samuel told him everything, and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let Him do what seems good to Him."

¹⁹ So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.

²¹ Then the LORD appeared again in Shiloh. For the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

4¹ And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines, and encamped

beside Ebenezer; and the Philistines encamped in Aphek.

² Then the Philistines put themselves in battle array against Israel. And when they joined battle, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men of the army in the field.

³ And when the people had come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies."

⁴ So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

⁵ And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook.

⁶ Now when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, "What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" Then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp.

⁷ So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp!" And they said, "Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before.

⁸ "Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

⁹ "Be strong and conduct yourselves like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men, and fight!"

¹⁰ So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. There was a very great slaughter, and there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers.

¹¹ Also the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

¹² Then a man of Benjamin ran from the battle line the same day, and came to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.

¹³ Now when he came, there was Eli, sitting on a seat by the wayside watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told it, all the city cried out.

¹⁴ When Eli heard the noise of the outcry, he said, "What does the sound of this tumult mean?" And the man came quickly and told Eli.

¹⁵ Eli was ninety–eight years old, and his eyes were so dim that he could not see.

¹⁶ Then the man said to Eli, "I am he who came from the battle. And I fled today from the battle line." And he said, "What happened, my son?"

¹⁷ So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured."

¹⁸ Then it happened, when he made mention of the ark of God, that Eli fell off the seat backward by the side of the gate; and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

¹⁹ Now his daughter–in–law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, due to be delivered; and when she heard the news that the

ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and gave birth, for her labor pains came upon her.

²⁰ And about the time of her death the women who stood by her said to her, "Do not fear, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer, nor did she regard it.

²¹ Then she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

²² And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

5 ¹ Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

² When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the temple of Dagon and set it by Dagon.

³ And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again.

⁴ And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it.

⁵ Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon's house tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

⁶ But the hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashdod, and He ravaged

them and struck them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory.

⁷ And when the men of Ashdod saw how it was, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is harsh toward us and Dagon our god."

⁸ Therefore they sent and gathered to themselves all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" And they answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried away to Gath." So they carried the ark of the God of Israel away.

⁹ So it was, after they had carried it away, that the hand of the LORD was against the city with a very great destruction; and He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and tumors broke out on them.

¹⁰ Therefore they sent the ark of God to Ekron. So it was, as the ark of God came to Ekron, that the Ekronites cried out, saying, "They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to us, to kill us and our people!"

¹¹ So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people." For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

¹² And the men who did not die were stricken with the tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

6 ¹ Now the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

² And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What

shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it to its place."

³ So they said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but by all means return it to Him with a trespass offering. Then you will be healed, and it will be known to you why His hand is not removed from you."

⁴ Then they said, "What is the trespass offering which we shall return to Him?" They answered, "Five golden tumors and five golden rats, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines. For the same plague was on all of you and on your lords."

⁵ "Therefore you shall make images of your tumors and images of your rats that ravage the land, and you shall give glory to the God of Israel; perhaps He will lighten His hand from you, from your gods, and from your land."

⁶ "Why then do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? When He did mighty things among them, did they not let the people go, that they might depart?

⁷ "Now therefore, make a new cart, take two milk cows which have never been yoked, and hitch the cows to the cart; and take their calves home, away from them.

⁸ "Then take the ark of the LORD and set it on the cart; and put the articles of gold which you are returning to Him as a trespass offering in a chest by its side. Then send it away, and let it go.

⁹ "And watch: if it goes up the road to its own territory, to Beth Shemesh, then He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we shall know that it is not His hand that struck us—it happened to us by chance."

¹⁰ Then the men did so; they took two milk cows and hitched them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home.

¹¹ And they set the ark of the LORD on the cart, and the chest with the gold rats and the images of their tumors.

¹² Then the cows headed straight for the road to Beth Shemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the right hand or the left. And the lords of the Philistines went after them to the border of Beth Shemesh.

¹³ Now the people of Beth Shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley; and they lifted their eyes and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.

¹⁴ Then the cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and stood there; a large stone was there. So they split the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹⁵ The Levites took down the ark of the LORD and the chest that was with it, in which were the articles of gold, and put them on the large stone. Then the men of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices the same day to the LORD.

¹⁶ So when the five lords of the Philistines had seen it, they returned to Ekron the same day.

¹⁷ These are the golden tumors which the Philistines returned as a trespass offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron;

¹⁸ and the golden rats, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both fortified cities and country villages, even as far as the large stone of Abel on which they set the ark of the LORD, which stone

remains to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

¹⁹ Then He struck the men of Beth Shemesh, because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. He struck fifty thousand and seventy men of the people, and the people lamented because the LORD had struck the people with a great slaughter.

²⁰ And the men of Beth Shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God? And to whom shall it go up from us?"

²¹ So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up with you."

7¹ Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated

Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

² So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

³ Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

⁴ So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.

⁵ And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."

⁶ So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before

the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷ Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

⁸ So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines."

⁹ And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰ Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD

thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.

¹¹ And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car.

¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

¹³ So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

¹⁴ Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands

of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

¹⁶ He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places.

¹⁷ But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

8 ¹ Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

² The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

³ But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,

⁵ and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD.

⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

⁸ "According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also.

⁹ "Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."

¹⁰ So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king.

¹¹ And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.

¹² "He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

¹³ "He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers.

¹⁴ "And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants.

¹⁵ "He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants.

¹⁶ "And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work.

¹⁷ "He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants.

¹⁸ "And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."

¹⁹ Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us,

²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

²¹ And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD.

²² So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king." And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

9 ¹ There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.

² And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

³ Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to his son Saul, "Please, take one of the servants with

you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys."

⁴ So he passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and they were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them.

⁵ When they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us return, lest my father cease caring about the donkeys and become worried about us."

⁶ And he said to him, "Look now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he says surely comes to pass. So let us go there; perhaps he can show us the way that we should go."

⁷ Then Saul said to his servant, "But look, if we go, what shall we bring the

man? For the bread in our vessels is all gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?"

⁸ And the servant answered Saul again and said, "Look, I have here at hand one fourth of a shekel of silver. I will give that to the man of God, to tell us our way."

⁹ (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he spoke thus: "Come, let us go to the seer"; for he who is now called a prophet was formerly called a seer.)

¹⁰ Then Saul said to his servant, "Well said; come, let us go." So they went to the city where the man of God was.

¹¹ As they went up the hill to the city, they met some young women going out to draw water, and said to them, "Is the seer here?"

¹² And they answered them and said, "Yes, there he is, just ahead of you. Hurry now; for today he came to this

city, because there is a sacrifice of the people today on the high place.

¹³ "As soon as you come into the city, you will surely find him before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now therefore, go up, for about this time you will find him."

¹⁴ So they went up to the city. As they were coming into the city, there was Samuel, coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

¹⁵ Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came, saying,

¹⁶ "Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My

people, because their cry has come to me."

¹⁷ And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, "There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. This one shall reign over My people."

¹⁸ Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, "Please tell me, where is the seer's house?"

¹⁹ And Samuel answered Saul and said, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for you shall eat with me today; and tomorrow I will let you go and will tell you all that is in your heart.

²⁰ "But as for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not be anxious about them, for they have been found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on you and on all your father's house?"

²¹ And Saul answered and said, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the

tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then do you speak like this to me?"

²² Now Samuel took Saul and his servant and brought them into the hall, and had them sit in the place of honor among those who were invited; there were about thirty persons.

²³ And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion which I gave you, of which I said to you, 'Set it apart.'"

²⁴ So the cook took up the thigh with its upper part and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, "Here it is, what was kept back. It was set apart for you. Eat; for until this time it has been kept for you, since I said I invited the people." So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

²⁵ When they had come down from the high place into the city, Samuel spoke with Saul on the top of the house.

²⁶ They arose early; and it was about the dawning of the day that Samuel called to Saul on the top of the house, saying, "Get up, that I may send you on your way." And Saul arose, and both of them went outside, he and Samuel.

²⁷ As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of God."

10 ¹ Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"

² "When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say to you, 'The donkeys which you went to look for have

been found. And now your father has ceased caring about the donkeys and is worrying about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"

³ "Then you shall go on forward from there and come to the terebinth tree of Tabor. There three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you, one carrying three young goats, another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a skin of wine.

⁴ "And they will greet you and give you two loaves of bread, which you shall receive from their hands.

⁵ "After that you shall come to the hill of God where the Philistine garrison is. And it will happen, when you have come there to the city, that you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with a stringed instrument, a tambourine, a flute, and

a harp before them; and they will be prophesying.

⁶ "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

⁷ "And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.

⁸ "You shall go down before me to Gilgal; and surely I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and make sacrifices of peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, till I come to you and show you what you should do."

⁹ So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.

¹⁰ When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

¹¹ And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹² Then a man from there answered and said, "But who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb: "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹³ And when he had finished prophesying, he went to the high place.

¹⁴ Then Saul's uncle said to him and his servant, "Where did you go?" So he said, "To look for the donkeys. When we saw that they were nowhere to be found, we went to Samuel."

¹⁵ And Saul's uncle said, "Tell me, please, what Samuel said to you."

¹⁶ So Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the

kingdom, he did not tell him what Samuel had said.

¹⁷ Then Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah,

¹⁸ and said to the children of Israel, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all kingdoms and from those who oppressed you.'

¹⁹ "But you have today rejected your God, who Himself saved you from all your adversities and your tribulations; and you have said to Him, 'No, set a king over us!' Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans."

²⁰ And when Samuel had caused all the tribes of Israel to come near, the tribe of Benjamin was chosen.

²¹ When he had caused the tribe of Benjamin to come near by their families, the family of Matri was chosen. And Saul the son of Kish was chosen. But when they sought him, he could not be found.

²² Therefore they inquired of the LORD further, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD answered, "There he is, hidden among the equipment."

²³ So they ran and brought him from there; and when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward.

²⁴ And Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the people?" So all the people shouted and said, "Long live the king!"

²⁵ Then Samuel explained to the people the behavior of royalty, and wrote it in a book and laid it up before the LORD. And

Samuel sent all the people away, every man to his house.

²⁶ And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.

²⁷ But some rebels said, "How can this man save us?" So they despised him, and brought him no presents. But he held his peace.

11 ¹ Then Nahash the Ammonite came up and encamped against Jabesh Gilead; and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a covenant with us, and we will serve you."

² And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, "On this condition I will make a covenant with you, that I may put out all your right eyes, and bring reproach on all Israel."

³ Then the elders of Jabesh said to him, "Hold off for seven days, that we may send messengers to all the territory of

Israel. And then, if there is no one to save us, we will come out to you."

⁴ So the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and told the news in the hearing of the people. And all the people lifted up their voices and wept.

⁵ Now there was Saul, coming behind the herd from the field; and Saul said, "What troubles the people, that they weep?" And they told him the words of the men of Jabesh.

⁶ Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard this news, and his anger was greatly aroused.

⁷ So he took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not go out with Saul and Samuel to battle, so it shall be done to his oxen." And the fear of the LORD fell

on the people, and they came out with one consent.

⁸ When he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

⁹ And they said to the messengers who came, "Thus you shall say to the men of Jabesh Gilead: 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have help.'" Then the messengers came and reported it to the men of Jabesh, and they were glad.

¹⁰ Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will come out to you, and you may do with us whatever seems good to you."

¹¹ So it was, on the next day, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch, and killed Ammonites until the heat of the day. And

it happened that those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

¹² Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is he who said, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Bring the men, that we may put them to death."

¹³ But Saul said, "Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has accomplished salvation in Israel."

¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there."

¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they made sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

12 ¹ Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice

in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you.

² "And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

³ "Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you."

⁴ And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand."

⁵ Then he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not

found anything in my hand." And they answered, "He is witness."

⁶ Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt.

⁷ "Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers:

⁸ "When Jacob had gone into Egypt, and your fathers cried out to the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.

⁹ "And when they forgot the LORD their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them.

¹⁰ "Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.'

¹¹ "And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety.

¹² "And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king.

¹³ "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the LORD has set a king over you.

¹⁴ "If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel

against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.

¹⁵ "However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

¹⁶ "Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes:

¹⁷ "Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves."

¹⁸ So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

¹⁹ And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."

²⁰ Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

²¹ "And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.

²² "For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.

²³ "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

²⁴ "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

²⁵ "But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

13 ¹ Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel,

² Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the mountains of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent away, every man to his tent.

³ And Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear!"

⁴ Now all Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines,

and that Israel had also become an abomination to the Philistines. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

⁵ Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven.

⁶ When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits.

⁷ And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

⁸ Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel

did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

⁹ So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering.

¹⁰ Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

¹¹ And Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,

¹² "then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.' Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering."

¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the

commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

¹⁴ "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

¹⁵ Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people present with him, about six hundred men.

¹⁶ Saul, Jonathan his son, and the people present with them remained in Gibeah of Benjamin. But the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

¹⁷ Then raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One

company turned to the road to Ophrah,
to the land of Shual,

¹⁸ another company turned to the road
to Beth Horon, and another company
turned to the road of the border that
overlooks the Valley of Zeboim toward
the wilderness.

¹⁹ Now there was no blacksmith to
be found throughout all the land of
Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the
Hebrews make swords or spears."

²⁰ But all the Israelites would go down
to the Philistines to sharpen each man's
plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his
sickle;

²¹ and the charge for a sharpening was
a pim for the plowshares, the mattocks,
the forks, and the axes, and to set the
points of the goads.

²² So it came about, on the day of
battle, that there was neither sword
nor spear found in the hand of any of

the people who were with Saul and Jonathan. But they were found with Saul and Jonathan his son.

²³ And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

14 ¹ Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

² And Saul was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men.

³ Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.

⁴ Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the

Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on one side and a sharp rock on the other side. And the name of one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

⁵ The front of one faced northward opposite Michmash, and the other southward opposite Gibeah.

⁶ Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."

⁷ So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."

⁸ Then Jonathan said, "Very well, let us cross over to these men, and we will show ourselves to them.

⁹ "If they say thus to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place and not go up to them.

¹⁰ "But if they say thus, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up. For the LORD has delivered them into our hand, and this will be a sign to us."

¹¹ So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, the Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden."

¹² Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer, and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you something." Jonathan said to his armorbearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has delivered them into the hand of Israel."

¹³ And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them.

¹⁴ That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about half an acre of land.

¹⁵ And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling.

¹⁶ Now the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and there was the multitude, melting away; and they went here and there.

¹⁷ Then Saul said to the people who were with him, "Now call the roll and see who has gone from us." And when they had called the roll, surprisingly, Jonathan and his armorbearer were not there.

¹⁸ And Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God here" (for at that time the ark of God was with the children of Israel).

¹⁹ Now it happened, while Saul talked to the priest, that the noise which was in the camp of the Philistines continued to increase; so Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."

²⁰ Then Saul and all the people who were with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed every man's sword was against his neighbor, and there was very great confusion.

²¹ Moreover the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

²² Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden in the mountains of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle.

²³ So the LORD saved Israel that day, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven.

²⁴ And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, "Cursed is the man who eats any food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food.

²⁵ Now all the people of the land came to a forest; and there was honey on the ground.

²⁶ And when the people had come into the woods, there was the honey, dripping; but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath.

²⁷ But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath; therefore he stretched out the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his countenance brightened.

²⁸ Then one of the people said, "Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, 'Cursed is the man who eats food this day.'" And the people were faint.

²⁹ But Jonathan said, "My father has troubled the land. Look now, how my countenance has brightened because I tasted a little of this honey.

³⁰ "How much better if the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now would there not have been a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?"

³¹ Now they had driven back the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. So the people were very faint.

³² And the people rushed on the spoil, and took sheep, oxen, and calves, and slaughtered them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood.

³³ Then they told Saul, saying, "Look, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood!" So he said, "You have dealt treacherously; roll a large stone to me this day."

³⁴ And Saul said, "Disperse yourselves among the people, and say to them, 'Bring me here every man's ox and every man's sheep, slaughter them here, and eat; and do not sin against the LORD by eating with the blood.'" So every one of the people brought his ox with him that night, and slaughtered it there.

³⁵ Then Saul built an altar to the LORD. This was the first altar that he built to the LORD.

³⁶ Now Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and plunder them until the morning light; and let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever seems good to you." Then

the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here."

³⁷ So Saul asked counsel of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will You deliver them into the hand of Israel?" But He did not answer him that day.

³⁸ And Saul said, "Come over here, all you chiefs of the people, and know and see what this sin was today.

³⁹ "For as the LORD lives, who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But not a man among all the people answered him.

⁴⁰ Then he said to all Israel, "You be on one side, and my son Jonathan and I will be on the other side." And the people said to Saul, "Do what seems good to you."

⁴¹ Therefore Saul said to the LORD God of Israel, "Give a perfect lot." So Saul and Jonathan were taken, but the people escaped.

⁴² And Saul said, "Cast lots between my son Jonathan and me." So Jonathan was taken.

⁴³ Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." And Jonathan told him, and said, "I only tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. So now I must die!"

⁴⁴ And Saul answered, "God do so and more also; for you shall surely die, Jonathan."

⁴⁵ But the people said to Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who has accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! As the LORD lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.

⁴⁶ Then Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place.

⁴⁷ So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed them.

⁴⁸ And he gathered an army and attacked the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them.

⁴⁹ The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Jishui and Malchishua. And the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal.

⁵⁰ The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the commander of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle.

⁵¹ Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel.

⁵² Now there was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself.

15 ¹ Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD.

² "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

³ 'Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

⁴ So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.

⁵ And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

⁶ Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

⁷ And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt.

⁸ He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything

despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

¹⁰ Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying,

¹¹ "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.

¹² So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

¹³ Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

¹⁴ But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

¹⁵ And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."

¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on."

¹⁷ So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"

¹⁸ "Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.'

¹⁹ "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?"

²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

²¹ "But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

²² Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

²⁵ "Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD."

²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel."

²⁷ And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.

²⁸ So Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

²⁹ "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

³⁰ Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God."

³¹ So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

³² Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me." So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

³³ But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women."

And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

³⁴ Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul.

³⁵ And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

16 ¹ Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

² And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

³ "Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward

appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸ So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

¹⁰ Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here."

¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!"

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

¹⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

¹⁵ And Saul's servants said to him, "Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you.

¹⁶ "Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp; and it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be well."

¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me."

¹⁸ Then one of the servants answered and said, "Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him."

¹⁹ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me your son David, who is with the sheep."

²⁰ And Jesse took a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat, and sent them by his son David to Saul.

²¹ So David came to Saul and stood before him. And he loved him greatly, and he became his armorbearer.

²² Then Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Please let David stand before me, for he has found favor in my sight."

²³ And so it was, whenever the spirit from God was upon Saul, that David would take a harp and play it with his hand. Then Saul would become

refreshed and well, and the distressing spirit would depart from him.

17 ¹ Now the Philistines gathered their armies together to battle, and were gathered together at Sochoh, which belongs to Judah; they encamped between Sochoh and Azekah, in Ephes Dammim.

² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and they encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array against the Philistines.

³ The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

⁴ And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

⁵ He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail,

and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze.

⁶ And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders.

⁷ Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a shield-bearer went before him.

⁸ Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, "Why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me.

⁹ "If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us."

¹⁰ And the Philistine said, "I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

¹¹ When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

¹² Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man was old, advanced in years, in the days of Saul.

¹³ The three oldest sons of Jesse had gone to follow Saul to the battle. The names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

¹⁴ David was the youngest. And the three oldest followed Saul.

¹⁵ But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

¹⁶ And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

¹⁷ Then Jesse said to his son David, "Take now for your brothers an ephah of this dried grain and these ten loaves, and run to your brothers at the camp.

¹⁸ "And carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand, and see how your brothers fare, and bring back news of them."

¹⁹ Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the Valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

²⁰ So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle.

²¹ For Israel and the Philistines had drawn up in battle array, army against army.

²² And David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army, and came and greeted his brothers.

²³ Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, coming up from the armies of the Philistines; and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them.

²⁴ And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid.

²⁵ So the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel; and it shall be that the man who kills him the king will enrich with great riches, will give

him his daughter, and give his father's house exemption from taxes in Israel."

²⁶ Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

²⁷ And the people answered him in this manner, saying, "So shall it be done for the man who kills him."

²⁸ Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

²⁹ And David said, "What have I done now? Is there not a cause?"

³⁰ Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did.

³¹ Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him.

³² Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

³³ And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock,

³⁵ I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it.

³⁶ "Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God."

³⁷ Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

³⁸ So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail.

³⁹ David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them." So David took them off.

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he

had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

⁴¹ So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.

⁴² And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking.

⁴³ So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.

⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts,

the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

⁴⁶ "This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

⁴⁷ "Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD'S, and He will give you into our hands."

⁴⁸ So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

⁴⁹ Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead,

so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David.

⁵¹ Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

⁵² Now the men of Israel and Judah arose and shouted, and pursued the Philistines as far as the entrance of the valley and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell along the road to Shaaraim, even as far as Gath and Ekron.

⁵³ Then the children of Israel returned from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their tents.

⁵⁴ And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

⁵⁵ When Saul saw David going out against the Philistine, he said to Abner, the commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is this youth?" And Abner said, "As your soul lives, O king, I do not know."

⁵⁶ So the king said, "Inquire whose son this young man is."

⁵⁷ Then, as David returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul with the head of the Philistine in his hand.

⁵⁸ And Saul said to him, "Whose son are you, young man?" So David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

18 ¹ Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of

Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

² Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore.

³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

⁴ And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

⁵ So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

⁶ Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet

King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments.

⁷ So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."

⁸ Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"

⁹ So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

¹⁰ And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand.

¹¹ And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

¹² Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.

¹³ Therefore Saul removed him from his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

¹⁴ And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him.

¹⁵ Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.

¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

¹⁷ Then Saul said to David, "Here is my older daughter Merab; I will give her to you as a wife. Only be valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles." For Saul thought, "Let my hand not be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

¹⁸ So David said to Saul, "Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?"

¹⁹ But it happened at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, that she was given to Adriel the Meholathite as a wife.

²⁰ Now Michal, Saul's daughter, loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

²¹ So Saul said, "I will give her to him, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall be my son-in-law today."

²² And Saul commanded his servants, "Communicate with David secretly, and say, 'Look, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you.

Now therefore, become the king's son-in-law."

²³ So Saul's servants spoke those words in the hearing of David. And David said, "Does it seem to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing I am a poor and lightly esteemed man?"

²⁴ And the servants of Saul told him, saying, "In this manner David spoke."

²⁵ Then Saul said, "Thus you shall say to David: 'The king does not desire any dowry but one hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to take vengeance on the king's enemies.'" But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

²⁶ So when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to become the king's son-in-law. Now the days had not expired;

²⁷ therefore David arose and went, he and his men, and killed two hundred

men of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full count to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. Then Saul gave him Michal his daughter as a wife.

²⁸ Thus Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him;

²⁹ and Saul was still more afraid of David. So Saul became David's enemy continually.

³⁰ Then the princes of the Philistines went out to war. And so it was, whenever they went out, that David behaved more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name became highly esteemed.

19 ¹ Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David;

² but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. (19:2) So Jonathan told

David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret place and hide.

³ "And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you."

⁴ Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works have been very good toward you.

⁵ "For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?"

⁶ So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed."

⁷ Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past.

⁸ And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him.

⁹ Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand.

¹⁰ Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night.

¹¹ Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the

morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."

¹² So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped.

¹³ And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats' hair for his head, and covered it with clothes.

¹⁴ So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."

¹⁵ Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him."

¹⁶ And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' hair for his head.

¹⁷ Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "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 all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

¹⁹ Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!"

²⁰ Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

²¹ And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

²² Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And someone said, "Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah."

²³ So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

²⁴ And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

20 ¹ Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah, and went and said to Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my iniquity, and what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"

² So Jonathan said to him, "By no means! You shall not die! Indeed, my father will do nothing either great or small without first telling me. And why should my father hide this thing from me? It is not so!"

³ Then David took an oath again, and said, "Your father certainly knows that

I have found favor in your eyes, and he has said, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."

⁴ So Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you."

⁵ And David said to Jonathan, "Indeed tomorrow is the New Moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king to eat. But let me go, that I may hide in the field until the third day at evening.

⁶ "If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked permission of me that he might run over to Bethlehem, his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.'

⁷ "If he says thus: 'It is well,' your servant will be safe. But if he is very angry, then be sure that evil is determined by him.

⁸ "Therefore you shall deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your

servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. Nevertheless, if there is iniquity in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?"

⁹ But Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! For if I knew certainly that evil was determined by my father to come upon you, then would I not tell you?"

¹⁰ Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me, or what if your father answers you roughly?"

¹¹ And Jonathan said to David, "Come, and let us go out into the field." So both of them went out into the field.

¹² Then Jonathan said to David: "The LORD God of Israel is witness! When I have sounded out my father sometime tomorrow, or the third day, and indeed there is good toward David, and I do not send to you and tell you,

¹³ "may the LORD do so and much more to Jonathan. But if it pleases my father

to do you evil, then I will report it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. And the LORD be with you as He has been with my father.

¹⁴ "And you shall not only show me the kindness of the LORD while I still live, that I may not die;

¹⁵ "but you shall not cut off your kindness from my house forever, no, not when the LORD has cut off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

¹⁶ So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "Let the LORD require it at the hand of David's enemies."

¹⁷ Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

¹⁸ Then Jonathan said to David, "Tomorrow is the New Moon; and you

will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

¹⁹ "And when you have stayed three days, go down quickly and come to the place where you hid on the day of the deed; and remain by the stone Ezel.

²⁰ "Then I will shoot three arrows to the side, as though I shot at a target;

²¹ "and there I will send a lad, saying, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I expressly say to him, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you; get them and come' —then, as the LORD lives, there is safety for you and no harm.

²² "But if I say thus to the young man, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you' —go your way, for the LORD has sent you away.

²³ "And as for the matter which you and I have spoken of, indeed the LORD be between you and me forever."

²⁴ Then David hid in the field. And when the New Moon had come, the king sat down to eat the feast.

²⁵ Now the king sat on his seat, as at other times, on a seat by the wall. And Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.

²⁶ Nevertheless Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has happened to him; he is unclean, surely he is unclean."

²⁷ And it happened the next day, the second day of the month, that David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has the son of Jesse not come to eat, either yesterday or today?"

²⁸ So Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked permission of me to go to Bethlehem.

²⁹ "And he said, 'Please let me go, for our family has a sacrifice in the city, and

my brother has commanded me to be there. And now, if I have found favor in your eyes, please let me get away and see my brothers.' Therefore he has not come to the king's table."

³⁰ Then Saul's anger was aroused against Jonathan, and he said to him, "You son of a perverse, rebellious woman! Do I not know that you have chosen the son of Jesse to your own shame and to the shame of your mother's nakedness?"

³¹ "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, you shall not be established, nor your kingdom. Now therefore, send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

³² And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said to him, "Why should he be killed? What has he done?"

³³ Then Saul cast a spear at him to kill him, by which Jonathan knew that it was determined by his father to kill David.

³⁴ So Jonathan arose from the table in fierce anger, and ate no food the second day of the month, for he was grieved for David, because his father had treated him shamefully.

³⁵ And so it was, in the morning, that Jonathan went out into the field at the time appointed with David, and a little lad was with him.

³⁶ Then he said to his lad, "Now run, find the arrows which I shoot." As the lad ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

³⁷ When the lad had come to the place where the arrow was which Jonathan had shot, Jonathan cried out after the lad and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?"

³⁸ And Jonathan cried out after the lad, "Make haste, hurry, do not delay!" So

Jonathan's lad gathered up the arrows and came back to his master.

³⁹ But the lad did not know anything. Only Jonathan and David knew of the matter.

⁴⁰ Then Jonathan gave his weapons to his lad, and said to him, "Go, carry them to the city."

⁴¹ As soon as the lad had gone, David arose from a place toward the south, fell on his face to the ground, and bowed down three times. And they kissed one another; and they wept together, but David more so.

⁴² Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the LORD, saying, 'May the LORD be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants, forever.'" So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

21 ¹ Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one is with you?"

² So David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has ordered me on some business, and said to me, 'Do not let anyone know anything about the business on which I send you, or what I have commanded you.' And I have directed my young men to such and such a place.

³ "Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give me five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever can be found."

⁴ And the priest answered David and said, "There is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women."

⁵ Then David answered the priest, and said to him, "Truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out. And the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in effect common, even though it was sanctified in the vessel this day."

⁶ So the priest gave him holy bread; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread in its place on the day when it was taken away.

⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. And his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who belonged to Saul.

⁸ And David said to Ahimelech, "Is there not here on hand a spear or a sword? For I have brought neither my sword nor

my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste."

⁹ So the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it. For there is no other except that one here." And David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

¹⁰ Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"

¹² Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

¹³ So he changed his behavior before them, feigned madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard.

¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me?"

¹⁵ "Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

22 ¹ David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

² And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

³ Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me."

⁴ So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

⁵ Now the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

⁶ When Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered—now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him—

⁷ then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give

every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds?

⁸ "All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day."

⁹ Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, "I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.

¹⁰ "And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹ So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king.

¹² And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" And he answered, "Here I am, my lord."

¹³ Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?"

¹⁴ So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house?"

¹⁵ "Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much."

¹⁶ And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!"

¹⁷ Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD.

¹⁸ And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod.

¹⁹ Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword.

²⁰ Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.

²¹ And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD'S priests.

²² So David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house.

²³ "Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe."

23 ¹ Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."

² Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah."

³ But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"

⁴ Then David inquired of the LORD once again. And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand."

⁵ And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶ Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand.

⁷ And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars."

⁸ Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men.

⁹ When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

¹⁰ Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake.

¹¹ "Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down."

¹² Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will deliver you."

¹³ So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could

go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition.

¹⁴ And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

¹⁵ So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest.

¹⁶ Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

¹⁷ And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that."

¹⁸ So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in

the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.

¹⁹ Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon?"

²⁰ "Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand."

²¹ And Saul said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me.

²² "Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty.

²³ "See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides; and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he

is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah."

²⁴ So they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon.

²⁵ When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David. Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon.

²⁶ Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.

²⁷ But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hasten and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land!"

²⁸ Therefore Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape.

²⁹ Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.

24 ¹ Now it happened, when Saul had returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, "Take note! David is in the Wilderness of En Gedi."

² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel, and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

³ So he came to the sheepfolds by the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to attend to his needs. (David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave.)

⁴ Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said

to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

⁶ And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD."

⁷ So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

⁸ David also arose afterward, went out of the cave, and called out to Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David stooped

with his face to the earth, and bowed down.

⁹ And David said to Saul: "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Indeed David seeks your harm'?"

¹⁰ "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'

¹¹ "Moreover, my father, see! Yes, see the corner of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, know and see that there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand, and I have not sinned against you. Yet you hunt my life to take it.

¹² "Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on

you. But my hand shall not be against you.

¹³ "As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Wickedness proceeds from the wicked.' But my hand shall not be against you.

¹⁴ "After whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A flea?

¹⁵ "Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand."

¹⁶ So it was, when David had finished speaking these words to Saul, that Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

¹⁷ Then he said to David: "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil.

¹⁸ "And you have shown this day how you have dealt well with me; for when

the LORD delivered me into your hand, you did not kill me.

¹⁹ "For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him get away safely? Therefore may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.

²⁰ "And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

²¹ "Therefore swear now to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me, and that you will not destroy my name from my father's house."

²² So David swore to Saul. And Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

25 ¹ Then Samuel died; and the Israelites gathered together and lamented for him, and buried him at his

home in Ramah. And David arose and went down to the Wilderness of Paran.

² Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel, and the man was very rich. He had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. And he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

³ The name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. And she was a woman of good understanding and beautiful appearance; but the man was harsh and evil in his doings. And he was of the house of Caleb.

⁴ When David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep,

⁵ David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, go to Nabal, and greet him in my name.

⁶ "And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: 'Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!

⁷ 'Now I have heard that you have shearers. Your shepherds were with us, and we did not hurt them, nor was there anything missing from them all the while they were in Carmel.

⁸ 'Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever comes to your hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

⁹ So when David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in the name of David, and waited.

¹⁰ Then Nabal answered David's servants, and said, "Who is David, and who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants nowadays who break away each one from his master.

¹¹ "Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for

my shearers, and give it to men when I do not know where they are from?"

¹² So David's young men turned on their heels and went back; and they came and told him all these words.

¹³ Then David said to his men, "Every man gird on his sword." So every man girded on his sword, and David also girded on his sword. And about four hundred men went with David, and two hundred stayed with the supplies.

¹⁴ Now one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Look, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master; and he reviled them.

¹⁵ "But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, nor did we miss anything as long as we accompanied them, when we were in the fields.

¹⁶ "They were a wall to us both by night and day, all the time we were with them keeping the sheep.

¹⁷ "Now therefore, know and consider what you will do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his household. For he is such a scoundrel that one cannot speak to him."

¹⁸ Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five sheep already dressed, five seahs of roasted grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys.

¹⁹ And she said to her servants, "Go on before me; see, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

²⁰ So it was, as she rode on the donkey, that she went down under cover of the hill; and there were David and his men, coming down toward her, and she met them.

²¹ Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have protected all that this fellow has

in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belongs to him. And he has repaid me evil for good.

²² "May God do so, and more also, to the enemies of David, if I leave one male of all who belong to him by morning light."

²³ Now when Abigail saw David, she hastened to dismount from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground.

²⁴ So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant.

²⁵ "Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.

²⁶ "Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, since the LORD has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal.

²⁷ "And now this present which your maidservant has brought to my lord, let it be given to the young men who follow my lord.

²⁸ "Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days.

²⁹ "Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of

your enemies He shall sling out, as from the pocket of a sling.

³⁰ "And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel,

³¹ "that this will be no grief to you, nor offense of heart to my lord, either that you have shed blood without cause, or that my lord has avenged himself. But when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your maidservant."

³² Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me!

³³ "And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand.

³⁴ "For indeed, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has kept me back from hurting you, unless you had hastened and come to meet me, surely by morning light no males would have been left to Nabal!"

³⁵ So David received from her hand what she had brought him, and said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have heeded your voice and respected your person."

³⁶ Now Abigail went to Nabal, and there he was, holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; therefore she told him nothing, little or much, until morning light.

³⁷ So it was, in the morning, when the wine had gone from Nabal, and his wife had told him these things, that his heart died within him, and he became like a stone.

³⁸ Then it came about, after about ten days, that the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

³⁹ So when David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal, and has kept His servant from evil! For the LORD has returned the wickedness of Nabal on his own head." And David sent and proposed to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

⁴⁰ When the servants of David had come to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her saying, "David sent us to you, to ask you to become his wife."

⁴¹ Then she arose, bowed her face to the earth, and said, "Here is your maidservant, a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord."

⁴² So Abigail rose in haste and rode on a donkey, attended by five of her maidens;

and she followed the messengers of David, and became his wife.

⁴³ David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and so both of them were his wives.

⁴⁴ But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

26 ¹ Now the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is David not hiding in the hill of Hachilah, opposite Jeshimon?"

² Then Saul arose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, having three thousand chosen men of Israel with him, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph.

³ And Saul encamped in the hill of Hachilah, which is opposite Jeshimon, by the road. But David stayed in the wilderness, and he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness.

⁴ David therefore sent out spies, and understood that Saul had indeed come.

⁵ So David arose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, and Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Now Saul lay within the camp, with the people encamped all around him.

⁶ Then David answered, and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and to Abishai the son of Zeruah, brother of Joab, saying, "Who will go down with me to Saul in the camp?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

⁷ So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him.

⁸ Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right

to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!"

⁹ And David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?"

¹⁰ David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish.

¹¹ "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go."

¹² So David took the spear and the jug of water by Saul's head, and they got away; and no man saw it or knew it or awoke. For they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen on them.

¹³ Now David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of a hill afar off, a great distance being between them.

¹⁴ And David called out to the people and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Do you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered and said, "Who are you, calling out to the king?"

¹⁵ So David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? And who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not guarded your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy your lord the king.

¹⁶ "This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not guarded your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the jug of water that was by his head."

¹⁷ Then Saul knew David's voice, and said, "Is that your voice, my son David?"

And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."

¹⁸ And he said, "Why does my lord thus pursue his servant? For what have I done, or what evil is in my hand?"

¹⁹ "Now therefore, please, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant: If the LORD has stirred you up against me, let Him accept an offering. But if it is the children of men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day from sharing in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'

²⁰ "So now, do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD. For the king of Israel has come out to seek a flea, as when one hunts a partridge in the mountains."

²¹ Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David. For I will harm you no more, because my life was precious in

your eyes this day. Indeed I have played the fool and erred exceedingly."

²² And David answered and said, "Here is the king's spear. Let one of the young men come over and get it.

²³ "May the LORD repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed.

²⁴ "And indeed, as your life was valued much this day in my eyes, so let my life be valued much in the eyes of the LORD, and let Him deliver me out of all tribulation."

²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail." So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

27 ¹ And David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish someday by

the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand."

² Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish the son of Maoch, king of Gath.

³ So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow.

⁴ And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.

⁵ Then David said to Achish, "If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why

should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?"

⁶ So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day.

⁷ Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months.

⁸ And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt.

⁹ Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.

¹⁰ Then Achish would say, "Where have you made a raid today?" And David would say, "Against the southern area

of Judah, or against the southern area of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern area of the Kenites."

¹¹ David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring news to Gath, saying, "Lest they should inform on us, saying, 'Thus David did.'" And thus was his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.

¹² So Achish believed David, saying, "He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever."

28 ¹ Now it happened in those days that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, "You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men."

² And David said to Achish, "Surely you know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Therefore I will

make you one of my chief guardians forever."

³ Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.

⁴ Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa.

⁵ When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.

⁶ And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.

⁷ Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor."

⁸ So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Please conduct a seance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you."

⁹ Then the woman said to him, "Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?"

¹⁰ And Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

¹¹ Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the

woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!"

¹³ And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth."

¹⁴ So he said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

¹⁵ Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do."

¹⁶ Then Samuel said: "Why then do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy?"

¹⁷ "And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.

¹⁸ "Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

¹⁹ "Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

²⁰ Then immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night.

²¹ And the woman came to Saul and saw that he was severely troubled, and said to him, "Look, your maidservant has obeyed your voice, and I have put my life in my hands and heeded the words which you spoke to me.

²² "Now therefore, please, heed also the voice of your maidservant, and let me set a piece of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way."

²³ But he refused and said, "I will not eat." So his servants, together with the woman, urged him; and he heeded their voice. Then he arose from the ground and sat on the bed.

²⁴ Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she hastened to kill it. And she took flour and kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread from it.

²⁵ So she brought it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

29 ¹ Then the Philistines gathered together all their armies at Aphek, and the Israelites encamped by a fountain which is in Jezreel.

² And the lords of the Philistines passed in review by hundreds and by thousands, but David and his men passed in review at the rear with Achish.

³ Then the princes of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" And Achish said to the princes of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul king of Israel, who has been with me these days, or these years? And to this day I have found no fault in him since he defected to me."

⁴ But the princes of the Philistines were angry with him; so the princes of the Philistines said to him, "Make this

fellow return, that he may go back to the place which you have appointed for him, and do not let him go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become our adversary. For with what could he reconcile himself to his master, if not with the heads of these men?

⁵ "Is this not David, of whom they sang to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"

⁶ Then Achish called David and said to him, "Surely, as the LORD lives, you have been upright, and your going out and your coming in with me in the army is good in my sight. For to this day I have not found evil in you since the day of your coming to me. Nevertheless the lords do not favor you.

⁷ "Therefore return now, and go in peace, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines."

⁸ So David said to Achish, "But what have I done? And to this day what have you found in your servant as long as I have been with you, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

⁹ Then Achish answered and said to David, "I know that you are as good in my sight as an angel of God; nevertheless the princes of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.'

¹⁰ "Now therefore, rise early in the morning with your master's servants who have come with you. And as soon as you are up early in the morning and have light, depart."

¹¹ So David and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

30 ¹ Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on

the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,

² and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.

³ So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive.

⁴ Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

⁵ And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive.

⁶ Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and

his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David.

⁸ So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

⁹ So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind.

¹⁰ But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor.

¹¹ Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they

gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water.

¹² And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights.

¹³ Then David said to him, "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" And he said, "I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick.

¹⁴ "We made an invasion of the southern area of the Cherethites, in the territory which belongs to Judah, and of the southern area of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire."

¹⁵ And David said to him, "Can you take me down to this troop?" So he said, "Swear to me by God that you will

neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop."

¹⁶ And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.

¹⁷ Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled.

¹⁸ So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives.

¹⁹ And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all.

²⁰ Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those other livestock, and said, "This is David's spoil."

²¹ Now David came to the two hundred men who had been so weary that they could not follow David, whom they also had made to stay at the Brook Besor. So they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near the people, he greeted them.

²² Then all the wicked and worthless men of those who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart."

²³ But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has

given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us.

²⁴ "For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike."

²⁵ So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

²⁶ Now when David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD" —

²⁷ to those who were in Bethel, those who were in Ramoth of the South, those who were in Jattir,

²⁸ those who were in Aroer, those who were in Siphmoth, those who were in Eshtemoa,

²⁹ those who were in Rachal, those who were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, those who were in the cities of the Kenites,

³⁰ those who were in Hormah, those who were in Chorashan, those who were in Athach,

³¹ those who were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were accustomed to rove.

31 ¹ Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

² Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

³ The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers.

⁴ Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.

⁵ And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword, and died with him.

⁶ So Saul, his three sons, his armorbearer, and all his men died together that same day.

⁷ And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley, and those who were on the other side of the Jordan, saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook the cities and fled; and the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

⁸ So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹ And they cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines, to proclaim it in the temple of their idols and among the people.

¹⁰ Then they put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan.

¹¹ Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there.

¹³ Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

2 Samuel

1 ¹ Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag, ² on the third day, behold, it happened that a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. So it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself.

³ And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" So he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

⁴ Then David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also."

⁵ So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?"

⁶ Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance to be on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

⁷ "Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.'

⁸ "And he said to me, 'Who are you?' So I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.'

⁹ "He said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me.'

¹⁰ "So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet

that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹ Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him.

¹² And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

¹³ Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite."

¹⁴ So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?"

¹⁵ Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died.

¹⁶ So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth

has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD'S anointed.'"

¹⁷ Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son,

¹⁸ and he told them to teach the children of Judah the Song of the Bow; indeed it is written in the Book of Jasher:

¹⁹ "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon—Lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, Lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.

²¹ "O mountains of Gilboa, Let there be no dew nor rain upon you, Nor fields of offerings. For the shield of the mighty is cast away there! The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

²² From the blood of the slain, From the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan

did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty.

²³ "Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, And in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.

²⁴ "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with luxury; Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

²⁵ "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! Jonathan was slain in your high places.

²⁶ I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me; Your love to me was wonderful, Surpassing the love of women.

²⁷ "How the mighty have fallen, And the weapons of war perished!"

2¹ It happened after this that David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I

go up to any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" And He said, "To Hebron."

² So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite.

³ And David brought up the men who were with him, every man with his household. So they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

⁴ Then the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, "The men of Jabesh Gilead were the ones who buried Saul."

⁵ So David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "You are blessed of the LORD, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him."

⁶ "And now may the LORD show kindness and truth to you. I also will repay you this kindness, because you have done this thing.

⁷ "Now therefore, let your hands be strengthened, and be valiant; for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

⁸ But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim;

⁹ and he made him king over Gilead, over the Ashurites, over Jezreel, over Ephraim, over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

¹⁰ Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. Only the house of Judah followed David.

¹¹ And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

¹² Now Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

¹³ And Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out and met them by the pool of Gibeon. So they sat down, one on one side of the pool and the other on the other side of the pool.

¹⁴ Then Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men now arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise."

¹⁵ So they arose and went over by number, twelve from Benjamin, followers of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve from the servants of David.

¹⁶ And each one grasped his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side; so they fell down

together. Therefore that place was called the Field of Sharp Swords, which is in Gibeon.

¹⁷ So there was a very fierce battle that day, and Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

¹⁸ Now the three sons of Zeruiah were there: Joab and Abishai and Asahel. And Asahel was as fleet of foot as a wild gazelle.

¹⁹ So Asahel pursued Abner, and in going he did not turn to the right hand or to the left from following Abner.

²⁰ Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Are you Asahel?" He answered, "I am."

²¹ And Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and lay hold on one of the young men and take his armor for yourself." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him.

²² So Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then could I face your brother Joab?"

²³ However, he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the blunt end of the spear, so that the spear came out of his back; and he fell down there and died on the spot. So it was that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died, stood still.

²⁴ Joab and Abishai also pursued Abner. And the sun was going down when they came to the hill of Ammah, which is before Giah by the road to the Wilderness of Gibeon.

²⁵ Now the children of Benjamin gathered together behind Abner and became a unit, and took their stand on top of a hill.

²⁶ Then Abner called to Joab and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that it will be bitter in the latter end? How long will it be then until you tell the people to return from pursuing their brethren?"

²⁷ And Joab said, "As God lives, unless you had spoken, surely then by morning all the people would have given up pursuing their brethren."

²⁸ So Joab blew a trumpet; and all the people stood still and did not pursue Israel anymore, nor did they fight anymore.

²⁹ Then Abner and his men went on all that night through the plain, crossed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron; and they came to Mahanaim.

³⁰ So Joab returned from pursuing Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing

of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel.

³¹ But the servants of David had struck down, of Benjamin and Abner's men, three hundred and sixty men who died.

³² Then they took up Asahel and buried him in his father's tomb, which was in Bethlehem. And Joab and his men went all night, and they came to Hebron at daybreak.

3 ¹ Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

² Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess;

³ his second, Chileab, by Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur;

⁴ the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

⁵ and the sixth, Ithream, by David's wife Eglah. These were born to David in Hebron.

⁶ Now it was so, while there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, that Abner was strengthening his hold on the house of Saul.

⁷ And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. So Ishbosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?"

⁸ Then Abner became very angry at the words of Ishbosheth, and said, "Am I a dog's head that belongs to Judah? Today I show loyalty to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not delivered you into the

hand of David; and you charge me today with a fault concerning this woman?

⁹ "May God do so to Abner, and more also, if I do not do for David as the LORD has sworn to him—

¹⁰ "to transfer the kingdom from the house of Saul, and set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan to Beersheba."

¹¹ And he could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

¹² Then Abner sent messengers on his behalf to David, saying, "Whose is the land?" saying also, "Make your covenant with me, and indeed my hand shall be with you to bring all Israel to you."

¹³ And David said, "Good, I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you: you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face."

¹⁴ So David sent messengers to Ishbosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, whom I betrothed to myself for a hundred foreskins of the Philistines."

¹⁵ And Ishbosheth sent and took her from her husband, from Paltiel the son of Laish.

¹⁶ Then her husband went along with her to Bahurim, weeping behind her. So Abner said to him, "Go, return!" And he returned.

¹⁷ Now Abner had communicated with the elders of Israel, saying, "In time past you were seeking for David to be king over you.

¹⁸ "Now then, do it! For the LORD has spoken of David, saying, 'By the hand of My servant David, I will save My people Israel from the hand of the Philistines and the hand of all their enemies.'"

¹⁹ And Abner also spoke in the hearing of Benjamin. Then Abner also went to speak in the hearing of David in Hebron all that seemed good to Israel and the whole house of Benjamin.

²⁰ So Abner and twenty men with him came to David at Hebron. And David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him.

²¹ Then Abner said to David, "I will arise and go, and gather all Israel to my lord the king, that they may make a covenant with you, and that you may reign over all that your heart desires." So David sent Abner away, and he went in peace.

²² At that moment the servants of David and Joab came from a raid and brought much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David in Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace.

²³ When Joab and all the troops that were with him had come, they told Joab,

saying, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he sent him away, and he has gone in peace."

²⁴ Then Joab came to the king and said, "What have you done? Look, Abner came to you; why is it that you sent him away, and he has already gone?"

²⁵ "Surely you realize that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you, to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

²⁶ And when Joab had gone from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, who brought him back from the well of Sirah. But David did not know it.

²⁷ Now when Abner had returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside in the gate to speak with him privately, and there stabbed him in the stomach, so that he died for the blood of Asahel his brother.

²⁸ Afterward, when David heard it, he said, "My kingdom and I are guiltless before the LORD forever of the blood of Abner the son of Ner.

²⁹ "Let it rest on the head of Joab and on all his father's house; and let there never fail to be in the house of Joab one who has a discharge or is a leper, who leans on a staff or falls by the sword, or who lacks bread."

³⁰ So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had killed their brother Asahel at Gibeon in the battle.

³¹ Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes, gird yourselves with sackcloth, and mourn for Abner." And King David followed the coffin.

³² So they buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept.

³³ And the king sang a lament over Abner and said: "Should Abner die as a fool dies?"

³⁴ Your hands were not bound Nor your feet put into fetters; As a man falls before wicked men, so you fell." Then all the people wept over him again.

³⁵ And when all the people came to persuade David to eat food while it was still day, David took an oath, saying, "God do so to me, and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!"

³⁶ Now all the people took note of it, and it pleased them, since whatever the king did pleased all the people.

³⁷ For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's intent to kill Abner the son of Ner.

³⁸ Then the king said to his servants, "Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?"

³⁹ "And I am weak today, though anointed king; and these men, the sons of Zeruah, are too harsh for me. The LORD shall repay the evildoer according to his wickedness."

4 ¹ When Saul's son heard that Abner had died in Hebron, he lost heart, and all Israel was troubled.

² Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of troops. The name of one was Baanah and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin. (For Beeroth also was part of Benjamin,

³ because the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there until this day.)

⁴ Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in his feet. He was five years

old when the news about Saul and Jonathan came from Jezreel; and his nurse took him up and fled. And it happened, as she made haste to flee, that he fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth.

⁵ Then the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out and came at about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who was lying on his bed at noon.

⁶ And they came there, all the way into the house, as though to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

⁷ For when they came into the house, he was lying on his bed in his bedroom; then they struck him and killed him, beheaded him and took his head, and were all night escaping through the plain.

⁸ And they brought the head of Ishbosheth to David at Hebron, and said to the king, "Here is the head of Ishbosheth, the son of Saul your enemy, who sought your life; and the LORD has avenged my lord the king this day of Saul and his descendants."

⁹ But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said to them, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all adversity,

¹⁰ "when someone told me, saying, 'Look, Saul is dead,' thinking to have brought good news, I arrested him and had him executed in Ziklag—the one who thought I would give him a reward for his news.

¹¹ "How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous person in his own house on his bed? Therefore, shall I not

now require his blood at your hand and remove you from the earth?"

¹² So David commanded his young men, and they executed them, cut off their hands and feet, and hanged them by the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner in Hebron.

5 ¹ Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and spoke, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.

² "Also, in time past, when Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over Israel.'"

³ Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron

before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel.

⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

⁵ In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty–three years over all Israel and Judah.

⁶ And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who spoke to David, saying, "You shall not come in here; but the blind and the lame will repel you," thinking, "David cannot come in here."

⁷ Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).

⁸ Now David said on that day, "Whoever climbs up by way of the water shaft and defeats the Jebusites (the lame and the

blind, who are hated by David's soul), he shall be chief and captain." Therefore they say, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

⁹ Then David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the City of David. And David built all around from the Millo and inward.

¹⁰ So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him.

¹¹ Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. And they built David a house.

¹² So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for the sake of His people Israel.

¹³ And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he had

come from Hebron. Also more sons and daughters were born to David.

¹⁴ Now these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

¹⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia,

¹⁶ Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

¹⁷ Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold.

¹⁸ The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁹ So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand."

²⁰ So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, "The LORD has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.

²¹ And they left their images there, and David and his men carried them away.

²² Then the Philistines went up once again and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim.

²³ Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees.

²⁴ "And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."

²⁵ And David did so, as the LORD commanded him; and he drove back the Philistines from Geba as far as Gezer.

6 ¹ Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.

² And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.

³ So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

⁴ And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵ Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD

on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.

⁶ And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

⁷ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

⁸ And David became angry because of the LORD'S outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.

⁹ David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"

¹⁰ So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David;

but David took it aside into the house of Obed–Edom the Gittite.

¹¹ The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed–Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed–Edom and all his household.

¹² Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed–Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed–Edom to the City of David with gladness.

¹³ And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

¹⁴ Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with

shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶ Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

¹⁸ And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

¹⁹ Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of

meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

²⁰ Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

²¹ So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.

²² "And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

²³ Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

7 ¹ Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around,

² that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains."

³ Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,

⁵ "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?"

⁶ "For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of

Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

⁷ "Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

⁸ "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel.

⁹ "And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.

¹⁰ "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant

them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

¹¹ "since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

¹² "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁴ "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.

¹⁵ "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

¹⁶ "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.""

¹⁷ According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?

¹⁹ "And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

²⁰ "Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.

²¹ "For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them.

²² "Therefore You are great, O LORD GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

²³ "And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods?

²⁴ "For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.

²⁵ "Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant

and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said.

²⁶ "So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel.' And let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

²⁷ "For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.

²⁸ "And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant.

²⁹ "Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue forever before You; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever."

8 ¹ After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines and subdued them. And David took Metheg Ammah from the hand of the Philistines.

² Then he defeated Moab. Forcing them down to the ground, he measured them off with a line. With two lines he measured off those to be put to death, and with one full line those to be kept alive. So the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute.

³ David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his territory at the River Euphrates.

⁴ David took from him one thousand chariots, seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. Also David hamstringed all the chariot horses, except that he spared enough of them for one hundred chariots.

⁵ When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand of the Syrians.

⁶ Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute. The LORD preserved David wherever he went.

⁷ And David took the shields of gold that had belonged to the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸ Also from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took a large amount of bronze.

⁹ When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer,

¹⁰ then Toi sent Joram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against

Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Toi); and Joram brought with him articles of silver, articles of gold, and articles of bronze.

¹¹ King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had dedicated from all the nations which he had subdued—

¹² from Syria, from Moab, from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, from Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³ And David made himself a name when he returned from killing eighteen thousand Syrians in the Valley of Salt.

¹⁴ He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

¹⁵ So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people.

¹⁶ Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

¹⁷ Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests; Seraiah was the scribe;

¹⁸ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over both the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers.

9 ¹ Now David said, "Is there still anyone who is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

² And there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba. So when they had called him to David, the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!"

³ Then the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?" And Ziba said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan who is lame in his feet."

⁴ So the king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, in Lo Debar."

⁵ Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

⁶ Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?" And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

⁷ So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake, and will restore to you all the land of Saul your

grandfather; and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

⁹ And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house.

¹⁰ "You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do." "As for Mephibosheth,"

said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons."

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth.

¹³ So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet.

10 ¹ It happened after this that the king of the people of Ammon died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

² Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent by the hand of his servants to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the people of Ammon.

³ And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun their lord, "Do

you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Has David not rather sent his servants to you to search the city, to spy it out, and to overthrow it?"

⁴ Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.

⁵ When they told David, he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

⁶ When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, the people of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Beth Rehob and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand foot soldiers; and from the king of Maacah one thousand men, and from Ish-Tob twelve thousand men.

⁷ Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

⁸ Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array at the entrance of the gate. And the Syrians of Zoba, Beth Rehob, Ish–Tob, and Maacah were by themselves in the field.

⁹ When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best and put them in battle array against the Syrians.

¹⁰ And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, that he might set them in battle array against the people of Ammon.

¹¹ Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

¹² "Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities

of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

¹³ So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him.

¹⁴ When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai, and entered the city. So Joab returned from the people of Ammon and went to Jerusalem.

¹⁵ When the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered together.

¹⁶ Then Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the River, and they came to Helam. And Shobach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them.

¹⁷ When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan, and came to Helam. And the Syrians set

themselves in battle array against David and fought with him.

¹⁸ Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven hundred charioteers and forty thousand horsemen of the Syrians, and struck Shobach the commander of their army, who died there.

¹⁹ And when all the kings who were servants to Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and served them. So the Syrians were afraid to help the people of Ammon anymore.

11 ¹ It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

² Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold.

³ So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

⁴ Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.

⁵ And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, "I am with child."

⁶ Then David sent to Joab, saying, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷ When Uriah had come to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the

people were doing, and how the war prospered.

⁸ And David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah departed from the king's house, and a gift of food from the king followed him.

⁹ But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.

¹⁰ So when they told David, saying, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Did you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

¹¹ And Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in tents, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are encamped in the open fields. Shall I then go to my house to eat and drink, and to lie with my wife? As you

live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."

¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Wait here today also, and tomorrow I will let you depart." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

¹³ Now when David called him, he ate and drank before him; and he made him drunk. And at evening he went out to lie on his bed with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴ In the morning it happened that David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

¹⁵ And he wrote in the letter, saying, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die."

¹⁶ So it was, while Joab besieged the city, that he assigned Uriah to a place where he knew there were valiant men.

¹⁷ Then the men of the city came out and fought with Joab. And some of the people of the servants of David fell; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the things concerning the war,

¹⁹ and charged the messenger, saying, "When you have finished telling the matters of the war to the king,

²⁰ if it happens that the king's wrath rises, and he says to you: 'Why did you approach so near to the city when you fought? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

²¹ 'Who struck Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Was it not a woman who cast a piece of a millstone on him from the wall, so that he died in Thebez? Why did you go near the wall?' —then you shall say, 'Your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also.'"

²² So the messenger went, and came and told David all that Joab had sent by him.

²³ And the messenger said to David, "Surely the men prevailed against us and came out to us in the field; then we drove them back as far as the entrance of the gate.

²⁴ "The archers shot from the wall at your servants; and some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

²⁵ Then David said to the messenger, "Thus you shall say to Joab: 'Do not let this thing displease you, for the sword devours one as well as another. Strengthen your attack against the city, and overthrow it.' So encourage him."

²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

²⁷ And when her mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

12 ¹ Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: "There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor.

² "The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds.

³ "But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him.

⁴ "And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to

him; but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him."

⁵ So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!

⁶ "And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

⁸ 'I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!

⁹ 'Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil

in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon.

¹⁰ 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.'

¹¹ "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

¹² 'For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.'

¹³ So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan

said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

¹⁴ "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

¹⁵ Then Nathan departed to his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.

¹⁶ David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.

¹⁷ So the elders of his house arose and went to him, to raise him up from the ground. But he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

¹⁸ Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said,

"Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm!"

¹⁹ When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead."

²⁰ So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.

²¹ Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food."

²² And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'

²³ "But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

²⁴ Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the LORD loved him,

²⁵ and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

²⁶ Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the people of Ammon, and took the royal city.

²⁷ And Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah, and I have taken the city's water supply.

²⁸ "Now therefore, gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called after my name."

²⁹ So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, fought against it, and took it.

³⁰ Then he took their king's crown from his head. Its weight was a talent of gold, with precious stones. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.

³¹ And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws and iron picks and iron axes, and made them cross over to the brick works. So he did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

13 ¹ After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister, whose

name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.

² Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.

³ But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man.

⁴ And he said to him, "Why are you, the king's son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

⁵ So Jonadab said to him, "Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill. And when your father comes to see you, say to him, 'Please let my sister Tamar come and give me food, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'"

⁶ Then Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let Tamar my sister come and make a couple of cakes for me in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

⁷ And David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Now go to your brother Amnon's house, and prepare food for him."

⁸ So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was lying down. Then she took flour and kneaded it, made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes.

⁹ And she took the pan and placed them out before him, but he refused to eat. Then Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." And they all went out from him.

¹⁰ Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the bedroom, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and

brought them to Amnon her brother in the bedroom.

¹¹ Now when she had brought them to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

¹² And she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing!

¹³ "And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you."

¹⁴ However, he would not heed her voice; and being stronger than she, he forced her and lay with her.

¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her exceedingly, so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Arise, be gone!"

¹⁶ So she said to him, "No, indeed! This evil of sending me away is worse than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her.

¹⁷ Then he called his servant who attended him, and said, "Here! Put this woman out, away from me, and bolt the door behind her."

¹⁸ Now she had on a robe of many colors, for the king's virgin daughters wore such apparel. And his servant put her out and bolted the door behind her.

¹⁹ Then Tamar put ashes on her head, and tore her robe of many colors that was on her, and laid her hand on her head and went away crying bitterly.

²⁰ And Absalom her brother said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? But now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this thing to heart." So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

²¹ But when King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

²² And Absalom spoke to his brother Amnon neither good nor bad. For Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar.

²³ And it came to pass, after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal Hazor, which is near Ephraim; so Absalom invited all the king's sons.

²⁴ Then Absalom came to the king and said, "Kindly note, your servant has sheepshearers; please, let the king and his servants go with your servant."

²⁵ But the king said to Absalom, "No, my son, let us not all go now, lest we be a burden to you." Then he urged him, but he would not go; and he blessed him.

²⁶ Then Absalom said, "If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us." And the king said to him, "Why should he go with you?"

²⁷ But Absalom urged him; so he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

²⁸ Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, "Watch now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon!' then kill him. Do not be afraid. Have I not commanded you? Be courageous and valiant."

²⁹ So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each one got on his mule and fled.

³⁰ And it came to pass, while they were on the way, that news came to David, saying, "Absalom has killed all the king's sons, and not one of them is left!"

³¹ So the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the ground, and all his servants stood by with their clothes torn.

³² Then Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, answered and said, "Let not my lord suppose they have killed all the young men, the king's sons, for only Amnon is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day that he forced his sister Tamar.

³³ "Now therefore, let not my lord the king take the thing to his heart, to think that all the king's sons are dead. For only Amnon is dead."

³⁴ Then Absalom fled. And the young man who was keeping watch lifted his eyes and looked, and there, many people were coming from the road on the hillside behind him.

³⁵ And Jonadab said to the king, "Look, the king's sons are coming; as your servant said, so it is."

³⁶ So it was, as soon as he had finished speaking, that the king's sons indeed came, and they lifted up their voice and

wept. Also the king and all his servants wept very bitterly.

³⁷ But Absalom fled and went to Talmai the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day.

³⁸ So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

³⁹ And King David longed to go to Absalom. For he had been comforted concerning Amnon, because he was dead.

14 ¹ So Joab the son of Zeruah perceived that the king's heart was concerned about Absalom.

² And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please pretend to be a mourner, and put on mourning apparel; do not anoint yourself with oil, but act like a woman who has been mourning a long time for the dead.

³ "Go to the king and speak to him in this manner." So Joab put the words in her mouth.

⁴ And when the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and prostrated herself, and said, "Help, O king!"

⁵ Then the king said to her, "What troubles you?" And she answered, "Indeed I am a widow, my husband is dead.

⁶ "Now your maidservant had two sons; and the two fought with each other in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other and killed him.

⁷ "And now the whole family has risen up against your maidservant, and they said, 'Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may execute him for the life of his brother whom he killed; and we will destroy the heir also.' So they would

extinguish my ember that is left, and leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the earth."

⁸ Then the king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give orders concerning you."

⁹ And the woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My lord, O king, let the iniquity be on me and on my father's house, and the king and his throne be guiltless."

¹⁰ So the king said, "Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you anymore."

¹¹ Then she said, "Please let the king remember the LORD your God, and do not permit the avenger of blood to destroy anymore, lest they destroy my son." And he said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

¹² Therefore the woman said, "Please, let your maidservant speak another

word to my lord the king." And he said, "Say on."

¹³ So the woman said: "Why then have you schemed such a thing against the people of God? For the king speaks this thing as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring his banished one home again.

¹⁴ "For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him.

¹⁵ "Now therefore, I have come to speak of this thing to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid. And your maidservant said, 'I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his maidservant.

¹⁶ 'For the king will hear and deliver his maidservant from the hand of the

man who would destroy me and my son together from the inheritance of God.'

¹⁷ "Your maidservant said, 'The word of my lord the king will now be comforting; for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king in discerning good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you.'"

¹⁸ Then the king answered and said to the woman, "Please do not hide from me anything that I ask you." And the woman said, "Please, let my lord the king speak."

¹⁹ So the king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" And the woman answered and said, "As you live, my lord the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has spoken. For your servant Joab commanded me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your maidservant."

²⁰ "To bring about this change of affairs your servant Joab has done this thing; but my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of the angel of God, to know everything that is in the earth."

²¹ And the king said to Joab, "All right, I have granted this thing. Go therefore, bring back the young man Absalom."

²² Then Joab fell to the ground on his face and bowed himself, and thanked the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord, O king, in that the king has fulfilled the request of his servant."

²³ So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

²⁴ And the king said, "Let him return to his own house, but do not let him see my face." So Absalom returned to his own house, but did not see the king's face.

²⁵ Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

²⁶ And when he cut the hair of his head—at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him—when he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels according to the king's standard.

²⁷ To Absalom were born three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a woman of beautiful appearance.

²⁸ And Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, but did not see the king's face.

²⁹ Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but he would not come to him. And when he sent again the second time, he would not come.

³⁰ So he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is near mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

³¹ Then Joab arose and came to Absalom's house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

³² And Absalom answered Joab, "Look, I sent to you, saying, 'Come here, so that I may send you to the king, to say, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still."' Now therefore, let me see the king's face; but if there is iniquity in me, let him execute me."

³³ So Joab went to the king and told him. And when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom.

15 ¹ After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with

chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

² Now Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit came to the king for a decision, that Absalom would call to him and say, "What city are you from?" And he would say, "Your servant is from such and such a tribe of Israel."

³ Then Absalom would say to him, "Look, your case is good and right; but there is no deputy of the king to hear you."

⁴ Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice."

⁵ And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would

put out his hand and take him and kiss him.

⁶ In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷ Now it came to pass after forty years that Absalom said to the king, "Please, let me go to Hebron and pay the vow which I made to the LORD.

⁸ "For your servant took a vow while I dwelt at Geshur in Syria, saying, 'If the LORD indeed brings me back to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.'"

⁹ And the king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.

¹⁰ Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'"

¹¹ And with Absalom went two hundred men invited from Jerusalem, and they went along innocently and did not know anything.

¹² Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city—from Giloh—while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number.

¹³ Now a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are with Absalom."

¹⁴ So David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee; or we shall not escape from Absalom. Make haste to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly and bring disaster upon us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

¹⁵ And the king's servants said to the king, "We are your servants, ready to do whatever my lord the king commands."

¹⁶ Then the king went out with all his household after him. But the king left ten women, concubines, to keep the house.

¹⁷ And the king went out with all the people after him, and stopped at the outskirts.

¹⁸ Then all his servants passed before him; and all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had followed him from Gath, passed before the king.

¹⁹ Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why are you also going with us? Return and remain with the king. For you are a foreigner and also an exile from your own place.

²⁰ "In fact, you came only yesterday. Should I make you wander up and down

with us today, since I go I know not where? Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth be with you."

²¹ And Ittai answered the king and said, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely in whatever place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also your servant will be."

²² So David said to Ittai, "Go, and cross over." Then Ittai the Gittite and all his men and all the little ones who were with him crossed over.

²³ And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people crossed over. The king himself also crossed over the Brook Kidron, and all the people crossed over toward the way of the wilderness.

²⁴ There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until

all the people had finished crossing over from the city.

²⁵ Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place.

²⁶ "But if He says thus: 'I have no delight in you,' here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him."

²⁷ The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

²⁸ "See, I will wait in the plains of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me."

²⁹ Therefore Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem. And they remained there.

³⁰ So David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot. And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up.

³¹ Then someone told David, saying, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." And David said, "O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!"

³² Now it happened when David had come to the top of the mountain, where he worshiped God—there was Hushai the Archite coming to meet him with his robe torn and dust on his head.

³³ David said to him, "If you go on with me, then you will become a burden to me.

³⁴ "But if you return to the city, and say to Absalom, 'I will be your servant, O king; as I was your father's servant

previously, so I will now also be your servant,' then you may defeat the counsel of Ahithophel for me.

³⁵ "And do you not have Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? Therefore it will be that whatever you hear from the king's house, you shall tell to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

³⁶ "Indeed they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son; and by them you shall send me everything you hear."

³⁷ So Hushai, David's friend, went into the city. And Absalom came into Jerusalem.

16 ¹ When David was a little past the top of the mountain, there was Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth, who met him with a couple of saddled donkeys, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, one hundred clusters of

raisins, one hundred summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

² And the king said to Ziba, "What do you mean to do with these?" So Ziba said, "The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on, the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat, and the wine for those who are faint in the wilderness to drink."

³ Then the king said, "And where is your master's son?" And Ziba said to the king, "Indeed he is staying in Jerusalem, for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will restore the kingdom of my father to me.'"

⁴ So the king said to Ziba, "Here, all that belongs to Mephibosheth is yours." And Ziba said, "I humbly bow before you, that I may find favor in your sight, my lord, O king!"

⁵ Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the

family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came.

⁶ And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.

⁷ Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue!

⁸ "The LORD has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the LORD has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!"

⁹ Then Abishai the son of Zeruah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!"

¹⁰ But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruah? So let him curse, because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'"

¹¹ And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the LORD has ordered him.

¹² "It may be that the LORD will look on my affliction, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing this day."

¹³ And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust.

¹⁴ Now the king and all the people who were with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there.

¹⁵ Meanwhile Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem; and Ahithophel was with him.

¹⁶ And so it was, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

¹⁷ So Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your loyalty to your friend? Why did you not go with your friend?"

¹⁸ And Hushai said to Absalom, "No, but whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel choose, his I will be, and with him I will remain.

¹⁹ Furthermore, whom should I serve? Should I not serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence."

²⁰ Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give counsel as to what we should do."

²¹ And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong."

²² So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the top of the house, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

²³ Now the advice of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

17 ¹ Moreover Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Now let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will arise and pursue David tonight.

² "I will come upon him while he is weary and weak, and make him afraid.

And all the people who are with him will flee, and I will strike only the king.

³ "Then I will bring back all the people to you. When all return except the man whom you seek, all the people will be at peace."

⁴ And the saying pleased Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

⁵ Then Absalom said, "Now call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he says too."

⁶ And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom spoke to him, saying, "Ahithophel has spoken in this manner. Shall we do as he says? If not, speak up."

⁷ So Hushai said to Absalom: "The advice that Ahithophel has given is not good at this time.

⁸ "For," said Hushai, "you know your father and his men, that they are mighty men, and they are enraged in their minds, like a bear robbed of her cubs

in the field; and your father is a man of war, and will not camp with the people.

⁹ "Surely by now he is hidden in some pit, or in some other place. And it will be, when some of them are overthrown at the first, that whoever hears it will say, 'There is a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.'

¹⁰ "And even he who is valiant, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will melt completely. For all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and those who are with him are valiant men.

¹¹ "Therefore I advise that all Israel be fully gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, like the sand that is by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person.

¹² "So we will come upon him in some place where he may be found, and we will fall on him as the dew falls on the ground. And of him and all the men who

are with him there shall not be left so much as one.

¹³ "Moreover, if he has withdrawn into a city, then all Israel shall bring ropes to that city; and we will pull it into the river, until there is not one small stone found there."

¹⁴ So Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The advice of Hushai the Archite is better than the advice of Ahithophel." For the LORD had purposed to defeat the good advice of Ahithophel, to the intent that the LORD might bring disaster on Absalom.

¹⁵ Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so Ahithophel advised Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so I have advised.

¹⁶ "Now therefore, send quickly and tell David, saying, 'Do not spend this night in the plains of the wilderness,

but speedily cross over, lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up."

¹⁷ Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed at En Rogel, for they dared not be seen coming into the city; so a female servant would come and tell them, and they would go and tell King David.

¹⁸ Nevertheless a lad saw them, and told Absalom. But both of them went away quickly and came to a man's house in Bahurim, who had a well in his court; and they went down into it.

¹⁹ Then the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and spread ground grain on it; and the thing was not known.

²⁰ And when Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" So the woman said to them, "They have gone over the water brook." And when

they had searched and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ Now it came to pass, after they had departed, that they came up out of the well and went and told King David, and said to David, "Arise and cross over the water quickly. For thus has Ahithophel advised against you."

²² So David and all the people who were with him arose and crossed over the Jordan. By morning light not one of them was left who had not gone over the Jordan.

²³ Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey, and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died; and he was buried in his father's tomb.

²⁴ Then David went to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.

²⁵ And Absalom made Amasa captain of the army instead of Joab. This Amasa was the son of a man whose name was Jithra, an Israelite, who had gone in to Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruah, Joab's mother.

²⁶ So Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

²⁷ Now it happened, when David had come to Mahanaim, that Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the people of Ammon, Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim,

²⁸ brought beds and basins, earthen vessels and wheat, barley and flour, parched grain and beans, lentils and parched seeds,

²⁹ honey and curds, sheep and cheese of the herd, for David and the people who were with him to eat. For they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."

18 ¹ And David numbered the people who were with him, and set captains of thousands and captains of hundreds over them.

² Then David sent out one third of the people under the hand of Joab, one third under the hand of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the hand of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the people, "I also will surely go out with you myself."

³ But the people answered, "You shall not go out! For if we flee away, they will not care about us; nor if half of us die, will they care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us now. For you are now more help to us in the city."

⁴ Then the king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood beside the gate, and all the people went out by hundreds and by thousands.

⁵ Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains orders concerning Absalom.

⁶ So the people went out into the field of battle against Israel. And the battle was in the woods of Ephraim.

⁷ The people of Israel were overthrown there before the servants of David, and a great slaughter of twenty thousand took place there that day.

⁸ For the battle there was scattered over the face of the whole countryside, and the woods devoured more people that day than the sword devoured.

⁹ Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on.

¹⁰ Now a certain man saw it and told Joab, and said, "I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree!"

¹¹ So Joab said to the man who told him, "You just saw him! And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten shekels of silver and a belt."

¹² But the man said to Joab, "Though I were to receive a thousand shekels of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king's son. For in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Beware lest anyone touch the young man Absalom!'

¹³ "Otherwise I would have dealt falsely against my own life. For there is nothing hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself against me."

¹⁴ Then Joab said, "I cannot linger with you." And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree.

¹⁵ And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.

¹⁶ So Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing Israel. For Joab held back the people.

¹⁷ And they took Absalom and cast him into a large pit in the woods, and laid a very large heap of stones over him. Then all Israel fled, everyone to his tent.

¹⁸ Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up a pillar for himself, which is in the King's Valley. For he said,

"I have no son to keep my name in remembrance." He called the pillar after his own name. And to this day it is called Absalom's Monument.

¹⁹ Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run now and take the news to the king, how the LORD has avenged him of his enemies."

²⁰ And Joab said to him, "You shall not take the news this day, for you shall take the news another day. But today you shall take no news, because the king's son is dead."

²¹ Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." So the Cushite bowed himself to Joab and ran.

²² And Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "But whatever happens, please let me also run after the Cushite." So Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, since you have no news ready?"

²³ "But whatever happens," he said, "let me run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by way of the plain, and outran the Cushite.

²⁴ Now David was sitting between the two gates. And the watchman went up to the roof over the gate, to the wall, lifted his eyes and looked, and there was a man, running alone.

²⁵ Then the watchman cried out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he came rapidly and drew near.

²⁶ Then the watchman saw another man running, and the watchman called to the gatekeeper and said, "There is another man, running alone!" And the king said, "He also brings news."

²⁷ So the watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king

said, "He is a good man, and comes with good news."

²⁸ And Ahimaaz called out and said to the king, "All is well!" Then he bowed down with his face to the earth before the king, and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king!"

²⁹ The king said, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant and me your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I did not know what it was about."

³⁰ And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

³¹ Just then the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "There is good news, my lord the king! For the LORD has avenged you this day of all those who rose against you."

³² And the king said to the Cushite, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" So the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!"

³³ Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: "O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!"

19 ¹ And Joab was told, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom."

² So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people. For the people heard it said that day, "The king is grieved for his son."

³ And the people stole back into the city that day, as people who are ashamed steal away when they flee in battle.

⁴ But the king covered his face, and the king cried out with a loud voice, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"

⁵ Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, "Today you have disgraced all your servants who today have saved your life, the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives and the lives of your concubines,

⁶ "in that you love your enemies and hate your friends. For you have declared today that you regard neither princes nor servants; for today I perceive that if Absalom had lived and all of us had died today, then it would have pleased you well.

⁷ "Now therefore, arise, go out and speak comfort to your servants. For I swear by the LORD, if you do not go out, not one will stay with you this night. And that will be worse for you than all

the evil that has befallen you from your youth until now."

⁸ Then the king arose and sat in the gate. And they told all the people, saying, "There is the king, sitting in the gate." So all the people came before the king. For everyone of Israel had fled to his tent.

⁹ Now all the people were in a dispute throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king saved us from the hand of our enemies, he delivered us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled from the land because of Absalom.

¹⁰ "But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, has died in battle. Now therefore, why do you say nothing about bringing back the king?"

¹¹ So King David sent to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, saying, "Speak to the elders of Judah, saying, 'Why are you the last to bring the king back to his

house, since the words of all Israel have come to the king, to his very house?

¹² 'You are my brethren, you are my bone and my flesh. Why then are you the last to bring back the king?'

¹³ "And say to Amasa, 'Are you not my bone and my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if you are not commander of the army before me continually in place of Joab.'"

¹⁴ So he swayed the hearts of all the men of Judah, just as the heart of one man, so that they sent this word to the king: "Return, you and all your servants!"

¹⁵ Then the king returned and came to the Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to escort the king across the Jordan.

¹⁶ And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, who was from Bahurim, hastened and came down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

¹⁷ There were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over the Jordan before the king.

¹⁸ Then a ferryboat went across to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. Now Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king when he had crossed the Jordan.

¹⁹ Then he said to the king, "Do not let my lord impute iniquity to me, or remember what wrong your servant did on the day that my lord the king left Jerusalem, that the king should take it to heart.

²⁰ "For I, your servant, know that I have sinned. Therefore here I am, the first to come today of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king."

²¹ But Abishai the son of Zeruah answered and said, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD'S anointed?"

²² And David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruah, that you should be adversaries to me today? Shall any man be put to death today in Israel? For do I not know that today I am king over Israel?"

²³ Therefore the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king swore to him.

²⁴ Now Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. And he had not cared for his feet, nor trimmed his mustache, nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he returned in peace.

²⁵ So it was, when he had come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king

said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

²⁶ And he answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me. For your servant said, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go to the king,' because your servant is lame.

²⁷ "And he has slandered your servant to my lord the king, but my lord the king is like the angel of God. Therefore do what is good in your eyes.

²⁸ "For all my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king. Yet you set your servant among those who eat at your own table. Therefore what right have I still to cry out anymore to the king?"

²⁹ So the king said to him, "Why do you speak anymore of your matters? I have said, 'You and Ziba divide the land.'"

³⁰ Then Mephibosheth said to the king, "Rather, let him take it all, inasmuch as

my lord the king has come back in peace to his own house."

³¹ And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim and went across the Jordan with the king, to escort him across the Jordan.

³² Now Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. And he had provided the king with supplies while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very rich man.

³³ And the king said to Barzillai, "Come across with me, and I will provide for you while you are with me in Jerusalem."

³⁴ But Barzillai said to the king, "How long have I to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?"

³⁵ "I am today eighty years old. Can I discern between the good and bad? Can your servant taste what I eat or what I drink? Can I hear any longer the voice of singing men and singing women? Why

then should your servant be a further burden to my lord the king?

³⁶ "Your servant will go a little way across the Jordan with the king. And why should the king repay me with such a reward?

³⁷ "Please let your servant turn back again, that I may die in my own city, near the grave of my father and mother. But here is your servant Chimham; let him cross over with my lord the king, and do for him what seems good to you."

³⁸ And the king answered, "Chimham shall cross over with me, and I will do for him what seems good to you. Now whatever you request of me, I will do for you."

³⁹ Then all the people went over the Jordan. And when the king had crossed over, the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own place.

⁴⁰ Now the king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. And all the people of Judah escorted the king, and also half the people of Israel.

⁴¹ Just then all the men of Israel came to the king, and said to the king, "Why have our brethren, the men of Judah, stolen you away and brought the king, his household, and all David's men with him across the Jordan?"

⁴² So all the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is a close relative of ours. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we ever eaten at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?"

⁴³ And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, and said, "We have ten shares in the king; therefore we also have more right to David than you. Why then do you despise us—were we not the first to advise bringing back our

king?" Yet the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

20¹ And there happened to be there a rebel, whose name was Sheba the son of Bichri, a Benjamite. And he blew a trumpet, and said: "We have no share in David, Nor do we have inheritance in the son of Jesse; Every man to his tents, O Israel!"

² So every man of Israel deserted David, and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah, from the Jordan as far as Jerusalem, remained loyal to their king.

³ Now David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women, his concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in seclusion and supported them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut

up to the day of their death, living in widowhood.

⁴ And the king said to Amasa, "Assemble the men of Judah for me within three days, and be present here yourself."

⁵ So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah. But he delayed longer than the set time which David had appointed him.

⁶ And David said to Abishai, "Now Sheba the son of Bichri will do us more harm than Absalom. Take your lord's servants and pursue him, lest he find for himself fortified cities, and escape us."

⁷ So Joab's men, with the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and all the mighty men, went out after him. And they went out of Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

⁸ When they were at the large stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa came before them. Now Joab was dressed in battle armor; on it was a belt with a sword

fastened in its sheath at his hips; and as he was going forward, it fell out.

⁹ Then Joab said to Amasa, "Are you in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

¹⁰ But Amasa did not notice the sword that was in Joab's hand. And he struck him with it in the stomach, and his entrails poured out on the ground; and he did not strike him again. Thus he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹¹ Meanwhile one of Joab's men stood near Amasa, and said, "Whoever favors Joab and whoever is for David—follow Joab!"

¹² But Amasa wallowed in his blood in the middle of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he moved Amasa from the highway to the field and threw a garment over

him, when he saw that everyone who came upon him halted.

¹³ When he was removed from the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴ And he went through all the tribes of Israel to Abel and Beth Maachah and all the Berites. So they were gathered together and also went after Sheba.

¹⁵ Then they came and besieged him in Abel of Beth Maachah; and they cast up a siege mound against the city, and it stood by the rampart. And all the people who were with Joab battered the wall to throw it down.

¹⁶ Then a wise woman cried out from the city, "Hear, Hear! Please say to Joab, 'Come nearby, that I may speak with you.'"

¹⁷ When he had come near to her, the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him,

"Hear the words of your maidservant."
And he answered, "I am listening."

¹⁸ So she spoke, saying, "They used to talk in former times, saying, 'They shall surely seek guidance at Abel,' and so they would end disputes.

¹⁹ "I am among the peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city and a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?"

²⁰ And Joab answered and said, "Far be it, far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy!

²¹ "That is not so. But a man from the mountains of Ephraim, Sheba the son of Bichri by name, has raised his hand against the king, against David. Deliver him only, and I will depart from the city." So the woman said to Joab, "Watch, his head will be thrown to you over the wall."

²² Then the woman in her wisdom went to all the people. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and threw it out to Joab. Then he blew a trumpet, and they withdrew from the city, every man to his tent. So Joab returned to the king at Jerusalem.

²³ And Joab was over all the army of Israel; Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites;

²⁴ Adoram was in charge of revenue; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

²⁵ Sheva was scribe; Zadok and Abiathar were the priests;

²⁶ and Ira the Jairite was a chief minister under David.

21 ¹ Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "It

is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites."

² So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; the children of Israel had sworn protection to them, but Saul had sought to kill them in his zeal for the children of Israel and Judah.

³ Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?"

⁴ And the Gibeonites said to him, "We will have no silver or gold from Saul or from his house, nor shall you kill any man in Israel for us." So he said, "Whatever you say, I will do for you."

⁵ Then they answered the king, "As for the man who consumed us and plotted against us, that we should be destroyed

from remaining in any of the territories of Israel,

⁶ "let seven men of his descendants be delivered to us, and we will hang them before the LORD in Gibeah of Saul, whom the LORD chose." And the king said, "I will give them."

⁷ But the king spared Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the LORD'S oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

⁸ So the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul; and the five sons of Michal the daughter of Saul, whom she brought up for Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

⁹ and he delivered them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the hill before the LORD. So they

fell, all seven together, and were put to death in the days of harvest, in the first days, in the beginning of barley harvest.

¹⁰ Now Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until the late rains poured on them from heaven. And she did not allow the birds of the air to rest on them by day nor the beasts of the field by night.

¹¹ And David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done.

¹² Then David went and took the bones of Saul, and the bones of Jonathan his son, from the men of Jabesh Gilead who had stolen them from the street of Beth Shan, where the Philistines had hung them up, after the Philistines had struck down Saul in Gilboa.

¹³ So he brought up the bones of Saul and the bones of Jonathan his son from there; and they gathered the bones of those who had been hanged.

¹⁴ They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.

¹⁵ When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint.

¹⁶ Then Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels, who was bearing a new sword, thought he could kill David.

¹⁷ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore

to him, saying, "You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."

¹⁸ Now it happened afterward that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Saph, who was one of the sons of the giant.

¹⁹ Again there was war at Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaare—Oregim the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

²⁰ Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant.

²¹ So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

²² These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

22 ¹ Then David spoke to the LORD the words of this song, on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

² And he said: "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

³ The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence.

⁴ I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

⁵ 'When the waves of death surrounded me, The floods of ungodliness made me afraid.

⁶ The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.

⁷ In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry entered His ears.

⁸ "Then the earth shook and trembled; The foundations of heaven quaked and were shaken, Because He was angry.

⁹ Smoke went up from His nostrils, And devouring fire from His mouth; Coals were kindled by it.

¹⁰ He bowed the heavens also, and came down With darkness under His feet.

¹¹ He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He was seen upon the wings of the wind.

¹² He made darkness canopies around Him, Dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

¹³ From the brightness before Him Coals of fire were kindled.

¹⁴ "The LORD thundered from heaven, And the Most High uttered His voice.

¹⁵ He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.

¹⁶ Then the channels of the sea were seen, The foundations of the world were uncovered, At the rebuke of the LORD, At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

¹⁷ "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters.

¹⁸ He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me; For they were too strong for me.

¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support.

²⁰ He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

²¹ "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.

²² For I have kept the ways of the LORD, And have not wickedly departed from my God.

²³ For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them.

²⁴ I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity.

²⁵ Therefore the LORD has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes.

²⁶ "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;

²⁷ With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

²⁸ You will save the humble people; But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down.

²⁹ "For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.

³⁰ For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall.

³¹ As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

³² "For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?

³³ God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect.

³⁴ He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places.

³⁵ He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁶ "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.

³⁷ You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip.

³⁸ "I have pursued my enemies and destroyed them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed.

³⁹ And I have destroyed them and wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet.

⁴⁰ For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose against me.

⁴¹ You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me.

⁴² They looked, but there was none to save; Even to the LORD, but He did not answer them.

⁴³ Then I beat them as fine as the dust of the earth; I trod them like dirt in the streets, And I spread them out.

⁴⁴ "You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people; You have kept me as the head of the nations. A people I have not known shall serve me.

⁴⁵ The foreigners submit to me; As soon as they hear, they obey me.

⁴⁶ The foreigners fade away, And come frightened from their hideouts.

⁴⁷ "The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, The Rock of my salvation!

⁴⁸ It is God who avenges me, And subdues the peoples under me;

⁴⁹ He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man.

⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks to You,
O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing
praises to Your name.

⁵¹ He is the tower of salvation to
His king, And shows mercy to His
anointed, To David and his descendants
forevermore."

23 ¹ Now these are the last words of
David. Thus says David the son of
Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on
high, The anointed of the God of Jacob,
And the sweet psalmist of Israel:

² "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me,
And His word was on my tongue.

³ The God of Israel said, The Rock of
Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over
men must be just, Ruling in the fear of
God.

⁴ And he shall be like the light of the
morning when the sun rises, A morning
without clouds, Like the tender grass

springing out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.'

⁵ "Although my house is not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire; Will He not make it increase?

⁶ But the sons of rebellion shall all be as thorns thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with hands.

⁷ But the man who touches them Must be armed with iron and the shaft of a spear, And they shall be utterly burned with fire in their place."

⁸ These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb—Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time.

⁹ And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated.

¹⁰ He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder.

¹¹ And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. Then the people fled from the Philistines.

¹² But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. And the LORD brought about a great victory.

¹³ Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁴ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

¹⁵ And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"

¹⁶ So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

¹⁷ And he said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in

jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

¹⁸ Now Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief of another three. He lifted his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three.

¹⁹ Was he not the most honored of three? Therefore he became their captain. However, he did not attain to the first three.

²⁰ Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

²¹ And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out

of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

²² These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men.

²³ He was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.

²⁴ Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁵ Shammah the Harodite, Elikah the Harodite,

²⁶ Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite,

²⁷ Abiezer the Anathothite, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

²⁸ Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai the Netophathite,

²⁹ Heleb the son of Baanah (the Netophathite), Ittai the son of Ribai from Gibeah of the children of Benjamin,

³⁰ Benaiah a Pirathonite, Hiddai from the brooks of Gaash,

³¹ Abi-Albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth the Barhumite,

³² Eliahba the Shaalbonite (of the sons of Jashen), Jonathan,

³³ Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

³⁴ Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, EIAM the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite,

³⁵ Hezrai the Carmelite, Paarai the Arbite,

³⁶ Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

³⁷ Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Beerothite (armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah),

³⁸ Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

³⁹ and Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

24 ¹ Again the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah."

² So the king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Now go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people."

³ And Joab said to the king, "Now may the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?"

⁴ Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. Therefore Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel.

⁵ And they crossed over the Jordan and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the town which is in the midst of the ravine of Gad, and toward Jazer.

⁶ Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim Hodshi; they came to Dan Jaan and around to Sidon;

⁷ and they came to the stronghold of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites. Then they went out to South Judah as far as Beersheba.

⁸ So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days.

⁹ Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king. And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

¹⁰ And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So

David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

¹¹ Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹² "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.'"

¹³ So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

¹⁴ And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁵ So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.

¹⁶ And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

¹⁷ Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your

hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

¹⁸ And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

¹⁹ So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded.

²⁰ Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground.

²¹ Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."

²² Now Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are

oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood.

²³ "All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you."

²⁴ Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

²⁵ And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

1 Kings

1 ¹ Now King David was old, advanced in years; and they put covers on him, but he could not get warm.

² Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman, a virgin, be sought for our lord the king, and let her stand before the king, and let her care for him; and let her lie in your bosom, that our lord the king may be warm."

³ So they sought for a lovely young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king.

⁴ The young woman was very lovely; and she cared for the king, and served him; but the king did not know her.

⁵ Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king"; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

⁶ (And his father had not rebuked him at any time by saying, "Why have you done so?" He was also very good-looking. His mother had borne him after Absalom.)

⁷ Then he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they followed and helped Adonijah.

⁸ But Zadok the priest, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei, Rei, and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah.

⁹ And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fattened cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En Rogel; he also invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah, the king's servants.

¹⁰ But he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah, the mighty men, or Solomon his brother.

¹¹ So Nathan spoke to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, saying, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king, and David our lord does not know it?"

¹² "Come, please, let me now give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

¹³ "Go immediately to King David and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord, O king, swear to your maidservant, saying, "Assuredly your son Solomon shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'

¹⁴ "Then, while you are still talking there with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

¹⁵ So Bathsheba went into the chamber to the king. (Now the king was very

old, and Abishag the Shunammite was serving the king.)

¹⁶ And Bathsheba bowed and did homage to the king. Then the king said, "What is your wish?"

¹⁷ Then she said to him, "My lord, you swore by the LORD your God to your maidservant, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.'

¹⁸ "So now, look! Adonijah has become king; and now, my lord the king, you do not know about it.

¹⁹ "He has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army; but Solomon your servant he has not invited.

²⁰ "And as for you, my lord, O king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, that

you should tell them who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

²¹ "Otherwise it will happen, when my lord the king rests with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted as offenders."

²² And just then, while she was still talking with the king, Nathan the prophet also came in.

²³ So they told the king, saying, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.

²⁴ And Nathan said, "My lord, O king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'?"

²⁵ "For he has gone down today, and has sacrificed oxen and fattened cattle and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, and the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest;

and look! They are eating and drinking before him; and they say, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

²⁶ "But he has not invited me—me your servant—nor Zadok the priest, nor Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, nor your servant Solomon.

²⁷ "Has this thing been done by my lord the king, and you have not told your servant who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

²⁸ Then King David answered and said, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.

²⁹ And the king took an oath and said, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from every distress,

³⁰ "just as I swore to you by the LORD God of Israel, saying, 'Assuredly Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he

shall sit on my throne in my place,' so I certainly will do this day."

³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and paid homage to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever!"

³² And King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.

³³ The king also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon.

³⁴ "There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'

³⁵ "Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For

I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah."

³⁶ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king and said, "Amen! May the LORD God of my lord the king say so too.

³⁷ "As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may He be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David."

³⁸ So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule, and took him to Gihon.

³⁹ Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

⁴⁰ And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and

rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.

⁴¹ Now Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the horn, he said, "Why is the city in such a noisy uproar?"

⁴² While he was still speaking, there came Jonathan, the son of Abiathar the priest. And Adonijah said to him, "Come in, for you are a prominent man, and bring good news."

⁴³ Then Jonathan answered and said to Adonijah, "No! Our lord King David has made Solomon king.

⁴⁴ "The king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the Cherethites, and the Pelethites; and they have made him ride on the king's mule.

⁴⁵ "So Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king

at Gihon; and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard.

⁴⁶ "Also Solomon sits on the throne of the kingdom.

⁴⁷ "And moreover the king's servants have gone to bless our lord King David, saying, 'May God make the name of Solomon better than your name, and may He make his throne greater than your throne.' Then the king bowed himself on the bed.

⁴⁸ "Also the king said thus, 'Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has given one to sit on my throne this day, while my eyes see it!'"

⁴⁹ So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.

⁵⁰ Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

⁵¹ And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

⁵² Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."

⁵³ So King Solomon sent them to bring him down from the altar. And he came and fell down before King Solomon; and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

2¹ Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying:

² "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.

³ "And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;

⁴ "that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁵ "Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruah did to me, and what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he

killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist, and on his sandals that were on his feet.

⁶ "Therefore do according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace.

⁷ "But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for so they came to me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

⁸ "And see, you have with you Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a malicious curse in the day when I went to Mahanaim. But he came down to meet me at the Jordan, and I swore to him by the LORD, saying, 'I will not put you to death with the sword.'

⁹ "Now therefore, do not hold him guiltless, for you are a wise man and

know what you ought to do to him; but bring his gray hair down to the grave with blood."

¹⁰ So David rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.

¹¹ The period that David reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty–three years.

¹² Then Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

¹³ Now Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. So she said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably."

¹⁴ Moreover he said, "I have something to say to you." And she said, "Say it."

¹⁵ Then he said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and all Israel had set their expectations on me, that I should reign. However, the kingdom has

been turned over, and has become my brother's; for it was his from the LORD.

¹⁶ "Now I ask one petition of you; do not deny me." And she said to him, "Say it."

¹⁷ Then he said, "Please speak to King Solomon, for he will not refuse you, that he may give me Abishag the Shunammite as wife."

¹⁸ So Bathsheba said, "Very well, I will speak for you to the king."

¹⁹ Bathsheba therefore went to King Solomon, to speak to him for Adonijah. And the king rose up to meet her and bowed down to her, and sat down on his throne and had a throne set for the king's mother; so she sat at his right hand.

²⁰ Then she said, "I desire one small petition of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Ask it, my mother, for I will not refuse you."

²¹ So she said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as wife."

²² And King Solomon answered and said to his mother, "Now why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also—for he is my older brother—for him, and for Abiathar the priest, and for Joab the son of Zeruah."

²³ Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "May God do so to me, and more also, if Adonijah has not spoken this word against his own life!

²⁴ "Now therefore, as the LORD lives, who has confirmed me and set me on the throne of David my father, and who has established a house for me, as He promised, Adonijah shall be put to death today!"

²⁵ So King Solomon sent by the hand of Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he struck him down, and he died.

²⁶ And to Abiathar the priest the king said, "Go to Anathoth, to your own fields, for you are deserving of death; but I will not put you to death at this time, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before my father David, and because you were afflicted every time my father was afflicted."

²⁷ So Solomon removed Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, that he might fulfill the word of the LORD which He spoke concerning the house of Eli at Shiloh.

²⁸ Then news came to Joab, for Joab had defected to Adonijah, though he had not defected to Absalom. So Joab fled to the tabernacle of the LORD, and took hold of the horns of the altar.

²⁹ And King Solomon was told, "Joab has fled to the tabernacle of the LORD; there he is, by the altar." Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down."

³⁰ So Benaiah went to the tabernacle of the LORD, and said to him, "Thus says the king, 'Come out!'" And he said, "No, but I will die here." And Benaiah brought back word to the king, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me."

³¹ Then the king said to him, "Do as he has said, and strike him down and bury him, that you may take away from me and from the house of my father the innocent blood which Joab shed.

³² "So the LORD will return his blood on his head, because he struck down two men more righteous and better than he, and killed them with the sword—Abner the son of Ner, the commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of

Jether, the commander of the army of Judah—though my father David did not know it.

³³ "Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab and upon the head of his descendants forever. But upon David and his descendants, upon his house and his throne, there shall be peace forever from the LORD."

³⁴ So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck and killed him; and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.

³⁵ The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his place over the army, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

³⁶ Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and do not go out from there anywhere.

³⁷ "For it shall be, on the day you go out and cross the Brook Kidron, know for certain you shall surely die; your blood shall be on your own head."

³⁸ And Shimei said to the king, "The saying is good. As my lord the king has said, so your servant will do." So Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.

³⁹ Now it happened at the end of three years, that two slaves of Shimei ran away to Achish the son of Maachah, king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, "Look, your slaves are in Gath!"

⁴⁰ So Shimei arose, saddled his donkey, and went to Achish at Gath to seek his slaves. And Shimei went and brought his slaves from Gath.

⁴¹ And Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and had come back.

⁴² Then the king sent and called for Shimei, and said to him, "Did I not make

you swear by the LORD, and warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and travel anywhere, you shall surely die'? And you said to me, 'The word I have heard is good.'

⁴³ "Why then have you not kept the oath of the LORD and the commandment that I gave you?"

⁴⁴ The king said moreover to Shimei, "You know, as your heart acknowledges, all the wickedness that you did to my father David; therefore the LORD will return your wickedness on your own head.

⁴⁵ "But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever."

⁴⁶ So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; and he went out and struck him down, and he died. Thus the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

3¹ Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter; then he brought her to the City of David until he had finished building his own house, and the house of the LORD, and the wall all around Jerusalem.

² Meanwhile the people sacrificed at the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the LORD until those days.

³ And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

⁴ Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

⁶ And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

⁷ "Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

⁸ "And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted.

⁹ "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰ The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.

¹¹ Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice,

¹² "behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you.

¹³ "And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.

¹⁴ "So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

¹⁶ Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him.

¹⁷ And one woman said, "O my lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house.

¹⁸ "Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house.

¹⁹ "And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.

²⁰ "So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid

him in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

²¹ "And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne."

²² Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king.

²³ And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'"

²⁴ Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king.

²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."

²⁶ Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him."

²⁷ So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother."

²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

4 ¹ So King Solomon was king over all Israel.

² And these were his officials: Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest;

³ Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder;

⁴ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, over the army; Zadok and Abiathar, the priests;

⁵ Azariah the son of Nathan, over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan, a priest and the king's friend;

⁶ Ahishar, over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda, over the labor force.

⁷ And Solomon had twelve governors over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household; each one made provision for one month of the year.

⁸ These are their names: Ben-Hur, in the mountains of Ephraim;

⁹ Ben-Deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan;

¹⁰ Ben-Hesed, in Arubboth; to him belonged Sochoh and all the land of Hopher;

¹¹ Ben–Abinadab, in all the regions of Dor; he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as wife;

¹² Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth Shean, which is beside Zaretan below Jezreel, from Beth Shean to Abel Meholah, as far as the other side of Jokneam;

¹³ Ben–Geber, in Ramoth Gilead; to him belonged the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, in Gilead; to him also belonged the region of Argob in Bashan—sixty large cities with walls and bronze gate–bars;

¹⁴ Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim;

¹⁵ Ahimaaz, in Naphtali; he also took Basemath the daughter of Solomon as wife;

¹⁶ Baanah the son of Hushai, in Asher and Aloth;

¹⁷ Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar;

¹⁸ Shimei the son of Elah, in Benjamin;

¹⁹ Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, in the country of Sihon king of the Amorites, and of Og king of Bashan. He was the only governor who was in the land.

²⁰ Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and rejoicing.

²¹ So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

²² Now Solomon's provision for one day was thirty kors of fine flour, sixty kors of meal,

²³ ten fatted oxen, twenty oxen from the pastures, and one hundred sheep,

besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fatted fowl.

²⁴ For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the River from Tiphseh even to Gaza, namely over all the kings on this side of the River; and he had peace on every side all around him.

²⁵ And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine and his fig tree, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

²⁶ Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

²⁷ And these governors, each man in his month, provided food for King Solomon and for all who came to King Solomon's table. There was no lack in their supply.

²⁸ They also brought barley and straw to the proper place, for the horses and steeds, each man according to his charge.

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore.

³⁰ Thus Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt.

³¹ For he was wiser than all men—than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

³² He spoke three thousand proverbs, and his songs were one thousand and five.

³³ Also he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish.

³⁴ And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his

wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

5¹ Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, because he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram had always loved David.

² Then Solomon sent to Hiram, saying:

³ You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the LORD put his foes under the soles of his feet.

⁴ But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor evil occurrence.

⁵ And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on

your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name."

⁶ Now therefore, command that they cut down cedars for me from Lebanon; and my servants will be with your servants, and I will pay you wages for your servants according to whatever you say. For you know there is none among us who has skill to cut timber like the Sidonians.

⁷ So it was, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, for He has given David a wise son over this great people!

⁸ Then Hiram sent to Solomon, saying: I have considered the message which you sent me, and I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs.

⁹ My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea; I will float them in rafts by sea to the place you indicate

to me, and will have them broken apart there; then you can take them away. And you shall fulfill my desire by giving food for my household.

¹⁰ Then Hiram gave Solomon cedar and cypress logs according to all his desire.

¹¹ And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand kors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty kors of pressed oil. Thus Solomon gave to Hiram year by year.

¹² So the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as He had promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty together.

¹³ Then King Solomon raised up a labor force out of all Israel; and the labor force was thirty thousand men.

¹⁴ And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month in shifts: they were one month in Lebanon and two months

at home; Adoniram was in charge of the labor force.

¹⁵ Solomon had seventy thousand who carried burdens, and eighty thousand who quarried stone in the mountains,

¹⁶ besides three thousand three hundred from the chiefs of Solomon's deputies, who supervised the people who labored in the work.

¹⁷ And the king commanded them to quarry large stones, costly stones, and hewn stones, to lay the foundation of the temple.

¹⁸ So Solomon's builders, Hiram's builders, and the Gebalites quarried them; and they prepared timber and stones to build the temple.

6 ¹ And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month

of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

² Now the house which King Solomon built for the LORD, its length was sixty cubits, its width twenty, and its height thirty cubits.

³ The vestibule in front of the sanctuary of the house was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the width of the vestibule extended ten cubits from the front of the house.

⁴ And he made for the house windows with beveled frames.

⁵ Against the wall of the temple he built chambers all around, against the walls of the temple, all around the sanctuary and the inner sanctuary. Thus he made side chambers all around it.

⁶ The lowest chamber was five cubits wide, the middle was six cubits wide, and the third was seven cubits wide; for he made narrow ledges around

the outside of the temple, so that the support beams would not be fastened into the walls of the temple.

⁷ And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

⁸ The doorway for the middle story was on the right side of the temple. They went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle to the third.

⁹ So he built the temple and finished it, and he paneled the temple with beams and boards of cedar.

¹⁰ And he built side chambers against the entire temple, each five cubits high; they were attached to the temple with cedar beams.

¹¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying:

¹² "Concerning this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David.

¹³ "And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel."

¹⁴ So Solomon built the temple and finished it.

¹⁵ And he built the inside walls of the temple with cedar boards; from the floor of the temple to the ceiling he paneled the inside with wood; and he covered the floor of the temple with planks of cypress.

¹⁶ Then he built the twenty-cubit room at the rear of the temple, from floor to ceiling, with cedar boards; he built it inside as the inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place.

¹⁷ And in front of it the temple sanctuary was forty cubits long.

¹⁸ The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with ornamental buds and open flowers. All was cedar; there was no stone to be seen.

¹⁹ And he prepared the inner sanctuary inside the temple, to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there.

²⁰ The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high. He overlaid it with pure gold, and overlaid the altar of cedar.

²¹ So Solomon overlaid the inside of the temple with pure gold. He stretched gold chains across the front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold.

²² The whole temple he overlaid with gold, until he had finished all the temple; also he overlaid with gold the entire altar that was by the inner sanctuary.

²³ Inside the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olive wood, each ten cubits high.

²⁴ One wing of the cherub was five cubits, and the other wing of the cherub five cubits: ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.

²⁵ And the other cherub was ten cubits; both cherubim were of the same size and shape.

²⁶ The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was the other cherub.

²⁷ Then he set the cherubim inside the inner room; and they stretched out the wings of the cherubim so that the wing of the one touched one wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall. And their wings touched each other in the middle of the room.

²⁸ Also he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹ Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers.

³⁰ And the floor of the temple he overlaid with gold, both the inner and outer sanctuaries.

³¹ For the entrance of the inner sanctuary he made doors of olive wood; the lintel and doorposts were one-fifth of the wall.

³² The two doors were of olive wood; and he carved on them figures of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers, and overlaid them with gold; and he spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

³³ So for the door of the sanctuary he also made doorposts of olive wood, one-fourth of the wall.

³⁴ And the two doors were of cypress wood; two panels comprised one folding

door, and two panels comprised the other folding door.

³⁵ Then he carved cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers on them, and overlaid them with gold applied evenly on the carved work.

³⁶ And he built the inner court with three rows of hewn stone and a row of cedar beams.

³⁷ In the fourth year the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid, in the month of Ziv.

³⁸ And in the eleventh year, in the month of Bul, which is the eighth month, the house was finished in all its details and according to all its plans. So he was seven years in building it.

7 ¹ But Solomon took thirteen years to build his own house; so he finished all his house.

² He also built the House of the Forest of Lebanon; its length was one hundred

cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits, with four rows of cedar pillars, and cedar beams on the pillars.

³ And it was paneled with cedar above the beams that were on forty–five pillars, fifteen to a row.

⁴ There were windows with beveled frames in three rows, and window was opposite window in three tiers.

⁵ And all the doorways and doorposts had rectangular frames; and window was opposite window in three tiers.

⁶ He also made the Hall of Pillars: its length was fifty cubits, and its width thirty cubits; and in front of them was a portico with pillars, and a canopy was in front of them.

⁷ Then he made a hall for the throne, the Hall of Judgment, where he might judge; and it was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling.

⁸ And the house where he dwelt had another court inside the hall, of like workmanship. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter, whom he had taken as wife.

⁹ All these were of costly stones cut to size, trimmed with saws, inside and out, from the foundation to the eaves, and also on the outside to the great court.

¹⁰ The foundation was of costly stones, large stones, some ten cubits and some eight cubits.

¹¹ And above were costly stones, hewn to size, and cedar wood.

¹² The great court was enclosed with three rows of hewn stones and a row of cedar beams. So were the inner court of the house of the LORD and the vestibule of the temple.

¹³ Now King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre.

¹⁴ He was the son of a widow from the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a bronze worker; he was filled with wisdom and understanding and skill in working with all kinds of bronze work. So he came to King Solomon and did all his work.

¹⁵ And he cast two pillars of bronze, each one eighteen cubits high, and a line of twelve cubits measured the circumference of each.

¹⁶ Then he made two capitals of cast bronze, to set on the tops of the pillars. The height of one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits.

¹⁷ He made a lattice network, with wreaths of chainwork, for the capitals which were on top of the pillars: seven chains for one capital and seven for the other capital.

¹⁸ So he made the pillars, and two rows of pomegranates above the network all around to cover the capitals that were on top; and thus he did for the other capital.

¹⁹ The capitals which were on top of the pillars in the hall were in the shape of lilies, four cubits.

²⁰ The capitals on the two pillars also had pomegranates above, by the convex surface which was next to the network; and there were two hundred such pomegranates in rows on each of the capitals all around.

²¹ Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz.

²² The tops of the pillars were in the shape of lilies. So the work of the pillars was finished.

²³ And he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

²⁴ Below its brim were ornamental buds encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The ornamental buds were cast in two rows when it was cast.

²⁵ It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward.

²⁶ It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained two thousand baths.

²⁷ He also made ten carts of bronze; four cubits was the length of each cart,

four cubits its width, and three cubits its height.

²⁸ And this was the design of the carts: They had panels, and the panels were between frames;

²⁹ on the panels that were between the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. And on the frames was a pedestal on top. Below the lions and oxen were wreaths of plaited work.

³⁰ Every cart had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and its four feet had supports. Under the laver were supports of cast bronze beside each wreath.

³¹ Its opening inside the crown at the top was one cubit in diameter; and the opening was round, shaped like a pedestal, one and a half cubits in outside diameter; and also on the opening were engravings, but the panels were square, not round.

³² Under the panels were the four wheels, and the axles of the wheels were joined to the cart. The height of a wheel was one and a half cubits.

³³ The workmanship of the wheels was like the workmanship of a chariot wheel; their axle pins, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all of cast bronze.

³⁴ And there were four supports at the four corners of each cart; its supports were part of the cart itself.

³⁵ On the top of the cart, at the height of half a cubit, it was perfectly round. And on the top of the cart, its flanges and its panels were of the same casting.

³⁶ On the plates of its flanges and on its panels he engraved cherubim, lions, and palm trees, wherever there was a clear space on each, with wreaths all around.

³⁷ Thus he made the ten carts. All of them were of the same mold, one measure, and one shape.

³⁸ Then he made ten lavers of bronze; each laver contained forty baths, and each laver was four cubits. On each of the ten carts was a laver.

³⁹ And he put five carts on the right side of the house, and five on the left side of the house. He set the Sea on the right side of the house, toward the southeast.

⁴⁰ Hiram made the lavers and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing all the work that he was to do for King Solomon for the house of the LORD:

⁴¹ the two pillars, the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the pillars;

⁴² four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of pomegranates for each network, to

cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the pillars);

⁴³ the ten carts, and ten lavers on the carts;

⁴⁴ one Sea, and twelve oxen under the Sea;

⁴⁵ the pots, the shovels, and the bowls. All these articles which Hiram made for King Solomon for the house of the LORD were of burnished bronze.

⁴⁶ In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zaretan.

⁴⁷ And Solomon did not weigh all the articles, because there were so many; the weight of the bronze was not determined.

⁴⁸ Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold on which was the showbread;

⁴⁹ the lampstands of pure gold, five on the right side and five on the left in front of the inner sanctuary, with the flowers and the lamps and the wick–trimmers of gold;

⁵⁰ the basins, the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner room (the Most Holy Place) and for the doors of the main hall of the temple.

⁵¹ So all the work that King Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and the furnishings. He put them in the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

8¹ Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem,

that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the City of David, which is Zion.

² Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with King Solomon at the feast in the month of Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

³ So all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

⁴ Then they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

⁵ Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude.

⁶ Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place,

into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.

⁷ For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.

⁸ The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

⁹ Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD,

¹¹ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the

glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

¹² Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

¹³ I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever."

¹⁴ Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

¹⁵ And he said: "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying,

¹⁶ 'Since the day that I brought My people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.'

17 "Now it was in the heart 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, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.

19 'Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.'

20 "So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke; and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

21 "And there I have made a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD which He made with our fathers, when He brought them out of the land of Egypt."

²² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven;

²³ and he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

²⁴ "You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.

²⁵ "Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.'

²⁶ "And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.

²⁷ "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

²⁸ "Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today:

²⁹ "that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.

³⁰ "And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear

in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

³¹ "When anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple,

³² "then hear in heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, condemning the wicked, bringing his way on his head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

³³ "When Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and when they turn back to You and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication to You in this temple,

³⁴ "then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to their fathers.

³⁵ "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them,

³⁶ "then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

³⁷ "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is;

³⁸ "whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows the plague of his own heart,

and spreads out his hands toward this temple:

³⁹ "then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men),

⁴⁰ "that they may fear You all the days that they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

⁴¹ "Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but has come from a far country for Your name's sake

⁴² '(for they will hear of Your great name and Your strong hand and Your outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this temple,

⁴³ "hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear

You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

⁴⁴ "When Your people go out to battle against their enemy, wherever You send them, and when they pray to the LORD toward the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name,

⁴⁵ "then hear in heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

⁴⁶ "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to the land of the enemy, far or near;

⁴⁷ "yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of those

who took them captive, saying, 'We have sinned and done wrong, we have committed wickedness';

⁴⁸ "and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies who led them away captive, and pray to You toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name:

⁴⁹ "then hear in heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause,

⁵⁰ "and forgive Your people who have sinned against You, and all their transgressions which they have transgressed against You; and grant them compassion before those who took them captive, that they may have compassion on them

⁵¹ "(for they are Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out of Egypt, out of the iron furnace),

⁵² "that Your eyes may be open to the supplication of Your servant and the supplication of Your people Israel, to listen to them whenever they call to You.

⁵³ "For You separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be Your inheritance, as You spoke by Your servant Moses, when You brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD."

⁵⁴ And so it was, when Solomon had finished praying all this prayer and supplication to the LORD, that he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread up to heaven.

⁵⁵ Then he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

⁵⁶ "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.

⁵⁷ "May the LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers. May He not leave us nor forsake us,

⁵⁸ "that He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.

⁵⁹ "And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require,

⁶⁰ "that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.

⁶¹ "Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments, as at this day."

⁶² Then the king and all Israel with him offered sacrifices before the LORD.

⁶³ And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.

⁶⁴ On the same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was in front of the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings, grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings.

⁶⁵ At that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven more days—fourteen days.

⁶⁶ On the eighth day he sent the people away; and they blessed the king, and went to their tents joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the LORD had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.

9 ¹ And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do,

² that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon.

³ And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have

consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

⁴ "Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments,

⁵ "then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁶ "But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them,

⁷ "then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name

I will cast out of My sight. Israel will be a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

⁸ "And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and will hiss, and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?'

⁹ "Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore the LORD has brought all this calamity on them.'"

¹⁰ Now it happened at the end of twenty years, when Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house

¹¹ (Hiram the king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress and gold, as much as he desired), that King

Solomon then gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.

¹² Then Hiram went from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him, but they did not please him.

¹³ So he said, "What kind of cities are these which you have given me, my brother?" And he called them the land of Cabul, as they are to this day.

¹⁴ Then Hiram sent the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold.

¹⁵ And this is the reason for the labor force which King Solomon raised: to build the house of the LORD, his own house, the Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, Hazor, Megiddo, and Gezer.

¹⁶ (Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and taken Gezer and burned it with fire, had killed the Canaanites who dwelt in the city, and had given it as a dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife.)

¹⁷ And Solomon built Gezer, Lower Beth Horon,

¹⁸ Baalath, and Tadmor in the wilderness, in the land of Judah,

¹⁹ all the storage cities that Solomon had, cities for his chariots and cities for his cavalry, and whatever Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.

²⁰ All the people who were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not of the children of Israel—

²¹ that is, their descendants who were left in the land after them, whom the children of Israel had not been able to destroy completely—from these Solomon raised forced labor, as it is to this day.

²² But of the children of Israel Solomon made no forced laborers, because they

were men of war and his servants: his officers, his captains, commanders of his chariots, and his cavalry.

²³ Others were chiefs of the officials who were over Solomon's work: five hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people who did the work.

²⁴ But Pharaoh's daughter came up from the City of David to her house which Solomon had built for her. Then he built the Millo.

²⁵ Now three times a year Solomon offered burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar which he had built for the LORD, and he burned incense with them on the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the temple.

²⁶ King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is near Elath on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom.

²⁷ Then Hiram sent his servants with the fleet, seamen who knew the sea, to work with the servants of Solomon.

²⁸ And they went to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and twenty talents of gold from there, and brought it to King Solomon.

10 ¹ Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions.

² She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels that bore spices, very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.

³ So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for the king that he could not explain it to her.

⁴ And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

⁵ the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

⁶ Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

⁷ "However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity exceed the fame of which I heard.

⁸ "Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

⁹ "Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

¹⁰ Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great quantity, and precious stones. There never again came such abundance of spices as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹¹ Also, the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought great quantities of almug wood and precious stones from Ophir.

¹² And the king made steps of the almug wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers. There never again came such almug wood, nor has the like been seen to this day.

¹³ Now King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, besides what Solomon had given her according to the royal generosity. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

¹⁴ The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty–six talents of gold,

¹⁵ besides that from the traveling merchants, from the income of traders, from all the kings of Arabia, and from the governors of the country.

¹⁶ And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield.

¹⁷ He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁸ Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round at the back; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests.

²⁰ Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

²¹ All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.

²² For the king had merchant ships at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

²³ So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²⁴ Now all the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

²⁵ Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

²⁶ And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand horsemen, whom he stationed 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 trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

²⁸ Also Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's

merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price.

²⁹ Now a chariot that was imported from Egypt cost six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse one hundred and fifty; and thus, through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

11 ¹ But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—

² from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

³ And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred

concubines; and his wives turned away his heart.

⁴ For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶ Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.

⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.

⁸ And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

⁹ So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,

¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded.

¹¹ Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

¹² "Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

¹³ "However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."

¹⁴ Now the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite; he was a descendant of the king in Edom.

¹⁵ For it happened, when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, after he had killed every male in Edom

¹⁶ (because for six months Joab remained there with all Israel, until he had cut down every male in Edom),

¹⁷ that Hadad fled to go to Egypt, he and certain Edomites of his father's servants with him. Hadad was still a little child.

¹⁸ Then they arose from Midian and came to Paran; and they took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house, apportioned food for him, and gave him land.

¹⁹ And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him as

wife the sister of his own wife, that is, the sister of Queen Tahpenes.

²⁰ Then the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's household among the sons of Pharaoh.

²¹ So 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 depart, that I may go to my own country."

²² Then Pharaoh said to him, "But what have you lacked with me, that suddenly you seek to go to your own country?" So he answered, "Nothing, but do let me go anyway."

²³ And God raised up another adversary against him, Rezon the son of Eliadah, who had fled from his lord, Hadadezer king of Zobah.

²⁴ So he gathered men to him and became captain over a band of raiders, when David killed those of Zobah. And they went to Damascus and dwelt there, and reigned in Damascus.

²⁵ He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon (besides the trouble that Hadad caused); and he abhorred Israel, and reigned over Syria.

²⁶ Then Solomon's servant, Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite from Zereda, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also rebelled against the king.

²⁷ And this is what caused him to rebel against the king: Solomon had built the Millo and repaired the damages to the City of David his father.

²⁸ The man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor; and Solomon, seeing that the young man was industrious, made

him the officer over all the labor force of the house of Joseph.

²⁹ Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field.

³⁰ Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces.

³¹ And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you

³² '(but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel),

³³ 'because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess

of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David.

³⁴ 'However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes.

³⁵ 'But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you—ten tribes.

³⁶ 'And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there.

³⁷ 'So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel.

³⁸ 'Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you, walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you.

³⁹ 'And I will afflict the descendants of David because of this, but not forever.'"

⁴⁰ Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

⁴¹ Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the book of the acts of Solomon?

⁴² And the period that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

⁴³ Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

12 ¹ And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

² So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was still in Egypt, for he had fled from the presence of King Solomon and had been dwelling in Egypt),

³ that they sent and called him. Then Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵ So he said to them, "Depart for three days, then come back to me." And the people departed.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

⁷ And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

⁹ And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

¹⁰ Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us' —thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist!

¹¹ 'And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'"

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."

¹³ Then the king answered the people roughly, and rejected the advice which the elders had given him;

¹⁴ and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying,

"My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from the LORD, that He might fulfill His word, which the LORD had spoken by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶ Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!" So Israel departed to their tents.

¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

²⁰ Now it came to pass when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had come back, they sent for him and called him to the congregation, and made him king over all Israel. There was none who followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

²¹ And when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah with the tribe of Benjamin, one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, that he might restore

the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

²² But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

²³ "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people, saying,

²⁴ 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel. Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.'" Therefore they obeyed the word of the LORD, and turned back, according to the word of the LORD.

²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel.

²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom may return to the house of David:

²⁷ "If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah."

²⁸ Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!"

²⁹ And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

³⁰ Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan.

³¹ He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi.

³² Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.

³³ So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

13 ¹ And behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.

² Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the LORD: 'Behold,

a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you."

³ And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the LORD has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out."

⁴ So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself.

⁵ The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

⁶ Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before.

⁷ Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

⁸ But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place.

⁹ "For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'"

¹⁰ So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

¹¹ Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, and his sons came and told him all the

works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel; they also told their father the words which he had spoken to the king.

¹² And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" For his sons had seen which way the man of God went who came from Judah.

¹³ Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him; and he rode on it,

¹⁴ and went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak. Then he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am."

¹⁵ Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

¹⁶ And he said, "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place.

¹⁷ "For I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came.'"

¹⁸ He said to him, "I too am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.)

¹⁹ So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

²⁰ Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back;

²¹ and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you,

²² 'but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which the LORD said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'

²³ So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back.

²⁴ When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse.

²⁵ And there, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told it in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

²⁶ Now when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard it, he said, "It is the man of God who was

disobedient to the word of the LORD. Therefore the LORD has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to him."

²⁷ And he spoke to his sons, saying, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled it.

²⁸ Then he went and found his corpse thrown on the road, and the donkey and the lion standing by the corpse. The lion had not eaten the corpse nor torn the donkey.

²⁹ And the prophet took up the corpse of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back. So the old prophet came to the city to mourn, and to bury him.

³⁰ Then he laid the corpse in his own tomb; and they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!"

³¹ So it was, after he had buried him, that he spoke to his sons, saying, "When I am dead, then bury me in the tomb where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones.

³² "For the saying which he cried out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel, and against all the shrines on the high places which are in the cities of Samaria, will surely come to pass."

³³ After this event Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but again he made priests from every class of people for the high places; whoever wished, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

³⁴ And this thing was the sin of the house of Jeroboam, so as to exterminate and destroy it from the face of the earth.

14 ¹ At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam became sick.

² And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Please arise, and disguise yourself, that they may not recognize you as the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Indeed, Ahijah the prophet is there, who told me that I would be king over this people.

³ "Also take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him; he will tell you what will become of the child."

⁴ And Jeroboam's wife did so; she arose and went to Shiloh, and came to the house of Ahijah. But Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were glazed by reason of his age.

⁵ Now the LORD had said to Ahijah, "Here is the wife of Jeroboam, coming to ask you something about her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus you shall say to her; for it will be, when she comes in, that she will pretend to be another woman."

⁶ And so it was, when Ahijah heard the sound of her footsteps as she came through the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another person? For I have been sent to you with bad news.

⁷ "Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel,

⁸ "and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes;

⁹ "but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back—

¹⁰ "therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone.

¹¹ "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the LORD has spoken!"

¹² "Arise therefore, go to your own house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die.

¹³ "And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he is the only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the LORD God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.

¹⁴ "Moreover the LORD will raise up for Himself a king over Israel who shall cut

off the house of Jeroboam; this is the day. What? Even now!

¹⁵ "For the LORD will strike Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land which He gave to their fathers, and will scatter them beyond the River, because they have made their wooden images, provoking the LORD to anger.

¹⁶ "And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."

¹⁷ Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed, and came to Tirzah. When she came to the threshold of the house, the child died.

¹⁸ And they buried him; and all Israel mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke through His servant Ahijah the prophet.

¹⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he made war and how he reigned,

indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

²⁰ The period that Jeroboam reigned was twenty–two years. So he rested with his fathers. Then Nadab his son reigned in his place.

²¹ And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty–one years old when he became king. He reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother’s name was Naamah, an Ammonitess.

²² Now Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked Him to jealousy with their sins which they committed, more than all that their fathers had done.

²³ For they also built for themselves high places, sacred pillars, and wooden

images on every high hill and under every green tree.

²⁴ And there were also perverted persons in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

²⁵ It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem.

²⁶ And he took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took away everything. He also took away all the gold shields which Solomon had made.

²⁷ Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king's house.

²⁸ And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guards carried

them, then brought them back into the guardroom.

²⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

³⁰ And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

³¹ So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess. Then Abijam his son reigned in his place.

15 ¹ In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam became king over Judah.

² He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.

³ And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him;

his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.

⁴ Nevertheless for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, by setting up his son after him and by establishing Jerusalem;

⁵ because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

⁶ And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.

⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Abijam, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And there was war between Abijam and Jeroboam.

⁸ So Abijam rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place.

⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa became king over Judah.

¹⁰ And he reigned forty—one years in Jerusalem. His grandmother's name was Maachah the granddaughter of Abishalom.

¹¹ Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did his father David.

¹² And he banished the perverted persons from the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

¹³ Also he removed Maachah his grandmother from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah. And Asa cut down her obscene image and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

¹⁴ But the high places were not removed. Nevertheless Asa's heart was loyal to the LORD all his days.

¹⁵ He also brought into the house of the LORD the things which his father had dedicated, and the things which he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

¹⁶ Now there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

¹⁷ And Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

¹⁸ Then Asa took all the silver and gold that was left in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad the son of Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying,

¹⁹ "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. See, I have sent you a

present of silver and gold. Come and break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

²⁰ So Ben—Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. He attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Beth Maachah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.

²¹ Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah, and remained in Tirzah.

²² Then King Asa made a proclamation throughout all Judah; none was exempted. And they took away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin, and Mizpah.

²³ The rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in

the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? But in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet.

²⁴ So Asa rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.

²⁵ Now Nadab the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.

²⁶ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

²⁷ Then Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha killed him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines, while Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon.

²⁸ Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

²⁹ And it was so, when he became king, that he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite,

³⁰ because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he had sinned and by which he had made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he had provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.

³¹ Now the rest of the acts of Nadab, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

³² And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

³³ In the third year of Asa king of Judah, Baasha the son of Ahijah became king over all Israel in Tirzah, and reigned twenty–four years.

³⁴ He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.

16 ¹ Then the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani, against Baasha, saying:

² "Inasmuch as I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over My people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam, and have made My people Israel sin, to provoke Me to anger with their sins,

³ "surely I will take away the posterity of Baasha and the posterity of his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

⁴ "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Baasha and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the fields."

⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Baasha, what he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

⁶ So Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah. Then Elah his son reigned in his place.

⁷ And also the word of the LORD came by the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha and his house, because of all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD in provoking Him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and because he killed them.

⁸ In the twenty–sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha became

king over Israel, and reigned two years in Tirzah.

⁹ Now his servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him as he was in Tirzah drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, steward of his house in Tirzah.

¹⁰ And Zimri went in and struck him and killed him in the twenty–seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

¹¹ Then it came to pass, when he began to reign, as soon as he was seated on his throne, that he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave him one male, neither of his relatives nor of his friends.

¹² Thus Zimri destroyed all the household of Baasha, according to the word of the LORD, which He spoke against Baasha by Jehu the prophet,

¹³ for all the sins of Baasha and the sins of Elah his son, by which they had sinned and by which they had made Israel sin, in provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.

¹⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Elah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

¹⁵ In the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, Zimri had reigned in Tirzah seven days. And the people were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines.

¹⁶ Now the people who were encamped heard it said, "Zimri has conspired and also has killed the king." So all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

¹⁷ Then Omri and all Israel with him went up from Gibbethon, and they besieged Tirzah.

¹⁸ And it happened, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house down upon himself with fire, and died,

¹⁹ because of the sins which he had committed in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he had committed to make Israel sin.

²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and the treason he committed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²¹ Then the people of Israel were divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king, and half followed Omri.

²² But the people who followed Omri prevailed over the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died and Omri reigned.

²³ In the thirty–first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king over Israel, and reigned twelve years. Six years he reigned in Tirzah.

²⁴ And he bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver; then he built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, Samaria, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill.

²⁵ Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all who were before him.

²⁶ For he walked in all the ways of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin, provoking the LORD God of Israel to anger with their idols.

²⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and the might that he showed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²⁸ So Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. Then Ahab his son reigned in his place.

²⁹ In the thirty–eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty–two years.

³⁰ Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

³¹ And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him.

³² Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

³³ And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

³⁴ In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

17 ¹ And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."

² Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

³ "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

⁴ "And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there."

⁵ So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and stayed by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan.

⁶ The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the brook.

⁷ And it happened after a while that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you."

¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the

city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink."

¹¹ And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

¹² So she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

¹³ And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son.

¹⁴ "For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'"

¹⁵ So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days.

¹⁶ The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.

¹⁷ Now it happened after these things that the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him.

¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

¹⁹ And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him 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, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?"

²¹ And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him."

²² Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is the truth."

18 ¹ And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying,

"Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.

³ And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly.

⁴ For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

⁵ And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock.

⁶ So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way

by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.

⁷ Now as Obadiah was on his way, suddenly Elijah met him; and he recognized him, and fell on his face, and said, "Is that you, my lord Elijah?"

⁸ And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your master, 'Elijah is here.'"

⁹ So he said, "How have I sinned, that you are delivering your servant into the hand of Ahab, to kill me?"

¹⁰ "As the LORD your God lives, there is no nation or kingdom where my master has not sent someone to hunt for you; and when they said, 'He is not here,' he took an oath from the kingdom or nation that they could not find you.

¹¹ "And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here"!'!

¹² "And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from you, that the Spirit of the LORD will carry you to a place I do not

know; so when I go and tell Ahab, and he cannot find you, he will kill me. But I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.

¹³ "Was it not reported to my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid one hundred men of the LORD'S prophets, fifty to a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

¹⁴ "And now you say, 'Go, tell your master, "Elijah is here.'" He will kill me!"

¹⁵ Then Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely present myself to him today."

¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him; and Ahab went to meet Elijah.

¹⁷ Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken

the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.

¹⁹ "Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.

²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

²³ "Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on

the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.

²⁴ "Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God." So all the people answered and said, "It is well spoken."

²⁵ Now Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one bull for yourselves and prepare it first, for you are many; and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under it."

²⁶ So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, "O Baal, hear us!" But there was no voice; no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made.

²⁷ And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for

he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened."

²⁸ So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.

²⁹ And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

³¹ And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."

³² Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood, and said, "Fill four waterpots with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood."

³⁴ Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time; and he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time.

³⁵ So the water ran all around the altar; and he also filled the trench with water.

³⁶ And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant,

and that I have done all these things at Your word.

³⁷ "Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

⁴¹ Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain."

⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,

⁴³ and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

⁴⁴ Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.'"

⁴⁵ Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel.

⁴⁶ Then the hand of the LORD came upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran ahead of Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

19 ¹ And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time."

³ And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

⁵ Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat."

⁶ Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again.

⁷ And the angel of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you."

⁸ So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

⁹ And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I

alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

¹¹ Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have

forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria.

¹⁶ "Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

¹⁷ "It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.

¹⁸ "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

¹⁹ So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who

was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him.

²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, "Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?"

²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

20¹ Now Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his forces together; thirty-two kings were with him, with horses and chariots. And he went up and besieged Samaria, and made war against it.

² Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, "Thus says Ben–Hadad:

³ 'Your silver and your gold are mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine.'"

⁴ And the king of Israel answered and said, "My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all that I have are yours."

⁵ Then the messengers came back and said, "Thus speaks Ben–Hadad, saying, 'Indeed I have sent to you, saying, "You shall deliver to me your silver and your gold, your wives and your children";

⁶ 'but I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants. And it shall be, that whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they will put it in their hands and take it.'"

⁷ So the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, "Notice,

please, and see how this man seeks trouble, for he sent to me for my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold; and I did not deny him."

⁸ And all the elders and all the people said to him, "Do not listen or consent."

⁹ Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben-Hadad, "Tell my lord the king, 'All that you sent for to your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do.'" And the messengers departed and brought back word to him.

¹⁰ Then Ben-Hadad sent to him and said, "The gods do so to me, and more also, if enough dust is left of Samaria for a handful for each of the people who follow me."

¹¹ So the king of Israel answered and said, "Tell him, 'Let not the one who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off.'"

¹² And it happened when Ben–Hadad heard this message, as he and the kings were drinking at the command post, that he said to his servants, "Get ready." And they got ready to attack the city.

¹³ Suddenly a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

¹⁴ So Ahab said, "By whom?" And he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'By the young leaders of the provinces.'" Then he said, "Who will set the battle in order?" And he answered, "You."

¹⁵ Then he mustered the young leaders of the provinces, and there were two hundred and thirty–two; and after them he mustered all the people, all the children of Israel—seven thousand.

¹⁶ So they went out at noon. Meanwhile Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings helping him were getting drunk at the command post.

¹⁷ The young leaders of the provinces went out first. And Ben-Hadad sent out a patrol, and they told him, saying, "Men are coming out of Samaria!"

¹⁸ So he said, "If they have come out for peace, take them alive; and if they have come out for war, take them alive."

¹⁹ Then these young leaders of the provinces went out of the city with the army which followed them.

²⁰ And each one killed his man; so the Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them; and Ben-Hadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the cavalry.

²¹ Then the king of Israel went out and attacked the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great slaughter.

²² And the prophet came to the king of Israel and said to him, "Go, strengthen yourself; take note, and see what you should do, for in the spring of the year the king of Syria will come up against you."

²³ Then the servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills. Therefore they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they."

²⁴ "So do this thing: Dismiss the kings, each from his position, and put captains in their places;

²⁵ "and you shall muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse and chariot for chariot. Then we will fight against them in the plain; surely we will be stronger than they." And he listened to their voice and did so.

²⁶ So it was, in the spring of the year, that Ben–Hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel.

²⁷ And the children of Israel were mustered and given provisions, and they went against them. Now the children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, while the Syrians filled the countryside.

²⁸ Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because the Syrians have said, "The LORD is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys," therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

²⁹ And they encamped opposite each other for seven days. So it was that on the seventh day the battle was joined; and the children of Israel killed one

hundred thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians in one day.

³⁰ But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; then a wall fell on twenty–seven thousand of the men who were left. And Ben–Hadad fled and went into the city, into an inner chamber.

³¹ Then his servants said to him, "Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Please, let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will spare your life."

³² So they wore sackcloth around their waists and put ropes around their heads, and came to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben–Hadad says, 'Please let me live.'" And he said, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

³³ Now the men were watching closely to see whether any sign of mercy

would come from him; and they quickly grasped at this word and said, "Your brother Ben-Hadad." So he said, "Go, bring him." Then Ben-Hadad came out to him; and he had him come up into the chariot.

³⁴ So Ben-Hadad said to him, "The cities which my father took from your father I will restore; and you may set up marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria." Then Ahab said, "I will send you away with this treaty." So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.

³⁵ Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the LORD, "Strike me, please." And the man refused to strike him.

³⁶ Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, surely, as soon as you depart from me, a

lion shall kill you." And as soon as he left him, a lion found him and killed him.

³⁷ And he found another man, and said, "Strike me, please." So the man struck him, inflicting a wound.

³⁸ Then the prophet departed and waited for the king by the road, and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes.

³⁹ Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, 'Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.'

⁴⁰ "While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." Then the king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it."

⁴¹ And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets.

⁴² Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have let slip out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'"

⁴³ So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and displeased, and came to Samaria.

21 ¹ And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

² So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if

it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

³ But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

⁴ So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

⁵ But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

⁶ He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

⁷ Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

⁸ And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth.

⁹ She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people;

¹⁰ and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

¹¹ So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them.

¹² They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people.

¹³ And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died.

¹⁴ Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead."

¹⁶ So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and

went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

¹⁷ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

¹⁸ "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it.

¹⁹ "You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?"' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours."'"

²⁰ So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD:

²¹ 'Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will

cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free.

²² 'I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.'

²³ "And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'

²⁴ "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field."

²⁵ But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.

²⁶ And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the

Amorites had done, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

²⁷ So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.

²⁸ And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

²⁹ "See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house."

22 ¹ Now three years passed without war between Syria and Israel.

² Then it came to pass, in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went down to visit the king of Israel.

³ And the king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, but we hesitate to take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?"

⁴ So he said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight at Ramoth Gilead?" Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁵ Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the LORD today."

⁶ Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?" So they said, "Go up, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."

⁷ And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?"

⁸ So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate

him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

⁹ Then the king of Israel called an officer and said, "Bring Micaiah the son of Imlah quickly!"

¹⁰ The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, having put on their robes, sat each on his throne, at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

¹¹ Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'With these you shall gore the Syrians until they are destroyed.'"

¹² And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for the LORD will deliver it into the king's hand."

¹³ Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Please, let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."

¹⁴ And Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak."

¹⁵ Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall we refrain?" And he answered him, "Go and prosper, for the LORD will deliver it into the hand of the king!"

¹⁶ So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁷ Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD

said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace.'

¹⁸ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

¹⁹ Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.

²⁰ "And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.

²¹ "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.'

²² "The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his

prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.'

²³ "Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

²⁴ Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go from me to speak to you?"

²⁵ And Micaiah said, "Indeed, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!"

²⁶ So the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son;

²⁷ "and say, 'Thus says the king: "Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with

bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I come in peace."'"

²⁸ But Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!"

²⁹ So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

³⁰ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

³¹ Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel."

³² So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel!"

Therefore they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out.

³³ And it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

³⁴ Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

³⁵ The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot.

³⁶ Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!"

³⁷ So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria.

³⁸ Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken.

³⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, the ivory house which he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

⁴⁰ So Ahab rested with his fathers. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

⁴¹ Jehoshaphat the son of Asa had become king over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

⁴² Jehoshaphat was thirty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty–five years in Jerusalem.

His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

⁴³ And he walked in all the ways of his father Asa. He did not turn aside from them, doing what was right in the eyes of the LORD. Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for the people offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.

⁴⁴ Also Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, the might that he showed, and how he made war, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

⁴⁶ And the rest of the perverted persons, who remained in the days of his father Asa, he banished from the land.

⁴⁷ There was then no king in Edom, only a deputy of the king.

⁴⁸ Jehoshaphat made merchant ships to go to Ophir for gold; but they never sailed, for the ships were wrecked at Ezion Geber.

⁴⁹ Then Ahaziah the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships." But Jehoshaphat would not.

⁵⁰ And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

⁵¹ Ahaziah the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.

⁵² He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin;

⁵³ for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done.

2 Kings

1 ¹ Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab.

² Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria, and was injured; so he sent messengers and said to them, "Go, inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this injury."

³ But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?'

⁴ "Now therefore, thus says the LORD: 'You shall not come down from the bed

to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'" So Elijah departed.

⁵ And when the messengers returned to him, he said to them, "Why have you come back?"

⁶ So they said to him, "A man came up to meet us, and said to us, 'Go, return to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'"""

⁷ Then he said to them, "What kind of man was it who came up to meet you and told you these words?"

⁸ So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to

him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!'"

¹⁰ So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

¹¹ Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!'"

¹² So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

¹³ Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain

of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: "Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight.

¹⁴ "Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So he arose and went down with him to the king.

¹⁶ Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of His word? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.'"

¹⁷ So Ahaziah died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. Because he had no son, Jehoram became king in his place, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.

¹⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

2 ¹ And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

² Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.

³ Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and

said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

⁴ Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.

⁵ Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?" So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on.

⁷ And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at

a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan.

⁸ Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹ And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

¹⁰ So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

¹¹ Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

¹² And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces.

¹³ He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan.

¹⁴ Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

¹⁵ Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.

¹⁶ Then they said to him, "Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search

for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley." And he said, "You shall not send anyone."

¹⁷ But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send them!" Therefore they sent fifty men, and they searched for three days but did not find him.

¹⁸ And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"

¹⁹ Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the ground barren."

²⁰ And he said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him.

²¹ Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, "Thus says the LORD: 'I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.'"

²² So the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.

²³ Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

²⁴ So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

²⁵ Then he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

3¹ Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years.

² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the sacred pillar of Baal that his father had made.

³ Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.

⁴ Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheepbreeder, and he regularly paid the king of Israel one hundred thousand lambs and the wool of one hundred thousand rams.

⁵ But it happened, when Ahab died, that the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

⁶ So King Jehoram went out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.

⁷ Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?" And he said, "I will go up; I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁸ Then he said, "Which way shall we go up?" And he answered, "By way of the Wilderness of Edom."

⁹ So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom, and they marched on that roundabout route seven days; and there was no water for the army, nor for the animals that followed them.

¹⁰ And the king of Israel said, "Alas! For the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab."

¹¹ But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, that we may

inquire of the LORD by him?" So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, "Elisha the son of Shaphat is here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah."

¹² And Jehoshaphat said, "The word of the LORD is with him." So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him.

¹³ Then Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and the prophets of your mother." But the king of Israel said to him, "No, for the LORD has called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab."

¹⁴ And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you.

¹⁵ "But now bring me a musician." Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.

¹⁶ And he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'Make this valley full of ditches.'

¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.'

¹⁸ "And this is a simple matter in the sight of the LORD; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand.

¹⁹ "Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones."

²⁰ Now it happened in the morning, when the grain offering was offered, that

suddenly water came by way of Edom, and the land was filled with water.

²¹ And when all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to bear arms and older were gathered; and they stood at the border.

²² Then they rose up early in the morning, and the sun was shining on the water; and the Moabites saw the water on the other side as red as blood.

²³ And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely struck swords and have killed one another; now therefore, Moab, to the spoil!"

²⁴ So when they came to the camp of Israel, Israel rose up and attacked the Moabites, so that they fled before them; and they entered their land, killing the Moabites.

²⁵ Then they destroyed the cities, and each man threw a stone on every good

piece of land and filled it; and they stopped up all the springs of water and cut down all the good trees. But they left the stones of Kir Haraseth intact. However the slingers surrounded and attacked it.

²⁶ And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too fierce for him, he took with him seven hundred men who drew swords, to break through to the king of Edom, but they could not.

²⁷ Then he took his eldest son who would have reigned in his place, and offered him as a burnt offering upon the wall; and there was great indignation against Israel. So they departed from him and returned to their own land.

4¹ A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD. And the creditor is

coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

² So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

³ Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few.

⁴ "And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

⁵ So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out.

⁶ Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her,

"There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased.

⁷ Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."

⁸ Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.

⁹ And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.

¹⁰ "Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

¹¹ And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there.

¹² Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him.

¹³ And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people."

¹⁴ So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵ So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway.

¹⁶ Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son." And she

said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!"

¹⁷ But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.

¹⁸ And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers.

¹⁹ And he said to his father, "My head, my head!" So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

²⁰ When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

²¹ And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out.

²² Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."

²³ So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath." And she said, "It is well."

²⁴ Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."

²⁵ And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel. So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman!".

²⁶ "Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?'" And she answered, "It is well."

²⁷ Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress,

and the LORD has hidden it from me, and has not told me."

²⁸ So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"

²⁹ Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child."

³⁰ And the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.

³¹ Now Gehazi went on ahead of them, and laid the staff on the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Therefore he went back to meet him, and told him, saying, "The child has not awakened."

³² When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed.

³³ He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD.

³⁴ And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm.

³⁵ He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

³⁶ And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son."

³⁷ So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

³⁸ And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him; and he said to his servant, "Put on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."

³⁹ So one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered from it a lapful of wild gourds, and came and sliced them into the pot of stew, though they did not know what they were.

⁴⁰ Then they served it to the men to eat. Now it happened, as they were eating the stew, that they cried out and said, "Man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.

⁴¹ So he said, "Then bring some flour." And he put it into the pot, and said,

"Serve it to the people, that they may eat." And there was nothing harmful in the pot.

⁴² Then a man came from Baal Shalisha, and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley bread, and newly ripened grain in his knapsack. And he said, "Give it to the people, that they may eat."

⁴³ But his servant said, "What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?" He said again, "Give it to the people, that they may eat; for thus says the LORD: 'They shall eat and have some left over.'"

⁴⁴ So he set it before them; and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.

5 ¹ Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had

given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

² And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

³ Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

⁴ And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

⁵ Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

⁶ Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I

have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

⁷ And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

⁸ So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹ Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

¹¹ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

¹² "Are not the Abanah and the 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 went away in a rage.

¹³ And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

¹⁴ So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵ And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

¹⁶ But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

¹⁷ So Naaman said, "Then, if not, please let your servant be given two mule-loads of earth; for your servant will no longer offer either burnt offering or sacrifice to other gods, but to the LORD.

¹⁸ "Yet in this thing may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the temple of Rimmon to worship there, and he leans on my hand, and I bow down in the temple of Rimmon—when I bow down in the

temple of Rimmon, may the LORD please pardon your servant in this thing."

¹⁹ Then he said to him, "Go in peace." So he departed from him a short distance.

²⁰ But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "Look, my master has spared Naaman this Syrian, while not receiving from his hands what he brought; but as the LORD lives, I will run after him and take something from him."

²¹ So Gehazi pursued Naaman. When Naaman saw him running after him, he got down from the chariot to meet him, and said, "Is all well?"

²² And he said, "All is well. My master has sent me, saying, 'Indeed, just now two young men of the sons of the prophets have come to me from the mountains of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments.'"

²³ So Naaman said, "Please, take two talents." And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and handed them to two of his servants; and they carried them on ahead of him.

²⁴ When he came to the citadel, he took them from their hand, and stored them away in the house; then he let the men go, and they departed.

²⁵ Now he went in and stood before his master. Elisha said to him, "Where did you go, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant did not go anywhere."

²⁶ Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants?"

²⁷ "Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

6 ¹ And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us.

² "Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell." So he answered, "Go."

³ Then one said, "Please consent to go with your servants." And he answered, "I will go."

⁴ So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees.

⁵ But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed."

⁶ So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So

he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float.

⁷ Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it.

⁸ Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place."

⁹ And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there."

¹⁰ Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

¹¹ Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to

them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

¹² And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

¹³ So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him." And it was told him, saying, "Surely he is in Dothan."

¹⁴ Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

¹⁶ So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

¹⁸ So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

¹⁹ Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria.

²⁰ So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria!

²¹ Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?"

²² But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

²³ Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

²⁴ And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria.

²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a

kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver.

²⁶ Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!"

²⁷ And he said, "If the LORD does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?"

²⁸ Then the king said to her, "What is troubling you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.'

²⁹ "So we boiled my son, and ate him. And I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son."

³⁰ Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and as he passed by on the wall, the people looked, and

there underneath he had sackcloth on his body.

³¹ Then he said, "God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today."

³² But Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. And the king sent a man ahead of him, but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, "Do you see how this son of a murderer has sent someone to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?"

³³ And while he was still talking with them, there was the messenger, coming down to him; and then the king said, "Surely this calamity is from the LORD; why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

7¹ Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'"

² So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

³ Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die?"

⁴ "If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep

us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die."

⁵ And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there.

⁶ For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!"

⁷ Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives.

⁸ And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back

and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it.

⁹ Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."

¹⁰ So they went and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, saying, "We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one was there, not a human sound—only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact."

¹¹ And the gatekeepers called out, and they told it to the king's household inside.

¹² So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "Let me now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They

know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, 'When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.'

¹³ And one of his servants answered and said, "Please, let several men take five of the remaining horses which are left in the city. Look, they may either become like all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; or indeed, I say, they may become like all the multitude of Israel left from those who are consumed; so let us send them and see."

¹⁴ Therefore they took two chariots with horses; and the king sent them in the direction of the Syrian army, saying, "Go and see."

¹⁵ And they went after them to the Jordan; and indeed all the road was full of garments and weapons which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste.

So the messengers returned and told the king.

¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁷ Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

¹⁸ So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria."

¹⁹ Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, "Now look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven,

could such a thing be?" And he had said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

²⁰ And so it happened to him, for the people trampled him in the gate, and he died.

8 ¹ Then Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, "Arise and go, you and your household, and stay wherever you can; for the LORD has called for a famine, and furthermore, it will come upon the land for seven years."

² So the woman arose and did according to the saying of the man of God, and she went with her household and dwelt in the land of the Philistines seven years.

³ It came to pass, at the end of seven years, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to make an appeal to the king for her house and for her land.

⁴ Then the king talked with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me, please, all the great things Elisha has done."

⁵ Now it happened, as he was telling the king how he had restored the dead to life, that there was the woman whose son he had restored to life, appealing to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life."

⁶ And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed a certain officer for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, and all the proceeds of the field from the day that she left the land until now."

⁷ Then Elisha went to Damascus, and Ben-Hadad king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, "The man of God has come here."

⁸ And the king said to Hazael, "Take a present in your hand, and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this disease?'"

⁹ So Hazael went to meet him and took a present with him, of every good thing of Damascus, forty camel-loads; and he came and stood before him, and said, "Your son Ben-Hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this disease?'"

¹⁰ And Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall certainly recover.' However the LORD has shown me that he will really die."

¹¹ Then he set his countenance in a stare until he was ashamed; and the man of God wept.

¹² And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the

children of Israel: Their strongholds you will set on fire, and their young men you will kill with the sword; and you will dash their children, and rip open their women with child."

¹³ So Hazael said, "But what is your servant—a dog, that he should do this gross thing?" And Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you will become king over Syria."

¹⁴ Then he departed from Elisha, and came to his master, who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "He told me you would surely recover."

¹⁵ But it happened on the next day that he took a thick cloth and dipped it in water, and spread it over his face so that he died; and Hazael reigned in his place.

¹⁶ Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Jehoshaphat having been king of Judah, Jehoram the

son of Jehoshaphat began to reign as king of Judah.

¹⁷ He was thirty–two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁹ Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, for the sake of his servant David, as He promised him to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

²⁰ In his days Edom revolted against Judah's authority, and made a king over themselves.

²¹ So Joram went to Zair, and all his chariots with him. Then he rose by night and attacked the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the

chariots; and the troops fled to their tents.

²² Thus Edom has been in revolt against Judah's authority to this day. And Libnah revolted at that time.

²³ Now the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁴ So Joram rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

²⁵ In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, began to reign.

²⁶ Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri, king of Israel.

²⁷ And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the LORD, like the house of Ahab, for he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

²⁸ Now he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth Gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

²⁹ Then King Joram went back to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which the Syrians had inflicted on him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

9¹ And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, "Get yourself ready, take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead.

² "Now when you arrive at that place, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, and go in and make him rise up from among his associates, and take him to an inner room.

³ "Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, 'Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel.'" Then open the door and flee, and do not delay."

⁴ So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth Gilead.

⁵ And when he arrived, there were the captains of the army sitting; and he said, "I have a message for you, Commander." Jehu said, "For which one of us?" And he said, "For you, Commander."

⁶ Then he arose and went into the house. And he poured the oil on his head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I have anointed you

king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.

⁷ 'You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.

⁸ 'For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab all the males in Israel, both bond and free.

⁹ 'So I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.

¹⁰ 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.'" And he opened the door and fled.

¹¹ Then Jehu came out to the servants of his master, and one said to him, "Is all well? Why did this madman come to

you?" And he said to them, "You know the man and his babble."

¹² And they said, "A lie! Tell us now." So he said, "Thus and thus he spoke to me, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel.'""

¹³ Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!"

¹⁴ So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had been defending Ramoth Gilead, he and all Israel, against Hazael king of Syria.

¹⁵ But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which the Syrians had inflicted on him when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, "If you are so minded, let no one leave or escape from the city to go and tell it in Jezreel."

¹⁶ So Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram was laid up there; and Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram.

¹⁷ Now a watchman stood on the tower in Jezreel, and he saw the company of Jehu as he came, and said, "I see a company of men." And Joram said, "Get a horseman and send him to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?'"

¹⁸ So the horseman went to meet him, and said, "Thus says the king: 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu said, "What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me." So the watchman reported, saying, "The messenger went to them, but is not coming back."

¹⁹ Then he sent out a second horseman who came to them, and said, "Thus says the king: 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me."

²⁰ So the watchman reported, saying, "He went up to them and is not coming back; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously!"

²¹ Then Joram said, "Make ready." And his chariot was made ready. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot; and they went out to meet Jehu, and met him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.

²² Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" So he answered, "What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?"

²³ Then Joram turned around and fled, and said to Ahaziah, "Treachery, Ahaziah!"

²⁴ Now Jehu drew his bow with full strength and shot Jehoram between his

arms; and the arrow came out at his heart, and he sank down in his chariot.

²⁵ Then Jehu said to Bidkar his captain, "Pick him up, and throw him into the tract of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I were riding together behind Ahab his father, that the LORD laid this burden upon him:

²⁶ 'Surely I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,' says the LORD, 'and I will repay you in this plot,' says the LORD. Now therefore, take and throw him on the plot of ground, according to the word of the LORD."

²⁷ But when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth Haggan. So Jehu pursued him, and said, "Shoot him also in the chariot." And they shot him at the Ascent of Gur, which is by Ibleam. Then he fled to Megiddo, and died there.

²⁸ And his servants carried him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the City of David.

²⁹ In the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king over Judah.

³⁰ Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window.

³¹ Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

³² And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him.

³³ Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.

³⁴ And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter."

³⁵ So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

³⁶ Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel;

³⁷ 'and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel."'"

10¹ Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote and sent letters to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to those who reared Ahab's sons, saying:

² Now as soon as this letter comes to you, since your master's sons are with you, and you have chariots and horses, a fortified city also, and weapons,

³ choose the best qualified of your master's sons, set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.

⁴ But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, "Look, two kings could not stand up to him; how then can we stand?"

⁵ And he who was in charge of the house, and he who was in charge of the city, the elders also, and those who reared the sons, sent to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, we will do all you tell us; but we will not make anyone king. Do what is good in your sight."

⁶ Then he wrote a second letter to them, saying: If you are for me and will obey my voice, take the heads of the men, your master's sons, and come to

me at Jezreel by this time tomorrow. Now the king's sons, seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, who were rearing them.

⁷ So it was, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons and slaughtered seventy persons, put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel.

⁸ Then a messenger came and told him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons." And he said, "Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning."

⁹ So it was, in the morning, that he went out and stood, and said to all the people, "You are righteous. Indeed I conspired against my master and killed him; but who killed all these?"

¹⁰ "Know now that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the LORD which the LORD spoke concerning the house of

Ahab; for the LORD has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah."

¹¹ So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his close acquaintances and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

¹² And he arose and departed and went to Samaria. On the way, at Beth Eked of the Shepherds,

¹³ Jehu met with the brothers of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, "Who are you?" So they answered, "We are the brothers of Ahaziah; we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother."

¹⁴ And he said, "Take them alive!" So they took them alive, and killed them at the well of Beth Eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them.

¹⁵ Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab,

coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.

¹⁶ Then he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD." So they had him ride in his chariot.

¹⁷ And when he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed them, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to Elijah.

¹⁸ Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much.

¹⁹ "Now therefore, call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. Let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever

is missing shall not live." But Jehu acted deceptively, with the intent of destroying the worshipers of Baal.

²⁰ And Jehu said, "Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it.

²¹ Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. So they came into the temple of Baal, and the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other.

²² And he said to the one in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out vestments for them.

²³ Then Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the temple of Baal, and said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search and see that no servants of the LORD are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal."

²⁴ So they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had appointed for himself eighty men on the outside, and had said, "If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escapes, whoever lets him escape, it shall be his life for the life of the other."

²⁵ Now it happened, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, "Go in and kill them; let no one come out!" And they killed them with the edge of the sword; then the guards and the officers threw them out, and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal.

²⁶ And they brought the sacred pillars out of the temple of Baal and burned them.

²⁷ Then they broke down the sacred pillar of Baal, and tore down the temple

of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day.

²⁸ Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.

²⁹ However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.

³⁰ And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation."

³¹ But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin.

³² In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael conquered them in all the territory of Israel

³³ from the Jordan eastward: all the land of Gilead—Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh—from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon, including Gilead and Bashan.

³⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

³⁵ So Jehu rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place.

³⁶ And the period that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty–eight years.

11 ¹ When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs.

² But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from

among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed.

³ So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

⁴ In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds—of the bodyguards and the escorts—and brought them into the house of the LORD to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son.

⁵ Then he commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king's house,

⁶ "one-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the

escorts. You shall keep the watch of the house, lest it be broken down.

⁷ "The two contingents of you who go off duty on the Sabbath shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD for the king.

⁸ "But you shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in."

⁹ So the captains of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each of them took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

¹⁰ And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields which

had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of the LORD.

¹¹ Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, by the altar and the house.

¹² And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"

¹³ Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD.

¹⁴ When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁵ And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD."

¹⁶ So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and there she was killed.

¹⁷ Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the LORD'S people, and also between the king and the people.

¹⁸ And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.

¹⁹ Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings.

²⁰ So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house.

²¹ Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.

12 ¹ In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

² Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

³ But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁴ And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD—each man's census money, each man's assessment money—and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD,

⁵ "let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found."

⁶ Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple.

⁷ So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore,

do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple."

⁸ And the priests agreed that they would neither receive more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple.

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 comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD.

¹⁰ So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

¹¹ Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands

of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD,

¹² and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple.

¹³ However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD.

¹⁴ But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it.

¹⁵ Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand

they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully.

¹⁶ The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests.

¹⁷ Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

¹⁸ And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁰ And his servants arose and formed a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla.

²¹ For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

13 ¹ In the twenty–third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years.

² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.

³ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of

Syria, and into the hand of Ben–Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days.

⁴ So Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.

⁵ Then the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents as before.

⁶ Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin, but walked in them; and the wooden image also remained in Samaria.

⁷ For He left of the army of Jehoahaz only fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand foot soldiers; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing.

⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all that he did, and his might, are they

not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

⁹ So Jehoahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Joash his son reigned in his place.

¹⁰ In the thirty–seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years.

¹¹ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, but walked in them.

¹² Now the rest of the acts of Joash, all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

¹³ So Joash rested with his fathers. Then Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

¹⁴ Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

¹⁵ And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows.

¹⁶ Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

¹⁷ And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD'S deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them."

¹⁸ Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of

Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped.

¹⁹ And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times."

²⁰ Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year.

²¹ So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

²² And Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

²³ But the LORD was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded

them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence.

²⁴ Now Hazael king of Syria died. Then Ben–Hadad his son reigned in his place.

²⁵ And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz recaptured from the hand of Ben–Hadad, the son of Hazael, the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel.

14 ¹ In the second year of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, became king.

² He was twenty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty–nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

³ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done.

⁴ However the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁵ Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established in his hand, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

⁶ But the children of the murderers he did not execute, according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, in which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall be put to death for his own sin."

⁷ He killed ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt, and took Sela by war, and called its name Joktheel to this day.

⁸ Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face one another in battle."

⁹ And Jehoash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as wife'; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

¹⁰ "You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Glory in that, and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall—you and Judah with you?"

¹¹ But Amaziah would not heed. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went out; so he and Amaziah king of Judah

faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

¹² And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent.

¹³ Then Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash, the son of Ahaziah, at Beth Shemesh; and he went to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—four hundred cubits.

¹⁴ And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

¹⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did—his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

¹⁶ So Jehoash rested with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. Then Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.

¹⁷ Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

¹⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

¹⁹ And they formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.

²⁰ Then they brought him on horses, and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of David.

²¹ And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

²² He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

²³ In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, became king in Samaria, and reigned forty-one years.

²⁴ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

²⁵ He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hopher.

²⁶ For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter; and whether

bond or free, there was no helper for Israel.

²⁷ And the LORD did not say that He would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven; but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

²⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did—his might, how he made war, and how he recaptured for Israel, from Damascus and Hamath, what had belonged to Judah—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²⁹ So Jeroboam rested with his fathers, the kings of Israel. Then Zechariah his son reigned in his place.

15 ¹ In the twenty–seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, became king.

² He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty–two

years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

³ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done,

⁴ except that the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

⁵ Then the LORD struck the king, so that he was a leper until the day of his death; so he dwelt in an isolated house. And Jotham the king's son was over the royal house, judging the people of the land.

⁶ Now the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

⁷ So Azariah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

⁸ In the thirty–eighth year of Azariah king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam reigned over Israel in Samaria six months.

⁹ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his fathers had done; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

¹⁰ Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him, and struck and killed him in front of the people; and he reigned in his place.

¹¹ Now the rest of the acts of Zechariah, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

¹² This was the word of the LORD which He spoke to Jehu, saying, "Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." And so it was.

¹³ Shallum the son of Jabesh became king in the thirty–ninth year of Uzziah

king of Judah; and he reigned a full month in Samaria.

¹⁴ For Menahem the son of Gadi went up from Tirzah, came to Samaria, and struck Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and killed him; and he reigned in his place.

¹⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Shallum, and the conspiracy which he led, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

¹⁶ Then from Tirzah, Menahem attacked Tiphseh, all who were there, and its territory. Because they did not surrender, therefore he attacked it. All the women there who were with child he ripped open.

¹⁷ In the thirty–ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi became king over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria.

¹⁸ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

¹⁹ Pul king of Assyria came against the land; and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to strengthen the kingdom under his control.

²⁰ And Menahem exacted the money from Israel, from all the very wealthy, from each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and did not stay there in the land.

²¹ Now the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

²² So Menahem rested with his fathers. Then Pekahiah his son reigned in his place.

²³ In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned two years.

²⁴ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

²⁵ Then Pekah the son of Remaliah, an officer of his, conspired against him and killed him in Samaria, in the citadel of the king's house, along with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of Gilead. He killed him and reigned in his place.

²⁶ Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

²⁷ In the fifty-second year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah

became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned twenty years.

²⁸ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.

²⁹ In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath–Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maachah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.

³⁰ Then Hoshea the son of Elah led a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah, and struck and killed him; so he reigned in his place in the twentieth year of Jotham the son of Uzziah.

³¹ Now the rest of the acts of Pekah, and all that he did, indeed they are written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel.

³² In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, began to reign.

³³ He was twenty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.

³⁴ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

³⁵ However the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD.

³⁶ Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

³⁷ In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah.

³⁸ So Jotham rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

16 ¹ In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign.

² Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David had done.

³ But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel; indeed he made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel.

⁴ And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵ Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him.

⁶ At that time Rezin king of Syria captured Elath for Syria, and drove the men of Judah from Elath. Then the Edomites went to Elath, and dwell there to this day.

⁷ So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me."

⁸ And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and

in the treasuries of the king's house, and sent it as a present to the king of Assyria.

⁹ So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin.

¹⁰ Now King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath–Pileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus; and King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the design of the altar and its pattern, according to all its workmanship.

¹¹ Then Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. So Urijah the priest made it before King Ahaz came back from Damascus.

¹² And when the king came back from Damascus, the king saw the altar; and the king approached the altar and made offerings on it.

¹³ So he burned his burnt offering and his grain offering; and he poured his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.

¹⁴ He also brought the bronze altar which was before the LORD, from the front of the temple—from between the new altar and the house of the LORD—and put it on the north side of the new altar.

¹⁵ Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, "On the great new altar burn the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, the king's burnt sacrifice, and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice. And the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by."

¹⁶ Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that King Ahaz commanded.

¹⁷ And King Ahaz cut off the panels of the carts, and removed the lavers from them; and he took down the Sea from the bronze oxen that were under it, and put it on a pavement of stones.

¹⁸ Also he removed the Sabbath pavilion which they had built in the temple, and he removed the king's outer entrance from the house of the LORD, on account of the king of Assyria.

¹⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁰ So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

17 ¹ In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah

became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years.

² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

³ Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute money.

⁴ And the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

⁵ Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years.

⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them

in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷ For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods,

⁸ and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the LORD had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made.

⁹ Also the children of Israel secretly did against the LORD their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city.

¹⁰ They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree.

¹¹ There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the

LORD had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger,

¹² for they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

¹³ Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

¹⁴ Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

¹⁵ And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they

followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them that they should not do like them.

¹⁶ So they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

¹⁷ And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

¹⁹ Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made.

²⁰ And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight.

²¹ For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin.

²² For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them,

²³ until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.

²⁴ Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

²⁵ And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

²⁶ So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

²⁷ Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests

whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

²⁸ Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

²⁹ However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.

³⁰ The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

³¹ and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

³² So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places,

who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

³³ They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods—according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

³⁴ To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

³⁵ with whom the LORD had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them;

³⁶ "but the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall

fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

³⁷ "And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods.

³⁸ "And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

³⁹ "But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

⁴⁰ However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.

⁴¹ So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

18 ¹ Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea the son of Elah,

king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

² He was twenty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty–nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah.

³ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

⁴ He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.

⁵ He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.

⁶ For he held fast to the LORD; he did not depart from following Him, but kept

His commandments, which the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁷ The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

⁸ He subdued the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

⁹ Now it came to pass in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea the son of Elah, king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it.

¹⁰ And at the end of three years they took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, that is, the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

¹¹ Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away captive to Assyria, and put them

in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,
¹² because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, but transgressed His covenant and all that Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded; and they would neither hear nor do them.

¹³ And in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.

¹⁴ Then Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; turn away from me; whatever you impose on me I will pay." And the king of Assyria assessed Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

¹⁵ So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house.

¹⁶ At that time Hezekiah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

¹⁷ Then the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rabsaris, and the Rabshakeh from Lachish, with a great army against Jerusalem, to King Hezekiah. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they had come up, they went and stood by the aqueduct from the upper pool, which was on the highway to the Fuller's Field.

¹⁸ And when they had called to the king, Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came out to them.

¹⁹ Then the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say now to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the

great king, the king of Assyria: "What confidence is this in which you trust?"

²⁰ "You speak of having plans and power for war; but they are mere words. And in whom do you trust, that you rebel against me?"

²¹ "Now look! You are trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt, on which if a man leans, it will go into his hand and pierce it. So is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who trust in him.

²² "But if you say to me, 'We trust in the LORD our God,' is it not He whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah has taken away, and said to Judah and Jerusalem, 'You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem'?"

²³ "Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses—if you are able on your part to put riders on them!

²⁴ "How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen?"

²⁵ "Have I now come up without the LORD against this place to destroy it? The LORD said to me, 'Go up against this land, and destroy it.'"

²⁶ Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, Shebna, and Joah said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it; and do not speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people who are on the wall."

²⁷ But the Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, who will eat and drink their own waste with you?"

²⁸ Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and

spoke, saying, "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!

²⁹ "Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand;

³⁰ 'nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, "The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.'"

³¹ "Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: 'Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of 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 groves and honey, that you may live and not die. But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he

persuade you, saying, "The LORD will deliver us."

³³ 'Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria?

³⁴ 'Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand?

³⁵ 'Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?'"

³⁶ But the people held their peace and answered him not a word; for the king's commandment was, "Do not answer him."

³⁷ Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder, came to Hezekiah with their

clothes torn, and told him the words of the Rabshakeh.

19 ¹ And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD.

² Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz.

³ And they said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble, and rebuke, and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.

⁴ 'It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your

God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

⁵ So the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah.

⁶ And Isaiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: "Do not be afraid of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed Me.

⁷ "Surely I will send a spirit upon him, and he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land.'"

⁸ Then the Rabshakeh returned and found the king of Assyria warring against Libnah, for he heard that he had departed from Lachish.

⁹ And the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Ethiopia, "Look, he has come out to make war with you." So

he again sent messengers to Hezekiah, saying,

¹⁰ "Thus you shall speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you, saying, "Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria."

¹¹ 'Look! You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands by utterly destroying them; and shall you be delivered?

¹² 'Have the gods of the nations delivered those whom my fathers have destroyed, Gozan and Haran and Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?

¹³ 'Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of the city of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivah?'"

¹⁴ And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the

house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.

¹⁵ Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said: "O LORD God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

¹⁶ "Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to reproach the living God.

¹⁷ "Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands,

¹⁸ "and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them.

¹⁹ "Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the

kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone."

²⁰ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Because you have prayed to Me against Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard.'

²¹ "This is the word which the LORD has spoken concerning him: 'The virgin, the daughter of Zion, Has despised you, laughed you to scorn; The daughter of Jerusalem Has shaken her head behind your back!

²² 'Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel.

²³ By your messengers you have reproached the Lord, And said: "By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall

cedars And its choice cypress trees; I will enter the extremity of its borders, To its fruitful forest.

²⁴ I have dug and drunk strange water, And with the soles of my feet I have dried up All the brooks of defense."

²⁵ 'Did you not hear long ago How I made it, From ancient times that I formed it? Now I have brought it to pass, That you should be For crushing fortified cities into heaps of ruins.

²⁶ Therefore their inhabitants had little power; They were dismayed and confounded; They were as the grass of the field And the green herb, As the grass on the housetops And grain blighted before it is grown.

²⁷ 'But I know your dwelling place, Your going out and your coming in, And your rage against Me.

²⁸ Because your rage against Me and your tumult Have come up to My ears,

Therefore I will put My hook in your nose
And My bridle in your lips, And I will turn
you back By the way which you came.

²⁹ 'This shall be a sign to you: You shall
eat this year such as grows of itself, And
in the second year what springs from
the same; Also in the third year sow and
reap, Plant vineyards and eat the fruit of
them.

³⁰ And the remnant who have escaped
of the house of Judah Shall again take
root downward, And bear fruit upward.

³¹ For out of Jerusalem shall go a
remnant, And those who escape from
Mount Zion. The zeal of the LORD of
hosts will do this.'

³² "Therefore thus says the LORD
concerning the king of Assyria: 'He shall
not come into this city, Nor shoot an
arrow there, Nor come before it with
shield, Nor build a siege mound against
it.

³³ By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,' Says the LORD.

³⁴ 'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.'"

³⁵ And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.

³⁶ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh.

³⁷ Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

20¹ In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'"

² Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying,

³ "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

⁴ And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

⁵ "Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD.

⁶ "And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David."'"

⁷ Then Isaiah said, "Take a lump of figs." So they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.

⁸ And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What is the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD the third day?"

⁹ Then Isaiah said, "This is the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing which He has spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees or go backward ten degrees?"

¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees; no, but let the shadow go backward ten degrees."

¹¹ So Isaiah the prophet cried out to the LORD, and He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz.

¹² At that time Berodach–Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³ And Hezekiah was attentive to them, and showed them all the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory—all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them.

¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say, and from where did they come to you?" So Hezekiah said, "They came from a far country, from Babylon."

¹⁵ And he said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."

¹⁶ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD:

¹⁷ 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD.

¹⁸ 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'

¹⁹ So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?"

²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah—
—all his might, and how he made a pool
and a tunnel and brought water into the
city—are they not written in the book of
the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²¹ So Hezekiah rested with his fathers.
Then Manasseh his son reigned in his
place.

21 ¹ Manasseh was twelve years old
when he became king, and he
reigned fifty–five years in Jerusalem. His
mother’s name was Hephzibah.

² And he did evil in the sight of the
LORD, according to the abominations of
the nations whom the LORD had cast out
before the children of Israel.

³ For he rebuilt the high places which
Hezekiah his father had destroyed; he
raised up altars for Baal, and made a
wooden image, as Ahab king of Israel
had done; and he worshiped all the host
of heaven and served them.

⁴ He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name."

⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶ Also he made his son pass through the fire, practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft, and consulted spiritists and mediums. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

⁷ He even set a carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

⁸ "and I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers—only if they are careful to do according to all that I

have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them."

⁹ But they paid no attention, and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

¹⁰ And the LORD spoke by His servants the prophets, saying,

¹¹ "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations (he has acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols),

¹² "therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.

¹³ 'And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab; I will

wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

¹⁴ 'So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies,

¹⁵ 'because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.'"

¹⁶ Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh—all that he did, and the sin that he committed—are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

¹⁸ So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and was buried in the garden of his own house, in the garden of Uzza. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.

¹⁹ Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

²⁰ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done.

²¹ So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them.

²² He forsook the LORD God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.

²³ Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his own house.

²⁴ But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

²⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Amon which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁶ And he was buried in his tomb in the garden of Uzza. Then Josiah his son reigned in his place.

22 ¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty–one years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.

² And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³ Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent

Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying:

⁴ "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.

⁵ "And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who are in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house—

⁶ "to carpenters and builders and masons—and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.

⁷ "However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully."

⁸ Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

⁹ So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD."

¹⁰ Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹ Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

¹² Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan

the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,

¹³ "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

¹⁴ So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke with her.

¹⁵ Then she said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me,

¹⁶ "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its

inhabitants—all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read—

¹⁷ 'because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.'"

¹⁸ "But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have 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 you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.

²⁰ "Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place." So they brought back word to the king.

23 ¹ Now the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him.

² The king went up to the house of the LORD with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD.

³ Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies

and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant.

⁴ And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the articles that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel.

⁵ Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven.

⁶ And he brought out the wooden image from the house of the LORD, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people.

⁷ Then he tore down the ritual booths of the perverted persons that were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image.

⁸ And he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; also he broke down the high places at the gates which were at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were to the left of the city gate.

⁹ Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of

the LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brethren.

¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech.

¹¹ Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan—Melech, the officer who was in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

¹² The altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, the king broke down and pulverized there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron.

¹³ Then the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the Mount of Corruption,

which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon.

¹⁴ And he broke in pieces the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men.

¹⁵ Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image.

¹⁶ As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs that were there on the mountain. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar, and defiled it according to the word of the

LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

¹⁷ Then he said, "What gravestone is this that I see?" So the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and proclaimed these things which you have done against the altar of Bethel."

¹⁸ And he said, "Let him alone; let no one move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria.

¹⁹ Now Josiah also took away 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 to anger; and he did to them according to all the deeds he had done in Bethel.

²⁰ He executed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned men's bones on them; and he returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ Then the king commanded all the people, saying, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant."

²² Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah.

²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was held before the LORD in Jerusalem.

²⁴ Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

²⁵ Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with

all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him.

²⁶ Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which His anger was aroused against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.

²⁷ And the LORD said, "I will also remove Judah from My sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, 'My name shall be there.'"

²⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

²⁹ In his days Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went to the aid of the king of Assyria, to the River Euphrates; and King

Josiah went against him. And Pharaoh Necho killed him at Megiddo when he confronted him.

³⁰ Then his servants moved his body in a chariot from Megiddo, brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.

³¹ Jehoahaz was twenty–three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

³² And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

³³ Now Pharaoh Necho put him in prison at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute

of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

³⁴ Then Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Pharaoh took Jehoahaz and went to Egypt, and he died there.

³⁵ So Jehoiakim gave the silver and gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give money according to the command of Pharaoh; he exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land, from every one according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Necho.

³⁶ Jehoiakim was twenty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebudah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

³⁷ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

24 ¹ In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him.

² And the LORD sent against him raiding bands of Chaldeans, bands of Syrians, bands of Moabites, and bands of the people of Ammon; He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servants the prophets.

³ Surely at the commandment of the LORD this came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,

⁴ and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon.

⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

⁶ So Jehoiakim rested with his fathers. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

⁷ And the king of Egypt did not come out of his land anymore, for the king of Babylon had taken all that belonged to the king of Egypt from the Brook of Egypt to the River Euphrates.

⁸ Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

⁹ And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.

¹⁰ At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came

up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

¹¹ And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it.

¹² Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took him prisoner.

¹³ And he carried out from there all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and he cut in pieces all the articles of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.

¹⁴ Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and

smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land.

¹⁵ And he carried Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

¹⁶ All the valiant men, seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths, one thousand, all who were strong and fit for war, these the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

¹⁷ Then the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

¹⁸ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

¹⁹ He also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

²⁰ For because of the anger of the LORD this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, that He finally cast them out from His presence. Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

25 ¹ Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around.

² So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

³ By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

⁴ Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain.

⁵ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him.

⁶ So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him.

⁷ Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

⁸ And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the

captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

⁹ He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.

¹⁰ And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.

¹¹ Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude.

¹² But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.

¹³ The bronze pillars that were in the house of the LORD, and the carts and the bronze Sea that were in the house of

the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried their bronze to Babylon.

¹⁴ They also took away the pots, the shovels, the trimmers, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils with which the priests ministered.

¹⁵ The firepans and the basins, the things of solid gold and solid silver, the captain of the guard took away.

¹⁶ The two pillars, one Sea, and the carts, which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure.

¹⁷ The height of one pillar was eighteen cubits, and the capital on it was of bronze. The height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and pomegranates all around the capital were all of bronze. The second pillar was the same, with a network.

¹⁸ And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah

the second priest, and the three doorkeepers.

¹⁹ He also took out of the city an officer who had charge of the men of war, five men of the king's close associates who were found in the city, the chief recruiting officer of the army, who mustered the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city.

²⁰ So Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, took these and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

²¹ Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.

²² Then he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, governor over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left.

²³ Now when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Careah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men.

²⁴ And Gedaliah took an oath before them and their men, and said to them, "Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

²⁵ But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah, the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.

²⁶ And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

²⁷ Now it came to pass in the thirty–seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty–seventh day of the month, that Evil–Merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison.

²⁸ He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

²⁹ So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life.

³⁰ And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king, a

portion for each day, all the days of his life.

1 Chronicles

1 ¹ Adam, Seth, Enosh,
² Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared,
³ Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech,
⁴ Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

⁵ The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

⁶ The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Diphath, and Togarmah.

⁷ The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshishah, Kittim, and Rodanim.

⁸ The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

⁹ The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama, and Sabtecha. The sons of Raama were Sheba and Dedan.

¹⁰ Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

¹¹ Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

¹² Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and the Caphtorim).

¹³ Canaan begot Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth;

¹⁴ the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite;

¹⁵ the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

¹⁶ the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite.

¹⁷ The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, Aram, Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸ Arphaxad begot Shelah, and Shelah begot Eber.

¹⁹ To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

²⁰ Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²¹ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²² Ebal, Abimael, Sheba,

²³ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

²⁴ Shem, Arphaxad, Shelah,

²⁵ Eber, Peleg, Reu,

²⁶ Serug, Nahor, Terah,

²⁷ and Abram, who is Abraham.

²⁸ The sons of Abraham were Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹ These are their genealogies: The firstborn of Ishmael was Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

³⁰ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,

³¹ Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These were the sons of Ishmael.

³² Now the sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine, were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan were Sheba and Dedan.

³³ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

³⁴ And Abraham begot Isaac. The sons of Isaac were Esau and Israel.

³⁵ The sons of Esau were Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.

³⁶ And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zephi, Gatam, and Kenaz; and by Timna, Amalek.

³⁷ The sons of Reuel were Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

³⁸ The sons of Seir were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

³⁹ And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Homam; Lotan's sister was Timna.

⁴⁰ The sons of Shobal were Alian, Manahath, Ebal, Shephi, and Onam. The sons of Zibeon were Ajah and Anah.

⁴¹ The son of Anah was Dishon. The sons of Dishon were Hamran, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

⁴² The sons of Ezer were Bilhan, Zaavan, and Jaakan. The sons of Dishan were Uz and Aran.

⁴³ Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before a king reigned over the children of Israel: Bela the son of Beor, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

⁴⁴ And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.

⁴⁵ When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

⁴⁶ And when Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who attacked Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place. The name of his city was Avith.

⁴⁷ When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.

⁴⁸ And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place.

⁴⁹ When Saul died, Baal–Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place.

⁵⁰ And when Baal–Hanan died, Hadad reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pai. His wife’s name was Mehetabel the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

⁵¹ Hadad died also. And the chiefs of Edom were Chief Timnah, Chief Aliah, Chief Jetheth,

⁵² Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon,

⁵³ Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar,

⁵⁴ Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom.

2 ¹ These were the sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun,

² Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

³ The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, and Shelah. These three were born to him by the daughter of Shua, the Canaanitess. Er, the firstborn of Judah, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; so He killed him.

⁴ And Tamar, his daughter-in-law, bore him Perez and Zerah. All the sons of Judah were five.

⁵ The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

⁶ The sons of Zerah were Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara—five of them in all.

⁷ The son of Carmi was Achar, the troubler of Israel, who transgressed in the accursed thing.

⁸ The son of Ethan was Azariah.

⁹ Also the sons of Hezron who were born to him were Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai.

¹⁰ Ram begot Amminadab, and Amminadab begot Nahshon, leader of the children of Judah;

¹¹ Nahshon begot Salma, and Salma begot Boaz;

¹² Boaz begot Obed, and Obed begot Jesse;

¹³ Jesse begot Eliab his firstborn, Abinadab the second, Shimea the third,

¹⁴ Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth,

¹⁵ Ozem the sixth, and David the seventh.

¹⁶ Now their sisters were Zeruiah and Abigail. And the sons of Zeruiah were Abishai, Joab, and Asahel—three.

¹⁷ Abigail bore Amasa; and the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

¹⁸ Caleb the son of Hezron had children by Azubah, his wife, and by Jerioth. Now these were her sons: Jeshar, Shobab, and Ardon.

¹⁹ When Azubah died, Caleb took Ephrath as his wife, who bore him Hur.

²⁰ And Hur begot Uri, and Uri begot Bezalel.

²¹ Now afterward Hezron went in to the daughter of Machir the father of Gilead, whom he married when he was sixty years old; and she bore him Segub.

²² Segub begot Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead.

²³ (Geshur and Syria took from them the towns of Jair, with Kenath and its towns—sixty towns.) All these belonged to the sons of Machir the father of Gilead.

²⁴ After Hezron died in Caleb Ephrathah, Hezron's wife Abijah bore him Ashhur the father of Tekoa.

²⁵ The sons of Jerahmeel, the firstborn of Hezron, were Ram, the firstborn, and Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah.

²⁶ Jerahmeel had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam.

²⁷ The sons of Ram, the firstborn of Jerahmeel, were Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

²⁸ The sons of Onam were Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai were Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹ And the name of the wife of Abishur was Abihail, and she bore him Ahban and Molid.

³⁰ The sons of Nadab were Seled and Appaim; Seled died without children.

³¹ The son of Appaim was Ishi, the son of Ishi was Sheshan, and Sheshan's child was Ahlai.

³² The sons of Jada, the brother of Shammai, were Jether and Jonathan; Jether died without children.

³³ The sons of Jonathan were Peleth and Zaza. These were the sons of Jerahmeel.

³⁴ Now Sheshan had no sons, only daughters. And Sheshan had an Egyptian servant whose name was Jarha.

³⁵ Sheshan gave his daughter to Jarha his servant as wife, and she bore him Attai.

³⁶ Attai begot Nathan, and Nathan begot Zabad;

³⁷ Zabad begot Ephlal, and Ephlal begot Obed;

³⁸ Obed begot Jehu, and Jehu begot Azariah;

³⁹ Azariah begot Helez, and Helez begot Eleasah;

⁴⁰ Eleasah begot Sismai, and Sismai begot Shallum;

⁴¹ Shallum begot Jekamiah, and Jekamiah begot Elishama.

⁴² The descendants of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel were Mesha, his firstborn, who was the father of Ziph, and the sons of Mareshah the father of Hebron.

⁴³ The sons of Hebron were Korah, Tappuah, Rekem, and Shema.

⁴⁴ Shema begot Raham the father of Jorkoam, and Rekem begot Shammai.

⁴⁵ And the son of Shammai was Maon, and Maon was the father of Beth Zur.

⁴⁶ Ephah, Caleb's concubine, bore Haran, Moza, and Gazez; and Haran begot Gazez.

⁴⁷ And the sons of Jahdai were Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸ Maachah, Caleb's concubine, bore Sheber and Tirhanah.

⁴⁹ She also bore Shaaph the father of Madmannah, Sheva the father of Machbenah and the father of Gibeon. And the daughter of Caleb was Achsah.

⁵⁰ These were the descendants of Caleb: The sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, were Shobal the father of Kirjath Jearim,

⁵¹ Salma the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth Gader.

⁵² And Shobal the father of Kirjath Jearim had descendants: Haroeh, and half of the families of Manuhoth.

⁵³ The families of Kirjath Jearim were the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites, and the Mishraites. From these came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites.

⁵⁴ The sons of Salma were Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth Beth Joab, half of the Manahethites, and the Zorites.

⁵⁵ And the families of the scribes who dwelt at Jabez were the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and the Suchathites. These were the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.

3 ¹ Now these were the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: The firstborn was Amnon, by Ahinoam

the Jezreelitess; the second, Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelitess;

² the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmi, king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith;

³ the fifth, Shephatiah, by Abital; the sixth, Ithream, by his wife Eglah.

⁴ These six were born to him in Hebron. There he reigned seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty–three years.

⁵ And these were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon—four by Bathshua the daughter of Ammiel.

⁶ Also there were Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet,

⁷ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁸ Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet—nine in all.

⁹ These were all the sons of David, besides the sons of the concubines, and Tamar their sister.

¹⁰ Solomon's son was Rehoboam; Abijah was his son, Asa his son, Jehoshaphat his son,

¹¹ Joram his son, Ahaziah his son, Joash his son,

¹² Amaziah his son, Azariah his son, Jotham his son,

¹³ Ahaz his son, Hezekiah his son, Manasseh his son,

¹⁴ Amon his son, and Josiah his son.

¹⁵ The sons of Josiah were Johanan the firstborn, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, and the fourth Shallum.

¹⁶ The sons of Jehoiakim were Jeconiah his son and Zedekiah his son.

¹⁷ And the sons of Jeconiah were Assir, Shealtiel his son,

¹⁸ and Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jecamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah.

¹⁹ The sons of Pedaiah were Zerubbabel and Shimei. The sons of Zerubbabel were Meshullam, Hananiah, Shelomith their sister,

²⁰ and Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah, Hasadiah, and Jushab–Hesed—five in all.

²¹ The sons of Hananiah were Pelatiah and Jeshaiiah, the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, and the sons of Shechaniah.

²² The son of Shechaniah was Shemaiah. The sons of Shemaiah were Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat—six in all.

²³ The sons of Neariah were Elioenai, Hezekiah, and Azrikam—three in all.

²⁴ The sons of Elioenai were Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani—seven in all.

4 ¹ The sons of Judah were Perez, Hezron, Carmi, Hur, and Shobal.

² And Reaiah the son of Shobal begot Jahath, and Jahath begot Ahumai and Lahad. These were the families of the Zorathites.

³ These were the sons of the father of Etam: Jezreel, Ishma, and Idbash; and the name of their sister was Hazelelponi;

⁴ and Penuel was the father of Gedor, and Ezer was the father of Hushah.

These were the sons of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah the father of Bethlehem.

⁵ And Ashhur the father of Tekoa had two wives, Helah and Naarah.

⁶ Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hopher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah.

⁷ The sons of Helah were Zereth, Zohar, and Ethnan;

⁸ and Koz begot Anub, Zobebah, and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum.

⁹ Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his

name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

¹⁰ And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

¹¹ Chelub the brother of Shuhah begot Mehir, who was the father of Eshton.

¹² And Eshton begot Beth–Rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah the father of Ir–Nahash. These were the men of Rechah.

¹³ The sons of Kenaz were Othniel and Seraiah. The sons of Othniel were Hathath,

¹⁴ and Meonothai who begot Ophrah. Seraiah begot Joab the father of Ge Harashim, for they were craftsmen.

¹⁵ The sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh were Iru, Elah, and Naam. The son of Elah was Kenaz.

¹⁶ The sons of Jehallelel were Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

¹⁷ The sons of Ezraah were Jether, Mered, Epher, and Jalon. And Mered's wife bore Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah the father of Eshtemoa.

¹⁸ (His wife Jehudijah bore Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Sochoh, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.) And these were the sons of Bithiah the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered took.

¹⁹ The sons of Hodiah's wife, the sister of Naham, were the fathers of Keilah the Garmite and of Eshtemoa the Maachathite.

²⁰ And the sons of Shimon were Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-Hanan, and Tilon.

And the sons of Ishi were Zoheth and Ben-Zoheth.

²¹ The sons of Shelah the son of Judah were Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the families of the house of the linen workers of the house of Ashbea;

²² also Jokim, the men of Chozeba, and Joash; Saraph, who ruled in Moab, and Jashubi-Lehem. Now the records are ancient.

²³ These were the potters and those who dwell at Netaim and Gederah; there they dwelt with the king for his work.

²⁴ The sons of Simeon were Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, and Shaul,

²⁵ Shallum his son, Mibsam his son, and Mishma his son.

²⁶ And the sons of Mishma were Hamuel his son, Zacchur his son, and Shimei his son.

²⁷ Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brothers did not have many children, nor did any of their families multiply as much as the children of Judah.

²⁸ They dwelt at Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar Shual,

²⁹ Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,

³⁰ Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

³¹ Beth Marcaboth, Hazar Susim, Beth Biri, and at Shaaraim. These were their cities until the reign of David.

³² And their villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan—five cities—

³³ and all the villages that were around these cities as far as Baal. These were their dwelling places, and they maintained their genealogy:

³⁴ Meshobab, Jamlech, and Joshah the son of Amaziah;

³⁵ Joel, and Jehu the son of Joshibiah, the son of Seraiah, the son of Asiel;

³⁶ Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, and Benaiah;

³⁷ Ziza the son of Shiphi, the son of Allon, the son of Jedaiah, the son of Shimri, the son of Shemaiah—

³⁸ these mentioned by name were leaders in their families, and their father's house increased greatly.

³⁹ So they went to the entrance of Gedor, as far as the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks.

⁴⁰ And they found rich, good pasture, and the land was broad, quiet, and peaceful; for some Hamites formerly lived there.

⁴¹ These recorded by name came in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah; and they attacked their tents and the Meunites who were found there, and utterly destroyed them, as it is to this day. So

they dwelt in their place, because there was pasture for their flocks there.

⁴² Now some of them, five hundred men of the sons of Simeon, went to Mount Seir, having as their captains Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi.

⁴³ And they defeated the rest of the Amalekites who had escaped. They have dwelt there to this day.

5 ¹ Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel—he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father’s bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright;

² yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Joseph’s—

³ the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

⁴ The sons of Joel were Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son,

⁵ Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son,

⁶ and Beerah his son, whom Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria carried into captivity. He was leader of the Reubenites.

⁷ And his brethren by their families, when the genealogy of their generations was registered: the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah,

⁸ and Bela the son of Azaz, the son of Shema, the son of Joel, who dwelt in Aroer, as far as Nebo and Baal Meon.

⁹ Eastward they settled as far as the entrance of the wilderness this side of the River Euphrates, because their cattle had multiplied in the land of Gilead.

¹⁰ Now in the days of Saul they made war with the Hagarites, who fell by their hand; and they dwelt in their tents throughout the entire area east of Gilead.

¹¹ And the children of Gad dwelt next to them in the land of Bashan as far as Salcah:

¹² Joel was the chief, Shapham the next, then Jaanai and Shaphat in Bashan,

¹³ and their brethren of their father's house: Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jachan, Zia, and Eber—seven in all.

¹⁴ These were the children of Abihail the son of Huri, the son of Jaroah, the son of Gilead, the son of Michael, the son of Jeshishai, the son of Jahdo, the son of Buz;

¹⁵ Ahi the son of Abdiel, the son of Guni, was chief of their father's house.

¹⁶ And the Gadites dwelt in Gilead, in Bashan and in its villages, and in all the

common—lands of Sharon within their borders.

¹⁷ All these were registered by genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.

¹⁸ The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had forty—four thousand seven hundred and sixty valiant men, men able to bear shield and sword, to shoot with the bow, and skillful in war, who went to war.

¹⁹ They made war with the Hagarites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab.

²⁰ And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all who were with them, for they cried out to God in the battle. He heeded their prayer, because they put their trust in Him.

²¹ Then they took away their livestock—fifty thousand of their camels, two

hundred and fifty thousand of their sheep, and two thousand of their donkeys—also one hundred thousand of their men;

²² for many fell dead, because the war was God's. And they dwelt in their place until the captivity.

²³ So the children of the half-tribe of Manasseh dwelt in the land. Their numbers increased from Bashan to Baal Hermon, that is, to Senir, or Mount Hermon.

²⁴ These were the heads of their fathers' houses: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were mighty men of valor, famous men, and heads of their fathers' houses.

²⁵ And they were unfaithful to the God of their fathers, and played the harlot after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them.

²⁶ So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul king of Assyria, that is, Tiglath–Pileser king of Assyria. He carried the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half–tribe of Manasseh into captivity. He took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan to this day.

6 ¹ The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

² The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

³ The children of Amram were Aaron, Moses, and Miriam. And the sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁴ Eleazar begot Phinehas, and Phinehas begot Abishua;

⁵ Abishua begot Bukki, and Bukki begot Uzzi;

⁶ Uzzi begot Zerariah, and Zerariah begot Meraioth;

⁷ Meraioth begot Amariah, and Amariah begot Ahitub;

⁸ Ahitub begot Zadok, and Zadok begot Ahimaaz;

⁹ Ahimaaz begot Azariah, and Azariah begot Johanan;

¹⁰ Johanan begot Azariah (it was he who ministered as priest in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem);

¹¹ Azariah begot Amariah, and Amariah begot Ahitub;

¹² Ahitub begot Zadok, and Zadok begot Shallum;

¹³ Shallum begot Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begot Azariah;

¹⁴ Azariah begot Seraiah, and Seraiah begot Jehozadak.

¹⁵ Jehozadak went into captivity when the LORD carried Judah and Jerusalem into captivity by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁶ The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁷ These are the names of the sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸ The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

¹⁹ The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. Now these are the families of the Levites according to their fathers:

²⁰ Of Gershon were Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son,

²¹ Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, and Jeatherai his son.

²² The sons of Kohath were Amminadab his son, Korah his son, Assir his son,

²³ Elkanah his son, Ebiasaph his son, Assir his son,

²⁴ Tahath his son, Uriel his son, Uziah his son, and Shaul his son.

²⁵ The sons of Elkanah were Amasai and Ahimoth.

²⁶ As for Elkanah, the sons of Elkanah were Zophai his son, Nahath his son,

²⁷ Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, and Elkanah his son.

²⁸ The sons of Samuel were Joel the firstborn, and Abijah the second.

²⁹ The sons of Merari were Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,

³⁰ Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, and Asaiah his son.

³¹ Now these are the men whom David appointed over the service of song in the house of the LORD, after the ark came to rest.

³² They were ministering with music before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of meeting, until Solomon had built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they served in their office according to their order.

³³ And these are the ones who ministered with their sons: Of the sons

of the Kohathites were Heman the singer, the son of Joel, the son of Samuel,
³⁴ the son of Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Eliel, the son of Toah,

³⁵ the son of Zuph, the son of Elkanah, the son of Mahath, the son of Amasai,

³⁶ the son of Elkanah, the son of Joel, the son of Azariah, the son of Zephaniah,

³⁷ the son of Tahath, the son of Assir, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah,

³⁸ the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, the son of Israel.

³⁹ And his brother Asaph, who stood at his right hand, was Asaph the son of Berachiah, the son of Shimea,

⁴⁰ the son of Michael, the son of Baaseiah, the son of Malchijah,

⁴¹ the son of Ethni, the son of Zerah, the son of Adaiah,

⁴² the son of Ethan, the son of Zimmah, the son of Shimei,

⁴³ the son of Jahath, the son of Gershon, the son of Levi.

⁴⁴ Their brethren, the sons of Merari, on the left hand, were Ethan the son of Kishi, the son of Abdi, the son of Malluch,

⁴⁵ the son of Hashabiah, the son of Amaziah, the son of Hilkiah,

⁴⁶ the son of Amzi, the son of Bani, the son of Shamer,

⁴⁷ the son of Mahli, the son of Mushi, the son of Merari, the son of Levi.

⁴⁸ And their brethren, the Levites, were appointed to every kind of service of the tabernacle of the house of God.

⁴⁹ But Aaron and his sons offered sacrifices on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the Most Holy Place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

⁵⁰ Now these are the sons of Aaron:
Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son,
Abishua his son,

⁵¹ Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerariah
his son,

⁵² Meraioth his son, Amariah his son,
Ahitub his son,

⁵³ Zadok his son, and Ahimaaz his son.

⁵⁴ Now these are their dwelling places
throughout their settlements in their
territory, for they were given by lot to
the sons of Aaron, of the family of the
Kohathites:

⁵⁵ They gave them Hebron in the
land of Judah, with its surrounding
common-lands.

⁵⁶ But the fields of the city and its
villages they gave to Caleb the son of
Jephunneh.

⁵⁷ And to the sons of Aaron they gave
one of the cities of refuge, Hebron; also

Libnah with its common-lands, Jattir,
Eshtemoa with its common-lands,

⁵⁸ Hilen with its common-lands, Debir
with its common-lands,

⁵⁹ Ashan with its common-lands, and
Beth Shemesh with its common-lands.

⁶⁰ And from the tribe of Benjamin:
Geba with its common-lands, Alemeth
with its common-lands, and Anathoth
with its common-lands. All their cities
among their families were thirteen.

⁶¹ To the rest of the family of the tribe
of the Kohathites they gave by lot ten
cities from half the tribe of Manasseh.

⁶² And to the sons of Gershon,
throughout their families, they gave
thirteen cities from the tribe of Issachar,
from the tribe of Asher, from the tribe
of Naphtali, and from the tribe of
Manasseh in Bashan.

⁶³ To the sons of Merari, throughout
their families, they gave twelve cities

from the tribe of Reuben, from the tribe of Gad, and from the tribe of Zebulun.

⁶⁴ So the children of Israel gave these cities with their common-lands to the Levites.

⁶⁵ And they gave by lot from the tribe of the children of Judah, from the tribe of the children of Simeon, and from the tribe of the children of Benjamin these cities which are called by their names.

⁶⁶ Now some of the families of the sons of Kohath were given cities as their territory from the tribe of Ephraim.

⁶⁷ And they gave them one of the cities of refuge, Shechem with its common-lands, in the mountains of Ephraim, also Gezer with its common-lands,

⁶⁸ Jokmeam with its common-lands, Beth Horon with its common-lands,

⁶⁹ Aijalon with its common-lands, and Gath Rimmon with its common-lands.

⁷⁰ And from the half-tribe of Manasseh: Aner with its common-lands and Bileam with its common-lands, for the rest of the family of the sons of Kohath.

⁷¹ From the family of the half-tribe of Manasseh the sons of Gershon were given Golan in Bashan with its common-lands and Ashtaroth with its common-lands.

⁷² And from the tribe of Issachar: Kedesh with its common-lands, Daberath with its common-lands,

⁷³ Ramoth with its common-lands, and Anem with its common-lands.

⁷⁴ And from the tribe of Asher: Mashal with its common-lands, Abdon with its common-lands,

⁷⁵ Hukok with its common-lands, and Rehob with its common-lands.

⁷⁶ And from the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee with its common-

lands, Hammon with its common-lands, and Kirjathaim with its common-lands.

⁷⁷ From the tribe of Zebulun the rest of the children of Merari were given Rimmon with its common-lands and Tabor with its common-lands.

⁷⁸ And on the other side of the Jordan, across from Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, they were given from the tribe of Reuben: Bezer in the wilderness with its common-lands, Jahzah with its common-lands,

⁷⁹ Kedemoth with its common-lands, and Mephaath with its common-lands.

⁸⁰ And from the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead with its common-lands, Mahanaim with its common-lands,

⁸¹ Heshbon with its common-lands, and Jazer with its common-lands.

7 ¹ The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron—four in all.

² The sons of Tola were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house. The sons of Tola were mighty men of valor in their generations; their number in the days of David was twenty-two thousand six hundred.

³ The son of Uzzi was Izrahiah, and the sons of Izrahiah were Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Ishiah. All five of them were chief men.

⁴ And with them, by their generations, according to their fathers' houses, were thirty-six thousand troops ready for war; for they had many wives and sons.

⁵ Now their brethren among all the families of Issachar were mighty men of valor, listed by their genealogies, eighty-seven thousand in all.

⁶ The sons of Benjamin were Bela, Becher, and Jediael—three in all.

⁷ The sons of Bela were Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri—five in all. They were heads of their fathers' houses, and they were listed by their genealogies, twenty-two thousand and thirty-four mighty men of valor.

⁸ The sons of Becher were Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jerimoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. All these are the sons of Becher.

⁹ And they were recorded by genealogy according to their generations, heads of their fathers' houses, twenty thousand two hundred mighty men of valor.

¹⁰ The son of Jediel was Bilhan, and the sons of Bilhan were Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tharshish, and Ahishahar.

¹¹ All these sons of Jediel were heads of their fathers' houses; there were seventeen thousand two hundred

mighty men of valor fit to go out for war and battle.

¹² Shuppim and Huppim were the sons of Ir, and Hushim was the son of Aher.

¹³ The sons of Naphtali were Jahziel, Guni, Jezer, and Shallum, the sons of Bilhah.

¹⁴ The descendants of Manasseh: his Syrian concubine bore him Machir the father of Gilead, the father of Asriel.

¹⁵ Machir took as his wife the sister of Huppim and Shuppim, whose name was Maachah. The name of Gilead's grandson was Zelophehad, but Zelophehad begot only daughters.

¹⁶ (Maachah the wife of Machir bore a son, and she called his name Peresh. The name of his brother was Sheresh, and his sons were Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷ The son of Ulam was Bedan.) These were the descendants of Gilead the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh.

¹⁸ His sister Hammoleketh bore Ishhod, Abiezer, and Mahlah.

¹⁹ And the sons of Shemida were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

²⁰ The sons of Ephraim were Shuthelah, Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eladah his son, Tahath his son,

²¹ Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, and Ezer and Elead. The men of Gath who were born in that land killed them because they came down to take away their cattle.

²² Then Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brethren came to comfort him.

²³ And when he went in to his wife, she conceived and bore a son; and he called his name Beriah, because tragedy had come upon his house.

²⁴ Now his daughter was Sheerah, who built Lower and Upper Beth Horon and Uzen Sheerah;

²⁵ and Rephah was his son, as well as Resheph, and Telah his son, Tahan his son,

²⁶ Laadan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,

²⁷ Nun his son, and Joshua his son.

²⁸ Now their possessions and dwelling places were Bethel and its towns: to the east Naaran, to the west Gezer and its towns, and Shechem and its towns, as far as Ayyah and its towns;

²⁹ and by the borders of the children of Manasseh were Beth Shean and its towns, Taanach and its towns, Megiddo and its towns, Dor and its towns. In these dwelt the children of Joseph, the son of Israel.

³⁰ The sons of Asher were Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah.

³¹ The sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel, who was the father of Birzaiith.

³² And Heber begot Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and their sister Shua.

³³ The sons of Japhlet were Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These were the children of Japhlet.

³⁴ The sons of Shemer were Ahi, Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram.

³⁵ And the sons of his brother Helem were Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

³⁶ The sons of Zophah were Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah,

³⁷ Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Jithran, and Beera.

³⁸ The sons of Jether were Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara.

³⁹ The sons of Ulla were Arah, Haniel, and Rizia.

⁴⁰ All these were the children of Asher, heads of their fathers' houses, choice men, mighty men of valor, chief leaders. And they were recorded by genealogies

among the army fit for battle; their number was twenty–six thousand.

8¹ Now Benjamin begot Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, Aharah the third,

² Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth.

³ The sons of Bela were Addar, Gera, Abihud,

⁴ Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,

⁵ Gera, Shephuphan, and Huram.

⁶ These are the sons of Ehud, who were the heads of the fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Geba, and who forced them to move to Manahath:

⁷ Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera who forced them to move. He begot Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸ And Shaharaim had children in the country of Moab, after he had sent away Hushim and Baara his wives.

⁹ By Hodesh his wife he begot Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,

¹⁰ Jeuz, Sachiah, and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of their fathers' houses.

¹¹ And by Hushim he begot Abitub and Elpaal.

¹² The sons of Elpaal were Eber, Misham, and Shemed, who built Ono and Lod with its towns;

¹³ and Beriah and Shema, who were heads of their fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Aijalon, who drove out the inhabitants of Gath.

¹⁴ Ahio, Shashak, Jeremoth,

¹⁵ Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,

¹⁶ Michael, Ispah, and Joha were the sons of Beriah.

¹⁷ Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

¹⁸ Ishmerai, Jizliah, and Jobab were the sons of Elpaal.

¹⁹ Jakim, Zichri, Zabdi,

²⁰ Elienai, Zillethai, Eliel,

²¹ Adaiah, Beraiah, and Shimrath were the sons of Shimei.

²² Ishpan, Eber, Eliel,

²³ Abdon, Zichri, Hanan,

²⁴ Hananiah, Elam, Antothijah,

²⁵ Iphdeiah, and Penuel were the sons of Shashak.

²⁶ Shamsherai, Shehariah, Athaliah,

²⁷ Jaareshiah, Elijah, and Zichri were the sons of Jeroham.

²⁸ These were heads of the fathers' houses by their generations, chief men. These dwelt in Jerusalem.

²⁹ Now the father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, dwelt at Gibeon.

³⁰ And his firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,

³¹ Gedor, Ahio, Zecher,

³² and Mikloth, who begot Shimeah.

They also dwelt alongside their relatives in Jerusalem, with their brethren.

³³ Ner begot Kish, Kish begot Saul, and Saul begot Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh–Baal.

³⁴ The son of Jonathan was Merib–Baal, and Merib–Baal begot Micah.

³⁵ The sons of Micah were Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz.

³⁶ And Ahaz begot Jehoaddah; Jehoaddah begot Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begot Moza.

³⁷ Moza begot Binea, Raphah his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son.

³⁸ Azel had six sons whose names were these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel.

³⁹ And the sons of Eshek his brother were Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second, and Eliphelet the third.

⁴⁰ The sons of Ulam were mighty men of valor—archers. They had many sons

and grandsons, one hundred and fifty in all. These were all sons of Benjamin.

9¹ So all Israel was recorded by genealogies, and indeed, they were inscribed in the book of the kings of Israel. But Judah was carried away captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness.

² And the first inhabitants who dwelt in their possessions in their cities were Israelites, priests, Levites, and the Nethinim.

³ Now in Jerusalem the children of Judah dwelt, and some of the children of Benjamin, and of the children of Ephraim and Manasseh:

⁴ Uthai the son of Ammihud, the son of Omri, the son of Imri, the son of Bani, of the descendants of Perez, the son of Judah.

⁵ Of the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn and his sons.

⁶ Of the sons of Zerah: Jeuel, and their brethren—six hundred and ninety.

⁷ Of the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Hodaviah, the son of Hassenuah;

⁸ Ibneiah the son of Jeroham; Elah the son of Uzzi, the son of Michri; Meshullam the son of Shephatiah, the son of Reuel, the son of Ibnijah;

⁹ and their brethren, according to their generations—nine hundred and fifty—six. All these men were heads of a father's house in their fathers' houses.

¹⁰ Of the priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, and Jachin;

¹¹ Azariah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, the officer over the house of God;

¹² Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pashur, the son of Malchijah; Maasai the son of Adiel, the son of Jahzerah, the son

of Meshullam, the son of Meshillemith, the son of Immer;

¹³ and their brethren, heads of their fathers' houses—one thousand seven hundred and sixty. They were very able men for the work of the service of the house of God.

¹⁴ Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari;

¹⁵ Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal, and Mattaniah the son of Micah, the son of Zichri, the son of Asaph;

¹⁶ Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun; and Berechiah the son of Asa, the son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

¹⁷ And the gatekeepers were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their brethren. Shallum was the chief.

¹⁸ Until then they had been gatekeepers for the camps of the children of Levi at the King's Gate on the east.

¹⁹ Shallum the son of Kore, the son of Ebiasaph, the son of Korah, and his brethren, from his father's house, the Korahites, were in charge of the work of the service, gatekeepers of the tabernacle. Their fathers had been keepers of the entrance to the camp of the LORD.

²⁰ And Phinehas the son of Eleazar had been the officer over them in time past; the LORD was with him.

²¹ Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was keeper of the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

²² All those chosen as gatekeepers were two hundred and twelve. They were recorded by their genealogy, in their villages. David and Samuel the seer had appointed them to their trusted office.

²³ So they and their children were in charge of the gates of the house of the LORD, the house of the tabernacle, by assignment.

²⁴ The gatekeepers were assigned to the four directions: the east, west, north, and south.

²⁵ And their brethren in their villages had to come with them from time to time for seven days.

²⁶ For in this trusted office were four chief gatekeepers; they were Levites. And they had charge over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God.

²⁷ And they lodged all around the house of God because they had the responsibility, and they were in charge of opening it every morning.

²⁸ Now some of them were in charge of the serving vessels, for they brought them in and took them out by count.

²⁹ Some of them were appointed over the furnishings and over all the implements of the sanctuary, and over the fine flour and the wine and the oil and the incense and the spices.

³⁰ And some of the sons of the priests made the ointment of the spices.

³¹ Mattithiah of the Levites, the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, had the trusted office over the things that were baked in the pans.

³² And some of their brethren of the sons of the Kohathites were in charge of preparing the showbread for every Sabbath.

³³ These are the singers, heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites, who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night.

³⁴ These heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites were heads throughout their generations. They dwelt at Jerusalem.

³⁵ Jeiel the father of Gibeon, whose wife's name was Maacah, dwelt at Gibeon.

³⁶ His firstborn son was Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab,

³⁷ Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth.

³⁸ And Mikloth begot Shimeam. They also dwelt alongside their relatives in Jerusalem, with their brethren.

³⁹ Ner begot Kish, Kish begot Saul, and Saul begot Jonathan, Malchishua, Abinadab, and Esh-Baal.

⁴⁰ The son of Jonathan was Merib-Baal, and Merib-Baal begot Micah.

⁴¹ The sons of Micah were Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz.

⁴² And Ahaz begot Jarah; Jarah begot Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri; and Zimri begot Moza;

⁴³ Moza begot Binea, Rephaiah his son, Eleasah his son, and Azel his son.

⁴⁴ And Azel had six sons whose names were these: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan; these were the sons of Azel.

10 ¹ Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

² Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

³ The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was wounded by the archers.

⁴ Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was

greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.

⁵ And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died.

⁶ So Saul and his three sons died, and all his house died together.

⁷ And when all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that they had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their cities and fled; then the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

⁸ So it happened the next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, that they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹ And they stripped him and took his head and his armor, and sent word throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among the people.

¹⁰ Then they put his armor in the temple of their gods, and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

¹¹ And when all Jabesh Gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² all the valiant men arose and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons; and they brought them to Jabesh, and buried their bones under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

¹³ So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.

¹⁴ But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

11 ¹ Then all Israel came together to David at Hebron, saying, "Indeed we are your bone and your flesh.

² "Also, in time past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who led Israel out and brought them in; and the LORD your God said to you, 'You shall shepherd My people Israel, and be ruler over My people Israel.'"

³ Therefore all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. Then they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

⁴ And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land.

⁵ Then the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You shall not come in here!" Nevertheless David took the stronghold of Zion (that is, the City of David).

⁶ Now David said, "Whoever attacks the Jebusites first shall be chief and captain."

And Joab the son of Zeruah went up first, and became chief.

⁷ Then David dwelt in the stronghold; therefore they called it the City of David.

⁸ And he built the city around it, from the Millo to the surrounding area. Joab repaired the rest of the city.

⁹ Then David went on and became great, and the LORD of hosts was with him.

¹⁰ Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

¹¹ And this is the number of the mighty men whom David had: Jashobeam the son of a Hachmonite, chief of the captains; he had lifted up his spear against three hundred, killed by him at one time.

¹² After him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, who was one of the three mighty men.

¹³ He was with David at Pasdammim. Now there the Philistines were gathered for battle, and there was a piece of ground full of barley. And the people fled from the Philistines.

¹⁴ But they stationed themselves in the middle of that field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory.

¹⁵ Now three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David, into the cave of Adullam; and the army of the Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

¹⁷ And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of

water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!"

¹⁸ So the three broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless David would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD.

¹⁹ And he said, "Far be it from me, O my God, that I should do this! Shall I drink the blood of these men who have put their lives in jeopardy? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men.

²⁰ Abishai the brother of Joab was chief of another three. He had lifted up his spear against three hundred men, killed them, and won a name among these three.

²¹ Of the three he was more honored than the other two men. Therefore he

became their captain. However he did not attain to the first three.

²² Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

²³ And he killed an Egyptian, a man of great height, five cubits tall. In the Egyptian's hand there was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

²⁴ These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men.

²⁵ Indeed he was more honored than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard.

²⁶ Also the mighty warriors were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁷ Shammoth the Harorite, Helez the Pelonite,

²⁸ Ira the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite, Abiezer the Anathothite,

²⁹ Sibbechai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,

³⁰ Maharai the Netophathite, Heled the son of Baanah the Netophathite,

³¹ Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah, of the sons of Benjamin, Benaiah the Pirathonite,

³² Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,

³³ Azmaveth the Baharumite, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,

³⁴ the sons of Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shageh the Hararite,

³⁵ Ahiam the son of Sacar the Hararite, Eliphal the son of Ur,

³⁶ Hopher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,

³⁷ Hezro the Carmelite, Naarai the son of Ezbai,

³⁸ Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri,

³⁹ Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai the Berothite (the armorbearer of Joab the son of Zeruah),

⁴⁰ Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

⁴¹ Uriah the Hittite, Zabad the son of Ahlai,

⁴² Adina the son of Shiza the Reubenite (a chief of the Reubenites) and thirty with him,

⁴³ Hanan the son of Maachah, Joshaphat the Mithnite,

⁴⁴ Uzzia the Ashterathite, Shama and Jeiel the sons of Hotham the Aroerite,

⁴⁵ Jediael the son of Shimri, and Joha his brother, 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 Now these were the men who came to David at Ziklag while he was still a fugitive from Saul the son of Kish; and they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war,

² armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin, Saul's brethren.

³ The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, the sons of Shemaah the Gibeathite; Jeziel and Pelet the sons of Azmaveth; Berachah, and Jehu the Anathothite;

⁴ Ishmaiah the Gibeonite, a mighty man among the thirty, and over the thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, and Jozabad the Gederathite;

⁵ Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, and Shephatiah the Haruphite;

⁶ Elkanah, Jisshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites;

⁷ and Joelah and Zebadiah the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

⁸ Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:

⁹ Ezer the first, Obadiah the second, Eliab the third,

¹⁰ Mishmannah the fourth, Jeremiah the fifth,

¹¹ Attai the sixth, Eliel the seventh,

¹² Johanan the eighth, Elzabad the ninth,

¹³ Jeremiah the tenth, and Machbanai the eleventh.

¹⁴ These were from the sons of Gad, captains of the army; the least was over a hundred, and the greatest was over a thousand.

¹⁵ These are the ones who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it had overflowed all its banks; and they put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

¹⁶ Then some of the sons of Benjamin and Judah came to David at the stronghold.

¹⁷ And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment."

¹⁸ Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, chief of the captains, and he said: "We are yours, O David; We are on your side,

O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, And peace to your helpers! For your God helps you." So David received them, and made them captains of the troop.

¹⁹ And some from Manasseh defected to David when he was going with the Philistines to battle against Saul; but they did not help them, for the lords of the Philistines sent him away by agreement, saying, "He may defect to his master Saul and endanger our heads."

²⁰ When he went to Ziklag, those of Manasseh who defected to him were Adnah, Jozabad, Jediahel, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, captains of the thousands who were from Manasseh.

²¹ And they helped David against the bands of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor, and they were captains in the army.

²² For at that time they came to David day by day to help him, until it was a great army, like the army of God.

²³ Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD:

²⁴ of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear, six thousand eight hundred armed for war;

²⁵ of the sons of Simeon, mighty men of valor fit for war, seven thousand one hundred;

²⁶ of the sons of Levi four thousand six hundred;

²⁷ Jehoiada, the leader of the Aaronites, and with him three thousand seven hundred;

²⁸ Zadok, a young man, a valiant warrior, and from his father's house twenty-two captains;

²⁹ of the sons of Benjamin, relatives of Saul, three thousand (until then the greatest part of them had remained loyal to the house of Saul);

³⁰ of the sons of Ephraim twenty thousand eight hundred, mighty men of valor, famous men throughout their father's house;

³¹ of the half-tribe of Manasseh eighteen thousand, who were designated by name to come and make David king;

³² of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

³³ of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;

³⁴ of Naphtali one thousand captains, and with them thirty–seven thousand with shield and spear;

³⁵ of the Danites who could keep battle formation, twenty–eight thousand six hundred;

³⁶ of Asher, those who could go out to war, able to keep battle formation, forty thousand;

³⁷ of the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half–tribe of Manasseh, from the other side of the Jordan, one hundred and twenty thousand armed for battle with every kind of weapon of war.

³⁸ All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king.

³⁹ And they were there with David three days, eating and drinking, for their brethren had prepared for them.

⁴⁰ Moreover those who were near to them, from as far away as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing food on donkeys and camels, on mules and oxen—provisions of flour and cakes of figs and cakes of raisins, wine and oil and oxen and sheep abundantly, for there was joy in Israel.

13 ¹ Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader.

² And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us;

³ "and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul."

⁴ Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

⁵ So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim.

⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed.

⁷ So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart.

⁸ Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed

instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

⁹ And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

¹⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.

¹¹ And David became angry because of the LORD'S outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day.

¹² David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?"

¹³ So David would not move the ark with him into the City of David, but took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

¹⁴ The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three

months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed–Edom and all that he had.

14 ¹ Now Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, with masons and carpenters, to build him a house.

² So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of His people Israel.

³ Then David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David begot more sons and daughters.

⁴ And these are the names of his children whom he had in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,

⁶ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁷ Elishama, Beeliada, and Eliphelet.

⁸ Now when the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all

Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went out against them.

⁹ Then the Philistines went and made a raid on the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁰ And David inquired of God, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up, for I will deliver them into your hand."

¹¹ So they went up to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there. Then David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water." Therefore they called the name of that place Baal Perazim.

¹² And when they left their gods there, David gave a commandment, and they were burned with fire.

¹³ Then the Philistines once again made a raid on the valley.

¹⁴ Therefore David inquired again of God, and God said to him, "You shall not go up after them; circle around them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees.

¹⁵ "And it shall be, when you hear a sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."

¹⁶ So David did as God commanded him, and they drove back the army of the Philistines from Gibeon as far as Gezer.

¹⁷ Then the fame of David went out into all lands, and the LORD brought the fear of him upon all nations.

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 may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever."

³ And David gathered all Israel together at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.

⁴ Then David assembled the children of Aaron and the Levites:

⁵ of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, and one hundred and twenty of his brethren;

⁶ of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, and two hundred and twenty of his brethren;

⁷ of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, and one hundred and thirty of his brethren;

⁸ of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, and two hundred of his brethren;

⁹ of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, and eighty of his brethren;

¹⁰ of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, and one hundred and twelve of his brethren.

¹¹ And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab.

¹² He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place I have prepared for it.

¹³ "For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁵ And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁶ Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising the voice with resounding joy.

¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;

¹⁸ and with them their brethren of the second rank: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed—Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers;

¹⁹ the singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound the cymbals of bronze;

²⁰ Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah, with strings according to Alamoth;

²¹ Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed–Edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah, to direct with harps on the Sheminith;

²² Chenaniah, leader of the Levites, was instructor in charge of the music, because he was skillful;

²³ Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark;

²⁴ Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed–Edom and Jehiah, doorkeepers for the ark.

²⁵ So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring

up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed–Edom with joy.

²⁶ And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷ David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod.

²⁸ Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.

²⁹ And it happened, as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the City of David, that Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King

David whirling and playing music; and she despised him in her heart.

16 ¹ So they brought the ark of God, and set it in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God.

² And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD.

³ Then he distributed to everyone of Israel, both man and woman, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins.

⁴ And he appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to commemorate, to thank, and to praise the LORD God of Israel:

⁵ Asaph the chief, and next to him Zechariah, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah,

and Obed–Edom: Jeiel with stringed instruments and harps, but Asaph made music with cymbals;

⁶ Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests regularly blew the trumpets before the ark of the covenant of God.

⁷ On that day David first delivered this psalm into the hand of Asaph and his brethren, to thank the LORD:

⁸ Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!

⁹ Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works!

¹⁰ Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!

¹¹ Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

¹² Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,

¹³ O seed of Israel His servant, You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!

¹⁴ He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

¹⁵ Remember His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations,

¹⁶ The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac,

¹⁷ And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel for an everlasting covenant,

¹⁸ Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance,"

¹⁹ When you were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it.

²⁰ When they went from one nation to another, And from one kingdom to another people,

²¹ He permitted no man to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,

²² Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

²³ Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.

²⁴ Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.

²⁵ For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods.

²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.

²⁷ Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place.

²⁸ Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength.

²⁹ Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come

before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

³⁰ Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved.

³¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

³² Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; Let the field rejoice, and all that is in it.

³³ Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD, For He is coming to judge the earth.

³⁴ Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

³⁵ And say, "Save us, O God of our salvation; Gather us together, and deliver us from the Gentiles, To give thanks to Your holy name, To triumph in Your praise."

³⁶ Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And all

the people said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

³⁷ So he left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required;

³⁸ and Obed–Edom with his sixty–eight brethren, including Obed–Edom the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah, to be gatekeepers;

³⁹ and Zadok the priest and his brethren the priests, before the tabernacle of the LORD at the high place that was at Gibeon,

⁴⁰ to offer burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of burnt offering regularly morning and evening, and to do according to all that is written in the Law of the LORD which He commanded Israel;

⁴¹ and with them Heman and Jeduthun and the rest who were chosen, who

were designated by name, to give thanks to the LORD, because His mercy endures forever;

⁴² and with them Heman and Jeduthun, to sound aloud with trumpets and cymbals and the musical instruments of God. Now the sons of Jeduthun were gatekeepers.

⁴³ Then all the people departed, every man to his house; and David returned to bless his house.

17 ¹ Now it came to pass, when David was dwelling in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under tent curtains."

² Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."

³ But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying,

⁴ "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not build Me a house to dwell in.

⁵ "For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought up Israel, even to this day, but have gone from tent to tent, and from one tabernacle to another.

⁶ "Wherever I have moved about with all Israel, have I ever spoken a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people, saying, 'Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?'"

⁷ "Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.

⁸ "And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have

made you a name like the name of the great men who are on the earth.

⁹ "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

¹⁰ "since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel. Also I will subdue all your enemies. Furthermore I tell you that the LORD will build you a house.

¹¹ "And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

¹² "He shall build Me a house, and I will establish his throne forever.

¹³ "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy

away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

¹⁴ "And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever.""

¹⁵ According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

¹⁶ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: "Who am I, O LORD God? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far?

¹⁷ "And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O God; and You have also spoken of Your servant's house for a great while to come, and have regarded me according to the rank of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

¹⁸ "What more can David say to You for the honor of Your servant? For You know Your servant.

¹⁹ "O LORD, for Your servant's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things.

²⁰ "O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

²¹ "And who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people—to make for Yourself a name by great and awesome deeds, by driving out nations from before Your people whom You redeemed from Egypt?

²² "For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, LORD, have become their God.

²³ "And now, O LORD, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, let it be established forever, and do as You have said.

²⁴ "So let it be established, that Your name may be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God.' And let the house of Your servant David be established before You.

²⁵ "For You, O my God, have revealed to Your servant that You will build him a house. Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray before You.

²⁶ "And now, LORD, You are God, and have promised this goodness to Your servant.

²⁷ "Now You have been pleased to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You have blessed it, O LORD, and it shall be blessed forever."

18 ¹ After this it came to pass that David attacked the Philistines, subdued them, and took Gath and its towns from the hand of the Philistines.

² Then he defeated Moab, and the Moabites became David's servants, and brought tribute.

³ And David defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah as far as Hamath, as he went to establish his power by the River Euphrates.

⁴ David took from him one thousand chariots, seven thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand foot soldiers. And David also hamstrung all the chariot horses, except that he spared enough of them for one hundred chariots.

⁵ When the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David killed twenty-two thousand of the Syrians.

⁶ Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute. So the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

⁷ And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸ Also from Tibhath and from Chun, cities of Hadadezer, David brought a large amount of bronze, with which Solomon made the bronze Sea, the pillars, and the articles of bronze.

⁹ Now when Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated all the army of Hadadezer king of Zobah,

¹⁰ he sent Hadoram his son to King David, to greet him and bless him, because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him (for Hadadezer had been at war with Tou); and Hadoram brought with him all kinds of articles of gold, silver, and bronze.

¹¹ King David also dedicated these to the LORD, along with the silver and gold that he had brought from all these nations—from Edom, from Moab,

from the people of Ammon, from the Philistines, and from Amalek.

¹² Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruah killed eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹³ He also put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD preserved David wherever he went.

¹⁴ So David reigned over all Israel, and administered judgment and justice to all his people.

¹⁵ Joab the son of Zeruah was over the army; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

¹⁶ Zadok the son of Ahitub and Abimelech the son of Abiathar were the priests; Shavsha was the scribe;

¹⁷ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were chief ministers at the king's side.

19 ¹ It happened after this that Nahash the king of the people of Ammon died, and his son reigned in his place.

² Then David said, "I will show kindness to Hanun the son of Nahash, because his father showed kindness to me." So David sent messengers to comfort him concerning his father. And David's servants came to Hanun in the land of the people of Ammon to comfort him.

³ And the princes of the people of Ammon said to Hanun, "Do you think that David really honors your father because he has sent comforters to you? Did his servants not come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?"

⁴ Therefore Hanun took David's servants, shaved them, and cut off their garments in the middle, at their buttocks, and sent them away.

⁵ Then some went and told David about the men; and he sent to meet them, because the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Wait at Jericho until your beards have grown, and then return."

⁶ When the people of Ammon saw that they had made themselves repulsive to David, Hanun and the people of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Syrian Maachah, and from Zobah.

⁷ So they hired for themselves thirty-two thousand chariots, with the king of Maachah and his people, who came and encamped before Medeba. Also the people of Ammon gathered together from their cities, and came to battle.

⁸ Now when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

⁹ Then the people of Ammon came out and put themselves in battle array before the gate of the city, and the kings who had come were by themselves in the field.

¹⁰ When Joab saw that the battle line was against him before and behind, he chose some of Israel's best and put them in battle array against the Syrians.

¹¹ And the rest of the people he put under the command of Abishai his brother, and they set themselves in battle array against the people of Ammon.

¹² Then he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me; but if the people of Ammon are too strong for you, then I will help you.

¹³ "Be of good courage, and let us be strong for our people and for the cities of our God. And may the LORD do what is good in His sight."

¹⁴ So Joab and the people who were with him drew near for the battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him.

¹⁵ When the people of Ammon saw that the Syrians were fleeing, they also fled before Abishai his brother, and entered the city. So Joab went to Jerusalem.

¹⁶ Now when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent messengers and brought the Syrians who were beyond the River, and Shophach the commander of Hadadezer's army went before them.

¹⁷ When it was told David, he gathered all Israel, crossed over the Jordan and came upon them, and set up in battle array against them. So when David had set up in battle array against the Syrians, they fought with him.

¹⁸ Then the Syrians fled before Israel; and David killed seven thousand charioteers and forty thousand foot

soldiers of the Syrians, and killed Shophach the commander of the army.

¹⁹ And when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they were defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became his servants. So the Syrians were not willing to help the people of Ammon anymore.

20 ¹ It happened in the spring of the year, at the time kings go out to battle, that Joab led out the armed forces and ravaged the country of the people of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed at Jerusalem. And Joab defeated Rabbah and overthrew it.

² Then David took their king's crown from his head, and found it to weigh a talent of gold, and there were precious stones in it. And it was set on David's head. Also he brought out the spoil of the city in great abundance.

³ And he brought out the people who were in it, and put them to work with saws, with iron picks, and with axes. So David did to all the cities of the people of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

⁴ Now it happened afterward that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines, at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite killed Sippai, who was one of the sons of the giant. And they were subdued.

⁵ Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

⁶ Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, with twenty-four fingers and toes, six on each hand and six on each foot; and he also was born to the giant.

⁷ So when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him.

⁸ These were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

21 ¹ Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.

² So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know it."

³ And Joab answered, "May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, are they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"

⁴ Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem.

⁵ Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel had one million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah had four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword.

⁶ But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's word was abominable to Joab.

⁷ And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel.

⁸ So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

⁹ And the LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹⁰ "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you.'"

¹¹ So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Choose for yourself,

¹² 'either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the sword of the LORD—the plague in the land, with the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

¹³ And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell.

¹⁵ And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁶ Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces.

¹⁷ And David said to God, "Was it not I who commanded the people to be numbered? I am the one who has sinned and done evil indeed; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I

pray, O LORD my God, be against me and my father's house, but not against Your people that they should be plagued."

¹⁸ Therefore, the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David that David should go and erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁹ So David went up at the word of Gad, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD.

²⁰ Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat.

²¹ Then David came to Ornan, and Ornan looked and saw David. And he went out from the threshing floor, and bowed before David with his face to the ground.

²² Then David said to Ornan, "Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I

may build an altar on it to the LORD. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people."

²³ And Ornan said to David, "Take it to yourself, and let my lord the king do what is good in his eyes. Look, I also give you the oxen for burnt offerings, the threshing implements for wood, and the wheat for the grain offering; I give it all."

²⁴ Then King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will surely buy it for the full price, for I will not take what is yours for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings with that which costs me nothing."

²⁵ So David gave Ornan six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the place.

²⁶ And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings, and called on the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire on the altar of burnt offering.

²⁷ So the LORD commanded the angel, and he returned his sword to its sheath.

²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.

²⁹ For the tabernacle of the LORD and the altar of the burnt offering, which Moses had made in the wilderness, were at that time at the high place in Gibeon.

³⁰ But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

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 commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God.

³ And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and

for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure,

⁴ and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

⁵ Now David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it." So David made abundant preparations before his death.

⁶ Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel.

⁷ And David said to Solomon: "My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God;

⁸ "but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not

build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.

⁹ 'Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days.

¹⁰ 'He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.'

¹¹ "Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you.

¹² "Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

¹³ "Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments

with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.

¹⁴ "Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the LORD one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure, for it is so abundant. I have prepared timber and stone also, and you may add to them.

¹⁵ "Moreover there are workmen with you in abundance: woodsmen and stonecutters, and all types of skillful men for every kind of work.

¹⁶ "Of gold and silver and bronze and iron there is no limit. Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you."

¹⁷ David also commanded all the leaders of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying,

¹⁸ "Is not the LORD your God with you? And has He not given you rest on every

side? For He has given the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the LORD and before His people.

¹⁹ "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. Therefore arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the holy articles of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD."

23 ¹ So when David was old and full of days, he made his son Solomon king over Israel.

² And he gathered together all the leaders of Israel, with the priests and the Levites.

³ Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty–eight thousand.

⁴ Of these, twenty-four thousand were to look after the work of the house of the LORD, six thousand were officers and judges,

⁵ four thousand were gatekeepers, and four thousand praised the LORD with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise."

⁶ Also David separated them into divisions among the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

⁷ Of the Gershonites: Laadan and Shimei.

⁸ The sons of Laadan: the first Jehiel, then Zetham and Joel—three in all.

⁹ The sons of Shimei: Shelomith, Haziël, and Haran—three in all. These were the heads of the fathers' houses of Laadan.

¹⁰ And the sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina, Jeush, and Beriah. These were the four sons of Shimei.

¹¹ Jahath was the first and Zizah the second. But Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons; therefore they were assigned as one father's house.

¹² The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel—four in all.

¹³ The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses; and Aaron was set apart, he and his sons forever, that he should sanctify the most holy things, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him, and to give the blessing in His name forever.

¹⁴ Now the sons of Moses the man of God were reckoned to the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵ The sons of Moses were Gershon and Eliezer.

¹⁶ Of the sons of Gershon, Shebuel was the first.

¹⁷ Of the descendants of Eliezer, Rehabiah was the first. And Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.

¹⁸ Of the sons of Izhar, Shelomith was the first.

¹⁹ Of the sons of Hebron, Jeriah was the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁰ Of the sons of Uzziel, Michah was the first and Jesshiah the second.

²¹ The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli were Eleazar and Kish.

²² And Eleazar died, and had no sons, but only daughters; and their brethren, the sons of Kish, took them as wives.

²³ The sons of Mushi were Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth—three in all.

²⁴ These were the sons of Levi by their fathers' houses—the heads of the fathers' houses as they were counted individually by the number of their names, who did the work for the service of the house of the LORD, from the age of twenty years and above.

²⁵ For David said, "The LORD God of Israel has given rest to His people, that they may dwell in Jerusalem forever";

²⁶ and also to the Levites, "They shall no longer carry the tabernacle, or any of the articles for its service."

²⁷ For by the last words of David the Levites were numbered from twenty years old and above;

²⁸ because their duty was to help the sons of Aaron in the service of the house of the LORD, in the courts and in the chambers, in the purifying of all holy things and the work of the service of the house of God,

²⁹ both with the showbread and the fine flour for the grain offering, with the unleavened cakes and what is baked in the pan, with what is mixed and with all kinds of measures and sizes;

³⁰ to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD, and likewise at evening;

³¹ and at every presentation of a burnt offering to the LORD on the Sabbaths and on the New Moons and on the set feasts, by number according to the ordinance governing them, regularly before the LORD;

³² and that they should attend to the needs of the tabernacle of meeting, the needs of the holy place, and the needs of the sons of Aaron their brethren in the work of the house of the LORD.

24 ¹ Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

² And Nadab and Abihu died before their father, and had no children; therefore Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests.

³ Then David with Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of

Ithamar, divided them according to the schedule of their service.

⁴ There were more leaders found of the sons of Eleazar than of the sons of Ithamar, and thus they were divided. Among the sons of Eleazar were sixteen heads of their fathers' houses, and eight heads of their fathers' houses among the sons of Ithamar.

⁵ Thus they were divided by lot, one group as another, for there were officials of the sanctuary and officials of the house of God, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar.

⁶ And the scribe, Shemaiah the son of Nethanel, one of the Levites, wrote them down before the king, the leaders, Zadok the priest, Ahimelech the son of Abiathar, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Levites, one father's house taken for Eleazar and one for Ithamar.

⁷ Now 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 Happizzesz,

¹⁶ the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezekel,

¹⁷ the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul,

¹⁸ the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

¹⁹ This was the schedule of their service for coming into the house of the LORD according to their ordinance by the hand of Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

²⁰ And the rest of the sons of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah.

²¹ Concerning Rehabiah, of the sons of Rehabiah, the first was Isshiah.

²² Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath.

²³ Of the sons of Hebron, Jeriah was the first, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁴ Of the sons of Uzziel, Michah; of the sons of Michah, Shamir.

²⁵ The brother of Michah, Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah.

²⁶ The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi; the son of Jaaziah, Beno.

²⁷ The sons of Merari by Jaaziah were Beno, Shoham, Zaccur, and Ibri.

²⁸ Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.

²⁹ Of Kish: the son of Kish, Jerahmeel.

³⁰ Also the sons of Mushi were Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites according to their fathers' houses.

³¹ These also cast lots just as their brothers the sons of Aaron did, in the presence of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and Levites. The chief fathers did just as their younger brethren.

25 ¹ Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed

instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was:

² Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah; the sons of Asaph were under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied according to the order of the king.

³ Of Jeduthun, the sons of Jeduthun: Gedaliah, Zeri, Jeshaiiah, Shimei, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the direction of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and to praise the LORD.

⁴ Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, Romamti–Ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth.

⁵ All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to exalt

his horn. For God gave Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

⁶ All these were under the direction of their father for the music in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, stringed instruments, and harps, for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the authority of the king.

⁷ So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight.

⁸ And they cast lots for their duty, the small as well as the great, the teacher with the student.

⁹ Now the first lot for Asaph came out for Joseph; the second for Gedaliah, him with his brethren and sons, twelve;

¹⁰ the third for Zaccur, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹¹ the fourth for Jizri, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹² the fifth for Nethaniah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹³ the sixth for Bukkiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁴ the seventh for Jesharelah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁵ the eighth for Jeshaiiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁶ the ninth for Mattaniah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁷ the tenth for Shimei, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁸ the eleventh for Azarel, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

¹⁹ the twelfth for Hashabiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁰ the thirteenth for Shubael, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²¹ the fourteenth for Mattithiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²² the fifteenth for Jeremoth, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²³ the sixteenth for Hananiah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁴ the seventeenth for Joshbekashah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁵ the eighteenth for Hanani, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁶ the nineteenth for Mallothi, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁷ the twentieth for Eliathah, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁸ the twenty–first for Hothir, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

²⁹ the twenty–second for Giddalti, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

³⁰ the twenty–third for Mahazioth, his sons and his brethren, twelve;

³¹ the twenty–fourth for Romamti–Ezer, his sons and his brethren, twelve.

26 ¹ Concerning the divisions of the gatekeepers: of the Korahites,

Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph.

² And the sons of Meshelemiah were Zechariah the firstborn, Jediael the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,

³ Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Eliehoenai the seventh.

⁴ Moreover the sons of Obed—Edom were Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sacar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,

⁵ Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peulthai the eighth; for God blessed him.

⁶ Also to Shemaiah his son were sons born who governed their fathers' houses, because they were men of great ability.

⁷ The sons of Shemaiah were Othni, Rephael, Obed, and Elzabad, whose

brothers Elihu and Semachiah were able men.

⁸ All these were of the sons of Obed–Edom, they and their sons and their brethren, able men with strength for the work: sixty–two of Obed–Edom.

⁹ And Meshelemiah had sons and brethren, eighteen able men.

¹⁰ Also Hosah, of the children of Merari, had sons: Shimri the first (for though he was not the firstborn, his father made him the first),

¹¹ Hilkiyah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth; all the sons and brethren of Hosah were thirteen.

¹² Among these were the divisions of the gatekeepers, among the chief men, having duties just like their brethren, to serve in the house of the LORD.

¹³ And they cast lots for each gate, the small as well as the great, according to their father's house.

¹⁴ The lot for the East Gate fell to Shelemiah. Then they cast lots for his son Zechariah, a wise counselor, and his lot came out for the North Gate;

¹⁵ to Obed—Edom the South Gate, and to his sons the storehouse.

¹⁶ To Shuppim and Hosah the lot came out for the West Gate, with the Shallecheth Gate on the ascending highway—watchman opposite watchman.

¹⁷ On the east were six Levites, on the north four each day, on the south four each day, and for the storehouse two by two.

¹⁸ As for the Parbar on the west, there were four on the highway and two at the Parbar.

¹⁹ These were the divisions of the gatekeepers among the sons of Korah and among the sons of Merari.

²⁰ Of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasuries of the house of God and over the treasuries of the dedicated things.

²¹ The sons of Laadan, the descendants of the Gershonites of Laadan, heads of their fathers' houses, of Laadan the Gershonite: Jehieli.

²² The sons of Jehieli, Zetham and Joel his brother, were over the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

²³ Of the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites:

²⁴ Shebuel the son of Gershom, the son of Moses, was overseer of the treasuries.

²⁵ And his brethren by Eliezer were Rehabiah his son, Jeshaiah his son, Joram his son, Zichri his son, and Shelomith his son.

²⁶ This Shelomith and his brethren were over all the treasuries of the dedicated things which King David and the heads of fathers' houses, the captains over

thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the army, had dedicated.

²⁷ Some of the spoils won in battles they dedicated to maintain the house of the LORD.

²⁸ And all that Samuel the seer, Saul the son of Kish, Abner the son of Ner, and Joab the son of Zeruiah had dedicated, every dedicated thing, was under the hand of Shelomith and his brethren.

²⁹ Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons performed duties as officials and judges over Israel outside Jerusalem.

³⁰ Of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brethren, one thousand seven hundred able men, had the oversight of Israel on the west side of the Jordan for all the business of the LORD, and in the service of the king.

³¹ Among the Hebronites, Jerijah was head of the Hebronites according to his genealogy of the fathers. In the fortieth

year of the reign of David they were sought, and there were found among them capable men at Jazer of Gilead.

³² And his brethren were two thousand seven hundred able men, heads of fathers' houses, whom King David made officials over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, for every matter pertaining to God and the affairs of the king.

27 ¹ And the children of Israel, according to their number, the heads of fathers' houses, the captains of thousands and hundreds and their officers, served the king in every matter of the military divisions. These divisions came in and went out month by month throughout all the months of the year, each division having twenty-four thousand.

² Over the first division for the first month was Jashobeam the son of

Zabdiel, and in his division were twenty-four thousand;

³ he was of the children of Perez, and the chief of all the captains of the army for the first month.

⁴ Over the division of the second month was Dodai an Ahohite, and of his division Mikloth also was the leader; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁵ The third captain of the army for the third month was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, who was chief; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁶ This was the Benaiah who was mighty among the thirty, and was over the thirty; in his division was Ammizabad his son.

⁷ The fourth captain for the fourth month was Asahel the brother of Joab, and Zebadiah his son after him; in his division were twenty-four thousand.

⁸ The fifth captain for the fifth month was Shamhuth the Izrahite; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

⁹ The sixth captain for the sixth month was Ira the son of Ikkesht the Tekoite; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

¹⁰ The seventh captain for the seventh month was Helez the Pelonite, of the children of Ephraim; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

¹¹ The eighth captain for the eighth month was Sibbechai the Hushathite, of the Zarhites; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

¹² The ninth captain for the ninth month was Abiezer the Anathothite, of the Benjamites; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

¹³ The tenth captain for the tenth month was Maharai the Netophathite, of the Zarhites; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

¹⁴ The eleventh captain for the eleventh month was Benaiah the Pirathonite, of the children of Ephraim; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

¹⁵ The twelfth captain for the twelfth month was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel; in his division were twenty–four thousand.

¹⁶ Furthermore, over the tribes of Israel: the officer over the Reubenites was Eliezer the son of Zichri; over the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maachah;

¹⁷ over the Levites, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; over the Aaronites, Zadok;

¹⁸ over Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers; over Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;

¹⁹ over Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; over Naphtali, Jerimoth the son of Azriel;

²⁰ over the children of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Azariah; over the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiah;

²¹ over the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; over Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;

²² over Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.

²³ But David did not take the number of those twenty years old and under, because the LORD had said He would multiply Israel like the stars of the heavens.

²⁴ Joab the son of Zeruiah began a census, but he did not finish, for wrath came upon Israel because of this census; nor was the number recorded in the account of the chronicles of King David.

²⁵ And Azmaveth the son of Adiel was over the king's treasuries; and Jehonathan the son of Uziah was over

the storehouses in the field, in the cities, in the villages, and in the fortresses.

²⁶ Ezri the son of Chelub was over those who did the work of the field for tilling the ground.

²⁷ And Shimei the Ramathite was over the vineyards, and Zabdi the Shiphmite was over the produce of the vineyards for the supply of wine.

²⁸ Baal–Hanan the Gederite was over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the lowlands, and Joash was over the store of oil.

²⁹ And Shitrai the Sharonite was over the herds that fed in Sharon, and Shaphat the son of Adlai was over the herds that were in the valleys.

³⁰ Obil the Ishmaelite was over the camels, Jehdeiah the Meronothite was over the donkeys,

³¹ and Jaziz the Hagrite was over the flocks. All these were the officials over King David's property.

³² Also Jehonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, a wise man, and a scribe; and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni was with the king's sons.

³³ Ahithophel was the king's counselor, and Hushai the Archite was the king's companion.

³⁴ After Ahithophel was Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, then Abiathar. And the general of the king's army was Joab.

28 ¹ Now David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel: the officers of the tribes and the captains of the divisions who served the king, the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, and the stewards over all the substance and possessions of the king and of his sons, with the officials,

the valiant men, and all the mighty men of valor.

² Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it.

³ "But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.'

⁴ "However the LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel.

⁵ "And 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 kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

⁶ "Now He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father.

⁷ 'Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.'

⁸ "Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever.

⁹ "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him

with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

¹⁰ "Consider now, for 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, its houses, its treasuries, its upper chambers, its inner chambers, and the place of the mercy seat;

¹² and the plans for all that he had by the Spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, of all the chambers all around, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries for the dedicated things;

¹³ also for the division of the priests and the Levites, for all the work of the

service of the house of the LORD, and for all the articles of service in the house of the LORD.

¹⁴ He gave gold by weight for things of gold, for all articles used in every kind of service; also silver for all articles of silver by weight, for all articles used in every kind of service;

¹⁵ the weight for the lampstands of gold, and their lamps of gold, by weight for each lampstand and its lamps; for the lampstands of silver by weight, for the lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand.

¹⁶ And by weight he gave gold for the tables of the showbread, for each table, and silver for the tables of silver;

¹⁷ also pure gold for the forks, the basins, the pitchers of pure gold, and the golden bowls—he gave gold by weight for every bowl; and for the silver bowls, silver by weight for every bowl;

¹⁸ and refined gold by weight for the altar of incense, and for the construction of the chariot, that is, the gold cherubim that spread their wings and overshadowed the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

¹⁹ "All this," said David, "the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans."

²⁰ And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God—my God—will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

²¹ "Here are the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and every willing craftsman will be with you for all manner of workmanship, for every

kind of service; also the leaders and all the people will be completely at your command."

29¹ Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God.

² "Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.

³ "Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the

holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver:

⁴ "three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses;

⁵ "the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?"

⁶ Then the leaders of the fathers' houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king's work, offered willingly.

⁷ They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand

talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

⁸ And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.

⁹ Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.

¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: "Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever.

¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all.

¹² Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all.

¹³ "Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name.

¹⁴ But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.

¹⁵ For we are aliens and pilgrims before You, As were all our fathers; Our days on earth are as a shadow, And without hope.

¹⁶ "O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have prepared to build You a house for Your holy name is from Your hand, and is all Your own.

¹⁷ "I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the

uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.

¹⁸ "O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the intent of the thoughts of the heart of Your people, and fix their heart toward You.

¹⁹ "And give my son Solomon a loyal heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your statutes, to do all these things, and to build the temple for which I have made provision."

²⁰ Then David said to all the assembly, "Now bless the LORD your God." So all the assembly blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and prostrated themselves before the LORD and the king.

²¹ And they made sacrifices to the LORD and offered burnt offerings to the LORD

on the next day: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams, a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

²² So they ate and drank before the LORD with great gladness on that day. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him before the LORD to be the leader, and Zadok to be priest.

²³ Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

²⁴ All the leaders and the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David, submitted themselves to King Solomon.

²⁵ So the LORD exalted Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed on him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

²⁶ Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

²⁷ And the period that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years he reigned in Hebron, and thirty–three years he reigned in Jerusalem.

²⁸ So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place.

²⁹ Now the acts of King David, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Samuel the seer, in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the book of Gad the seer,

³⁰ with all his reign and his might, and the events that happened to him, to Israel, and to all the kingdoms of the lands.

2 Chronicles

1 ¹ Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly.

² And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' houses.

³ Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

⁴ But David had brought up the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to the place David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.

⁵ Now the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; Solomon and the assembly sought Him there.

⁶ And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

⁷ On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

⁸ And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place.

⁹ "Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.

¹⁰ "Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come

in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

¹¹ And God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—

¹² "wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like."

¹³ So Solomon came to Jerusalem from the high place that was at Gibeon, from before the tabernacle of meeting, and reigned over Israel.

¹⁴ And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen; he had one thousand four hundred chariots and twelve thousand

horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ Also the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

¹⁶ And Solomon had horses imported from Egypt and Keveh; the king's merchants bought them in Keveh at the current price.

¹⁷ They also acquired and imported from Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for one hundred and fifty; thus, through their agents, they exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

2¹ Then Solomon determined to build a temple for the name of the LORD, and a royal house for himself.

² Solomon selected seventy thousand men to bear burdens, eighty thousand to quarry stone in the mountains, and three thousand six hundred to oversee them.

³ Then Solomon sent to Hiram king of Tyre, saying: As you have dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me.

⁴ Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel.

⁵ And the temple which I build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.

⁶ But who is able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him? Who am I then, that I should build Him a temple, except to burn sacrifice before Him?

⁷ Therefore send me at once a man skillful to work in gold and silver, in bronze and iron, in purple and crimson and blue, who has skill to engrave with the skillful men who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

⁸ Also send me cedar and cypress and algum logs from Lebanon, for I know that your servants have skill to cut timber in Lebanon; and indeed my servants will be with your servants,

⁹ to prepare timber for me in abundance, for the temple which I am about to build shall be great and wonderful.

¹⁰ And indeed I will give to your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, twenty thousand kors of ground wheat, twenty thousand kors of barley, twenty thousand baths of wine, and twenty thousand baths of oil.

¹¹ Then Hiram king of Tyre answered in writing, which he sent to Solomon: Because the LORD loves His people, He has made you king over them.

¹² Hiram also said: Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, for He has given King David a wise son, endowed with prudence and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal house for himself!

¹³ And now I have sent a skillful man, endowed with understanding, Hiram my master craftsman

¹⁴ (the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of

Tyre), skilled to work in gold and silver, bronze and iron, stone and wood, purple and blue, fine linen and crimson, and to make any engraving and to accomplish any plan which may be given to him, with your skillful men and with the skillful men of my lord David your father.

¹⁵ Now therefore, the wheat, the barley, the oil, and the wine which my lord has spoken of, let him send to his servants.

¹⁶ And we will cut wood from Lebanon, as much as you need; we will bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, and you will carry it up to Jerusalem.

¹⁷ Then Solomon numbered all the aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census in which David his father had numbered them; and there were found to be one hundred and fifty-three thousand six hundred.

¹⁸ And he made seventy thousand of them bearers of burdens, eighty

thousand stonecutters in the mountain, and three thousand six hundred overseers to make the people work.

3¹ Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

² And he began to build on the second day of the second month in the fourth year of his reign.

³ This is the foundation which Solomon laid for building the house of God: The length was sixty cubits (by cubits according to the former measure) and the width twenty cubits.

⁴ And the vestibule that was in front of the sanctuary was twenty cubits long across the width of the house, and the height was one hundred and twenty. He overlaid the inside with pure gold.

⁵ The larger room he paneled with cypress which he overlaid with fine gold, and he carved palm trees and chainwork on it.

⁶ And he decorated the house with precious stones for beauty, and the gold was gold from Parvaim.

⁷ He also overlaid the house—the beams and doorposts, its walls and doors—with gold; and he carved cherubim on the walls.

⁸ And he made the Most Holy Place. Its length was according to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and its width twenty cubits. He overlaid it with six hundred talents of fine gold.

⁹ The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold; and he overlaid the upper area with gold.

¹⁰ In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim, fashioned by carving, and overlaid them with gold.

¹¹ The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits in overall length: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub;

¹² one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub.

¹³ The wings of these cherubim spanned twenty cubits overall. They stood on their feet, and they faced inward.

¹⁴ And he made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it.

¹⁵ Also he made in front of the temple two pillars thirty–five cubits high, and the capital that was on the top of each of them was five cubits.

¹⁶ He made wreaths of chainwork, as in the inner sanctuary, and put them on top of the pillars; and he made one hundred pomegranates, and put them on the wreaths of chainwork.

¹⁷ Then he set up the pillars before the temple, one on the right hand and the other on the left; he called the name of the one on the right hand Jachin, and the name of the one on the left Boaz.

4 ¹ Moreover he made a bronze altar: twenty cubits was its length, twenty cubits its width, and ten cubits its height.

² Then he made the Sea of cast bronze, ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round. Its height was five cubits, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

³ And under it was the likeness of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit, all the way around the Sea. The oxen were cast in two rows, when it was cast.

⁴ It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea was set upon them, and all their back parts pointed inward.

⁵ It was a handbreadth thick; and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, like a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths.

⁶ He also made ten lavers, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash in them; such things as they offered for the burnt offering they would wash in them, but the Sea was for the priests to wash in.

⁷ And he made ten lampstands of gold according to their design, and set them in the temple, five on the right side and five on the left.

⁸ He also made ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right side

and five on the left. And he made one hundred bowls of gold.

⁹ Furthermore he made the court of the priests, and the great court and doors for the court; and he overlaid these doors with bronze.

¹⁰ He set the Sea on the right side, toward the southeast.

¹¹ Then Hiram made the pots and the shovels and the bowls. So Hiram finished doing the work that he was to do for King Solomon for the house of God:

¹² the two pillars and the bowl-shaped capitals that were on top of the two pillars; the two networks covering the two bowl-shaped capitals which were on top of the pillars;

¹³ four hundred pomegranates for the two networks (two rows of pomegranates for each network, to

cover the two bowl-shaped capitals that were on the pillars);

¹⁴ he also made carts and the lavers on the carts;

¹⁵ one Sea and twelve oxen under it;

¹⁶ also the pots, the shovels, the forks—and all their articles Hiram his master craftsman made of burnished bronze for King Solomon for the house of the LORD.

¹⁷ In the plain of Jordan the king had them cast in clay molds, between Succoth and Zeredah.

¹⁸ And Solomon had all these articles made in such great abundance that the weight of the bronze was not determined.

¹⁹ Thus Solomon had all the furnishings made for the house of God: the altar of gold and the tables on which was the showbread;

²⁰ the lampstands with their lamps of pure gold, to burn in the prescribed manner in front of the inner sanctuary,

²¹ with the flowers and the lamps and the wick–trimmers of gold, of purest gold;

²² the trimmers, the bowls, the ladles, and the censers of pure gold. As for the entry of the sanctuary, its inner doors to the Most Holy Place, and the doors of the main hall of the temple, were gold.

5 ¹ So all the work that Solomon had done for the house of the LORD was finished; and Solomon brought in the things which his father David had dedicated: the silver and the gold and all the furnishings. And he put them in the treasuries of the house of God.

² Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the

ark of the covenant of the LORD up from the City of David, which is Zion.

³ Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast, which was in the seventh month.

⁴ So all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark.

⁵ Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up.

⁶ Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude.

⁷ Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.

⁸ For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.

⁹ And the poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

¹⁰ Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they had come out of Egypt.

¹¹ And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions),

¹² and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and

Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets—

¹³ indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever," that the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

¹⁴ so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

6¹ Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud.

² I have surely built You an exalted house, And a place for You to dwell in forever."

³ Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing.

⁴ And he said: "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who has fulfilled with His hands what He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying,

⁵ 'Since the day that I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel.

⁶ 'Yet I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may 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 "But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart.

⁹ 'Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.'

¹⁰ "So the LORD has fulfilled His word which He spoke, and I have filled the position of my father David, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised; and I have built the temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel.

¹¹ "And there I have put the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD which He made with the children of Israel."

¹² Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands

¹³ (for Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven);

¹⁴ and he said: "LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

¹⁵ "You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and

fulfilled it with Your hand, as it is this day.

¹⁶ "Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk in My law as you have walked before Me.'

¹⁷ "And now, O LORD God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David.

¹⁸ "But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!

¹⁹ "Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You:

²⁰ "that Your eyes may be open toward this temple day and night, toward the place where You said You would put Your name, that You may hear the prayer which Your servant prays toward this place.

²¹ "And may You hear the supplications of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and when You hear, forgive.

²² "If anyone sins against his neighbor, and is forced to take an oath, and comes and takes an oath before Your altar in this temple,

²³ "then hear from heaven, and act, and judge Your servants, bringing retribution on the wicked by bringing his way on his own head, and justifying the righteous by giving him according to his righteousness.

²⁴ "Or if Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You in this temple,

²⁵ "then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of Your people Israel, and bring them back to the land which You gave to them and their fathers.

²⁶ "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them,

²⁷ "then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance.

²⁸ "When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts

or grasshoppers; when their enemies besiege them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is;

²⁹ "whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel, when each one knows his own burden and his own grief, and spreads out his hands to this temple:

³⁰ "then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of the sons of men),

³¹ "that they may fear You, to walk in Your ways as long as they live in the land which You gave to our fathers.

³² "Moreover, concerning a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, but who comes from a far country for the sake of Your great name and Your mighty hand

and Your outstretched arm, when they come and pray in this temple;

³³ "then hear from heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, that all peoples of the earth may know Your name and fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this temple which I have built is called by Your name.

³⁴ "When Your people go out to battle against their enemies, wherever You send them, and when they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the temple which I have built for Your name,

³⁵ "then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause.

³⁶ "When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver

them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near;

³⁷ "yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness';

³⁸ "and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name:

³⁹ "then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.

⁴⁰ "Now, my God, I pray, let Your eyes be open and let Your ears be attentive to the prayer made in this place.

⁴¹ "Now therefore, Arise, O LORD God, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength. Let Your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, And let Your saints rejoice in goodness.

⁴² "O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed; Remember the mercies of Your servant David."

7¹ When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

² And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house.

³ When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they

bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.

⁵ King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

⁶ And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the LORD, which King David had made to praise the LORD, saying, "For His mercy endures forever," whenever David offered praise by their ministry. The priests sounded trumpets opposite them, while all Israel stood.

⁷ Furthermore Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was in front

of the house of the LORD; for there he offered burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, and the fat.

⁸ At that time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly from the entrance of Hamath to the Brook of Egypt.

⁹ And on the eighth day they held a sacred assembly, for they observed the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

¹⁰ On the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people away to their tents, joyful and glad of heart for the good that the LORD had done for David, for Solomon, and for His people Israel.

¹¹ Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house; and

Solomon successfully accomplished all that came into his heart to make in the house of the LORD and in his own house.

¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

¹³ "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

¹⁴ "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

¹⁵ "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

¹⁶ "For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there

forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

¹⁷ "As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments,

¹⁸ "then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man as ruler in Israel.'

¹⁹ "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them,

²⁰ "then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

²¹ "And as for this house, which is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and this house?'

²² "Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.'"

8 ¹ It came to pass at the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the house of the LORD and his own house,

² that the cities which Hiram had given to Solomon, Solomon built them; and he settled the children of Israel there.

³ And Solomon went to Hamath Zobah and seized it.

⁴ He also built Tadmor in the wilderness, and all the storage cities which he built in Hamath.

⁵ He built Upper Beth Horon and Lower Beth Horon, fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars,

⁶ also Baalath and all the storage cities that Solomon had, and all the chariot cities and the cities of the cavalry, and all that Solomon desired to build in Jerusalem, in Lebanon, and in all the land of his dominion.

⁷ All the people who were left of the Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, who were not of Israel—

⁸ that is, their descendants who were left in the land after them, whom the children of Israel did not destroy—from these Solomon raised forced labor, as it is to this day.

⁹ But Solomon did not make the children of Israel servants for his work.

Some were men of war, captains of his officers, captains of his chariots, and his cavalry.

¹⁰ And others were chiefs of the officials of King Solomon: two hundred and fifty, who ruled over the people.

¹¹ Now Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh up from the City of David to the house he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places to which the ark of the LORD has come are holy."

¹² Then Solomon offered burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD which he had built before the vestibule,

¹³ according to the daily rate, offering according to the commandment of Moses, for the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the three appointed yearly feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread,

the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

¹⁴ And, according to the order of David his father, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their service, the Levites for their duties (to praise and serve before the priests) as the duty of each day required, and the gatekeepers by their divisions at each gate; for so David the man of God had commanded.

¹⁵ They did not depart from the command of the king to the priests and Levites concerning any matter or concerning the treasuries.

¹⁶ Now all the work of Solomon was well-ordered from the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was completed.

¹⁷ Then Solomon went to Ezion Geber and Elath on the seacoast, in the land of Edom.

¹⁸ And Hiram sent him ships by the hand of his servants, and servants who knew the sea. They went with the servants of Solomon to Ophir, and acquired four hundred and fifty talents of gold from there, and brought it to King Solomon.

9 ¹ Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test Solomon with hard questions, having a very great retinue, camels that bore spices, gold in abundance, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.

² So Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing so difficult for Solomon that he could not explain it to her.

³ And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

⁴ the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

⁵ Then she said to the king: "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

⁶ "However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard.

⁷ "Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

⁸ "Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on His throne to be king for the LORD your God! Because your God has loved Israel,

to establish them forever, therefore He made you king over them, to do justice and righteousness."

⁹ And she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, spices in great abundance, and precious stones; there never were any spices such as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹⁰ Also, the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon, who brought gold from Ophir, brought algum wood and precious stones.

¹¹ And the king made walkways of the algum wood for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also harps and stringed instruments for singers; and there were none such as these seen before in the land of Judah.

¹² Now King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all she desired, whatever she asked, much more than she had brought

to the king. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

¹³ The weight of gold that came to Solomon yearly was six hundred and sixty–six talents of gold,

¹⁴ besides what the traveling merchants and traders brought. And all the kings of Arabia and governors of the country brought gold and silver to Solomon.

¹⁵ And King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of hammered gold went into each shield.

¹⁶ He also made three hundred shields of hammered gold; three hundred shekels of gold went into each shield. The king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷ Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with pure gold.

¹⁸ The throne had six steps, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne; there were armrests on either side of the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the armrests.

¹⁹ Twelve lions stood there, one on each side of the six steps; nothing like this had been made for any other kingdom.

²⁰ All King Solomon's drinking vessels were gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were pure gold. Not one was silver, for this was accounted as nothing in the days of Solomon.

²¹ For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came, bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys.

²² So King Solomon surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.

²³ And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

²⁴ Each man brought his present: articles of silver and gold, garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules, at a set rate year by year.

²⁵ Solomon had four thousand stalls for horses and chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king at Jerusalem.

²⁶ So he reigned over all the kings from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.

²⁷ The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedar trees as abundant as the sycamores which are in the lowland.

²⁸ And they brought horses to Solomon from Egypt and from all lands.

²⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

³⁰ Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel forty years.

³¹ Then Solomon rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

10 ¹ And Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had gone to Shechem to make him king.

² So it happened, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard it (he was in Egypt, where he had fled from the presence of King Solomon), that Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

³ Then they sent for him and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and spoke to Rehoboam, saying,

⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you."

⁵ So he said to them, "Come back to me after three days." And the people departed.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, saying, "How do you advise me to answer these people?"

⁷ And they spoke to him, saying, "If you are kind to these people, and please them, and speak good words to them, they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the

young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

⁹ And he said to them, "What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, 'Lighten the yoke which your father put on us'?"

¹⁰ Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, "Thus you should speak to the people who have spoken to you, saying, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make it lighter on us' —thus you shall say to them: 'My little finger shall be thicker than my father's waist!

¹¹ 'And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!'"

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the

king had directed, saying, "Come back to me the third day."

¹³ Then the king answered them roughly. King Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders,

¹⁴ and he spoke to them according to the advice of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!"

¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people; for the turn of events was from God, that the LORD might fulfill His word, which He had spoken by the hand of Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶ Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Every

man to your tents, O Israel! Now see to your own house, O David!" So all Israel departed to their tents.

¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was in charge of revenue; but the children of Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

11 ¹ Now when Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled from the house of Judah and Benjamin one hundred and eighty thousand chosen men who were warriors, to fight against Israel, that he might restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

² But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God, saying,

³ "Speak to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin, saying,

⁴ 'Thus says the LORD: "You shall not go up or fight against your brethren! Let every man return to his house, for this thing is from Me.'" Therefore they obeyed the words of the LORD, and turned back from attacking Jeroboam.

⁵ So Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defense in Judah.

⁶ And he built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

⁷ Beth Zur, Sochoh, Adullam,

⁸ Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

⁹ Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

¹⁰ Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and Benjamin, fortified cities.

¹¹ And he fortified the strongholds, and put captains in them, and stores of food, oil, and wine.

¹² Also in every city he put shields and spears, and made them very strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side.

¹³ And from all their territories the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel took their stand with him.

¹⁴ For the Levites left their common-lands and their possessions and came to Judah and Jerusalem, for Jeroboam and his sons had rejected them from serving as priests to the LORD.

¹⁵ Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the demons, and the calf idols which he had made.

¹⁶ And after the Levites left, those from all the tribes of Israel, such as set their heart to seek the LORD God of Israel, came to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD God of their fathers.

¹⁷ So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and made Rehoboam the son of Solomon strong for three years, because they walked in the way of David and Solomon for three years.

¹⁸ Then Rehoboam took for himself as wife Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David, and of Abihail the daughter of Eliah the son of Jesse.

¹⁹ And she bore him children: Jeush, Shamariah, and Zaham.

²⁰ After her he took Maacah the granddaughter of Absalom; and she bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.

²¹ Now Rehoboam loved Maachah the granddaughter of Absalom more than all his wives and his concubines; for he took eighteen wives and sixty concubines, and begot twenty–eight sons and sixty daughters.

²² And Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maachah as chief, to be leader

among his brothers; for he intended to make him king.

²³ He dealt wisely, and dispersed some of his sons throughout all the territories of Judah and Benjamin, to every fortified city; and he gave them provisions in abundance. He also sought many wives for them.

12 ¹ Now it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom and had strengthened himself, that he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel along with him.

² And it happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, because they had transgressed against the LORD,

³ with twelve hundred chariots, sixty thousand horsemen, and people without number who came with him out of

Egypt—the Lubim and the Sukkiim and the Ethiopians.

⁴ And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came to Jerusalem.

⁵ Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and the leaders of Judah, who were gathered together in Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, "Thus says the LORD: 'You have forsaken Me, and therefore I also have left you in the hand of Shishak.'"

⁶ So the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves; and they said, "The LORD is righteous."

⁷ Now when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, "They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance. My wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

⁸ "Nevertheless they will be his servants, that they may distinguish My service from the service of the kingdoms of the nations."

⁹ So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house; he took everything. He also carried away the gold shields which Solomon had made.

¹⁰ Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and committed them to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king's house.

¹¹ And whenever the king entered the house of the LORD, the guard would go and bring them out; then they would take them back into the guardroom.

¹² When he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, so as not

to destroy him completely; and things also went well in Judah.

¹³ Thus Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. Now Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king; and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put His name there. His mother's name was Naamah, an Ammonitess.

¹⁴ And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the LORD.

¹⁵ The acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all their days.

¹⁶ So Rehoboam rested with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David. Then Abijah his son reigned in his place.

13 ¹ In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah became king over Judah.

² He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

³ Abijah set the battle in order with an army of valiant warriors, four hundred thousand choice men. Jeroboam also drew up in battle formation against him with eight hundred thousand choice men, mighty men of valor.

⁴ Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, and said, "Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel:

⁵ "Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?

⁶ "Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his lord.

⁷ "Then worthless rogues gathered to him, and strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and inexperienced and could not withstand them.

⁸ "And now you think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD, which is in the hand of the sons of David; and you are a great multitude, and with you are the gold calves which Jeroboam made for you as gods.

⁹ "Have you not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made for yourselves priests, like the peoples of other lands, so that whoever comes to consecrate himself with a young bull and seven rams may be a priest of things that are not gods?

¹⁰ "But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken Him; and the priests who minister to the LORD are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites attend to their duties.

¹¹ "And they burn to the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense; they also set the showbread in order on the pure gold table, and the lampstand of gold with its lamps to burn every evening; for we keep the command of the LORD our God, but you have forsaken Him.

¹² "Now look, God Himself is with us as our head, and His priests with sounding trumpets to sound the alarm against you. O children of Israel, do not fight against the LORD God of your fathers, for you shall not prosper!"

¹³ But Jeroboam caused an ambush to go around behind them; so they were

in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.

¹⁴ And when Judah looked around, to their surprise the battle line was at both front and rear; and they cried out to the LORD, and the priests sounded the trumpets.

¹⁵ Then the men of Judah gave a shout; and as the men of Judah shouted, it happened that God struck Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶ And the children of Israel fled before Judah, and God delivered them into their hand.

¹⁷ Then Abijah and his people struck them with a great slaughter; so five hundred thousand choice men of Israel fell slain.

¹⁸ Thus the children of Israel were subdued at that time; and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD God of their fathers.

¹⁹ And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him: Bethel with its villages, Jeshanah with its villages, and Ephraim with its villages.

²⁰ So Jeroboam did not recover strength again in the days of Abijah; and the LORD struck him, and he died.

²¹ But Abijah grew mighty, married fourteen wives, and begot twenty–two sons and sixteen daughters.

²² Now the rest of the acts of Abijah, his ways, and his sayings are written in the annals of the prophet Iddo.

14 ¹ So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.

² Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God,

³ for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and

broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images.

⁴ He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.

⁵ He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.

⁶ And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because the LORD had given him rest.

⁷ Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us, because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

⁸ And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields

and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor.

⁹ Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.

¹⁰ So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

¹¹ And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"

¹² So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

¹³ And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the LORD and His army. And they carried away very much spoil.

¹⁴ Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.

¹⁵ They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

15 ¹ Now the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded.

² And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him: "Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He

will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

³ "For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law;

⁴ "but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.

⁵ "And in those times there was no peace to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, but great turmoil was on all the inhabitants of the lands.

⁶ "So nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity.

⁷ "But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"

⁸ And when Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and removed the abominable idols from all the land of

Judah and Benjamin and from the cities which he had taken in the mountains of Ephraim; and he restored the altar of the LORD that was before the vestibule of the LORD.

⁹ Then he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those who dwelt with them from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon, for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

¹⁰ So they gathered together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

¹¹ And they offered to the LORD at that time seven hundred bulls and seven thousand sheep from the spoil they had brought.

¹² Then they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

¹³ and whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel was to be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

¹⁴ Then they took an oath before the LORD with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams' horns.

¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.

¹⁶ Also he removed Maachah, the mother of Asa the king, from being queen mother, because she had made an obscene image of Asherah; and Asa cut down her obscene image, then crushed and burned it by the Brook Kidron.

¹⁷ But the high places were not removed from Israel. Nevertheless the heart of Asa was loyal all his days.

¹⁸ He also brought into the house of God the things that his father had dedicated and that he himself had dedicated: silver and gold and utensils.

¹⁹ And there was no war until the thirty–fifth year of the reign of Asa.

16 ¹ In the thirty–sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

² Then Asa brought silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king’s house, and sent to Ben–Hadad king of Syria, who dwelt in Damascus, saying,

³ "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as there was between my father and your father. Here, I have sent you silver and gold; come, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel, so that he will withdraw from me."

⁴ So Ben–Hadad heeded King Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel. They attacked Ijon, Dan, Abel Maim, and all the storage cities of Naphtali.

⁵ Now it happened, when Baasha heard it, that he stopped building Ramah and ceased his work.

⁶ Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones and timber of Ramah, which Baasha had used for building; and with them he built Geba and Mizpah.

⁷ And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand.

⁸ "Were the Ethiopians and the Lubim not a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied

on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand.

⁹ "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

¹⁰ Then Asa was angry with the seer, and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time.

¹¹ Note that the acts of Asa, first and last, are indeed written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

¹² And in the thirty–ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians.

¹³ So Asa rested with his fathers; he died in the forty–first year of his reign.

¹⁴ They buried him in his own tomb, which he had made for himself in the City of David; and they laid him in the bed which was filled with spices and various ingredients prepared in a mixture of ointments. They made a very great burning for him.

17 ¹ Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel.

² And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken.

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 in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel.

⁵ Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance.

⁶ And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah.

⁷ Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah.

⁸ And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah—the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests.

⁹ So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.

¹⁰ And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat.

¹¹ Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver as tribute; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats.

¹² So Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah.

¹³ He had much property in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ These are their numbers, according to their fathers' houses. Of Judah,

the captains of thousands: Adnah the captain, and with him three hundred thousand mighty men of valor;

¹⁵ and next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and eighty thousand;

¹⁶ and next to him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself to the LORD, and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valor.

¹⁷ Of Benjamin: Eliada a mighty man of valor, and with him two hundred thousand men armed with bow and shield;

¹⁸ and next to him was Jehozabad, and with him one hundred and eighty thousand prepared for war.

¹⁹ These served the king, besides those the king put in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

18 ¹ Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab.

² After some years he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria; and Ahab killed sheep and oxen in abundance for him and the people who were with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramoth Gilead.

³ So Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?" And he answered him, "I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war."

⁴ And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the LORD today."

⁵ Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I

refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for God will deliver it into the king's hand."

⁶ But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?"

⁷ So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD; but I hate him, because he never prophesies good concerning me, but always evil. He is Micaiah the son of Imla." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

⁸ Then the king of Israel called one of his officers and said, "Bring Micaiah the son of Imla quickly!"

⁹ The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah, clothed in their robes, sat each on his throne; and they sat at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

¹⁰ Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'With these you shall gore the Syrians until they are destroyed.'"

¹¹ And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for the LORD will deliver it into the king's hand."

¹² Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Therefore please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."

¹³ And Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, whatever my God says, that I will speak."

¹⁴ Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?" And he said, "Go and prosper,

and they shall be delivered into your hand!"

¹⁵ So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁶ Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace.'"

¹⁷ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

¹⁸ Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left.

¹⁹ "And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab king of Israel to go up,

that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.

²⁰ "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' The LORD said to him, 'In what way?'

²¹ "So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so.'

²² "Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

²³ Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go from me to speak to you?"

²⁴ And Micaiah said, "Indeed you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!"

²⁵ Then the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son;

²⁶ "and say, 'Thus says the king: "Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction until I return in peace.'"

²⁷ Then Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!"

²⁸ So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

²⁹ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your

robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle.

³⁰ Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots who were with him, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel."

³¹ So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "It is the king of Israel!" Therefore they surrounded him to attack; but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him, and God diverted them from him.

³² For so it was, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

³³ Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn

around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

³⁴ The battle increased that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening; and about the time of sunset he died.

19 ¹ Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned safely to his house in Jerusalem.

² And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.

³ "Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God."

⁴ So Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem; and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the mountains of

Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD God of their fathers.

⁵ Then he set judges in the land throughout all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city,

⁶ and said to the judges, "Take heed to what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment.

⁷ "Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes."

⁸ Moreover in Jerusalem, for the judgment of the LORD and for controversies, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the chief fathers of Israel, when they returned to Jerusalem.

⁹ And he commanded them, saying, "Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart:

¹⁰ "Whatever case comes to you from your brethren who dwell in their cities, whether of bloodshed or offenses against law or commandment, against statutes or ordinances, you shall warn them, lest they trespass against the LORD and wrath come upon you and your brethren. Do this, and you will not be guilty.

¹¹ "And take notice: Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters; also the Levites will be officials before you. Behave courageously, and the LORD will be with the good."

20¹ It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

² Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).

³ And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

⁴ So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

⁶ and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?"

⁷ "Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

⁸ "And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

⁹ 'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

¹⁰ "And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—

¹¹ "here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your

possession which You have given us to inherit.

¹² "O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

¹³ Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the LORD.

¹⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

¹⁵ And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

¹⁶ 'Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

¹⁷ 'You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you."

¹⁸ And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

¹⁹ Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with voices loud and high.

²⁰ So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa;

and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper."

²¹ And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

²² Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated.

²³ For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end

of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴ So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

²⁵ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much.

²⁶ And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day.

²⁷ Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

²⁸ So they came to Jerusalem, with stringed instruments and harps and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

²⁹ And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

³⁰ Then the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

³¹ So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. He was thirty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty–five years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

³² And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from

it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD.

³³ Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.

³⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, indeed they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

³⁵ After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly.

³⁶ And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber.

³⁷ But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has destroyed your works." Then the

ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

21 ¹ And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

² He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azaryahu, Michael, and Shephatiah; all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.

³ Their father gave them great gifts of silver and gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn.

⁴ Now when Jehoram was established over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself and killed all his brothers with the sword, and also others of the princes of Israel.

⁵ Jehoram was thirty–two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

⁶ And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for he had the daughter of Ahab as a wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

⁷ Yet the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

⁸ In his days the Edomites revolted against Judah's authority, and made a king over themselves.

⁹ So Jehoram went out with his officers, and all his chariots with him. And he rose by night and attacked the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots.

¹⁰ Thus Edom has been in revolt against Judah's authority to this day. At that time Libnah revolted against his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers.

¹¹ Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit harlotry, and led Judah astray.

¹² And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus says the LORD God of your father David: Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah,

¹³ but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot like the harlotry of the house of Ahab, and also have killed your brothers, those of your father's household, who were better than yourself,

¹⁴ behold, the LORD will strike your people with a serious affliction—your children, your wives, and all your possessions;

¹⁵ and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines, until your intestines come out by reason of the sickness, day by day.

¹⁶ Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabians who were near the Ethiopians.

¹⁷ And they came up into Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions that were found in the king's house, and also his sons and his wives, so that there was not a son left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

¹⁸ After all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease.

¹⁹ Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning for his fathers.

²⁰ He was thirty–two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one’s sorrow, departed. However they buried him 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, for the raiders who came with the Arabians into the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, reigned.

² Ahaziah was forty–two years old when he became king, and he reigned one

year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri.

³ He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do wickedly.

⁴ Therefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD, like the house of Ahab; for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction.

⁵ He also followed their advice, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth Gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

⁶ Then he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which he had received at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Azariah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.

⁷ His going to Joram was God's occasion for Ahaziah's downfall; for when he arrived, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.

⁸ And it happened, when Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who served Ahaziah, that he killed them.

⁹ Then he searched for Ahaziah; and they caught him (he was hiding in Samaria), and brought him to Jehu. When they had killed him, they buried him, "because," they said, "he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So the house of Ahaziah had no one to assume power over the kingdom.

¹⁰ Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she

arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.

¹¹ But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered, and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him.

¹² And he was hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

23 ¹ In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and made a covenant with the captains of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri.

² And they went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the chief fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

³ Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD has said of the sons of David.

⁴ "This is what you shall do: One-third of you entering on the Sabbath, of the priests and the Levites, shall be keeping watch over the doors;

⁵ "one-third shall be at the king's house; and one-third at the Gate of the Foundation. All the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶ "But let no one come into the house of the LORD except the priests and those of the Levites who serve. They may go in, for they are holy; but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD.

⁷ "And the Levites shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes into the house, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out."

⁸ So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. And each man took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest had not dismissed the divisions.

⁹ And Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of God.

¹⁰ Then he set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side

of the temple, along by the altar and by the temple, all around the king.

¹¹ And they brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the Testimony, and made him king. Then Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, "Long live the king!"

¹² Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD.

¹³ When she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, also the singers with musical instruments, and those who led in praise. So Athaliah tore her clothes and said, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁴ And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, "Take

her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not kill her in the house of the LORD."

¹⁵ So they seized her; and she went by way of the entrance of the Horse Gate into the king's house, and they killed her there.

¹⁶ Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.

¹⁷ And all the people went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

¹⁸ Also Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to the hand of the priests, the Levites, whom David had assigned in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings

of the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was established by David.

¹⁹ And he set the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD, so that no one who was in any way unclean should enter.

²⁰ Then he took the captains of hundreds, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought the king down from the house of the LORD; and they went through the Upper Gate to the king's house, and set the king on the throne of the kingdom.

²¹ So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

24 ¹ Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

² Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

³ And Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he had sons and daughters.

⁴ Now it happened after this that Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD.

⁵ Then he gathered the priests and the Levites, and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah, and gather from all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that you do it quickly." However the Levites did not do it quickly.

⁶ So the king called Jehoiada the chief priest, and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD and of

the assembly of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?"

⁷ For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also presented all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD to the Baals.

⁸ Then at the king's command they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of the house of the LORD.

⁹ And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God had imposed on Israel in the wilderness.

¹⁰ Then all the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought their contributions, and put them into the chest until all had given.

¹¹ So it was, at that time, when the chest was brought to the king's official by the hand of the Levites, and when they

saw that there was much money, that the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it and returned it to its place. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

¹² The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also those who worked in iron and bronze to restore the house of the LORD.

¹³ So the workmen labored, and the work was completed by them; they restored the house of God to its original condition and reinforced it.

¹⁴ When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; they made from it articles for the house of the LORD, articles for serving and offering, spoons

and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

¹⁵ But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died.

¹⁶ And they buried him in the City of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.

¹⁷ Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them.

¹⁸ Therefore they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass.

¹⁹ Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they

testified against them, but they would not listen.

²⁰ Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God: 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.'"

²¹ So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD.

²² Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, "The LORD look on it, and repay!"

²³ So it happened in the spring of the year that the army of Syria came up against him; and they came to Judah and

Jerusalem, and destroyed all the leaders of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.

²⁴ For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the LORD delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

²⁵ And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. 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 These are the ones who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath

the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabites.

²⁷ Now concerning his sons, and the many oracles about him, and the repairing of the house of God, indeed they are written in the annals of the book of the kings. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

25 ¹ Amaziah was twenty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty–nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem.

² And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a loyal heart.

³ Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established for him, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

⁴ However he did not execute their children, but did as it is written in the Law in the Book of Moses, where the

LORD commanded, saying, "The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall die for his own sin."

⁵ Moreover Amaziah gathered Judah together and set over them captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, according to their fathers' houses, throughout all Judah and Benjamin; and he numbered them from twenty years old and above, and found them to be three hundred thousand choice men, able to go to war, who could handle spear and shield.

⁶ He also hired one hundred thousand mighty men of valor from Israel for one hundred talents of silver.

⁷ But a man of God came to him, saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with

Israel—not with any of the children of Ephraim.

⁸ "But if you go, be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, God shall make you fall before the enemy; for God has power to help and to overthrow."

⁹ Then Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this."

¹⁰ So Amaziah discharged the troops that had come to him from Ephraim, to go back home. Therefore their anger was greatly aroused against Judah, and they returned home in great anger.

¹¹ Then Amaziah strengthened himself, and leading his people, he went to the Valley of Salt and killed ten thousand of the people of Seir.

¹² Also the children of Judah took captive ten thousand alive, brought them to the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, so that they all were dashed in pieces.

¹³ But as for the soldiers of the army which Amaziah had discharged, so that they would not go with him to battle, they raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon, killed three thousand in them, and took much spoil.

¹⁴ Now it was so, after Amaziah came from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the people of Seir, set them up to be his gods, and bowed down before them and burned incense to them.

¹⁵ Therefore the anger of the LORD was aroused against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people,

which could not rescue their own people from your hand?"

¹⁶ So it was, as he talked with him, that the king said to him, "Have we made you the king's counselor? Cease! Why should you be killed?" Then the prophet ceased, and said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not heeded my advice."

¹⁷ Now Amaziah king of Judah asked advice and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face one another in battle."

¹⁸ And Joash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as wife'; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle.

¹⁹ "Indeed you say that you have defeated the Edomites, and your heart is lifted up to boast. Stay at home now; why should you meddle with trouble, that you should fall—you and Judah with you?"

²⁰ But Amaziah would not heed, for it came from God, that He might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they sought the gods of Edom.

²¹ So Joash king of Israel went out; and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

²² And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent.

²³ Then Joash the king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, the son of Jehoahaz, at Beth Shemesh; and he brought him to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from

the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—four hundred cubits.

²⁴ And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of God with Obed–Edom, the treasures of the king’s house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.

²⁵ Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

²⁶ Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, from first to last, indeed are they not written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel?

²⁷ After the time that Amaziah turned away from following the LORD, they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there.

²⁸ Then they brought him on horses and buried him with his fathers in the City of Judah.

26 ¹ Now all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

² He built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers.

³ Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty–two years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Jecholiah of Jerusalem.

⁴ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

⁵ He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

⁶ Now he went out and made war against the Philistines, and broke down

the wall of Gath, the wall of Jabneh, and the wall of Ashdod; and he built cities around Ashdod and among the Philistines.

⁷ God helped him against the Philistines, against the Arabians who lived in Gur Baal, and against the Meunites.

⁸ Also the Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah. His fame spread as far as the entrance of Egypt, for he became exceedingly strong.

⁹ And Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate, and at the corner buttress of the wall; then he fortified them.

¹⁰ Also he built towers in the desert. He dug many wells, for he had much livestock, both in the lowlands and in the plains; he also had farmers and vinedressers in the mountains and in Carmel, for he loved the soil.

¹¹ Moreover Uzziah had an army of fighting men who went out to war by companies, according to the number on their roll as prepared by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer, under the hand of Hananiah, one of the king's captains.

¹² The total number of chief officers of the mighty men of valor was two thousand six hundred.

¹³ And under their authority was an army of three hundred and seven thousand five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.

¹⁴ Then Uzziah prepared for them, for the entire army, shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings to cast stones.

¹⁵ And he made devices in Jerusalem, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows

and large stones. So his fame spread far and wide, for he was marvelously helped till he became strong.

¹⁶ But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

¹⁷ So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD—valiant men.

¹⁸ And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God."

¹⁹ Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with

the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar.

²⁰ And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him.

²¹ King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

²² Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz wrote.

²³ So Uzziah rested with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the

kings, for they said, "He is a leper." Then Jotham his son reigned in his place.

27 ¹ Jotham was twenty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok.

² And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done (although he did not enter the temple of the LORD). But still the people acted corruptly.

³ He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD, and he built extensively on the wall of Ophel.

⁴ Moreover he built cities in the mountains of Judah, and in the forests he built fortresses and towers.

⁵ He also fought with the king of the Ammonites and defeated them. And the people of Ammon gave him in that year one hundred talents of silver,

ten thousand kors of wheat, and ten thousand of barley. The people of Ammon paid this to him in the second and third years also.

⁶ So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.

⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars and his ways, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

⁸ He was twenty–five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.

⁹ So Jotham rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

28 ¹ Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD, as his father David had done.

² For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals.

³ He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

⁴ And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

⁵ Therefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. They defeated him, and carried away a great multitude of them as captives, and brought them to Damascus. Then he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who defeated him with a great slaughter.

⁶ For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed one hundred and twenty thousand

in Judah in one day, all valiant men, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.

⁷ Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the officer over the house, and Elkanah who was second to the king.

⁸ And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand women, sons, and daughters; and they also took away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria.

⁹ But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them: "Look, because the LORD God of your fathers was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand; but you have killed them in a rage that reaches up to heaven.

¹⁰ "And now you propose to force the children of Judah and Jerusalem to be

your male and female slaves; but are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?

¹¹ "Now hear me, therefore, and return the captives, whom you have taken captive from your brethren, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you."

¹² Then some of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war,

¹³ and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives here, for we already have offended the LORD. You intend to add to our sins and to our guilt; for our guilt is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel."

¹⁴ So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the leaders and all the assembly.

¹⁵ Then the men who were designated by name rose up and took the captives, and from the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them, dressed them and gave them sandals, gave them food and drink, and anointed them; and they let all the feeble ones ride on donkeys. So they brought them to their brethren at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

¹⁶ At the same time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria to help him.

¹⁷ For again the Edomites had come, attacked Judah, and carried away captives.

¹⁸ The Philistines also had invaded the cities of the lowland and of the South of Judah, and had taken Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Sochoh with its

villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages; and they dwelt there.

¹⁹ For the LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD.

²⁰ Also Tiglath–Pileser king of Assyria came to him and distressed him, and did not assist him.

²¹ For Ahaz took part of the treasures from the house of the LORD, from the house of the king, and from the leaders, and he gave it to the king of Assyria; but he did not help him.

²² Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. This is that King Ahaz.

²³ For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, "Because the gods of the kings of

Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel.

²⁴ So Ahaz gathered the articles of the house of God, cut in pieces the articles of the house of God, shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and made for himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

²⁵ And in every single city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.

²⁶ Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷ So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem; but they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

29¹ Hezekiah became king when he was twenty–five years old, and he reigned twenty–nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Abijah the daughter of Zechariah.

² And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father David had done.

³ In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them.

⁴ Then he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them in the East Square,

⁵ and said to them: "Hear me, Levites! Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry out the rubbish from the holy place.

⁶ "For our fathers have trespassed and done evil in the eyes of the LORD our God; they have forsaken Him,

have turned their faces away from the dwelling place of the LORD, and turned their backs on Him.

⁷ "They have also shut up the doors of the vestibule, put out the lamps, and have not burned incense or offered burnt offerings in the holy place to the God of Israel.

⁸ "Therefore the wrath of the LORD fell upon Judah and Jerusalem, and He has given them up to trouble, to desolation, and to jeering, as you see with your eyes.

⁹ "For indeed, because of this our fathers have fallen by the sword; and our sons, our daughters, and our wives are in captivity.

¹⁰ "Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us.

¹¹ "My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand

before Him, to serve Him, and that you should minister to Him and burn incense."

¹² Then these Levites arose: Mahath the son of Amasai and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites; of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah and Eden the son of Joah;

¹³ of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeiel; of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah;

¹⁴ of the sons of Heman, Jehiel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel.

¹⁵ And they gathered their brethren, sanctified themselves, and went according to the commandment of the king, at the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.

¹⁶ Then the priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and brought out all the debris that they found in the temple of the LORD to the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it out and carried it to the Brook Kidron.

¹⁷ Now they began to sanctify on the first day of the first month, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the vestibule of the LORD. Then they sanctified the house of the LORD in eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished.

¹⁸ Then they went in to King Hezekiah and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offerings with all its articles, and the table of the showbread with all its articles.

¹⁹ "Moreover all the articles which King Ahaz in his reign had cast aside in his

transgression we have prepared and sanctified; and there they are, before the altar of the LORD."

²⁰ Then King Hezekiah rose early, gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the LORD.

²¹ And they brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven male goats for a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary, and for Judah. Then he commanded the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

²² So they killed the bulls, and the priests received the blood and sprinkled it on the altar. Likewise they killed the rams and sprinkled the blood on the altar. They also killed the lambs and sprinkled the blood on the altar.

²³ Then they brought out the male goats for the sin offering before the king

and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.

²⁴ And the priests killed them; and they presented their blood on the altar as a sin offering to make an atonement for all Israel, for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering be made for all Israel.

²⁵ And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, with stringed instruments, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, of Gad the king's seer, and of Nathan the prophet; for thus was the commandment of the LORD by His prophets.

²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷ Then Hezekiah commanded them to offer the burnt offering on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the

song of the LORD also began, with the trumpets and with the instruments of David king of Israel.

²⁸ So all the assembly worshiped, the singers sang, and the trumpeters sounded; all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

²⁹ And when they had finished offering, the king and all who were present with him bowed and worshiped.

³⁰ Moreover King Hezekiah and the leaders commanded the Levites to sing praise to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.

³¹ Then Hezekiah answered and said, "Now that you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD, come near, and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the LORD." So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings,

and as many as were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.

³² And the number of the burnt offerings which the assembly brought was seventy bulls, one hundred rams, and two hundred lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

³³ The consecrated things were six hundred bulls and three thousand sheep.

³⁴ But the priests were too few, so that they could not skin all the burnt offerings; therefore their brethren the Levites helped them until the work was ended and until the other priests had sanctified themselves, for the Levites were more diligent in sanctifying themselves than the priests.

³⁵ Also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat of the peace offerings and with the drink offerings for

every burnt offering. So the service of the house of the LORD was set in order.

³⁶ Then Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced that God had prepared the people, since the events took place so suddenly.

30 ¹ And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel.

² For the king and his leaders and all the assembly in Jerusalem had agreed to keep the Passover in the second month.

³ For they could not keep it at the regular time, because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem.

⁴ And the matter pleased the king and all the assembly.

⁵ So they resolved to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem, since they had not done it for a long time in the prescribed manner.

⁶ Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: "Children of Israel, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

⁷ "And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see.

⁸ "Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the

LORD; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you.

⁹ "For if you return to the LORD, your brethren and your children will be treated with compassion by those who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn His face from you if you return to Him."

¹⁰ So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them.

¹¹ Nevertheless some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

¹² Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to

obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the LORD.

¹³ Now many people, a very great assembly, gathered at Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month.

¹⁴ They arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and they took away all the incense altars and cast them into the Brook Kidron.

¹⁵ Then they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and the Levites were ashamed, and sanctified themselves, and brought the burnt offerings to the house of the LORD.

¹⁶ They stood in their place according to their custom, 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 sanctified themselves; therefore the Levites had charge of the slaughter of the Passover lambs for everyone who was not clean, to sanctify them to the LORD.

¹⁸ For a multitude of the people, many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD provide atonement for everyone

¹⁹ who prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he is not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary."

²⁰ And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people.

²¹ So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with

great gladness; and the Levites and the priests praised the LORD day by day, singing to the LORD, accompanied by loud instruments.

²² And Hezekiah gave encouragement to all the Levites who taught the good knowledge of the LORD; and they ate throughout the feast seven days, offering peace offerings and making confession to the LORD God of their fathers.

²³ Then the whole assembly agreed to keep the feast another seven days, and they kept it another seven days with gladness.

²⁴ For Hezekiah king of Judah gave to the assembly a thousand bulls and seven thousand sheep, and the leaders gave to the assembly a thousand bulls and ten thousand sheep; and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

²⁵ The whole assembly of Judah rejoiced, also the priests and Levites, all

the assembly that came from Israel, the sojourners who came from the land of Israel, and those who dwelt in Judah.

²⁶ So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem.

²⁷ Then the priests, the Levites, arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard; and their prayer came up to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.

31 ¹ Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke the sacred pillars in pieces, cut down the wooden images, and threw down the high places and the altars—from all Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh—until they had utterly destroyed them all. Then all the children of Israel returned to their own cities, every man to his possession.

² And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and the Levites according to their divisions, each man according to his service, the priests and Levites for burnt offerings and peace offerings, to serve, to give thanks, and to praise in the gates of the camp of the LORD.

³ The king also appointed a portion of his possessions for the burnt offerings: for the morning and evening burnt offerings, the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths and the New Moons and the set feasts, as it is written in the Law of the LORD.

⁴ Moreover he commanded the people who dwelt in Jerusalem to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the LORD.

⁵ As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of grain

and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.

⁶ And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps.

⁷ In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month.

⁸ And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and His people Israel.

⁹ Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps.

¹⁰ And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, "Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and have plenty

left, for the LORD has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance."

¹¹ Now Hezekiah commanded them to prepare rooms in the house of the LORD, and they prepared them.

¹² Then they faithfully brought in the offerings, the tithes, and the dedicated things; Cononiah the Levite had charge of them, and Shimei his brother was the next.

¹³ Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers under the hand of Cononiah and Shimei his brother, at the commandment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the ruler of the house of God.

¹⁴ Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, the keeper of the East Gate, was over the freewill offerings to God, to distribute the offerings of the LORD and the most holy things.

¹⁵ And under him were Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah, his faithful assistants in the cities of the priests, to distribute allotments to their brethren by divisions, to the great as well as the small.

¹⁶ Besides those males from three years old and up who were written in the genealogy, they distributed to everyone who entered the house of the LORD his daily portion for the work of his service, by his division,

¹⁷ and to the priests who were written in the genealogy according to their father's house, and to the Levites from twenty years old and up according to their work, by their divisions,

¹⁸ and to all who were written in the genealogy—their little ones and their wives, their sons and daughters, the whole company of them—for in their

faithfulness they sanctified themselves in holiness.

¹⁹ Also for the sons of Aaron the priests, who were in the fields of the common-lands of their cities, in every single city, there were men who were designated by name to distribute portions to all the males among the priests and to all who were listed by genealogies among the Levites.

²⁰ Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and true before the LORD his God.

²¹ And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered.

32 ¹ After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah;

he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself.

² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come, and that his purpose was to make war against Jerusalem,

³ he consulted with his leaders and commanders to stop the water from the springs which were outside the city; and they helped him.

⁴ Thus many people gathered together who stopped all the springs and the brook that ran through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?"

⁵ And he strengthened himself, built up all the wall that was broken, raised it up to the towers, and built another wall outside; also he repaired the Millo in the City of David, and made weapons and shields in abundance.

⁶ Then he set military captains over the people, gathered them together to him in the open square of the city gate, and gave them encouragement, saying,

⁷ "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him.

⁸ "With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

⁹ After this Sennacherib king of Assyria sent his servants to Jerusalem (but he and all the forces with him laid siege against Lachish), to Hezekiah king of Judah, and to all Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying,

¹⁰ "Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria: 'In what do you trust, that you remain under siege in Jerusalem?

¹¹ 'Does not Hezekiah persuade you to give yourselves over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, "The LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria"?

¹² 'Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, "You shall worship before one altar and burn incense on it"?

¹³ 'Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand?

¹⁴ 'Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people

from my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand?

¹⁵ 'Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this, and do not believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?'"

¹⁶ Furthermore, his servants spoke against the LORD God and against His servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷ He also wrote letters to revile the LORD God of Israel, and to speak against Him, saying, "As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand."

¹⁸ Then they called out with a loud voice in Hebrew to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten them

and trouble them, that they might take the city.

¹⁹ And they spoke against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth—the work of men’s hands.

²⁰ Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven.

²¹ Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.

²² Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.

²³ And many brought gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations thereafter.

²⁴ In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death, and he prayed to the LORD; and He spoke to him and gave him a sign.

²⁵ But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up; therefore wrath was looming over him and over Judah and Jerusalem.

²⁶ Then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

²⁷ Hezekiah had very great riches and honor. And he made himself treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of desirable items;

²⁸ storehouses for the harvest of grain, wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of livestock, and folds for flocks.

²⁹ Moreover he provided cities for himself, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance; for God had given him very much property.

³⁰ This same Hezekiah also stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the water by tunnel to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

³¹ However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.

³² Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and his goodness, indeed they are written in the vision of Isaiah the

prophet, the son of Amoz, and in the book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

³³ So Hezekiah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper tombs of the sons of David; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem honored him at his death. Then Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

33 ¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty–five years in Jerusalem.

² But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.

³ For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

⁴ He also built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem shall My name be forever."

⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶ Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

⁷ He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

⁸ "and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have

appointed for your fathers—only if they are careful to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses."

⁹ So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel.

¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.

¹¹ Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon.

¹² Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

¹³ and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

¹⁴ After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and it enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah.

¹⁵ He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city.

¹⁶ He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁷ Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

¹⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD God of Israel, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel.

¹⁹ Also his prayer and how God received his entreaty, and all his sin and trespass, and the sites where he built high places and set up wooden images and carved images, before he was humbled, indeed they are written among the sayings of Hozai.

²⁰ So Manasseh rested with his fathers, and they buried him in his own house. Then his son Amon reigned in his place.

²¹ Amon was twenty–two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

²² But he did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done; for Amon sacrificed to all the carved images which his father Manasseh had made, and served them.

²³ And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as his father Manasseh had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.

²⁴ Then his servants conspired against him, and killed him in his own house.

²⁵ But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place.

34 ¹ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty–one years in Jerusalem.

² And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³ For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images.

⁴ They broke down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars which were above them he cut down; and the wooden images, the carved images, and the molded images he broke in pieces, and made dust of them and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.

⁵ He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

⁶ And so he did in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, as far as Naphtali and all around, with axes.

⁷ When he had broken down the altars and the wooden images, had beaten the carved images into powder, and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

⁸ In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the temple, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

⁹ When they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites who kept the doors had gathered from the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, from all the remnant of Israel, from all Judah and Benjamin, and which they had brought back to Jerusalem.

¹⁰ Then they put it in the hand of the foremen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they gave it to the workmen who worked in the house of the LORD, to repair and restore the house.

¹¹ They gave it to the craftsmen and builders to buy hewn stone and timber for beams, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.

¹² And the men did the work faithfully. Their overseers were Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to supervise. Others of the Levites, all of whom were skillful with instruments of music,

¹³ were over the burden bearers and were overseers of all who did work in any kind of service. And some of the Levites were scribes, officers, and gatekeepers.

¹⁴ Now when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiyah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given by Moses.

¹⁵ Then Hilkiyah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan.

¹⁶ So Shaphan carried the book to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing.

¹⁷ "And they have gathered the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen."

¹⁸ Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹⁹ Thus it happened, when the king heard the words of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

²⁰ Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,

²¹ "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do according to all that is written in this book."

²² So Hilkiah and those the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke to her to that effect.

²³ Then she answered them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me,

²⁴ "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah,

²⁵ 'because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath will be poured out on this place, and not be quenched.'"

²⁶ "But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, in this manner you shall speak to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have 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 you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the LORD.

²⁸ "Surely I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place and its inhabitants." So they brought back word to the king.

²⁹ Then the king sent and gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

³⁰ The king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem—the priests and the Levites, and all the people, great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the LORD.

³¹ Then the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD,

to follow the LORD, and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book.

³² And he made all who were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin take a stand. So the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

³³ Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not depart from following the LORD God of their fathers.

35 ¹ Now Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and they slaughtered the Passover lambs on the fourteenth day of the first month.

² And he set the priests in their duties and encouraged them for the service of the house of the LORD.

³ Then he said to the Levites who taught all Israel, who were holy to the LORD: "Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. It shall no longer be a burden on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and His people Israel.

⁴ "Prepare yourselves according to your fathers' houses, according to your divisions, following the written instruction of David king of Israel and the written instruction of Solomon his son.

⁵ "And stand in the holy place according to the divisions of the fathers' houses of your brethren the lay people, and according to the division of the father's house of the Levites.

⁶ "So slaughter the Passover offerings, consecrate yourselves, and prepare

them for your brethren, that they may do according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses."

⁷ Then Josiah gave the lay people lambs and young goats from the flock, all for Passover offerings for all who were present, to the number of thirty thousand, as well as three thousand cattle; these were from the king's possessions.

⁸ And his leaders gave willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, rulers of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings two thousand six hundred from the flock, and three hundred cattle.

⁹ Also Conaniah, his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, chief of the Levites, gave to the Levites for Passover offerings

five thousand from the flock and five hundred cattle.

¹⁰ So the service was prepared, and the priests stood in their places, and the Levites in their divisions, according to the king's command.

¹¹ And they slaughtered the Passover offerings; and the priests sprinkled the blood with their hands, while the Levites skinned the animals.

¹² Then they removed the burnt offerings that they might give them to the divisions of the fathers' houses of the lay people, to offer to the LORD, as it is written in the Book of Moses. And so they did with the cattle.

¹³ Also they roasted the Passover offerings with fire according to the ordinance; but the other holy offerings they boiled in pots, in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them quickly among all the lay people.

¹⁴ Then afterward they prepared portions for themselves and for the priests, because the priests, the sons of Aaron, were busy in offering burnt offerings and fat until night; therefore the Levites prepared portions for themselves and for the priests, the sons of Aaron.

¹⁵ And the singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their places, according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer. Also the gatekeepers were at each gate; they did not have to leave their position, because their brethren the Levites prepared portions for them.

¹⁶ So all the service of the LORD was prepared the same day, to keep the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, according to the command of King Josiah.

¹⁷ And the children of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days.

¹⁸ There had been no Passover kept in Israel like that since the days of Samuel the prophet; and none of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as Josiah kept, with the priests and the Levites, all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.

²⁰ After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by the Euphrates; and Josiah went out against him.

²¹ But he sent messengers to him, saying, "What have I to do with you, king of Judah? I have not come against you this day, but against the house with

which I have war; for God commanded me to make haste. Refrain from meddling with God, who is with me, lest He destroy you."

²² Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself so that he might fight with him, and did not heed the words of Necho from the mouth of God. So he came to fight in the Valley of Megiddo.

²³ And the archers shot King Josiah; and the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am severely wounded."

²⁴ His servants therefore took him out of that chariot and put him in the second chariot that he had, and they brought him to Jerusalem. So he died, and was buried in one of the tombs of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵ Jeremiah also lamented for Josiah. And to this day all the singing men

and the singing women speak of Josiah in their lamentations. They made it a custom in Israel; and indeed they are written in the Laments.

²⁶ Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and his goodness, according to what was written in the Law of the LORD,

²⁷ and his deeds from first to last, indeed they are written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah.

36 ¹ Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem.

² Jehoahaz was twenty–three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

³ Now the king of Egypt deposed him at Jerusalem; and he imposed on the land a tribute of one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

⁴ Then the king of Egypt made Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. And Necho took Jehoahaz his brother and carried him off to Egypt.

⁵ Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

⁶ Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon.

⁷ Nebuchadnezzar also carried off some of the articles from the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.

⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, indeed they are written in the book of the kings

of Israel and Judah. Then Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

⁹ Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months and ten days. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁰ At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar summoned him and took him to Babylon, with the costly articles from the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's brother, king over Judah and Jerusalem.

¹¹ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

¹² He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD.

¹³ And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened

his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel.

¹⁴ Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place.

¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

¹⁷ Therefore He brought against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no

compassion on young man or virgin, on the aged or the weak; He gave them all into his hand.

¹⁸ And all the articles from the house of God, great and small, the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his leaders, all these he took to Babylon.

¹⁹ Then they burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious possessions.

²⁰ And those who escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon, where they became servants to him and his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia,

²¹ to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

²² Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

²³ Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. Who is among you of all His people? May the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!

Ezra

1 ¹ Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

² Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah.

³ Who is among you of all His people? May his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem which is in Judah, and build the house of the LORD God of Israel (He is God), which is in Jerusalem.

⁴ And whoever is left in any place where he dwells, let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem.

⁵ Then the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, with all whose spirits God had moved, arose to go up and build the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem.

⁶ And all those who were around them encouraged them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered.

⁷ King Cyrus also brought out the articles of the house of the LORD, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Jerusalem and put in the temple of his gods;

⁸ and Cyrus king of Persia brought them out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹ This is the number of them: thirty gold platters, one thousand silver platters, twenty–nine knives,

¹⁰ thirty gold basins, four hundred and ten silver basins of a similar kind, and one thousand other articles.

¹¹ All the articles of gold and silver were five thousand four hundred. All these Sheshbazzar took with the captives who were brought from Babylon to Jerusalem.

2¹ Now these are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his own city.

² Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

³ the people of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

⁴ the people of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two;

⁵ the people of Arah, seven hundred and seventy-five;

⁶ the people of Pahath-Moab, of the people of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and twelve;

⁷ the people of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

⁸ the people of Zattu, nine hundred and forty-five;

⁹ the people of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁰ the people of Bani, six hundred and forty-two;

¹¹ the people of Bebai, six hundred and twenty–three;

¹² the people of Azgad, one thousand two hundred and twenty–two;

¹³ the people of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty–six;

¹⁴ the people of Bigvai, two thousand and fifty–six;

¹⁵ the people of Adin, four hundred and fifty–four;

¹⁶ the people of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety–eight;

¹⁷ the people of Bezai, three hundred and twenty–three;

¹⁸ the people of Jorah, one hundred and twelve;

¹⁹ the people of Hashum, two hundred and twenty–three;

²⁰ the people of Gibbar, ninety–five;

²¹ the people of Bethlehem, one hundred and twenty–three;

²² the men of Netophah, fifty–six;

²³ the men of Anathoth, one hundred and twenty-eight;

²⁴ the people of Azmaveth, forty-two;

²⁵ the people of Kirjath Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred and forty-three;

²⁶ the people of Ramah and Geba, six hundred and twenty-one;

²⁷ the men of Michmas, one hundred and twenty-two;

²⁸ the men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred and twenty-three;

²⁹ the people of Nebo, fifty-two;

³⁰ the people of Magbish, one hundred and fifty-six;

³¹ the people of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

³² the people of Harim, three hundred and twenty;

³³ the people of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred and twenty-five;

³⁴ the people of Jericho, three hundred and forty–five;

³⁵ the people of Senaah, three thousand six hundred and thirty.

³⁶ The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and seventy–three;

³⁷ the sons of Immer, one thousand and fifty–two;

³⁸ the sons of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred and forty–seven;

³⁹ the sons of Harim, one thousand and seventeen.

⁴⁰ The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, seventy–four.

⁴¹ The singers: the sons of Asaph, one hundred and twenty–eight.

⁴² The sons of the gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum, the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon, the sons of Akkub, the

sons of Hatita, and the sons of Shobai,
one hundred and thirty–nine in all.

⁴³ The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the
sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁴ the sons of Keros, the sons of Siaha,
the sons of Padon,

⁴⁵ the sons of Lebanah, the sons of
Hagabah, the sons of Akkub,

⁴⁶ the sons of Hagab, the sons of
Shalmal, the sons of Hanan,

⁴⁷ the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,
the sons of Reaiah,

⁴⁸ the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,
the sons of Gazzam,

⁴⁹ the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah,
the sons of Besai,

⁵⁰ the sons of Asnah, the sons of
Meunim, the sons of Nephusim,

⁵¹ the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of
Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,

⁵² the sons of Bazluth, the sons of
Mehida, the sons of Harsha,

⁵³ the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera,
the sons of Tamah,

⁵⁴ the sons of Neziah, and the sons of
Hatipha.

⁵⁵ The sons of Solomon's servants: the
sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the
sons of Peruda,

⁵⁶ the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon,
the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁷ the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of
Hattil, the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim,
and the sons of Ami.

⁵⁸ All the Nethinim and the children of
Solomon's servants were three hundred
and ninety-two.

⁵⁹ And these were the ones who came
up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub,
Addan, and Immer; but they could not
identify their father's house or their
genealogy, whether they were of Israel:

⁶⁰ the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, and the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and fifty–two;

⁶¹ and of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Koz, and the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.

⁶² These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.

⁶³ And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴ The whole assembly together was forty–two thousand three hundred and sixty,

⁶⁵ besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven

thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred men and women singers.

⁶⁶ Their horses were seven hundred and thirty-six, their mules two hundred and forty-five,

⁶⁷ their camels four hundred and thirty-five, and their donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁶⁸ Some of the heads of the fathers' houses, when they came to the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to erect it in its place:

⁶⁹ According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work sixty-one thousand gold drachmas, five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priestly garments.

⁷⁰ So the priests and the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the

gatekeepers, and the Nethinim, dwelt in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

3¹ And when the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.

² Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brethren, arose and built the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.

³ Though fear had come upon them because of the people of those countries, they set the altar on its bases; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening burnt offerings.

⁴ They also kept the Feast of Tabernacles, as it is written, and offered

the daily burnt offerings in the number required by ordinance for each day.

⁵ Afterwards they offered the regular burnt offering, and those for New Moons and for all the appointed feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and those of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to the LORD.

⁶ From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, although the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not been laid.

⁷ They also gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre to bring cedar logs from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the permission which they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸ Now in the second month of the second year of their coming to the house

of God at Jerusalem, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brethren the priests and the Levites, and all those who had come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, began work and appointed the Levites from twenty years old and above to oversee the work of the house of the LORD.

⁹ Then Jeshua with his sons and brothers, Kadmiel with his sons, and the sons of Judah, arose as one to oversee those working on the house of God: the sons of Henadad with their sons and their brethren the Levites.

¹⁰ When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests stood in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David king of Israel.

¹¹ And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy,

¹³ so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.

4 ¹ Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the descendants of the captivity were

building the temple of the LORD God of Israel,

² they came to Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers' houses, and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we seek your God as you do; and we have sacrificed to Him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria, who brought us here."

³ But Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the rest of the heads of the fathers' houses of Israel said to them, "You may do nothing with us to build a house for our God; but we alone will build to the LORD God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

⁴ Then the people of the land tried to discourage the people of Judah. They troubled them in building,

⁵ and hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose all the days of

Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

⁶ In the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

⁷ In the days of Artaxerxes also, Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabel, and the rest of their companions wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the letter was written in Aramaic script, and translated into the Aramaic language.

⁸ Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to King Artaxerxes in this fashion:

⁹ From Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions—representatives of the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the people of Persia and

Erech and Babylon and Shushan, the Dehavites, the Elamites,

¹⁰ and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnapper took captive and settled in the cities of Samaria and the remainder beyond the River—and so forth.

¹¹ (This is a copy of the letter that they sent him) To King Artaxerxes from your servants, the men of the region beyond the River, and so forth:

¹² Let it be known to the king that the Jews who came up from you have come to us at Jerusalem, and are building the rebellious and evil city, and are finishing its walls and repairing the foundations.

¹³ Let it now be known to the king that, if this city is built and the walls completed, they will not pay tax, tribute, or custom, and the king's treasury will be diminished.

¹⁴ Now because we receive support from the palace, it was not proper for us to see the king's dishonor; therefore we have sent and informed the king,

¹⁵ that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. And you will find in the book of the records and know that this city is a rebellious city, harmful to kings and provinces, and that they have incited sedition within the city in former times, for which cause this city was destroyed.

¹⁶ We inform the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls are completed, the result will be that you will have no dominion beyond the River.

¹⁷ The king sent an answer: To Rehum the commander, to Shimshai the scribe, to the rest of their companions who dwell in Samaria, and to the remainder beyond the River: Peace, and so forth.

¹⁸ The letter which you sent to us has been clearly read before me.

¹⁹ And I gave the command, and a search has been made, and it was found that this city in former times has revolted against kings, and rebellion and sedition have been fostered in it.

²⁰ There have also been mighty kings over Jerusalem, who have ruled over all the region beyond the River; and tax, tribute, and custom were paid to them.

²¹ Now give the command to make these men cease, that this city may not be built until the command is given by me.

²² Take heed now that you do not fail to do this. Why should damage increase to the hurt of the kings?

²³ Now when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went up in haste to

Jerusalem against the Jews, and by force of arms made them cease.

²⁴ Thus the work of the house of God which is at Jerusalem ceased, and it was discontinued until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

5 ¹ Then the prophet Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophets, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel, who was over them.

² So Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak rose up and began to build the house of God which is in Jerusalem; and the prophets of God were with them, helping them.

³ At the same time Tattenai the governor of the region beyond the River and Shethar–Boznai and their companions came to them and spoke thus to them: "Who has commanded

you to build this temple and finish this wall?"

⁴ Then, accordingly, we told them the names of the men who were constructing this building.

⁵ But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, so that they could not make them cease till a report could go to Darius. Then a written answer was returned concerning this matter.

⁶ This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai sent: The governor of the region beyond the River, and Shethar–Boznai, and his companions, the Persians who were in the region beyond the River, to Darius the king.

⁷ They sent a letter to him, in which was written thus—To Darius the king: All peace.

⁸ Let it be known to the king that we went into the province of Judea, to the temple of the great God, which is being

built with heavy stones, and timber is being laid in the walls; and this work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands.

⁹ Then we asked those elders, and spoke thus to them: "Who commanded you to build this temple and to finish these walls?"

¹⁰ We also asked them their names to inform you, that we might write the names of the men who were chief among them.

¹¹ And thus they returned us an answer, saying: "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and completed.

¹² "But because our fathers provoked the God of heaven to wrath, He gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who

destroyed this temple and carried the people away to Babylon.

¹³ "However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, King Cyrus issued a decree to build this house of God.

¹⁴ "Also, the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple that was in Jerusalem and carried into the temple of Babylon—those King Cyrus took from the temple of Babylon, and they were given to one named Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor.

¹⁵ "And he said to him, 'Take these articles; go, carry them to the temple site that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its former site.'

¹⁶ "Then the same Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundation of the house of God which is in Jerusalem; but from that

time even until now it has been under construction, and it is not finished."

¹⁷ Now therefore, if it seems good to the king, let a search be made in the king's treasure house, which is there in Babylon, whether it is so that a decree was issued by King Cyrus to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send us his pleasure concerning this matter.

6 ¹ Then King Darius issued a decree, and a search was made in the archives, where the treasures were stored in Babylon.

² And at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Media, a scroll was found, and in it a record was written thus:

³ In the first year of King Cyrus, King Cyrus issued a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: "Let the house be rebuilt, the place where

they offered sacrifices; and let the foundations of it be firmly laid, its height sixty cubits and its width sixty cubits,
⁴ with three rows of heavy stones and one row of new timber. Let the expenses be paid from the king's treasury.

⁵ Also let the gold and silver articles of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple which is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and taken back to the temple which is in Jerusalem, each to its place; and deposit them in the house of God" —

⁶ Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the region beyond the River, and Shethar-Boznai, and your companions the Persians who are beyond the River, keep yourselves far from there.

⁷ Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and

the elders of the Jews build this house of God on its site.

⁸ Moreover I issue a decree as to what you shall do for the elders of these Jews, for the building of this house of God: Let the cost be paid at the king's expense from taxes on the region beyond the River; this is to be given immediately to these men, so that they are not hindered.

⁹ And whatever they need—young bulls, rams, and lambs for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the request of the priests who are in Jerusalem—let it be given them day by day without fail,

¹⁰ that they may offer sacrifices of sweet aroma to the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹ Also I issue a decree that whoever alters this edict, let a timber be pulled

from his house and erected, and let him be hanged on it; and let his house be made a refuse heap because of this.

¹² And may the God who causes His name to dwell there destroy any king or people who put their hand to alter it, or to destroy this house of God which is in Jerusalem. I Darius issue a decree; let it be done diligently.

¹³ Then Tattenai, governor of the region beyond the River, Shethar–Boznai, and their companions diligently did according to what King Darius had sent.

¹⁴ So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

¹⁵ Now the temple was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

¹⁶ Then the children of Israel, the priests and the Levites and the rest of the descendants of the captivity, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

¹⁷ And they offered sacrifices at the dedication of this house of God, one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁸ They assigned the priests to their divisions and the Levites to their divisions, over the service of God in Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses.

¹⁹ And the descendants of the captivity kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

²⁰ For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves; all of them were ritually clean. And they slaughtered the Passover lambs for all the descendants of the captivity, for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

²¹ Then the children of Israel who had returned from the captivity ate together with all who had separated themselves from the filth of the nations of the land in order to seek the LORD God of Israel.

²² And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the LORD made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

7¹ Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

² the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,

³ the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,

⁴ the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,

⁵ the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest—

⁶ this Ezra came up from Babylon; and he was a skilled scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given. The king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him.

⁷ Some of the children of Israel, the priests, the Levites, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the Nethinim came up

to Jerusalem in the seventh year of King Artaxerxes.

⁸ And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

⁹ On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

¹⁰ For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

¹¹ This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave Ezra the priest, the scribe, expert in the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel:

¹² Artaxerxes, king of kings, To Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace, and so forth.

¹³ I issue a decree that all those of the people of Israel and the priests and Levites in my realm, who volunteer to go up to Jerusalem, may go with you.

¹⁴ And whereas you are being sent by the king and his seven counselors to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, with regard to the Law of your God which is in your hand;

¹⁵ and whereas you are to carry the silver and gold which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem;

¹⁶ and whereas all the silver and gold that you may find in all the province of Babylon, along with the freewill offering of the people and the priests, are to be freely offered for the house of their God in Jerusalem—

¹⁷ now therefore, be careful to buy with this money bulls, rams, and lambs,

with their grain offerings and their drink offerings, and offer them on the altar of the house of your God in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ And whatever seems good to you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do it according to the will of your God.

¹⁹ Also the articles that are given to you for the service of the house of your God, deliver in full before the God of Jerusalem.

²⁰ And whatever more may be needed for the house of your God, which you may have occasion to provide, pay for it from the king's treasury.

²¹ And I, even I, Artaxerxes the king, issue a decree to all the treasurers who are in the region beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, may require of you, let it be done diligently,

²² up to one hundred talents of silver, one hundred kors of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribed limit.

²³ Whatever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it diligently be done for the house of the God of heaven. For why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

²⁴ Also we inform you that it shall not be lawful to impose tax, tribute, or custom on any of the priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, Nethinim, or servants of this house of God.

²⁵ And you, Ezra, according to your God-given wisdom, set magistrates and judges who may judge all the people who are in the region beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God; and teach those who do not know them.

²⁶ Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let

judgment be executed speedily on him, whether it be death, or banishment, or confiscation of goods, or imprisonment.

²⁷ Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the LORD which is in Jerusalem,

²⁸ and has extended mercy to me before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes.

So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.

8 ¹ These are the heads of their fathers' houses, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of King Artaxerxes:

² of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom; of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel; of the sons of David, Hattush;

³ of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and registered with him were one hundred and fifty males;

⁴ of the sons of Pahath–Moab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him two hundred males;

⁵ of the sons of Shechaniah, Ben–Jahaziel, and with him three hundred males;

⁶ of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him fifty males;

⁷ of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him seventy males;

⁸ of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him eighty males;

⁹ of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him two hundred and eighteen males;

¹⁰ of the sons of Shelomith, Ben–Josiphiah, and with him one hundred and sixty males;

¹¹ of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai, and with him twenty–eight males;

¹² of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him one hundred and ten males;

¹³ of the last sons of Adonikam, whose names are these—Eliphelet, Jeiel, and Shemaiah—and with them sixty males;

¹⁴ also of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud, and with them seventy males.

¹⁵ Now I gathered them by the river that flows to Ahava, and we camped there three days. And I looked among the people and the priests, and found none of the sons of Levi there.

¹⁶ Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, leaders; also for Joiarib and Elnathan, men of understanding.

¹⁷ And I gave them a command for Iddo the chief man at the place Casiphia, and I told them what they should say to Iddo and his brethren the Nethinim at the place Casiphia—that they should bring us servants for the house of our God.

¹⁸ Then, by the good hand of our God upon us, they brought us a man of understanding, of the sons of Mahli the son of Levi, the son of Israel, namely Sherebiah, with his sons and brothers, eighteen men;

¹⁹ and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty men;

²⁰ also of the Nethinim, whom David and the leaders had appointed for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim. All of them were designated by name.

²¹ Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble

ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.

²² For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him."

²³ So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.

²⁴ And I separated twelve of the leaders of the priests—Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brethren with them—

²⁵ and weighed out to them the silver, the gold, and the articles, the offering for the house of our God which the king and his counselors and his princes, and all Israel who were present, had offered.

²⁶ I weighed into their hand six hundred and fifty talents of silver, silver articles weighing one hundred talents, one hundred talents of gold,

²⁷ twenty gold basins worth a thousand drachmas, and two vessels of fine polished bronze, precious as gold.

²⁸ And I said to them, "You are holy to the LORD; the articles are holy also; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD God of your fathers.

²⁹ "Watch and keep them until you weigh them before the leaders of the priests and the Levites and heads of the fathers' houses of Israel in Jerusalem, in the chambers of the house of the LORD."

³⁰ So the priests and the Levites received the silver and the gold and the articles by weight, to bring them to Jerusalem to the house of our God.

³¹ Then we departed from the river of Ahava on the twelfth day of the first

month, to go to Jerusalem. And the hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambush along the road.

³² So we came to Jerusalem, and stayed there three days.

³³ Now on the fourth day the silver and the gold and the articles were weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui,

³⁴ with the number and weight of everything. All the weight was written down at that time.

³⁵ The children of those who had been carried away captive, who had come from the captivity, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel: twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety–six rams,

seventy–seven lambs, and twelve male goats as a sin offering. All this was a burnt offering to the LORD.

³⁶ And they delivered the king's orders to the king's satraps and the governors in the region beyond the River. So they gave support to the people and the house of God.

9¹ When these things were done, the leaders came to me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, with respect to the abominations of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

² "For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, so that the holy seed is mixed with the peoples of those lands. Indeed,

the hand of the leaders and rulers has been foremost in this trespass."

³ So when I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked out some of the hair of my head and beard, and sat down astonished.

⁴ Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel assembled to me, because of the transgression of those who had been carried away captive, and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.

⁵ At the evening sacrifice I arose from my fasting; and having torn my garment and my robe, I fell on my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God.

⁶ And I said: "O my God, I am too ashamed and humiliated to lift up my face to You, my God; for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has grown up to the heavens.

⁷ "Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day.

⁸ "And now for a little while grace has been shown from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a peg in His holy place, that our God may enlighten our eyes and give us a measure of revival in our bondage.

⁹ "For we were slaves. Yet our God did not forsake us in our bondage; but He extended mercy to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to revive us, to repair the house of our God, to rebuild its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and Jerusalem.

¹⁰ "And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken Your commandments,

¹¹ "which You commanded by Your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land which you are entering to possess is an unclean land, with the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations which have filled it from one end to another with their impurity.

¹² 'Now therefore, do not give your daughters as wives for their sons, nor take their daughters to your sons; and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land, and leave it as an inheritance to your children forever.'

¹³ "And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, since You our God have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such deliverance as this,

¹⁴ "should we again break Your commandments, and join in marriage with the people committing these abominations? Would You not be angry with us until You had consumed us, so that there would be no remnant or survivor?

¹⁵ "O LORD God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though no one can stand before You because of this!"

10 ¹ Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.

² And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, spoke up and said to Ezra, "We have trespassed against our

God, and have taken pagan wives from the peoples of the land; yet now there is hope in Israel in spite of this.

³ "Now therefore, let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and those who have been born to them, according to the advice of my master and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

⁴ "Arise, for this matter is your responsibility. We also are with you. Be of good courage, and do it."

⁵ Then Ezra arose, and made the leaders of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear an oath that they would do according to this word. So they swore an oath.

⁶ Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib; and when he came there, he

ate no bread and drank no water, for he mourned because of the guilt of those from the captivity.

⁷ And they issued a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the descendants of the captivity, that they must gather at Jerusalem,

⁸ and that whoever would not come within three days, according to the instructions of the leaders and elders, all his property would be confiscated, and he himself would be separated from the assembly of those from the captivity.

⁹ So all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered at Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth of the month; and all the people sat in the open square of the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of heavy rain.

¹⁰ Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have transgressed

and have taken pagan wives, adding to the guilt of Israel.

¹¹ "Now therefore, make confession to the LORD God of your fathers, and do His will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the pagan wives."

¹² Then all the assembly answered and said with a loud voice, "Yes! As you have said, so we must do.

¹³ "But there are many people; it is the season for heavy rain, and we are not able to stand outside. Nor is this the work of one or two days, for there are many of us who have transgressed in this matter.

¹⁴ "Please, let the leaders of our entire assembly stand; and let all those in our cities who have taken pagan wives come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of their cities, until the

fierce wrath of our God is turned away from us in this matter."

¹⁵ Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite gave them support.

¹⁶ Then the descendants of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain heads of the fathers' households, were set apart by the fathers' households, each of them by name; and they sat down on the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.

¹⁷ By the first day of the first month they finished questioning all the men who had taken pagan wives.

¹⁸ And among the sons of the priests who had taken pagan wives the following were found of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brothers: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah.

¹⁹ And they gave their promise that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they presented a ram of the flock as their trespass offering.

²⁰ Also of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah;

²¹ of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uziah;

²² of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah.

²³ Also of the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (the same is Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

²⁴ Also of the singers: Eliashib; and of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri.

²⁵ And others of Israel: of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, Jeziah, Malchiah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Malchijah, and Benaiah;

²⁶ of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Eliah;

²⁷ of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza;

²⁸ of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai;

²⁹ of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Ramoth;

³⁰ of the sons of Pahath–Moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh;

³¹ of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,

³² Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah;

³³ of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei;

³⁴ of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel,

³⁵ Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluh,

³⁶ Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,
³⁷ Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasai,
³⁸ Bani, Binnui, Shimei,
³⁹ Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiah,
⁴⁰ Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,
⁴¹ Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah,
⁴² Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph;
⁴³ of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah,
Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel, and Benaiah.
⁴⁴ All these had taken pagan wives, and
some of them had wives by whom they
had children.

Nehemiah

1 ¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel,

² that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.

³ And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

⁴ So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned

for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

⁵ And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,

⁶ "please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

⁷ "We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

⁸ "Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying,

‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;

⁹ ‘but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.’

¹⁰ "Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.

¹¹ "O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.

2 ¹ And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King

Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before.

² Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid,

³ and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?"

⁴ Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

⁵ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

⁶ Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

⁷ Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah,

⁸ "and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

⁹ Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent

captains of the army and horsemen with me.

¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.

¹¹ So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days.

¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

¹³ And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire.

¹⁴ Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass.

¹⁵ So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned.

¹⁶ And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work.

¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."

¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"

²⁰ So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem."

3 ¹ Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel.

² Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³ Also the sons of Hassenah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

⁴ And next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok the son of Baana made repairs.

⁵ Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.

⁶ Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars.

⁷ And next to them Melatiah the Gibeonite, Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor of the region beyond the River.

⁸ Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹ And next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, leader of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.

¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs in front of his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabniah made repairs.

¹¹ Malchijah the son of Harim and Hashub the son of Pahath—Moab repaired another section, as well as the Tower of the Ovens.

¹² And next to him was Shallum the son of Hallohesh, leader of half the district of Jerusalem; he and his daughters made repairs.

¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate.

¹⁴ Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired the Refuse Gate; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.

¹⁵ Shallun the son of Col-Hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate; he built it, covered it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David.

¹⁶ After him Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, leader of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs as far as the place in front of the tombs of David, to the

man-made pool, and as far as the House of the Mighty.

¹⁷ After him the Levites, under Rehum the son of Bani, made repairs. Next to him Hashabiah, leader of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.

¹⁸ After him their brethren, under Bavai the son of Henadad, leader of the other half of the district of Keilah, made repairs.

¹⁹ And next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, the leader of Mizpah, repaired another section in front of the Ascent to the Armory at the buttress.

²⁰ After him Baruch the son of Zabbai carefully repaired the other section, from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

²¹ After him Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, repaired another section, from the door of the house

of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

²² And after him the priests, the men of the plain, made repairs.

²³ After him Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs by his house.

²⁴ After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress, even as far as the corner.

²⁵ Palal the son of Uzai made repairs opposite the buttress, and on the tower which projects from the king's upper house that was by the court of the prison. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs.

²⁶ Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel made repairs as far as the place in

front of the Water Gate toward the east, and on the projecting tower.

²⁷ After them the Tekoites repaired another section, next to the great projecting tower, and as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.

²⁹ After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs.

³⁰ After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs in front of his dwelling.

³¹ After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of the

merchants, in front of the Miphkad Gate, and as far as the upper room at the corner.

³² And between the upper room at the corner, as far as the Sheep Gate, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

4 ¹ But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.

² And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?"

³ Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."

⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity!

⁵ Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry,

⁸ and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

⁹ Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

¹⁰ Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."

¹¹ And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."

¹² So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us."

¹³ Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

¹⁴ And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the

rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

¹⁵ And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

¹⁶ So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah.

¹⁷ Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.

¹⁸ Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

¹⁹ Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall.

²⁰ "Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

²¹ So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared.

²² At the same time I also said to the people, "Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day."

²³ So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who

followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.

5¹ And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren.

² For there were those who said, "We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live."

³ There were also some who said, "We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine."

⁴ There were also those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards.

⁵ "Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power to redeem

them, for other men have our lands and vineyards."

⁶ And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words.

⁷ After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, "Each of you is exacting usury from his brother." So I called a great assembly against them.

⁸ And I said to them, "According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us?" Then they were silenced and found nothing to say.

⁹ Then I said, "What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies?"

¹⁰ "I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury!

¹¹ "Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them."

¹² So they said, "We will restore it, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say." Then I called the priests, and required an oath from them that they would do according to this promise.

¹³ Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

Then the people did according to this promise.

¹⁴ Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty–second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor’s provisions.

¹⁵ But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God.

¹⁶ Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there for the work.

¹⁷ And at my table were one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those

who came to us from the nations around us.

¹⁸ Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people.

¹⁹ Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

6 ¹ Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),

² that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together

among the villages in the plain of Ono." But they thought to do me harm.

³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?"

⁴ But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.

⁵ Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand.

⁶ In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king.

⁷ And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the

king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.

⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart."

⁹ For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰ Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you."

¹¹ And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"

¹² Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³ For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

¹⁴ My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.

¹⁵ So the wall was finished on the twenty–fifth day of Elul, in fifty–two days.

¹⁶ And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.

¹⁷ Also in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and the letters of Tobiah came to them.

¹⁸ For many in Judah were pledged to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shechaniah the son of Arah, and his son Jehohanan had married the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah.

¹⁹ Also they reported his good deeds before me, and reported my words to him. Tobiah sent letters to frighten me.

7 ¹ Then it was, when the wall was built and I had hung the doors, when the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed,

² that I gave the charge of Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the leader of the citadel, for he was a faithful man and feared God more than many.

³ And I said to them, "Do not let the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot; and while they stand

guard, let them shut and bar the doors; and appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, one at his watch station and another in front of his own house."

⁴ Now the city was large and spacious, but the people in it were few, and the houses were not rebuilt.

⁵ Then my God put it into my heart to gather the nobles, the rulers, and the people, that they might be registered by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of those who had come up in the first return, and found written in it:

⁶ These are the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city.

⁷ Those who came with Zerubbabel were Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

⁸ the sons of Parosh, two thousand one hundred and seventy-two;

⁹ the sons of Shephatiah, three hundred and seventy-two;

¹⁰ the sons of Arah, six hundred and fifty-two;

¹¹ the sons of Pahath-Moab, of the sons of Jeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred and eighteen;

¹² the sons of Elam, one thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

¹³ the sons of Zattu, eight hundred and forty-five;

¹⁴ the sons of Zaccai, seven hundred and sixty;

¹⁵ the sons of Binnui, six hundred and forty-eight;

¹⁶ the sons of Bebai, six hundred and twenty-eight;

¹⁷ the sons of Azgad, two thousand three hundred and twenty-two;

¹⁸ the sons of Adonikam, six hundred and sixty-seven;

¹⁹ the sons of Bigvai, two thousand and sixty-seven;

²⁰ the sons of Adin, six hundred and fifty-five;

²¹ the sons of Ater of Hezekiah, ninety-eight;

²² the sons of Hashum, three hundred and twenty-eight;

²³ the sons of Bezai, three hundred and twenty-four;

²⁴ the sons of Hariph, one hundred and twelve;

²⁵ the sons of Gibeon, ninety-five;

²⁶ the men of Bethlehem and Netophah,
one hundred and eighty-eight;

²⁷ the men of Anathoth, one hundred
and twenty-eight;

²⁸ the men of Beth Azmaveth,
forty-two;

²⁹ the men of Kirjath Jearim, Chephirah,
and Beeroth, seven hundred and
forty-three;

³⁰ the men of Ramah and Geba, six
hundred and twenty-one;

³¹ the men of Michmas, one hundred
and twenty-two;

³² the men of Bethel and Ai, one
hundred and twenty-three;

³³ the men of the other Nebo, fifty-two;

³⁴ the sons of the other Elam, one
thousand two hundred and fifty-four;

³⁵ the sons of Harim, three hundred
and twenty;

³⁶ the sons of Jericho, three hundred
and forty-five;

³⁷ the sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono,
seven hundred and twenty-one;

³⁸ the sons of Senaah, three thousand
nine hundred and thirty.

³⁹ The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of
the house of Jeshua, nine hundred and
seventy-three;

⁴⁰ the sons of Immer, one thousand and
fifty-two;

⁴¹ the sons of Pashhur, one thousand
two hundred and forty-seven;

⁴² the sons of Harim, one thousand and
seventeen.

⁴³ The Levites: the sons of Jeshua, of
Kadmiel, and of the sons of Hodevah,
seventy-four.

⁴⁴ The singers: the sons of Asaph, one
hundred and forty-eight.

⁴⁵ The gatekeepers: the sons of Shallum,
the sons of Ater, the sons of Talmon,
the sons of Akkub, the sons of Hatita,

the sons of Shobai, one hundred and thirty-eight.

⁴⁶ The Nethinim: the sons of Ziha, the sons of Hasupha, the sons of Tabbaoth,

⁴⁷ the sons of Keros, the sons of Sia, the sons of Padon,

⁴⁸ the sons of Lebana, the sons of Hagaba, the sons of Salmal,

⁴⁹ the sons of Hanan, the sons of Giddel, the sons of Gahar,

⁵⁰ the sons of Reaiah, the sons of Rezin, the sons of Nekoda,

⁵¹ the sons of Gazzam, the sons of Uzza, the sons of Paseah,

⁵² the sons of Besai, the sons of Meunim, the sons of Nephishesim,

⁵³ the sons of Bakbuk, the sons of Hakupha, the sons of Harhur,

⁵⁴ the sons of Bazlith, the sons of Mehida, the sons of Harsha,

⁵⁵ the sons of Barkos, the sons of Sisera, the sons of Tamah,

⁵⁶ the sons of Nezhiah, and the sons of Hatipha.

⁵⁷ The sons of Solomon's servants: the sons of Sotai, the sons of Sophereth, the sons of Perida,

⁵⁸ the sons of Jaala, the sons of Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁹ the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of Hattil, the sons of Pochereth of Zebaim, and the sons of Amon.

⁶⁰ All the Nethinim, and the sons of Solomon's servants, were three hundred and ninety-two.

⁶¹ And these were the ones who came up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, but they could not identify their father's house nor their lineage, whether they were of Israel:

⁶² the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, six hundred and forty-two;

⁶³ and of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Koz, the sons of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name.

⁶⁴ These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but it was not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.

⁶⁵ And the governor said to them that they should not eat of the most holy things till a priest could consult with the Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁶ Altogether the whole assembly was forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty,

⁶⁷ besides their male and female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred and thirty-seven; and they had two hundred and forty-five men and women singers.

⁶⁸ Their horses were seven hundred and thirty–six, their mules two hundred and forty–five,

⁶⁹ their camels four hundred and thirty–five, and donkeys six thousand seven hundred and twenty.

⁷⁰ And some of the heads of the fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury one thousand gold drachmas, fifty basins, and five hundred and thirty priestly garments.

⁷¹ Some of the heads of the fathers' houses gave to the treasury of the work twenty thousand gold drachmas, and two thousand two hundred silver minas.

⁷² And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand gold drachmas, two thousand silver minas, and sixty–seven priestly garments.

⁷³ So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the Nethinim, and all Israel

dwelt in their cities. When the seventh month came, the children of Israel were in their cities.

8¹ Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.

² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month.

³ Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

⁴ So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to

understand the Law; and the people stood in their place.

⁸ So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our LORD. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."

¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

¹³ Now on the second day the heads of the fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and Levites, were gathered to Ezra the scribe, in order to understand the words of the Law.

¹⁴ And they found written in the Law, which the LORD had commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month,

¹⁵ and that they should announce and proclaim in all their cities and in Jerusalem, saying, "Go out to the mountain, and bring olive branches, branches of oil trees, myrtle branches, palm branches, and branches of leafy trees, to make booths, as it is written."

¹⁶ Then the people went out and brought them and made themselves booths, each one on the roof of his house, or in their courtyards or the courts of the house of God, and in the open square of the Water Gate and in the open square of the Gate of Ephraim.

¹⁷ So the whole assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and sat under the booths; for since the days of Joshua the son of Nun until that day the children of Israel had not done so. And there was very great gladness.

¹⁸ Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day there was a sacred assembly, according to the prescribed manner.

9 ¹ Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were

assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.

² Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.

³ And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.

⁴ Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

⁵ And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: "Stand up and bless the LORD your God Forever

and ever! "Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise!

⁶ You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

⁷ "You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham;

⁸ You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, The Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites—To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous.

⁹ "You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea.

¹⁰ You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants, And against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. So You made a name for Yourself, as it is this day.

¹¹ And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters.

¹² Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel.

¹³ "You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments.

¹⁴ You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant.

¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them.

¹⁶ "But they and our fathers acted proudly, Hardened their necks, And did not heed Your commandments.

¹⁷ They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.

¹⁸ "Even when they made a molded calf for themselves, And said, 'This is your god That brought you up out of Egypt,' And worked great provocations,

¹⁹ Yet in Your manifold mercies You did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of the cloud did not depart from them by day, To lead them on the road; Nor the pillar of fire by night, To show them light, And the way they should go.

²⁰ You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them, And did not withhold Your manna from their mouth, And gave them water for their thirst.

²¹ Forty years You sustained them in the wilderness, They lacked nothing; Their clothes did not wear out And their feet did not swell.

²² "Moreover You gave them kingdoms and nations, And divided them into districts. So they took possession of the land of Sihon, The land of the king of

Heshbon, And the land of Og king of Bashan.

²³ You also multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, And brought them into the land Which You had told their fathers To go in and possess.

²⁴ So the people went in And possessed the land; You subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, The Canaanites, And gave them into their hands, With their kings And the people of the land, That they might do with them as they wished.

²⁵ And they took strong cities and a rich land, And possessed houses full of all goods, Cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves, And fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and grew fat, And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.

²⁶ "Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your

law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations.

²⁷ Therefore You delivered them into the hand of their enemies, Who oppressed them; And in the time of their trouble, When they cried to You, You heard from heaven; And according to Your abundant mercies You gave them deliverers who saved them From the hand of their enemies.

²⁸ "But after they had rest, They again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies,

²⁹ And testified against them, That You might bring them back to Your law. Yet

they acted proudly, And did not heed
Your commandments, But sinned against
Your judgments, 'Which if a man does,
he shall live by them.' And they shrugged
their shoulders, Stiffened their necks,
And would not hear.

³⁰ Yet for many years You had patience
with them, And testified against them
by Your Spirit in Your prophets. Yet they
would not listen; Therefore You gave
them into the hand of the peoples of the
lands.

³¹ Nevertheless in Your great mercy
You did not utterly consume them nor
forsake them; For You are God, gracious
and merciful.

³² "Now therefore, our God, The great,
the mighty, and awesome God, Who
keeps covenant and mercy: Do not let all
the trouble seem small before You That
has come upon us, Our kings and our
princes, Our priests and our prophets,

Our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria until this day.

³³ However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.

³⁴ Neither our kings nor our princes, Our priests nor our fathers, Have kept Your law, Nor heeded Your commandments and Your testimonies, With which You testified against them.

³⁵ For they have not served You in their kingdom, Or in the many good things that You gave them, Or in the large and rich land which You set before them; Nor did they turn from their wicked works.

³⁶ "Here we are, servants today! And the land that You gave to our fathers, To eat its fruit and its bounty, Here we are, servants in it!

³⁷ And it yields much increase to the kings You have set over us, Because

of our sins; Also they have dominion over our bodies and our cattle At their pleasure; And we are in great distress.

³⁸ "And because of all this, We make a sure covenant, and write it; Our leaders, our Levites, and our priests seal it."

10 ¹ Now those who placed their seal on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, the 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: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, and Kadmiel.

¹⁰ Their brethren: Shebaniah, Hodijah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,

¹¹ Micha, Rehob, Hashabiah,

¹² Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,

¹³ Hodijah, Bani, and Beninu.

¹⁴ The leaders of the people: Parosh, Pahath—Moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,

¹⁵ Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,

¹⁶ Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,

¹⁷ Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,

¹⁸ Hodijah, 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 Ahijah, Hanan, Anan,

²⁷ Malluch, Harim, and Baanah.

²⁸ Now the rest of the people—the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers,

the singers, the Nethinim, and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, everyone who had knowledge and understanding—

²⁹ these joined with their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes:

³⁰ We would not give our daughters as wives to the peoples of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons;

³¹ if the peoples of the land brought wares or any grain to sell on the Sabbath day, we would not buy it from them on the Sabbath, or on a holy day; and we would forego the seventh year's produce and the exacting of every debt.

³² Also we made ordinances for ourselves, to exact from ourselves yearly one-third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:

³³ for the showbread, for the regular grain offering, for the regular burnt offering of the Sabbaths, the New Moons, and the set feasts; for the holy things, for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and all the work of the house of our God.

³⁴ We cast lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for bringing the wood offering into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at the appointed times year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God as it is written in the Law.

³⁵ And we made ordinances to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, to the house of the LORD;

³⁶ to bring the firstborn of our sons and our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and our flocks, to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God;

³⁷ to bring the firstfruits of our dough, our offerings, the fruit from all kinds of trees, the new wine and oil, to the priests, to the storerooms of the house of our God; and to bring the tithes of our land to the Levites, for the Levites should receive the tithes in all our farming communities.

³⁸ And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.

³⁹ For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the grain, of the new wine and the

oil, to the storerooms where the articles of the sanctuary are, where the priests who minister and the gatekeepers and the singers are; and we will not neglect the house of our God.

11 ¹ Now the leaders of the people dwelt at Jerusalem; the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to dwell in Jerusalem, the holy city, and nine-tenths were to dwell in other cities.

² And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves to dwell at Jerusalem.

³ These are the heads of the province who dwelt in Jerusalem. (But in the cities of Judah everyone dwelt in his own possession in their cities—Israelites, priests, Levites, Nethinim, and descendants of Solomon's servants.)

⁴ Also in Jerusalem dwelt some of the children of Judah and of the children

of Benjamin. The children of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, the son of Zechariah, the son of Amariah, the son of Shephatiah, the son of Mahalalel, of the children of Perez;

⁵ and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, the son of Col-Hozeh, the son of Hazaiah, the son of Adaiah, the son of Joiarib, the son of Zechariah, the son of Shiloni.

⁶ All the sons of Perez who dwelt at Jerusalem were four hundred and sixty-eight valiant men.

⁷ And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, the son of Joed, the son of Pedaiah, the son of Kolaiah, the son of Maaseiah, the son of Ithiel, the son of Jeshaiiah;

⁸ and after him Gabbai and Sallai, nine hundred and twenty-eight.

⁹ Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer, and Judah the son of Senuah was second over the city.

¹⁰ Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, and Jachin;

¹¹ Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, the son of Meshullam, the son of Zadok, the son of Meraioth, the son of Ahitub, was the leader of the house of God.

¹² Their brethren who did the work of the house were eight hundred and twenty-two; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, the son of Pelaliah, the son of Amzi, the son of Zechariah, the son of Pashhur, the son of Malchijah,

¹³ and his brethren, heads of the fathers' houses, were two hundred and forty-two; and Amashai the son of Azarel, the son of Ahzai, the son of Meshillemoth, the son of Immer,

¹⁴ and their brethren, mighty men of valor, were one hundred and twenty-eight. Their overseer was Zabdiel the son of one of the great men.

¹⁵ Also of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, the son of Azrikam, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Bunni;

¹⁶ Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the heads of the Levites, had the oversight of the business outside of the house of God;

¹⁷ Mattaniah the son of Micha, the son of Zabdi, the son of Asaph, the leader who began the thanksgiving with prayer; Bakbukiah, the second among his brethren; and Abda the son of Shammua, the son of Galal, the son of Jeduthun.

¹⁸ All the Levites in the holy city were two hundred and eighty-four.

¹⁹ Moreover the gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon, and their brethren who kept the gates, were one hundred and seventy-two.

²⁰ And the rest of Israel, of the priests and Levites, were in all the cities of Judah, everyone in his inheritance.

²¹ But the Nethinim dwelt in Ophel. And Ziha and Gishpa were over the Nethinim.

²² Also the overseer of the Levites at Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micha, of the sons of Asaph, the singers in charge of the service of the house of God.

²³ For it was the king's command concerning them that a certain portion should be for the singers, a quota day by day.

²⁴ Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the children of Zerah the son of Judah, was the king's deputy in all matters concerning the people.

²⁵ And as for the villages with their fields, some of the children of Judah dwelt in Kirjath Arba and its villages,

Dibon and its villages, Jekabzeel and its villages;

²⁶ in Jeshua, Moladah, Beth Pelet,

²⁷ Hazar Shual, and Beersheba and its villages;

²⁸ in Ziklag and Meconah and its villages;

²⁹ in En Rimmon, Zorah, Jarmuth,

³⁰ Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages; in Lachish and its fields; in Azekah and its villages. They dwelt from Beersheba to the Valley of Hinnom.

³¹ Also the children of Benjamin from Geba dwelt in Michmash, Aija, and Bethel, and their villages;

³² in Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah;

³³ in Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim;

³⁴ in Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat;

³⁵ in Lod, Ono, and the Valley of Craftsmen.

³⁶ Some of the Judean divisions of Levites were in Benjamin.

12 ¹ Now these are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,

² Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,

³ Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

⁴ Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,

⁵ Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,

⁶ Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,

⁷ Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, and Jedaiah.

These were the heads of the priests and their brethren in the days of Jeshua.

⁸ Moreover the Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah who led the thanksgiving psalms, he and his brethren.

⁹ Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, stood across from them in their duties.

¹⁰ Jeshua begot Joiakim, Joiakim begot Eliashib, Eliashib begot Joiada,

¹¹ Joiada begot Jonathan, and Jonathan begot Jaddua.

¹² Now in the days of Joiakim, the priests, the heads of the fathers' houses were: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

¹³ of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;

¹⁴ of Melichu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;

¹⁵ of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;

¹⁶ of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

¹⁷ of Abijah, Zichri; the son of Minjamin; of Moadiah, Piltai;

¹⁸ of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan;

¹⁹ of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi;

²⁰ of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;

²¹ of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; and of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

²² During the reign of Darius the Persian, a record was also kept of the Levites and priests who had been heads of their fathers' houses in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua.

²³ The sons of Levi, the heads of the fathers' houses until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib, were written in the book of the chronicles.

²⁴ And the heads of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers across from them, to praise and give thanks, group alternating with group, according to the command of David the man of God.

²⁵ Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers keeping the watch at the storerooms of the gates.

²⁶ These lived in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in

the days of Nehemiah the governor, and of Ezra the priest, the scribe.

²⁷ Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.

²⁸ And the sons of the singers gathered together from the countryside around Jerusalem, from the villages of the Netophathites,

²⁹ from the house of Gilgal, and from the fields of Geba and Azmaveth; for the singers had built themselves villages all around Jerusalem.

³⁰ Then the priests and Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, the gates, and the wall.

³¹ So I brought the leaders of Judah up on the wall, and appointed two large

thanksgiving choirs. One went to the right hand on the wall toward the Refuse Gate.

³² After them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah,

³³ and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

³⁴ Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah,

³⁵ and some of the priests' sons with trumpets—Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph,

³⁶ and his brethren, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. Ezra the scribe went before them.

³⁷ By the Fountain Gate, in front of them, they went up the stairs of the City of David, on the stairway of the wall,

beyond the house of David, as far as the Water Gate eastward.

³⁸ The other thanksgiving choir went the opposite way, and I was behind them with half of the people on the wall, going past the Tower of the Ovens as far as the Broad Wall,

³⁹ and above the Gate of Ephraim, above the Old Gate, above the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel, the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate; and they stopped by the Gate of the Prison.

⁴⁰ So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God, likewise I and the half of the rulers with me;

⁴¹ and the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Minjamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

⁴² also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. The singers sang loudly with Jezrahiah the director.

⁴³ Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.

⁴⁴ And at the same time some were appointed over the rooms of the storehouse for the offerings, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them from the fields of the cities the portions specified by the Law for the priests and Levites; for Judah rejoiced over the priests and Levites who ministered.

⁴⁵ Both the singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of their God and the charge of the purification, according to the command of David and Solomon his son.

⁴⁶ For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chiefs of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷ In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. They also consecrated holy things for the Levites, and the Levites consecrated them for the children of Aaron.

13 ¹ On that day they read from the Book of Moses in the hearing of the people, and in it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever come into the assembly of God, ² because they had not met the children of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³ So it was, when they had heard the Law, that they separated all the mixed multitude from Israel.

⁴ Now before this, Eliashib the priest, having authority over the storerooms of the house of our God, was allied with Tobiah.

⁵ And he had prepared for him a large room, where previously they had stored the grain offerings, the frankincense, the articles, the tithes of grain, the new wine and oil, which were commanded to be given to the Levites and singers and gatekeepers, and the offerings for the priests.

⁶ But during all this I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty–second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I had returned to the king. Then after certain days I obtained leave from the king,

⁷ and I came to Jerusalem and discovered the evil that Eliashib had

done for Tobiah, in preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God.

⁸ And it grieved me bitterly; therefore I threw all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room.

⁹ Then I commanded them to cleanse the rooms; and I brought back into them the articles of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰ I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field.

¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their place.

¹² Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse.

¹³ And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouse Shelemiah the priest and

Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah; and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were considered faithful, and their task was to distribute to their brethren.

¹⁴ Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for its services!

¹⁵ In those days I saw people in Judah treading wine presses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them about the day on which they were selling provisions.

¹⁶ Men of Tyre dwelt there also, who brought in fish and all kinds of goods, and sold them on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

¹⁷ Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing is this that you do, by which you profane the Sabbath day?"

¹⁸ "Did not your fathers do thus, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring added wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

¹⁹ So it was, at the gates of Jerusalem, as it began to be dark before the Sabbath, that I commanded the gates to be shut, and charged that they must not be opened till after the Sabbath. Then I posted some of my servants at the gates, so that no burdens would be brought in on the Sabbath day.

²⁰ Now the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice.

²¹ Then I warned them, and said to them, "Why do you spend the night

around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you!" From that time on they came no more on the Sabbath.

²² And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should go and guard the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of Your mercy!

²³ In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.

²⁴ And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people.

²⁵ So I contended with them and cursed them, struck some of them and pulled out their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, "You shall not give your

daughters as wives to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons or yourselves.

²⁶ "Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.

²⁷ "Should we then hear of your doing all this great evil, transgressing against our God by marrying pagan women?"

²⁸ And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was a son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite; therefore I drove him from me.

²⁹ Remember them, O my God, because they have defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

³⁰ Thus I cleansed them of everything pagan. I also assigned duties to the

priests and the Levites, each to his service,

³¹ and to bringing the wood offering and the firstfruits at appointed times. Remember me, O my God, for good!

Esther

1 ¹ Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus (this was the Ahasuerus who reigned over one hundred and twenty–seven provinces, from India to Ethiopia),

² in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the citadel,

³ that in the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him—

⁴ when he showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the splendor of his excellent majesty for many days, one hundred and eighty days in all.

⁵ And when these days were completed, the king made a feast lasting seven days for all the people who were present in Shushan the citadel, from great to small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

⁶ There were white and blue linen curtains fastened with cords of fine linen and purple on silver rods and marble pillars; and the couches were of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of alabaster, turquoise, and white and black marble.

⁷ And they served drinks in golden vessels, each vessel being different from the other, with royal wine in abundance, according to the generosity of the king.

⁸ In accordance with the law, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had ordered all the officers of his household, that they should do according to each man's pleasure.

⁹ Queen Vashti also made a feast for the women in the royal palace which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

¹⁰ On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

¹¹ to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing her royal crown, in order to show her beauty to the people and the officials, for she was beautiful to behold.

¹² But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command brought by his eunuchs; therefore the king was furious, and his anger burned within him.

¹³ Then the king said to the wise men who understood the times (for this was the king's manner toward all who knew law and justice,

¹⁴ those closest to him being Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who had access to the king's presence, and who ranked highest in the kingdom):

¹⁵ "What shall we do to Queen Vashti, according to law, because she did not obey the command of King Ahasuerus brought to her by the eunuchs?"

¹⁶ And Memucan answered before the king and the princes: "Queen Vashti has not only wronged the king, but also all the princes, and all the people who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

¹⁷ "For the queen's behavior will become known to all women, so that they will despise their husbands in their eyes, when they report, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought in before him, but she did not come.'

¹⁸ "This very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media will say to all the king's officials that they have heard of the behavior of the queen. Thus there will be excessive contempt and wrath.

¹⁹ "If it pleases the king, let a royal decree go out from him, and let it be recorded in the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it will not be altered, that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

²⁰ "When the king's decree which he will make is proclaimed throughout all his empire (for it is great), all wives will honor their husbands, both great and small."

²¹ And the reply pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan.

²² Then he sent letters to all the king's provinces, to each province in its own script, and to every people in their own language, that each man should be master in his own house, and speak in the language of his own people.

2 ¹ After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus subsided, he remembered Vashti, what she had done, and what had been decreed against her.

² Then the king's servants who attended him said: "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king;

³ "and let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather all the beautiful young virgins to Shushan the citadel, into the women's quarters, under the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, custodian of the women. And let beauty preparations be given them.

⁴ "Then let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This thing pleased the king, and he did so.

⁵ In Shushan the citadel there was a certain Jew whose name was Mordecai the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite.

⁶ Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been captured with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

⁷ And Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman was lovely and beautiful. When her father and mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

⁸ So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when

many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women.

⁹ Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

¹⁰ Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it.

¹¹ And every day Mordecai paced in front of the court of the women's quarters, to learn of Esther's welfare and what was happening to her.

¹² Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had

completed twelve months' preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.

¹³ Thus prepared, each young woman went to the king, and she was given whatever she desired to take with her from the women's quarters to the king's palace.

¹⁴ In the evening she went, and in the morning she returned to the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who kept the concubines. She would not go in to the king again unless the king delighted in her and called for her by name.

¹⁵ Now when the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his

daughter, to go in to the king, she requested nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the custodian of the women, advised. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all who saw her.

¹⁶ So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

¹⁷ The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins; so he set the royal crown upon her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

¹⁸ Then the king made a great feast, the Feast of Esther, for all his officials and servants; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces and gave gifts according to the generosity of a king.

¹⁹ When virgins were gathered together a second time, Mordecai sat within the king's gate.

²⁰ Now Esther had not revealed her family and her people, just as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed the command of Mordecai as when she was brought up by him.

²¹ In those days, while Mordecai sat within the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, doorkeepers, became furious and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

²² So the matter became known to Mordecai, who told Queen Esther, and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

²³ And when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was confirmed, and both were hanged on a gallows; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

3¹ After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.

² And all the king's servants who were within the king's gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage.

³ Then the king's servants who were within the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

⁴ Now it happened, when they spoke to him daily and he would not listen to them, that they told it to Haman, to see whether Mordecai's words would stand; for Mordecai had told them that he was a Jew.

⁵ When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath.

⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai. Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus—the people of Mordecai.

⁷ In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, the lot), before Haman to determine the day and the month, until it fell on the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

⁸ Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; their laws are different from all other people's, and they do not keep the king's laws.

Therefore it is not fitting for the king to let them remain.

⁹ "If it pleases the king, let a decree be written that they be destroyed, and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who do the work, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.

¹¹ And the king said to Haman, "The money and the people are given to you, to do with them as seems good to you."

¹² Then the king's scribes were called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and a decree was written according to all that Haman commanded—to the king's satraps, to the governors who were over each province, to the officials of all people, to every province according to its script, and to every people in their

language. In the name of King Ahasuerus it was written, and sealed with the king's signet ring.

¹³ And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

¹⁴ A copy of the document was to be issued as law in every province, being published for all people, that they should be ready for that day.

¹⁵ The couriers went out, hastened by the king's command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

4 ¹ When Mordecai learned all that had happened, he tore his clothes

and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city. He cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

² He went as far as the front of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

³ And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴ So Esther's maids and eunuchs came and told her, and the queen was deeply distressed. Then she sent garments to clothe Mordecai and take his sackcloth away from him, but he would not accept them.

⁵ Then Esther called Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs whom he had appointed to attend her, and she gave him a command concerning Mordecai, to learn what and why this was.

⁶ So Hathach went out to Mordecai in the city square that was in front of the king's gate.

⁷ And Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries to destroy the Jews.

⁸ He also gave him a copy of the written decree for their destruction, which was given at Shushan, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her, and that he might command her to go in to the king to make supplication to him and plead before him for her people.

⁹ So Hathach returned and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai:

¹¹ "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not

been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days."

¹² So they told Mordecai Esther's words.

¹³ And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews.

¹⁴ "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

¹⁵ Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai:

¹⁶ "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

¹⁷ So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.

5 ¹ Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, across from the king's house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house.

² So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter

that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.

³ And the king said to her, "What do you wish, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!"

⁴ So Esther answered, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

⁵ Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, that he may do as Esther has said." So the king and Haman went to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

⁶ At the banquet of wine the king said to Esther, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

⁷ Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and request is this:

⁸ "If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it pleases the king to

grant my petition and fulfill my request, then let the king and Haman come to the banquet which I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

⁹ So Haman went out that day joyful and with a glad heart; but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and that he did not stand or tremble before him, he was filled with indignation against Mordecai.

¹⁰ Nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh.

¹¹ Then Haman told them of his great riches, the multitude of his children, everything in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and servants of the king.

¹² Moreover Haman said, "Besides, Queen Esther invited no one but me to

come in with the king to the banquet that she prepared; and tomorrow I am again invited by her, along with the king.

¹³ "Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

¹⁴ Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet." And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made.

6 ¹ That night the king could not sleep. So one was commanded to bring the book of the records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

² And it was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, the

doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

³ Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

⁴ So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

⁵ The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

⁶ So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"

⁷ And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,

⁸ "let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head.

⁹ "Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

¹⁰ Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

¹¹ So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

¹² Afterward Mordecai went back to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

¹³ When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."

¹⁴ While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

7¹ So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther.

² And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

³ Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

⁴ "For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

⁵ So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where

is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

⁶ And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!" So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

⁷ Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king.

⁸ When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house?" As the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

⁹ Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, "Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made

for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman." Then the king said, "Hang him on it!"

¹⁰ So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided.

8 ¹ On that day King Ahasuerus gave Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told how he was related to her.

² So the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai; and Esther appointed Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³ Now Esther spoke again to the king, fell down at his feet, and implored him with tears to counteract the evil of

Haman the Agagite, and the scheme which he had devised against the Jews.

⁴ And the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king,

⁵ and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

⁶ "For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my countrymen?"

⁷ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the

gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews.

⁸ "You yourselves write a decree concerning the Jews, as you please, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for whatever is written in the king's name and sealed with the king's signet ring no one can revoke."

⁹ So the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and it was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews, the satraps, the governors, and the princes of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in all, to every province in its own script, to every people in their own language, and to the Jews in their own script and language.

¹⁰ And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, sealed it with the king's

signet ring, and sent letters by couriers on horseback, riding on royal horses bred from swift steeds.

¹¹ By these letters the king permitted the Jews who were in every city to gather together and protect their lives—to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the forces of any people or province that would assault them, both little children and women, and to plunder their possessions,

¹² on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

¹³ A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province and published for all people, so that the Jews would be ready on that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

¹⁴ The couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed

on by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Shushan the citadel.

¹⁵ So Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, with a great crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad.

¹⁶ The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor.

¹⁷ And in every province and city, wherever the king's command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.

9¹ Now in the twelfth month, that is, the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, the time came for the king's command and his decree to be

executed. On the day that the enemies of the Jews had hoped to overpower them, the opposite occurred, in that the Jews themselves overpowered those who hated them.

² The Jews gathered together in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could withstand them, because fear of them fell upon all people.

³ And all the officials of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and all those doing the king's work, helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.

⁴ For Mordecai was great in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces; for this man Mordecai became increasingly prominent.

⁵ Thus the Jews defeated all their enemies with the stroke of the sword,

with slaughter and destruction, and did what they pleased with those who hated them.

⁶ And in Shushan the citadel the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.

⁷ Also Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

⁸ Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

⁹ Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vajezatha—

¹⁰ the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews—they killed; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹¹ On that day the number of those who were killed in Shushan the citadel was brought to the king.

¹² And the king said to Queen Esther, "The Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the citadel, and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be

granted to you. Or what is your further request? It shall be done."

¹³ Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do again tomorrow according to today's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

¹⁴ So the king commanded this to be done; the decree was issued in Shushan, and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

¹⁵ And the Jews who were in Shushan gathered together again on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar and killed three hundred men at Shushan; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹⁶ The remainder of the Jews in the king's provinces gathered together and protected their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five

thousand of their enemies; but they did not lay a hand on the plunder.

¹⁷ This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar. And on the fourteenth day of the month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁸ But the Jews who were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day, as well as on the fourteenth; and on the fifteenth of the month they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁹ Therefore the Jews of the villages who dwelt in the unwalled towns celebrated the fourteenth day of the month of Adar with gladness and feasting, as a holiday, and for sending presents to one another.

²⁰ And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus,

²¹ to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar,
²² as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.

²³ So the Jews accepted the custom which they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them,

²⁴ because Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to annihilate them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot), to consume them and destroy them;

²⁵ but when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letter that this wicked plot which Haman had devised

against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

²⁶ So they called these days Purim, after the name Pur. Therefore, because of all the words of this letter, what they had seen concerning this matter, and what had happened to them,

²⁷ the Jews established and imposed it upon themselves and their descendants and all who would join them, that without fail they should celebrate these two days every year, according to the written instructions and according to the prescribed time,

²⁸ that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city, that these days of Purim should not fail to be observed among the Jews, and that the memory

of them should not perish among their descendants.

²⁹ Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter about Purim.

³⁰ And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews, to the one hundred and twenty–seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,

³¹ to confirm these days of Purim at their appointed time, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had prescribed for them, and as they had decreed for themselves and their descendants concerning matters of their fasting and lamenting.

³² So the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim, and it was written in the book.

10¹ And King Ahasuerus imposed tribute on the land and on the islands of the sea.

² Now all the acts of his power and his might, and the account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

³ For Mordecai the Jew was second to King Ahasuerus, and was great among the Jews and well received by the multitude of his brethren, seeking the good of his people and speaking peace to all his countrymen.

Job

1 ¹ There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

³ Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

⁴ And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would

send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

⁷ And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

⁹ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

¹⁰ "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

¹¹ "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house;

¹⁴ and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

¹⁵ "when the Sabeans raided them and took them away—indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the

sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

¹⁹ "and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

²⁰ Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

²¹ And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."

²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

2¹ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

² And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

³ Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that

there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

⁴ So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

⁵ "But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

⁸ And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him.

¹² And when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven.

¹³ So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.

3 ¹ After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

² And Job spoke, and said:

³ "May the day perish on which I was born, And the night in which it was said, 'A male child is conceived.'

⁴ May that day be darkness; May God above not seek it, Nor the light shine upon it.

⁵ May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; May a cloud settle on it; May the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶ As for that night, may darkness seize it; May it not rejoice among the days of the year, May it not come into the number of the months.

⁷ Oh, may that night be barren! May no joyful shout come into it!

⁸ May those curse it who curse the day,
Those who are ready to arouse Leviathan.

⁹ May the stars of its morning be dark;
May it look for light, but have none, And
not see the dawning of the day;

¹⁰ Because it did not shut up the doors
of my mother's womb, Nor hide sorrow
from my eyes.

¹¹ "Why did I not die at birth? Why did I
not perish when I came from the womb?

¹² Why did the knees receive me? Or
why the breasts, that I should nurse?

¹³ For now I would have lain still and
been quiet, I would have been asleep;
Then I would have been at rest

¹⁴ With kings and counselors of the
earth, Who built ruins for themselves,

¹⁵ Or with princes who had gold, Who
filled their houses with silver;

¹⁶ Or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, Like infants who never saw light?

¹⁷ There the wicked cease from troubling, And there the weary are at rest.

¹⁸ There the prisoners rest together; They do not hear the voice of the oppressor.

¹⁹ The small and great are there, And the servant is free from his master.

²⁰ "Why is light given to him who is in misery, And life to the bitter of soul,

²¹ Who long for death, but it does not come, And search for it more than hidden treasures;

²² Who rejoice exceedingly, And are glad when they can find the grave?

²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, And whom God has hedged in?

²⁴ For my sighing comes before I eat,
And my groanings pour out like water.

²⁵ For the thing I greatly feared has
come upon me, And what I dreaded has
happened to me.

²⁶ I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I
have no rest, for trouble comes."

4 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite
answered and said:

² "If one attempts a word with you,
will you become weary? But who can
withhold himself from speaking?

³ Surely you have instructed many, And
you have strengthened weak hands.

⁴ Your words have upheld him who was
stumbling, And you have strengthened
the feeble knees;

⁵ But now it comes upon you, and you
are weary; It touches you, and you are
troubled.

⁶ Is not your reverence your confidence?
And the integrity of your ways your
hope?

⁷ "Remember now, who ever perished
being innocent? Or where were the
upright ever cut off?

⁸ Even as I have seen, Those who plow
iniquity And sow trouble reap the same.

⁹ By the blast of God they perish, And
by the breath of His anger they are
consumed.

¹⁰ The roaring of the lion, The voice
of the fierce lion, And the teeth of the
young lions are broken.

¹¹ The old lion perishes for lack of prey,
And the cubs of the lioness are scattered.

¹² "Now a word was secretly brought to
me, And my ear received a whisper of it.

¹³ In disquieting thoughts from the
visions of the night, When deep sleep
falls on men,

¹⁴ Fear came upon me, and trembling,
Which made all my bones shake.

¹⁵ Then a spirit passed before my face;
The hair on my body stood up.

¹⁶ It stood still, But I could not discern
its appearance. A form was before my
eyes; There was silence; Then I heard a
voice saying:

¹⁷ 'Can a mortal be more righteous than
God? Can a man be more pure than his
Maker?

¹⁸ If He puts no trust in His servants, If
He charges His angels with error,

¹⁹ How much more those who dwell
in houses of clay, Whose foundation is
in the dust, Who are crushed before a
moth?

²⁰ They are broken in pieces from
morning till evening; They perish forever,
with no one regarding.

²¹ Does not their own excellence go
away? They die, even without wisdom.'

5¹ "Call out now; Is there anyone who will answer you? And to which of the holy ones will you turn?

² For wrath kills a foolish man, And envy slays a simple one.

³ I have seen the foolish taking root, But suddenly I cursed his dwelling place.

⁴ His sons are far from safety, They are crushed in the gate, And there is no deliverer.

⁵ Because the hungry eat up his harvest, Taking it even from the thorns, And a snare snatches their substance.

⁶ For affliction does not come from the dust, Nor does trouble spring from the ground;

⁷ Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward.

⁸ "But as for me, I would seek God, And to God I would commit my cause—

⁹ Who does great things, and
unsearchable, Marvelous things without
number.

¹⁰ He gives rain on the earth, And sends
waters on the fields.

¹¹ He sets on high those who are lowly,
And those who mourn are lifted to
safety.

¹² He frustrates the devices of the
crafty, So that their hands cannot carry
out their plans.

¹³ He catches the wise in their own
craftiness, And the counsel of the
cunning comes quickly upon them.

¹⁴ They meet with darkness in the
daytime, And grope at noontime as in
the night.

¹⁵ But He saves the needy from the
sword, From the mouth of the mighty,
And from their hand.

¹⁶ So the poor have hope, And injustice
shuts her mouth.

¹⁷ "Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.

¹⁸ For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole.

¹⁹ He shall deliver you in six troubles, Yes, in seven no evil shall touch you.

²⁰ In famine He shall redeem you from death, And in war from the power of the sword.

²¹ You shall be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, And you shall not be afraid of destruction when it comes.

²² You shall laugh at destruction and famine, And you shall not be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

²³ For you shall have a covenant with the stones of the field, And the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.

²⁴ You shall know that your tent is in peace; You shall visit your dwelling and find nothing amiss.

²⁵ You shall also know that your descendants shall be many, And your offspring like the grass of the earth.

²⁶ You shall come to the grave at a full age, As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.

²⁷ Behold, this we have searched out; It is true. Hear it, and know for yourself."

6 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "Oh, that my grief were fully weighed, And my calamity laid with it on the scales!

³ For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea—Therefore my words have been rash.

⁴ For the arrows of the Almighty are within me; My spirit drinks in their poison; The terrors of God are arrayed against me.

⁵ Does the wild donkey bray when it has grass, Or does the ox low over its fodder?

⁶ Can flavorless food be eaten without salt? Or is there any taste in the white of an egg?

⁷ My soul refuses to touch them; They are as loathsome food to me.

⁸ "Oh, that I might have my request,
That God would grant me the thing that I long for!

⁹ That it would please God to crush me,
That He would loose His hand and cut me off!

¹⁰ Then I would still have comfort;
Though in anguish, I would exult, He will not spare; For I have not concealed the words of the Holy One.

¹¹ "What strength do I have, that I should hope? And what is my end, that I should prolong my life?

¹² Is my strength the strength of stones?
Or is my flesh bronze?

¹³ Is my help not within me? And is success driven from me?

¹⁴ "To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, Even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

¹⁵ My brothers have dealt deceitfully like a brook, Like the streams of the brooks that pass away,

¹⁶ Which are dark because of the ice, And into which the snow vanishes.

¹⁷ When it is warm, they cease to flow; When it is hot, they vanish from their place.

¹⁸ The paths of their way turn aside, They go nowhere and perish.

¹⁹ The caravans of Tema look, The travelers of Sheba hope for them.

²⁰ They are disappointed because they were confident; They come there and are confused.

²¹ For now you are nothing, You see terror and are afraid.

²² Did I ever say, 'Bring something to me'? Or, 'Offer a bribe for me from your wealth'?

²³ Or, 'Deliver me from the enemy's hand'? Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of oppressors'?

²⁴ "Teach me, and I will hold my tongue; Cause me to understand wherein I have erred.

²⁵ How forceful are right words! But what does your arguing prove?

²⁶ Do you intend to rebuke my words, And the speeches of a desperate one, which are as wind?

²⁷ Yes, you overwhelm the fatherless, And you undermine your friend.

²⁸ Now therefore, be pleased to look at me; For I would never lie to your face.

²⁹ Yield now, let there be no injustice! Yes, concede, my righteousness still stands!

³⁰ Is there injustice on my tongue?
Cannot my taste discern the unsavory?

7 ¹ "Is there not a time of hard service
for man on earth? Are not his days
also like the days of a hired man?

² Like a servant who earnestly desires
the shade, And like a hired man who
eagerly looks for his wages,

³ So I have been allotted months of
futility, And wearisome nights have been
appointed to me.

⁴ When I lie down, I say, 'When shall
I arise, And the night be ended?' For I
have had my fill of tossing till dawn.

⁵ My flesh is caked with worms and
dust, My skin is cracked and breaks out
afresh.

⁶ "My days are swifter than a weaver's
shuttle, And are spent without hope.

⁷ Oh, remember that my life is a breath!
My eye will never again see good.

⁸ The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; While your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be.

⁹ As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up.

¹⁰ He shall never return to his house, Nor shall his place know him anymore.

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 a sea, or a sea serpent, That You set a guard over me?

¹³ When I say, 'My bed will comfort me, My couch will ease my complaint,'

¹⁴ Then You scare me with dreams And terrify me with visions,

¹⁵ So that my soul chooses strangling And death rather than my body.

¹⁶ I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Let me alone, For my days are but a breath.

¹⁷ "What is man, that You should exalt him, That You should set Your heart on him,

¹⁸ That You should visit him every morning, And test him every moment?

¹⁹ How long? Will You not look away from me, And let me alone till I swallow my saliva?

²⁰ Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, So that I am a burden to myself?

²¹ Why then do You not pardon my transgression, And take away my iniquity? For now I will lie down in the dust, And You will seek me diligently, But I will no longer be."

8 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

² "How long will you speak these things,
And the words of your mouth be like a
strong wind?

³ Does God subvert judgment? Or does
the Almighty pervert justice?

⁴ If your sons have sinned against
Him, He has cast them away for their
transgression.

⁵ If you would earnestly seek God And
make your supplication to the Almighty,

⁶ If you were pure and upright, Surely
now He would awake for you, And
prosper your rightful dwelling place.

⁷ Though your beginning was small,
Yet your latter end would increase
abundantly.

⁸ "For inquire, please, of the former
age, And consider the things discovered
by their fathers;

⁹ For we were born yesterday, and know
nothing, Because our days on earth are
a shadow.

¹⁰ Will they not teach you and tell you,
And utter words from their heart?

¹¹ "Can the papyrus grow up without a
marsh? Can the reeds flourish without
water?

¹² While it is yet green and not cut
down, It withers before any other plant.

¹³ So are the paths of all who forget
God; And the hope of the hypocrite shall
perish,

¹⁴ Whose confidence shall be cut off,
And whose trust is a spider's web.

¹⁵ He leans on his house, but it does not
stand. He holds it fast, but it does not
endure.

¹⁶ He grows green in the sun, And his
branches spread out in his garden.

¹⁷ His roots wrap around the rock heap,
And look for a place in the stones.

¹⁸ If he is destroyed from his place,
Then it will deny him, saying, 'I have not
seen you.'

¹⁹ "Behold, this is the joy of His way,
And out of the earth others will grow.

²⁰ Behold, God will not cast away
the blameless, Nor will He uphold the
evildoers.

²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with
laughing, And your lips with rejoicing.

²² Those who hate you will be clothed
with shame, And the dwelling place of
the wicked will come to nothing."

9¹ Then Job answered and said:

² "Truly I know it is so, But how can
a man be righteous before God?

³ If one wished to contend with Him, He
could not answer Him one time out of a
thousand.

⁴ God is wise in heart and mighty in
strength. Who has hardened himself
against Him and prospered?

⁵ He removes the mountains, and they
do not know When He overturns them
in His anger;

⁶ He shakes the earth out of its place,
And its pillars tremble;

⁷ He commands the sun, and it does
not rise; He seals off the stars;

⁸ He alone spreads out the heavens,
And treads on the waves of the sea;

⁹ He made the Bear, Orion, and the
Pleiades, And the chambers of the south;

¹⁰ He does great things past finding out,
Yes, wonders without number.

¹¹ If He goes by me, I do not see Him; If
He moves past, I do not perceive Him;

¹² If He takes away, who can hinder
Him? Who can say to Him, 'What are You
doing?'

¹³ God will not withdraw His anger, The
allies of the proud lie prostrate beneath
Him.

¹⁴ "How then can I answer Him, And
choose my words to reason with Him?"

¹⁵ For though I were righteous, I could not answer Him; I would beg mercy of my Judge.

¹⁶ If I called and He answered me, I would not believe that He was listening to my voice.

¹⁷ For He crushes me with a tempest, And multiplies my wounds without cause.

¹⁸ He will not allow me to catch my breath, But fills me with bitterness.

¹⁹ If it is a matter of strength, indeed He is strong; And if of justice, who will appoint my day in court?

²⁰ Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; Though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse.

²¹ "I am blameless, yet I do not know myself; I despise my life.

²² It is all one thing; Therefore I say, 'He destroys the blameless and the wicked.'

²³ If the scourge slays suddenly, He laughs at the plight of the innocent.

²⁴ The earth is given into the hand of the wicked. He covers the faces of its judges. If it is not He, who else could it be?

²⁵ "Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good.

²⁶ They pass by like swift ships, Like an eagle swooping on its prey.

²⁷ If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I will put off my sad face and wear a smile,'

²⁸ I am afraid of all my sufferings; I know that You will not hold me innocent.

²⁹ If I am condemned, Why then do I labor in vain?

³⁰ If I wash myself with snow water, And cleanse my hands with soap,

³¹ Yet You will plunge me into the pit, And my own clothes will abhor me.

³² "For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together.

³³ Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.

³⁴ Let Him take His rod away from me, And do not let dread of Him terrify me.

³⁵ Then I would speak and not fear Him, But it is not so with me.

10 ¹ "My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.

² I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me.

³ Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, That You should despise the work of Your hands, And smile on the counsel of the wicked?

⁴ Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees?

⁵ Are Your days like the days of a mortal man? Are Your years like the days of a mighty man,

⁶ That You should seek for my iniquity
And search out my sin,

⁷ Although You know that I am not wicked, And there is no one who can deliver from Your hand?

⁸ 'Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me.

⁹ Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again?

¹⁰ Did you not pour me out like milk,
And curdle me like cheese,

¹¹ Clothe me with skin and flesh, And knit me together with bones and sinews?

¹² You have granted me life and favor,
And Your care has preserved my spirit.

¹³ 'And these things You have hidden in Your heart; I know that this was with You:

¹⁴ If I sin, then You mark me, And will not acquit me of my iniquity.

¹⁵ If I am wicked, woe to me; Even if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head. I am full of disgrace; See my misery!

¹⁶ If my head is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, And again You show Yourself awesome against me.

¹⁷ You renew Your witnesses against me, And increase Your indignation toward me; Changes and war are ever with me.

¹⁸ 'Why then have You brought me out of the womb? Oh, that I had perished and no eye had seen me!

¹⁹ I would have been as though I had not been. I would have been carried from the womb to the grave.

²⁰ Are not my days few? Cease! Leave me alone, that I may take a little comfort,

²¹ Before I go to the place from which I shall not return, To the land of darkness and the shadow of death,

²² A land as dark as darkness itself, As the shadow of death, without any order, Where even the light is like darkness.'"

11 ¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

² "Should not the multitude of words be answered? And should a man full of talk be vindicated?

³ Should your empty talk make men hold their peace? And when you mock, should no one rebuke you?

⁴ For you have said, 'My doctrine is pure, And I am clean in your eyes.'

⁵ But oh, that God would speak, And open His lips against you,

⁶ That He would show you the secrets of wisdom! For they would double your

prudence. Know therefore that God exacts from you Less than your iniquity deserves.

⁷ "Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?

⁸ They are higher than heaven—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?

⁹ Their measure is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

¹⁰ "If He passes by, imprisons, and gathers to judgment, Then who can hinder Him?

¹¹ For He knows deceitful men; He sees wickedness also. Will He not then consider it?

¹² For an empty-headed man will be wise, When a wild donkey's colt is born a man.

¹³ "If you would prepare your heart, And stretch out your hands toward Him;

¹⁴ If iniquity were in your hand, and you put it far away, And would not let wickedness dwell in your tents;

¹⁵ Then surely you could lift up your face without spot; Yes, you could be steadfast, and not fear;

¹⁶ Because you would forget your misery, And remember it as waters that have passed away,

¹⁷ And your life would be brighter than noonday. Though you were dark, you would be like the morning.

¹⁸ And you would be secure, because there is hope; Yes, you would dig around you, and take your rest in safety.

¹⁹ You would also lie down, and no one would make you afraid; Yes, many would court your favor.

²⁰ But the eyes of the wicked will fail, And they shall not escape, And their hope—loss of life!"

12 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "No doubt you are the people,
And wisdom will die with you!

³ But I have understanding as well as
you; I am not inferior to you. Indeed,
who does not know such things as
these?

⁴ "I am one mocked by his friends, Who
called on God, and He answered him,
The just and blameless who is ridiculed.

⁵ A lamp is despised in the thought of
one who is at ease; It is made ready for
those whose feet slip.

⁶ The tents of robbers prosper, And
those who provoke God are secure—In
what God provides by His hand.

⁷ "But now ask the beasts, and they will
teach you; And the birds of the air, and
they will tell you;

⁸ Or speak to the earth, and it will teach
you; And the fish of the sea will explain
to you.

⁹ Who among all these does not know
That the hand of the LORD has done this,

¹⁰ In whose hand is the life of every
living thing, And the breath of all
mankind?

¹¹ Does not the ear test words And the
mouth taste its food?

¹² Wisdom is with aged men, And with
length of days, understanding.

¹³ "With Him are wisdom and strength,
He has counsel and understanding.

¹⁴ If He breaks a thing down, it cannot
be rebuilt; If He imprisons a man, there
can be no release.

¹⁵ If He withholds the waters, they
dry up; If He sends them out, they
overwhelm the earth.

¹⁶ With Him are strength and prudence.
The deceived and the deceiver are His.

¹⁷ He leads counselors away plundered,
And makes fools of the judges.

¹⁸ He loosens the bonds of kings, And binds their waist with a belt.

¹⁹ He leads princes away plundered, And overthrows the mighty.

²⁰ He deprives the trusted ones of speech, And takes away the discernment of the elders.

²¹ He pours contempt on princes, And disarms the mighty.

²² He uncovers deep things out of darkness, And brings the shadow of death to light.

²³ He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them.

²⁴ He takes away the understanding of the chiefs of the people of the earth, And makes them wander in a pathless wilderness.

²⁵ They grope in the dark without light, And He makes them stagger like a drunken man.

13 ¹ "Behold, my eye has seen
all this, My ear has heard and
understood it.

² What you know, I also know; I am not
inferior to you.

³ But I would speak to the Almighty,
And I desire to reason with God.

⁴ But you forgers of lies, You are all
worthless physicians.

⁵ Oh, that you would be silent, And it
would be your wisdom!

⁶ Now hear my reasoning, And heed the
pleadings of my lips.

⁷ Will you speak wickedly for God, And
talk deceitfully for Him?

⁸ Will you show partiality for Him? Will
you contend for God?

⁹ Will it be well when He searches you
out? Or can you mock Him as one mocks
a man?

¹⁰ He will surely rebuke you If you
secretly show partiality.

¹¹ Will not His excellence make you afraid, And the dread of Him fall upon you?

¹² Your platitudes are proverbs of ashes, Your defenses are defenses of clay.

¹³ "Hold your peace with me, and let me speak, Then let come on me what may!

¹⁴ Why do I take my flesh in my teeth, And put my life in my hands?

¹⁵ Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

¹⁶ He also shall be my salvation, For a hypocrite could not come before Him.

¹⁷ Listen carefully to my speech, And to my declaration with your ears.

¹⁸ See now, I have prepared my case, I know that I shall be vindicated.

¹⁹ Who is he who will contend with me? If now I hold my tongue, I perish.

²⁰ "Only two things do not do to me,
Then I will not hide myself from You:

²¹ Withdraw Your hand far from me,
And let not the dread of You make me
afraid.

²² Then call, and I will answer; Or let me
speak, then You respond to me.

²³ How many are my iniquities and sins?
Make me know my transgression and my
sin.

²⁴ Why do You hide Your face, And
regard me as Your enemy?

²⁵ Will You frighten a leaf driven to and
fro? And will You pursue dry stubble?

²⁶ For You write bitter things against
me, And make me inherit the iniquities
of my youth.

²⁷ You put my feet in the stocks, And
watch closely all my paths. You set a limit
for the soles of my feet.

²⁸ "Man decays like a rotten thing, Like
a garment that is moth-eaten.

14 ¹ "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.

³ And do You open Your eyes on such a one, And bring me to judgment with Yourself?

⁴ Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one!

⁵ Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

⁶ Look away from him that he may rest, Till like a hired man he finishes his day.

⁷ "For there is hope for a tree, If it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And that its tender shoots will not cease.

⁸ Though its root may grow old in the earth, And its stump may die in the ground,

⁹ Yet at the scent of water it will bud
And bring forth branches like a plant.

¹⁰ But man dies and is laid away; Indeed
he breathes his last And where is he?

¹¹ As water disappears from the sea,
And a river becomes parched and dries
up,

¹² So man lies down and does not rise.
Till the heavens are no more, They will
not awake Nor be roused from their
sleep.

¹³ "Oh, that You would hide me in
the grave, That You would conceal me
until Your wrath is past, That You would
appoint me a set time, and remember
me!

¹⁴ If a man dies, shall he live again? All
the days of my hard service I will wait,
Till my change comes.

¹⁵ You shall call, and I will answer You;
You shall desire the work of Your hands.

¹⁶ For now You number my steps, But do not watch over my sin.

¹⁷ My transgression is sealed up in a bag, And You cover my iniquity.

¹⁸ "But as a mountain falls and crumbles away, And as a rock is moved from its place;

¹⁹ As water wears away stones, And as torrents wash away the soil of the earth; So You destroy the hope of man.

²⁰ You prevail forever against him, and he passes on; You change his countenance and send him away.

²¹ His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; They are brought low, and he does not perceive it.

²² But his flesh will be in pain over it, And his soul will mourn over it."

15 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

² "Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, And fill himself with the east wind?

³ Should he reason with unprofitable talk, Or by speeches with which he can do no good?

⁴ Yes, you cast off fear, And restrain prayer before God.

⁵ For your iniquity teaches your mouth, And you choose the tongue of the crafty.

⁶ Your own mouth condemns you, and not I; Yes, your own lips testify against you.

⁷ "Are you the first man who was born? Or were you made before the hills?

⁸ Have you heard the counsel of God? Do you limit wisdom to yourself?

⁹ What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not in us?

¹⁰ Both the gray-haired and the aged
are among us, Much older than your
father.

¹¹ Are the consolations of God too small
for you, And the word spoken gently
with you?

¹² Why does your heart carry you away,
And what do your eyes wink at,

¹³ That you turn your spirit against
God, And let such words go out of your
mouth?

¹⁴ "What is man, that he could be pure?
And he who is born of a woman, that he
could be righteous?

¹⁵ If God puts no trust in His saints, And
the heavens are not pure in His sight,

¹⁶ How much less man, who is
abominable and filthy, Who drinks
iniquity like water!

¹⁷ "I will tell you, hear me; What I have
seen I will declare,

¹⁸ What wise men have told, Not hiding anything received from their fathers,

¹⁹ To whom alone the land was given, And no alien passed among them:

²⁰ The wicked man writhes with pain all his days, And the number of years is hidden from the oppressor.

²¹ Dreadful sounds are in his ears; In prosperity the destroyer comes upon him.

²² He does not believe that he will return from darkness, For a sword is waiting for him.

²³ He wanders about for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand.

²⁴ Trouble and anguish make him afraid; They overpower him, like a king ready for battle.

²⁵ For he stretches out his hand against God, And acts defiantly against the Almighty,

²⁶ Running stubbornly against Him With his strong, embossed shield.

²⁷ "Though he has covered his face with his fatness, And made his waist heavy with fat,

²⁸ He dwells in desolate cities, In houses which no one inhabits, Which are destined to become ruins.

²⁹ He will not be rich, Nor will his wealth continue, Nor will his possessions overspread the earth.

³⁰ He will not depart from darkness; The flame will dry out his branches, And by the breath of His mouth he will go away.

³¹ Let him not trust in futile things, deceiving himself, For futility will be his reward.

³² It will be accomplished before his time, And his branch will not be green.

³³ He will shake off his unripe grape like a vine, And cast off his blossom like an olive tree.

³⁴ For the company of hypocrites will be barren, And fire will consume the tents of bribery.

³⁵ They conceive trouble and bring forth futility; Their womb prepares deceit."

16 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all!

³ Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?

⁴ I also could speak as you do, If your soul were in my soul's place. I could heap up words against you, And shake my head at you;

⁵ But I would strengthen you with my mouth, And the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief.

⁶ "Though I speak, my grief is not relieved; And if I remain silent, how am I eased?

⁷ But now He has worn me out; You have made desolate all my company.

⁸ You have shriveled me up, And it is a witness against me; My leanness rises up against me And bears witness to my face.

⁹ He tears me in His wrath, and hates me; He gnashes at me with His teeth; My adversary sharpens His gaze on me.

¹⁰ They gape at me with their mouth, They strike me reproachfully on the cheek, They gather together against me.

¹¹ God has delivered me to the ungodly, And turned me over to the hands of the wicked.

¹² I was at ease, but He has shattered me; He also has taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces; He has set me up for His target,

¹³ His archers surround me. He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall on the ground.

¹⁴ He breaks me with wound upon wound; He runs at me like a warrior.

¹⁵ "I have sewn sackcloth over my skin, And laid my head in the dust.

¹⁶ My face is flushed from weeping, And on my eyelids is the shadow of death;

¹⁷ Although no violence is in my hands, And my prayer is pure.

¹⁸ "O earth, do not cover my blood, And let my cry have no resting place!

¹⁹ Surely even now my witness is in heaven, And my evidence is on high.

²⁰ My friends scorn me; My eyes pour out tears to God.

²¹ Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, As a man pleads for his neighbor!

²² For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return.

17¹ "My spirit is broken, My days are
extinguished, The grave is ready
for me.

² Are not mockers with me? And does
not my eye dwell on their provocation?

³ "Now put down a pledge for me with
Yourself. Who is he who will shake hands
with me?

⁴ For You have hidden their heart from
understanding; Therefore You will not
exalt them.

⁵ He who speaks flattery to his friends,
Even the eyes of his children will fail.

⁶ "But He has made me a byword of
the people, And I have become one in
whose face men spit.

⁷ My eye has also grown dim because
of sorrow, And all my members are like
shadows.

⁸ Upright men are astonished at this,
And the innocent stirs himself up against
the hypocrite.

⁹ Yet the righteous will hold to his way,
And he who has clean hands will be
stronger and stronger.

¹⁰ "But please, come back again, all of
you, For I shall not find one wise man
among you.

¹¹ My days are past, My purposes are
broken off, Even the thoughts of my
heart.

¹² They change the night into day; 'The
light is near,' they say, in the face of
darkness.

¹³ If I wait for the grave as my house, If I
make my bed in the darkness,

¹⁴ If I say to corruption, 'You are my
father,' And to the worm, 'You are my
mother and my sister,'

¹⁵ Where then is my hope? As for my
hope, who can see it?

¹⁶ Will they go down to the gates of
Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the
dust?"

18 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

² "How long till you put an end to words? Gain understanding, and afterward we will speak.

³ Why are we counted as beasts, And regarded as stupid in your sight?

⁴ You who tear yourself in anger, Shall the earth be forsaken for you? Or shall the rock be removed from its place?

⁵ "The light of the wicked indeed goes out, And the flame of his fire does not shine.

⁶ The light is dark in his tent, And his lamp beside him is put out.

⁷ The steps of his strength are shortened, And his own counsel casts him down.

⁸ For he is cast into a net by his own feet, And he walks into a snare.

⁹ The net takes him by the heel, And a snare lays hold of him.

¹⁰ A noose is hidden for him on the ground, And a trap for him in the road.

¹¹ Terrors frighten him on every side, And drive him to his feet.

¹² His strength is starved, And destruction is ready at his side.

¹³ It devours patches of his skin; The firstborn of death devours his limbs.

¹⁴ He is uprooted from the shelter of his tent, And they parade him before the king of terrors.

¹⁵ They dwell in his tent who are none of his; Brimstone is scattered on his dwelling.

¹⁶ His roots are dried out below, And his branch withers above.

¹⁷ The memory of him perishes from the earth, And he has no name among the renowned.

¹⁸ He is driven from light into darkness, And chased out of the world.

¹⁹ He has neither son nor posterity
among his people, Nor any remaining in
his dwellings.

²⁰ Those in the west are astonished
at his day, As those in the east are
frightened.

²¹ Surely such are the dwellings of the
wicked, And this is the place of him who
does not know God."

19 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "How long will you torment
my soul, And break me in pieces with
words?"

³ These ten times you have reproached
me; You are not ashamed that you have
wronged me.

⁴ And if indeed I have erred, My error
remains with me.

⁵ If indeed you exalt yourselves against
me, And plead my disgrace against me,

⁶ Know then that God has wronged me,
And has surrounded me with His net.

⁷ "If I cry out concerning wrong, I am not heard. If I cry aloud, there is no justice.

⁸ He has fenced up my way, so that I cannot pass; And He has set darkness in my paths.

⁹ He has stripped me of my glory, And taken the crown from my head.

¹⁰ He breaks me down on every side, And I am gone; My hope He has uprooted like a tree.

¹¹ He has also kindled His wrath against me, And He counts me as one of His enemies.

¹² His troops come together And build up their road against me; They encamp all around my tent.

¹³ "He has removed my brothers far from me, And my acquaintances are completely estranged from me.

¹⁴ My relatives have failed, And my close friends have forgotten me.

¹⁵ Those who dwell in my house,
and my maidservants, Count me as a
stranger; I am an alien in their sight.

¹⁶ I call my servant, but he gives no
answer; I beg him with my mouth.

¹⁷ My breath is offensive to my wife,
And I am repulsive to the children of my
own body.

¹⁸ Even young children despise me; I
arise, and they speak against me.

¹⁹ All my close friends abhor me, And
those whom I love have turned against
me.

²⁰ My bone clings to my skin and to my
flesh, And I have escaped by the skin of
my teeth.

²¹ "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O
you my friends, For the hand of God has
struck me!

²² Why do you persecute me as God
does, And are not satisfied with my
flesh?

²³ "Oh, that my words were written!
Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴ That they were engraved on a rock
With an iron pen and lead, forever!

²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;

²⁶ And after my skin is destroyed, this I
know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, And my
eyes shall behold, and not another. How
my heart yearns within me!

²⁸ If you should say, 'How shall we
persecute him?' —Since the root of the
matter is found in me,

²⁹ Be afraid of the sword for yourselves;
For wrath brings the punishment of the
sword, That you may know there is a
judgment."

20 ¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite
answered and said:

² "Therefore my anxious thoughts make me answer, Because of the turmoil within me.

³ I have heard the rebuke that reproaches me, And the spirit of my understanding causes me to answer.

⁴ "Do you not know this of old, Since man was placed on earth,

⁵ That the triumphing of the wicked is short, And the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment?

⁶ Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, And his head reaches to the clouds,

⁷ Yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; Those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'

⁸ He will fly away like a dream, and not be found; Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night.

⁹ The eye that saw him will see him no more, Nor will his place behold him anymore.

¹⁰ His children will seek the favor of the poor, And his hands will restore his wealth.

¹¹ His bones are full of his youthful vigor, But it will lie down with him in the dust.

¹² "Though evil is sweet in his mouth, And he hides it under his tongue,

¹³ Though he spares it and does not forsake it, But still keeps it in his mouth,

¹⁴ Yet his food in his stomach turns sour; It becomes cobra venom within him.

¹⁵ He swallows down riches And vomits them up again; God casts them out of his belly.

¹⁶ He will suck the poison of cobras; The viper's tongue will slay him.

¹⁷ He will not see the streams, The rivers flowing with honey and cream.

¹⁸ He will restore that for which he labored, And will not swallow it down; From the proceeds of business He will get no enjoyment.

¹⁹ For he has oppressed and forsaken the poor, He has violently seized a house which he did not build.

²⁰ "Because he knows no quietness in his heart, He will not save anything he desires.

²¹ Nothing is left for him to eat; Therefore his well-being will not last.

²² In his self-sufficiency he will be in distress; Every hand of misery will come against him.

²³ When he is about to fill his stomach, God will cast on him the fury of His wrath, And will rain it on him while he is eating.

²⁴ He will flee from the iron weapon; A bronze bow will pierce him through.

²⁵ It is drawn, and comes out of the body; Yes, the glittering point comes out of his gall. Terrors come upon him;

²⁶ Total darkness is reserved for his treasures. An unfanned fire will consume him; It shall go ill with him who is left in his tent.

²⁷ The heavens will reveal his iniquity, And the earth will rise up against him.

²⁸ The increase of his house will depart, And his goods will flow away in the day of His wrath.

²⁹ This is the portion from God for a wicked man, The heritage appointed to him by God."

21 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "Listen carefully to my speech, And let this be your consolation.

³ Bear with me that I may speak, And after I have spoken, keep mocking.

⁴ "As for me, is my complaint against man? And if it were, why should I not be impatient?

⁵ Look at me and be astonished; Put your hand over your mouth.

⁶ Even when I remember I am terrified, And trembling takes hold of my flesh.

⁷ Why do the wicked live and become old, Yes, become mighty in power?

⁸ Their descendants are established with them in their sight, And their offspring before their eyes.

⁹ Their houses are safe from fear, Neither is the rod of God upon them.

¹⁰ Their bull breeds without failure; Their cow calves without miscarriage.

¹¹ They send forth their little ones like a flock, And their children dance.

¹² They sing to the tambourine and harp, And rejoice to the sound of the flute.

¹³ They spend their days in wealth, And in a moment go down to the grave.

¹⁴ Yet they say to God, 'Depart from us, For we do not desire the knowledge of Your ways.

¹⁵ Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?'

¹⁶ Indeed their prosperity is not in their hand; The counsel of the wicked is far from me.

¹⁷ "How often is the lamp of the wicked put out? How often does their destruction come upon them, The sorrows God distributes in His anger?

¹⁸ They are like straw before the wind, And like chaff that a storm carries away.

¹⁹ They say, 'God lays up one's iniquity for his children'; Let Him recompense him, that he may know it.

²⁰ Let his eyes see his destruction,
And let him drink of the wrath of the
Almighty.

²¹ For what does he care about his
household after him, When the number
of his months is cut in half?

²² "Can anyone teach God knowledge,
Since He judges those on high?

²³ One dies in his full strength, Being
wholly at ease and secure;

²⁴ His pails are full of milk, And the
marrow of his bones is moist.

²⁵ Another man dies in the bitterness
of his soul, Never having eaten with
pleasure.

²⁶ They lie down alike in the dust, And
worms cover them.

²⁷ "Look, I know your thoughts, And the
schemes with which you would wrong
me.

²⁸ For you say, ‘Where is the house of the prince? And where is the tent, The dwelling place of the wicked?’

²⁹ Have you not asked those who travel the road? And do you not know their signs?

³⁰ For the wicked are reserved for the day of doom; They shall be brought out on the day of wrath.

³¹ Who condemns his way to his face? And who repays him for what he has done?

³² Yet he shall be brought to the grave, And a vigil kept over the tomb.

³³ The clods of the valley shall be sweet to him; Everyone shall follow him, As countless have gone before him.

³⁴ How then can you comfort me with empty words, Since falsehood remains in your answers?"

22 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

² "Can a man be profitable to God,
Though he who is wise may be profitable
to himself?

³ Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that
you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him
that you make your ways blameless?

⁴ "Is it because of your fear of Him
that He corrects you, And enters into
judgment with you?

⁵ Is not your wickedness great, And
your iniquity without end?

⁶ For you have taken pledges from your
brother for no reason, And stripped the
naked of their clothing.

⁷ You have not given the weary water
to drink, And you have withheld bread
from the hungry.

⁸ But the mighty man possessed the
land, And the honorable man dwelt in it.

⁹ You have sent widows away empty,
And the strength of the fatherless was
crushed.

¹⁰ Therefore snares are all around you,
And sudden fear troubles you,

¹¹ Or darkness so that you cannot see;
And an abundance of water covers you.

¹² "Is not God in the height of heaven?
And see the highest stars, how lofty they
are!

¹³ And you say, 'What does God
know? Can He judge through the deep
darkness?

¹⁴ Thick clouds cover Him, so that He
cannot see, And He walks above the
circle of heaven.'

¹⁵ Will you keep to the old way Which
wicked men have trod,

¹⁶ Who were cut down before their
time, Whose foundations were swept
away by a flood?

¹⁷ They said to God, 'Depart from us!
What can the Almighty do to them?'

¹⁸ Yet He filled their houses with good things; But the counsel of the wicked is far from me.

¹⁹ "The righteous see it and are glad, And the innocent laugh at them:

²⁰ 'Surely our adversaries are cut down, And the fire consumes their remnant.'

²¹ "Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; Thereby good will come to you.

²² Receive, please, instruction from His mouth, And lay up His words in your heart.

²³ If you return to the Almighty, you will be built up; You will remove iniquity far from your tents.

²⁴ Then you will lay your gold in the dust, And the gold of Ophir among the stones of the brooks.

²⁵ Yes, the Almighty will be your gold And your precious silver;

²⁶ For then you will have your delight in the Almighty, And lift up your face to God.

²⁷ You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, And you will pay your vows.

²⁸ You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways.

²⁹ When they cast you down, and you say, 'Exaltation will come!' Then He will save the humble person.

³⁰ He will even deliver one who is not innocent; Yes, he will be delivered by the purity of your hands."

23 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning.

³ Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat!

⁴ I would present my case before Him,
And fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would know the words which He
would answer me, And understand what
He would say to me.

⁶ Would He contend with me in His
great power? No! But He would take
note of me.

⁷ There the upright could reason with
Him, And I would be delivered forever
from my Judge.

⁸ "Look, I go forward, but He is not
there, And backward, but I cannot
perceive Him;

⁹ When He works on the left hand, I
cannot behold Him; When He turns to
the right hand, I cannot see Him.

¹⁰ But He knows the way that I take;
When He has tested me, I shall come
forth as gold.

¹¹ My foot has held fast to His steps; I
have kept His way and not turned aside.

¹² I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.

¹³ "But He is unique, and who can make Him change? And whatever His soul desires, that He does.

¹⁴ For He performs what is appointed for me, And many such things are with Him.

¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified at His presence; When I consider this, I am afraid of Him.

¹⁶ For God made my heart weak, And the Almighty terrifies me;

¹⁷ Because I was not cut off from the presence of darkness, And He did not hide deep darkness from my face.

24 ¹ "Since times are not hidden from the Almighty, Why do those who know Him see not His days?

² "Some remove landmarks; They seize flocks violently and feed on them;

³ They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; They take the widow's ox as a pledge.

⁴ They push the needy off the road; All the poor of the land are forced to hide.

⁵ Indeed, like wild donkeys in the desert, They go out to their work, searching for food. The wilderness yields food for them and for their children.

⁶ They gather their fodder in the field And glean in the vineyard of the wicked.

⁷ They spend the night naked, without clothing, And have no covering in the cold.

⁸ They are wet with the showers of the mountains, And huddle around the rock for want of shelter.

⁹ "Some snatch the fatherless from the breast, And take a pledge from the poor.

¹⁰ They cause the poor to go naked,
without clothing; And they take away
the sheaves from the hungry.

¹¹ They press out oil within their walls,
And tread winepresses, yet suffer thirst.

¹² The dying groan in the city, And the
souls of the wounded cry out; Yet God
does not charge them with wrong.

¹³ "There are those who rebel against
the light; They do not know its ways Nor
abide in its paths.

¹⁴ The murderer rises with the light;
He kills the poor and needy; And in the
night he is like a thief.

¹⁵ The eye of the adulterer waits for the
twilight, Saying, 'No eye will see me';
And he disguises his face.

¹⁶ In the dark they break into houses
Which they marked for themselves in
the daytime; They do not know the light.

¹⁷ For the morning is the same to them
as the shadow of death; If someone

recognizes them, They are in the terrors of the shadow of death.

¹⁸ "They should be swift on the face of the waters, Their portion should be cursed in the earth, So that no one would turn into the way of their vineyards.

¹⁹ As drought and heat consume the snow waters, So the grave consumes those who have sinned.

²⁰ The womb should forget him, The worm should feed sweetly on him; He should be remembered no more, And wickedness should be broken like a tree.

²¹ For he preys on the barren who do not bear, And does no good for the widow.

²² "But God draws the mighty away with His power; He rises up, but no man is sure of life.

²³ He gives them security, and they rely on it; Yet His eyes are on their ways.

²⁴ They are exalted for a little while,
Then they are gone. They are brought
low; They are taken out of the way like
all others; They dry out like the heads of
grain.

²⁵ "Now if it is not so, who will prove
me a liar, And make my speech worth
nothing?"

25 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite
answered and said:

² "Dominion and fear belong to Him; He
makes peace in His high places.

³ Is there any number to His armies?
Upon whom does His light not rise?

⁴ How then can man be righteous
before God? Or how can he be pure who
is born of a woman?

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 a son of man, who is a worm?"

26 ¹ But Job answered and said:
² "How have you helped him
who is without power? How have you
saved the arm that has no strength?

³ How have you counseled one who has
no wisdom? And how have you declared
sound advice to many?

⁴ To whom have you uttered words?
And whose spirit came from you?

⁵ "The dead tremble, Those under the
waters and those inhabiting them.

⁶ Sheol is naked before Him, And
Destruction has no covering.

⁷ He stretches out the north over empty
space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

⁸ He binds up the water in His thick
clouds, Yet the clouds are not broken
under it.

⁹ He covers the face of His throne, And
spreads His cloud over it.

¹⁰ He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, At the boundary of light and darkness.

¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble, And are astonished at His rebuke.

¹² He stirs up the sea with His power, And by His understanding He breaks up the storm.

¹³ By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

¹⁴ Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

27 ¹ Moreover Job continued his discourse, and said:

² "As God lives, who has taken away my justice, And the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter,

³ As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils,

⁴ My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.

⁵ Far be it from me That I should say you are right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

⁶ My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.

⁷ "May my enemy be like the wicked, And he who rises up against me like the unrighteous.

⁸ For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much, If God takes away his life?

⁹ Will God hear his cry When trouble comes upon him?

¹⁰ Will he delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call on God?

¹¹ "I will teach you about the hand of God; What is with the Almighty I will not conceal.

¹² Surely all of you have seen it; Why then do you behave with complete nonsense?

¹³ "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, And the heritage of oppressors, received from the Almighty:

¹⁴ If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword; And his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

¹⁵ Those who survive him shall be buried in death, And their widows shall not weep,

¹⁶ Though he heaps up silver like dust, And piles up clothing like clay—

¹⁷ He may pile it up, but the just will wear it, And the innocent will divide the silver.

¹⁸ He builds his house like a moth, Like a booth which a watchman makes.

¹⁹ The rich man will lie down, But not be gathered up; He opens his eyes, And he is no more.

²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood; A tempest steals him away in the night.

²¹ The east wind carries him away, and he is gone; It sweeps him out of his place.

²² It hurls against him and does not spare; He flees desperately from its power.

²³ Men shall clap their hands at him, And shall hiss him out of his place.

28 ¹ "Surely there is a mine for silver, And a place where gold is refined.

² Iron is taken from the earth, And copper is smelted from ore.

³ Man puts an end to darkness, And searches every recess For ore in the darkness and the shadow of death.

⁴ He breaks open a shaft away from people; In places forgotten by feet They hang far away from men; They swing to and fro.

⁵ As for the earth, from it comes bread,
But underneath it is turned up as by fire;

⁶ Its stones are the source of sapphires,
And it contains gold dust.

⁷ That path no bird knows, Nor has the
falcon's eye seen it.

⁸ The proud lions have not trodden it,
Nor has the fierce lion passed over it.

⁹ He puts his hand on the flint; He
overturns the mountains at the roots.

¹⁰ He cuts out channels in the rocks,
And his eye sees every precious thing.

¹¹ He dams up the streams from
trickling; What is hidden he brings forth
to light.

¹² "But where can wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?"

¹³ Man does not know its value, Nor is
it found in the land of the living.

¹⁴ The deep says, 'It is not in me'; And
the sea says, 'It is not with me.'

¹⁵ It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor
can silver be weighed for its price.

¹⁶ It cannot be valued in the gold of
Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire.

¹⁷ Neither gold nor crystal can equal it,
Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of
fine gold.

¹⁸ No mention shall be made of coral or
quartz, For the price of wisdom is above
rubies.

¹⁹ The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it,
Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

²⁰ "From where then does wisdom
come? And where is the place of
understanding?

²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of all living,
And concealed from the birds of the air.

²² Destruction and Death say, 'We have
heard a report about it with our ears.'

²³ God understands its way, And He
knows its place.

²⁴ For He looks to the ends of the earth,
And sees under the whole heavens,

²⁵ To establish a weight for the wind,
And apportion the waters by measure.

²⁶ When He made a law for the rain,
And a path for the thunderbolt,

²⁷ Then He saw wisdom and declared it;
He prepared it, indeed, He searched it
out.

²⁸ And to man He said, ‘Behold, the
fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to
depart from evil is understanding.’”

29 ¹ Job further continued his
discourse, and said:

² Oh, that I were as in months past, As
in the days when God watched over me;

³ When His lamp shone upon my head,
And when by His light I walked through
darkness;

⁴ Just as I was in the days of my prime,
When the friendly counsel of God was
over my tent;

⁵ When the Almighty was yet with me,
When my children were around me;

⁶ When my steps were bathed with
cream, And the rock poured out rivers of
oil for me!

⁷ "When I went out to the gate by the
city, When I took my seat in the open
square,

⁸ The young men saw me and hid, And
the aged arose and stood;

⁹ The princes refrained from talking,
And put their hand on their mouth;

¹⁰ The voice of nobles was hushed, And
their tongue stuck to the roof of their
mouth.

¹¹ When the ear heard, then it blessed
me, And when the eye saw, then it
approved me;

¹² Because I delivered the poor who
cried out, The fatherless and the one
who had no helper.

¹³ The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, And I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

¹⁴ I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.

¹⁵ I was eyes to the blind, And I was feet to the lame.

¹⁶ I was a father to the poor, And I searched out the case that I did not know.

¹⁷ I broke the fangs of the wicked, And plucked the victim from his teeth.

¹⁸ "Then I said, 'I shall die in my nest, And multiply my days as the sand.

¹⁹ My root is spread out to the waters, And the dew lies all night on my branch.

²⁰ My glory is fresh within me, And my bow is renewed in my hand.'

²¹ "Men listened to me and waited, And kept silence for my counsel.

²² After my words they did not speak again, And my speech settled on them as dew.

²³ They waited for me as for the rain, And they opened their mouth wide as for the spring rain.

²⁴ If I mocked at them, they did not believe it, And the light of my countenance they did not cast down.

²⁵ I chose the way for them, and sat as chief; So I dwelt as a king in the army, As one who comforts mourners.

30 ¹ "But now they mock at me, men younger than I, Whose fathers I disdained to put with the dogs of my flock.

² Indeed, what profit is the strength of their hands to me? Their vigor has perished.

³ They are gaunt from want and famine, Fleeing late to the wilderness, desolate and waste,

⁴ Who pluck mallow by the bushes, And broom tree roots for their food.

⁵ They were driven out from among men, They shouted at them as at a thief.

⁶ They had to live in the clefts of the valleys, In caves of the earth and the rocks.

⁷ Among the bushes they brayed, Under the nettles they nestled.

⁸ They were sons of fools, Yes, sons of vile men; They were scourged from the land.

⁹ "And now I am their taunting song; Yes, I am their byword.

¹⁰ They abhor me, they keep far from me; They do not hesitate to spit in my face.

¹¹ Because He has loosed my bowstring and afflicted me, They have cast off restraint before me.

¹² At my right hand the rabble arises;
They push away my feet, And they raise
against me their ways of destruction.

¹³ They break up my path, They
promote my calamity; They have no
helper.

¹⁴ They come as broad breakers; Under
the ruinous storm they roll along.

¹⁵ Terrors are turned upon me; They
pursue my honor as the wind, And my
prosperity has passed like a cloud.

¹⁶ "And now my soul is poured out
because of my plight; The days of
affliction take hold of me.

¹⁷ My bones are pierced in me at night,
And my gnawing pains take no rest.

¹⁸ By great force my garment is
disfigured; It binds me about as the
collar of my coat.

¹⁹ He has cast me into the mire, And I
have become like dust and ashes.

²⁰ "I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You regard me.

²¹ But You have become cruel to me; With the strength of Your hand You oppose me.

²² You lift me up to the wind and cause me to ride on it; You spoil my success.

²³ For I know that You will bring me to death, And to the house appointed for all living.

²⁴ "Surely He would not stretch out His hand against a heap of ruins, If they cry out when He destroys it.

²⁵ Have I not wept for him who was in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?

²⁶ But when I looked for good, evil came to me; And when I waited for light, then came darkness.

²⁷ My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; Days of affliction confront me.

²⁸ I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help.

²⁹ I am a brother of jackals, And a companion of ostriches.

³⁰ My skin grows black and falls from me; My bones burn with fever.

³¹ My harp is turned to mourning, And my flute to the voice of those who weep.

31 ¹ "I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?

² For what is the allotment of God from above, And the inheritance of the Almighty from on high?

³ Is it not destruction for the wicked, And disaster for the workers of iniquity?

⁴ Does He not see my ways, And count all my steps?

⁵ "If I have walked with falsehood, Or if my foot has hastened to deceit,

⁶ Let me be weighed on honest scales,
That God may know my integrity.

⁷ If my step has turned from the way, Or
my heart walked after my eyes, Or if any
spot adheres to my hands,

⁸ Then let me sow, and another eat;
Yes, let my harvest be rooted out.

⁹ "If my heart has been enticed by
a woman, Or if I have lurked at my
neighbor's door,

¹⁰ Then let my wife grind for another,
And let others bow down over her.

¹¹ For that would be wickedness; Yes, it
would be iniquity deserving of judgment.

¹² For that would be a fire that
consumes to destruction, And would
root out all my increase.

¹³ "If I have despised the cause of my
male or female servant When they
complained against me,

¹⁴ What then shall I do when God rises up? When He punishes, how shall I answer Him?

¹⁵ Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?

¹⁶ "If I have kept the poor from their desire, Or caused the eyes of the widow to fail,

¹⁷ Or eaten my morsel by myself, So that the fatherless could not eat of it

¹⁸ (But from my youth I reared him as a father, And from my mother's womb I guided the widow);

¹⁹ If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, Or any poor man without covering;

²⁰ If his heart has not blessed me, And if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep;

²¹ If I have raised my hand against the fatherless, When I saw I had help in the gate;

²² Then let my arm fall from my shoulder, Let my arm be torn from the socket.

²³ For destruction from God is a terror to me, And because of His magnificence I cannot endure.

²⁴ "If I have made gold my hope, Or said to fine gold, 'You are my confidence';

²⁵ If I have rejoiced because my wealth was great, And because my hand had gained much;

²⁶ If I have observed the sun when it shines, Or the moon moving in brightness,

²⁷ So that my heart has been secretly enticed, And my mouth has kissed my hand;

²⁸ This also would be an iniquity
deserving of judgment, For I would have
denied God who is above.

²⁹ "If I have rejoiced at the destruction
of him who hated me, Or lifted myself
up when evil found him

³⁰ (Indeed I have not allowed my mouth
to sin By asking for a curse on his soul);

³¹ If the men of my tent have not said,
'Who is there that has not been satisfied
with his meat?'

³² (But no sojourner had to lodge in the
street, For I have opened my doors to
the traveler);

³³ If I have covered my transgressions
as Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my
bosom,

³⁴ Because I feared the great multitude,
And dreaded the contempt of families,
So that I kept silence And did not go out
of the door—

³⁵ Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my mark. Oh, that the Almighty would answer me, That my Prosecutor had written a book!

³⁶ Surely I would carry it on my shoulder, And bind it on me like a crown;

³⁷ I would declare to Him the number of my steps; Like a prince I would approach Him.

³⁸ "If my land cries out against me, And its furrows weep together;

³⁹ If I have eaten its fruit without money, Or caused its owners to lose their lives;

⁴⁰ Then let thistles grow instead of wheat, And weeds instead of barley."

The words of Job are ended.

32 ¹ So these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

² Then the wrath of Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of

Ram, was aroused against Job; his wrath was aroused because he justified himself rather than God.

³ Also against his three friends his wrath was aroused, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

⁴ Now because they were years older than he, Elihu had waited to speak to Job.

⁵ When Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, his wrath was aroused.

⁶ So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are very old; Therefore I was afraid, And dared not declare my opinion to you.

⁷ I said, 'Age should speak, And multitude of years should teach wisdom.'

⁸ But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

⁹ Great men are not always wise, Nor do the aged always understand justice.

¹⁰ "Therefore I say, 'Listen to me, I also will declare my opinion.'

¹¹ Indeed I waited for your words, I listened to your reasonings, while you searched out what to say.

¹² I paid close attention to you; And surely not one of you convinced Job, Or answered his words—

¹³ Lest you say, 'We have found wisdom'; God will vanquish him, not man.

¹⁴ Now he has not directed his words against me; So I will not answer him with your words.

¹⁵ "They are dismayed and answer no more; Words escape them.

¹⁶ And I have waited, because they did not speak, Because they stood still and answered no more.

¹⁷ I also will answer my part, I too will declare my opinion.

¹⁸ For I am full of words; The spirit within me compels me.

¹⁹ Indeed my belly is like wine that has no vent; It is ready to burst like new wineskins.

²⁰ I will speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer.

²¹ Let me not, I pray, show partiality to anyone; Nor let me flatter any man.

²² For I do not know how to flatter, Else my Maker would soon take me away.

33 ¹ "But please, Job, hear my speech, And listen to all my words.

² Now, I open my mouth; My tongue speaks in my mouth.

³ My words come from my upright heart; My lips utter pure knowledge.

⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

⁵ If you can answer me, Set your words in order before me; Take your stand.

⁶ Truly I am as your spokesman before God; I also have been formed out of clay.

⁷ Surely no fear of me will terrify you, Nor will my hand be heavy on you.

⁸ "Surely you have spoken in my hearing, And I have heard the sound of your words, saying,

⁹ 'I am pure, without transgression; I am innocent, and there is no iniquity in me.

¹⁰ Yet He finds occasions against me, He counts me as His enemy;

¹¹ He puts my feet in the stocks, He watches all my paths.'

¹² "Look, in this you are not righteous. I will answer you, For God is greater than man.

¹³ Why do you contend with Him? For He does not give an accounting of any of His words.

¹⁴ For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it.

¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds,

¹⁶ Then He opens the ears of men, And seals their instruction.

¹⁷ In order to turn man from his deed, And conceal pride from man,

¹⁸ He keeps back his soul from the Pit, And his life from perishing by the sword.

¹⁹ "Man is also chastened with pain on his bed, And with strong pain in many of his bones,

²⁰ So that his life abhors bread, And his soul succulent food.

²¹ His flesh wastes away from sight, And his bones stick out which once were not seen.

²² Yes, his soul draws near the Pit, And his life to the executioners.

²³ "If there is a messenger for him, A mediator, one among a thousand, To show man His uprightness,

²⁴ Then He is gracious to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom';

²⁵ His flesh shall be young like a child's, He shall return to the days of his youth.

²⁶ He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, He shall see His face with joy, For He restores to man His righteousness.

²⁷ Then he looks at men and says, 'I have sinned, and perverted what was right, And it did not profit me.'

²⁸ He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, And his life shall see the light.

²⁹ "Behold, God works all these things, Twice, in fact, three times with a man,

³⁰ To bring back his soul from the Pit, That he may be enlightened with the light of life.

³¹ "Give ear, Job, listen to me; Hold your peace, and I will speak.

³² If you have anything to say, answer me; Speak, for I desire to justify you.

³³ If not, listen to me; Hold your peace, and I will teach you wisdom."

34 ¹ Elihu further answered and said:

² "Hear my words, you wise men; Give ear to me, you who have knowledge.

³ For the ear tests words As the palate tastes food.

⁴ Let us choose justice for ourselves; Let us know among ourselves what is good.

⁵ "For Job has said, 'I am righteous, But God has taken away my justice;

⁶ Should I lie concerning my right? My wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.'

⁷ What man is like Job, Who drinks scorn like water,

⁸ Who goes in company with the workers of iniquity, And walks with wicked men?

⁹ For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing That he should delight in God.'

¹⁰ "Therefore listen to me, you men of understanding: Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to commit iniquity.

¹¹ For He repays man according to his work, And makes man to find a reward according to his way.

¹² Surely God will never do wickedly, Nor will the Almighty pervert justice.

¹³ Who gave Him charge over the earth? Or who appointed Him over the whole world?

¹⁴ If He should set His heart on it, If He should gather to Himself His Spirit and His breath,

¹⁵ All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust.

¹⁶ "If you have understanding, hear this; listen to the sound of my words:

¹⁷ Should one who hates justice govern? Will you condemn Him who is most just?

¹⁸ Is it fitting to say to a king, 'You are worthless,' And to nobles, 'You are wicked'?

¹⁹ Yet He is not partial to princes, Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they are all the work of His hands.

²⁰ In a moment they die, in the middle of the night; The people are shaken and

pass away; The mighty are taken away
without a hand.

²¹ "For His eyes are on the ways of man,
And He sees all his steps.

²² There is no darkness nor shadow of
death Where the workers of iniquity
may hide themselves.

²³ For He need not further consider a
man, That he should go before God in
judgment.

²⁴ He breaks in pieces mighty men
without inquiry, And sets others in their
place.

²⁵ Therefore he knows their works; He
overthrows them in the night, And they
are crushed.

²⁶ He strikes them as wicked men In the
open sight of others,

²⁷ Because they turned back from Him,
And would not consider any of His ways,

²⁸ So that they caused the cry of the poor to come to Him; For He hears the cry of the afflicted.

²⁹ When He gives quietness, who then can make trouble? And when He hides His face, who then can see Him, Whether it is against a nation or a man alone? —

³⁰ That the hypocrite should not reign, Lest the people be ensnared.

³¹ "For has anyone said to God, 'I have borne chastening; I will offend no more;

³² Teach me what I do not see; If I have done iniquity, I will do no more'?

³³ Should He repay it according to your terms, Just because you disavow it? You must choose, and not I; Therefore speak what you know.

³⁴ "Men of understanding say to me, Wise men who listen to me:

³⁵ 'Job speaks without knowledge, His words are without wisdom.'

³⁶ Oh, that Job were tried to the utmost,
Because his answers are like those of
wicked men!

³⁷ For he adds rebellion to his sin; He
claps his hands among us, And multiplies
his words against God."

35 ¹ Moreover Elihu answered and
said:

² "Do you think this is right? Do you say,
'My righteousness is more than God's'?

³ For you say, 'What advantage will it be
to You? What profit shall I have, more
than if I had sinned?'

⁴ "I will answer you, And your
companions with you.

⁵ Look to the heavens and see; And
behold the clouds—They are higher
than you.

⁶ If you sin, what do you accomplish
against Him? Or, if your transgressions
are multiplied, what do you 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 man such as you, And your righteousness a son of man.

⁹ "Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; They cry out for help because of the arm of the mighty.

¹⁰ But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, Who gives songs in the night,

¹¹ Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, And makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?'

¹² There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men.

¹³ Surely God will not listen to empty talk, Nor will the Almighty regard it.

¹⁴ Although you say you do not see Him, Yet justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him.

¹⁵ And now, because He has not punished in His anger, Nor taken much notice of folly,

¹⁶ Therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; He multiplies words without knowledge."

36 ¹ Elihu also proceeded and said:
² "Bear with me a little, and I will show you That there are yet words to speak on God's behalf.

³ I will fetch my knowledge from afar; I will ascribe righteousness to my Maker.

⁴ For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

⁵ "Behold, God is mighty, but despises no one; He is mighty in strength of understanding.

⁶ He does not preserve the life of the wicked, But gives justice to the oppressed.

⁷ He does not withdraw His eyes from the righteous; But they are on the throne

with kings, For He has seated them forever, And they are exalted.

⁸ And if they are bound in fetters, Held in the cords of affliction,

⁹ Then He tells them their work and their transgressions—That they have acted defiantly.

¹⁰ He also opens their ear to instruction, And commands that they turn from iniquity.

¹¹ If they obey and serve Him, They shall spend their days in prosperity, And their years in pleasures.

¹² But if they do not obey, They shall perish by the sword, And they shall die without knowledge.

¹³ "But the hypocrites in heart store up wrath; They do not cry for help when He binds them.

¹⁴ They die in youth, And their life ends among the perverted persons.

¹⁵ He delivers the poor in their affliction,
And opens their ears in oppression.

¹⁶ "Indeed He would have brought you
out of dire distress, Into a broad place
where there is no restraint; And what
is set on your table would be full of
richness.

¹⁷ But you are filled with the judgment
due the wicked; Judgment and justice
take hold of you.

¹⁸ Because there is wrath, beware lest
He take you away with one blow; For a
large ransom would not help you avoid
it.

¹⁹ Will your riches, Or all the mighty
forces, Keep you from distress?

²⁰ Do not desire the night, When people
are cut off in their place.

²¹ Take heed, do not turn to iniquity,
For you have chosen this rather than
affliction.

22 "Behold, God is exalted by His power;
Who teaches like Him?

23 Who has assigned Him His way, Or
who has said, 'You have done wrong'?

24 "Remember to magnify His work, Of
which men have sung.

25 Everyone has seen it; Man looks on it
from afar.

26 "Behold, God is great, and we do not
know Him; Nor can the number of His
years be discovered.

27 For He draws up drops of water,
Which distill as rain from the mist,

28 Which the clouds drop down And
pour abundantly on man.

29 Indeed, can anyone understand the
spreading of clouds, The thunder from
His canopy?

30 Look, He scatters his light upon it,
And covers the depths of the sea.

31 For by these He judges the peoples;
He gives food in abundance.

³² He covers His hands with lightning,
And commands it to strike.

³³ His thunder declares it, The cattle
also, concerning the rising storm.

37 ¹ "At this also my heart trembles,
And leaps from its place.

² Hear attentively the thunder of His
voice, And the rumbling that comes from
His mouth.

³ He sends it forth under the whole
heaven, His lightning to the ends of the
earth.

⁴ After it a voice roars; He thunders
with His majestic voice, And He does not
restrain them when His voice is heard.

⁵ God thunders marvelously with His
voice; He does great things which we
cannot comprehend.

⁶ For He says to the snow, 'Fall on the
earth'; Likewise to the gentle rain and
the heavy rain of His strength.

⁷ He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work.

⁸ The beasts go into dens, And remain in their lairs.

⁹ From the chamber of the south comes the whirlwind, And cold from the scattering winds of the north.

¹⁰ By the breath of God ice is given, And the broad waters are frozen.

¹¹ Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds.

¹² And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, That they may do whatever He commands them On the face of the whole earth.

¹³ He causes it to come, Whether for correction, Or for His land, Or for mercy.

¹⁴ "Listen to this, O Job; Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

¹⁵ Do you know when God dispatches them, And causes the light of His cloud to shine?

¹⁶ Do you know how the clouds are balanced, Those wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge?

¹⁷ Why are your garments hot, When He quiets the earth by the south wind?

¹⁸ With Him, have you spread out the skies, Strong as a cast metal mirror?

¹⁹ "Teach us what we should say to Him, For we can prepare nothing because of the darkness.

²⁰ Should He be told that I wish to speak? If a man were to speak, surely he would be swallowed up.

²¹ Even now men cannot look at the light when it is bright in the skies, When the wind has passed and cleared them.

²² He comes from the north as golden splendor; With God is awesome majesty.

²³ As for the Almighty, we cannot find Him; He is excellent in power, In judgment and abundant justice; He does not oppress.

²⁴ Therefore men fear Him; He shows no partiality to any who are wise of heart."

38 ¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

² "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge?

³ Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

⁵ Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶ To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

⁷ When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

⁸ "Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb;

⁹ When I made the clouds its garment, And thick darkness its swaddling band;

¹⁰ When I fixed My limit for it, And set bars and doors;

¹¹ When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!'

¹² "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³ That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴ It takes on form like clay under a seal, And stands out like a garment.

¹⁵ From the wicked their light is withheld, And the upraised arm is broken.

¹⁶ "Have you entered the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in search of the depths?

¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

¹⁸ Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

¹⁹ "Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

²⁰ That you may take it to its territory, That you may know the paths to its home?

²¹ Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great?

22 "Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail,

23 Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?

24 By what way is light diffused, Or the east wind scattered over the earth?

25 "Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, Or a path for the thunderbolt,

26 To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, A wilderness in which there is no man;

27 To satisfy the desolate waste, And cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass?

28 Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

29 From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?

³⁰ The waters harden like stone, And the surface of the deep is frozen.

³¹ "Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, Or loose the belt of Orion?

³² Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?

³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you?

³⁵ Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, 'Here we are!'

³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

³⁷ Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,

³⁸ When the dust hardens in clumps,
And the clods cling together?

³⁹ "Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
Or satisfy the appetite of the young
lions,

⁴⁰ When they crouch in their dens, Or
lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?

⁴¹ Who provides food for the raven,
When its young ones cry to God, And
wander about for lack of food?

39 ¹ "Do you know the time when
the wild mountain goats bear
young? Or can you mark when the deer
gives birth?

² Can you number the months that they
fulfill? Or do you know the time when
they bear young?

³ They bow down, They bring forth their
young, They deliver their offspring.

⁴ Their young ones are healthy, They
grow strong with grain; They depart and
do not return to them.

⁵ "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager,

⁶ Whose home I have made the wilderness, And the barren land his dwelling?

⁷ He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver.

⁸ The range of the mountains is his pasture, And he searches after every green thing.

⁹ "Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he bed by your manger?

¹⁰ Can you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you?

¹¹ Will you trust him because his strength is great? Or will you leave your labor to him?

¹² Will you trust him to bring home your grain, And gather it to your threshing floor?

¹³ "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, But are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's?

¹⁴ For she leaves her eggs on the ground, And warms them in the dust;

¹⁵ She forgets that a foot may crush them, Or that a wild beast may break them.

¹⁶ She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; Her labor is in vain, without concern,

¹⁷ Because God deprived her of wisdom, And did not endow her with understanding.

¹⁸ When she lifts herself on high, She scorns the horse and its rider.

¹⁹ "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?

²⁰ Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror.

²¹ He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; He gallops into the clash of arms.

²² He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; Nor does he turn back from the sword.

²³ The quiver rattles against him, The glittering spear and javelin.

²⁴ He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; Nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded.

²⁵ At the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Aha!' He smells the battle from afar, The thunder of captains and shouting.

²⁶ "Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, And spread its wings toward the south?

²⁷ Does the eagle mount up at your command, And make its nest on high?

²⁸ On the rocks it dwells and resides, On the crag of the rock and the stronghold.

²⁹ From there it spies out the prey; Its eyes observe from afar.

³⁰ Its young ones suck up blood; And where the slain are, there it is."

40 ¹ Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said:

² "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

³ Then Job answered the LORD and said:

⁴ "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

⁵ Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

⁶ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

⁷ "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

⁸ "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

⁹ Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

¹⁰ Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty.

¹¹ Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him.

¹² Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their place.

¹³ Hide them in the dust together, Bind their faces in hidden darkness.

¹⁴ Then I will also confess to you That your own right hand can save you.

¹⁵ "Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox.

¹⁶ See now, his strength is in his hips,
And his power is in his stomach muscles.

¹⁷ He moves his tail like a cedar; The
sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.

¹⁸ His bones are like beams of bronze,
His ribs like bars of iron.

¹⁹ He is the first of the ways of God;
Only He who made him can bring near
His sword.

²⁰ Surely the mountains yield food for
him, And all the beasts of the field play
there.

²¹ He lies under the lotus trees, In a
covert of reeds and marsh.

²² The lotus trees cover him with
their shade; The willows by the brook
surround him.

²³ Indeed the river may rage, Yet he is
not disturbed; He is confident, though
the Jordan gushes into his mouth,

²⁴ Though he takes it in his eyes, Or one
pierces his nose with a snare.

41 ¹ "Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, Or snare his tongue with a line which you lower?

² Can you put a reed through his nose, Or pierce his jaw with a hook?

³ Will he make many supplications to you? Will he speak softly to you?

⁴ Will he make a covenant with you? Will you take him as a servant forever?

⁵ Will you play with him as with a bird, Or will you leash him for your maidens?

⁶ Will your companions make a banquet of him? Will they apportion him among the merchants?

⁷ Can you fill his skin with harpoons, Or his head with fishing spears?

⁸ Lay your hand on him; Remember the battle—Never do it again!

⁹ Indeed, any hope of overcoming him is false; Shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him?

¹⁰ No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up. Who then is able to stand against Me?

¹¹ Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

¹² "I will not conceal his limbs, His mighty power, or his graceful proportions.

¹³ Who can remove his outer coat? Who can approach him with a double bridle?

¹⁴ Who can open the doors of his face, With his terrible teeth all around?

¹⁵ His rows of scales are his pride, Shut up tightly as with a seal;

¹⁶ One is so near another That no air can come between them;

¹⁷ They are joined one to another, They stick together and cannot be parted.

¹⁸ His sneezings flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.

¹⁹ Out of his mouth go burning lights;
Sparks of fire shoot out.

²⁰ Smoke goes out of his nostrils, As
from a boiling pot and burning rushes.

²¹ His breath kindles coals, And a flame
goes out of his mouth.

²² Strength dwells in his neck, And
sorrow dances before him.

²³ The folds of his flesh are joined
together; They are firm on him and
cannot be moved.

²⁴ His heart is as hard as stone, Even as
hard as the lower millstone.

²⁵ When he raises himself up, the
mighty are afraid; Because of his
crashings they are beside themselves.

²⁶ Though the sword reaches him, it
cannot avail; Nor does spear, dart, or
javelin.

²⁷ He regards iron as straw, And bronze
as rotten wood.

²⁸ The arrow cannot make him flee;
Slingstones become like stubble to him.

²⁹ Darts are regarded as straw; He
laughs at the threat of javelins.

³⁰ His undersides are like sharp
potsherds; He spreads pointed marks in
the mire.

³¹ He makes the deep boil like a pot; He
makes the sea like a pot of ointment.

³² He leaves a shining wake behind him;
One would think the deep had white
hair.

³³ On earth there is nothing like him,
Which is made without fear.

³⁴ He beholds every high thing; He is
king over all the children of pride."

42 ¹ Then Job answered the LORD
and said:

² "I know that You can do everything,
And that no purpose of Yours can be
withheld from You.

³ You asked, 'Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

⁴ Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, 'I will question you, and you shall answer Me.'

⁵ "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.

⁶ Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes."

⁷ And so it was, after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has.

⁸ "Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job

shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the LORD commanded them; for the LORD had accepted Job.

¹⁰ And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹¹ Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

¹² Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning;

for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

¹³ He also had seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴ And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch.

¹⁵ In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

¹⁶ After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.

¹⁷ So Job died, old and full of days.

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